



The Ontario Society of Artists

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MARCH 2015

Founded in
1872

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Carmel Brennan

Words of wisdom - and optimism - from the President

It's March - the temperature is well above freezing - the snow is melting quickly. But I am Canadian, and I am not convinced that there won't be another snow storm before winter finally gives up its hold on us. If I am a pessimist when it comes to the weather, I am an optimist when it comes to art.

A few nights ago, I attended the Aird 30th Anniversary Show at the John B. Aird Gallery, and what a spectacular show and opening it was. The exhibition featured excellent work by artists from the four founding organizations: the OSA, the Canadian Society for Painters in Watercolour, the Royal Canadian Academy and the Sculptors Society of Canada. The gallery was packed, and everyone was in a celebratory mood. I offer my congratulations to the 10 artist members whose work, which was selected through a juried process, was on exhibit to represent the OSA (their names are in an item below). You did us proud! **Janet Hendershot** coordinated the process of selection of the OSA artists, and I thank her and congratulate her on a job expertly done.

I would like to congratulate the John B. Aird Gallery on this important milestone and wish it many more years of success. I also acknowledge the tremendous on-going dedication and work of the Gallery's Board of Directors in sustaining the gallery's operation.

There is a strong link between the OSA and the John B. Aird Gallery. The Gallery has hosted many important OSA shows, including open juried exhibitions and new member exhibitions. Over the years, many OSA artists have exhibited their works in the gallery, and a number of OSA members have served on the Executive of its Board of Directors. **Ernestine Tahedl** served as the Aird Board's President for many years, and I spent some years as Treasurer. The OSA maintains a direct liaison with the Aird by having a representative on the Board. The current representative is **Janet Hendershot**, and I would like to thank her (again) for her work in maintaining strong links between the Aird and the OSA.

The next show at the Aird Gallery is, of course, the OSA's Open Juried Exhibition. It promises to be an exciting show, and I can hardly wait to see it. My thanks go to **Janet Hendershot** (yet again!) and

Marilena Isacescu Carlea who have done a wonderful job as co-chairs of this exhibition. There was an overwhelming response to the call for entries and the final selection was made from 319 entries. My thanks to the jurors for what must have been a daunting task. Again, the 10 OSA members juried into the show are listed below.

There is still lots more in store for the OSA

this year. A number of OSA members are off to paint in Ireland in May, the OSA Members' Exhibition is coming in the late summer, Killarney in the fall, and the biennial new members' show will be held in December. Lots to do. Lots to enjoy. Happy Art!

Tony



Aird presidents, then and now (from left): Joan Nicoll who was the first President of the John B. Aird Gallery at its founding in 1985, Ernestine Tahedl OSA who was President for 12 years and Agnes Chlebek, the current President.

“Aird at 30” show opens

A unique exhibition marking the 30th anniversary of the John B. Aird Gallery opened March 12, bringing together the four founding organizations: the OSA, the Sculptors Society of Canada, the Royal Canadian Academy and the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour. Each society has 10 works in the show, which makes it very eclectic. The 10 OSA members are **Carmel Brennan, Marilena Isacescu Carlea, Laurie D’Alessandro, Lila Lewis Irving, Eva Kolacz, Eileen Menzel, Rob Niezen, Christine Proctor, Alan Stein and Carol Westcott.**



The presidents of the four founding organizations (left to right): Anges Chlebek, President, John B. Aird Board of Directors; Tony Vander Voet, President OSA; Judi Michelle Young, President, Sculptors Society of Canada; Barbara Vogel, President, Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, and William Rogers, President Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour. (Thanks to Maya Foltyn for the photo.)

12 new members elected

Congratulations to the 12 new members who were elected to the Society on New Years Eve 2014. They are **Dara Aram, Anne Cavanagh Forrest, John Ashbourne, Susan Avishai, Nancy Chalut, Sharron Corrigan, Jaya Datta, Charlene Gardhouse, Jacqui Green, Dayna Law, Stan Olthuis and Joanna Turlej.** You can see examples of the work of three of them in the “News about Members” section of this newsletter. And many thanks to the New Members Committee that screened the applications and organized the election: **Mishi Foltyn** (chair) **Diana Bennett** (past chair), **Pat Dumas-Hudecki, Carmel Brennan, Sam Paonessa, Andrew Sookrah and Tony Vander Voet.**



**Tweet, tweet –
let the little birdie
plug your show**

Clare Ross invites members to use Twitter to help promote their events. Clare has arranged an OSA Twitter account. “We are up and running,” says Clare, “and I would like to tweet about OSA members’ work and exhibitions as often as people would like. I would also like to ‘follow’ any OSA twitter accounts that are out there that I haven’t found yet.” To find out more: (647) 962-4533 or clare@gleegraphics.com.

OJE exhibitors announced

The 2015 OSA Open Juried Exhibition (April 7 to May 1 at the John B. Aird Gallery) is coming up, and the jurors have selected 10 OSA members as exhibitors. The jury selected 38 art works from the 319 submitted. The OSA members with works in the show are **Janet Baker, Diana Bennett, Andrew Benyei, Carmel Brennan, Anne Cavanagh, Agnieszka Foltyn, Maya Foltyn, Diana Harding-Tucker, Ian MacKenzie, David Paolini, Paria Shahverdi and Wynn Walters.** The show, chaired by **Janet Hendershot** and **Marilena Isacescu Carlea**, is open to any artist living in Ontario. The opening reception and awards will be April 9, 6-8 pm. and OSA members are encouraged to attend. With a theme of “*Order in Disorder*”, the show promises to be very stimulating. The OSA is very appreciative of the five sponsors who have supported the show, and contributed the awards:



The OSA newsletter is published four times a year. The deadline for submitting material for the next edition (**June**) is **June 5**. Submissions must be sent before the deadline to **Wynn Walters** (wynnwalters@gmail.com). Information about your activities, or OSA programs you are involved with, are very welcome. And please send pictures – it’s a good way for members to see an example of your work. We hope to hear from you.

OSA invasion of Ireland planned

Carmel Brennan reports: Last year's trip to Ireland was so successful that the 2015 trip will increase the time spent in Ireland and we'll have more than double the number of participants. In the two weeks (May 11-26) that we will be there we will have 19 participants, half of them OSA members.

We leave Toronto May 11 and arrive in Dublin May 12. Vans will transport the group to Dingle to our B&B. After an orientation tour of the peninsula we will start working in the variety of landscapes available. Of course we will eat and drink to our heart's content and enjoy the local music.

On 19 May we leave Dingle and many of us will travel north to County Monaghan, just below the border with N. Ireland. We have booked a large house so that we can do our own cooking. The house is in the countryside of Emyvale overlooking Emy Lake. It is near the famous Castle Leslie Estate in Glaslough which is also the town where Neal Greig lives. Neal was the OSA guest in 2014, our Irish visitor at Killarney Mtn. Lodge. He did some wonderful workshops over two days last fall. Neal is looking forward to our visit to Ireland and plans to check in with us in Dingle and in Monaghan.

Emyvale is quite central, an hour from Belfast, an hour and a half from Dublin and about an hour and half back to the west coast. The house is very modern and there are lots of walking trails nearby. Here's an idea: there's potential for a group exhibition of the work inspired by these Irish trips (this is the third), something for the OSA to think about in the near future. The County Monaghan Arts Council has been approached regarding an exhibition in their Market Gallery which is wonderful space in a huge historic building.

Note: following the Ireland trip, **Carmel** will fly to Spain to walk again on the Camino (pilgrimage trail). She suggests there's scope for another OSA trip in that region. Stay tuned.

News from and about members

Tell us what's happening in your artistic world . . . upcoming or recent shows, commissions, awards, classes or programs you're involved in . . . or other items of interest. Please send input for the next newsletter to **Wynn Walters** (wynnwalters@gmail.com) with a picture (about 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) if relevant – please include the name of the work, medium and size. Be sure to include all necessary information (what, when, where, etc.). If you don't include information, it won't get in – I don't have time to chase it. We'd like notice of upcoming shows you're in – but a note about recent shows too, if they were not noted in a previous newsletter. To get information out in a more timely manner, there's a section on the website for OSA member exhibitions. If you have an exhibition, send a notice or e-vite to **Tony Vander Voet** (tony.vandervoet@sympatico.ca) and he will be sure to put it on the site. Send it to **Agnieszka Foltyn** (mishi.foltyn@gmail.com) as well, and she will put it on our Facebook page. And see the item about Twitter in this newsletter.

The Artist Project in Toronto is one of the biggest art shows in the country, and a number of OSA members participated in the Feb. 10-22 show, including **Peter Barelkowski, David Dawson, Agnieszka Foltyn, Maya Foltyn, Laura Culic, Carol Westcott, Dara Aram, Janice Ykema, Lynne Schumacher, Rob Niezen** and **Vera Bobson** ••• **Mishi Foltyn** has started a contemporary art blog called MakeShift about her thoughts and experiences of art in the city and beyond. It will feature exhibition reviews, interviews with artists, news and updates and thoughts and musings about art. You can find it at www.mishifoltyn.tumblr.com ••• A major article on **Anthony [Tony] Batten** is featured in the Spring 2015 edition of Canada's Arabella magazine. Spread over some 16 pages the article is a chatty review of **Tony's** career to date, with lots of colour plates. Copies will be available at Indigo, Chapters, Barnes and Noble and other print suppliers ••• **Ray Cattell** has a retrospective exhibition (Feb 28 - March 29) at the Arts and Letter Club, 14 Elm St., Toronto. **Ray**, now in his mid-nineties, has been involved in the Toronto art scene for many decades, and this exhibit of some 40 works reviews his considerable artistic output ••• "*Winter in Canada*" was the theme of a juried show that opened in February at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery in Minden; OSA members **Bev Rodin, Pat Dumas-Hudecki, Robin Hesse**, and **Rob Niezen** had works included.

It's never too late to learn

A number of OSA members are actively teaching and passing on their experience to others. **Bianka Guna** has a very full schedule of art classes that she is conducting or coordinating, with a focus on non-objective watercolours. They will take place at her studio in the Distillery District, at Visual Arts Mississauga and other locations, including a session in Nova Scotia for the Society of Watercolour Painters. Too many to list here – but contact **Bianka** for full information at bianka@biankaguna.com. She is also preparing for a solo show in June.

Andrew Benyei will be teaching a six week figurative sculpture course, Thursday evenings from April 23 to May 28. Students will create sculptures in clay using a live model. The course is suitable from beginners to advanced. For more information contact: andrew@benyei.com or www.benyei.com.

Janice Mason Steeves has courses and workshops in cold wax and oil, at her studio in Rockwood in April, and in Lapland, Sweden in May. Information: janicemasonsteeves@gmail.com or www.janicemasonsteeves.com.

Andrea Bird invites you to "check out the buzz" in 'the hive'... where there are new workshops exploring the creative process involving encaustic. There are 3, 4 and 5 day intensives with **Andrea** (for advanced students only), as well as workshops with guest teachers for beginners and for other processes involving encaustic. Contact www.andreabird.com (519-323-3437) for more details.

OSA members were well represented at the Drawing 2015 show, the annual juried drawing show at the Aird Gallery in early February. **Mishi Foltyn** won first prize for her drawing *Nest*, which was purchased for the Government of Ontario Art Collection (her second piece in that collection). **Susan Avishai** and **Anne Cavanagh** (new members 2014) also exhibited; **Susan** had a fabric-based drawing construction which, as she says “really stretches the idea of drawing” (see pic). **Mishi’s Nest** series will also be on show at the Rotunda Gallery at Kitchener City Hall for the month of March. Also, three large *Nest* drawings are being shown at the Daniels Spectrum Gallery, hosted by the Feminist Art Conference as part of International Women’s Day. It runs through the month of March.

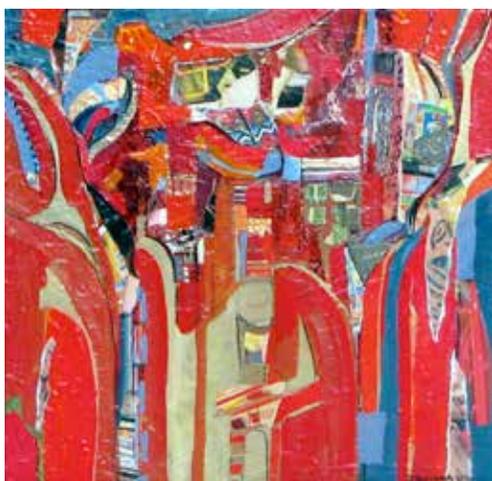


Mishi Foltyn, *Nest*, graphite on paper, 60X54”



Susan Avishai’s work at Drawing 2015

Zora Buchanan relays the following invitation: The Arts & Letters Club of Toronto is sponsoring, *NEXT!* An exhibition of Drawings and Paintings, open to all artists living in Ontario (Oct 24–Nov 13). Best in Show Award is \$5,000; second is \$2,500, and there will be a number of other awards. Jurors are Ed Bartram, John Ingram, gallery owner and Iris Nowell, art historian and writer. The Call for Entry will be on line early in March and the deadline for entries is August 21. Further information from **Zora** or **Tony Batten**, or www.artsandlettersclub.ca. Also, **Zora’s** painting *After Morocco #1* was recently accepted into the Society of Canadian Artists online exhibition. It can be viewed online from April 1 at www.societyofcanadianartists.com. The painting was inspired by a trip to Morocco last spring with Sam Paones-sa.



Zora Buchanan, *After Morocco 1*, collage, 12X12”

Susan Clark was awarded First Prize at the Visual Arts Mississauga 37th Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts in January, at the Art Gallery of Mississauga. **Susan** took home the \$1,000 first prize for her oil on panel *Transitional Shelters*, which jurors called “a geometric puzzle, with strong abstract underpinnings”.



Susan Clark, *Transitional Shelters*, oil on panel, 30X40”

The Government of Ontario Art Collection has been approached by the Ontario Public Service Quarter Century Club to propose a five year plan to present prints of art from the collection to long service recipients. Employees reaching their 10, 15 and 20 year service milestones will have a choice of six selected art prints in recognition of their service.

On OSA Lake, Killarney Provincial Park, by **Lillian Michiko Blakey**, is one of the six art works chosen for this honour.



Lillian Michiko Blakey, *On OSA Lake, Killarney Provincial Park*



Peter Barelkowski has work in a four-person show at the Arta Gallery, in Toronto’s Distillery District. The show, called *4Expression*, runs March 4–17.

The Bennett family has been active. **John Bennett**, now 90+, was invited by the Canadian Association of Painters in Watercolour to show a work, as one of its “elders”, in the Aird Gallery’s 30th Anniversary show. **Diana Bennett**, his daughter, is preparing a major installation for the Walnut Contemporary Gallery on Niagara Street in Toronto. The show opens on Thursday, June 4 and runs for four weeks. The space will be transformed with free standing glass and resin panels with photographic transfers of perennials from their farm garden, with flocks of birds flying overhead.



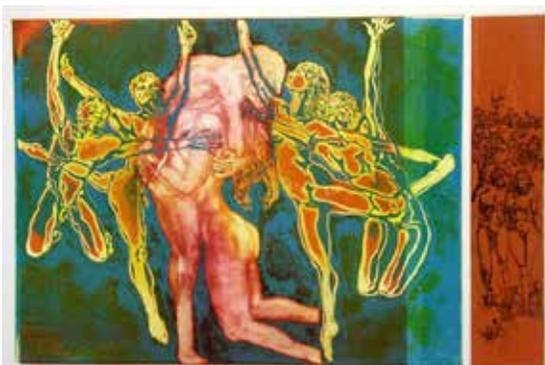
John Bennett, *Marina at Pier 4*, watercolour



Part of Diana's installation

George Langbroek

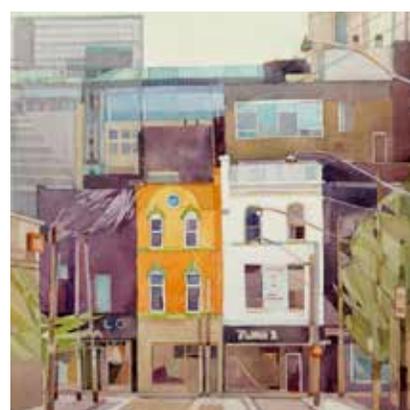
has an exhibition titled “*Creation of Eve*” at the Flagship Gallery, 237 James St. N, Hamilton. It opened in March as part of Hamilton’s hugely popular Art Crawl. The image: *May Dance*, intaglio colour viscosity etching.



Frank Rodick continues to be busy, all over the world. He has an upcoming solo exhibition at Articsók Gallery in Toronto, part of the CONTACT 2015 festival of photographic art. It opens April 3 and runs through the month of May. Entitled *Everything Will Be Forgotten*, it features two connected series: the expressionistic portraits of his late mother, and the self-portraits inspired by discovered childhood photographs. An image is included below. **Frank** has also been invited to exhibit and teach in Medellin, Colombia, as part of the Centro Colombo Americano’s annual ZOOMLAB project in August. And the New Mexico Museum of Art has acquired work from his series *Liquid City* for its permanent collection.



Frank Rodick, *Everything Will Be Forgotten* (self-portrait as child, version 2.1)



Mary Ann Ludlam has a show “*Toronto, Past & Present*” opening at Roberts Gallery, 641 Yonge Street, Toronto ON on March 28.

Bruno Capolongo closed 2014 with work in Galerie D’Avignon’s winter exhibition in Montreal. The book *Acrylicworks II* will feature work by **Bruno**, in book-stores in March. **Bruno** is now working with Hazelton Fine Art Galleries in Yorkville, Toronto, and with Marcia Rafelman Fine Arts in Toronto. **Bruno** will also exhibit in River Gallery’s 2015 show *Citiscapes* in Cleveland, Ohio.



Bruno Capolongo, *Moonlight*, encaustic on panel

Join **Sharon Mackinnon** on a four day “soft” adventure expedition on spectacular Georgian Bay, September 19 to 22. This is a lodge based art retreat at Snug Harbour with daily painting and paddling out to the islands. Home cooked meals welcome you after each session. Make quick watercolour sketches en plein air. Develop paintings using multiple techniques in any media. For further info contact White Squall at 705 342-5324 or **Sharon** at sbmackinnon@rogers.com.

Linda Kennedy had a piece in the Floyd Gibson Members' Juried Show at the Lawrence House Centre for the Arts in Sarnia in January. She was also represented in the annual Christmas exhibit at the same venue in December, with the painting illustrated.



Linda Kennedy, *The Hitchhiker*, acrylic.

Judy Finch is on a horse kick - she's been commissioned to paint three horse portraits; here's one of them.



SALE Lois Steen, an OSA life member, has some materials for sale. Contact her if interested: (416) 955-0156. Items include: 5 large stretchers (48"X48" or more) constructed by Deakin Fine Art, cross braced; battleship linoleum 6 pieces 24X24"; sketching stool; canvas pliers; matt cutter; speedball baren for hand printing; 6 rollers for inking; 15 woodcut & lino tools (Sheffield & Japanese).



Stan Olthuis (new member 2014) had a painting commissioned by Royal Caribbean Cruiselines to be part of their permanent collection aboard one of their brand new ships (see image below). **Stan** also just finished a solo show at his new gallery, Abbozzo Gallery in Oakville. You can get to know **Stan** better by reading an article about him in the current edition of Life As A Human Magazine. **Stan** flies to Mexico at the end of March for a month of painting.

Dayna Law (new member 2014) was awarded a Jurors Award in "Wild Florida" a juried exhibition in Jan/Feb at Von Liebig Art Center, Naples, Florida. The winning painting *Endless Summer* was SOLD and will be shipped to a new home in Washington DC.



Dayna Law, *Endless Summer*

Burton Kramer is one of the artists included in the Moscow Collection, an exhibition that deals with the development of non-figurative art over the past four decades. "I am thrilled to have my work included with that of Pierre Soulages, Francois Morellet and Julian Stanczak", says **Burton**. "My paintings are music made visual," he writes in the show's catalogue. "They deal with rhythms, syncopations, tonalities and moods." The work shown here (*Quartet*, 2002) illustrates this focus.



Doreen Renner's painting *Moonscape* won an Honourable Mention in the Florida Suncoast Watercolour Society Juried Exhibition in Sarasota, Florida. She also had two paintings juried into the Art Center Sarasota "Fresh" Juried Exhibition as well as the Art Guild of Anna Maria Island Juried Exhibition in Florida.



Doreen Renner, *Moonscape*



Janice Mason Steeves has a show continuing at Gallery Stratford until April 5. Another exhibition, titled *Out of the Darkness, Into the Light* opens at Bugera Matheson Gallery, 10345-124 St., Edmonton, Alberta. The exhibition opens on April 24 and runs until May 9. **Janice** will be present at the opening on April 24 and 25

Janice in her studio.