

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ART ASSOCIATION

MCAA News

Michael Sastre To Return for Our February Meeting

"So, abstract painting is basically just another way of interpreting or expressing ideas, ... What is interesting, I think, is that all painting use the same basic elements — colour, shape, texture — to achieve their desired intention. The difference is that representational painting involve shapes that we are familiar with, while abstract paintings need not. Nevertheless, with the right emphasis and interaction of colours and shapes, abstract paintings can be just as exciting and emotional as any other. Why must a painting represent something?"

—Claire Harrigan,
*Abstract and Colour
Techniques in Painting*



In the beginning of our January workshop, Michael Sastre asked the participants, "What is abstract art and how does looking at abstract art make you feel?" Mr. Sastre emphasized finding the balance between painting pure form, resulting in abstract art, versus painting pure content, resulting in highly representational art. He noted that the balance between form and content is

ambiguous and has slid closer on the scale towards content, as opposed to pure form since the inception of early 20th century abstract art. Mr. Sastre explained that all paintings have an abstract base in their pure form. As more content and refinement is added and the painting is developed, then the painting will cross the line to representational. As one knowledgeable participant observed, "All art is abstract."

PROGRAMS

All are encouraged to attend monthly meetings for the most up to date and detailed information concerning MCAA and our activities. Meetings are held at PLAZA-ART Materials, 1594B Rockville Pike and begin at 7:00 PM (In the Pier One plaza, behind Duron Paints and

Twinbrook Metro access road. Opposite Congressional Plaza, east side of Rockville Pike). As a courtesy to our guest presenters, be sure to come early to shop! Our meeting begins promptly at 7:00 pm and concludes at 8:00 pm sharp, so your punctuality also allows us to maximize the time allotted.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday
February 13, 2008

Critique with Michael Sastre

Montgomery College instructor and award winning artist Michael Sastre will return for our February meeting to critique our abstract painting from the January workshop. If you didn't attend the workshop you are more than welcome to bring another painting for critique. Workshop participants may also bring a second painting for critique as time allows. See Michael Sastre's artwork at www.sastreart.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message the snow is falling thickly onto the ground and I am wondering when Montgomery County Schools will be closing. This time of year, you can never totally count on planned events as these weather systems come and go. So far we have been lucky for MCAA events. We started off the new year on the very first weekend in January with the Abstract Workshop. For the member meeting on Wednesday the 13th we have a bit of a follow-up critique planned. Our instructor, Michael Sastre has offered to return and critique the completion of our art works started that day. Of course, if you didn't attend the workshop you are more than welcome to bring another painting for critique. That Saturday, we had a very enjoyable afternoon with Mike as he covered the abstract movement and provided example of many abstract painters' works. We were encouraged to think about our opinion of abstraction and challenged to identify a famous painting that he himself abstracted. This method of looking at art work can be very useful in the preparation process of our own paintings. To observe the basic areas of light, dark and in between, we can achieve a balance of form and content for our artwork. The hands-on exercise entailed taking a chosen print or photo and reducing it to the basic abstract forms. Pictures with concentrations of color in a couple of areas were the best to work with and everyone came up with interesting interpretations of their chosen piece. The process proved to be a bit more challenging than some of us anticipated and provided the opportunity for deep analysis and discernment of value patterns and gradations of color.

At our member meeting in January Laura-Leigh Palmer presented an interesting and informative demonstration on website development. Some of the stumbling blocks to creating websites were covered as well as website development software programs that are available. Here are some notes provided by our membership chair Sandy Cepatis:

- Σ● One program to use to do your own: Dreamweaver
- Σ● Reasonable cost to set up a website \$800-\$1200
- Σ● Take a class at Montgomery College...workforce development
- Σ● Get a domain name in your name (web address)
- Σ● Buy closet space online (Dovad.net)

I look forward to seeing many of you at the February meeting the day before Valentine's Day.

—Sara Becker

Montgomery County Financial News

—summarized by Ruth Ellsworth,
MCAA member and past president

I'm afraid the 6% sales tax will have a bad effect on sales of our art work. With the inflation and wages remaining level, everybody will be feeling the squeeze.

There were a lot of tax increases passed during O'Malley's Special Session. They were listed in the *Gazette* and in *The Washington Times*. Here is the list:

- Income Tax now has three new brackets: 5% for single filers who make more than \$150,000 and joint filers who make more than \$200,000.
- 5.25% for singles making more than \$300,000 and joint filers making more than \$350,000.
- 5.5% for singles and joint filers making more than \$500,000
- Personal Exemptions would be increased by \$800 for single taxpayers making less than \$100,000 per year and joint filers making less

than \$150,000 a year in federal adjusted gross income.

- Sales tax increased to 6%.
- Tobacco Tax: Increased from \$1 to \$2 a pack.
- Vehicle Titling Tax increased from 5% to 6% with full trade-in allowances.
- Corporate Income taxes were increased from 7% to 8.15% along with other restrictions.

Budget cuts were made in Education, \$77 million transferred from the employee Health Insurance Fund to cover operating costs and 500 vacant state jobs eliminated. The utility property-tax grant was eliminated to save \$31 million. In spite of all this, \$262 million still need to be cut from the State budget.

According to a story in *The Washington Times* this past week, the governor has INCREASED the state budget.

Classes at Plaza

The Plaza Art team in Rockville has their winter class schedule out and available in their store or online. While most of their January classes are full, there are still openings for February and March. Plaza is offering unique classes not only in art techniques but also in marketing your art. In addition, the Rockville store hosts national artist workshops on designated weekends. Break away and try something new that will reenergize your artistic vision.

With so many changes in the art market over the last several years, there seems to be a class or workshop for everyone.



news you can use ...

TAX DO'S AND DON'T'S

You cannot deduct the value of your time or services that you donated to a good cause. This applies whether your services are professional or not. (Out-of-pocket expenses related to your volunteer service may be deductible.)

EXHIBITION REVIEW

Over the holidays, Sara Becker attended the night-time exhibit of Chihuly glass art at the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh. It was exciting to see so much colorful and interestingly shaped glasswork among the plants of the botanical gardens. The exhibit has been described by Phipps as,

"Joined with our horticulturalists and landscape designers, Dale Chihuly has created a dazzling fusion of art and nature here in our lush gardens. With vibrant colors, larger-than-life dimensions and a penchant for creative collaboration, Chihuly has revolutionized the way artists look at glass. Always a believer that "more is better," Chihuly directs teams of people to execute his vision, both in the glassmaking studio and at exhibition locations such as Phipps." Take a look at the exhibit online or visit Phipps Conservatory while the exhibit is there until February 24th. <http://www.phipps.conservatory.org/chihuly/gallery.html>



Ratner Museum —

PHOTOS REQUIRED:

2 photos of your best art work sent as a jpeg to Edelweiss to be made into a photo (\$.15 each)

Guidelines for photographing: just the work itself. No frame or background. Take in good light. No glare.

Send in an email to Edelweiss at edelweiss101@yahoo.com or call 301-588-8552

Deadline: Feb 16, 2008

*If you are unable to take your own photo, Edelweiss has offered to take a photo of your work for you, if you bring it to her house at her convenience.



BETHESDA PAINTING AWARDS

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15

Open to artists 18+ residing, in Maryland, Virginia or Washington, D.C. Awards: \$10,000 first place; \$2,000 second place; \$1,000 third-place, \$1,000 "young artist" (30 or younger). Show dates: June 4-July 5, 2008 at Fraser Gallery of Bethesda. Entry fee: \$25, non-refundable: 5 slide submissions. Slides must be 35mm. 2x2 paper or plastic mounts: digital images on CD as JPG, GIF, or PNG. All original 2-D painting including oil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, encaustic, and mixed-media. Maximum dimensions should not exceed 60" in width. No reproductions. Artwork must be completed within the last two years and be available for the duration of the exhibit. Insurance, 40% commission. Prospectus: SASE to The Bethesda Painting Awards, c/o Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc., 7700 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814, www.bethesda.org, cmeyers@bethesda.org, 301-215-6660, ext 17.

PLEINAIR!- EASTON! COMPETITION & ARTS FESTIVAL

DEADLINE MARCH 3

Easton Main Street & The Avalon Foundation. July 21- July 27, 2008. Competition will be juried. Media: Oils, watercolor, pastels. Entry fee \$35/3 images. 40% commission on sold work; 25% on Quick Draw artwork. Cash awards total more than \$11,000 + awards of merit. Juror: Lynn Gertenbach, Signature member, Plein-Air Painter of America, www.pleinaireaston.com, SASE to Plein-Air Easton, c/o Avalon Foundation, 40 W. Dover St., Easton, MD 21601 or 410-822-7297. Accepted artists will be notified online on March 24.

FRIENDSHIP HEIGHT VILLAGE CENTER SHOW:

JUNE 2008

KENSINGTON LABOR DAY PAINT THE TOWN SHOW:

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

BROOKSIDE GARDENS

OCT. 31 - DEC. 12, 2009

Venues: Lobby, Information Desk, and Library
Show Title: "Scenes of Autumn"

Plants should be the primary focus of all of the works. Landscapes, seascapes (including vegetation), floral arrangements, botanical studies, etc. are all appropriate for exhibition. We reserve the right to reject on the day of installation any works whose quality or subject matter, as judged solely by the exhibitions coordinator, is not consistent with Brookside Gardens exhibition standards.

NEWSLETTERS

Are you being featured in a show? Let us know, and we'll get the word out in our newsletter! Also welcomed are suggestions on guest presenters for future meetings. Contact Marlene Sapperstein with your submissions for the newsletter or Alejandra Hucek for suggestions on guest speakers.

BOARD VACANCIES

We have opening on the Board for Publicity Chair and Secretary. Please also keep in mind that some of our board members will be turning over at the next election. We will be recruiting for new board positions in the near future so please give a thought to how you can serve Montgomery Art Association. For information about serving, including job descriptions, please contact our president Sara Becker at thebeckers6400@verizon.net

MCAA Board for 2007-2008

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