

CONNECTIONS

NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DESIGNER CRAFTS COUNCIL, INC

Fall 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I really didn't know what I wanted to say in this column until the last few weeks. With all of the chaos and uncertainty in the financial world it became clearer to me.

As artists and craftspeople we are in the business of selling products which are not a life necessity but something that enhances or adorns the body, home and environment.

In a sluggish economy if the buyers are fewer we are presented with the great challenge of sustaining and maintaining our businesses and our livelihood.

It is all about change and adjusting to the marketplace. Bruce Baker touched on it in his marketing presentation. We change our designs, vary our price point, add new categories to capitalize on consumer trends, consider alternative marketing venues, try to tighten our belts a little on our expenses and maybe even take a little time to try something new to keep the creative juices flowing.

There are many things you are unable to control. But here are a few things you can consider...Walk. Talk to each other. Remember to breathe. Do something you can control and that will give you peace of mind. Because we work with our hands, we are fortunate to be able to immerse ourselves in the creation of our work. Whether it is the beat of the loom, the stroke of the hammer or the feel of the clay in your hands there is a comfort in the rhythm of the work.

Try not to worry. Appreciate the good things in your life And don't forget to vote.

Fondly, Barb Chappell

Morning Glory 2008

We could not have asked for a more beautiful week-end for our 34th Annual Morning Glory Fair. Cool temperatures, sunny days and a light breeze created a pleasant climate for our artists and patrons.

Thanks to all the artists who exhibited and also gave their comments on the evaluations. Preparations are underway for the 2009 fair already and we take into consideration all of the comments and suggestions (both positive and negative!) Congratulations to this years award winners.

WDCC Best in Show

Betsy Youngquist (Mixed Media)

WDCC Awards of Excellence

Terry Habeger (Ceramics)

Doug Wunder (Jewelry)

Michael Bond (Printmaking)

Frederick Warren (Glass)

Kim Koch (Jewelry)



Best of show winner, Betsy Youngquist with show chair Barb Heimsch.

Photo by Larry Sanders.



Photo by Larry Sanders.

Marcus Center Award of Excellence

Michael Stipek (Photography)

WDCC Honorable Mention

Jef Raasch (Ceramics)

Gillian Kemper (Printmaking)

Jane Wilhelm (Photography)

Laura Livermore (Fiber/Wearable)

Erika Mock (Fiber /Wearable)

Purchase Award

Terry Habeger (Ceramics)

We will be using the Zapp Application Process for the 2009 Fair. Applications open up on the Zapp website www.zapplication.org November 15th and will continue to be accepted up until March 01, 2009. Many of you are already familiar with this process and for those of you who are new to using it we will try and help you along the way. There are many places to have your slides formatted for Zapp. As a WDCC member applying for Morning Glory you are eligible for a reduced rate from Sanders Visual Images. Contact Larry Sanders at lzs@gowebway.com for more information.

WDCC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Please keep us informed of your accomplishments. Submit information to WDCC, 3900 W. Brown Deer Rd., Suite 130A, WI 53209, or fiberwood@aol.com

Bravo To Our Members...

Louisville Visual Art Association has chosen **Jessie Voss** to be one of 12 artists from around the country to create a custom table setting of dinnerware and serving pieces for their nationally recognized and covered event "DinnerWorks" in January 2009.

Sharon Wright's Beaded Textile piece took 1st place in the Professional Fiber/Textile category of the exhibition "Celebrating Beads" at the Bead Museum of Washington DC. (400 7th St NW)

The show runs through December 31, 2008

Barbara Pelowski received first place in the 3-D mixed media category at the 20th Annual Edwards Place Fine Art Fair in Springfield IL.

PJ Boylan's photo from the west coast of Norway--"Moored"--was accepted for PhotoMidwest: A Seven State Photography Competition. The states, in addition to Wisconsin, are Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri. 519 images were entered into the competition from which 50 images from 41 photographers were chosen for the exhibit. The exhibit will run through November 11, 2008 at the Memorial Union, UW Madison.

Lori Pruessing (Fiber), **Angelo Fico** (Glass) and **Gillian Kemper** (Graphics/Printmaking) were all award winners at the 2008 Art Fair on the Square Sponsored by the Deer Path Art League, Lake Forest Illinois.

Women of Metal

Women of Metal, an invitational exhibition of 33 women metalsmiths from across the country was held at the Crossman Gallery, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater from September 9th through October 18th. Four longstanding WDCC members, **Joan Miller -Hubbard**, **Claire Pflieger**, **Sylvia Youell** and **Sister Rosemarita Huebner** were among the exhibitors.

The show was the result of a two year project to feature and acknowledge "all women of metal who through their work and mentorship offer inspiration and models of strength and excellence." (Exhibition Catalog) The show was funded by grants from several sources including the National Endowment for the Arts, J.M. Kohler Foundation, Rio Grande/Bell Group and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation Mary Tingley Fund.

The opening reception was a joyous celebration culminating an afternoon of special events. A panel of women metalsmiths presented viewpoints on "Innovation, Connection and Education." Keynote speaker, Bruce Pepich, Executive Director of the Racine Art Museum and the Charles Wustum Museum of Art, spoke of the importance and recognition of crafts as fine art. To continue the celebration and educational aspect, a weeklong series of lectures and workshops for students was presented by some of the women of metal exhibitors.

A beautiful color catalog accompanied the exhibit.



Enjoying the appetizers at the Morning Glory Artist Reception.

Photo by Larry Sanders.



Ilze Heider and Laura Livermore unwind at the Artist Reception.

Photo by Larry Sanders.

Morning Glory Gallery Gets Ready for the Holidays



Our handsome Morning Glory Gallery inside the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee is gearing up for the holiday season as new work from our members arrives weekly. Despite a sluggish economy, gallery sales have been on an upswing this year, and we are very proud of our successes. The gallery celebrated its two-year anniversary in July and we couldn't be happier with our partnership with the Marcus Center.

The gallery had one of its best sales weekends during the Morning Glory Fair in August when work by Gretchen LimaWood was featured. Gretchen has been a long-standing member of WDCC for decades, and the gallery is the only spot in the area carrying her work. We were pleased to have Gretchen join us during the weekend of the fair (she paid for her own plane ticket and traveled from Arizona to work in the gallery and help us sell her popular mixed-media spirit dolls). Customers were invited to register to win one of Gretchen's dolls during this special promotion.

The gallery also participates in Milwaukee's quarterly Gallery Night & Day and features a specific artist during these special weekends. In January, the gallery featured nature photography by Rick LaMartina; in April, Ilze Heider leather handbags were the focus; in July, the gallery showcased Gretchen LiimaWood dolls; and this fall photography by Tony Casper was spotlighted. Featured artists are selected based on their sales level in the gallery and availability of inventory.

The gallery currently features work from about 50 WDCC members who receive a 6-month contract. After that time, sales are reviewed and contracts can be renewed. Jurying for new work to sell in the gallery will take place during winter 2009. Watch for an e-mail with details for submitting images for review by the gallery committee.

WDCC members are encouraged to volunteer in the gallery during show times and see or hear a performance for free! You only need to work several hours the day of a performance of the Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee Symphony, Florentine Opera or the Broadway series, and you get to go into Uihlein Hall to see or hear the show. (Volunteers then come back out to help in the gallery during intermission.) Please call the gallery directly at 414-765-7227 to sign up as a volunteer.

The Morning Glory Gallery is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12 noon until 6 p.m. and on evenings during all performances in Uihlein Hall. The gallery is also open by appointment.



Gretchen LimaWood visited the gallery during the weekend of the Morning Glory Fair when her mixed-media dolls were featured.

Do we have your correct contact information?

Please keep us informed when you change you Internet provider as well as any changes of address. We want to make sure that you are kept abreast of WDCC news and upcoming events. Contact Membership chair Ian Pritchard with your changes at pritchardians@aol.com.

You may also have your website listed on the WDCC site under "links". Contact Barb Chappell at Fiberwood@aol.com if you would like to be added.

2008-2009 WDCC Board of Directors

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Joan Miller-Hubbard
Becki Moylan
Larry Sanders
Hazel Wheaton

MANAGER/MARKETING

Morning Glory Gallery
Barb Caprile
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bcaprile@ameritech.net

2008 Workshop

After an overwhelming response to this opportunity, many of our WDCC members working in jewelry and art metals were treated to a fold forming workshop with master goldsmith Charles Lewton-Brain in October.

This two day workshop included a series of demonstrations on fold forming, with opportunities for attendees to explore the various techniques.

Charles has trained, studied and worked in Germany, Canada and the United States. His contribution to the field of metalworking and education is renowned worldwide.

He invented fold forming, a system of working sheet metals that is completely new. Hundreds of shapes are possible and the results are widely used for sculpture, installation, decorative blacksmithing and jewelry. These dynamic shapes are unachievable by any other method and are produced from single sheets of almost any metal. Simple hand tools are used to produce complex three-dimensional and relief forms and structures rapidly. The pieces resemble dried seed pods and other shapes from nature--it doesn't seem possible to bend, hammer, heat, and press copper into such light, delicate and elegant forms!

He was a very entertaining speaker, keeping up a steady stream of



Charles Lewton-Brain demonstrates fold forming.

Photo by Larry Sanders.

conversation, tips, instruction and wisdom while constantly working pieces of metal with his hands and tools. Workshop attendees were impressed not only with his teaching ability, but also his generosity and kindness. He truly ignited something new and exciting in all the students. "This master held his audience captive! I was fascinated for the entire time!" "It opened my way of thinking."

The workshop was presented October 4th & 5th at Mount Mary College and repeated for another group October 6th & 7th at Terri McCarthy Studio in Grafton.

For more on Charles visit his web site at brainpress.com

Membership Form

DUES EFFECTIVE JAN.-DEC.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone (studio/work) _____

Phone (home) _____

e-mail _____

I am a craftsperson educator

collector arts administrator

other _____

Media _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- \$45 Individual (1 year)
- \$80 Individual (2 years)
- \$75 Gallery/retail shop (1 year)
- \$125 Gallery/retail shop (2 years)
- \$75 Partnership - 2 artists working collaboratively on same body of work (1 year)
- \$125 Partnership (2 years)
- \$30 Full-time student
- \$30 Senior citizen (65 and older)
- \$350 Life member (one-time payment)

Make check payable to
Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council
and send to: WDCC,
3900 W. Brown Deer Rd., Suite 130A,
Milwaukee, WI 53209

3900 West Brown Deer Road
Suite 130A
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