



Waseca Art Center

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JUNE 2024

BOARD MEMBERS

- | | |
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THANK YOU!



WASECA AREA FOUNDATION
GENEROSITY - COMMUNITY - GRATITUDE



WASECA VISION 2030

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

- Christy Easton
- Karen Krause
- Missy Donner
- Jessica Stuckmayer
- Jenny Bulfer
- Arionna Theobald

RACHEL COYNE

BECKMANN GALLERY

JUNE 12TH - SEPT 27TH

RECEPTION JUNE 20TH, 5- 7 PM

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ABIGAIL BLYTHE

BECKMANN GALLERY

JULY 31ST - SEPT. 14TH

RECEPTION AUG. 8TH, 5 -7 PM

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DICK CRUMB

GREAT HALL GALLERY

JULY 31ST - SEPT 14TH

RECEPTION AUG. 8TH, 5-7

PM

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MUSINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

MELISSA DONNER

I spent several days recently performing the end of the school year Art Room cleaning. It's always bittersweet. I'm ready for a break, yet I truly miss the students, and miss the privilege to make and encourage them to make, art daily. As usual, I found exercises that students had left behind, and as usual, I found myself planning things that I could make with the leftovers. I find such happiness and fulfillment in even the planning stages of creation. We've long been aware of the many benefits of engaging with any of the arts. The author Neil Gaiman wrote, "The world always seems brighter when you have just made something that wasn't there before." That resonates with me, and with many of you, I'm sure.

Studies have shown that experiences bring more joy than the acquisition of things. The act of making is an experience, and as such, will enrich our lives. On the chance that some don't subscribe to a minimalist lifestyle, consider that the more things are created, the more things there will be to have, so either way it's a win.

We are social beings, and as such, need a sense of community. Art brings that to us. We can share our commonalities and our differences, and as we do this, we develop empathy and understanding for those around us. As the world grows smaller, we more often meet those with different cultures, ideas, and backgrounds. Sharing creation and learning about each other on such a vulnerable level builds community at a time when other forces are being divisive. This opportunity also helps us know ourselves better as we see, and react to another's work. Thomas Merton explained this eloquently saying, "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."



The act of creation is also physically good for us. Our brains are wired to find patterns, so the more complex a piece, the more exercise our brains get. As we use our creativity, we are able to access it more readily. This action lowers stress hormone levels, making us more resilient to the vagaries of life. Anxiety and other mental illnesses are becoming more prevalent, especially in our youth, making participation in the arts, with all the benefits it brings, even more important. I'm very proud to be part of a community that supports and appreciates the importance of making art available in the lives of those around us.

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FUNDERS LUNCHEON

On June 4, 2024, the Waseca Arts Center sponsored a Funders Luncheon to thank our community for all the financial support we have been given over the past year.

A tremendous thanks to our City and County leaders, The Waseca Area Foundation, Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, and the hundreds of Individuals who donate to our Art Center. Without you, our community would be a little less bright. Thank you all for supporting the arts in our community and beyond.

Thank you so much for supporting the arts!



HIGH SCHOOL EXHIBIT AND WORKSHOP

The annual High School show ran from March 6 - April 20. Students from six area high schools participated this year, and as usual it was a wonderful exhibit. Each piece exhibited in the show displayed the wonderful talent of each artist who participated. It made the judges' job very challenging. Awards were given for 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, and an honorable mention. Congratulations go to Felix Kelzer(1st), Mady Skelly (2nd), Edward Deuine, (3rd), and Kai Laidlaw, (honorable mention). The exhibit was followed by a painting workshop with Artist Bradley Donner leading the project.



PENNY VOUGHT NEW BOARD MEMBER



Penny Vought was born and raised in northern Minnesota and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology. She then attended Minnesota State University and received her law enforcement accredited classes.

She started working for the Waseca Police Department in 1984 as a patrol officer. She eventually became a Detective, Captain, and now serves as the Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police. She has been very active in the Waseca Community and has served on several local and State boards. She's been a previous Waseca Art Council board member, and Board President and has now returned to be a board member once again. She loves to support local artists, and collects just about anything.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



The Art Appreciation Group exhibited in the Beckmann Gallery in May and June. The gallery provided an intimate setting for all the group members to display their work, highlighting the breadth of local talent in a variety of mediums. Their art exhibit has been extended and moved to the Great Hall Gallery through July.

The Art Appreciation Group has had several transformations through the years. The current goal is for the group to focus on learning about artists and artistic movements while experimenting in the style of the lecture topic, through different art activities, projects, and mediums.

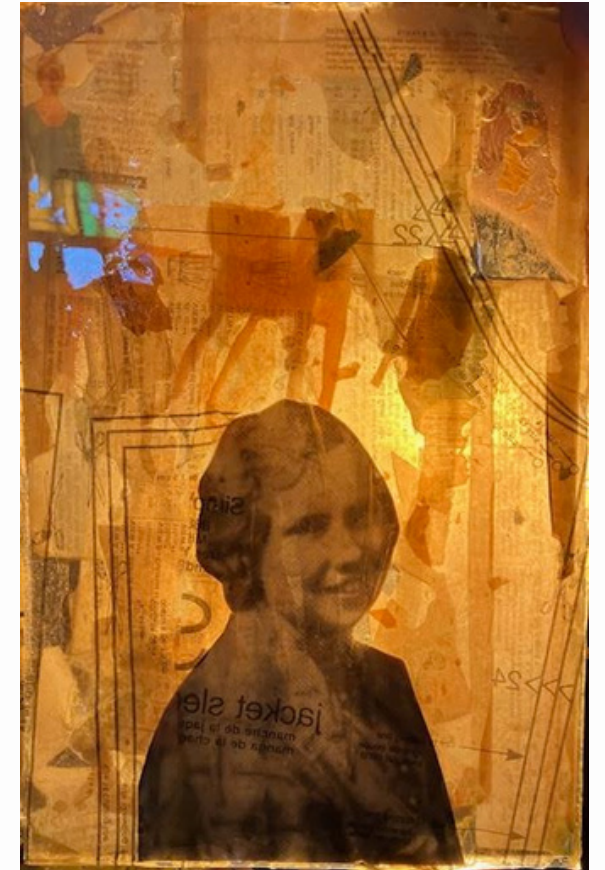
For those who wish to join the group, members meet every Wednesday in the upstairs classroom of the Waseca Art Center from 10 am - 12 pm. sometimes, however, when the weather is glorious, they talk their talents outside to enjoy a plein air session, painting and drawing in the open air, like the old masters used to do. All are welcome. Feel free to join us!

RACHEL COYNE HARGUTH GALLERY JUNE 12TH - JULY 27TH

"MISSING & DISAPPEARED" is Rachel Coyne's new body of work centered around the crisis of missing women in the United States. This work is composed panels of resin in which the artist has suspended a collage of paper materials from vintage clothing patterns. When a light is shone through the panels, multiple female silhouettes come into view, emerging from the shadows. There are around 14,000 unidentified decedents in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, and all too many of them are women who went missing.

Unidentified decedents are usually described by the clothes they are wearing, and sometimes they are named after them. For example, a Sarasota County "Jane Doe" is described as "wearing a multi-colored cotton pullover with an Italian label." Since many of the unidentified decedents are from the 1960's, 70's, and 80's, the vintage patten envelopes used in Coyne's work are contemporary to their lives. The backlighting of the pieces reflect the hope of new DNA technologies.

The images of women in this display are drawn from the DNA Doe website throughout the United States. All of these women were former Jane Does, whose names were found through DNA technologies, such as GEDmatch. GEDmatch allows any person who has participated in popular ancestry genetic testing programs to upload their DNA into a database used by volunteers to identify Jane Does.



ABIGAIL BLYTHE

BECKMANN GALLERY

JULY 31ST - SEPTEMBER 14TH
RECEPTION AUGUST 8, 5 - 7 PM

Abigail graduated Minneapolis College of Art and Design in 2005 with a BFA in photography. She picked up her oil painting supplies after seven years of not using them. They were originally bought for one university class. After moving back to Minnesota in 2013, Abigail no longer had access to a dark room and began to paint. In that time she has had a couple of solo shows. She has shown at the Bird Island Historical Society, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and in the Waconia, and Watertown libraries. There have been many group shows with the Arts Consortium Carver County (ACCC), over the past 7 years, including "traveling art exhibits" throughout the Carver County Library system. Additionally, she presented in group shows at Eagan Art Works.

Abigail had always been drawn to portraiture, whether it be photography, painting or even drawing. The animals that she started with have allowed her to hone her technical skills and learn the new medium that she started working with. The animal paintings series gave Abigail enough distance to play with the materials and learn them.



DICK CRUMB

HARGUTH GALLERY

JULY 31ST - SEPTEMBER 14TH
RECEPTION AUGUST 8, 5 - 7

Dick Crumb grew up on a family "Century Farm" in southern Minnesota, not far south from Waseca. He attended the University of Minnesota - Waseca, and graduated from there. Nearly 50 years ago, Dick was severely injured in a car accident, and has been on a wheel chair ever since. He became interested in photography many years ago in college, and now, in his retirement years, has been able to invest more time in his decades long passion.

"I love to travel and as part of my travel experiences, I enjoy capturing some of the delightful scenes of God's wondrous creation (the work of His hands) through my camera lens. My rural upbringing, and farm life background is often exhibited in the pastoral scenes I capture in my photographs, often scenes in the Waseca area!"

