

SaltCreek News

American Art Foundation

Preserving art for this generation and the next



From the Board: Focussing on New Creations

The SaltCreek American Art Foundation's mission is to preserve art for this generation and the next, and to that end, we work to maintain the McKinnon Gallery and to share its paintings, sculpture, and pottery with as many people as possible. Certainly the gallery art dating back to George Washington's time is a treasure we value.

In addition, we also are excited about the art that students and adults in our community are creating today, and we wanted to dedicate this issue to today's artists. Some of the current art will be permanent contributions and some of it will be enjoyed temporarily. From student poetry to outdoor mosaics and rocking chairs, we hope that you take pleasure in and appreciate the creativity, skill and variety as much as we do.

Mosaics Move onto CP

On October 18 Congress Park School unveiled two exterior mosaics created by artists Becky and Rick Cortez of Cortez Design, Inc. Work on the projects began over a year ago when, with support from the school's PTO and the Beautification Committee, Becky and students in the Ecology Club brainstormed the major themes to be depicted. With the themes in mind, students in art classes created illustrations, and from 200 drawings Cortez picked images that would look good in mosaic form.

In *What We do Here* we find an owl for learning, music notes and paint brushes for the arts, flowers growing for academic growth, and shooting stars for academic excellence. *Who We Are* shows student faces (diversity), the dolphin mascot (school pride), an American flag (patriotism) and neighborhood homes (communities).

The \$2500 cost of the project was co-funded by the SaltCreek American Art Foundation which shared a grant from the Illinois Arts Council and the Congress Park PTO which held a variety of fundraisers.

Students, parents, faculty, and guests attended the afternoon ceremony. As Becky noted, "For thousands of years people have been making art because they have something they wish to say. Because of that, art is all around us. All we have to do is take the time to look!" The cheering from the crowd as the mosaics were unveiled reflected everyone's agreement.

In the Artist's Corner – Alla Jablokow

Alla Jablokow, a La Grange artist, has generously donated a watercolor to the SaltCreek American Art Foundation. _____ will now be part of the McKinnon Gallery's collection.

Dow Chemicals, Transunion Corporation, Elmhurst Art Museum, Hinsdale Center for the Arts, and the Union League Club of Chicago. The McKinnon Gallery is honored to add its name to this group.

Jablokow's preferred medium is watercolor and her favorite subject matter is Nature. She typically photographs Nature at close range (flowers, rocks, roots, etc.) and studies her slides for months until she is ready to paint.

Born in Leningrad in 1929, Jablokow moved from Russia to West Germany and then to the United States in 1951. Here she earned degrees in biology, married, and raised a family. After moving to La Grange, Jablokow joined the La Grange Art League and began teaching watercolor there in 1987. In 2010 the League featured a special retrospective exhibit of Jablokow's forty years of work.

Jablokow earned the title "Master Watercolorist" with the Transparent Watercolor Society of America (TWSA). Her paintings are part of numerous private collections and the collections of American Express,



Mosaics Beneath the Sea

If you visit the second floor of Park Junior High, you will be amazed by the 48 foot underwater scene lining the hall. Funded through the Park Activity Fund and the Park PTC, the entire project was four years in the making. Eighth grade students submitted drawings, and drawings that worked for a particular image were selected. Each semester over 150 drawings were submitted! Students created the mosaics under the guidance of CortezDesign, Inc. and added grout to the final installation once it was mounted on the wall.

The Beatles Yellow Submarine was created in conjunction with the Spring Concert. The wave border, which uses many found objects donated by the students, was inspired by the tsunami that devastated Japan. Tile was also donated by Park families throughout the project construction.

This magical scene which will permanently brighten the days of all who see it.



Poetry Meets Paintings a.k.a. Ekphrastic

Park Junior High teacher Osen Kuehnle shared a recent assignment for her seventh graders. They were to write ekphrastic poems focussing on works of art and interpreting, inhabiting, confronting, and speaking to their subjects.

Students visited the McKinnon Gallery and were to write about the scene or subject; write in the voice of a person or object shown; imagine what was happening while the artist was creating the piece; write in the voice of the artist or of an object or person portrayed in the artwork; speak directly to the artist or subject; or imagine a story behind what you see in the piece.

My Side by Shannon O'Connor

(*On the Beach* by Potthast)

I crash on the beach,
And I ebb out.
I have no ears but I hear
The gulls calling.
The shrieks of the young girls playing
Fill the air.
I have no eyes, but I see
A sandcastle being made.
Their feet shape the ground bare.
A red bucket sits in the sand.
The boats float in the distance.
I play at the girls' feet
Trying to take back the driftwood that is just
Out of reach.
The bright colored bows and
Pale pink dresses
Catch my attention.
I know that one day
They will return to me,
Older but stronger
But playing the same.

Winter in the City by Carly Green

(*Winter in NYC* by Wiggins)

Ahead I see a wondrous sight
I'm gazing at a world of white.
And gracefully falling through the air
Were tiny snowflakes everywhere.
Their feet sink deep into the snow,
The children's faces are aglow.
I feel the whooshing wind so strong.
It sings out its own wintry song.
I hear the sound: the feet of horses.
They pull the carriages on their courses.
Afar I see the church's tower
I hear it chiming ev'ry hour.
The scent of freshest snow I smell
Soon I will have to wish it farewell.
When dressed in snowflakes she is pretty;
I've been describing New York City.

The Rope by Laura McAllister

(binding on *Nathan Hale's* wrists by MacMonnies)

His guilty eyes are but visible as air to me
Yet I know the lies and scandals they have seen
His heart throbs, further reaping his despair,
Those he had trusted are solemn as they stare
Quickens the pace, the beating in his chest
It trembles my rough and stringy breast
The cool of buttons reflects the scenery
The metallic echo of the soldiers' marching
Each step is framed by a stone wall and floor
The crisp oak tower is resting by the shore
My own sister is curled as a snake
Prepared to grasp the life she will take
As I am set free, a sack goes on his head,
And though I can't see, I know he is dead.



La Grange Rocks, the 2011 Summer Sidewalk Art

SaltCreek once again participated in La Grange's sixth annual outdoor summer art festival. This year's rocking chair, painted by Becky Cortez, featured scenes from McKinnon paintings.

Painted in bright summer hues with reproductions of two paintings from the McKinnon Gallery, the chair evoked community, restfulness and an invitation to "Sit, stay awhile, and come back often."

Cortez reproduced free-hand *Village Scenery* by Pauline Lennars Palmer because "it had a nice summery feel to it with a woman tending her garden amongst homes that reminded me of the the vintage homes in La Grange." *Early Summer* by John Carlton Wiggins is a landscape with animals, trees, and a pastoral setting that could have been La Grange when everything was still farmland.

The September chair auction raised nearly \$18,000 for community charities and \$300 for our foundation.



Picture Yourself in La Grange!
by Becky Cortez

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