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OTTAWA ART ASSOCIATION

Executive 2007-2008

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PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS

With two more meetings left for this current term, I am nearing the end of my two-year stint as President of the Ottawa Art Association; and I'd like to remind you of the many events your association has supported. During my time on the Board, I've enjoyed educational events - tours, of the existing Portrait Gallery facility, for example, and exhibits around town, such as the Joe Fafard show at the National Gallery this year. Last year, there was the very interesting and fun trip to Quebec City! We've tried to provide speakers on a wide range of helpful topics for artists - this year, Bhat Boy's presentation on the business side of art, Larry Deacon's on archiving techniques, and Blair Sharpe's demonstration on abstract painting were all enjoyed by a 'full house' at our monthly meetings. This month, come hear Andrea Mossop, a well-known artist and teacher at St. Lawrence College - all who have taken a class or workshop with her can confirm her knowledge and passion for art. Also, with the help of our volunteers, our Awards shows and monthly hangings at the Ottawa Little Theatre are our staple activities which help to promote our own visibility as artists in Ottawa.

Our board is always eager for suggestions for you, and for your help as sitting members. If there is something you would like changed or added, consider having some influence - volunteer to be part of your executive. Remember to mark June 10 on your calendar, the annual meeting when we elect the new board for the 2009/2010 term.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 13, 2008
7:30 to 9:30 p.m., 3rd floor,
Multi-Service Centre,
1480 Heron Rd.,
Ottawa

Executive Meeting: 6:15 p.m.
GUEST SPEAKER:
ANDREA MOSSOP
What Painting Is: Monet's New
Vision

OAA OUTING (TOUR) - F.H. VARLEY PORTRAIT EXHIBIT Friday, May 30, 1:45 p.m.

F.H. Varley, a founding member of the Group of Seven, was a much sought-after portrait painter. Join fellow OAA members for a guided tour of his portraits of family, mistresses, muses, and patrons. The Varley Gallery in Markham has organized a tour of approximately 60 portraits and self-portraits. Many of these are held in private collections, so this will be a chance for us to see them for the very first time. The exhibit will be coming to the Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St. (at Metcalfe), Ottawa. (613) 566-4700.



Unfortunately, the guided visits are only available during the week, so our tour has been scheduled for Friday, May 30 at 2:00 p.m. We will meet our guide (an artist educator from the Portrait Gallery of Canada) inside the front entrance to the museum. Please arrive 15 minutes before the tour starts. The cost will be \$5.00 per person. You are welcome to bring a guest; the size of our group will be capped at 20.

To register, please phone Sue Ouellette at (613) 830-5813 or email her at sue.ouellette@sympatico.ca. The deadline for registration is May 16.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION - The Ottawa Little Theatre

For the past two years, I have been faithfully going to the OLT to attend its monthly plays. I haven't been disappointed in any of them. The eight plays of each season vary from classics to modern, comedies to horror stories. Always the acting is very competent.

Going to the theatre has always been a pleasure for me: I enjoy watching a play, and during the intermission I can see the display of the OAA members' artwork. Often, I stand anonymously, close to my own painting, and listen to viewers' reactions and comments. Being at the theatre is a wonderful chance for me to see what the OAA members are painting, how they solve compositional problems, techniques they use and how they figure out the pricing of their work. It is a valuable experience for me. I am always happy to see people from the audience looking at our paintings, commenting on them, enjoying and appreciating them.

It is time right now to purchase a subscription for the next season's 8 plays (the cost of one play is \$15, which is much cheaper than a regular ticket would be). I have already renewed my subscription, and I would like to encourage all the members of the OAA to do the same and to find some time to enjoy a play and all paintings at the theatre.

- *Beata Jakubek*

APRIL PRESENTATION

Our April meeting featured a demonstration of abstract painting techniques, given by artist and teacher Blair Sharpe, from the Ottawa School of Art. Blair has mentored many, many of Ottawa's artists over more than twenty years, and is a very accomplished painter. Although the evening was billed as a demonstration, Blair covered an amazing amount of ground on techniques and materials. Some specifics of acrylic paints and ways of colour mixing, laying on of paints in layers, and the best tools for working 'abstract' paint onto the canvas were explained. Not to mention the historical tradition in which abstract expressionism developed. Or the comparison with music - that is, that an abstract painting is mostly about being a painting first, with what is evoked and metaphorical coming afterwards. For those who work abstractly, many new ideas were presented, and for those who haven't yet tried this style, Blair gave an initiation into an important tradition in North American painting. Great presentation!