



Artists United

Newsletter — December 2019

Artists United FANFARE

The Highline Heritage Museum (152nd & Ambaum in Burien) is now featuring one Highline area artist for a three-month exhibit in a very nice display space in their recently opened museum.

The next, only the second such exhibit, features the work of Paul Illian!



"Gourd Story" — Paul Illian

Paul says "The exhibit shows the breadth of my art with examples of many different styles, mediums and time periods. Painting, pen & ink, pastel, pencil, colored pencil, graphite, polystyrene, PVC and fiberglass are all represented."

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January Meeting

We often do not have a January meeting because the first Tuesday conflicts with the Cove's floor maintenance. **Not so this year.**

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

12 noon — Normandy Park Cove

Snacks Provided by

Linda Logie and Ron Hammond



FANFARE (continued from page 1)

Admission to the museum is free on the first Friday of the month 7-8:30 p.m.

Other hours are Tues.-Sunday 12pm-5pm

General admission \$8

Members free.

There is a small parking lot immediately adjacent to the museum on the corner of Ambaum and 152nd and plenty of on-street parking close by. I believe the bank parking lot across the street is also free after business hours (check the signage for sure).

Artists United Honored Members!

Our board codified a standing practice that we have observed for some years. Artists who have been members of AU for 20 or more consecutive years are now Honored Members and no longer pay annual membership dues. To the best of our knowledge the Honored members are:

Carole Shankland, joined in 1988

Don Zimmerman, joined in 1995

Lou Huff, joined in 1997

Judy Ekhart, joined in 1999

(Liz Simpson also joined in 1999 but took a several year sabbatical while she was curator at ArtsWest)

If others have been with AU for 20 or more years, please email artistsunitedclub@gmail.com and let us know!

January Artwork at the Burien Community Center by

Patricia Layden, Clare Parfitt,
Debbie Thomas, and Bev Eckley

January Artwork of the Month

The theme for January's artwork of the month is "Joy". Patricia reminds us that these are themes, not titles, so open to interpretation. (*But stick to the theme.*)

AU Has a New Gallery Space

Our board voted unanimously to accept a proposal from Burien Arts Association (BAA) to join them in a new community gallery space in the Highline Heritage Museum.

It is in a large, well-lit meeting room immediately adjacent to the museum's welcoming counter.

Museum admission is not needed to get to it.

BAA will no longer show a featured artist in the community center. The community center wants to use that wall for other purposes. However, at least for the next few months we will continue to show member work in our existing hallway gallery space there.

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Dues are Due

Unless you are an Honored member (20+ consecutive years of membership) your AU annual membership is \$35. This money covers our modest rent for use of the cove for our meetings, honorariums for our guest speakers, coffee and kitchen supplies, storage space for our display grids, and other stray expenses.

Benefits of membership (apart from the pleasure of associating with a diverse group of artists) are:

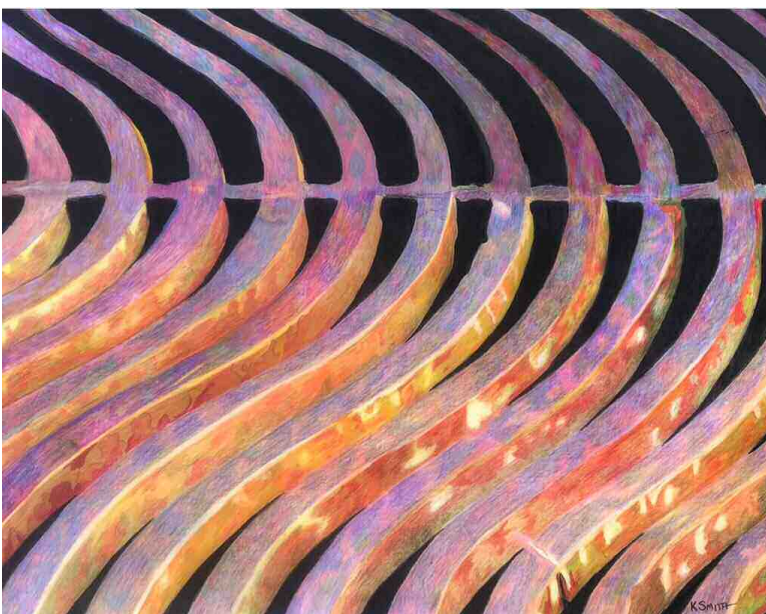
- Voting in elections
- Eligibility to hold office or appointed position
- Exhibiting in our venues and shows
- Receiving newsletters
- Attending business meetings and programs

If you wish to continue your AU membership and have not paid your dues please do so at the January meeting or send a check to the AU mailing address below before the January 7 meeting. Questions: email artistsunitedclub@gmail.com

Artists United

PO Box 66902
Burien WA 98166

Shortly after the January 7 meeting, we will delete inactive members from the roster before emailing it to the membership.



Grate Wave -- Karen Smith

OPPORTUNITY

Colored Pencils With Karen Smith

Colored Pencils are an excellent medium to learn — they're fun, and you can easily take them anywhere! They're not messy like oils or acrylics, and you don't have to wait for them to dry to continue working, like watercolor. Tuesdays, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4, 2/11, and 2/18 1-3 pm, Terrace Arts Room, at Wesley Homes. Email Karen for more details.



AU Monthly Meeting And Potluck December 3, 2019

Debra called the meeting to order. We have 2 new members.

Tom Fletcher passed out checks from the Cove Show. The total for the show was \$9,376. We made \$373 on the raffle and \$100 on food donations.

Membership asked for help identifying when members first joined to be able to track 20 year members who do not have to pay dues. Also, not all members have paid dues for the next year. The December newsletter will be the final newsletter for members who have not paid.

Claire said she's working on a special program for January. Stay tuned.

Shannan is moving! Reuf volunteered to curate the BCC shows as well as hang them. Two opportunities for curating: Page2 Books in Burien needs someone as does a massage studio in Des Moines currently showing AU artist work.

Debra announced the move planned by BAA. Because of the move and our vote to take on a new space, we will postpone BCC sign ups for the near future. We will continue sign ups after we develop the procedure for the new space as well as BCC.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM. Let's eat, talk about art.

— Karen Smith, secretary

Let's Talk About Art

An old saying: Once is "usually", twice is "always", three times is "traditional".

We're at "always" for art sharing at our monthly meetings. A goodly group of us gathered around a couple of tables after our December potluck to look at and hear about recent work.

There was something there for everybody: drawing, painting, collage, photography, and amazing bead work.

Judging from how much fun we seem to be having we should shoot for "traditional" and keep doing it.

New Curator for our Monthly and Juried Shows

After long and dedicated service Shannan Folino is leaving is to move to the sun belt (Sequim).

Reuf Kapetanovic has agreed to take on the position of curator for our monthly and juried shows at the Community Center. He is also serving on the task force to plan how we will use our newly acquired space at the Highline Heritage museum. He will doubtless need help, especially with hanging. Say "yes".



President's Message

Greetings to you all during this season of light. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, Solstice, or another sacred time, I wish you hope, peace, and happiness. While this time of year can be stressful, it is also beautiful and ripe with promise for the future. After all, the earth is resting, replenishing, and regenerating for the warmer seasons to come. Speaking of replenishing and regenerating, if you have artist friends who are considering joining Artists United this year, please tell them that they are welcome to visit at our January meeting, and, if they join, dues for the rest of our club year are only \$20.

Our numbers are strong, and our treasury is secure, but we can still benefit from new members and new ideas.

I thank all of you and our trusty board and committee chairs for your support and inspiration during these past months as we carry forth the vision of Artists United. We had a very successful Cove Show, revised our By-Laws, and now we are presented with another opportunity to be artistically adventurous. This new opportunity involves an added collaboration with Burien Arts Association and the Highline Heritage Museum in showcasing and marketing our members' artistic talent. Beginning in January, we will be displaying at the Museum along with Burien Arts' bi-monthly featured professional artist and collaborating with their reception during Burien's First Friday Art Walk. We will gain promotional consideration from the Museum, increased foot traffic, and a more art-focused environment. However, the linear feet of display space is less, and Burien Arts' artists

rotate only every two months, so they present only one reception every two months. We will maintain our gallery space at the Burien Community Center and we will be deciding myriad details with regard to curating and displaying in that space along with our new space, adding more receptions, etc. A subgroup of Reuf Kapetanovic, Lory Newsom, Tom Fletcher and I are researching such issues and will report our findings and recommendations to you at our January General Meeting and through email. Keep tuned.

I close with a quote to ponder, from Henry Winkler (A.K.A. "Happy Days' The Fonz). "I live by two words: tenacity and gratitude. Tenacity helps me get to where I am going. Gratitude keeps me not be angry along the way." So, friends, keep pursuing your artistic growth and development, and be grateful for the pleasures of discovery along with way.

Sincerely, and Happy Holidays to you all,
Debra

(Continued from page 2)

(AU Has a New Gallery Space)

Note: our new space in the museum is not the display case described in the page 1 FANFARE article that now is showing Paul Illian's work.

Exactly how we will organize and curate this new space and how it will coordinate with our existing space is yet to be determined — we have a task force working on it. We hope to have a plan ready to present at the January meeting.



Review: “Steal Like an Artist” by Austin Keon

This is a short book, a mere 140 pages. Half of them are in **BIG TYPE** or filled with funny, scribbly drawings. Many have lists of things. Most of all, though, it’s full of real, insightful advice, tips, and ideas for creative people. Like you. It’s a quick read and a book you’ll want to dip into again and again for a bit of encouragement and a drop of wisdom.

For example: “As the French writer Andre Gide put it ‘Everything that needs to be said [or drawn or painted] has already been said. But, since no one was listening [or looking] everything must be said [or drawn] again.’” The square parentheses are mine because the idea Gide puts forth is every bit as relevant for visual artists as for writers.

There is nothing new under the sun. So says Ecclesiastes. This book is about building up experiences, learning about artists you admire, copying them (yes, *copying them*), and realizing you can’t be them, so you begin to be yourself. Lots of us honed our drawing skills by copying the Masters. In fact, visit any good museum and you’ll likely find art students sitting on the floor or on a chair, sketchbook in lap, trying to duplicate a sculpture or reproduce a Vermeer. Thus, we learn. We improve and we create art.

Not all art we create is good art. Not to worry. Bad art happens to good artists. The cure for a bad piece of art is to create more art. Your color choices didn’t turn out the way you imagined. Or the surface you selected disappoints because it won’t take as many layers as you need it to.

Don’t despair! Realize instead that you just learned something valuable. Mixing Venetian Red with Olive Green makes mud color. Put that piece of information into the “Things I may use someday” file and pull it out when you need mud.

Kleon is a writer and an artist. He’s written a couple of other books, has appeared as a lecturer on TED, has an intriguing web presence (austinkleon.com). His blog is as entertaining as his books. He provides excellent ideas for building a web presence of your own. His secret? Make good art and share it with people. It’s one reason our CPSA Chapter encourages us to bring a piece – finished or in progress – to share and to discuss. Something may be challenging us; sharing will likely turn up suggestions on how to meet that challenge. Kleon’s book does this on every page.

This little book is filled with ideas and encouragements and is absolutely worth picking up and reading. Check your library – that’s where I got the copy I read. I will visit my local bookstore, though, and buy my own copy because the librarians get testy if I use highlighters in their books. They frown on making notes in the margins.

I can do whatever I want with my own Steal Like An Artist. Including reading it again.

— Karen Smith

Editor’s note: If you read a book of art or about art that really zings you (this one clearly zinged Karen) write a short review for our newsletter. Thanks, Karen.



Editor’s Opinion (Crank Letter Department)

We, Artists United, depend upon email as our primary means of communication. How often do you read your email? I try to strike a reasonable balance between “sometimes” and “every five minutes”. Twice a day is about my average; early and late. Sometimes in between if I’m waiting for a reply.

Our email service tags addresses that are not valid so I’m pretty sure that the messages are getting out but I often wonder if our members are actually reading them.

I recently sent a “Take a guess at when you joined AU” message; part of our

effort to record our group’s history. Less than a third of the active membership responded. Did the others not read it, put off answering, or ignore it.? I wish I knew.

This example is certainly not of cosmic significance but it may be a symptom. If we are going to depend on email I would like to have more confidence that we’re reaching our members.

Please read your emails!

A self-respecting artist must not fold his hands on the pretext that he is not in the mood.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Artists United Club

Our goals are to encourage artistic development and to bring art into the local community.

Meetings are at **NOON** on the first Tuesday, September through May (except when they aren’t) at:

Normandy Park Cove,
1500 SW Shorebrook Dr
Normandy Park, 98166
npcove.org

Artists United
PO Box 66902
Burien WA 98166
artistsunitedclub.com

2019-2020 Artists United Officers & Chairpersons

- President:Debra Valpey
- Vice-President:Karen Smith
- Secretary:Kits Morgan
- Treasurer:Jann Volk
- Membership:Paul Illian
- Programs: Clare Parfitt
- Juried Show: Doug Early, Reuf Kapetanovic
- Art Fair (Cove Show): Tom Fletcher,
- Newsletter/website: Ron Hammond
- Storage:Tom Fletcher, Anita Corby
- Artwork of the Month:..... Patricia Layden
- Hospitality/Kitchen:Linda Logie

To contact any officer or chairperson, email artistsunitedclub@gmail.com