

BRAVO!! Times

A Publication of the Grand Rapids Public Schools Art, Music and Physical Education Office

October 2006



Julie's Super Vision

Supervisor
Grand Rapids Public Schools
Fine Arts & Physical Education Department

Another year is here upon us...and we never slow down! In our first issue of the year, you will see all of the exciting programs we have going on in art, music, and PE. We are so fortunate that our GRPS Board sees the importance of these courses and how much students gain from being engaged in music, art, physical health, playing and producing music, performing, etc.

As we continue to increase grade level offerings, we are happy to announce a new partnership with Frederik Meijer Gardens and 6th grade students. Beginning this fall, all 6th graders will have the opportunity to travel to the Gardens and experience a fitness experience in the sculpture park. While viewing artwork and learning about how the art was created, they will use their bodies and movement to integrate with the art and capture deeper meaning. The benefits include increased art awareness AND personal fitness. Thank you to the Student Advancement Foundation and the Gardens staff for partnering with us in this new venture.

Have you been to any of our new buildings? If so, you will see a new Clavinova (electric piano) in each music room along with built-in acoustics and sound. You will see technology so teachers can transfer images electronically to a big screen where utilization of the internet and computer programs can expand learning. You will see fitness center space ready to accept fitness equipment for students and eventually parents and community.

As the American health crisis continues to unravel, rest assured that many new initiatives are taking place around GRPS and the community to help. We have a strong partnership with the YMCA that continues to expand our after school fitness offerings to students through the LOOP program. Kent Hills Elementary is participating in a yearlong dance, pedometer and nutrition program with GVSU where every student will receive an extra 30 minutes a week of time with GVSU students in fitness and nutrition activities. Burton Middle School had a farmers market in the fall to teach about good food choices for families. It is imperative that we all take a look at our own health and realize what our personal interest needs to be.

As always, we welcome all partners and ideas who believe in our mission to serve our students with creative and healthy choices.

Julie

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GRPS Fine Arts & Physical Ed. Dept.
1331 Franklin SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
Phone: 616.819.2156
Fax: 616.819.2180
Julie Powell, Supervisor
Email powellj@grps.k12.mi.us
Alesia Albin, Assistant
Email: albina@grps.k12.mi.us
Website Address:
www.grps.k12.mi.us/finearts

Design, Arrangement and Editing for the BRAVO!! Times by Alesia Albin.



MLK Leadership Academy—Photo courtesy of photographer, Michael Morin.

A View of the New MLK Leadership Academy

By Art Teacher, Tara Terwillegar

What's building up over at Martin Luther Leadership Academy? The new boys and girls electives in the art dept. These students are taking on new exciting and challenges since this is their first opportunity for chosen electives. We have two classes, and have chosen to split them by boys and girls in cooperation with the PE dept for 9 week courses. Currently we have boys drawing and girls mixed media. Boys have been working on shading techniques with colored pencil and oil pastel, and girls have been learning about Mexican culture with Huichol Indians and the Incas, making yarn paintings and paper mache masks.

Elementary students are taking a trip around their identity making school wide self portraits and moving on to highlights around Michigan and then down to South America. Lots more excitement to come for these promising students!

Grants Not to be Taken for Granted

Art teacher Joanne Perko, is ready to unveil the latest artistic addition to Burton Middle School at a special presentation ceremony on October 9 at 11 o'clock. The permanent collection piece is a tiled cube sculpture. The funding to construct the sculpture was possible through a grant from the Grand Rapids Foundation in the amount of \$2000.00.

As part of this project the students researched Michigan and what it had to offer. They designed pictures that showcased the character of Michigan. The four seasons were chosen. Students enlarged the pictures to make a 4'x4' shot. This was traced onto 6" bisque tiles, that were then glazed and fired. The final 4 panels were put together to make a cube. This cube sits on a 2'X3' base. The top, and base, are made up of 4" tiles that students designed geometric designs on; they also glazed and fired the tiles. The sculpture shows summer, winter spring and fall, it is very colorful and details all the great things to do in Michigan during each season.

You can view the sculpture/mural in the entrance to Burton Middle. When the school renovations are complete, the piece will sit outside for the community to enjoy.

Ought To Walk For Otterness

By Art Teacher, Mary Henninger

Coit Creative Arts Academy students were able to take advantage of both the alternative calendar and the school's proximity to downtown. Classes third through fifth grade took a walking tour to see the Tom Otterness sculptures during their art class.

Coit artists enjoyed the playfulness of the sculptor. They noticed that all of the sculptures shared a similar likeness and many of them had money as a theme. Their favorites were "The Big Penny" and "Gulliver".



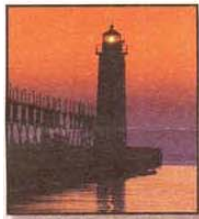
Coit Creative Arts Students, along with art teacher, Mary Henninger stroll through downtown to view Tom Otterness sculptures



White Shoal



Mission Point



Manistee North Pierhead



Frankfort North Breakwater



7-16-06

Dear Lois,

Thank you for the awesome time I had at Blue Lake this past summer. I really enjoyed the ceramics class. It is a great thing to work in three dimensions. I also learned a lot from your wheel demonstrations. I never was much of a hand at the wheel, but you made it really make sense. I am looking forward to coming back to the Art Colony next year. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
David Springstead



David Springstead, author of the letter, is second from the left. His arm is around his younger brother. GRPS Art Teacher & Blue Lake Pottery Instructor, Lois Ege is second from right.

Summer at the Lake—Blue Lake

The letter to the left was written by a student to his Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp instructor, Lois Ege. During the school year, Lois is an art teacher for the Grand Rapids Public Schools shared time program.

Lois says, "David was one of the most outstanding pottery students, but I must say, incredible work was done by all students, including the music students."

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp offers a tremendous opportunity to serious art students to spend each day in 3 studio classes, drawing/painting, textiles, and Pottery. Every student receives an evaluation of their work and comments from the teachers in these three areas at the end of the camp sessions.

Scholarships for students to attend art and music camps are available through the Arts Advocates. To learn more, please contact the Arts Advocates at Charguitar@sbcglobal.net, or attend the next meeting on Wednesday, October 11 at the Franklin Campus Administration Building in room 101 at 6:45 PM. See page 2 for more Arts Advocates info.

The Face of Scholarship

Dianna Worsley, a 4th grade student at Fountain Elementary last year, and this year at Congress Elementary received a scholarship from the Fine Arts Dept. to attend Kendall School of Design this summer. Dianna studied figure drawing. During the week, Dianna became friends with other area young artists as well as an exchange student from Russia.



Dianna Worsley, a 5th grade student at Congress, takes a Kendall Class

Nancy VanRooy, Dianna's Fountain School Art Teacher, describes her young friend as "The most passionate art student I have ever had."

Dianna plans to go to art school and tries hard to be a good general student so she can accomplish that goal. Thanks to the Art Department for their support of this deserving student.

News From Our Schools

Creston in the Zone

By Keith Westmoreland, Band Director

Beautiful weather and spectacular cars were the backdrop for the latest performance by the Creston Band. The Creston Business Association sponsored the 2nd Annual Creston Car Show along Plainfield Avenue, where cars were on display in three locations. The band played selections from their 2006 field show and pep band tunes while the crowd took in the sites and sounds of the classic cars, hotrods, and exotics. The next performance for the Creston Band is the October 20th Homecoming game, followed by a performance on WZZM TV 13's "On Your Sidelines" high school football highlight show.



Creston High School Marching Band perform at the Creston Car Show. Photos courtesy of Keith Westmoreland.

City Instrumental Music

By Paul Schroeder, Band Director

This year, the City Instrumental Music Department welcomes Mr. Robert Ward as the new director of orchestras. Mr. Ward has taught at many various schools in Grand Rapids and is also a member of the Grand Rapids Symphony. Mr. Ward brings a talent and enthusiasm that our students have already enjoyed.

The City High School Concert Band played an evening concert on September 8 for the Celebration on the Grand. We were pleased that the students were able to get this substantial program prepared in just three rehearsals, especially considering the number of students new to the high school band who had to learn this concert program in a very short time.

We are also pleased to have Mr. Jeffrey Bopp from GVSU as our student assistant this fall. Mr. Bopp is a talented individual who has had previous experience working with bands at Hudsonville and Jenison.

Several of our band and orchestra students will be auditioning for the 2nd Annual Michigan All State Band and Orchestra, available for both Middle and High School instrumentalists. There is also an MSBOA District Ten High School Honor Band that students will audition for in October. If they are selected, they will perform with the band in November.

Middle School Solo and Ensemble will take place in Wayland on Saturday, November 15. We had several band and orchestra students register to participate in that as well.

NACC & Harrison Elementary

By Lisa Honeycutt, Music Teacher

Harrison third-graders in Mrs. Pike's class have the privilege to study with Ms. Sanna Valvanna, Director of Children's Choir of the North American Choral Company (NACC). Each Wednesday morning, you will find Ms. Sanna, Ms. Honeycutt and Harrison third graders learning choral skills, multicultural songs and activities from around the world.

This is Sanna's second year in Grand Rapids working as Director of Choirs for the NACC. Sanna is also a composer and professional musician. We first came to know Sanna when NACC partnered with Harrison Middle School Choir under the direction of Jen Wilson. The partnership was then extended into elementary school, which serves as the natural feeder for middle school programs.

Students are learning African languages as well as Hebrew. We will see where our travels take us next.

Ms. Pike's third-graders are learning African languages as well as Hebrew. We will see where our travels take us next.

NACC has just invited Ms. Pike's third grade class to attend their upcoming concert on Oct. 14, 2006. This will be an exciting outing for parents, students and teachers. Hope to see you there.

Thank you North American Choral Company, Harrison Principals Gary Barton and Mike Nassar, and Assistant Principals, Dr. John Hair and Ms. Barnes. You have been big supporters of wonderful opportunities. Thank you NACC!



How do you see the arts?

If you believe that the arts (visual art & music) are vital components of a sound education please join a group who shares your viewpoint—the Arts Advocates.

Arts Advocates meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Franklin Campus, located at 1331 Franklin SE, room 101. The meetings run from 6:45 - 8:30 p.m.. All are welcome.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 11. Get 20/20 vision when it comes to the arts in GRPS!



Union High School's Dixieland Jazz Band plays at Celebration on the Grand 2006 at

Dixieland Jazz Band At Celebration On the Grand

Union High's Dixieland Jazz Band entertained a relaxed and festive crowd on the banks of the Gerald R. Ford Museum during Celebration on the Grand, September 8, 2006. The upbeat tempo and favorite Dixieland tunes embodied the celebration where a \$100,000 donation was given by Alticor to the Student Advancement Foundation. The contribution finalized the plan to upgrade libraries in the Grand Rapids Public School system.

Altico offered the \$100,000.00 contribution to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Susan Heartwell, Director of the Student Advancement Foundation says, "It is just the capstone of a wonderful, wonderful campaign that now we say every child in Grand Rapids Public Schools has a top notch library."

The Good News of Grand Rapids Public Schools

Eastern Honor Choir and Congress Honor Choirs will begin meeting this week for their weekly rehearsals. Each choir contains approximately 35-40 students from the third through the fifth grades. Choir meets once a week during the school day for 35 minutes. The students learn music that is distinctly for Honor Choir and also work on teamwork, movement and discipline. Each student is recommended for Honor Choir from their classroom teachers. The guidelines include:

- ◆ students who attend school on a regular basis.
- ◆ students who are in charge of their own behavior.
- ◆ students who get their homework in on time and done well.
- ◆ students who make good use of their class time.

Eastern Honor Choir and Congress Honor Choir will be singing at various community events and locations for the 2006-07 school year. A calendar of events is forthcoming. Watch the "Times" for the events and locations. Ms. Larsons' pride in her students shines forth as you "Hear the Good News of Grand Rapids Public Schools.

I Hear a Symphony

By Pat Tergerson, Orchestra Director

Grand Rapids Montessori Orchestra students are set for the first district-wide 7th through 12th grade Fall String Orchestra Concert on Oct. 17th. Staff and students hope you'll find the time to come out for some good music and offer your support!

Furthermore, the following Central/Montessori High School string quartet students are performing for the G.R. Montessori Walking Tour of down town. They are: Janae Couch, Brysien Beer, LaDena Love and Cristy Lorena.

Also the following G.R. Montessori string students are attending this month's MSBOA Fall String Clinic at Forest Hills Central all day, Saturday, Oct. 21: Angelita Nunez, Jesse Dubridge, Felecia Kerns, Asia Banks, Ashante Banks, Brandi Broyles, Joseph Gray, Ayana Kizenga, Mariah Beer, Antoninasia Kendall, Darkresha Wilson, Khadejah Jackson, Brittany Davis, Tonie Ford, Brittany Kibbey, Talyn Helderop, Nuri Tett, Hunter Hartwell.

Additionally, these string students are signed up to perform the MSBOA Middle School Solo & Ensemble Festival to be held at Wayland Middle School in Wayland. Solos include: Ashante Banks, Joseph Gray, Felicia Kerns, Talyn Helderop and Brittney Kibber. Duets include: Asia Banks & Felicia Kerns, Jesse Dubridge & Joseph Gray, Angelita Nunez & Brittney Kibbey, Brandi Broyles & Mariah Beer

Grand Award for Grand Teacher



GRPS music teacher Wright McCargar has been nominated for a spot in this year's "Grand Awards" This awards ceremony is the Grand Rapids equivalent of Broadway's Tony Awards. Mr. McCargar has been nominated as "Outstanding Musical Director" for his work on "The

Full Monty" at Circle Theater. Directors Michael Shanski and Charles Hutchins are the other nominees. The winner will be announced at a gala in the Aquinas College Performing Arts Center on October 15.

In addition to award presentations in many categories there will be performances from nominated shows and the presentation of the Combined Theater Scholarship. Tickets for this event benefit the scholarship and are available through the Circle Theater box office.

PE—A Local-Motion Promotion

Vending Machines.. A Wealth of Health

CA Frost is the recipient of a School Wellness Grant funded by the United Dairy Industry of Michigan. Throughout the state, 80 grants for healthy, refrigerated vending machines were awarded.

Frost was selected to take part in a media blitz announcing this positive step in better school nutrition. On Friday, October 13, Frost students, grades 1—8, will have a special guest during lunch. DJ, chef John Ashton, will be on hand to witness the signing of a health pledge, prize give away and the unveiling of the healthy treats vending machine. After the festive lunch activities, students will get a fitness break (recess) outside.

At first, the vending machine will be utilized for 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students and after school activities. Later, all students will have the opportunity to purchase healthy snacks.

Burton at War

Burton Elementary will hold its annual MEAP tug-of-war relay on Friday, October 6. This tug-of-war between students 3rd through 5th grades, kicks off the MEAP testing season. The event is held in the gym and is officiated by PE Instructor, Dave Meyer. This approach is a unique, fun, and effective way to fire kids up to “BEAT THE MEAP!”

Fitness Trivia

1. What is the best form of exercise?
 - Aerobics
 - A combination of cardiovascular exercise, strength training and stretching
 - Yoga
 - Working out with weight machines
2. How many cells in an adult human?

Answer: 1. To address all components of fitness, your exercise program needs to include cardiovascular exercise (such as aerobics classes or brisk walking), strength training (working out with weight machines, for example) and stretching (yoga). There are many choices of activities for each component.
2. Over 50 trillion

Jump Rope Competition

The annual Jump Rope Competition will happen on December 2nd at Ottawa Hills High School. Students show their skill, speed and determination in eight different jumping events including speed jumping, criss-cross, double-unders and the crowd favorite, double dutch. The events are divided into three age groups of 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12 year old jumpers. For registration and further details contact Jon Rose at 819-2600.

Teachers who Care, Care to Learn



KEC Mayfield Art Teacher Karen Haight, has fun learning to make felt from skeins of wool.



General music teachers march to the beat of a different drum during a drumming in-service.



Elementary physical Education instructor, Arne Vroom hangs around on the GVSU rock wall

The new school year started with art, music and PE teachers learning techniques for establishing a positive learning environment in a “First Things First” workshop led by author Sarah Knapp. Sarah talked about developing a cohesive classroom by focusing on the following areas: welcoming students, procedures, atmosphere, group rules, setting limits through logical consequences, and establishing group goals. Sounds like the same old professional development jargon, right? Wrong! Sarah took old topics and spun them to fit today’s classroom profile. Her ideas and helpful hints are recommended for any educational staff.

In addition to whole group instruction, it is important that teachers be provided tools and training relevant to specific subject areas so the Fine Arts/PE office made sure that individual training opportunities were provided to each group (art, music & PE).

Art teachers were found busy, at work, turning wool yarn into creative felt projects, taught by Jayme Agens.

Music teachers focused on rhythm during a drum circle under the skilled leadership of professional percussionist Carolyn Koebel, while instrumental and band directors tuned up with Calvin College Music Instructor, Tiffany Engle.

PE teachers climbed to professional heights as they scaled the rock wall at Grand Valley State University.

Teachers were provided useful information to engage students and to create a quality physical fitness learning experience from GVSU PE Professor, Mike Roskamp.

Community Arty-Facts

About C.A.R.E.

Creative Arts Repertoire Ensemble Founded in 1992, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting dance in West Michigan. Each season C.A.R.E. presents three ballets under the artistic direction of Judy Genson. C.A.R.E. performs condensed versions of classic ballets as well as original ballets based on children's literature. Each performance is presented without intermission and is approximately one hour in length, Perfect for young audiences.

This year's performances are: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, and *Cinderella*. Grand Rapids Public Schools are given priority for day time performance, but the ballets are opened up to outside district's after the invitation has been extended and responses slow. If interested in student performances please call 464-3682 for availability. See the information below for the dates of public and family performances. Call 464-3682 to reserve seats and to inquire about ticket prices.

All performances are at St. Cecilia Music Society in the Royce Auditorium, located at 24 Ransom NE, Grand Rapids.

Artist In Residence

Brian Ballard

Forest Hills Performing Arts Center

October 4—26

Artist's Reception

Tues., October 10 from 6-7:30 PM

The Artist-in-Residence Program offers artists, students, and community members a unique opportunity for art discovery and appreciation. Each year selected Michigan artists are on exhibit at the Forest Hills Performing Arts Studio. Many GRPS teachers take advantage of the special classes and programs that are offered for professional development and personal enjoyment.

The GRPS Fine Arts/PE Department is particularly proud of the Artist-in-Residence for October—Brian Ballard. Brian is a teacher at Grand Rapids Montessori School. His amazing water color, graphite, and wood carvings are amazing works with exquisite attention to detail and habitat.

Brian is an avid outdoorsman. His art is an extension of his love for nature and animals. "I spent hours playing out in the woods," says Ballard. "I learned that if you take a minute and sit still, you'll see a whole new world."

Brian believes that artists are a catalyst for change and hopes that his influence helps students respect the world in which we live and how they can impact space, environment, and resources. Through art, he hopes to be a positive influence on future generations.



2006-2007 Season

CREATIVE • ARTS • REPERTOIRE • ENSEMBLE

<p><i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i></p> <p>Saturday, October 7, 2006 Sunday, October 8, 2006</p>	<p><i>'Twas the Night before Christmas</i></p> <p>Friday, November 24, 2006 Saturday, November 25, 2006 Sunday, November 26, 2006</p>	<p><i>Cinderella</i></p> <p>Saturday, February 10, 2007 Sunday, February 11, 2007</p>
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Meijer Gardens

The drawings of Magdalena Abakanowicz

The drawings of Magdalena Abakanowicz, will be on display at Meijer Gardens for its premier museum exhibition. Magdalena is internationally known for her sculpture, yet equally creative in her drawings. Fifty works complete the exhibit. All are independent efforts yet interconnected in the challenge to understand human dignity and tragedy. The drawings represent several predominate themes including the self portrait, figure, flowers, and animals—intensely exploring materials, texture, mood and emotion. The works are large scale.



Exhibition Activities

The Work of Magdalena Abakanowicz

Tuesday, October 10, 2006; 7:00 PM

Kirsten Strom, associate professor of Art History at GVSU will speak on the works of Magdalena Abakanowicz and their place in contemporary art. Specific themes to be discussed will include the revival of expressionistic tendencies and the figure as a vehicle for exploring what it means to be human in our time.

Collaborative Drop-In Workshops

Sat., October 7, 14, 21, 28; 1:00-3:00 PM

GVSU Art Education students host collaborative drawing workshops for adults and children located in the Frey Environmental Room and in various spots around Meijer Gardens. Activities include a community mural and drawing exercises, including gesture and contour drawings as well as portraiture.

Artist Drawing Demonstrations

Guests are invited to watch and learn from area artists during drawing demonstrations at Meijer Gardens. Artists will teach basic skills of drawing with pencil, charcoal, colored pencil, and pastel. All visitors are welcome to grab a stool and some materials and join in the fun.

Sat., November 4, 11, & 18th; 1:00-3:00 PM

11/4—Nick Antonakis, Art Depart. GRCC

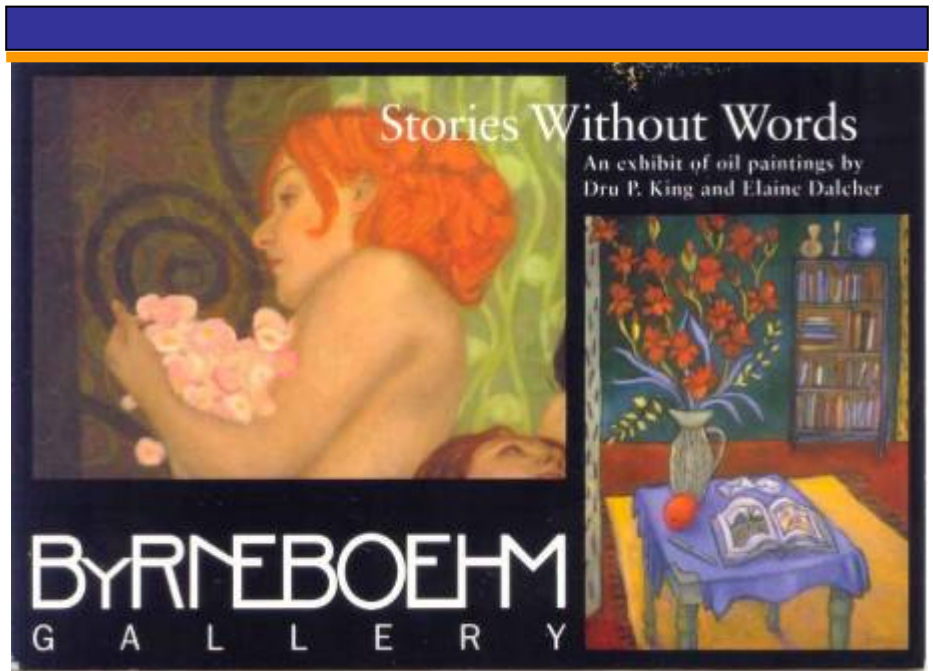
11/11—Chris Overvoorde – Artist

11/18—Caleb Brennan – Artist, Conservator/Assistant Curator of Sculpture, Meijer Gardens

For more info go to:

<http://www.meijergardens.org/calendar/event>

Photos and info courtesy of Frederik Meijer Gardens



Stories Without Words

An exhibit of oil paintings by Dru P. King and Elaine Dalcher

“Stories Without Words” is an exciting new show featuring oil paintings by Dru P. King and Elaine Dalcher. In addition to being a superb studio artist, Elaine is a Grand Rapids Public Schools art teacher, working at Kent Vocational Occupations, Lincoln School, and Lincoln Developmental Center.

This exhibit showcases two very different and unique styles that contrast in palette and subject matter yet share the use of mood and pattern.

Dru P. King’s rich and intriguing paintings of the human form feature sophisticatedly sensual figures surrounded by patterns whose inspiration comes from ancient cultures. This combination produces stunning works executed with a rich palette that invites the viewer to experience a story within him or herself.

As a counterpoint, Elaine Dalcher’s works are primarily interiors expressed in bold colors. Though the subjects are familiar she renders them in a way that is at once honest, fresh, intimate, and familiar. The boldness of the colors belies the simplicity of the subject matter and viewer is again beckoned into the story of the work.



Artist Elaine Dalcher at the Opening Reception on September 15 at the Byrneboehm Gallery

The exhibit runs through October at the Byrneboehm Gallery, 959 Lake Drive SE. Gallery Hours are Monday and Saturday 11 am—4 pm, and Tuesday through Friday 11 am – 6 pm.

Call for Local Artists

As part of an ongoing commitment to promote challenging, innovative practices in the visual arts, UICA (Urban Institute for Contemporary Art) is seeking exhibition proposals for solo shows, curated shows, and individual pieces that address contemporary issues and concerns, and/or work that pushes traditional boundaries in its treatment of materials or subject. There are five exhibition opportunities, prospectuses for each exhibition opportunity are available to download on UICA's website www.UICA.org <<http://www.uica.org/>> . All entries will be reviewed for the 2007/2008 season if postmarked by NOVEMBER 1, 2006.

As part of an ongoing commitment to promote challenging, innovative practices in the visual arts, the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts (UICA) is seeking artists to submit entries to a National Juried Exhibition of contemporary drawing. Accepted artists' drawings will be exhibited in the Monroe Avenue Gallery of the UICA, from December 8, 2006 to March 9, 2007. The exhibition will provide a venue for contemporary artists to continue to challenge the traditional methods, media and philosophy of drawing where its boundaries have been profoundly blurred.

AWARD'S JUROR: Dominic Molon, Pamela Alper Associate Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Chicago. Download a prospectus at UICA's website www.UICA.ORG <<http://www.UICA.ORG>> . All entries will be reviewed if postmarked by NOVEMBER 1, 2006.

The Anton Art Center is seeking exhibition proposals from artists. There are opportunities for solo and curated shows. The philosophy of the Art Center has a strong educational component and we are looking for artists that push the viewer to think beyond tradition, exploring the possibilities of various materials, subject matter and ideas. All entries, with a self addressed envelope will be reviewed by the exhibit committee if postmarked by November 15, 2006. Send slides to: Tessa Stein, Exhibit/Education Coordinator, The Art Center
125 Macomb Place
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
(586) 469-8666

Mona Lease-a Art 2006

Mona Lease-a Art is entering a second season. Mona Lease-a Art is a student artwork lease program. One piece of student art work is selected by the art teacher at each GRPS school, grades K—12. The chosen art is sent to a professional to be framed and matted. The beautifully finished piece is then offered to community businesses for a one year lease agreement. At the end of the one year lease period, the art work is returned to the artist to keep forever. Each piece is leased for \$125.00; the money earned from the lease, is used to frame and mat the next year's work, making this a self sustaining program.

Student Artists for the 2006/07 season will be honored at a private reception on Wednesday, October 25 at Coit Elementary School. Family and friends will be able to see all of the finished pieces before they are leased. It is a special evening to celebrate the students, giving honor, recognition and praise to these accomplished young artists.



Conner Stout, a student at Kent Hills El., was selected last year for Mona Lease-a Art. He is pictured here with his mother, at the student reception.

Grand Rapids Children's Museum

EXHIBIT/EVENT INFORMATION:



To the Rescue-Sept. 12-Nov. 12: The GR Children's Museum is coming *To the Rescue* September 12 to November 12, 2006 with heroes, helpers and tons of exciting ways to play it safe! Kids can use their imagination to explore as they dress up to work on an interactive fire truck and ambulance complete with a command center. Kids can even enter to win a ride on a REAL fire truck!

Penguin Play: Slide into Winter-Nov. 14-Jan. 14: A whole parcel of penguins is waddling in on November 14, 2006 and will stay to play until January 14, 2007. They will be right at home in the **Grand Rapids Children's Museum's** icy village. Kids can check out some fun new additions to the exhibit this year like the Penguin Derby where they can race penguin cars down icy slopes and the Egg Waddle where they can waddle while balancing an egg on their feet! Guests can also play in the penguin's cool ice castle and then take a turn tossing fish into hungry penguins' mouths.

The Penguin Express-Nov. 24, Dec. 28 and Dec. 29: The *Penguin Express* is coming back this winter! It will run on Nov. 24, Dec. 28, and Dec.29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All travelers will have the opportunity to play in the **Children's Museum's Penguin Play: Slide into Winter** exhibit and participate in a tour of **John Ball Zoo's** REAL penguin exhibit. Visitors can dress up like penguins, slide into a colorful pit of balls, play a game of *Feed the Penguins*, and more! Guests to **John Ball Zoo** will see a live penguin feeding, touch baby penguins and learn about the care of penguins from their keeper. Tickets can be purchased at the GRM or John Ball Zoo during the event. Tickets are \$8 per person and free for children under two.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Lindsey Zabor, Grand Rapids Children's Museum, 616.235.4726 Ext. 201, lzabor@grcm.org



Musical Notes

Learn About this Musician: Antonio Stradivari
Born: c.1644—December 18 1737
Place: Cremona, Italy

Although there are no birth records, Antonio Stradivari, better known by the Latin “Stradivarius,” is thought to have been born in 1644. Little is known about his youth, but Stradivari is considered the consummate violin craftsman. His hometown of Cremona, Italy is renowned for a rich history of violin makers. Stradivari himself was apprenticed to Niccolo Amati, who represented three generations of the craft. Antonio worked under Amati for more than 20 years. While best remembered for violins and cellos, Stradivari created many stringed instruments including, guitars, harps, lutes, and mandolins from the late 1600s to the early 1700s. Of the approximately 650 Stradivarius violins still in existence, many are still being played. The precise qualities of these masterpieces have never been duplicated making Stradivari’s creations the most valuable and sought after in the world.



The Messiah Violin by Antonio Stradivari has never been played.

There is one in particular—the “Messiah” violin that is most highly prized. The Messiah violin remained unused in Antonio’s workshop until his death in 1737. Never played, Antonio’s son sold the violin in 1775. After changing hands a few times, the violin made its way to the Ashmolean Museum in England where it is still on display and remains unused/un-played, and in the best condition of any of the surviving pieces.

Despite success, Stradivari was always looking for ways to strengthen and improve his designs. He experimented with length and tone, and revolutionized the industry by blending the rich quality of early instruments with the sweet sounds of the traditional Cremona violin. He used only the finest wood, such as spruce and maple, and developed the orange-brown varnish that became his trademark. In later years, Antonio’s sons Francesco and Omobono began to take over the family business. Despite failing eyesight Antonio Stradivari continued to make instruments until his death at age 93.

Music Trivia

1. The violin is the highest pitched instrument in the string section of an orchestra? True or False
2. What is the name of the pretty shaped holes in the body of the violin to either side of the bridge?
 - g-holes
 - j-holes
 - i-holes
 - f-holes

Answer: 1. True; the next highest is viola, then cello, and the deepest is the double bass.
2. f-hole; this is where sound is boosted at low frequencies coming out of the resonating body. Resonate frequency is determined by the area of the f-hole and the volume of the instrument.



Artist’s Corner

Learn About this Artist: Mary Cassatt
Born: May 22, 1844—June 14, 1926
Place: Allegheny City, PA

Mary Cassatt was born in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of a prosperous business man, who believed that a good education included travel. By the time Mary was 10 years old, she was well acquainted with Paris, London, Berlin and much of Europe. Nevertheless, her father disagreed when her broad learning experiences inspired Mary to become a professional artist. She studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, but was impatient with the slow pace and the superior attitude of male students and instructors. Mary decided to study the masters on her own, and moved to Paris in 1866. She returned to the States at the onset of the Franco-Prussian War, but her father continued to be against her vocation. He generously provided for her basic needs, but refused to pay for art supplies. This obstacle, partnered with the reality that small-town America did not have the materials and models that she had grown accustomed to in Paris, caused Mary to return to Europe.



“La Toilette”
c. 1891—oil on canvas, at The Art Insti-

There she studied with Camille Pissarro, and met Degas in 1874, who introduced her to the Impressionists. She participated in the exhibitions of 1879, 80, 81, and 86, but refused to take part in 1882 when Degas did not. Degas and Mary remained close friends throughout life.

Mary Cassatt specialized in painting the social and private lives of woman, and was particularly sensitive to the bond between mother and child. Her influence caused Mary’s brother Alexander (President of the Pennsylvania Railroad) to become one of America’s first important art collectors. Mary ceased painting after his death in 1906, and did not return to the canvas until 1912. Before her own death in France in 1926, Mary stopped painting due to degenerating eyesight from cataracts. Instead, she became an avid supporter of the women’s suffrage movement. In 2005, Mary Cassatt’s paintings sold for as much as \$2.8 million.

Art Trivia

- What is sgraffito?
- A style of graffiti
 - Gold leaf laid over textured paint
 - An etching
 - Scratches made in still wet paint.

Answer: Scratches made in still wet paint. A technique where a top layer of color is scratched to reveal a color beneath. The term comes from the Italian word *sgraffire* meaning literally to scratch.