

MANCHESTER ART ASSOCIATION 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

May 31, 2019

MAA's outgoing officers and board members for the fiscal year 2018/2019 are **Carolyn Emerson, President; Normand Charlette, Vice President; Bonnie Lindland, Secretary; Judy Burnham, Treasurer;** and **Mary Bollash, Jeff Blazejovsky, Jerry Madara, Sue Masse, Diane McDonald, and Austin Pouliot as Board Members-at-large.**

The following officers and board members were elected for the 2019/2020 year at the Annual Meeting, May 15, 2019: **Carolyn Emerson, President; Sue Masse, Vice President; Judy Burnham, Treasurer; Ellen Haines-Chaponis, Secretary;** and **Mary Bollash, Jeff Blazejovsky, Normand Charlette, Jerry Madara, Jan McCollum and Austin Pouliot as Board Members-at-large.** These positions were assumed immediately after the election. Minutes of this meeting and the complete list of officers and committee chairs are posted online on MAA's member page on the website.

Many thanks to MAA's Board who over the past year worked with our membership to support our mission: "Bringing artists and art-loving people together, encouraging artistic growth in the area, and fostering interest in all forms of artistic expression." With membership dues and good participation in our workshops our financial status has remained strong throughout the year. Some highlights of the year in addition to our monthly meeting activities:

- The **display and sales of noted artist Jill Disque**, proceeds funding a special scholarship
- A **significant increase in the use of our Open Studio** space by non-members as well as members
- **15 exhibit opportunities** including the Manchester Town Hall, Manchester Hospital, Symmetry Gallery, South Windsor Library, and the Dehn/WORK_SPACE Gallery
- In conjunction with WORK_SPACE, the development of **seven exhibits** under the theme of "**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**" to hang between Sept. 2019 and Aug. 2020
- **Generous grant** from the Town of Manchester toward funding the DEI exhibits
- **Holiday party** at the Manchester Country Club
- **Five scholarships** (including one-time Jill Disque award) to art students
- **Fold over note cards** with our new logo
- **Note card design competition** (for all occasion note cards)

Membership has remained steady at over 100 members. Monthly meetings were well attended and participation in MAA exhibits and activities has been high. Due to the hard work and dedication of its board and members, MAA remains a vibrant and supportive artist community. The Board thanks all MAA's members for their support and participation this year. MAA also had the support of many others within the community for which we are grateful. A brief description of the year's accomplishments and activities follows.

MEETINGS

MAA is especially grateful to **The Arbors** for the use of their auditorium for our evening meetings, and for the services they provide on our behalf.

Attendance at monthly meetings was at an all-time high this year, reaching nearly 50% of the membership as the year progressed. This was due in large part to the efforts of the program chairs, **Helena Deary** and **Sue Masse** who put together a year of fascinating demonstrations for an animated membership. Our roster of artists covered many mediums:

- September - **Jack Broderick** painting a **still life in oils**
- October - **Shauna Shane** creating a **watercolor of koi fish**

- November – **David Lussier** completing an **oil painting á la plein air**
- December – Holiday Party featuring **MAA artwork**
- January – **Robin McCahill** describing **wet felting** and inviting the members to create a lovely scarf
- February – Snow cancellation
- March – **Jeffrey Slobodien** giving the history of modern **graffiti** through a talk and photographs
- April – **Doug Gillette** providing a first-rate, educational **critique** of members' work
- May – **Eliza Moser** painting a live model **charcoal portrait** using the sight-size method

Our December meeting was held at the Manchester Country Club, with members each invited to bring a guest. Thanks to **Normand Charlette** for making all the arrangements for the party, and for suggesting that door prizes be given during the course of the evening. Board members **Jerry Madara** and **Jeff Blazejovsky** were charged with supplying the door prizes, a mixture of gag gifts and useful art materials. We filled the event room and a good time was had by all.

At our Annual Meeting in May, **Normand Charlette** gifted the membership once again with his “**Be Inspired**” project. Photographer Norm brought a slew of his photographs which members were invited to take for use as subject matter. Artists who participate are asked to credit Norm when they show their paintings based on his photos, and to send him a photo of their paintings. Norm then displays the photos of the paintings along with his original photographs on his website.

Thanks to **Gail Crook** and **Theresa Harrington**, hospitality committee chairs, for keeping us provided with refreshments at all meetings. Members providing refreshments were: **Gail Crook, Theresa Harrington, Barbara Pinto, Penny Brandt, Emilie Beckwith Joyce Armentano, Betty Rousseau, Victoria Dubiel, Cyndi Krupa, Mary Bollash, Sue Hollister, Deb Parker, Barbara Lappen, Ronnie Klukas, Rita Borden and Anne Vogel**. Special thanks to **Neill Monteserin** and **Sue Masse** who brought food to every meeting.

EXHIBITS

Our exhibit opportunities during the year were many and were met with enthusiastic participation by the members. **Carolyn Gimbrone, Chris Larson** and **Judy Burnham** comprised the exhibit committee which, with help from members, was busy all year long. Quarterly change-outs in both the Manchester Town Hall and Manchester Memorial Hospital counted for 8 or our 15 exhibits. These rotating shows continue to be well received by the public. Thanks to **Nijole Currie** and **Jim Oliphant** for chairing the hospital gallery and to **Ellen Haines-Chaponis, and Donna and David McMahon** who helped hang the exhibits.

The 14th Annual Member juried show was held in September at the South Windsor Library, ably juried by noted **pastelist Jane Penfield**. Winners are listed on MAA's website past events page. **Judy Burham** and **Betty Gustafson** were the co-chairs for this exhibit, overseeing the hanging, and planning a wonderful reception. An anonymous gift was given to MAA this year, specifically directed as prize money for first place winners in each category.

In keeping with the single-medium exhibits at the **Town Hall** this year's exhibits were;

- **The Etc. Exhibit - September 2018** (for work that doesn't fall neatly into a specific medium show)
- **Pastels - December 2018**
- **Town Hall Annual All Member All Medium show and reception – April 2019** theme: “Where the Heart Is”
- **Oil Acrylics – June 2019**

Last summer, MAA was invited by the **Dehn Gallery** to hang an exhibit of MAA artists for a large portion of the summer. The gallery has since been renamed **WORK_SPACE Gallery**, and has asked MAA to exhibit again this June. All members are eligible to enter this and all previously mentioned shows.

There is yet a fourth gallery space that MAA is curating under the capable guidance of **Normand Charlette**. The **Symmetry** galleries were filled with members' work which was thoughtfully selected by the Symmetry team from submissions by artists. Artists whose work was displayed this past year were: 1st show - **Jerry Madara, Normand Charlette, Carolyn Emerson**; 2nd show - **Jill Disque, Austin Pouliot, Karolina Koppek**; 3rd show - the winners of the 14th Annual Member Show. The work of members **Mary Andrews, Laura Kinlock, Robin Simpson, and Gennadiy Goldenshteyn** will be featured this summer, along with guest oil artist **Janine Roberts**. All of these exhibit openings have been accompanied by gala receptions, kindness of the Symmetry Group. Included in this report is a summary of the Symmetry project by **Norm Charlette**:

The MAA worked with Apella/Symmetry in providing three exhibits for their Corporate art Gallery, beginning in June of 2018. Under the title "Connecting Through Art", the exhibits were introduced with two-hour receptions in which food, refreshments and music were provided by Apella/Symmetry. Each reception also featured MAA members providing live demonstrations of their craft. One of the exhibits was a showcase of winning art from the annual MAA show and a selection of Jill Disque works. Each exhibit showcased 40-50 works of art, and provided an opportunity for sales. Especially popular was the raffle feature, in which Apella/Symmetry subsidized the purchase of an exhibited work for the winning patron. Beginning with the June, 2019 exhibit, the relationship with the Apella/Symmetry gallery will evolve into a curatorial role. Future shows will welcome artists from outside MAA to participate.

MAA members also participated in local and state juried shows as well solo and group exhibits. MAA's online gallery showcases members' artwork. Guidelines for participating in the gallery can be found at the top of the website gallery page.

Art of the Month, an ongoing opportunity for members to show new artwork, continued to be part of every monthly meeting. Co-chairs **Victoria Dubiel** and **Jim Oliphant** checked in and organized the hanging of the paintings each meeting, announcing winners at the close of the business portion. Work brought by members was judged by the demo artist of the evening, the four winning selections then distributed to participating libraries, banks, and the Arbors to hang for the month. This year, first place Art-of-the-Month winners were awarded a \$50 Jerry Artarama gift card, limited to one card per person, per year, the card passing on to the second-place winner if the first-place winner had previously received one.

Publicity for all member shows was handled by **Susan Aitner** and **Jim Oliphant**, with **Chris Larson** handling online registration. The hanging committees, directed by **Carolyn Gimbrone, Judy Burnham, Chris Larson, Nijole Currie** and **Jim Oliphant** did an excellent job of displaying all submitted work throughout the year. These important, unsung tasks are a major reason that MAA exhibits run so smoothly and successfully.

WORK_SPACE Gallery

Carolyn Gimbrone and **Carolyn Emerson** met with Chris Silver (Town of Manchester, Dept. of Leisure, Families, Recreation) and Stacey Zackin (WORK_SPACE Manager) several times over the year to discuss MAA assuming curation duties of the WORK_SPACE Gallery for the span of one year. Funding has been a major impediment to operating the gallery. C. Emerson and S. Zackin submitted a number of grant proposals in hopes of receiving help with funding. One grant has come through to date. Additionally, the Town of Manchester has agreed to support the gallery for any remaining monies for the period of a year. Carolyn Emerson has organized the exhibits representing the Manchester town theme of "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion." These are:

- **June – MAA Summer Show**
- **September – Jerry Madara and Art Scholz**
- **October – Jane Penfield and Harold Blanchard**
- **November – Better Manchester Magazine, Cover Art Exhibit**
- **December – "Perspectives: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" - a Multi-Media Juried Exhibit**

- February – Manchester High Schools
- April – Kayla Farrell and Shauna Shane
- July – Veterans’ Exhibit

Working closely with WORK_SPACE, MAA has agreed to be responsible for the scheduling of these exhibits, selecting and purchasing show titles and arranging for their installation, receiving and hanging the artwork, and scheduling receptions.

WORKSHOPS

MAA is grateful to Chairs **Emilie Beckwith** and **Barbara Pinti**, aided by **Sue Masse** for the wonderful schedule of workshops they arranged this year. Income from our workshops enabled MAA to award several art scholarships this year. Our workshop statistics this year speak for themselves:

Artist	#Attendees	Profit
Jane Zisk (Acrylic)	6	\$550.00
Audrey Prucnal (Watercolor)	15	\$2,025.00
Deborah Velasquez (Black & White)	6	\$175.00
Lynette Goric (Oil)	4	\$200.00
Carolyn Emerson (Watercolor)	15	\$2,250.00
Robin McCahill (Felting)	9	\$425.00
Karen Israel (Pastel)	9	\$900.00
Carmen Canal (Drawing)	9	<u>\$802.44</u>
	PROFIT	\$7,327.44

Workshops were coordinated with meeting demos when possible, the demo occurring prior to a workshop to hopefully encourage participation. It is helpful to observe an artist’s style and teaching manner before signing up for an extended commitment of time. MAA has attempted to keep workshop fees at a very reasonable rate, enlisting the artist’s help and cooperation with the understanding that any profits MAA realizes are the primary source of our scholarship awards.

FINANCES

Judy Burnham as MAA’s Treasurer kept excellent records of our income and expenses throughout the year. The treasury stood at \$16,700 in July 2018, and ended with \$17,200 in May. The board discussed increasing scholarships for the upcoming year by a percentage to be agreed upon when the final accounting was made. That decision will occur at the first board meeting in September. An upcoming major expenditure voted by the board will be a new hanging system for the Manchester Town Hall. MAA is currently waiting for approval from the Town Hall. Financial records are available upon request.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Five scholarships were awarded this year. Our High School recipient was **Caroline Gomez**. Caroline accepted the \$1500 award at our May meeting, displaying some of her work for members to view. An all-around outstanding student from RHAM High School, she will be attending Marist College to study fashion design. The three Manchester Community College recipients of \$1000 scholarship awards were **Scott Campbell, Olivia McKenzie, and Bianca Turner**. A fourth MCC student received the one-time scholarship award from the family of artist Jill Disque, the \$2000 award being the accumulated sales of Disque’s work over the last year, exhibits facilitated by MAA. We are especially grateful to **Holly Hood, Jill Disque’s daughter** for introducing our membership and the greater Hartford community to her mother’s remarkable artistry. Jill Disque passed away at the time of our first exhibit of her work. The MCC recipient was **Lisa Trotta**.

Thanks to **Sue Hollister** who has handled the MAA Scholarship Application process since its inception, and to **Eric Vogel** and **Carolyn Emerson** for assisting Sue in the selection process.

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising plans, spearheaded by **Sue Masse**, are well underway with a target date next spring of April 25. The event is called “**An Evening with the Impressionists**,” to be held at the UUS:E Meeting House in Manchester. It will feature artwork by members done in the impressionist style, a documentary of the impressionists’ gardens, and a gala cocktail party. Tickets will be sold to the public for this event.

Our general funding sources are annual membership dues and workshop profits.

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Bollash and **Deb Parker** handled membership duties, early to meetings to pass out name tags and receive dues from new members as well as renewals, and keeping a running accounting of membership numbers. At years end we were at 104 members of which 23 were new this year. Regular meeting attendance averaged 45%.

COMMUNICATIONS

Bonnie Lindland was again our very capable secretary this past year, recording all minutes for board and member meetings. Thank you for serving MAA so reliably in that capacity.

Susan Aitner continues to do a remarkable job of maintaining our website. One might well venture to say that the MAA website has more information on it than any other similar art organization website. **Everything** that happens at MAA is recorded there, and so much more.

Chris Larson is invaluable at keeping the membership informed via email of all events, exhibits, announcements, registrations, recommendations, etc., She also contacts those members without email access to update them on all news. So critical is she to the smooth running of MAA’s many activities, without her timely attention to detail, MAA would likely come to a grinding halt.

Thanks to **Jim Oliphant** who submitted press releases about our meetings, exhibits and special events and to **Carol Bryant**, MAA’s chairperson for Cheer, who sent cards on behalf of MAA to members who were hospitalized or sick.

NOMINATIONS

Thanks to this year’s Nominating Committee, headed by **Chris Larsen** with assistance from **Judy Burnham** and **Ellen Haines-Chaponis**, for their dedication in seeking members to serve as officers, board members-at-large, and committee chairs. Thanks, as well to those who volunteered for positions.

OPEN STUDIO

Open Studio participation tripled this year, thanks in part to a grant from the Town of Manchester received last spring. The grant money was spent on materials for a number of mediums. Advertising flyers and word of mouth brought in a number of new people, most of whom have, or plan to become MAA members. **Emilie Beckwith** and **Carolyn Emerson** continued to staff the every-Wednesday opportunity. Open Studio is open to the public.

FUTURE PLANS

The board continues to strive to discern and meet the needs of the membership. Plans for the coming year include:

- **Fundraiser** – “An Evening with the Impressionists” April 25, 2020
- **New hanging systems** – Manchester Town Hall and Manchester Hospital
- **Redesigned website**
- **Increased scholarship funding** to promising young artists
- **Children’s Programs** – regularly scheduled monthly Saturdays
- **Field Trip** – Salmagundi Club Spring 2020
- **Art and Flowers entry** for the Hartford Athenaeum Art and Flowers show
- **Note Card Competition** – August 2019
- **Symmetry Exhibit**- TBA
- Continued **open studios, classes, and workshops** at the Community Y

The Board is dedicated to working together to nurture the creative spirit of our members, to share our members’ art with those around us, and to work with other organizations to enhance the arts in Manchester.

Respectfully submitted by the MAA Board 2018-19

Note from the President:

I thank the board members and committee chairs and co-chairs for their continued commitment toward making MAA the best that it can be. The huge number of volunteer hours devoted to the planning and implementation of concepts and projects are uncountable. I have enjoyed and appreciated the thoughtful discussions at board meetings and the willingness of BOD members to take on challenges and tasks. It is your hard work that has made this year the success it has been.

Thanks, also, to all the MAA members who contributed their time and energy to this wonderful organization. Without your enthusiasm and dedication, there would be no organization. You are the heart of MAA.

Carolyn Emerson