



February 2009
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OTTAWA ART ASSOCIATION

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Executive 2008-2009

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As I write this, the National Gallery of Canada has a wonderful special exhibit of Bernini and the Birth of Baroque Portrait Sculpture. I hope that all of the OAA members have a chance to see it. I was impressed, not just with how life-like the busts are, or how amazingly the artist has detailed the skin texture, eyes, fur, lace or silk, but the unexpected sense of movement and liveliness that this great artist has created out of a solid piece of stone. The subjects seem about to move or speak to the onlookers. Combined with the portrait demonstration that Maureen O'Neil did at our January meeting, I am inspired to start a portrait. I find them to be all-consuming and frustrating but fascinating to attempt. After a visit to the Gallery, perhaps you will be inspired to work on a portrait too. Have fun!

For the February meeting, we look forward to welcoming John Alexander Day, well-known Ottawa artist, as our guest. John will be doing a critique of Members' art. You may bring 2 pieces of art but we expect to only have time for John to critique one artwork per artist. Please bring a work that you would like help with, but ensure that it is not a painting that you intend to enter in the April Juried Awards Show, as those works cannot have been previously critiqued. John's observations will be extremely helpful and informative.

The winner of the meeting draw prize, a gift certificate to Wallack's was Dianne Henderson. Congratulations Dianne!

Meeting News

On January 13 the OAA had the pleasure of watching our guest presenter, Maureen O'Neill, produce a wonderful portrait of a live model. Maureen started with a brief discussion of the handouts about common proportions of the human head. Working in acrylics, Maureen started from a previously prepared medium-blue background. She prefers to start with a medium colour as it is easier to go lighter as well as darker from a medium colour rather than from white. Using a wide brush and white paint, she roughed in the basic shapes of the face and hair. She prefers to stay general as long as possible, working every area of the face equally. Once the basic shape was achieved, she gradually built up the true facial and hair tones using a wet-on-wet blending technique. Her list of essential portrait colours include white, cadmium yellow light, cadmium red light, alizarin crimson, burnt umber and ultramarine blue. At the end of the process, she worked on the finer details of the eyes and mouth, taking into account the strong overhead lighting in the room. The resulting portrait was beautiful and bore a striking likeness to the model. Thanks to Maureen for an entertaining demonstration and a valuable lesson. Thanks also, to the model, Anna York-Lyon.

Diane Henderson

NEXT OAA Hanging

Feb 8th, 2009 9-9:30 a.m.

Next OAA Meeting:

Feb. 10, 2009 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Heron Multi Service Centre
1480 Heron Rd. Ottawa
Executive Meeting: 6:15 p.m.
Program: Critique by John
Alexander Day



Photographing your art

Thanks to Larry Deacon and Jean-Pierre Allaire for the following advice for improving photos of your art. Make sure the lighting is adequate and does not give a glare to the photographs; the correct lighting does make a difference! Placing two 300-watt daylight-adjusted incandescent bulbs in the Opus 2 light kit purchased at a camera store (2 lamps on adjustable stands) with the stands placed equal distance in front of and at a 45-degree angle from the paintings, you can eliminate glare. Reduce other light in the room. To get the best results you need a camera capable of shooting photos in 'Raw' format and able to do a white balance - check your digital or SLR manual. With this equipment there is no excuse for not taking good quality inventory photos of all of your paintings.

Programme

Manju Sah, our programme Coordinator is working to finalize a gallery tour for Members in March/April, a workshop day in the fall and an overnight trip next May. If you have suggestions or ideas about workshop presenters, trip locations or would like to volunteer to help with the Programme, please contact Manju.

Art Shows

Group show Kamourska by 6 OAA artists, Jan. 30-Feb.17, Galerie Old Chelsea, 10 Ch. Scott, Old Chelsea QC.
www.galerieoldchelsea.ca

Group show Winter's Lullaby, Jan. 22 - Feb.15, Arbor Gallery, 36 Home Ave, Vankleek Hill ON. www.arborigallery.org

Group show, Embodied Spirit Jan. 28 - Feb. 8, Foyer Gallery, Nepean Sportsplex, 1701 Woodroffe Ave, Ottawa ON
<http://foyergallery.com/artists.php>

Group show, Snowbound, Jan 17- Feb 28/09, Tay River Gallery, 28 Wilson St W, Perth ON
<http://www.tayrivergallery.com/>

The Ottawa Watercolour Society 59th juried art exhibition "Water by Water"
 Feb. 19 - Mar. 24, Cumberland Gallery, 2nd Floor, 255 Centrum Blvd, Orleans, opening reception Sunday Feb.22, from 2-4pm, Info.613-580-2424,ext.29288.
www.owswatercolour.com

Y. Donna Randall Solo Show Feb. 2009 Reception Feb 8/09 (3-5pm) Francesco's Coffee Company, 857A Bank St, Ottawa ON <http://www.ydrandall.com/>

Judith Savic Smithy's Song Feb 6/09 - Mar 22/09 Reception Feb 6/09 (6-9pm) Detour Gallery, 101-117 Murray St, Ottawa ON <http://www.detourgallery.ca/>

Call for Artists,

4th COLOURS ON THE BAY - Oct 24-25, 2009, River Rock Inn, 2808 Chamberland, Rockland ON, deadline for submissions: before April 1, 2009, <http://www.colorissurlabaie.com/registration.htm>

Tay River Gallery - Urban Landscapes (Apr/May) Deadline Feb 15/09, <http://www.tayrivergallery.com/>

Friends of the Farm Fine Art Exhibition & Sale Deadline for submission: March 2, 2009, 2:00 p.m. Opening/Vernissage: October 9, 2009 info@friendsofthefarm.ca