



March 2009  
Issue 58

## OTTAWA ART ASSOCIATION

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### President's Comments

The Executive is pleased to announce that Brian Seed has agreed to be First Vice-President and Robert Murrell has volunteered to be Second Vice President. These positions normally feed into the job of President. We will now be looking for new volunteers to back-fill their previous positions as Assistant Treasurer and Web Gallery Support. In other great news, Patricia Wilmot Savoie is moving into the position of Membership Coordinator. Thanks go to Brian, Robert and Tricia. Our volunteers make this a great organization! If you have been hesitant to come forward to volunteer, now is the time as the positions now open, including Assistant Newsletter Editor, all involve working with a more experienced person and learning the jobs.

I have been reflecting on the fact that the Spring Juried Awards Show will be hung April 19th with the reception on Tuesday April 21. This year we have no theme so you are free to enter your favourite painting, (one that has been produced without any help and has never been in a juried show before). The Board is proposing a themed show for April, 2010. We received many comments on last year's theme "Spring" and invite the members to help decide for next year. I'd like to get YOUR opinions on a theme to challenge your creativity. Our actions will be guided by your responses. Please send me your suggestions by e-mail or phone in the next week.

An artist, and competition juror, Burton Silverman described in American Artist (Dec. 1991) what he looks for in prize-winning paintings. In this article he advises an artist not to be afraid of unattractive, unconventional or challenging subjects. He looks for thoughtful paintings that are not contrived but are honest and tough. Works of art with careful construction but are full of intuitive strokes are most attractive. Winning paintings should contain good drawing, not mechanical accuracy and have great technique hand in hand with passionate content. He advises that we avoid banal subject matter that is painted without any special insight. Great art must contain the artist's personal human vision and not just have photographic sensibility by being selective about details, and having some ambiguous passages. A great painting should have the potential ability to change the viewer's world or perception of it. Above all, the winning painting should draw your interest away from other paintings in the competition and survive repeated looking.

Our March meeting will have Tim DesClouds speaking about the business of art. Bring all of your questions on taxes, deductions, inventory, marketing, insurance etc. We are all looking forward to what Tim has to say.

#### NEXT OAA Hanging

Mar.15, 2009 9:00 -9:30 a.m.

#### Next OAA Meeting:

Mar.10,2009 7:30 -9:30 p.m.  
Heron Multi Service Centre  
1480 Heron Rd., Ottawa, ON  
Executive meeting: 6:15 p.m.  
Program: Tim DesClouds,  
The Business of Art



## Meeting News

A dozen or so OAA members defied the weatherman to show up with their works to be critiqued by John Alexander Day last Tuesday. As always, John gave helpful, thorough comments and encouraged us to look at our work as strangers, seeing it for the first time. One tip is to turn the work upside down in order to think of abstract shapes not specifically named objects. Also he stressed the importance of the focal point having the strongest edge(s), the strongest value and the strongest colour. An invaluable evening for anyone wishing to progress in their art and we thank John for sharing his expertise.

Maria Mask

The draw prize winner at February's meeting was Beth Nesbitt. We hope that she enjoys the gift certificate at Wallack's.

## Programme

1. A "Gallery-hop" in the artsy neighbourhood of Hintonburg has been organized for OAA members, for the week of May 25th. Members will visit The Cube Gallery, the Patrick John Mills Gallery, and Gallery 3, where the curators will walk them through the current shows and discuss their choices of the artists. The walkabout is expected to take about an hour and a half (maximum). All three galleries are within walking distance. Please confirm with Manju Sah, by e-mail (manjusah@rogers.com) or by phone (613-722-0202) if you plan to attend.

2. A weekend tour is being planned for Toronto in May 2010. The focus will be the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Royal Ontario Museum, with a dinner and (possibly) a show on the Saturday night. Cost will be approximately \$300 if, based on a participation of about 40 members we can charter a bus. If there are fewer members we will look into going by train (variety of discounts available). If you are interested please could you inform Manju Sah, by e-mail (manjusah@rogers.com) or by phone (613-722-0202), by March 31, 2009.

## Spring Awards Show Reminder

Hanging April 19, 2009, 9:00-9:30 AM

Show Reception, April 21, 7:00 PM, Ottawa Little Theatre

## Art Shows

The Ottawa School of Art celebrates 130 years as a pioneer in arts education for the National Capital Region. Wednesday, May 13th, 2009 from 6 - 10 PM, ARC The Hotel, 140 Slater St. Ottawa, ON  
Tickets available for purchase in April, 613.241.7471 ext. 26 marketing@artottawa.ca

Galerie de la Rive, new exhibit, 13 artists, Mar 2-Jun 21, vernissage Mar 29, 1-4 PM Jardins Bellerive, 2950 Laurier St., Rockland. www.galeriedelarive.ca

## Call for Artists

New Art Festival (formerly known as Art in the Park) Juried show, deadline for applications  
Mar 31/09 <http://artinfoboy.org/>