



Newsletter

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September, 2025

General Meeting

September 14

1:00pm
Near Northwest
Neighborhood Community
Center
1007 Portage Ave.
South Bend

Speaker
Katharine Schmidt
Ceramic Sculptor

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President's Corner

Our All-Member's Show at Fernwood was one of the times when synchronicity occurred. The theme that was chosen for the show was "Nature's Gifts" which was so fitting for the setting, a botanical garden in a rural area. After receiving the 56 entries on Tuesday, I reflected on the theme related to the artworks. At first, I thought about the question "What are nature's gifts?" Answers like: variety, shape, color, pattern, texture, symmetry, scale came to mind. Then emotional words like: curiosity, wonder, order, depth, perspective, transition, stability, brokenness, rebirth, courage, grounded, ancient and renewed. Nature invites us in, focuses, shapes and transforms us and gives us more than what we came with.

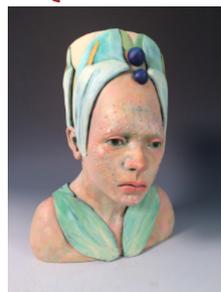


The synergy happened when my reflections were confirmed and added to by our Juror, Robert Nowalk, and the author Marcia Bjornerud who wrote "Turning to Stone- Discovering the Subtle Wisdom of Rocks." Both of them remarked on the extraordinary importance of reconnecting with our humanity through nature and art in a culture that is increasingly volatile, self-centered, disconnected, shallow, highly distracted, addictive, anxious and isolated. Robert referred to a certain degree of responsibility that we have, as artists to awaken a "holistic vision" in the viewers of our exhibit. A vision that "gives breath to those in need of the oxygen of Art." He also highlighted that "these works achieve a certain visual dialogue within the exhibition environment" it is more than therapy for ourselves.

The person who had just finished reading "Turning to Stone" summarized the themes in the book for me and I recognized the connection to our Art show. For example, Bjornerud's book goes deeper into what her work, as a geologist, has revealed about life lessons and the sacredness of the natural world and the inner world of us as humans. She takes students on field trips to observe rock formations that are billions of years old. The lines made by ancient rivers on those rocks, serve to connect the students with how our world came to be, our place in it, the importance to learn from, protect and preserve this gift wisely together.

I suggest that you may want to read both these resources for your own reflection and inspiration. For me, the theme of our show could be expanded to: "Nature's Gifts and the Art of Life." – Laura Elliott, President

September Speaker Katharine Schmidt



Spirit of Eurocentrism

Katharine Schmidt currently teaches ceramic figurative sculpture at the Elkhart Art League. An Indiana native, she earned a Master of Fine Arts at the U of Illinois, and continued her artistic journey in several locations throughout the US. She later earned her teaching certificate at Goshen College, and in recent years retired from teaching at Bethel College. Katharine's figurative work is colorful, expressive and dynamic, reflecting an experimental and experiential approach to each piece. She has exhibited extensively, and won a Purchase Award at the 2023 Elkhart Juried Regional.

Art Matters

Lee Bauman sent in a photo of her recent work, which highlights quotes from her family heritage.

Mary Firtl has openings for her Fall six-week session for those with some experience in the medium of soft pastels at the South Bend Museum of Art. The Continuing Practice in Soft Pastels class begins on Tuesday, September 9 and runs every week from 1-4 p.m.

<https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessionDetail.aspx?idCamp=1217&idSession=527188&campCode=174>

Linda Fritschner had two paintings in the Colfax Gallery Art and Social Justice exhibit and submitted two paintings to the Fernwood NIA exhibit.

Goshen Painters Guild is offering classes in Watercolor, Acrylic and more this fall. Visit goshenpaintersguild.org.

Sunday Mahaja won best in show at Artbeat 2025, He will be showing at the Gerald ford museum in Grand Rapids Michigan for ArtPrize.

Anne Marie Peck was awarded Best of Show with the Indiana Wildlife Artists show at Minnetrista Museum & Gardens in Muncie, IN, for her gouache painting "Second Glance."



Susan Pelka had one of her works accepted and shown at the Box Factory's MAAC show.

Kathleen Pettijean has been on the road promoting her book, "The ABC of Mannerly Me," now in its fifth printing. She has attended events in Knox, IN and Saxonburg, PA. She has a new book, "I Wanted to Ask My Dad," to be released next spring. Visit her website at kpettijean.com for updates.

Laurie Rousseau is a featured artist in the *earth* exhibit at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute Sept 4-Dec 19. She is also showing in the Women's Caucus for Art Exhibit Hear Our Voices at the South Bend Museum of Art Community Gallery Sept 20-Nov 2.

Ginny Scott has a solo show at Firme Gallery in Michigan City until Sept. 6th. She will be exhibiting at Roti Roti Gallery, Buchanan, in November with the Area Artists and exhibited in the Lake Front Art Festival August 16-17 with

the Area Artists. Her paintings have been juried into two art magazines, *American Artwork* and *Studio Visit*, which are national and international venues.

Ramiro Rodriguez' exhibition, "Impresiones: Prints by Ramiro Rodriguez" runs September 4 - November 2 at the Chesterton Art Center in Chesterton, IN.

Joan Spohrer will have two works in the Women's Caucus for Art show at SBMA and entered work in the Area Artists exhibit at Roti Roti gallery, Buchanan, in November.

Nancy Turner had a painting accepted into the Mahoning Valley YWCA Women Artists: A Celebration show that took place this summer (Youngstown, Ohio).

Susan Ward has two works in the NIA show at Fernwood and will have three pieces at the Indiana Women's Caucus For Art show at SBMA September 20.

Exhibits & Events

Northern Indiana Pastel Society will exhibit September 12 to October 17 at Colfax Cultural Center, 914 Lincolnway West, South Bend. Reception & awards will be 4-6:30 pm Oct. 3. Gallery hours: 1-4 p.m. Tues & Thurs.

The Indiana Chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art will exhibit "Hear Our Voices: Recent Work from the Indiana Women's Caucus for Art" at SBMA September 20 to November 2, reception October 3, 5-8pm.

The Area Artists Association, Michigan City, will exhibit "Gathering Light," at the Roti Roti Art Center, 117 Front Street, Buchanan November 2 - December 14.

Heartland Artists 37th Annual Juried Exhibit runs September 30 - November 1, with a Reception & Awards November 1, 4-6 PM. heartlandartgallery.com

The 47th Elkhart Juried Regional will be on exhibit at the Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S Main St., Elkhart, October 4-December 31. midwestmuseum.org

Pinhook Artists welcome artists of any experience level and medium to join us at Pinhook Park Pavilion, 2801 Riverside Dr, South Bend, Wednesdays from 9:30-noon for studio time, camaraderie and inspiration. Bring your own supplies. A small fee is charged quarterly.

Lakeville Library, 120 N Michigan St, Lakeville, invites artists on Tuesday mornings from 10am-noon for the same purpose. No fee is charged.

The Box Factory for the Arts is accepting applications for their 2026 exhibit season. Visit boxfactoryforthearts.org for information and application.

"Nature's Gifts" All Member Show • Fernwood Gallery • August 22 - November 2

Beatrice Hartig Zimmerman Memorial Award

Diane Overmyer, *Rhododendron*, Oil

Carolyn Jagodits Memorial Award

Catherine McCormick, *Meadow Leading to Bog Path*, Pastel

NIA Memorial Award

Daniel J. Slattery, *Sunset at Bryce*, Pastel

Glenda Cobb Bixby Award for Expressionistic Work

Laura Hensley, *Abstract Sunflower*, Fluid Acrylic Painting

Judges Awards

Laurie Rousseau, *Asclepias Fyriaca, Common Milkweed*, Monotype Print

Laura Elliott, *Quiet Strength*, Photography

Mary Meehan Firtl, *Stable View*, Soft Pastel

Elisabeth Simeri, *Through the Mist*, Acrylic on Canvas

Merit Awards

Anne Marie Peck, *Singular Focus*, Traditional Gouache

Jude Phillips, *A Bucolic Afternoon*, Pastel

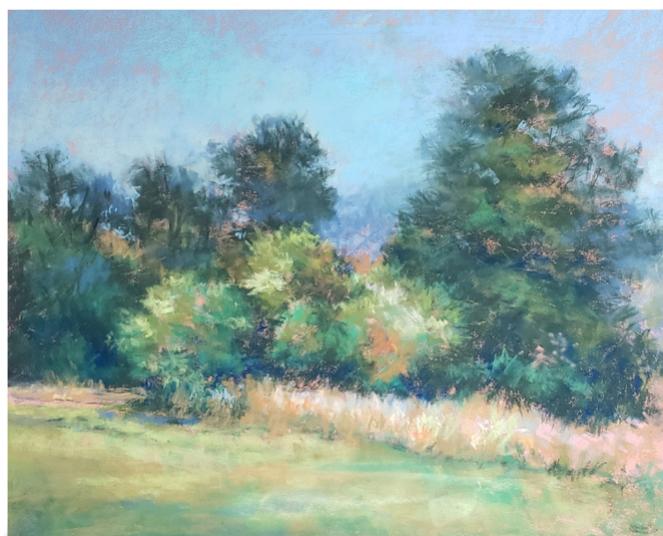
Vaselisa Kiselevich, *Squanga Lake*, Photography

Anne Marie Peck, *Radiance*, Traditional Gouache

Judge's Statement

Robert Nowalk, owner, The Unintended Curator gallery, Culver, Indiana

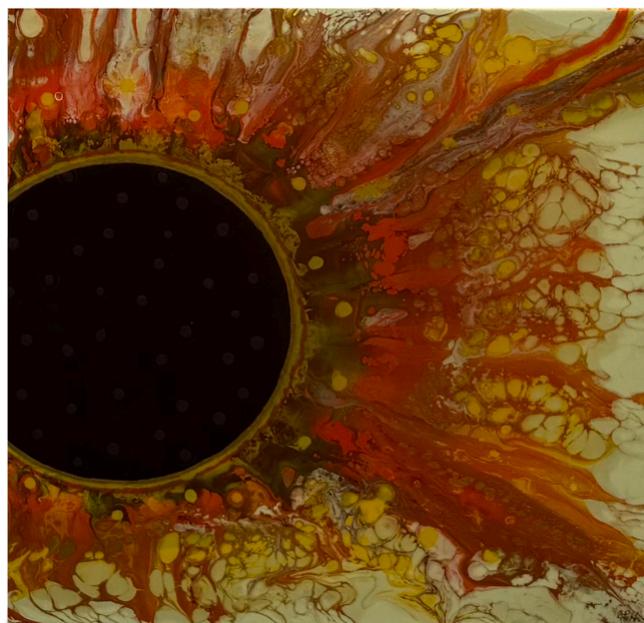
Overall, the exhibition has incredible interest and laudable merit in the variety of 2-d and 3-d media being pursued by the Northern Indiana Artists. There are some truly exceptional works here, but unfortunately, a limited number of opportunities for distinction. These few are singled out for creative vision in the Judges Awards, technical and creative competence in the Merit Awards and overall excellence in the named awards.



Catherine McCormick



Daniel J. Slattery



Laura Hensley

All Member Show Awards



Diane Overmyer



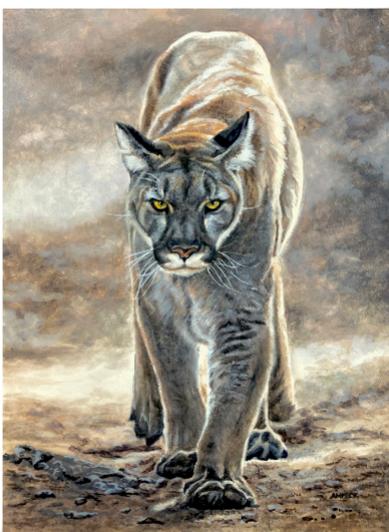
Laurie Rousseau



Elisabeth Simeri



Jude Phillips



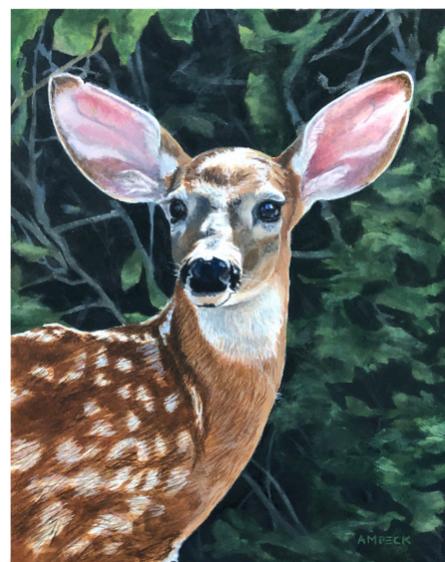
Anne Marie Peck



Mary Meehan Firtl



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