

HUNTSVILLE

ART

LEAGUE

@ Lowe Mill

PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING, APPRECIATION AND GENERAL INTEREST IN THE VISUAL ARTS • APRIL/MAY 2023

## HAL OFFICER ELECTIONS

**Huntsville Art League elects new officers every year in May.** In accordance with the HAL bylaws, we will hold elections for the upcoming year at our next HAL general membership meeting on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the HAL Gallery (Studio 2013) in Lowe Mill.

The nominees are:

President: Lori Nieman

1st Vice President: Jerry Wocken

Secretary: Doreena Cagle

Members who might still want to place their name up for nomination for an office may do that by emailing [HsvArtMail@gmail.com](mailto:HsvArtMail@gmail.com) with a subject heading of "Attention: Nominating Chair".

For the May 13 meeting, members should enter the Mill through door number 3. If you arrive a few minutes late, please call the HAL number (256 534-3860) and someone will come down and let you in. Some refreshments will be served. Thank you to those who are willing to serve!

## CONGRATULATIONS HAL ARTISTS – EMBRACING ART XXI SHOW



The following HAL exhibiting artists have been accepted in the Carnegie Embracing Art XXI Show in Decatur, Alabama:

Karen S. Young: *Barn Find*

Peter Hovanes: *Preening Heron*

Gary Anderson: *Dirty Dan* and

*Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Alligator*

The show is May 2 – June 3. Artists Friends and Family day is May 2 from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Carnegie Visual Arts Center is located in the historic Old Decatur neighborhood within walking distance of the Old State Bank and just minutes away from the shopping and dining close to downtown Decatur's Bank Street and Second Avenue. The Carnegie is a stop on the Tennessee River Boat tours and a few blocks away from the Cook Museum of Natural Science. Congratulations!

# What Art Does for Us

by Marsha Schwartz



*All quotes in this piece are taken from a NY Times op ed by David Brooks, March 2, 2023. "The Power of Art in a Political Age"*

In all honesty, I am a mediocre artist. So why do I continue to make mosaic pieces? For the money? HA! If money were the issue I'd earn more working at McDonalds. And why do I love to go to museums and art galleries to view other people's art? The op-ed in the New York Times by David Brooks' gave me a few answers .

I meditate (sporadically) not to reach some kind of nirvana but to quiet my skittering mind. And I have found that creating something has the same effect. Brooks puts it so much more eloquently "...a piece of art quiets the self-conscious ego voice that is normally yapping away within." I imagine that Brooks is talking about viewing art, but as only artists will be reading this, I'll include that the creation of art does the same thing. And the process of creation doesn't really necessarily limit itself to paint, canvas, fabric, or glass. Gardening forces me to be creative — not just straight rows of flowers marching side by side. How about cooking? I always seem to experiment when we have guests for supper — thank whatever gods rule the universe, I haven't poisoned anyone (yet). But I once did make an Indian dish so hot (spicy) that we had to go out to eat!. One of my more ignominious moments.

So even when using what creativity we have, gardening, cooking, arranging ones furniture; it is the act of creating something from of our chosen medium — the result changing the medium from

simply "stuff" to an entirely new cohesive object. Brooks puts it this way. " ...Art works at a deeper level ... it serves as a portal to a deeper realm of the mind ... that hidden semi-conscious kingdom within us from which emotions emerge and moral sentiments are found."

Truly, artists don't have to have a reason for their creation — it springs from the need to just "do it." My medium, my subject matter, my colors, my creation. You don't have to love it when you look at it. Just open your mind and look for the creativity. I could pull my hair out when I see a pile of rocks the middle of a room and beside it is a 15 page "artist's statement." It's me, the viewer who should be forming a statement. And even if I hate the work, I should try to find creativity in it — statement or no statement. And go home and make my own pile of rocks!

If art can do anything, it can bridge the gap between rich and poor, liberal or conservative, male or female — in fact, all the things which divide us in an increasingly political and divisive world. When I'm in a museum or gallery, I am in "time out of time" — just reveling in how we humans experience our world — so many ways, so many colors, so many forms. My job is to internalize what I see and go home and create something myself!

To all of us who lose ourselves in our creations, I thank each and every one. You've made our existence just a bit better by putting a piece of yourself out into a scary world.

# LIBRARY EXHIBITS

HAL artists have the opportunity to exhibit their work at the downtown public library for a two-month period. The display area surrounds the central staircase across from the main desk. This provides great exposure for your artwork.

HAL has two more two-month commitments — July and August and then again in November and

December. Two artists share the space each time. You will need 10-15 pieces of work depending on the size of the pieces.

If you are interested in participating please email [clairewhitmore13@gmail.com](mailto:clairewhitmore13@gmail.com). There are four spaces available for 2023.



## GALLERY

# Corner | Member Notes



How great to see all of the shifts in May all filled ahead of time! For the few artists who are able to work but haven't signed up yet, please double up with another artist that you see listed.

We definitely need more bio's in our gallery next to each artist's art display. I went to Allied Printing after many years and updated my bio, including a recent picture. It adds a lot to the artwork exhibited when an art collector comes into the gallery and finds out more about the exhibiting artists. Please try to take the time to do this in the near future if you haven't done so yet.

Thanks. Julia, Calendar Coordinator

Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment  
2211 Seminole Dr SW  
Studio 2013  
Huntsville, AL 35805

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# MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



Our speaker for the HAL general membership meeting on Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 a.m. was Shawn Donahoo, an exhibiting artist at the HAL gallery. Shawn spoke *How Technology is Impacting the Evolution of the Arts*, with a primary focus on the new tools we have at our disposal, both creative and financial. He works through music and apps to create his beautiful art of pattern and shape that flows into streams of consciousness each viewer can imagine and interpret in their lives.

The monthly membership meetings are fascinating opportunities to learn more about art and art processes. The meetings are generally on the second Saturday of the month unless there is a

special circumstance. You will be contacted if the meeting needs to be moved. Each presentation is 30 minutes long with a few more minutes for questions afterward. Some refreshments will be served. Please enter through door number 3 on the north side of the building.

General membership meetings are required by our bylaws but the pandemic put a hold on them. At our May 13 meeting, we will hold our annual election of officers. Everyone is invited! Please come and visit with other members you haven't seen in a while.

Monthly Meeting Organizer—Claire Mikkelsen

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