



FOCUS

Summer 2024



What a great time to be a Kalamazoo Art League Member!

As you'll read in this latest FOCUS issue, we're closing out a successful year with another great program, a DepARTure, AND a Member Brunch where you'll get a preview of next program year's lectures.

Our new program year begins July 1, so expect a renewal letter mid-June. Please return it promptly to ensure we have funds to implement our 2024/2025 program plans. Beyond attending lectures and bringing a friend or two to attend with you, we also invite you to participate as a volunteer on a committee, for one program, or in any way that works with your schedule. Just talk with a Board Member if you're interested.

We're looking forward to seeing you soon!

Kalamazoo Art League Board



There are still a few seats left for the Art League departure Tour

John Steuart Curry: Weathering the Storm

Exclusively at the Muskegon Museum of Art

Thursday, June 6, rsvp due by May 7

Find all the details and registration information at

www.kalamazooartleague.org/departures



MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH, 10 am on MAY 22
Please RVSP by May 17

Share a morning with members and guests at Art League’s Membership Brunch! There are lots of reasons to attend, and one of them is that it’s going to be fun! There will be time to chat over coffee and enjoy a leisurely brunch of quiche and other treats with long-time friends and new. You’ll have an opportunity to tell us your thoughts and suggestions. Art League Board members will be sitting down with you at every table. Find out about some of next year’s exciting programs featuring brilliant speakers on interesting topics. Invite a guest to come too, we’ll welcome newcomers with an extra smile.

There is no admission fee, but to be kind to the cooks, reservations are required. Please RSVP by May 17 and be sure to tell us how many people are in your party! Sign up on the website, email your reservation to artleaguekalamazoo@gmail.com or print out and fill out the form below and hand deliver to the KIA front desk receptionist or mail to:

Art League Membership Brunch
 Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
 315 S. Park St.
 Kalamazoo MI 49007



Kalamazoo Art League
Membership Brunch at the KIA
10 a.m. Wednesday, May 22, 2024



Art League Member: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Guest: _____



UPDATE FROM THE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Wow! What a great season we have had at Art League! Our 2023 – 2024 line up of speakers included Charles Burke, President and CEO of Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park; Nayda Collazo-Llorens, a practicing artist; Laura De Becker, Curator UMMA; Tuliza Fleming from the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian. We will conclude our season on May 8 with Craig McDonald, the Director of the Alden Down Home and Studio. His talk, *Alden B Dow: A Way of Life* will reference Dow's contributions to the Kalamazoo architectural landscape! We hope to see you at the KIA at 10 am for his interesting talk and, as usual, delicious treats afterwards.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Membership Brunch on Wednesday, May 22 at the KIA. We will share our exciting new 2024 – 2025 speaker season with you!

Over the summer, the Program Committee will continue to work together to prepare for next season and plan more engaging events. Stay tuned!

Sincerely,

Diane Eberts, Chair

Committee Members: David Brose, Cat Crotchett, Susan Eckhardt, Stephanie Robinson, Elaine Seaman, Linda VanDis



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew

Thank you to all the volunteers who supported Art League's activities with their time and talents during the past year. Their service as board or committee members and volunteers make the programs, receptions, social events, and depARTures you enjoy possible.

Along with your Art League board members, additional volunteers this year include Susan Abraham, Cat Crotchett, Kim Davison, Elaine Seaman, and Linda Van Dis. The old saying, "*Many hands make light work*" is very true. We hope you will consider volunteering to help at a one of the many exciting programs or events coming up in 2024-25.



ART LEAGUE SPONSORS WEST MICHIGAN AREA SHOW AWARD

Once again, Art League supported the KIA and the region’s talented artists by offering a West Michigan Area Show award. At the May 2 Opening Reception Art League board member Jim Rojas presented Art League’s award to artist Vicki Nelson for her painting “The Howards”. In her artist statement, Nelson says, “I am interested in how humans interact with the environments in which they find themselves and how this portrays their interior experiences.”

Be sure to check out this evocative painting in person the next time you visit the KIA’s galleries. The 2024 West Michigan Area Show is on view through August 18. Image credit: Vicki Nelson next to her painting “The Howards”



THANK YOU NOTE FROM WEST MICHIGAN AREA AWARD ARTIST

It was a great honor to receive your award for my painting, *The Howards*. It was based on a black and white photograph that I took in the mid 1970s after my grandfather’s funeral in central Texas. I have been exploring ways to visually express those threshold moments in our lives, in this case the loss of a spouse. Thinking about this, this old photo came to mind.

Vicki Nelson



THANK YOU!

The Art League Board of Directors wishes to thank the following members for donations made to the league in the past two months:

Mary Klenow
Nelly Kurzmam
Jim Rojas
Linda Van Dis

We greatly appreciate the generosity and support that has been shown! Every little bit helps us meet the expenses involved in bringing outstanding speakers to Kalamazoo for our Art League Lectures, hosting receptions, paying insurance premiums, updating our website, and covering a variety of other administrative expenses that are incurred each year.



The KALAMAZOO ART LEAGUE is a motivated and dedicated volunteer organization founded to organize an annual lecture series at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Since 1955, lecturers have been selected from across the US representing the forefront of experts who create, curate, study or write about art. Art League programs promote understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts for its members, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and our community.



EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS AT THE KIA

Museum Hours

Wednesday through Saturday: 11am to 5pm

Sunday: 12pm to 4pm

2024 KIA Arts Fair

June 7: 3pm - 8pm

June 8:

Bronson Park, 200 S. Rose, Kalamazoo



2024 West Michigan Area Show

May 3 - August 18

Clearly Indigenous:

Native Visions Reimagined in Glass

May 18 – August 25



The Anniversary Show: Promised Gifts from the Joy and Timothy Light Collection

May 25 - September 1

Celebrate (ongoing)

In honor of the KIA's 100th anniversary, a continuing rotation of artworks and activities, with a focus on how artists have represented celebration over time through photography prints and paintings.

FROM THE KIA . . .

It is a time of celebration, reflection, growth and opportunity here at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Approaching our centennial year, the KIA has been thoughtful and committed to bringing in new life and talent to the organization while fostering and honoring many long time staff and faculty.

The KIA is excited to welcome not only our next Executive Director, Michelle Hargrave, but also to lift up the excellence and skill of a talented and ambitious senior leadership team. In the past year we have welcomed

Leslie Donaldson, Director of the Kirk Newman Art School, Monica Walker, Senior Operations Officer, Jennifer Cooley, Director of Museum Education, Christine Scheller, Director of Finance, and Katheryn Armstrong, Director of Advancement. Along with Rehema Barber, Director of Curatorial Affairs, this incredible leadership team is poised to support, meet and continue the KIA's commitment to and belief in the idea that visual arts are for everyone. In living the model that Art inspires, fulfills, and transforms they will no doubt find new and innovative ways to bring these beliefs to action.

Along with this new breath of leadership the KIA lifts up long time employees including Bonnie Jo Gary (gallery shop and front desk), Dave Barron (facilities), Mary Whalen (Kirk Newman Arts School) and Greg Waskowski (Museum Education) who mark 30 years with the KIA in 2024. In addition, eight other individuals are celebrating 20+ years with the organization!

It is in the celebration of dedicated, long-time talent and the integration and support of those just coming to the KIA that we are finding excitement and a depth of possibilities for the century ahead. So please, JOIN US as we honor the past and look forward with joy!

