

## Winter 2024



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Greeting Art League Members,

It sure has been a glorious fall. I hope you are enjoying this year's remarkable colors and that, as nature does, it is inspiring your interest in art.

Thank you to those of you who attended our fall lectures.

It was heartwarming to see how many of you showed up for Richard Phillips in September. Special thanks for your understanding of his health emergency and to those who stayed around talking with him after he returned. Richard is a truly remarkable human being and has agreed to return. We rescheduled with Richard for February 25th with a reception at 10 am followed by his presentation at about 11 am. Mark your calendar. There will be no charge for this event, so bring a friend or two.

Those of us who attended our October program could not help being touched and informed by Patrick Bringley's sharing of his personal experience and the healing power of art. Thank you all for attending and buying copies of Patrick's book. Patrick is working on a show based on the book, to open in New York soon that might come closer to home.

Our last lecture of 2024 is November 13 at 10:00 am in the KIA auditorium. Dr. Brian Stewart will present **Art as Adaptation: San Graphic Traditions in Evolutionary Perspective**. Brian A. Stewart is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he is also Curator of African Archaeology at the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. His research explores the deep-time selective contexts and cultural responses that led to the evolution of our species' profound adaptive flexibility. It will be a most interesting lecture that challenges some of our understanding of the evolution of art. A reception will follow.

We are continuing our new "bring a friend" plan. You can bring a friend free of charge to hear Dr. Stewart. We hope you do so.

Finally, mark your calendar for our Kalamazoo Art League Holiday Coffee December 11, 2024, 10:30am. Together, we will celebrate the KIA and the season with holiday treats and a docent led tour. The event will cost \$5 at the door.

Art brings us together in all times and especially in turbulent times.

Peace.

Jim Rojeski

## Coming Speakers & Events!



Dr. Brian Stewart, Professor of Archeology

***Art as Adaptation: San Graphic Traditions in Evolutionary Perspective***

November 13, 10 am

***Can we find new understanding in ancient images?***

Southern Africa is home to some of the world's oldest and richest graphic art traditions. Over the past 50 years, insights from the region have transformed our understanding of rock art worldwide and even changed the paradigm of our species' evolution, shifting our behavioral origins from Europe to Africa and more than doubling their antiquity. Now, improvements in dating southern African rock art provide the opportunity to link ancient paintings made on the walls of caves with archaeology excavated from their floors. In so doing, we are able, for the first time, to breathe spirituality into an otherwise largely utilitarian and diet-centered record of daily life. This presentation offers an overview of these insights and discusses their importance for viewing art as part of the adaptive repertoire underpinning *Homo sapiens'* evolutionary success.

Brian A. Stewart is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he is also Curator of African Archaeology at the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. His research explores the deep-time selective contexts and cultural responses that led to the evolution of our species' profound adaptive flexibility. His primary focus is the archaeology of hunter-gatherers in southern Africa, where he investigates and compares human engagements with highland and desert environments.

**Bring a Friend . . . Just like at the last lecture, bring one friend for free!! All the friend needs to do is share their name and email!!!**



## **HOLIDAY COFFEE**

December 11, 10:30am

Members & Guests

\$5 per person (Cash, please!)

Reservations required. [ArtLeagueKalamazoo@gmail.org](mailto:ArtLeagueKalamazoo@gmail.org)

(Include guests in reply!)

Deadline: December 6



## **RETURN!!**



Richard Phillips, Artist & Poet

### ***Strokes of Freedom***

Tuesday, February 25

10am coffee with lecture to follow

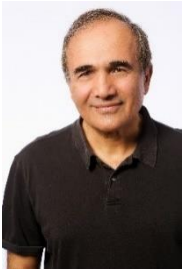
A self-taught artist, Phillips started painting while wrongfully incarcerated for 46 years. He created over 400 paintings – “Art is what I did to stay sane . . .”



Today, collectors and viewers appreciate the beauty he created throughout those long decades. Mr. Phillips will be featured in several interviews and speaking with students while he is in Kalamazoo. He is also bringing several of his paintings for you to enjoy at the lecture.



*Come back and see us in February, March, April and May for more exciting and interesting lectures!*



March 12, 2025 / 10 am Abbas Daneshvari: ***American and European Art in the Crucible of Postmodernism***

April 9, 2025 / 10 am Mary Brodbeck: ***Woodblock Printmaker- Influences and Evolution***



May 14, 2025 / 7 pm (NOTICE CORRECTED DATE FROM POSTCARD--not May 16) Erica Lord: ***The Codes We Carry***



October Cranbrook Trip!



## From the KIA



Dear Art League Members,

As we welcome the winter season and continue our centennial year, we are filled with gratitude for your steadfast support. Your dedication to bringing inspiring art experiences to our region enhances the KIA's mission and aligns with our belief that art is for everyone. Together with Art League members and our community, we look forward to the next 100 years of connecting people and art, building on our shared commitment to make Kalamazoo a destination for artistic excellence and belonging.

This holiday season, we have a wonderful lineup of events for you to enjoy. Mark your calendars for the [KNAS Holiday Art Sale](#), taking place December 5–7, 2024. Be sure to join us on December 5, from 5:00–8:00 p.m., for our exclusive Members-Only Night—an ideal opportunity to shop one-of-a-kind, handcrafted gifts, while supporting local artists and the students and staff of the Kirk Newman Art School.

We're excited to invite you to be part of *Sourced from the 'Zoo*, an exhibition that highlights the rich stories and shared heritage of Kalamazoo. This is a unique opportunity to contribute personal treasures—whether objects or artworks—that reflect the memories, curiosity, and joy of our community. Visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code to learn more and submit your piece for this special showcase of Kalamazoo's vibrant spirit.

As always, we hope you'll join us for our ongoing programs, including *Gallery Gatherings*, *Artful Evenings*, and *Wonder Walks*, where we come together to celebrate art and community.

Thank you again for being such an essential part of the KIA. We look forward to an inspiring new year and to strengthening our partnership in the days ahead.

Warmly,  
Michelle Hargrave  
Executive Director



## EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS AT THE KIA

**Legendary Voices:  
Art for the next Century**  
Sept. 7, 2024-Feb. 16, 2025



**Powerful Voices: Legends, Rituals,  
and Warriors in East Asian Art**  
Sept. 14, 2024-January 19, 2025

Beginning November 1, 2024, enjoy free general admission and extended hours every Thursday\*.

**Annual Holiday Art Sale**  
Thursday, Dec. 5 (Members Only/RSVP) 5-8pm  
Friday, Dec. 6, 5-8pm  
Saturday, Dec. 7, 9am-3pm