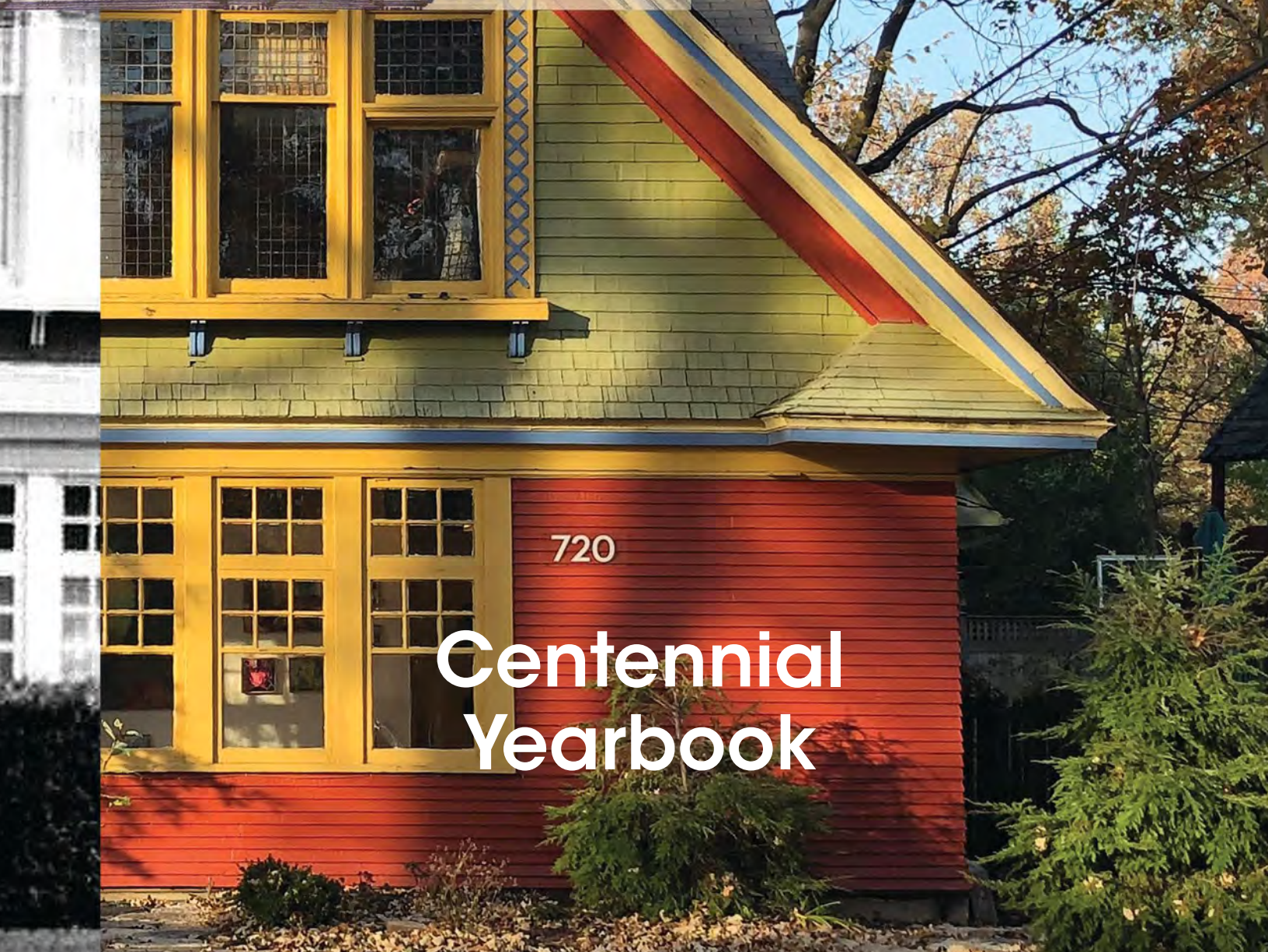


OAK PARK
ART LEAGUE
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



720

Centennial
Yearbook



720 Chicago Ave
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

708-386-9853



Scan QR code to visit www.oakparkartleague.org.

oakparkartleague@gmail.com

Editor - Jill Kramer Goldstein

Graphic Designer - Maria Gedroc

Cover Art Concept - Celeste Moncrieff

Thank you for additional assistance with this book:

Kim Robinson, Linda DeViller, Jeffery Jenkins, Jessica Figueroa.

DEDICATION



**In memory of
Keith Taylor
1949 - 2021**

Artist and illustrator extraordinaire,
honoring his remarkable creativity and
service to the Oak Park Art League
as Board President 2005 - 2011.

Table of Contents

Mission	5
Proclamation from the State of Illinois	6
Proclamation from the Village of Oak Park.....	7
Letter from the Executive Director.....	8
Letter from the President of the Board.....	9
Oak Park Art League Board of Directors and Staff.....	10
Previous Directors and Board Presidents.....	11
Volunteer Recognition.....	12
Oak Park Art League History	13
Oak Park Art League Centennial Year in Review.....	17
Oak Park Art League Exhibitions	27
Oak Park Art League Education	31
Oak Park Art League Members	35
<i>Artist members are listed in alphabetic order pages 37-85</i>	
Oak Park Art League 2021 Donors and Sponsors.....	86



Founded in 1921, the Oak Park Art League (OPAL) is one of the longest, continually-running non-profit arts organizations in Illinois. OPAL fulfills its mission through its offering of high-quality art education to people of all ages and skill levels, programs and guest lectures, artist demonstrations and critiques, plus monthly exhibition opportunities in our art gallery.

The Oak Park Art League's mission is to be a welcoming center of artistic inquiry, creative expression and art appreciation in Oak Park and the surrounding communities.

Through the offering of dynamic public arts programming and exhibitions, our goal is to engage the beginner to professional artist in creative practices allowing for the refinement of their creative voice.



Proclamation

Presented this 10th day of December 2021

WHEREAS, in 1919, Carl Krafft and other Chicago-area artists began meeting in his Oak Park home for art lectures, discussions, and demonstrations; and,

WHEREAS, in 1921, the group would become formally known as The Austin Oak Park and River Forest Art League, and was renamed to the Oak Park Art League in 1970; and,

WHEREAS, in 1937, the Art League purchased its current building - a carriage house and stable designed in 1902 by Oak Park architect Eben Ezra Roberts, a skilled painter and an Art League member who also converted the carriage house and gallery into how it stands today; and,

WHEREAS, the Oak Park Art League is one of Illinois' longest, continually-running non-profit arts organizations; and,

WHEREAS, the Oak Park Art League's mission is to be a welcoming center of artistic inquiry, creative expression, and art appreciation in Oak Park and the surrounding communities; and,

WHEREAS, the Oak Park Art League fulfills its mission through its offering of high quality art education to people of all ages and skill levels, programs and guest lectures, artist demonstrations and critiques, and monthly exhibition opportunities in their art gallery;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, join in celebrating the Oak Park Art League's 100th Anniversary and call upon our community members to celebrate and support the arts and to encourage a greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions in our communities.




JB Pritzker
Governor, State of Illinois

PROCLAMATION
COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE OAK PARK ART LEAGUE

DECEMBER 2021

WHEREAS, in 1919, artist Carl Krafft and other Chicago-area artists began meeting in his Oak Park home for art lectures, discussions and demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, in 1921 the group would become formally known as The Austin Oak Park and River Forest Art League, and was renamed to the Oak Park Art League in 1970; and

WHEREAS, in 1937 the Art League purchased its current building, a carriage house and stable designed in 1902 by Oak Park architect Eben Ezra Roberts, a skilled painter and an Art League member who also converted the carriage house and gallery into how it stands today; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities play a unique and intrinsically valuable role in the lives of our families, our communities, and our state; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Park Art League is one of Illinois' longest, continually-running non-profit arts organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Park Art League's mission is to be a welcoming center of artistic inquiry, creative expression and art appreciation in Oak Park and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Park Art League fulfills its mission through its offering of high-quality art education to people of all ages and skill levels, programs and guest lectures, artist demonstrations and critiques, and monthly exhibition opportunities in their art gallery.

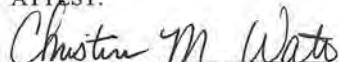
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and Board of Trustees, do hereby commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Oak Park Art League and call upon our community members to celebrate and support the arts and to encourage a greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions in our community.

DATED this 6th day of December, 2021.



Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST:



Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk



The Executive Director

Jill Kramer Goldstein



Hello, my fellow artists and OPAL members:

I am happy to present to you, The Oak Park Art League Centennial Yearbook.

It has been a true pleasure to get to know all of OPAL's members during my tenure.

I have been inspired by the dedication and artistic inquiry of our members, teaching artists and students. From seasoned professionals to beginners, from those that have approached their art practice as a second career to those learning something new for the first time, I have had the pleasure to witness their creative happiness. It is this spirit of joyous and meaningful creation that has come to encapsulate what I believe makes OPAL special.

I am proud of what OPAL has accomplished during its centennial year. As an organization, we have reached a major milestone that is reserved for only a few small non-profit organizations. It is interesting to consider that 100 years ago, a group of artists and art lovers sat in Carl Krafft's parlor to discuss the current state of artistic affairs in the world. Today, similar conversations take place at OPAL in our classrooms, gallery, during receptions, critiques, community events and more. I think Mr. Krafft and his peers would be proud of the tradition we have continued to honor. I think too, they would be happy with the efforts we have made to be more inclusive, more socially aware, more diverse, and more relevant to the members of our surrounding community. I look forward to OPAL's second century as we lay the groundwork for the wonderful things that lay ahead.

Thank you to all that submitted your entries for this yearbook. And a special thank you to Maria Gedroc, artist member and Board Secretary, who took my files and created this beautiful reminder of OPAL's centennial year.

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Kramer Goldstein". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jill Kramer Goldstein

The President of the Board

Kim Fideler Robinson



Hello OPAL Community:

I'd like to echo Jill's thoughts in presenting to you The Oak Park Art League Centennial Yearbook, an impressive compilation showcasing our storied history and the accomplishments of our current OPAL members.

It has been a privilege to serve as OPAL's President in the waning years of its first century and as we embark on century number two. It is truly humbling to be following the footsteps that Carl Krafft took one hundred years ago, and to be ushering our long-serving institution into a new era.

I'd like to begin our second century with a note of thanks and gratitude to all of you who have made OPAL the vibrant arts organization it is today. First, I want to express my sincere appreciation to those who have supported us financially through sponsorships, donations, bequests, and ticket purchases. Your continuing support is literally critical to our survival.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of our dedicated Board members who have worked tirelessly to allow OPAL to continue to fulfill its mission during the past incredibly challenging two years. Our Board epitomizes the definition of a "working" board, and I am honored to work alongside each of you. That honor also extends to those of you OPAL volunteers who offer your time and services to keep OPAL operating. We so appreciate your efforts.

And I simply cannot express my thanks enough to Jill Kramer Goldstein, our enthusiastic and intrepid Executive Director and to Jeffery Jenkins, our hard-working Gallery Manager. Jill's vision for OPAL's future and her efforts to make OPAL more inclusive, more socially aware, more diverse and more relevant to the surrounding community inspire all of us.

Welcome to our Second Century!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Fideler Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Fideler Robinson

Oak Park Art League Board of Directors and Staff

The OPAL Board of Directors is comprised of dedicated community members.

The Board is responsible for the governance and finances of the non-profit organization. The Board sponsors many fundraising projects throughout the year. Individual Board members chair committees and aid the staff in specific program projects.

OPAL members are encouraged to share ideas and thoughts with Board members. Anyone who is interested in volunteering for the Board should contact the Executive Director or any Board member. Board membership is voluntary. As a member of the Board, volunteers serve a two-year term and are able to serve for three consecutive terms.

Current Board

President: Kim Fideler Robinson

Vice President: Linda DeViller

Treasurer: Alison White

Secretary: Maria Gedroc

Education: Pamela Penney

Grant Writing: David Baker

Buildings & Grounds: Lou Thetard

Membership: LaVeta Kirby

Current Staff

Executive Director: Jill Kramer Goldstein

Gallery Manager: Jeffery Jenkins



Gallery Manager, Jeffery Jenkins

Executive Directors

Jessica Mackinnon
1998 - 2002

Lisa Woolford
2002 - 2006

Liz Boomer
2006

Faith Humphrey Hill
2007 - 2012

Julie Carpenter
2015 - 2018

Jennifer Norback
2018 - 2019

Jill Kramer Goldstein
2019 - Current

Board Presidents

Carl Krafft 1921 - 1922

Curtis B. Camp 1922 - 1924

William H. Dangel
1924 - 1927

Mrs. John H. Meyer
1927 - 1930

Mrs. F. M. Bartholomew
1930 - 1936

Mrs. A.J. Pohlman 1936 - 1941

Mrs. Lavoy H. Davis 1941 - 1944

Mrs. Carl S. Junge 1944 - 1948

Mrs. Frederick Bradshaw
1948 - 1950

Frederick Corbett Ward
1950 - 1952

Donna Padeloup
1952 - 1954

Paul H. Dry 1954 - 1956

John D. Prouty 1956 - 1958

Robert M. Ransom
1958 - 1960

Elizabeth Ellsworth
1960 - 1962

Reg Mars 1962 - 1965

Stuart O'Bryne 1965 - 1966

Clark Brouton 1966 - 1969

Mrs. Edward Rokos 1969 - 1974

Mrs. Daniel Madden
1974 - 1978

Virginia Bangham
1978 - 1982

Dorothy Maccallini
1982 - 1986

Martin Silverman
1986 - 1988

Charles Fonte 1988 - 1990

Eleanor Madden
1990 - 1994

Marcia Palazzolo
1994 - 1998

Susi Pagadala 1998 - 2002

Jessica Mackinnon
2002 - 2003

Marcia Palazzolo
2003 - 2005

Keith Taylor 2005 - 2011

Ken Reif 2011 - 2012

Ginny Pitre-Hay 2012 - 2014

John Chapin 2014

Jennifer McNulty
2014 - 2017

John Hitscher 2017 - 2019

Kim Fideler Robinson
2019 - Current

Volunteer Recognition

Our member volunteers are stewards of OPAL's mission.

It is through the help of our volunteers that OPAL is able to accomplish many of the tasks and endeavors that would otherwise go unattended. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we say thank you to the following individuals that have volunteered their time and talent over and over again for the good of OPAL, especially the past few years.

Jack Boyle

Sara Peak Convery

Isabel Farren

Jonathan Franklin

Phyllis Frick

Bryan Gammage

Kathy Hirsh

LaVeta Kirby

Jackie Lakely

Barbara McClure

Celeste Moncrieff

Bryan Northup

Linda Reisberg

Ellen Robinson

Fran Sampson

Karen Schuman

David Stoklosa

Deborah Stoklosa

Mike Vest

Margaret Zwaldo

and

Boy Scout Troop #16



Oak Park Art League History

Oak Park Art League History 1921 - 2021

The Oak Park Art League was founded after World War I, during a time when rapid changes were occurring in the American art world. Picasso, Cezanne, Matisse and other artists of the European avant-garde were entering the dialogue and visual vocabulary of artists, collectors and museums after the 1913 New York Armory Show and subsequent exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago. In response, new art institutions were organized to provide venues for artists to discuss the radical new art forms of these European artists. In Chicago, the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago (1915) and the Arts Club of Chicago (1916) were formed. And in 1919, artist Carl Krafft and other Chicago area artists began meeting in Krafft's Austin home, which in 1921 would become formally known as The Austin, Oak Park, and River Forest Art League; renamed the Oak Park Art League (OPAL) in 1970.



As a place for artist collaboration, the Art League became a mecca for notable regional artists of the time, gathering frequently for lectures and artist demonstrations. Outgrowing Krafft's home, the Art League rented Frank Lloyd Wright's studio in the mid 1920's and the 19th Century Women's Club in the early 1930's.



Burgeoning membership necessitated a search for a permanent home for the Art League and a fundraising campaign ensued. One of the many contributors included Ernest Hemingway's mother, Grace Hall Hemingway, a member and an accomplished artist.

In 1937, the Art League purchased its current building, a carriage house and stable for the Victorian home that still stands to the west of the building. Designed in 1902 by Oak Park architect, Eben Ezra Roberts, the carriage house was converted to the gallery and classroom it is today by Roberts, also a skilled painter and an Art League member. Prior to its use as the Art League, the building was used as a private school and dance studio by the famous choreographer Doris Humphrey.

Roberts, a contemporary of Frank Lloyd Wright, designed the carriage house with similar characteristics as Wright's first home. The Oak Park Art League is located in the center of Oak Park's Historic District and is within walking distance from Frank Lloyd Wright's famed studio and Ernest Hemingway's birth home. OPAL's gabled A-frame structure is an important landmark and lends to a tri-part dialogue about the early 20th century regional influences in art, architecture, and literature that continue to define Oak Park's cultural landscape today.



1930's

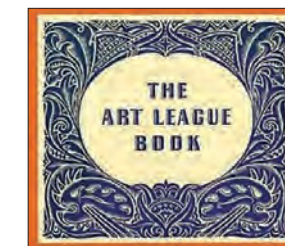
- In 1937 the Art League buys the property at 720 Chicago Avenue, designed and built by Art League member E. E. Roberts.
- In 1938 the Art League opened its new home at 720 Chicago Avenue. The exhibition was artwork donated by members, and all sale proceeds went to the building fund to help pay off the costs of remodeling the building.

- To celebrate the one-year anniversary in the 720 Chicago Avenue building, the Art League presented an exhibit of work by Carl Krafft.
- The annual Garden Party event funded the Art League's scholarship program.



1940's - 1950's

- The Art League published *The Art League Book*, a history and collection of works by Art League members.
- The Art League began a picture rental program. For \$12 a year (\$1 a month), one could rent an oil painting or sculpture for their home. If they wanted to purchase it, the rental would go towards the sale price.



- An auction of art by Art League members was held to raise money to purchase a piano.
- The Art League began monthly tours of exhibitions. The public was invited to visit the gallery and receive a guided tour of the shows.
- The Austin family donated a complete kitchen and upgraded the electrical system as a memorial to Edna Austin.
- The Art League had a sale of oil and watercolors. Over 300 were on display, and sold for between \$5 and \$50.

1960's-1970's

- The Austin, Oak Park and River Forest Art League shortened its name to the Oak Park Art League (OPAL) in 1970.
- OPAL celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1971 with an exhibition of works by famous members and redesigned the logo.
- In 1979 OPAL's furnace caught fire and was destroyed, causing the pipes, radiators and toilets to freeze! To recoup some of the money that was used to pay for the repairs, OPAL held a White Elephant Sale in June.



1980's – 1990's

- In 1981 a new roof was installed, thanks to money raised by OPAL members.
- *Color '86* was a juried show held at OPAL and was open to Chicago area artists. Over 600 entries were received and 83 artists were included in the show.
- In 1988 OPAL celebrated 50 years at 720 Chicago Avenue with an exhibit of works by its founding members.
- In 1990 OPAL featured an exhibit of Carl Krafft, founding president. The show featured paintings, photo albums and memorabilia loaned by the artist's family.
- In 1996, in celebration of OPAL's 75th anniversary, funds were raised to landscape the front grounds. A new flower garden was planted and a new sidewalk was installed.
- In 1998 OPAL hired its first paid Executive Director, Jessica Mackinnon.



2000's - 2020's

- In September 2000 OPAL opened its satellite gallery at 149 Harrison Street with semi-solo shows for artist members.
- OPAL collaborated with Sarah's Inn and Community Response for a fundraiser and silent art auction to benefit each organization.
- OPAL collaborated with Prairie Title and West Suburban Hospital to exhibit artist members' work and expand our satellite galleries.
- In 2019 OPAL updated its mission statement, launched a new website, re-established the yearly Artist Member Catalog and created new outreach programming, including Meet the Maker and Critique Night.
- From March 2020 – May 2020 OPAL along with the rest of the world went into lock-down due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. OPAL re-opened in June 2020 with strict Covid protocols in place including a socially-distanced classroom plan, virtual gallery shows and online meetings.
- Despite the pandemic, 2020 through 2021 was a time for growth and expansion including establishing the Family sARTs program in partnership with A House in Austin and Hephzibah Children's Association as well as creating programs with Spoken Word, Everyday Activists, and a collaboration with Momenta Dance Company.
- OPAL partnered with Kettlestings Tavern and Cross Function Workspace, both in Oak Park, to create more satellite gallery opportunities for our artist members.
- OPAL launched our YouTube channel for virtual tours of OPAL's exhibitions and videos of our special programs and events.



Scan QR code to
watch OPAL's
YouTube Channel.



- In FY 2020 OPAL secured \$47k in grant revenue which was used for upgrading technology, producing artistic programs and paying staff salaries.
- In 2021, OPAL continued its efforts to obtain state funding for much needed infrastructure repairs and building renovations, making significant headway in Nov 2021 with its application submission to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

**Oak Park Art League
Centennial Year in Review**

Celebrating 100 Years (Highlights of 2021)

Centennial celebrations occurred throughout the year in all areas of OPAL's work: exhibitions, education, community programming, fundraising and of course, plenty of "just for fun" events. Each quarter was highlighted with a theme of visual and performing art that can be traced back through our history.

January - March 1921-1947 - Celebrating the Visual Arts

January

Exhibition: *Unmasked - Form, Figure and Portraiture*

It has become all too common to see redacted faces and obscured mouths & noses, by our new reality - the face mask. In this rendition of OPAL's annual figure & portrait exhibit, artists were encouraged to present their new understanding of the human face, form and figure beneath a mask of their interpretation. Judge: Melinda Whitmore



Event: *Annual Member Town Hall Meeting*

February

Exhibition: *Gather*

"Gather" showcased work that explores the themes of our human connections to those that shape our lives and community. "Gather" is meant to remind us of what brings us together despite separation.

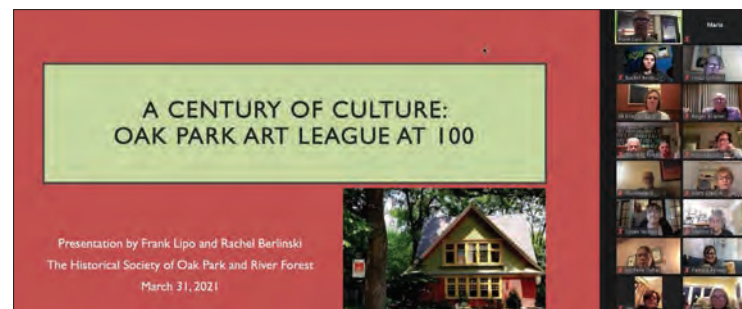


March

Exhibition: *Space to Breathe: An Abstract Exhibition*

Art unfolds and reveals itself in time and layers, needing space to develop and grow. We all have our distinct views on the outer world, and through non-objective art expression - we obtain a glimpse into our innermost perceptions. Judge: Danny Floyd

Event: *A Century of Culture: The Creation and Early Years of the Oak Park Art League* online presentation was hosted by OPAL and Oak Park River Forest Museum Executive Director, Frank Lipo.



April - June 1948-1971 - Celebrating the Written & Spoken Word

April

Exhibition: *Centennial Anniversary - Spring Artist Member Exhibition*

As part of OPAL's Centennial year, OPAL asked Artist Members to select one work of art that best exemplified their current or past practice.

Event: *How to Write an Art Statement*

Event: *Centennial Celebration with OPAL Cookies*



May

Exhibition: *Intersection: Art & Word*

Whether text based, visual, or spoken, words have the power to confuse, define, hinder, empower, humiliate or heal. OPAL artists who use text or words as a central part of their work or creative practice showcased their art in this exhibit.

Event: *Blogging Your Way to a Successful Art Business*

Event: *Everyday Activists with Arbor West Neighbors*

Scan QR code to watch "Everyday Activist" video.



June

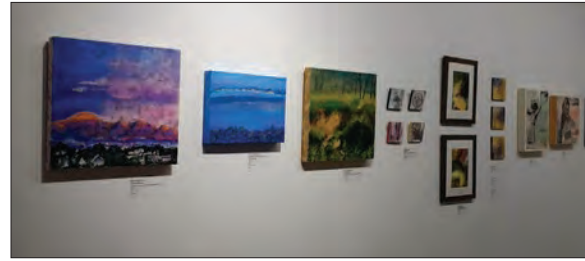
Exhibition: *Contemporary Prairie*

This exhibition provided an ideal opportunity for artists to celebrate their love of the Midwest landscape, including rural and urban imagery.

Event: *An Evening Under the Starry Night Fundraiser*



July - September
1972-1996 - Celebrating Music & the Link To Visual Art



July

Exhibition: *Small Works*

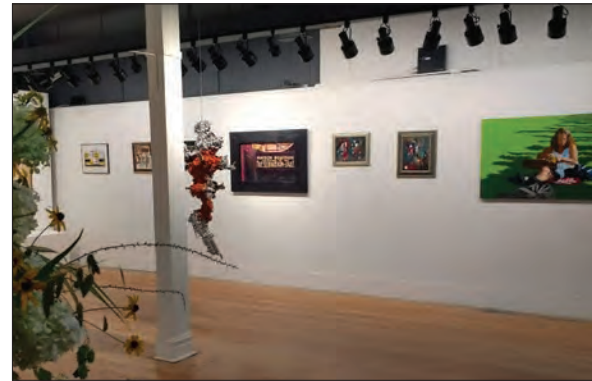
This judged exhibition celebrated the innovation of artists who create work on a small scale and in a broad range of media and styles. Judge: Karen Azarnia

August

Exhibition: *Intersection: Art & Music*

Art and music have a deep and resonating relationship, and the creative process of either can be affected by the other. Both art and music can represent the way one feels or experiences life. When art and music collide, they can create a sensory symphony.

Judge: Felicia Grant Preston



Event: *Bobbie Raymond Sculpture Dedication*

September

Exhibition: *Beyond 100: A National Exhibition*

Celebrating its Centennial year, OPAL proudly hosted a national call for art work with *Beyond 100: A National Juried Exhibition*.

Judges: Sergio Gomez and Gina Lee Robbins



October - December
1997-2021 - Celebrating Dance & Movement

October

Exhibition: *Art for Social Change: Made to Disrupt*

Art made to influence change, disrupts. It can drastically alter our views and requires actions. It compels the viewer to re-evaluate norms and to truly see a way forward. Art has historically initiated change in perception and opinions, organized thoughts and birthed social movements to achieve greater collective awareness.

Judge: Camille Wilson White



Event: *Terrain Biennial with the work*

"Almost Touching" by Elizabeth Burke-Dain

Event: *OPAL History display in the River Forest Library*

Event: *Performances by Momenta Dance Company*

November

Exhibition:

Fall Centennial Artist Member Show

As OPAL wrapped up its Centennial year, artist members were asked to select one work of art that best exemplified their current art practice.

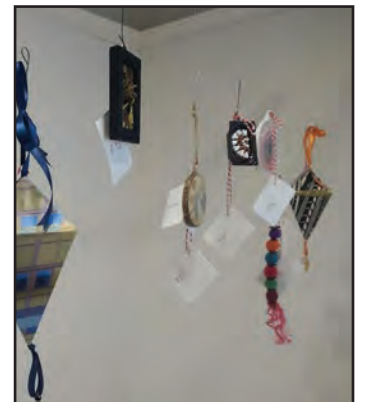


Event: *Open Mic / Spoken Word Evening*

December

Exhibition: *Art & Ornament Market*

OPAL's Art & Ornament Market was an opportunity to exhibit and purchase original handmade works of art and decorations for holiday giving.



Celebrating the Visual Arts Beyond 100: A National Exhibition

In honor of the 2021 Centennial, OPAL celebrated by hosting, Beyond 100: A National Exhibition held in September and sponsored by Prairie Title. Entries were received from across the United States and over \$1,000 in award monies were presented to four artists.

First Place - Brad Perkins, *Into the Garden*, Second Place - Riley Brady, *Terrace 3 (Car Crash)*, Third Place - Tony Armendariz, *She Has & She Will*, and an Honorable Mention - Lisa Calvert, *In the Divers Seat*.

Judges were Sergio Gomez and Gina Lee Robbins.

Sergio Gomez is a Chicago based artist known for his large scale figurative abstraction paintings and drawings reflecting on the cycles of life. Gina Lee Robbins is a visual and teaching artist who has been creating sculptural objects and installations for over 25 years.



Tony Armendariz, *She Has & She Will*



Gina Lee Robbins and Tony Armendariz



Lisa Calvert, *In the Divers Seat*



Brad Perkins, *Into the Garden*



Riley Brady, *Terrace 3 (Car Crash)*

Sergio Gomez and Riley Brady



Celebrating the Written & Spoken Word

An evening of Spoken Word with the Oak Park Education Foundation's Spoken Word Club

In November, students from Gwendolyn Brooks and Percy Julian Middle Schools presented their poetry inspired by the artwork of the Fall Centennial Artist Member Exhibition. Here is a sample of the amazing work from these bright young poets.



Artificial Lights by Thomas Dannenberg
Inspired by Gary Skoog's *City Leaves*

The leaves on the ground on a stormy evening.
The golden glint of those fallen leaves.
Will they be seen?
Will anyone spare a glance for these leaves?
All the artificial colors surrounding them.
All the man-made things that draw away the natural beauty.
All the things that make it insignificant and useless.
A bustling crowd will surely walk by.
They will trample these golden leaves.
The leaves will be blown away.
They will be destroyed.
But when next year comes around, they will fall again.
Again and again, every year, they will fall again.
And each year, they will become more and more forgotten.



Ruler of the Night by Hattie Garcia
Inspired by Carly Grant's *Ruler of the Night*

The demon reaching for the night
Frozen in cold, gray stone, not unlike his heart
His sad, hope filled eyes search the empty sky
Perched on the building edge,
Forever poised to leap yet never able to bring forth the courage to jump,
Stuck in the pitch black void of darkness,
Illuminated only by the light of the faint glowing moon
He is the ruler of the night
Beware his sharp unblinking eyes and dagger teeth,
His swooping horns and rough stone skin,
His delicately carved muscles,
He is rigid and still atop his little corner of the world,
Now, look deep into his pleading eyes, this ruler of the night
Hold his gaze steadily like you would hold a newborn made of glass
This demon, this statuesque beast of stone,
This lone king that has yearned so long for love, for life,
To see anything through his cold stone eyes
Ever so patiently he waits for that sweet warm embrace of death,
Yet death only graces those who have a soul.



Basketball Junkie by Maxwell Armstrong
Inspired by Charles W. Brown's *Basketball Junkie*

They call you the goat, the greatest, the king, a god,
Nobody on the court could stop you,
While squashing the players like insects is pleasing,
It pleases the fans too,
YOUR fans, god forbid the fans like your teammates,
Your teammates will pick you up when you are down,
But you never helped your teammates,
Because you're better than them, and they should be on the ground,
Your shots are on point,
Your dribble is excellent,
When you juke someone out,
The crowd will grow in excitement,
Your story is told through tales,
And everyone knows your fame,
However most people don't know,
That you have been cheating at this game,
When people find out, the truth will drop like an asteroid,
But for now, let's talk about how you used steroids,
You took steroids, pills, whatever,
Anything that makes you stronger,
If you can beat the other teams,
Your career will last longer,
Of course, all great things must come to an end,
But you didn't think that would happen, because you're the best,
However the NBA decided for you,
To take a little test,
The test results are in,
And you're troubles are about to begin,
You have been suspended and fined,
You are stuck at home, waiting to come back,
However, your fans will change,
And they will give you all of the flack,
Your legacy is stained,
Your history is gone,
Nobody cares about you anymore,
And the partnerships and merchandise won't last long,
Now, they won't call you a god,
They will call you "that one player who was flawed,"
They say heroes always win, legends never die,
But to some, legends die in their eyes.

Spoken Word at Work



Celebrating Dance & Movement

Art for Social Change: Made to Disrupt and Momenta Dance Company

“Art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.” - Banksy

Powerful art reflects the issues of the time it was created, commenting on injustices, inequality, subversive forces or subconscious collective behaviors that are called out and called on to create or advocate for change. Momenta Dance Company performed three short choreographed pieces inspired by the October exhibition theme, *Art for Social Change: Made to Disrupt* sponsored by Byline Bank.



America Loves Its Guns - Choreography and performance by Sandra Kaufmann.

Reconciliation - Choreography and performance by Robby Williams.

Just Politics - Choreography by Connor Cornelius and performance by Ladonna Freidheim, Nikki Renfro, Mei-Kuang Chen, and Connor Cornelius.



Oak Park Art League Exhibitions

Oak Park Art League Exhibitions

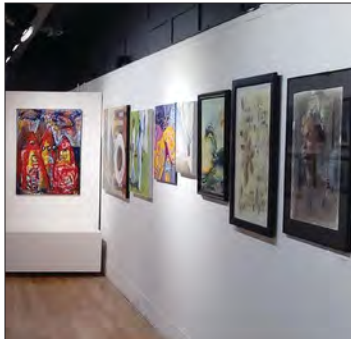
From our humble beginnings, OPAL continues to provide a place for community members, whether professional, amateur or student, to exhibit their artwork and gain the confidence needed to continue their own artistic practice. For the past few decades, OPAL has presented multiple exhibitions a year, with receptions open to the public on the second Friday of every month.

OPAL also has satellite galleries in the local community where artist members can display their work throughout the year in solo or group shows.

Noteworthy exhibitions in the recent past have included the following:

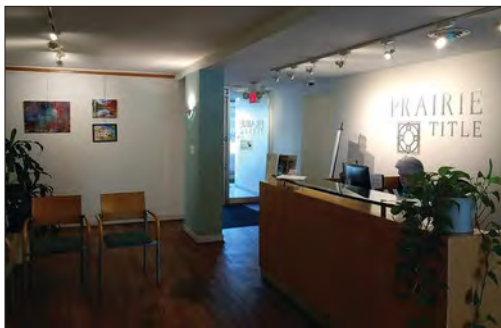
- Art for Social Change initiatives: *Behind the Wall*, *Sanctuary*, *We Are Enough*, *Dissent*, and *Made to Disrupt*
- National and regional calls for work
- Intersection Series: *Art & Word*, *Art & Music*, and *Art & Science*
- Artist Member exhibitions dedicated to the human form and figure such as *Unmasked* and *Motion/Composure*
- Exhibitions dedicated to abstract art such as *Space to Breathe*, *Entanglements*, and *Carved & Composed*
- And, regularly occurring themed shows such as small works exhibitions, and contemporary landscape exhibitions





Current Satellite Gallery Locations

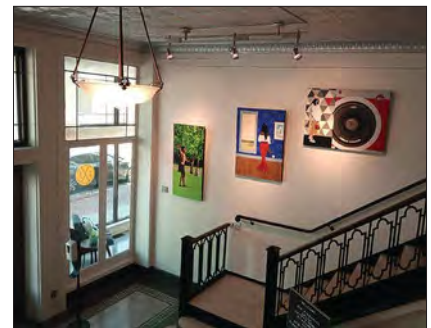
The Oak Park Art League thanks the owners of these gallery spaces and our artists for sharing their art. To learn more about each gallery, visit www.oakparkartleague.org/our-spaces.



Prairie Title
6821 W North Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302



KettleStrings Tavern
800 South Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302



CrossFunction Flexible Workspace
1033 South Blvd., Oak Park, IL 60302

Oak Park Art League Education

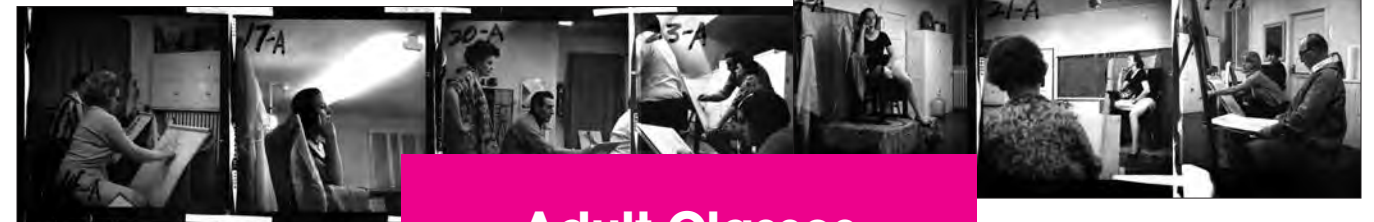
Oak Park Art League Education

The Oak Park Art League is known for its high-quality art classes and the talented and experienced artists who teach them.

OPAL offers adult and children's art classes for all levels of artists, beginner through professional. Classes include drawing, painting, mixed media, an open life-drawing class and more. Youth programs range in all art forms and creative play including yoga and the written word.

Thank you to the following 2021 teachers: Jocelyne Adkins, Tony Armendariz, Jonathan Franklin, Fran Gregory, Jesse Howard, Mike Barrett Kolasinski, Jackie Lakely, Olivia Lauritsen, Barbara McClure, Bryan Northup, Pam Penney, Ann Primack, Gina Lee Robbins, Liz Sales, Fran Sampson, Becky Scullio, Phil Schorn, Mike Vest, and Kim Vulinovic.

Visit oakparkartleague.org to register for a class. If you are an artist and would like to teach a class, please contact us at oakparkartleague@gmail.com.



Adult Classes

AUSTIN, OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST ART LEAGUE
720 CHICAGO AVENUE • OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

1950

ART CLASS SCHEDULE

The art classes of the League are open to members and non-members alike. Full facilities, qualified teachers, instruction in many mediums, and conveniences of place and time have been planned for pleasure and maximum student potential.

How to Enroll in an Art League Class
Call Mrs. Victor F. Harris, Chairman of the League Art School Committee, Euclid 6-7939 for full details and assistance in choosing the class most appropriate to your experience and enjoyment.

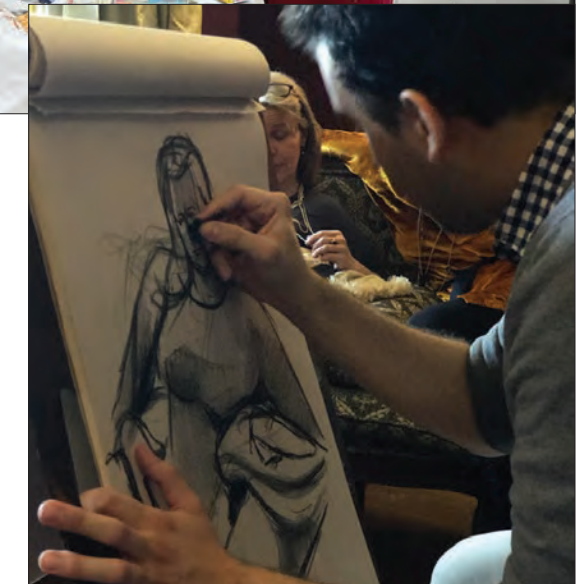
What Art Materials will You Need?
Your instructor is best qualified to advise you of what, how much and where to buy needed art supplies.

Will the League Exhibit Your Work?
The artist-membership of the League is open only to professional artists or semi-professional artists whose work shows unusual talent. Admission to artist membership is strictly juried. However, the League has set aside one exhibit a year for the League classes. Any student's work will be hung if, in the teacher's judgment, the work is up to class standards.

Friday: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Subject: Still-life, landscape and portraits; all mediums.
Instructors: James Eccles
Marie Lilliston
Term: Ten weeks: \$12.00
Sept. 9.

Saturday: 10:00 to 11:45 a.m.
Class for children, grade school ages.
Instructor: Helen Hudson Balow
Subject: Fundamental and creative expression.
Term: Ten weeks: \$7.50

Placed for distribution at:
Art Painters: 106 S. Ridgeland
Imperial Blueprint: 338 Harrison St.
Springer Stationery
Sullivan's Paint: 932 Madison
Warner Paint Co: 109 N. Marion
Figgatner-Scott: Germak Road
J.C. Licht: 31 Chicago Ave
Oak Park Library: Main Branch
South Branch
North Branch
River forest Library





Children's Classes



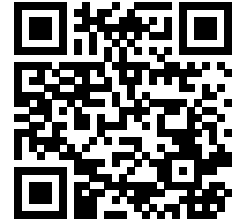
Oak Park Art League Members

Oak Park Art League Members

Our members make up who and what OPAL is today.

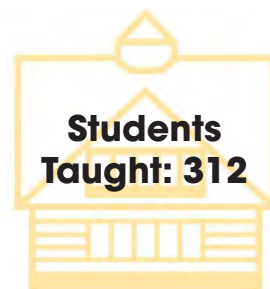
The Oak Park Art League is a welcoming center of artistic inquiry, creative expression and art appreciation in Oak Park and the surrounding communities. Membership is open to all; professional artists, amateur artists and those interested in appreciating and supporting art. Artist, individual, household, and student memberships are available. The many activities, social programs and committees OPAL has, allows you to participate at the level you choose. Visit oakparkartleague.org to become a member and view the artist directory.

An impressive sampling of our artist members are shown on the following pages. Enjoy the creative talent that celebrates our centennial!



Scan QR code for artist directory online.

Member Activities January 2021 through December 2021



Number of Works Installed:
505 Pieces of art work by 369 artists

Volunteer Hours (excluding board of directors):
Approximately 220

Tony Abboreno

abboreno.com



Two Trains Union Illinois, acrylic on canvas, 41 x 48 in., 2017



1940 Packard, acrylic on canvas, 36 x 48 in., 2020

Art Statement

I choose to use common external references and interpret them into my work not only for their content but also for their iconic, cultural universality. I use images of iconic figures of a contemporary world to bring the viewer a different, beautiful view of the ordinary. I want to awaken the viewers' interest in beauty in all aspects of the visual scene and the persistence of memories unique to American life.

Inspirational Quote

"You have to understand something about Art, it comes from someplace." – Meg Ryan's character from "Joe Verses the Volcano"

Elaine Allen

Photographybyelaineallen.com



Material Nature, fabric, 20 x16 in., 2021



Pandemic Revival, watercolor, 20 x16 in., 2020

Art Statement

For 25 years I was a professional photographer. Part of that time I worked in the Creative Services Department of a newspaper. On my own I did weddings, portraits, events, children's sports, etc. Also, I made large nature prints on canvas and metal. Throughout my life, off and on, I have done paintings in various media and have recently experimented with fabric and nature prints in acrylic. Being able to create fills many hours with a feeling of both excitement and contentment.

Inspirational Quote

"It is not what happens to you in life that is important but how you handle it."

Becky Beyer Brofman



Where The Rubber Meets The Road, charcoal and ink, 22 x 30 in., 2021



Peaches, ink and watercolor, 5 x 3 in., 2021

Art Statement

I am a retired interior designer who is interested in capturing all of the nuances of daily life, whether it is full of tension in charcoal or pretty in watercolor. My goal is to merge the two. I pursue this work because I want to "be brave enough to suck at something new." This is for me; not my family, not my neighbors, not my clients.

Inspirational Quote

"Your obsession with a final product is stopping you from achieving one."

– Joseph Zbuvic, watercolorist

Kathy Blankley Roman

K.B.RomanArt.com



Sealed in Amber, oil, cold wax, mixed media on canvas, 20 x 20 in., 2019



Tree Beard, Diptych, acrylics, drawing media on canvas, 24 x 24 in., 2019

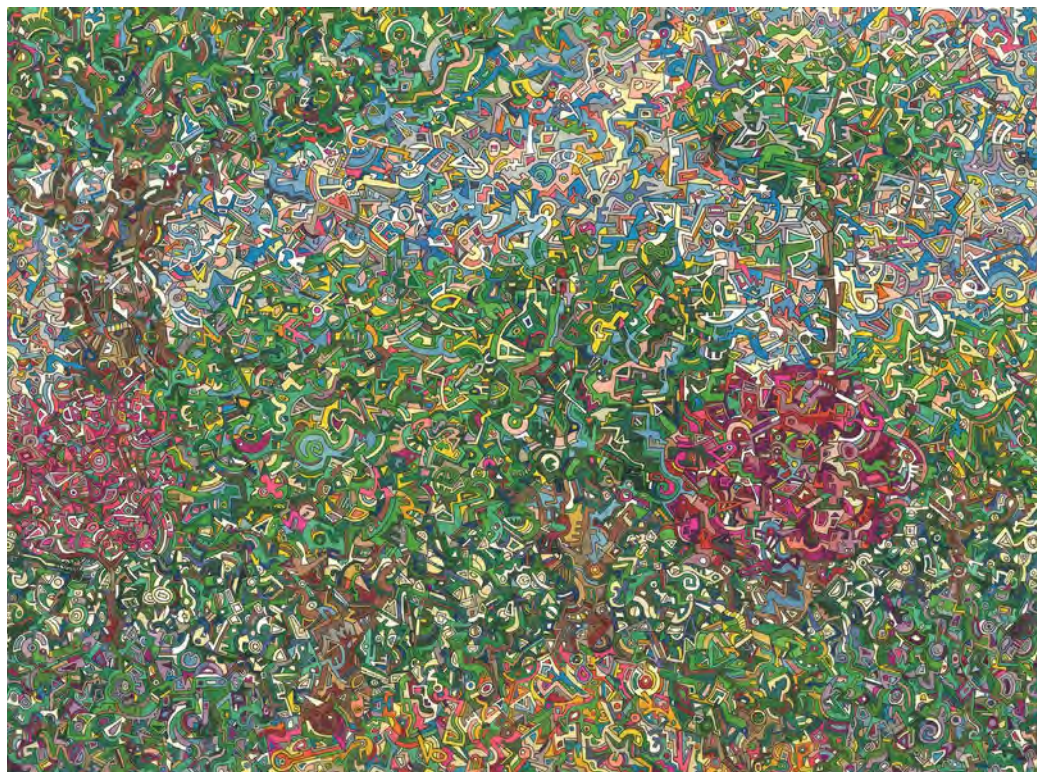
Art Statement

My paintings explore texture and gesture and are about the memories and emotions that emerge in the process. My intent is to make them nonobjective but they tend to evoke a sense of place, of elements of the natural world. I am driven by a sense of play, experimentation and an exploration of the materials as much as by an emotional response to the evolving painting. It's all about the process, becoming immersed in the moment and letting the painting take me where it will.

Inspirational Quote

"Accept the magic. Your viewers will create their story." – Pat Zalisco

Jack Boyle
jack-boyle.com



Garden, ink, 10.5 x 14 in., 2019



Machine, mixed media, 11 x 7.5 in., 2017

Art Statement

I'm an artist. I have a drive to create.

Inspirational Quote

*"It is looking at things for a long time that ripens you and gives you a deeper meaning."
- Vincent Van Gogh*

Terry Clarbour



Celebrating Sixty-Five Years, mosaic



Homage to Maisie, mosaic

Art Statement

I create fine art mosaics using found, repurposed and salvaged materials.

Inspirational Quote

"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

- Frederick Buechner

Maurice Costello



Nonno and Noni in Paradise



Abiding Anomaly

Inspirational Quote

*"Something that you feel
will find its own form."*

- Jack Kerouac

Art Statement

My art career actually began in the second grade in rural Indiana producing religious images for favor from the nuns and it continues today. In between there was unsuccessful attempts at college, a military tour in Vietnam, nearly a decade of aimless wandering, and 28 years in public education. My current work is mostly painting with some construction and some computer imagery. It has evolved through both life and artistic experiences. Now I seek only favor that comes from personal satisfaction.

Linda DeViller

lindadeviller.com



Poppy Field Study, mixed media, 11 x 14 in., 2014



Migration, mixed media, 16 x 12 in., 2017

Art Statement

Exploring acrylic on a variety of surfaces, I work to discover new ways to merge personal expression and investigation of media within each piece. My work is primarily intuitive, evolving from whatever presents itself on the painting's surface, from the first stroke until the last. I respond to color, space, and flow – prodding and stretching each element to create a multi-layered narrative that envelopes and floats within the same space.

Inspirational Quote

*"Learn the rules like a pro,
so you can break them
like an artist."*

- Pablo Picasso

Nancy Fong



Art Statement

I feel the need to create and to share; to find joy in my activities; to be seen; and to tell my story. I am a figurative painter, preferring to work with oil on canvas. As a teaching artist, I work with people of all ages from pre-school to seniors, including adults with mental illness.

Inspirational Quote

Vincent van Gogh inspires me because he produced about 900 paintings and over 1,000 drawings/sketches in his short productive time.

Jonathan Franklin

jfranklinart.com



TRIO, mixed media



Alchemists 3 (414), 48 x 36in., 2016

Inspirational Quote

"It all starts with a dot, and then another dot, and when you start connecting the dots, everything else follows." – Jonathan Franklin

Art Statement

For me, the act of creating art begins with asking a question, a question that often cannot be expressed in words. To find an answer, I often use the figure as the most direct way to express this. Making art is a form of visual problem solving. What I most often struggle with when portraying the figure is how to reconcile the rationality and veracity of realism and the inherent dissonance and distortion of abstraction; summed up best in five little words: It's a tug-of-war.

Doug Freerksen

dougfreesen.com



Flying Couple



Onward

Art Statement

I'm driven to make things. I try to avoid rules of logic or good sense. My work should be fun for me and those who see it. I hope for my work to enrich a space, not simply occupy it. A sense of playfulness is usually best!

Inspirational Quote

*"My fan mail is enormous!
Everyone is under six."
- Alexander Calder*

Maria Gedroc

mariagedrocart.weebly.com



North and Damen 2, acrylic, 29 x 40 in., 2016



Green Mill, acrylic, 17 x 11 in., 2021

Inspirational Quote

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

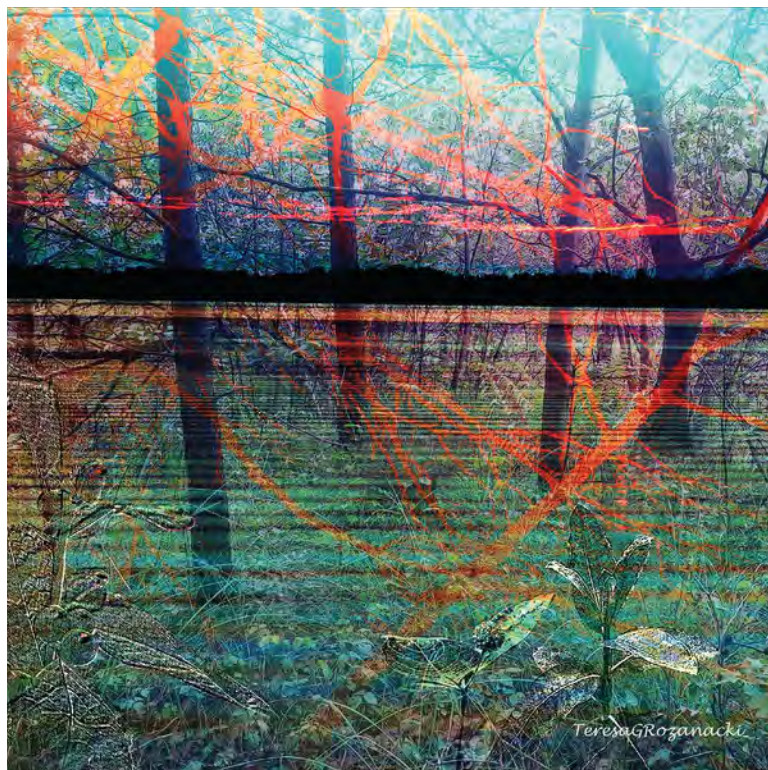
– Pablo Picasso

Art Statement

My art work is mixed media including acrylic paint, paper, wood, photography, and found objects. Many of my ideas, themes and content explore personal space and spirituality through architectural or natural elements. I like building things. I like the tangible feeling of materials and sometimes these ideas are paintings and sometimes more collage. Even my photography has many layers in it, sometimes becoming the background for three dimensional art. After many years of creating, I have few different series of work all of which have their own deeper symbolism and meaning pertaining to the pieces.

Teresa Gierwielaniec Rozanacki

teresaarts.com



Wisconsin I, digital art, 12 x 12 in., 2020



Wisconsin II, digital art, 12 x 12 in., 2020

Art Statement

I studied painting and received a Masters Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow, Poland. In Chicago I attended a Graphic Design Specialist Program and Microsoft Office Program. I worked professionally for printing companies, designing magazines and book covers.

Inspirational Quote

*"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."
- Pablo Picasso*

David Gilbert

500px.com/lapgil



Two Girls of Chicago, photography, 2017



Jazz 33, photography, 2020

Art Statement

I'm trying to present something authentic and essential about the people, actions, things and places I photograph. Or I'm engaged in a long-term narcissistic exercise.

Inspirational Quote

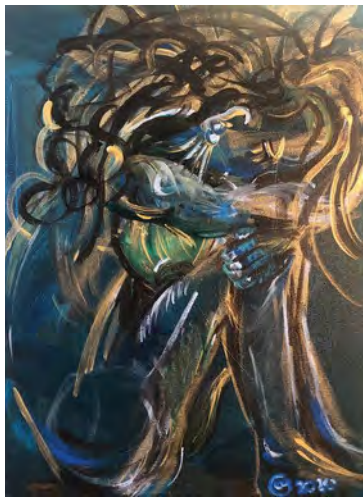
*"Keep making your art. Sometimes you create something worth sharing."
I didn't exactly say that, but I did just think it and it seems pretty true. – David Gilbert*

Carly Grant

ceegee.art



Shine Your Lie On Me, acrylic on canvas, 24 x 18 in., 2021



Okay, acrylic on canvas,
16 x 12 in., 2020

Inspirational Quote

"Never let anyone define what you are capable of by using parameters that don't apply to you."

- Chuck Close

Art Statement

Often using the moniker Cee Gee, I mainly use acrylic paint on canvas, but also regularly create photography pieces printed on unique materials, as well as sculptures. I am drawn to art in its role as storyteller, historian, and social commentator. The human condition, how people behave and react, as well as their experiences, are at the forefront of my creative focus. My goal is to create imagery that evokes emotions, memories, and/or future goals, to share authenticity and truth through the visual arts.

Adrienne Gregory



Global Marbles, ink and paint marbled papers, 27 x 40 in., 2021



Global Gold, paper and gold leaf, 16 x 16 in., 2020

Art Statement

More than an artist, I am a designer who collects objects, art, and craft created by others, rediscovered and reassembled by me. A career as a graphic designer has influenced how I look at things and their relationships. Trying to move from order to disorder in my most recent work, and appreciate the underlying wabi sabi of things.

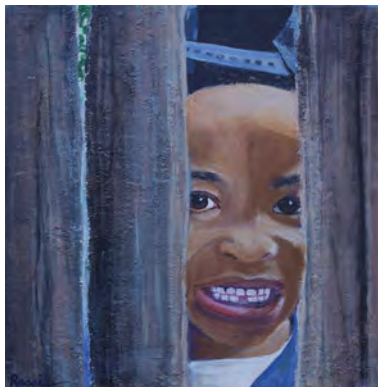
Inspirational Quote

"Nothing is worth more than laughter. It is strength to laugh and to abandon oneself, to be light." – Frida Kahlo

Rassi Hall



Deeply Rooted, acrylic, 48 x 36 in., 2020



Sherman, acrylic, 12 x 12 in., 2021

Inspirational Quote

"Age makes no difference as long as you have something worthwhile to contribute."

– Louis Armstrong, paraphrased

Art Statement

Rassi Hall entered a magazine drawing contest at 12 years old which brought a recruiter to her door. Her mother could not afford to enroll her after the recent death of her clergyman father. Rassi used her creativity in radio, videography and scouted talent for a modeling agency. Only since the pandemic of 2020, has Rassi finally found her way back to painting and OPAL. "I sculpt on canvas and paint for balance, peace of mind and to embrace joy in a sometimes troublesome world."



Qhadishta Desso, acrylic on paper, 18 x 48 in., 2020



Omni Arches, acrylic on paper, 24 x 18 in., 2020

Art Statement

My paintings capture varied perceptions of reality & states of higher consciousness, and are designed to lead the viewer to the realization of the deep-down, divine essence within everything.

Inspirational Quote

"Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darkneses of other people."
- CG Jung

Nancy Hlavacek
nancyhlavacek.com



Art Statement

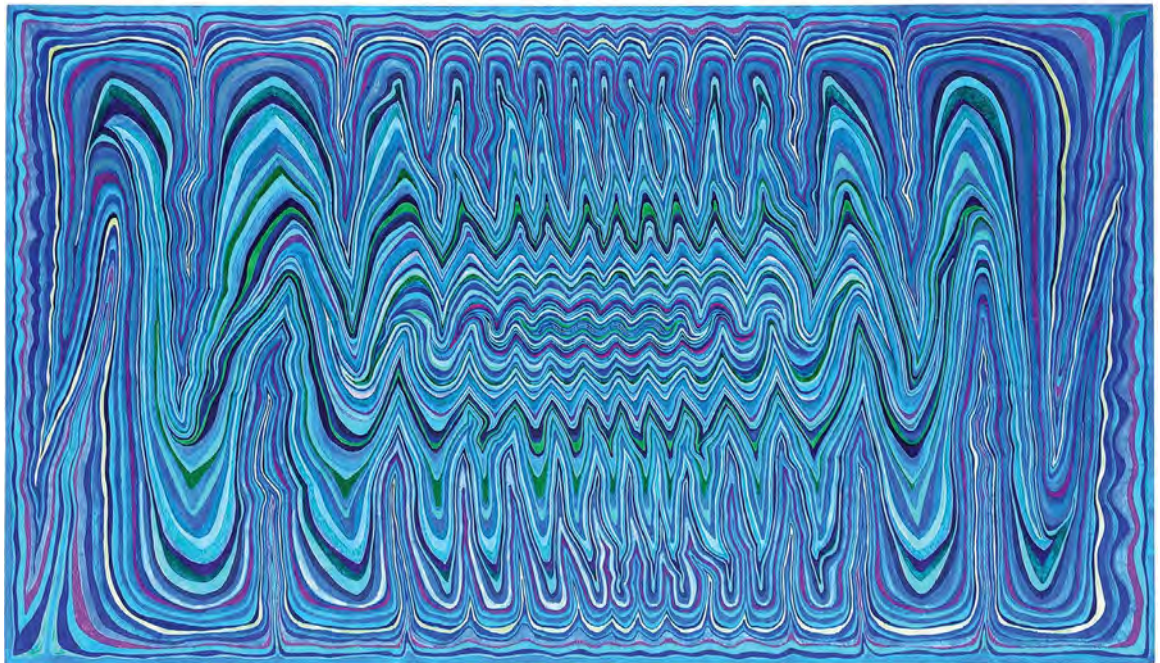
Gestural abstraction,
compositional rhythms
inspired by nature.

Inspirational Quote

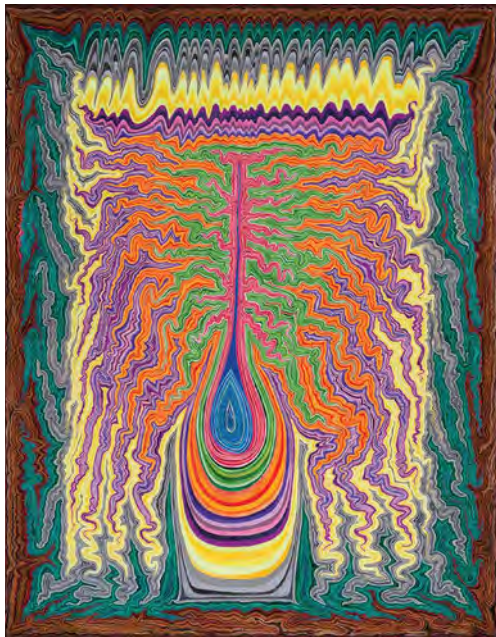
*"Every canvas is a journey
all its own." – Helen Frankenthaler*

David Katzman

DavidDavid.net



Waves--All Things Are Alive 15, markers on archival paper, 24 x 36 in., 2019



The Seed--All Things Are Alive 21, markers on paper, 28 x 22 in., 2020

Art Statement

I seek through my art to represent the life and movement that makes up the entire universe. There is no surface or area of space that is not filled with energy and movement; quantum particles pop in and out of existence even in deepest space. It's the quantum foam of existence. So through my detailed marker drawings, I am representing this endless energy and the unity of animate and inanimate objects—at a subatomic level, it is all one. Matter is just one form of energy. I'm creating a sensation of life through inorganic abstract shapes. In each of my works, I never use the same marker twice, but each line forms a continuous loop, an endless circle that continues just as the universe does.

LaVeta Kirby



Morning in Kauai, painting, 35 x 46 in.



Redwings Moon, mixed media, 35 x 35 in.

Inspirational Quote

*"To create art is to live."
- LaVeta Kirby*

Art Statement

My art has always come from a place of joy. I find that joy most often in the natural world, and at other times in personal experiences with friends and relatives that have left an emotional tie back to them. Often these experiences and landscapes from travel or a simple ride will spark inspiration for my art. I find great joy in telling a story of light and color translated onto the canvas from one of those experiences. A song sung with a grandmother has spawned art as well. The beauty of these emotional experiences or the way that the light bathes a scene with color have been my greatest inspirations for my art. For me, the joy comes in trying to relay the emotion that I felt during these experiences and trying to relate them through my artwork; has been one of the greatest joys I have had as an artist.



Old Chicago Stock Exchange, handcolored linocut, 12 x 18 in.



Winter Drive By, handcolored linocut, 7 x 18 in.

Inspirational Quote

"A good artist has less time than ideas"
- Martin Kippenberger

Art Statement

My practice focuses on illustrative portraits of historic architecture and interpretations of deteriorating and idealized landscapes. I am interested in pattern, texture, mark making and saturated color in my work. I don't strive for a direct representation of the places and scenes I depict, rather, I want the viewer to experience a sense of timelessness and a moment of quiet in a busy world.

Barbara McClure



Art Statement

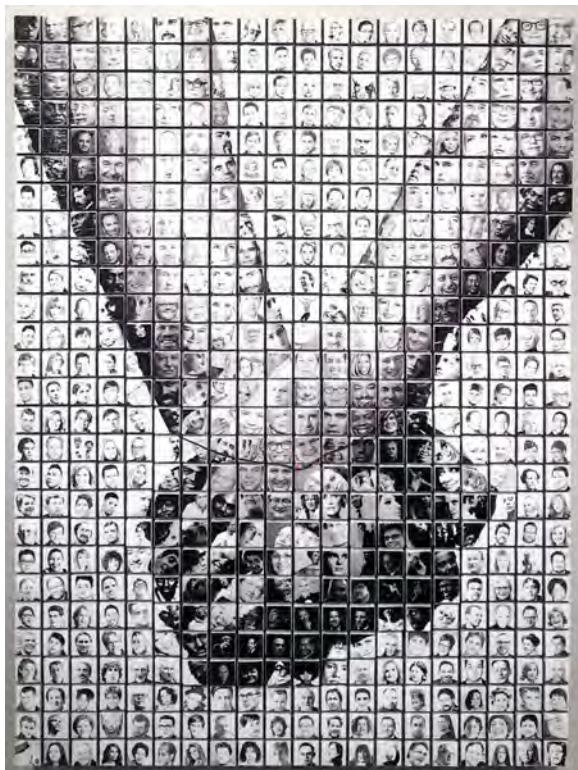
For a long time I struggled to find the time, energy and space to pursue my lifelong interest in art. Now I have all of those things. The Oak Park Art League has been a big part of helping me achieve that. Currently, my main interests are figure drawing and landscape. I continue to discover their elusive and abstract qualities.

Inspirational Quote

"I cannot tell you how happy am that I have taken up drawing again. I have been thinking about it for a long time, but always considered it impossible and beyond my abilities."
- Vincent Van Gogh

Jennifer McNulty

jenmcnulty.com



Love. Pride. Sacrifice., photo prints and mosaic tiles, 22 x 17 in., 2018



Jimi Hendrix Music Icons, photo prints and mosaic tiles, 21 x 19 in., 2018

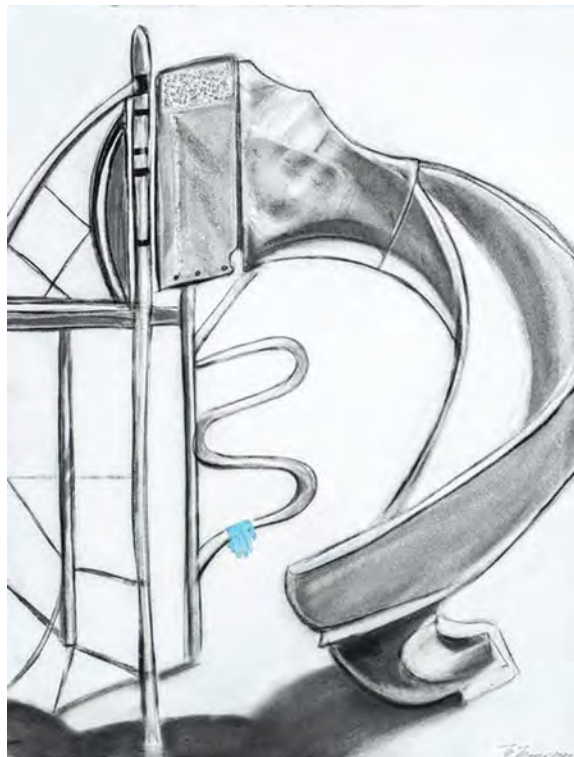
Art Statement

My work explores the dichotomous relationship between perception and reality in both subject matter and presentation. I refer to my works as 3D Photo Mosaics, which were born from my love of genealogy paired with my interest in pop culture and history. Every piece carries a social message from feminism to civil rights to LGBTQ to Chicago's history to globalism, and each individual image among hundreds in a single piece is thoroughly researched for accuracy and relevance to the overall subject.

Inspirational Quote

"Art is not what you see, but what you make others see." – Edgar Degas

Melanie L. Minnix



Art Statement

Both drawings were created during the height of COVID lockdown and reflect sights seen close to home but viewed through the lens of the pandemic. They offer close up views of familiar objects slightly abstracted to challenge the viewer to see the object in a new way and explore their own narrative and emotions. Color is used as a means to pull in the viewer with a sense of familiarity as they begin to look more closely at what might be different than expected.

Kerri Mommer



Reigning Queen, watercolor, 16 x 12 in., 2020



Suspended Animation, watercolor,
16 x 12 in., 2021

Art Statement

I am a watercolor artist who also works in acrylic and mixed media. My expressionist style ranges from abstract to representational. I make art in a continual effort to find new ways to express ideas and represent feelings visually. When I paint landscapes, I would like to think that I am inviting viewers to establish connections with nature. Though I would hesitate to categorize my own work this way, I am inspired by the work of contemporary tragic landscape artists. I live in Northwest Indiana.

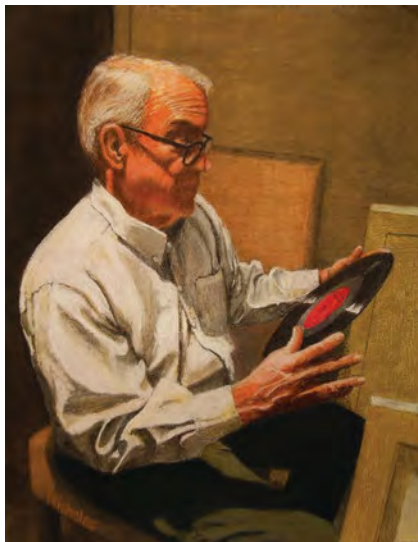
Inspirational Quote

"Art is a harmony parallel to nature." – Cezanne

John Nicholas



Snow Squall in the Canyon, pastel, 16 x 20 in., 2016



The Afficionado, pastel, 8 x 14 in., 2020

Art Statement

I like to travel and I take numerous photographs, always thinking they might become part of a painting. Favorite subjects: mountains, rushing water, waves, city life, panoramas, and vistas; sometimes people. My paintings are all of places I've traveled. Favorites are the American West and especially Colorado. All my paintings are created with pastels, pastel pencils, and charcoal, sometimes painted with a pastel/alcohol mixture or acrylics. My day job is a business professor; painting has been a hobby since childhood.

Inspirational Quote

*"When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece."
– John Ruskin*

Bryan Northup
bryannorthup.com



Ongoing Unknowing, plastic and foam assemblage relief, 8 x 10 x 5 in., 2020



All This and More, plastic and foam assemblage installation, 9 x 9 x 3 ft., 2021

Inspirational Quote

*"Art should comfort the disturbed
and disturb the comfortable."
- Dr. César A. Cruz,
educator and activist*

Art Statement

Bryan Northup is a Chicago based environmental artist, utilizing single-use plastic as art medium. Bryan creates abstract wall reliefs and sculptural works in an attempt to imagine these very plastics interacting with living systems at the deepest level. Bryan has worked as gallery director, marketing manager, art handler and exhibit preparator for Chicago area art organizations as well as private clients. He received his BFA in Fine Art Photography from California College of the Arts. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally.

John Padour

johnpadourphotographs.com



Cartegena Columbia I, photo, 2020



Cartegena Columbia II, photo, 2020

Art Statement

I'm a retired architect who's need for creative expression is through photography. The camera engages me in the world whether it's street photography, urban landscapes, or abstractions.

Inspirational Quote

"If your pictures aren't good enough, you aren't close enough"
- Robert Capa

Marcia Palazzolo



Winter Birds, 12 x 16 in., 2020



Post Covid Summer, 14 x 10 in., 2021

Inspirational Quote

"The art we all live with comes from Art Leagues and art fairs."

- Marcia Palazzolo

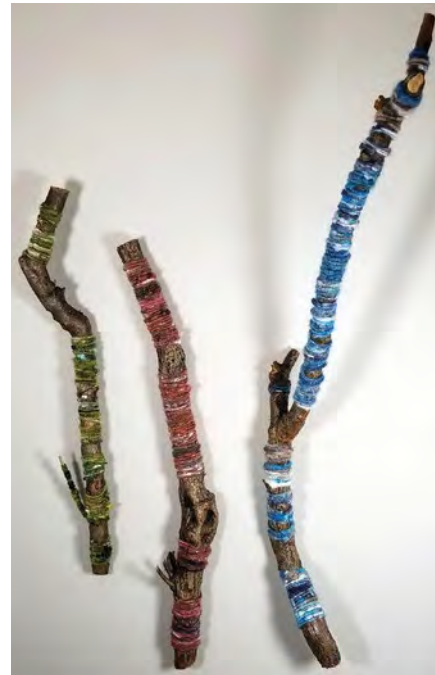
Art Statement

Art has been an important aspect of my entire life. For many years I have spent countless hours in the photographic darkroom creating multi-image pieces and made woodcuts. Now, I work mainly in watercolor. I have a degree in Math from the U. of I. (Urbana) and a Master's degree from the Institute of Design at IIT, Chicago, IL. I enjoyed teaching photography, bookbinding and watercolor painting at Elmhurst College and Dominican University for over 30 years, and was a past president of the Oak Park Art League from 1994-1998 and again in 2001-2003.

Pamela Penney
pamelapenney.com



Decay, fiber, 32 x 10 in., 2019



The Norns, fiber, 48 x 32 in., 2020

Art Statement

Pamela Penney has a three-fold mission. She utilizes her fiber and mixed media art and her process to raise the visibility and value of traditional feminine craft, from spinning yarn to crochet, knit, felting, embroidery and more. Secondly, the focus of much of her work is with the creative re-use and salvaging of old textiles, spinning paper advertisements and plastic bags into the “fiber” of her creations. And lastly, she utilizes her art and process to heal others and the planet with art as therapy and contemplative meditation practice.

Inspirational Quote

“Be the rainbow for someone else’s cloud.” – Maya Angelou

Diane Ponder



Art Statement

Oak Park has a special cultural influence from architecture, writing, sciences and art, larger than its physical footprint. I've thrived and helped in some ways to further that by my part in the Art House, a former award winning cooperative gallery in the Harrison Art District. I also had my own gallery on Harrison called The Living Room. Currently a member of the Oak Park Art League and participant in shows and figure drawing workshops. I also show or have shown work nationally in New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago. International shows currently in India and London. I've also had work in Busan, Hong Kong, Beijing, Jeddah, Paris and others. I'm motivated to present beautiful work and thoughtful passionate points of view, including a bit of humor. The response of my collectors and audience is very gratifying whether they are in Ireland, Hawaii, New York or Chicago.

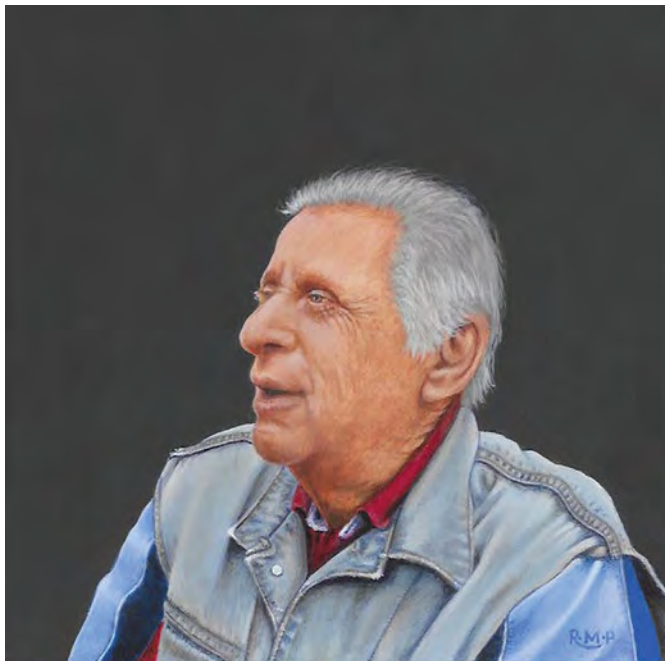
Inspirational Quote

"If there is some good in me, it is because I was born in the subtle atmosphere of your country of Arezzo. Along with the milk of my nurse I received the knack of handling chisel and hammer, with which I make my figures." - Michelangelo (Wiki)

Robert Proce
rmprocestudios.com



Homemade Red



Thomas F

Art Statement
Art is life / Life is art.

Inspirational Quote
*"Never give up!
Never give in!"*

Gina Lee Robbins

ginaleerobbins.com



Praise Be, ceramic, 18 x 15 x 8 in., 2020



Through Her Eyes (Lorraine), found wood, bark, dryer venting, horsehair, 90 x 34 x 34 in., 2020

Art Statement

I create organic and abstract objects using clay and found or repurposed materials. Working intuitively, I combine textures to explore points of physical, sensual and conceptual tension. Calling on a sort of adaptive resonance theory, I assemble, carve, stitch, and weave until something otherworldly yet viscerally familiar almost breathes before me.

Inspirational Quote

"Dance first. Think later."
– Samuel Beckett

Geoffrey Roupas



Chair with Hat, harvested wood and wire, 4 x 18 x 18 in., 2020



Three Suspended Personages,
harvested wood and wire, 32 x 18 in., 2021

Art Statement

I work in three dimensions mostly using harvested wood and wire, often in combination. Most of the forms I create are plausibly representational while manifesting various levels of abstraction. They may challenge the viewer to discover or imagine their use or function. My major inspiration is nature. I like the orderliness of line found there as well as the seeming chaos, especially where what at first appears to be random carries a hidden order.

Inspirational Quote

"For me, an object is a living thing." – Joan Miró

Jacqueline Rueckert Lakely

jackielakely.com



Thank You, mixed media, 36 x 18 in., 2017

Inspirational Quote

He said, "Above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." – Roald Dahl



Tidal, mixed media, Diptych, 40 x 30 in., 2020

Art Statement

I have lived in the Chicago area for the past eleven years, after living most of my life on either coast of the US. I love to draw, paint, and work in mixed media - whatever it is that enables me to engage fully and express myself in my artwork. Currently I live by a lake and I spend a lot of time outside walking, biking, and kayaking. This is where a lot of my inspiration comes from. Nature's lines, shapes, colors, movement, beauty, seasons and moods always move me to paint. I also like to document life, interpret poetry and music visually, and share creativity with other people as a means of connection. This is why I do what I do, and why I teach other people how to work with mixed media, watercolor and acrylic.

Fran Sampson
fransampson.com



White Sand VII, acrylic, 36 x 36 in., 2021



Random Elegance II, mixed media, 40 x 30 in., 2018

Art Statement

I am a mixed media painter that uses color, abstract shapes, brush strokes and collage to create a constant impression of movement across and into the spatial field. This may include torn word fragments, barcodes, and symbols as stand-ins for humans and elements of society. My art has been shown at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Koehnline Museum of Art, ARC Gallery, Gallery Studio Oh, Stola Contemporary Art Gallery, Oak Park Art League, Woman Made Gallery, Bridgeport Art Center, and throughout the Midwest.

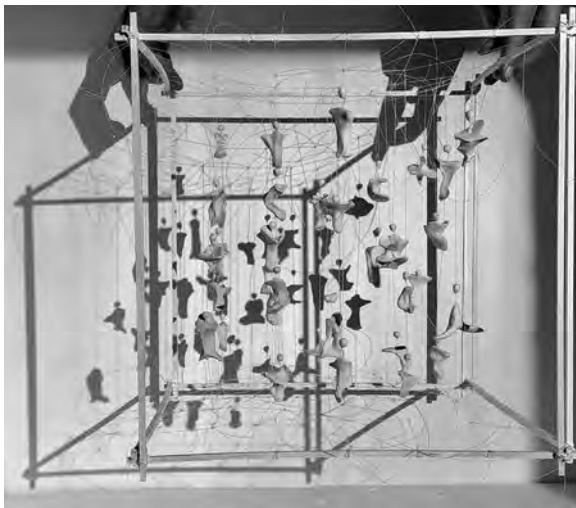
Inspirational Quote

"Art is something that makes you breathe with a different kind of happiness." – Anni Albers

Michele Silveti-Schmitt



Fleeting-1.2, 36 x 36 x 6 in., 2020



Synergy Cube, 2021

Art Statement

Raised in Chicago by parents who emigrated from Canada and Argentina, making art has always given Michele roots and a sense of belonging. Michele's work celebrates the beauty, strength and resilience of the human body and spirit. She uses her art to process experiences and record observations about people, the body, perception of self and others, relationships and connection. An evolving study of the dance of life and the energy exchanged between the individual and the collective, it is a reminder that sense of self is a fluid thing.

Inspirational Quote

"Move the energy of the doubt into focus and practice!"

Marion Sirefman

SirefmanArt.com



Nataleza, acrylic, 96 x 72 in., 2018



Internal Intermingling, acrylic, 30 x 24 in., 2018

Art Statement

Marion Sirefman, BFA, has been creating art for decades, using many media. She lately has concentrated on acrylic abstracts, painting on canvas and outdoor murals. She is especially fascinated with creating vibrantly colored images the viewer can explore as a unique 'place' to inhabit — but which also reference the real world — on a microscopic, macroscopic and telescopic level.

Inspirational Quote

"The essential thing is to work in a state of mind that approaches prayer." – Henri Matisse

Judy Steed



NZ Penguins, stained glass, 10 x 10 in., 2021



Tokyo Geisha, stained glass, 14 x 12 in., 2018

Art Statement

I have been a stained glass mosaic artist for the last 17 years. I love the different effects of glass in different lighting situations. My work is very diverse as I bore easily and I often just choose colors of glass and see how the spirit moves me to proceed. I love being able to support various charities through donating pieces of my work or a portion of my proceeds. I create art because it feeds my soul.

Inspirational Quote

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."
- Thomas Merton

Robert Steed



Transfixed, mixed media, 60 x 74 x 36 in., 2017



Make Like A Tree, mixed media, 58 x 38 x 52 in., 2017

Art Statement

Bob Steed is a River Forest resident. He studied art at the University of Iowa in the 1970s. He uses salvaged materials to assemble 3D replicas of endangered and extinct animal species. His goals are both artistic and educational. He tries to clearly retain the character of the salvaged material while representing each animal realistically. He hopes his 3D renderings will increase appreciation for the animals represented, and enhance awareness of the current threats to their continued existence.

Inspirational Quote

"Every child is an artist."

Janet Talbot



Violet Sleeping, oil and acrylic, 22 x 30 in., 2018



Untitled, oil and acrylic, 24 x 30 in., 2016

Art Statement

I am concerned with the juxtaposition of stasis and movement and purposeful contradictions, striving for coherence, emphasis, and unity in compositions, as well as with fluidity in color, shape, and texture. I believe in the importance of expression as a means of engaging the viewer in the spirit of the paintings, and that the larger universe is best understood by examining the commonplace.

Inspirational Quote

"Blue, what a blue, it pierced my heart." – Matisse

Shelley Timm-Thompson

shelleytimmthompson.com



Marina, oil, 18 x 24 in., 2021



Brisk, oil, 18 x 18 in., 2020

Art Statement

Currently, I am striving for expressionistic abstraction that captures both honesty and beauty. I want my audience to feel transported to the places I paint, as if they are seeing them with their own eyes, sensing the experience, or having a memory. I keep my brush strokes loose and varied — much like nature and those experiences that can never be completely controlled. Some artists paint for self-expression, I paint for connection. I believe that art cannot be art unless there is evocation.

Inspirational Quote

"People buy art because they experience a range of emotions they haven't felt before."
— Nicholas Wilton

Michael Valente
filbertbrush.tumblr.com



Inspirational Quote
*"When I was younger I
clenched my fist in revolution
and solidarity, now I clench
my fists in my apron pocket."*
- Kathe Kollowitz

Art Statement
Retired Art teacher studying
miniature painting in watercolor
and egg tempera.

Nicole Van Dyken
artisticnic.com



Endangered Luptapraya, pen stippling, 22 x 28 in., 2021



Wild Things, pen stippling, 8 x 10 in., 2018

Inspirational Quote

"Light up the darkness." – Bob Marley

This is a reminder that we all have the power to overcome the darkness in the world. We don't have to wait for the light to turn on. We ourselves can be the light. I just love that!

Art Statement

I am a visual artist with a love for vibrant colors. I enjoy painting, pencil drawing, pen stippling and digital collage. My favorite thing about being an artist is being able to express myself visually. As a former poet I once used words to cryptically express my secrets, fears, hopes, dreams, goals and opinions; now I use art. My paintings often have meaning beyond the visual representations that are displayed on the canvas or paper. A lot of my work is meant to tell a story and I enjoy taking even the most morbid tale and adding strength and hope to it through color. My art is often inspired by music and song lyrics. Growth is another inspiration of mine, resulting in my depictions of lush and wild plant-life. I am also very much inspired by the works of Henri Rousseau, Frida Khalo and Vincent Van Gogh.

Julie Wendt Brundage

juliewendtbrundage.com



Guardians



Wrenching on Lake

Art Statement

Everyday the media thrusts the famous and infamous at us. I try to depict the person who steadily goes about daily life with effort and honesty which in itself is noble. That depiction may be in abstraction, figures or buildings but my art tries to remind us of that effort that goes on everyday without notice.

Inspirational Quote

"Never Again War." – Kathe Kollwitz

Bette Williams



Salt Creek Skating, oil, 20 x 16 in., 2021



Love Triangle, oil, 16 x 20 in., 2021

Art Statement

I am a lifelong artist.
"Class artist" in school.
Career in Advertising as a
Creative Director. Wife and
Mom. I Paint in oils using a
small color palette and depict
scenes of nature. I also create
scenes from life and memories
which evoke happiness to me.

Inspirational Quote

"You are the artist. You get to decide!"
- Bette Williams



View From the Kitchen Window, charcoal and watercolor, 40 x 52 in., 2021



Islands at Bear Camp, watercolor and graphite, 11 x 8.5 in., 2021

Inspirational Quote

*"Time is not the enemy."
– This was said by a
visiting artist whose
name I no longer know.*

Art Statement

In the Renaissance there was little distinction between art and science—drawing was the way to explore the world and convey information. Likewise, my art is based on personal observations, and pieced together, much like a journal is pieced together over time. From daily moon observations, to charts and graphs based on this information; from observational sketches, to larger works based on those sketches; from found objects, to the collages made with these objects, my art reflects my observations of the world around me.

Sue Wolfe
suewolfe.com



Art Statement

I'm an abstract artist working with acrylics, mixed media, pastels, watercolor and ink. My background is 34+ years as a commercial and portrait photographer. During the last four years, I have shifted to abstract painting due to its loose, unpredictable, and freeing medium. Each piece starts without expectations, goes with the flow of the medium, inherent music and energy. The ability for self expression is why I am passionate about my art work and hope it elicits a strong emotion within the viewer.

Inspirational Quote

"Go and make interesting mistakes, make amazing mistakes, make glorious and fantastic mistakes. Break rules. Leave the world more interesting for your being here. Make. Good. Art." - Neil Gaiman

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OPAL thanks all who have supported our work this past year.

Your generous donations of time, talent and funds make it possible for OPAL to continue a one-hundred year tradition of art practice and appreciation in our community and beyond.

OPAL also thanks our fellow nonprofits, local and national, that have helped us throughout our Centennial year and during the pandemic.



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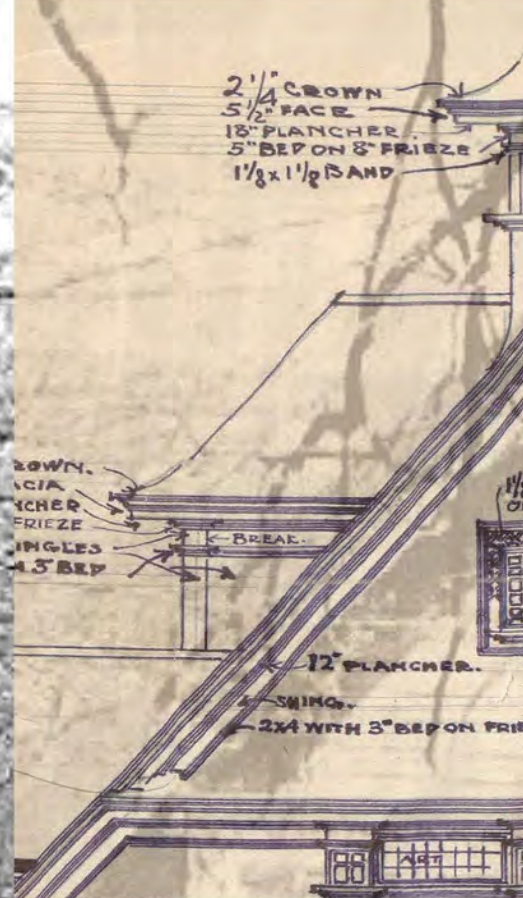
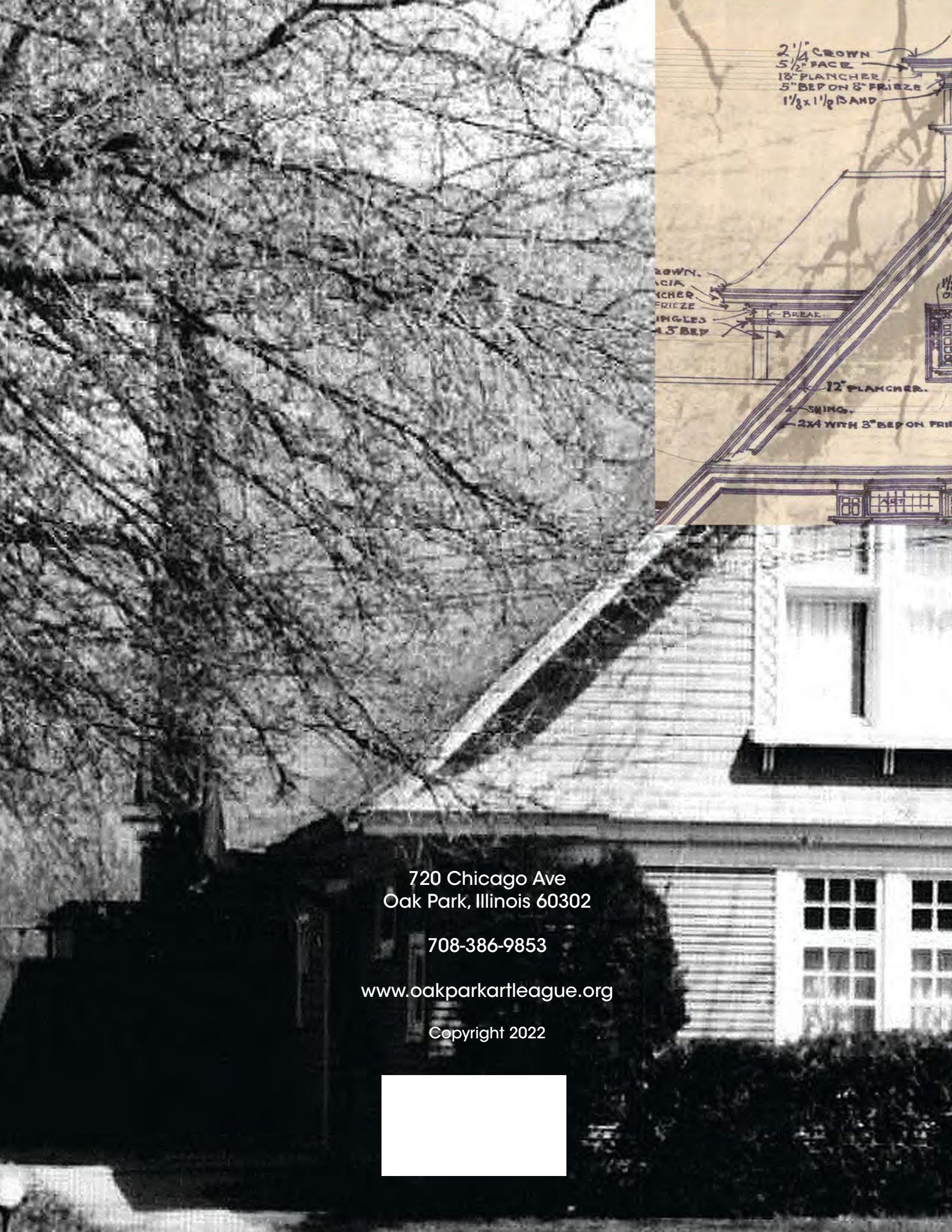
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