



Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts

Winter E-Newsletter Volume XIX No. 1 www.DIArtsop.org

Adrian Dominican Artists Open INAI Gallery

On October 28, fourteen members of the Dominican Institute for the Arts were featured in the exhibit *Adrian Dominican Artists: A Review*, the first event in the newly-dedicated INAI, the meditation center and art gallery ministry of Weber Retreat and Conference Center. INAI is a Japanese word meaning “within.”

In this article Suzanne Schreiber, Coordinator of INAI: A SPACE APART, describes the unique heritage of the venue and guides us through its first event. “This space is dedicated to the creative spirit of Sisters Barbara Chenicek and Rita Shiltz who, for 43 years, on this site created ‘sacred space’ and designed chapels and churches that invited contemplation, reflection, and response to the presence of the Spirit in today’s world.”

“After viewing colorful watercolors and subtle photographs, the eye goes to a finely woven Kimono in mauves and subtle blues and a golden quilted piece called “Community” by Sarajane Seaver followed by beautifully-done weavings by Nancyann Turner including “Full Moon Blessing” and “Life Cycles,” a prayer rug. One can then linger with Barbara Cervenka’s watercolor series of nine pieces “The Night Joanne Died.” which tells the story of her cousin Joanne’s violent death. In her paintings, Janet Wright reflects on “Water” and “Manchurian Cranes” while Fran Hickey offers an array of bright color with her cats and “Dance of the Flowers.” Pauline Opliger regularly shares her oil paintings near St. Catherine Chapel, in harmony with the liturgical seasons. For the exhibit she shows her painting “We Have a Dwelling,” which includes a quote from St. Paul. She is also displaying “Melinda,” a portrait of a young girl. Rosaire McAuliffe and Irene Walker, versatile as they are, have included watercolors, a print, a ceramic vase and a fabric piece. Jeanne Stickling features her ceramic sculpture, Pentecost. Grace Dennis’ prints and photographs by Melinda Ziegler and Suzanne Schreiber reflect their love of nature. Kathleen Voss brings us up to date with her colorful digital paintings that also reflect a kinship with nature, especially flowers. In Judi Engel’s “Christ Rising” we see an image of Jesus illuminated, arms raised in hope and glory.

Janice Holkup challenges us with her silkscreen “Patriarchy.” The words in the image read: “I am woman; my name is anonymous and I am invisible female.” Her three-dimensional mirrored work is called: “I Am a Part of All Whom I Have Met and They a Part of Me.” Of “The Holographic Universe” Janice says, “This work illustrates my understanding of the interconnection of all that is. A work of art for me takes on a life of its own after it is created, and often teaches me new things. When I first tried to photograph this work I discovered that there was no place I could stand and not be reflected back/seen. As a viewer I was a part of the image.” This wonderful opportunity to view the works of Adrian Dominican Sisters and their Associates continues through Saturday, February 24, 2018.





Letter from the President

Hello Everybody,

I hope you are all well, that you had a happy Christmas and that 2018 will be wonderfully blessed for each and every one of you.

The Collaborative Dominican Novitiate in St. Louis was the location for our October Board Meeting. On Saturday evening, following wine and cheese, we shared with Joye Gros (CDN co-director) and novices Gina (Caldwell) and Rhonda (Sinsinawa) a wonderful gourmet dinner prepared by two Sparkill Dominicans. Although we had only a short time with the novices, I enjoyed their enthusiasm and joy. Each month, Gina and Rhonda take turns writing a Blog on the CDN Website. You'll enjoy checking them out. Their words are inspiring and thought-provoking. Let us all hold Gina and Rhonda in our prayers as they continue on their Dominican journey.

In the December 2017 Board Update, we indicated that our 2019 Gathering would be in Racine, WI. However, we have been advised that the Siena Retreat Center cannot accommodate us. We are, therefore, in the process of searching for a new venue. A little knee action would be appreciated. As soon as a new location has been secured, I will let you know. The Board is continuing our efforts to invite Associate artists to join us as DIA Members.

If you have not yet received your 2018 Membership Form, it will be singing in your mailbox shortly. Have you given any thought to the benefits of being a DIA Member? With your paid dues, the following is yours:

- . Receipt of DIA Board Updates
 - . Receipt of OPalette, our DIA Newsletter
 - . Being able to share your art in our Website Gallery
 - . Being able to share your art in the Virtual Gallery at our annual Gathering – whether you attend or not
 - . Being eligible for a scholarship for the annual Gathering fee
 - . Being encouraged and supported in your art and in your preaching through that art.
- . For me personally, the greatest benefit is that you “get me.” You understand where I am coming from, that I am not a Nature Photographer but a Spiritual Photographer of Nature. For that gift, I am profoundly grateful to you and for you. Be well, take care of yourselves and stay warm.

Peace, *Pat* (Pat Daly, OPA)

2018 DIA GATHERING SAVE THE DATE: July 25-28, 2018 ***THE ARTS: YEARNING FOR UNITY***

Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan

Cost: Private Room-\$420 Double Room \$350 Campus Sisters \$200

The Keynote Speaker, **Theologian Frances Belmonte, Ph.D.** was chosen by the Planning Commission on the strength of evaluations of her challenging message at the 2014 Gathering.

WATCH FOR MORE GATHERING INFORMATION IN THE SPRING NEWSLETTER

CALL FOR FRA ANGELICO AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Fra Angelico Award gives special recognition to members who have distinguished themselves in some area of the arts. The Board looks for nominees who have earned the recognition of their peers for excellence in their chosen discipline. Please take this opportunity to nominate to the Board a DIA member who qualifies for this honor and state the reasons for your nomination. **MAIL YOUR NOMINATIONS BY APRIL 1, 2018 to pmdaly@beld.net or Pat Daly, OPA 480 Liberty Street Braintree MA 02184**

Barbara Kukla's Ministry: Transforming Violence into Art



Throughout autumn 2017, art therapist Barbara Kukla made Bethany Apartments, a transitional housing outreach program of the Racine Dominicans, the center for activities which engaged participants from children to senior citizens. In September, Barbara offered a series of workshops to Bethany residents who have experienced domestic abuse. "Getting people to express and share their feelings is an important part of the healing process," explains Barbara. "And you don't have to be a skilled artist to reap its benefits. It is the *process* of doing art that is therapeutic." In October, Barbara's program culminated with a festive art exhibit showing many children's dark feelings transformed into colorful art. A benefit luncheon, ART from the HEART, assured funds for future programs.

Recognizing the importance of this collaborative ministry, the local *Journal Times* made ART from the HEART the centerpiece of Racine's Domestic Violence Awareness Month with full-page coverage that drew public attention to a social issue whose extent is rarely acknowledged. Bethany Apartments, which works closely all year with Racine's Women's Resource Center, provides a place where families can stay for up to 24 months while they heal from the trauma of domestic violence. The only facility of its kind in the county for twenty-seven years, Bethany has provided sanctuary to 683 women and children.

An Art Therapist for twenty-five years, Barbara now enjoys the satisfaction of a ministry which combines artistic expression with intimate service to the human Body of Christ at its most vulnerable.

University Dedicates Gerardine Mueller Gallery

At a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 25, 2017, Caldwell University formally named its art department's newly-renovated exhibition space ***The Sister Gerardine Mueller Gallery***. The dedication honors Sister Gerardine as the founder of the Caldwell Art Department and a professional artist whose works in stained glass, wood, stone, illuminated calligraphy, and other media can be seen throughout the campus and the hemisphere. Held a few days after Gerardine's 96th birthday, the event drew a crowd of alumni whose careers as studio artists, teachers, art therapists, film makers, visual media specialists, and museum curators Sister Gerardine had helped to launch. One of these grateful students, who has been named "the premier calligrapher in the United States," rendered the official proclamation in a stunning illuminated scroll which will permanently adorn the gallery. A Self-Guided Tour of Sister Gerardine's Works now directs visitors to over thirty artifacts in five buildings on campus. The gallery dedication was among a series of public appearances drawing attention to work still in progress. In October, Sister was featured in *Global Sisters Report*. On December 9, as the featured guest on the New Jersey TV program "Life and Living" she described how her unique hand-crafted Christmas cards evolved into a thirty-year ministry.



Marywood Archivists Respond to DIA Legacy Commission: A report from Natalie C. Smith, Marywood Archives Technical Specialist, Grand Rapids Dominicans

Shortly after the Dominican Institute for the Arts 2016 Gathering, the archivists of the Dominican Sisters - Grand Rapids, Michigan reached out to the artists of their congregation. Nineteen sisters were invited to a meeting to discuss recommendations from the DIA about preserving their artistic legacy. All who were invited attended. The artists were provided an adapted inventory and handout inspired by what was created by the DIA Legacy Commission. The archivists encouraged the artists to begin culling and organizing their art collections as well as to consider assigning an art advocate. Filling out the inventory, the archivists explained, would allow the archives to be proactive in collecting and accurately documenting artifacts. Instead of guessing at dates and titles of original artwork, archivists would be able to get the information directly from the source.

Additionally, it was an opportunity to meet with the living artists and give them an idea of how the archives conserves original artwork and how we can aid them in preserving their life and work as artists. We were able to vocalize the significance of their artwork as part of their ministry and the importance of conserving it. They appreciated both the recognition and information provided. The meeting proved to be a successful endeavor and the archives soon began receiving flash drives of photographs as well as requests to photograph artwork for digital records.

The DIA Legacy Commission asked for responses to its guidelines given at the 2017 Gathering: Please take this request seriously and send us YOUR response for the next OPalette. Elaine DesRosiers, member of the Legacy Commission, took her own advice and completed her Inventory Form, designating the future of her paintings, before she underwent surgery — just in case — but she survived.

DIA ARTISTS: THEIR PLACE IN DOMINICAN HISTORY

A Progress Report from Elizabeth Michael Boyle



American Dominicans on Mission: Selected Essays, Volume II of the history of the Order in the United States, which Sinsinawa Dominican Nona McGreal entitled Project OPUS, is scheduled for release in 2018. Volume I which narrates the foundation of the four provinces of Dominican men and thirty plus congregations of Dominican women concludes late in the nineteenth century. Volume II consists of twelve essays

on aspects of the Dominican mission in the twentieth century, with projects in more recent times ranging widely from liturgy to literacy. Several years ago, when Janet Welsh, Nona McGreal's successor as director of the Center for Dominican Historical Studies at Dominican University, River Forest, announced plans for Project OPUS Volume II, she specifically requested that a DIA writer provide an essay on the contribution of American Dominican artists to the Order's mission. Barbara Schwarz graciously "volunteered" me for the assignment. McGreal's firm restriction to 8,000 words (including notes) demanded a narrow focus on artists who illustrated an aspect of mission in a significant historical period. Since the Second Vatican Council was unarguably the event in twentieth century ecclesiastical history to which artists made a major contribution, I chose as my theme: **"Call & Response: American Dominican Artists and Vatican II."** PLACE continued on p.5

What have you been up to? OPalette editors are grateful to those who responded to our appeal for reporting DIA members' activities to the newsletter.

Magdalena Ezoë's fullsome account reminded us that many of DIA's busiest members are musicians. Throughout 2017, Magdalena's monthly concerts regularly delighted the resident sisters at Adrian. At their request, in January 2018 Magdalena began a monthly series under the heading "Hum/Sing Along: American Popular Music." "I am going to program my music starting with the pieces I know from Tokyo," says Magdalena. "In the 1950's, I learned some American titles from the GI Army publication HIT KITS." Among other familiar numbers the sisters will be singing, Magdalena plans "Deep Purple," "Misty," "Give Me Five Minutes More," "As Time Goes By." Because these musical programs take place in the chapel, Magdalena will begin and end with a hymn. Throughout her years at Adrian, Magdalena has enjoyed taking liberties with liturgical tradition by composing Mass texts for special occasions, e.g. a St. Patrick's Day Holy, Holy to the tune of "Danny Boy," and for one Adrian Prioress: "Holy, Foley" to the tune of "Bicycle Built for Two." Stay tuned for surprises from Magdalena in February and March.

During the last months of 2017, other DIA artists were active from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts. In Florida, between September and December, Elaine Taylor performed the non-speaking role of a shopper in the St. Petersburg City Theater production of "A Christmas Carol." Happily, Elaine invoked the Actors' Equity axiom: "There are no minor roles, only minor actors." Meantime out in California, Brigid Bray was exhibiting her work in the Gardens of San Gabriel. Brigid is now preparing a show requested by the Olive Hyde Art Museum in Fremont, California.

Rita Birzer and Martina Stegman who have kept in touch with Nancyann Turner ever since they connected at the 2017 Gathering, travelled from Oxford to Detroit to help Nancy with her Christmas Cookie Workshop ministry at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Each of their cookies was a work of art.



Rita Birzer, Martina Stegman help Nancyann Turner at Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

PLACE continued from p. 4 My research with living Dominican artists and archivists—women and men—centered on the artists' response to five specific calls from the Second Vatican Council: scriptural spirituality, liturgical renewal and sacred space, service to the poor, and contemporary communications media. I discovered and was delighted to demonstrate that artists not only answered Vatican II's call from the Holy Spirit; they often anticipated it.

Although the essay is not a history of the DIA, all but two or three of the artists cited are DIA members. The DIA artists I chose to interview were Barbara Chenicek & Rita Schiltz, Magdalena Ezoë, James Marchionda, Thoma Swanson, and Armando Ibanez. Short quotations from DIA members who responded to my 2015 survey supplied additional personal statements. For all of them I am deeply grateful. Above all, my task would have been impossible without the cooperation of Barbara Schwarz & Pat Daly who supplied a complete archive of DIA newsletters. Having met all my deadlines, I look forward to reading galley soon.



THE ARTIST AS PREACHER

BY ELIZABETH MICHAEL BOYLE

“ANGEL WITH PALETTE” IS MARC CHAGALL’S SPIRITUAL SELF-PORTRAIT. BY GIVING THE ANGEL PAINTS AND BRUSHES, CHAGALL EXPRESSES HIS EXPERIENCE OF ART AS A FORM OF REVELATION. IN THE ACT OF PAINTING THE TRADITIONAL MESSENGER FROM GOD WITH HIS OWN FACE, CHAGALL PERSONALLY AND TACTICALLY EMBRACED THE CREATIVE GIFT AS A RELIGIOUS VOCATION. THAT VOCATION WAS TO SERVE AS A MEDIATOR IN GOD’S SELF-COMMUNICATION WITH THE HUMAN COMMUNITY. BESIDES THE ANGEL HOVERING AT THE CENTER OF THE CANVAS, SEVERAL SMALL FIGURES IN THE DARKENED CORNERS OF THE CANVAS EXPAND THE ANGEL’S MESSAGE. IN THESE IMAGES WE CAN DISCERN CHAGALL’S FAMILIAR VILLAGE, A PAIR OF LOVERS, AND A FARM ANIMAL FEEDING FROM A MANGER. EACH IMAGE INVITES REFLECTION ON THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD IN THE HUMAN COMMUNITY, IN LOVE, IN NATURE, IN PROVIDENCE. TOGETHER, ALL THESE IMAGES EXEMPLIFY CLETUS WESSEL’S DEFINITION OF REVELATION AS “THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD UNFOLDING FROM THE UNIVERSE AS PERCEIVED BY THE COMMUNITY THROUGH HISTORICAL AND SYMBOLIC EVENTS.”

CHAGALL DID NOT KNOW ALL THAT HE WAS SAYING, OF COURSE. THE REVELATORY ARTIST DOES NOT SIMPLY ILLUSTRATE AN IDEA THAT IS FULLY FORMED IN THE MIND. IT IS THE ACT OF PAINTING, SCULPTING, PHOTOGRAPHING, WRITING—CREATING IN ANY FORM—THAT LEADS THE ARTIST TO SEE SOMETHING—PERHAPS THE GOSPEL— IN A NEW WAY.

A handwritten signature of Marc Chagall in black ink on a light background. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.



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Rose's Restaurant

This pastel drawing was completed by Sister Laurena Alflen based on a photograph she took in the winter of 2016. It was one of those beautiful clear sunny days with snow on the ground that just



called to be captured artistically. The restaurant depicted is on the shore of Reed's Lake in Gaslight Village of Grand Rapids and has been in operation since 1901. Presently, it is part of the Gilmore Collection of restaurants and produces a variety of foods. Sister Laurena took some artistic license rearranging trees to make the name of the restaurant more visible and to balance the composition. She said this was her first effort drawing architecture, so it presented some new challenges. Despite the challenges posed, this drawing skillfully presents a nostalgic illustration of a beloved local restaurant. Natalie C. Smith Archives Technical Specialist Dominican Sisters—Grand Rapids



How delightful Elizabeth Slenker's exhibition must have been at the Good Shepherd Gallery in Ferguson, MO from October 21 to November 15, 20017. It was well entitled **Stripes and Reflections**.

TO ALL CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS:

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE FACT THAT AN ITEM REPORTED IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OR POSTED ON FACEBOOK DOES NOT MEAN THAT DIA MEMBERS KNOW ABOUT IT. THEREFORE, WHENEVER INFORMATION ABOUT ANY DIA MEMBER IS RELEASED BY YOUR OFFICE,

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