



Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts
Winter 2013 E-Newsletter Volume XV No. 1
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DIA's 17th Artist Gathering Columbus OH July 31 – August 3, 2013

The theme? **Creating Art From the Heart** and Queen E. Brooks, a life long resident of Columbus OH, is



just the one to address Art and Heart. She is an artist, a photographer, educator and gallery owner. Her work simultaneously

reflects the maturity of a seasoned artist and the vibrancy of one who continues to evolve as seen in her sculpture pieces here

charting *Child, Adult, Elder and Spirit*. Since her art emanates from common human experiences, it speaks to the emotions of gratitude, loss, planting gardens, breaking out of boxes, conquering fear and more.

Brooks received her BFA and MFA from Ohio State University. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants.

One significant grant was the Lila Wallace Readers Digest International Artist Fellowship, which permitted her to study for three months on the Ivory Coast. Her work has been featured in *Essence* magazine and in the *International Review of African American Art* plus other publications. She has appeared on television and radio programs promoting the arts. Her works grace the walls of patrons throughout the U.S. and the Ivory Coast of Africa.

Brooks has taught art at OSU and is an adjunct professor at Otterbein College and Ohio Dominican University. She has nurtured and mentored aspiring artists in all phases of adulthood. She is one of the founding members of ACE, Art for Community Enrichment, and other organizations that foster the arts.



Guest Speaker: Queen E. Brooks

Without a doubt, Queen Brooks will inspire us with her legacy of creativity.

A Letter to Membership from Board VP, Mary Boyce MM



We hope that many of you will be able to attend the 2013 Gathering in Columbus, OH. In an effort to keep expenses as low as possible for most members, we have decided to choose locations central to the majority of members so folks can drive, car pool, etc. Our 2014 Gathering will be in Adrian, MI.



The Planning Commission for the Columbus Gathering:

Mary Pat Reid OP (Board Liaison)
Pat Daly OPA (Chairperson)
Elaine DesRosiers OP (Printed Materials)
Colleen Gallagher OP (Transportation)
Carol O'Connor OPA (Virtual Gallery)
Thoma Swanson OP (Ohio Artists' Liaison)

Accomplished artists have been invited as our keynote speaker, Queen Brooks, and our featured artist, Aminah Robinson. Their art left us breathless. Check them out on their websites.

We encourage you to contact Carol O'Connor OPA at (614) 416-1362 / coconnor@oppeace.org to ask how you can share your art work at the next gathering or on the DIA website.

The board members appreciate your wonderful spirit and input. We look forward to being with you in Columbus July 31 – August 3, 2013.

Blessings,
Mary



A letter to Membership from Board Chair, Mary Fran Gorman OP

Dominican Artists – Who we are we? What can we become?

For over 17 years the Dominican Institute for the Arts has called together artists, lovers of arts, supporters of art and those whose creative spirit has blessed us all and strengthened the Dominican Family.

Some of us are also seventeen years older than when we first became members, but our relationship with art and each other has not dimmed. DIA has strengthened us and the people we serve. Most important of all, the DIA has encouraged and guided us to new ways to preach through the arts. That early grass roots enthusiasm has not and will not weaken. What has and is changing, as it

should, are the vision and ways in which we use our artistic gifts to preach.

You need to know what the changes are that the Board has been **studying and exploring**. We do this research so that the DIA will grow and thrive in its mission. As in our various communities our fewer numbers have challenged us to reach out. We believe that DIA's mission can and will follow in Dominic's footsteps. At the 2013 Gathering, we want to bring you up to date and elicit from you ways to keep DIA, viable, active and preaching.

We are studying the constitutions and bylaws to make sure that what these documents say reflect who we are and what we believe about ourselves now. If our documents are clear, then our goals will be clear as well. This has not been easy. Most importantly, it is **NOT** finished. Only you can decide the future direction of DIA **when YOU vote at the Gathering**. (We will find a way to submit absentee ballots.)

In the beginning of my membership in DIA, I was not interested in the constitutions, only what the DIA and Gathering could do for me. I wanted to meet people that would help me grow and widened my vision. Any helping or serving the organization was limited to the things I could do for the Gathering. These days, we all have grown. We are more than we were at the birth of DIA and we can be more.

We can mentor the future with the gifts we have been given. We are Dominicans who preach though and with the arts. Time has passed. It is crucial that we renew our understanding of who we are now.

It is crucial that we need to look again at our bylaws and constitutions, our history and our future to keep the DIA vital and alive. Can we say that we are the same as the first artists that gathered in California? Do want to be? How do you envision DIA in the years to come?

Examining the Constitutions and exploring the future are challenges and tasks the Board cannot evade if we are to serve you. We have more questions than answers. But those questions are stepping-stones to decisions we all must make in our next Gathering.

We have heard serious concerns with the term “member”. We know that those in the Dominican family can be members. But could there be other qualifications? Most organizations’ members are those who attend meetings and pay the annual dues. Are we most organizations?

How do you define membership? Are members only those who pay their dues? Do we call “member”, those who are in long-term personal care unable to attend but have been a crucial part of the DIA in the past or are recipients of our awards and gratitude? Are there levels of membership? These are the questions we all must ponder. If we invite others to be part of the DIA, our definition of ‘membership’ must be clear.

Are we willing to remain, as the constitutions says, only *friars, sisters, nuns, lay Dominicans and associates*? Could members of our sponsored intuitions, (men and women who serve in and with Dominican institutions) be part of the DIA? Those who teach in our schools, minister in our hospitals and serve in our many endeavors have been infused with the spirit of Dominic. Can they be members? How can we include the students from our high schools? If we want to do this and more, our constitutions need adjustment and/or clarification.

These are only a few of the questions the board has been struggling with. Now, it’s your turn. What do you think defines a member? What are the perks and responsibilities of being a member?

You may note that the Board has raised the membership fee to \$50. The budget absorbs what it can, but meetings, and travel along with the cost of Annual Gatherings are expensive. These are all paid with our dues. Over the years board fund raisers have yielded funds but with more and more work and expense on the part of the members. Shipping art alone is very costly. We provide some scholarship money for those in need. Our annual Fra Angelico award costs us also. If a Gathering does not pay for itself the budget covers the cost. We have website and audits that require payment too.

An issue for this summer is that we hear from members a concern with the present

understanding of “membership” as defined by our constitution. Therefore, it is time to speak up. The subject of who is a member, is yours to define. Discuss it with others and consider the options.

Lastly, it is with great regret that we lose the skills and generosity of Jill Pohlman OPA as board treasurer. Please keep her and her husband Michael in your prayers. Michael is having serious health issues.

May your year be filled with energy, creativity and hope,

Mary Fran

What does our Constitution say?

We are defined and bound by our constitutions.

We are a recognized non-profit organization within the State of Illinois. We have the support and encouragement of Dominican congregations and provinces throughout the United States as well as internationally.

The most important need we have is to make sure that the definition of the DIA constitution concerning membership is accurately stated.

We can use the definition of membership as defined by the constitutions or we could amend the constitution to better define who we are and to reflect what our vision of the DIA is today.

In the next column are parts of the Constitution concerning membership and dues. We are asking you to study them, talk about them and prepare to choose a final adjustment based on your input in a final voting this summer.

Article III General Membership

The Constitution reads as follows in red:

***Members of the Dominican Family (nuns, friars, laity, and associates) shall be eligible for membership.**

Is this definition too limited for DIA members today?

Can members also be those who work in Dominican sponsored institutions? (colleges, hospitals) and???

Are there others who could be members who are not part of the “Dominican Family” but have the Dominican ‘heart’?

Membership Dues

The constitution reads as follows in red:

Upon payment of the annual membership dues, any such person (*see above listing) shall be a member.

Does this disqualify from membership those who cannot pay?

What are the benefits/ rights of Members of the DIA?

**Reception of the news letter
Place on the website (if wanted)
Monetary break on Gathering fee**

When does a person cease to be a member?

In addition, the Board of Directors may appoint persons as honorary members.

What parameters would you like to suggest to the Board when they choose to exercise this appointment?

Some of our members living along the Atlantic Ocean experienced the ravages of Super-Storm Sandy.

For a thoughtfully poetic/visual experience of it, go to <http://artafiregallery.homestead.com/>

Dominican artist, Barbara Schwarz OP, captures the horrific storm through prayerful poetry and color.

2013 Membership Dues

This is a reminder that dues for 2013 DIA Membership were due in January this year. Because this is a half year earlier we are pro-rating your dues from 2012-2013, so you only owe \$25.00. Next January you will owe the full \$50.00 dues.

Name

Address

e-mail

Phone

Congregation or Province

Please send your 2013 membership dues by **March 31st** to:

Elaine Taylor, OP
5608 D Lynn Lake Dr. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-864-2850

Call for Nominations for the Fra Angelico Award

(Use separate pages to nominate multiple people)

The Fra Angelico Award gives special recognition to members in the Dominican Family represented in the DIA who have distinguished themselves in some area of the arts. We look for candidates in the different fields who have received the recognition of their peers for excellence in their discipline.



Please take this opportunity to consider DIA members who qualify for this honor. Your input is very important. DIA Board Members make the final determination.

Mail/Email **by March 31st**:
DIA Fra Angelico Award Nominations
c/o Mary Fran Gorman OP
1225 W Monroe St Springfield, IL 62704
217-299-6471 – mfgop@yahoo.com

Name of person nominated (must be a DIA member):

Your name:

Your phone number:

Genre of Nominee:

Your reasons for recommending this artist:

Bio of the nominee, including training and awards (feel free to attach additional document(s)):

Links to supporting articles, websites, etc (feel free to attach additional documents(s)):

Give contact information here of someone who knows more about this artist's accomplishments:

FEATURED ARTIST: Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson

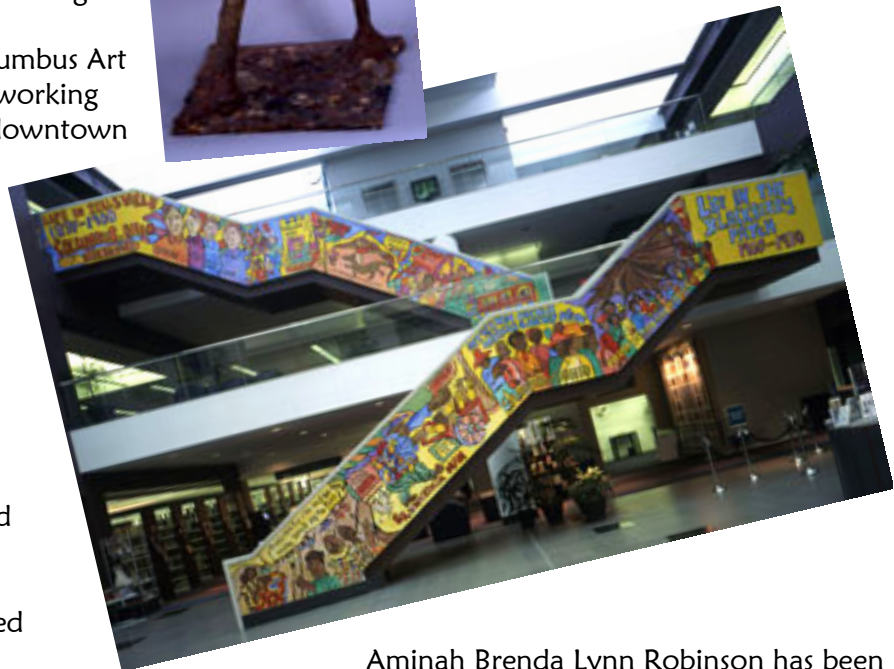
Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson has created a style that defies customary artistic categories by blending folk traditions she learned as a child from her father and mother and the formal training she received in art school. A native and lifelong resident of Columbus, Ohio, Robinson was nurtured by her mother who taught her family traditions of needle and button work. From her father, she learned how to make paper, books and a sculptural material he called “hogmawg”.

After graduation from East High School and while attending the Columbus Art School Robinson began working at the public library in downtown Columbus. During this period at the library, she began the research that would play an important part in her ongoing bodies of work about the Columbus neighborhoods of Sellsville, Water Street, the Blackberry Patch and Mt. Vernon Avenue. Through elegant pen and ink drawings, layered cloth paintings, bold woodcuts, sculptures embellished with cloth, buttons, shells, music boxes and RagGonNons (complex, mixed media works of art that takes years to research and create), she documents both the physical reality of these neighborhoods that no

longer exist and the spiritual essence of those who lived there.

Much of her work is her interpretation of the stories she heard from elders in her family and her childhood memories

and is prompted by her belief in the African concept of *Sankofa*, the necessity to understand the past in order to move forward.



Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson has been invited to the 2013 Gathering. Check out the YouTube video entitled ‘Who Is Aminah Robinson?’

(1) *Basket Lady* (made from ‘hogmawg’ and found materials)
(2) *Life in Sellsville and Life in the Blackberry Patch* Columbus Metropolitan Library

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Wise Words from the Artists



Each day comes bearing its own gifts.

Ruth Ann Schabacker



We are born believing.
(We) bear beliefs
as a tree bears apples.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



The artist's object is to make things
not as nature makes them,
but as *she* would make them.

Raphael



Life was meant to be lived,
and curiosity must be kept alive.
One must never, for whatever reason,
turn his back on life.

Eleanor Roosevelt



Love the moment,
and the energy of that moment
will spread beyond all boundaries.

Corita Kent



Art attracts us only
by what it reveals of our most sacred self.

Jean-Luc Godard

Quotations taken from FINDING WATER - The Art Of Perseverance
Written by Julia Cameron