



The Kiosk

March-April 2024 | June Parsons, Editor

Celebrate the History of Arts
and Culture in Marquette

March 5, 6:30-9:00pm

NMU Northern Center
Peninsula Rooms 1 & 2

Tickets \$25 at
Lakesuperiorartassociation.org



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Everyone knows that not all change is good or even necessary. But in a world that is constantly changing, it is to our advantage to learn how to adapt and enjoy something better.

~Kenneth Blanchard

Change seems to have been the driving force for LSAA the past 7 months. Committees have been established and are meeting to plan events and programs. Six of the eleven board members are new--and learning! We are sponsoring a four day workshop in June. Boxes of files have been sorted through, with several of them given to the Marquette Regional History Center. We now use Instagram, Facebook, e-mail, Google Drive, and have a great new website. We are hosting a very special event at the NMU Center on March 5th !

Our public-facing programs are now called Art Talks. We are using technology to share images and information during our programs. Yes! LSAA is changing and, with change, there is often adjustment. I thank you for your patience and willingness to try things which are new and different. I believe that most, if not all, of these changes will help to bring LSAA into the future and enable it to grow and reach more people in our area. Please feel free to share any new ideas that you may have for LSAA programs, events, or communications with me.

The Fresh Coast Plein Air Painting Festival and Art On the Rocks are in the planning stages. I hope that you enjoy participating in these events and volunteer to help, if possible. These are two events that don't need to change!

Happy Spring!

Lynn Buckland-Brown, LSAA President

Mark Your 2024 Calendar

Tuesday, March 5 Anita Meyland: First Lady of the Arts

Presenters: Jack Deo and Ann Hilton Fisher
NMU Northern Center Peninsula Rooms 6:30-9:30pm

Tuesday, March 19 Art Talk/program: Our Strange and Beautiful Land: Photography for Biodiversity

Presenter: Chris Burnett PWPL MACC Studio 6:30-8:00pm

March 31 Art on the Rocks Application Deadline

Tuesday, April 16 5:00pm Field Trip/program to the NMU Art and Design Studios

June 28-29 Fresh Coast Plein Air Festival with an "Afterglow" Party on June 30.

July 27-28 Art on the Rocks 2024

October-November: LSAA Members' Exhibit

Executive Board Meetings Second MONDAY of each month at 4pm PWPL. January 8, February 12, March 11, May 13, June 10, August 12, and September 9



Our Strange and Beautiful Land: Photography for Biodiversity

Join ecologist **Chris Burnett** on a photographic field trip exploring the meadow, orchard, creek, and woodland ecosystems of his Chocolay Township homestead. Get a close look at some familiar and little-known species of these habitats and learn some of the photographic techniques Chris uses to capture their essence.

This presentation, sponsored by the Lake Superior Art Association, will appeal to nature lovers, artists, and photographers of all levels. Come prepared to view some stunning photography and pick up tips for enhancing your camera skills.

Chris is the real deal when it comes to ecosystems. In addition to serving as the Conservation District Forester for Alger and Marquette Counties, Chris has worked with the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Forester Stewardship Council, and the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy. His photographs have stories to tell about strange and beautiful species, their habitats, and managing land to maintain biodiversity. Tuesday, March 19 6:30pm Community Room lower level Peter White Public Library.



Field Trip to NMU Art & Design

Lake Superior Art Association's Tuesday, April 16th program will be a tour of NMU's Art & Design department.

5pm Meet in the lobby of the Devos Art Museum for an overview of the majors and success stories of the School of Art and Design's famous students. (Parking in the Devos or Forest Roberts Theater lots)

5:15pm Tour the Art Studios

6:00pm Tour the Devos Art Museum and get a sneak preview of the Senior Exhibit as it is being hung.

6:30pm Optional dinner and drinks with your best friends in the Lake Superior Art Association.

LSAA Member Isle Royale Residency



LSAA Member and Board Secretary **Julie Highlen** has been awarded a professional development grant of \$1,250 from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council to support an artist-in-residence experience at Isle Royale. Julie plans to head to the island in August and stay for two weeks.

In an effort to more fully capture the visual essence of the Lake Superior region, Julie's goal is to expand her artistic scope by adding Isle Royale scenes to her portfolio.

During the island residency, Julie's primary focus will be to use acrylic paints on small wood block panels to create a collection of "mini moments" that portray wildlife, historical and present-day life on Isle Royale. Most of these works will be done on site en plein air.

This residency will allow Julie to experience another new adventure in her growth and development as an artist by portraying a story through a collection of small scenes that work together and complement each other, akin to creating the scenes of a documentary movie. At the end of her residency, Julie plans on doing an informal presentation of her experience and her work.



Photo: Shutterstock

LSAA's New Treasurer

Our new Treasurer, **Mary Jane Lynch**, retired from a managerial role at the Marquette Hospital about 12 years ago. She is an active volunteer in the Marquette community, as well as an artist.



Mary Jane volunteers as a Pet Partner Team with her standard poodle, Willow, at the DJ Jacobetti veterans' facility. She is also the kitchen manager for St. Louis the King Catholic Church where she is an active member of the Women's Club and coordinator for the Ministry to the Sick program. She loves to volunteer each summer for the therapeutic riding program at Willow Farms.

Mary Jane enjoys painting acrylics on canvas and has recently taught art classes to groups of friends at her home.



Her new interest is converting the family sauna into a kiln room. Mary Jane explains, "An art student from NMU will be helping me set up shop properly, so I expect to have pottery this summer! I took ceramics in high school and have done throwing at Hot Plate so I have a little experience."

Welcome, Mary Jane! Thank you for volunteering for this important role for LSAA.

A.I. and Art

PART 2: HOW DOES A COMPUTER GENERATE ART?

In the previous issue of The Kiosk, we learned that generative A.I. can be used to produce artworks based on a text description, such as “Create a woodblock print of a dramatic primeval forest at night with the moon rising.”

AI that generates artwork begins with an art dataset. This dataset is simply a collection of thousands or millions of images that include a wide range of subjects and artistic styles.

For example, a dataset called WikiArt contains more than forty thousand images of paintings from 195 artists, including Picasso, Vermeer, Klimt, Rembrandt, Kahlo, Cassatt, and Da Vinci. Below are some images from the WikiArt dataset. Each “Class” contains works of a specific artist. You can probably identify some of the artists whose works are shown. Class 1 contains works of Albrecht Durer.



The images in these datasets are tagged with descriptions based on the subject, artistic style, color palette, and genre. The more detailed the tags, the better. For example, the iconic painting often referred to as Whistler’s Mother might be tagged like this:

Artist: James McNeill Whistler Date: 1871

Title: Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1, Whistler’s Mother

Main subject: Elderly Woman, seated, facing left, full body, white lace bonnet, black dress

Background: Wall, Curtain, framed painting

Artistic Style: Realism

Color Palette: Grey, tan, black, white

Genre: Portrait



Art datasets were initially tagged by humans, but as you can imagine, that is an arduous task. The WikiArt dataset that is used for A.I. with its 40,000 images is just a small slice of the 250,000 images created by more than 3,000 artists in the WikiArt collection. And WikiArt is just one of many art-related datasets.

Amazingly, the job of tagging is being taken over by computers using image recognition algorithms, like the one Facebook uses to recognize you in photos posted by your friends.

Okay. So that's the beginning. A.I. starts with a dataset of tagged images. What's next? You might imagine that the A.I. can somehow cut out pieces from a Picasso or Rembrandt and paste them collage-like into a new image. Oh no. The process is much more intriguing than that!

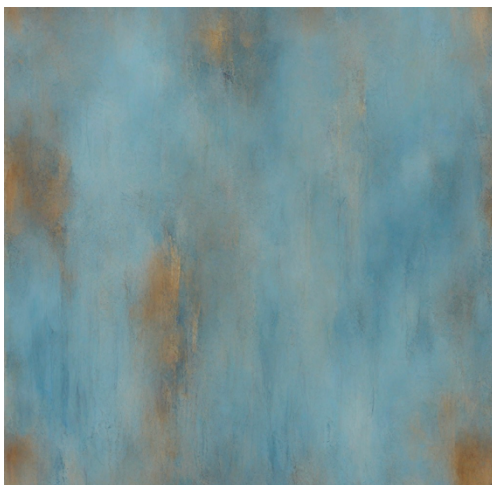
Suppose that I want my A.I. to create a portrait similar to Whistler's Mother, but in the style of Vincent van Gogh. The A.I. can look through its dataset of van Goghs and find self portraits, paintings of starry nights, and still lifes of irises.



Pasting bits from van Gogh paintings will never produce a portrait of a woman, seated on a chair, facing left. So how then does the A.I. proceed?

An A.I. has to be trained to produce images. There are several computational training methods; one of the most popular is called GAN, which stands for Generative Adversarial Network (You don't have to remember that!). What happens is that the A.I. takes on a kind of dual personality. The "Artist" personality will create. The "Critic" personality will judge the output.

Suppose we want to train the A.I. Artist to create an image like van Gogh's irises. The Artist begins with a random set of colored dots and begins to arrange them and change their colors. The Critic, who knows what van Gogh's irises look like, evaluates each image that the A.I. Artist produces, and encourages it when something is right. "You've got the right color palette!" "I like the shape of the purple things!" "Good work on the green spikey things" "I like the outlines!" (Well, not in so many words, but you get the idea.)



The A.I. Artist begins with a random palette of dots of color called pixels.



The A.I. Artist starts to arrange the pixels in various shapes. It might take many tries to get something acceptable.



The Critic encourages the A.I. artist to keep producing images until one is close in style to an actual van Gogh painting

Eventually, after many many attempts, the A.I. Artist learns how to create irises in van Gogh's style. Now, it is important to realize that the Artist has not duplicated van Gogh's irises, but has come up with something that the Critic finds hard to distinguish is style, palette, and subject from van Gogh's actual work.

It is not the methodology of a human art forger; the A.I. has instead learned to be something like an apprentice in Rembrandt's workshop.



Here is the A.I. output. You can see how the background, color palette, and brush work are derived from van Gogh's Irises, but how the pose and background elements echo Whistler's portrait.

So, now the A.I. Artist-apprentice has learned how to paint a still life of irises in the style of van Gogh. Using even more computational algorithms, the A.I. Artist can apply that learning to other subject matter, from portraits to landscapes and we are ready to see if it can use that style to produce a portrait of Whistler's Mother a la van Gogh. I used NVIDIA's Stable diffusion A.I. demo to input the following instructions:

Create a portrait similar to the painting Whistler's Mother, but in the style of paintings by Vincent van Gogh.



Just for fun, I tried another instruction:

Create a portrait similar to Whistler's Mother, but in the style of artist Frida Kahlo

Remembering that Kahlo mostly painted self-portraits, here is the fun result.

What is the "take away"? What should we understand about how computers generate art? Generative A.I.—the kind that produces artwork—is based on machine learning computer algorithms. Those algorithms use actual works of art as input and through lots of trial and error, learn to replicate an artist's style and subject matter. Once learned, the A.I. is ready to accept instructions for creating new and unique works.

Article by June Parsons for The Kiosk



News Notes

CONGRATULATIONS!

Belated congrats to LSAA member, **Diane Kribs-Mays**, who was juried in to the Bonifas Northern Exposure exhibit this year. LSAA members did us proud!

DOG DAYZ

The dogs didn't race, but kids had a doggone good time with Dog Dayz events. **Marlene Wood** volunteered to do a free class for students to make Dog Dayz of Winter Art. LSAA provided all materials. **Sandra Webber** and **Michele Tuccini** assisted her.



LSAA ANITA MEYLAND SCHOLARSHIP

Riley Porier, a sophomore from Iron Mountain, is the recipient of the 2023-2024 Lake Superior Art Association Memorial Scholarship in honor of Anita Meyland.

"Thank you, Lake Superior Art Association, for investing in my journey of maturing and finding myself as a designer. I am extremely grateful for you taking the time to invest in me, my art, and whatever my future may hold.

With your support, I continue to explore various means of expression at NMU, such as digital art, sculpting, drawing, and dancing. Art holds a special place in my heart, as well as this scholarship which will help me accomplish my goal."



DUES DUE!!!

LSAA membership dues are due by March 1st. To continue to receive the Kiosk, updates on events, and other benefits, be sure your membership is current. For details on payment methods look for the membership form at lakesuperiorartassociation.org.

LSAA PROGRAMS ATTRACING COMMUNITY

Recent LSAA Art Talks have drawn great participation from LSAA members and the local community—and have garnered quite a few new LSAA memberships! More than 60 people attended **Lynn-Buckland Brown's** Group of Seven presentation—it was standing room only. There was also a full house at the Mary Brodbeck Mokuhanga Art Talk, and **Judy Parlato's** Lady in Gold presentation attracted more than 50 attendees. Kudos to the presenters for topics that make art interesting and accessible to the wider community.

LSAA EXHIBITS 2024

The annual LSAA Members Exhibit and the Challenge Exhibit will take place in the PWPL Deo Gallery in **October and November 2024**. This is a change from previous years, when the shows took place in the spring. Look for more information in later issues of The Kiosk.

WANTED: TADYCH'S SLIPS

LSAA is still collecting **Tadych's Marketplace (formerly Econo Foods) receipts** for the "We Share" program for non-profits. Twice a year, LSAA turns in our saved receipts for cash. Please mail your slips to LSAA, P.O. Box 9, Marquette, MI 49855 or deposit slips in the drop box on the pedestal across from the Deo Gallery in the PWPL.

KIOSK SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you, or someone you know, is not receiving The Kiosk or emails from LSAA, please let us know. You can send contact info to lsainfo4u@gmail.com.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Awards, recognitions, events, gallery receptions, stories, new media—anything of interest to other artists and LSAA members—submit your ideas to The Kiosk, lsainfo4u@gmail.com. Deadline for the May-June issue is April 15, 2024.

Classes and Calls for Art

MARLENE WOOD ART CLASSES

Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 Open Studio Painting / Drawing with individual and group instruction and critique. All levels \$20 per class / \$100 for a 6 class punch card. Stop by or contact Marlene Wood at posstroke@sbcglobal.net or call the MACC.

MARQUETTE ART MUSES

The Art Muses meet the second Thursday of each month at The Courtyards in Marquette, at 5:30. This activity is like a book club, only instead of reading, participants create art. Everyone is welcome! You can participate as much, or as little, as you would like. There is no commitment to attend on a regular basis. Join the group, if you are all looking for a bit of inspiration to get motivated and create art! Contact Lynn for more information l buckmar2@yahoo.com or 906-399-9824

ART ON THE ROCKS APPLICATIONS

Deadline: March 31st. The 2024 event will be held Saturday July 27 10:00am – 6:00pm and Sunday July 28 10:00am – 4:00pm. This juried event takes place in Mattson Lower Harbor Park and is growing every year. More information and applications at the Website: marquetteartontherocks.com.

CALL FOR ART: NORTH OF THE 45TH

Apply by March 13, 11:59pm EST

At the Devos Art Gallery, North of the 45th is an annual juried exhibition of artists living in the geographical area north of the 45th parallel in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

EXHIBIT PROPOSALS FOR 2025 AT THE THE DEO GALLERY

Due by March 31, 2024. Contact Amelia Pruiett at apruiett@marquettetemi.gov for more information and an application form.

BARB SYMON SCHOLARSHIP

Submissions due by June 6th, 2024

The Barb Symon Scholarship was established by Charles Symon in memory of his wife Barbara who was a highly respected weaver and a founder of the East Ludington Gallery. This scholarship is offered to encourage further study in an artist's field of arts or crafts. <https://bonifasarts.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/BarbSymonScholarshipAppInsert2023.pdf>

BONIFAS MEMBERSHIP SHOW

Submissions due by March 26

June 27 – August 8, 2024

Reception: June 27, 6:00 – 8:00pm

The Bonifas Membership Show has encouraged artists to share their creative explorations at every level of ability. This show is open to all artists 18+ who are current members of the Bonifas. All work must be the artist's own design, original in concept and execution, and not previously exhibited in the Bonifas Gallery. Entry fee.

WATERFRONT ART FESTIVAL

Applications must be received by July 21, 2024

Event: Saturday, August 3rd, 2024 10:00am – 4:00pm

The Bonifas is calling all our artists and food vendors to register for this year's Waterfront Art Festival. Now is the time to register and be a part of the biggest Waterfront to date! This is a juried show. Artists who have not participated in the past two years of Waterfront Art Festival or Holiday Art Fair will need to send images or samples of your work ahead of time to be considered for the 2024 Festival. Entry fee.

Artist Resources

U.P. ARTS AND CULTURE ALLIANCE

The Upper Peninsula Arts and Culture Alliance (UPACA) is a 15-county group comprised of Artisans and art organizations, historians and culture bearers, as well as allies in related sectors such as tourism and recreation, local and regional government and economic development. You can find lots of art resources at <http://www.upacalliance.com/> and follow on Facebook.

UPACA ARTIST DIRECTORY

The U.P. Arts & Culture Alliance has a website that lists local artists. You can sign up at directory.upacalliance.com and create an account, then log in and go to the Artist link on the dashboard to complete your artist profile.

MQTCOMPASS

The MQT Compass is currently the go-to website for information about what's happening in the local art world. Check out the Community Calendar by date for art exhibits, classes, and events. Find opportunities to display your art. www.mqtcompass.com.

DEVOS ART MUSEUM

Here you can find information about current exhibits and calls for art that will be juried and hung in the Devos Art Museum on the NMU campus. Here's the link: nmuartmuseum.com.

MARQUETTE MICHIGAN ARTISTS AND FRIENDS FACEBOOK GROUP

Follow this Facebook group for notification of wide ranging activities in art, music, and creative writing.

LAKE SUPERIOR ART ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK GROUP AND PAGE

LSAA has a Facebook GROUP and a Facebook PAGE. Follow these two Facebook leads for up-to-date information on LSAA programs, Art Talks, calls for art, and special events. To follow, search for Lake Superior Art Association on Facebook.

LAKE SUPERIOR ART ON INSTAGRAM

LSAA has an Instagram feed! To follow look for LakeSuperiorArt on Instagram.

ART FAIR CALENDAR

If you're thinking of taking your art on the road, check out the list of art shows here: www.artfaircalendar.com. You can use the links on the side of that page to find the best juried shows, shows in Michigan, or shows in Florida.

ART MATERIALS

When Michaels doesn't have the art materials you need, head online to www.dickblick.com or <https://www.cheapjoes.com/>. They are the go-to source for artists of all levels.

PENINSULA SCHOOL OF ART FIRST FRIDAY CRITIQUE

This free monthly Critique Group invites artists of all levels and backgrounds to reserve a 30-minute virtual block to share in-progress or finished work, to share viewpoints, and learn from other artists. A 30-minute session is free. More info here: <https://www.peninsulaschoolofart.org/critique-group>



The seventh annual **Fresh Coast Plein Air Painting Festival and Competition** will be held this year throughout Historic and Picturesque Marquette, Michigan and its magnificent shoreline on **Friday & Saturday, June 28 and 29**. This year, we have also added an **“Afterglow” Event on Sunday, June 30** at Provisions 401 S. Lakeshore Blvd. The festival, presented by Lake Superior Art Association, is part of the “Grand Finale” of the City of Marquette’s Art Week.

This year’s registration, judging, reception, presentation of awards, and artwork display and sale will be held at Marquette’s **Presque Isle Pavilion**, located on Lake Superior in the picturesque Presque Isle Park. \$2,500 in prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the Festival, including 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for both competition levels, people’s choice, and several door prizes. Artists are encouraged to price their artwork if they are interested in selling, as there will be an abundance of attendees at the public showing and reception.

Interested artists may pre-register to save on entry fees, or register the day(s) of the event. There are two entry levels. It is up to artists to place themselves in the appropriate category and pay the appropriate fees.

Level 1 Professional and advanced painters: \$25 pre-registered / \$30 day-of

Level 2 Novice, intermediate, and/or recreational painters: \$15 pre-registered / \$20 day-of

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday - “Dusk to Dark”

5:00pm – 7:00 pm Registration, check in, canvas stamp at Presque Isle Pavilion

5:00pm – 10:00pm Painting Time (Paintings must be turned in by 10:00pm)

Saturday – All-Day Painting

7:00am – 9:00am Registration, check in, canvas stamp at Presque Isle Pavilion 7:00am – 4:30pm

3:00pm – 4:30pm Artwork drop off at Presque Isle Pavillion MQT

4:30pm – 6:00pm Judging at Presque Isle Pavillion (*Judges and volunteers only)

6:00pm – 7:00pm Peoples’ Choice Voting & Public Reception at Presque Isle Pavillion

7:00pm – 8:30pm Awards Ceremony, Artist Raffle Prizes, Public Reception, Art Sales at Presque Isle Pavillion

Sunday 9:30am – 12:30pm Afterglow party at Provisions

Artwork will be judged this year by Wendy McWhorter, prize winning artist from Kewadin, Michigan. You can view Wendy’s artwork at www.wendymcwhorterartist.com. Wendy will also have a few of her wonderful artworks on display at our reception.

For more information, please contact Marlene at marlensesew@gmail.com, 847 791-8403 or City of Marquette Office of Arts & Culture - arts-culture@marquettemi.gov, (906) 228-0472. Registration forms at lakesuperiorartassociation.org.