



NOVEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER

Established 1988

www.collageartists.org

NEXT MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009

REMEMBER! NEW TIME → → → 11:00A.M. ← ← ← NEW TIME

BERNARD MILKEN JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS AUDITORIUM

22622 VANOWEN STREET WEST HILLS, CA 91307 (818) 464-3300

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Collage Artists,

I would like to start by thanking you all for attending our last meeting and giving us your vote so that we can give Collage Artists of America a new lease on life and become a "cutting edge" organization.

The meeting on December 4 will be our last at the West Valley Jewish Community Center, and we are really excited about moving to the Encino Community Center on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, meeting from 9:30 am – 12.30 pm. *From now on, all meetings will be the first Wednesday of each month, October through June.* We have planned a lot of different kinds of meetings but will still have five with prominent speakers. We also have at least two major exhibits a year and are planning other ways to exhibit without using galleries. You will hear more about this in the New Year.

In addition, we have moved around some board positions: Ben Goldman is going to take over as Program Chairperson, and Jeanne Zinniker is going to return to her position as Treasurer. Because Jeanne is picking up as our Treasurer again, that leaves Membership open. The only requirement is that you know how to use a computer. Perhaps YOU and a couple of friends could take this job on as a committee. Talk to your friends and commit to helping our great organization with Membership.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist our Graphics Chairperson, Susan Gesundheit, and also our Editor-in-Chief, Judi Birnberg, who is going to create a new and improved CAA newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with our last exhibit, "Reconstruction," which turned out to be a really exciting show. We had a lot of new members join at take-in including an artist from New York who discovered us on Facebook. Some artists found it a challenge to produce a small image, but with Sylvia Goulden's curatorial expertise, the installation looked amazing. While on the topic of thanking, I would also like to express our group's appreciation to Darlene Mellein for helping us with Carol Surface's presentation at our September general meeting. Darlene came through when we found ourselves without a digital projector.

I will end this message by wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I look forward to seeing you on December 4 for our last meeting at Milken.

Nicki Newfield

President

(818) 385-1748

FUTURE MEETING DATES :

Dec. 4. at the Milken Center, then the **first Wednesday of every month through June** at the Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa, just north of Ventura on the west side of Balboa. Please mark your calendars now. Meetings there will begin at 9:30 a.m.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

The Art of Nichos, presented by Ellen Snortland

Fri., December 4, 2009 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Plenty of time to shmooze, cruise the second-chance table (Shmooze and Cruise time), have our presentation, and win goodies at the raffle.

Nichos are a popular form of Latin American folk art, especially popular in Mexico and Peru. A nicho, like a *niche*, is typically a tableau or commemoration in mixed media within a shadow box of some sort. Tiny nichos are done in matchboxes while others are the size of a dining room table. They are frequently done in strong colors with fun, glittery decorations. They all have intriguing stories to tell.

Ellen Snortland is an artist, actress and author who is also an avid nicho collector and nicho artist. She will present a colorful overview of nichos and provide both inspiration and information for you to create your own nichos. You won't want to miss her energetic and entertaining presentation, arranged by Marjorie Sarnat! In addition, Ellen is generously donating a signed copy of her book, *Beauty Bites Beast*, for the raffle.

Ben Goldman

Program Chair

(323) 656-3465

The only thing I know is that if I get to my studio, that means I'm
alive today. —Robert Farber

EXHIBIT REPORT

The 2009 Fall Invitational, “Reconstruction,” was a wonderful success. Members of CAA and other member groups of the VIVA Art Center (Women Painters West, Valley Artists Guild, and Valley Watercolor Society) along with other invited groups (the San Fernando Valley Art Club and Artist Co-op 7) were represented in the show.

The juror, John Greco, is a printmaker, operating the Josephine Press Studio in Santa Monica and the Christopher John Gallery. He also teaches classes in drawing and printmaking at Santa Monica College. In judging a work of art, Greco looks for inventiveness, craftsmanship, and harmonies in composition and content. He states, “Attention, excellence, and tension that spring from self-discipline are essential to the making of good art.”

The show was beautiful. Congratulations to all the artists selected by the juror.

The awards were as follows:

1st Place Award—\$300 Donna Geist Buch,
“Girls Just Want to Have Fun”

2nd Place Award—\$200 Ellen Grim,
“Prickly Heart”

3rd Place Award—\$100 Marjorie Sarnat,
“Golden Ebony”

Honorable Mentions—merchandise awards:

Ellen Grim, “Wild Things II”
Rachelle Mark, “Forest Floor #2”
Sylvia Hamilton Gould, “Keep This
Transfer”
Helen Merken, “The City”
Lois Ramirez, “Anomaly”

Juror’s Honorable Mention for
Inventiveness, Ingenuity, and Social
Conscience: Lisa Deutsch “Heart Break”



*1st Place Award winner, Donna Geist Buch
and Exhibit Chair, Rachelle Mark*

Rachelle Mark

Exhibit Chairperson
(818) 986-1637

NEWSLETTER INFO AND THANKS

I have been cranking out this newsletter for at least 10 years and hope it has been helpful to you. I am still continuing to write and edit it, but two of our members have offered to help me: Dorothy Tate, who has done every job for every art organization (sometimes more than once) said she would handle what was for me the most onerous part of getting the newsletter out:

printing, folding, stapling, labeling, stamping and mailing copies to those of you who don't have computers. To you, Dorothy, a google of thanks for all you have done and continue to do.

Do you see that photograph above? It's a CAA first! Try as I might, resizing it, fiddling with it, cursing at it, I couldn't get it to behave and go where I wanted it. I asked computer guru Susie Gesundheit for help, and with a click or two she did what I could not. I heart Susie!

Many of you do have computers and e-mail but are still getting the newsletter through the post office. If it is at all possible for you to get the e-mail version, you will save CAA about 75 cents each time and also will be saving old-growth hardwood trees. If you have trouble opening the PDF version I mail (which should be openable by everyone, no matter what computer or service provider you have), I can always copy and paste the newsletter into the body of an e-mail to you so you don't have to open anything. Please let me know if we can e-mail your newsletter to you!

Judi Birnberg

Newsletter editor
(818) 986-2941

MEMBER NEWS

At the last board meeting we agreed to print announcements of members' exhibits and awards in other shows, as well as workshops you are giving. Please send Judi Birnberg your news.

Here's one: • I give watercolor and mixed media lessons on Tuesday afternoons, 12:30—3:30, at VIVA. Call me, Rea Nagel, at (818) 908-5919.

The Resource Outlet

- An amazing experience awaits you at the **Frederick Weisman Art Foundation** in Bel Air. His former home is filled with modern and contemporary masterworks, both paintings and sculptures. Admission is free and groups are limited to 10 people. M-F, 10-4. You'll need a reservation: (310)-277-5321 or www.weismanfoundation.org.
- Do you know about mydailyfind.com? You can receive a daily e-mail about stores and goings-on in the San Fernando Valley. (Useful if you live in the 818, not so much if you're a Texan.)
- If you have any tips for our members, *please* send them to me. I can't be a one-woman resource outlet.

Judi Birnberg

Newsletter editor
(818) 986-2941

DID YOU KNOW?

The CAA newsletter is always available on our website: www.collageartists.org. Before you call a member to ask for information (When is the meeting? When is the take-in? Who am I?), go to our online newsletter and see if what you're looking for is there. There's a good chance you'll find it.

OPPORTUNITY REPORT

Here's what we need for the second-chance table: Pieces of wood: metal parts (rusty or not): books, newspapers and magazines printed in languages other than English; *National Geographics*. Here's what we don't need: magazines that many of our members already get (e.g., *Architectural Digest*, travel magazines, the usual art magazines). We are getting very low on STUFF. Look in your studios and garages. I know you have STUFF. Please just bring it; I will price it.

Come early to buy raffle tickets. And don't forget to wear your collage nametag so you can get an extra ticket. The big winner could be YOU!

Sandy Rooney

Opportunity Chairperson
(818) 249-9006

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of October 28, 2009: \$13,891.35

Ben Goldman

Treasurer
(818) 656-3465

If I ignore my work, I start having anxiety attacks.

—Roseanne Cash

I don't have big anxieties. I wish I did. I'd be much more interesting.

—Roy Lichtenstein