

The Cutting Edge

Collage Artists of America Newsletter

January 2013

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Donating Creativity and Healing

by Karen Robbins

During the holiday season, many of us do extra good deeds that exemplify a spirit of giving. Maybe we send packages to soldiers overseas, volunteer at a soup kitchen, drop change in that red kettle, or pack up a load of used items for the local thrift shop. Those are all admirable choices. I do some of them myself. But they're all somewhat removed from the most compelling part of me: my creativity.

So for the past few years I've donated art supplies to Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Not only is it a personally satisfying gift that aligns perfectly with my own activities, but I also know it is an essential element in something both beneficial and uplifting to patients and their families.

At Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, art supplies are made available to patients as part of the generally-distributed toys that are solicited most noticeably during the holidays but are actually used all year 'round (CHLA distributes about 500 toys per week; 26,000 per year). They are also part of the Mark Taper and Johnny Mercer Artists Program, the art therapy department of the hospital that uses these materials as part of its healing and expression techniques.

According to the Society for the Arts in Health Care, when a patient's sense of control is lost or minimized—as it often is in hospitals—art can be therapeutic and healing by reducing stress, loneliness, and the perception of pain. Art can give both patients and caregivers a safe place to express their emotions and process difficult experiences. Boston Children's Hospital uses participatory art in clinical settings to help distract and relax patients so that procedures go more smoothly, and holds special exhibits and hands-on workshops to create community and provide a positive way to fill the time.

Of course art therapy has additional benefits to help anyone—especially children—act out or work through problems, fears, and other issues. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia uses art therapy to help patients with self-expression, trauma, self-esteem, and peer interaction.

Taking advantage of holiday sales and online shopping options, I focused my attention on the daily and weekly sales at Michael's and similar stores. By purchasing multi-tool art kits and supply boxes, blank pads and coloring books, as well as craft kits, I was able to buy about

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CALENDAR

Jan 9	Board Meeting
Jan 25	General Meeting*
Mar 13	Board Meeting
Mar 22	General Meeting*
May TBD	Board Meeting
May-Jun	Spring Exhibit
May 24	General Meeting*
July 1	2012-13 Dues Deadline
Aug TBD	Online Exhibit
Sep 27	General Meeting*
Nov 22	General Meeting*

* New location: Regency room, Pickwick Gardens, Burbank

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January 25 guest artist: Lou Beach

See page 3 for meeting and program details.

Member Spotlight

Marian Devney, Barbara Margolies, and Darlene Mellein all have work accepted into Topanga Canyon Gallery's *2013 Juried Open*, running January 9–27 with an artists' reception January 20 from 2-5 p.m. 120 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Suite 109, Topanga, CA 90290.

Teri Dryden's work won third place in the *Mazin Annual Art Exhibition* at the Patio Gallery in Louisville, KY that ran through January 8. Teri also has work in the *56th Mid-States Art Exhibition* at the Evansville Museum of Art in Evansville, IN, through March 3.

Erella Teitler is part of a group show, *Jewish Ritual: Re-thinking, Renewed*, at the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture Viterbi Family Galleria in La Jolla, CA, through March 6.

Members, what's happening with your art? Are you in galleries, online, or on the newsstand? Send your collage/ assemblage-related exhibit and publication news to the editor at karendesign@gmail.com.

Welcome New Member

Sarah Stone
Chatsworth CA

President's Point

Contagious Creativity

by Marian Devney

“Creativity is contagious. Pass it on.”

I don't remember where I read that, but I thought of it when I sat down to write this column.

Collage Artists of America is made up of a very talented and generous group of artists. I feel the creative energy at every meeting, workshop, show opening, and casual get-together. Conversations flow, ideas are exchanged. Inspiration is in the air. The camaraderie and support among members is palpable. Simply by being CAA members, we are passing creativity on.

If CAA's mission statement were to be condensed into two sentences, I believe the opening would say it well.

“The specific purpose of Collage Artists of America is to promote interest and participation in, and the study, appreciation and support of, collage, assemblage and mixed-media art by providing resources such as educational programs, instructional workshops and art exhibits to its members and the public.”

In other words, “Creativity is contagious. Pass it on.”

In support of CAA's mission, one of my philanthropic goals for this year is to find ways to pass the creativity on beyond members and visitors, to provide resources to the greater community. One idea is to donate art supplies, books, workshops, etc., to public schools, after-school programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, and similar groups.

This is just one idea. What are yours? The brainstorming door is now open.

Happy New Year, everyone! May you find joy, inspiration and creativity in every day! Pass it on.

—Marian

Gift, continued from page 1

twice as much as I usually could for the dollars I spent. I made sure that the items I selected matched the hospital's wish list (it's posted on its website). I then contacted the person in charge of donations, who arranged a drop-off time. When I arrived, she and her two “elves” had a cart ready to take my donation. She even had the hospital's thank-you letter and tax receipt ready.

It means a lot to me that my donation will be used by children who certainly face a daunting time; and even more that something I care about so much—creativity—will help young patients heal.

JANUARY PROGRAM Lou Beach: Layers of Consciousness

Gathering sources from dreams, commerce, news, and surrealism, Lou Beach's collages are known for their dreamlike juxtaposition of the everyday, the absurd, the fantastic, the impossible.

Perhaps best known for his cover collage illustration for recordings by groups such as Weather Report (Grammy-nominated), the Neville Brothers, and Blink 182, Beach's collages have also illustrated stories for the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Wired*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Time*; and graced book covers from Random House, McGraw-Hill, and other publishers.

His *Fable* series use the background of a children's-book-style illustration overlaid by reassembled people and animals, often substituting inanimate objects for human heads or random, colorful shapes for animal bodies.

The World of Men, a series of four images, similarly deconstructs the male (and female) figure, layering on and revealing secrets, conflicts, and symbols of power. The work reveals both direct and subtle references and influences to modern masters such as Hannah Hoch, Romare Beardon, and Max Ernst.



The work draws, Beach says, on his early morning awakenings, when he is still in a dreamlike state. "It's a dreamlike sort of state where I lose myself in the story—whether it's words of pictures."

Beach came to the U.S. from Germany with his parents at the age of four, and grew up in Rochester, New York. After flirting with college, he came to California where he took non-descript jobs (although he was even a stunt pilot at one point!) while he went to galleries and museums, absorbed what he found in art books, and discovered Surrealism. At last he began to make collage and assemblage art himself. His first one-man show in Boston took

place about this time. Soon thereafter, he began creating the collage illustrations that were the trademarks of his work in the music, publishing, and journalism industries.

Years later, Beach began to write. Calling this career twist "a most surprising and miraculous second act," he created the book *420 Characters*, a collection of miniature stories that feel as surreal and assembled as his art. The 2011 book also features ten original collages.

Beach's 2006 monograph, *Cut It Out*, covers 30 years of his collage illustrations. A terrific gallery of his work is also available on his website, www.loubeach.com. Prints of the works are available on a second site he shares with his photographer wife and creative grown children, www.gene-pool-art.com. Many of the originals are also available.



UPCOMING MEETING: Friday, March 22

10:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Pickwick Gardens Conference Center, Regency room, 1001 Riverside Drive, Burbank CA 91506, 818-845-5300 extension 171.

Second-chance table, drawing opportunities, and pre-meeting activities end at 11:00 a.m. sharp.

Next meeting: May 24, 2013

Holiday Sale Ends Gallery 800 Exhibit

To close the Ripped exhibit at Gallery 800, CAA held a holiday sale on December 15, 2012. Members Erella Teitler and Kwei-lin Lum staffed the event that showcased bin art and other pieces by CAA artists. The

gallery had holiday decorations to add to the festive feel. Gallery staffer Dennis Olsen signals the exhibit's end as he paints out the show logo-type. (Photos courtesy Susie Gesundheit)



Odd how the creative power at once brings the whole universe to order.

—Virginia Woolf



RESOURCE OUTLET

Collage cards, bits, and books.

- **Artist Trading Cards** began in 1997 in Zurich as a project of artist M.Vançi Stirnemann. The idea was to meet in person to exchange the cards, creating a performance experience. Learn more at www.artist-trading-cards.ch.
- **Art Cards, Editions, and Originals** is an offshoot of the ATC movement designed to spread ATCs—originals or prints—to a wider audience through sales and other general-public distributions. www.art-cards.org.
- **Bent, Bound, and Stitched** by Giuseppina Cirincione, 128 pages, North Light Books 2008. Instructions for multiple mixed-media and collaged projects; may be a bit crafty but well-produced and inspirational.
- **Mixed Media Revolution: Creative Ideas for Reusing Your Art** by Darlene Olivia McElroy, 144 pages, North Light Books. Newly-published book of techniques to re-use leftovers, scraps, pieces that didn't turn out right in new ways. Detailed instructions.
- **1,000 Artist Trading Cards: Innovative and Inspired Mixed Media ATCs** by Patricia Bolton. 320 pages, Quarry Books, 2007. Offers a section on supplies and ideas for creating ATCs, followed by a huge gallery of inspirational examples.

Got resources? Please share them! Send info to the editor at karendesign@gmail.com.

Exhibitions and Competitions

Art on Paper – National Juried Exhibition

Deadline: January 23, 2013

Exhibition: Maryland Federation of Art Circle Gallery, Annapolis, MD, March 29–April 28, 2013

Awards: multiple, total \$1,000 cash

Juror: Katherine Blood, curator of fine prints, Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Open to: U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada residents, original 2D/3D work on or of paper

Submit: .jpg file(s) uploaded, online entry form and fee

Entry fee: \$35 for up to two artworks, \$5 for each additional entry up to four

Prospectus: http://www.mdfedart.com/pages/call_for_artists.php

Contact: Margaret Boynton, info@mdfedart.org, 410-268-4566

EcoCreations 4

Deadline: February 1, 2013

Exhibition: Muse Gallery, Longmont, CO, March 8–April 27, 2013

Awards: first and second place

Juror: not named

Open to: everyone, majority of piece must be from recycled materials/found objects

Submit: .jpg file(s) on CD, mailed entry form and fee

Entry fee: \$30 for up to three artworks

Prospectus: <http://artslongmont.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/EcoCreations-Prospectus.pdf>

Contact: Longmont Council for the Arts, Joanne Kirves, info@artslongmont.org, 303-678-7869

the four by six postcard exhibit

Deadline: February 8, 2013

Exhibition: Art Gallery at University Center, Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction, CO, February 18–March 8, 2013

Awards: none

Juror: not named

Open to: everyone, piece must be 4 by 6 inches or 6 by 4 inches

Submit: mailed artwork and entry form

Entry fee: none; artist donates up to four artworks to be sold for \$20 each as benefit to the school Art Department Endowment Fund. All unsold work becomes property of the university.

Prospectus: http://www.coloradomesa.edu/art/documents/2013Call_for_Entries_4x6.pdf

Contact: Teresa Garner, sgarner@coloradomesa.edu, 970-248-1444

Mayhem National Juried Exhibition

Deadline: February 24, 2013

Exhibition: Arc Gallery, San Francisco, CA, May 4–25, 2013 and/or online

Awards: ribbons/certificates for most imaginative interpretation of Mayhem theme

Juror: Alan Bamberger, San Francisco-based art author and appraiser

Open to: all U.S. artists, assemblage, collage, mixed media and others

Submit: .jpg file(s) uploaded, online entry form and fee, statement re: show theme

Entry fee: \$35 for up to three artworks; up to three additional for \$35 more

Prospectus: <http://www.arc-sf.com/submissions.html>

Contact: ArcGallerySF@gmail.com

Exhibits Worth Watching

Peter Liashkov and Friends

present works spanning a wide array of media that have arisen through collaboration with a number of friends. In the ongoing exchange between Liashkov and friends, each has extended diverse individual creative approaches, ranging from drawing, painting, and mixed-media collage to photography and sculpture. Each artist has interacted with Liashkov's materials to visually exchange and transform ideas and aesthetics. LA Artcore at Union Center for the Arts, through January 28. 120 Judge John Aiso St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, 213-617-3274.

Treasurer's Report

by Anita Van Tellengen

Cash balance as of January 9, 2013: \$12,603.45.

Member Directory Distributed

Member directories for the 2012-14 term were distributed to all members in December 2012. If you haven't received yours yet, please contact Toby Salkin, Vice President–Membership.

Topological structure is when the surface becomes the interior.

—*Claire Falkenstein*

Spring Exhibit Coming!

CAA's Spring 2013 juried exhibit is now in the planning stages. It's slated for the May-June period, with exact dates and details to be determined soon. This exhibit is likely to focus on small works, but exact details aren't yet firm. Stay tuned for complete information in the upcoming prospectus!

Give New Life to Unwanted Materials

CAA's second-chance table offers members' donated collage materials at bargain prices. Share your unwanted supplies, magazines, paper, wallpaper, paint, ephemera, vintage goodies, rubber stamps etc. All proceeds benefit the CAA Philanthropy Fund. Contact Sandy Rooney if you need a pick-up or help unloading on-site.

Find Us on Facebook!



Join the conversation on CAA's Facebook page. Find out the latest news about meetings and exhibits, and photo galleries from past exhibits and presentations. Plus you can chat with and enjoy collage work by over 200 artists. Stop in at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/collageartistsofamerica/>.



The Cutting Edge

Collage Artists of America
11271 Ventura Blvd #274
Studio City CA 91604

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Collage Artists of America

established 1988
www.collageartists.org
11271 Ventura Boulevard #274
Studio City, California 91604

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Do You Know a Guest Artist?

If you know a collage, mixed-media collage, or assemblage artist in the Southern California area who could give an informative and unique presentation at a CAA meeting, please let us know! Contact president Marian Devney.