Upcoming Events

Saints, Sinners and Sinatra

Saints, Sinners & Sinatra is coming to the Arbury Fine Arts Center and Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum on Friday, Oct. 2, 5:30-9:00 p.m. The fifth annual Saints and Sinners event will be fabulous—you won’t want to miss it.

When Marshall Fredericks created the Saints and Sinners sculptures in 1939, he portrayed his whimsical characters along with a serious side of church statuary. We salute Mr. Fredericks as we offer you an opportunity to participate in this fascinating artistic legacy, and support the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum.

This is going to be an affordable evening ($80/ticket or $150/two tickets) where you will enjoy great Frank Sinatra style Italian cuisine, martinis and wine, live music, silent and live art auctions, fabulous people, and more fun than you can imagine.

Additionally, two stunning exhibitions, Breaking the Mold: Contemporary Chinese and Japanese Ceramic Sculpture and Textile Extensions: Quilts in a New Context, the Work of Carole Harris, will open at the event.

For tickets call (989) 964-7082.

Giclee’ print of Ballerina and Clown Musicians commemorative the 100th birthday of Marshall Fredericks.

Limited Edition of 100
Matted 14” x 11”
Was $125.00 Now $37.50

MUSEUM MUSINGS

Volume 4 Issue II

Director’s Corner
Marilyn L. Wheaton

In 1998 I was presented the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Michigan Honorary Affiliate award “in recognition of an individual of esteemed character who has rendered a distinguished service to the profession of architecture or to the arts and sciences allied therewith.” I believe I was the recipient of such an honor because of my long held belief that architecture is a primary art form, which I have promoted as such throughout my career.

Since my first semester as a university freshman when I studied world art and architecture, I have thought of columns, capitals, and entablatures as sculptures as much as support systems for buildings. A Greek Parthenon column is a support for the edifice, but separately it’s like a sculpture. While architecture has much more of a physical function (buildings house people and things) than art forms like music, theater and paintings have, the design elements of architecture are the unique details and component parts that together form the architectural style of houses, buildings and structures.

When “Great Architecture of Michigan” was published by the Wayne State University Press in 2008, I bought a copy immediately. Every photograph in this book is a work of art and every building photographed has many architectural elements.

I so enjoyed the text by John Gallagher and the photos by Balthazar Korab that I decided this beautifully bound book was appropriate for the Museum gift shop. John Gallagher writes news and criticism about architecture and urban development for the Detroit Free Press and Balthazar Korab is one of the great photographers of our time who has worked with famed architects such as Mies van der Rohe, Louis Kahn and Frank Lloyd Wright.

Within the last few weeks “MUSEUM DESIGN: THE FUTURE” by George Jacob was published by BookSurge, a DBA of On-Demand Publishing. It features a spectrum of museum projects from around the world recently completed or in the design stages. “The visual kaleidoscope of designs drawn from the land, heritage, historic events, culture and from envisioning future, offers a perspective on these institutions of non-formal learning and inspiration that will shape our minds in times to come”, writes the author.

The book provides insights into the process, methodology, project teams, energy efficiency and the evolving innovative use of sustainable materials that go towards a symbiotic relationship with their relative environments. It illustrates projects by museum designers and architects including, Jeff Kennedy, Tom Hennes, Zaha Hadid, Daniel Libeskind, Frank Gehry, Jean Nouvel, Zentong-Korner-Marshall, Cesar Pelli, Renzo Piano, among others.

I invite you to come to the Museum on Thursday, August 13, 5:00-7:00 p.m. for a book signing event. John, Balthazar and George will be on hand to sign copies of their books.

Visit the new marshallfredericks.org
Summer art camps a great success

Three two-week summer art camps at the Museum were designed and taught by SVSU art education majors: Patricia Bry, Dawn Kehr, Dan Pintek and Jenna Symanski. Scholarships were awarded to a few summer art camp participants with support from a SVSU Foundation Resource Grant.

Art camp students, ages 8 – 13, created wonderful art projects, such as color wheel tints and shades painting, straw blow painting, Batik t-shirts, line drawing made into sculpture, perspective drawing, crayon resist with watercolor, watercolor landscape, Andy Warhol self portraits, and nature find and seek sculpture. To name a few. Museum and sculpture garden tours were a part of every class.

Enjoy a few highlights below of art camp this year.

From the Archives: “V” for Victory

The recent addition of a vegetable garden on the South Lawn of the White House has caused many people to reminisce about the Victory Gardens of World War II. Victory Gardens, also known as war gardens or food gardens for defense, were gardens planted by the American public in support of the war effort. During this time period, the government rationed basic supplies such as butter and eggs, while labor and transportation shortages affected the food supply. By planting their own vegetables, the public could aid in lowering the price of produce needed by the government to feed the troops and therefore save money for war expenditures. Families were also encouraged to can their own vegetables to save commercially canned goods for the troops. Nearly 20 million people planted gardens in backyards, vacant lots, public lawns, and even on urban rooftops. In 1943, these gardens produced nearly a third of all the vegetables consumed in the country that year.

In Cleveland, Ohio, residents planted a Victory Garden on the downtown Mall where Marshall Fredericks’ Cleveland War Memorial: Fountain of Eternal Life currently stands. Crops produced by the Mall garden included beans, cabbage, tomatoes, beets, broccoli, corn, turnips, peppers, and more supplying the community with a wide array of fresh vegetables. Local business leaders, schoolchildren, and Cleveland residents all did their part by planting seeds, thinning crops, and harvesting the produce. The Mall garden featured a small shed which housed all the tools residents would need to help tend the plot. Following the war’s end, many Americans did not plant Victory Gardens the next year expecting greater food availability but farm production had not yet increased to peacetime levels leading to some food shortages.

Although the Victory Garden concept was short-lived, the local food movement has been gaining resurgence recently as a response to the economic crisis and growing concerns about global warming. In many cities, such as Detroit, urban gardening movements have spread throughout the neighborhoods changing the landscape of the city. These gardens seek to accomplish many of the goals set out by the original Victory gardeners: fostering community spirit and supplying city residents with fresh, locally grown produce.

Photos: Geoff Haney

Tel Aviv artist makes new friends in Michigan

Orna Ben-Ami arrived in Michigan from Tel Aviv for the opening of her exhibition, The Softness of Iron: Welded Sculptures by Orna Ben-Ami, with very little knowledge about our great state. Four days later, she was thrilled with all that she had seen and the many people she met and got to know in our community.

Ben-Ami’s gallery talk at the Museum and the opening reception of her exhibition on June 12 were well attended. She delivered a power point presentation with an unmistakable sense of humor.

Ben-Ami creates highly symbolic pieces that carry universal, local, and deeply personal meanings, conveying thought-provoking contrasts of war and peace, memory and forgetting, the private and the collective. The artist’s works portray simple, man-made objects from her immediate environment such as clothing, books, and furniture examined from a young girl’s point of view. Removed from their natural context, the objects undergo a material and contextual transformation. The resulting sculptures evoke an emotional and cultural history, while simultaneously hinting at the broader human experience.

Through her artwork, Ben-Ami affectionately reconciles her personal experiences with the human condition. Employing the heavy physicality of iron, she captures and freezes her childhood memories. Yet her sculptures also convey the transient nature of human celebration and mourning, departure and relocation. Although the artist states that the stories behind her sculptures are foremost her own, and she considers her work to be more social than political, the exhibition also speaks to the struggle integral to Ben-Ami’s Israeli culture since the country’s founding.

To all of the exhibition sponsors—Consumers Energy, Saginaw Community Foundation, Herbert and Junia Doan Foundation, Elaine Hirschfeld—we are very grateful.

Prior to coming here, The Softness of Iron was exhibited in galleries and museums in seven other states. When the exhibition leaves the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum on Sept. 18 it will travel back to Israel.

The exhibition was organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC, with assistance of the Government of Israel.

From top left: Orna Ben-Ami stands next to her piece Neither Here Nor There, John and Judy Lore with Orna Ben-Ami, Linda Sims from Consumers Energy with Orna Ben-Ami, Muslin by Orna Ben-Ami

SVSU and Marshall Fredericks Museum Honored for Video Work

Two videos highlighting exhibits at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum have received honors. “Street Sense: Celebrating 20 Years of the Heidelberg Project” and “Waves: The Art of Diane Carr,” received bronze awards at the 30th Annual Telly Awards in New York.

The videos were co-produced by Dan Goodall of Saginaw Valley State University’s Instructional Technology Center, and the Museum’s Director, Marilyn L. Wheaton with art editing by student Daniel Wright. Visit the museum’s web site at marshallfredericks.org to view the videos on the temporary exhibitions pages.

Founded in 1979, the Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs, the finest film and video productions, and groundbreaking web commercials, videos and films. Winners represent the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world. This year’s competition included some 13,500 entries from all 50 states and around the world.

A prestigious judging panel of over 40 accomplished industry professionals, each a past winner of a Silver Telly, the top honor, judged the competition, upholding the historical standard of excellence that Telly represents. Judges evaluated entries to recognize distinction in creative work — entries do not compete against each other — rather entries are judged against a high standard of merit. Less than 10 percent of entries are chosen as Winners of a Silver Telly, the highest honor. Other outstanding work is awarded a Bronze Telly. More videos can be seen at: http://msfm.blip.tv/

Photo: Geoff Haney