Director’s Corner
Marilyn L. Wheaton

One of my favorite events of the year is one that happens right here on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, the annual Saints & Sinners extravaganza. On Friday, Oct. 1 things will really “swing” when the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum hosts its benefit gala Saints, Sinners and Swing.

Swing music and dance, visual arts, guests in vintage dress, and retro cuisine and cocktails will be everywhere during this year’s benefit gala on Friday, Oct. 1 at the Museum and Arbory Fine Arts Center.

More than 45 Michigan artists have donated works of art (paintings, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, glass) for the silent auction, which will take place from 5:30 to 7:45 pm in the Museum. At 8:00 pm a live auction of stunning art work, dinner for 20 people in a private home, use of a house in Ireland, and much more will be conducted by auctioneer Mike Furlow.

The Artists Portray Artists exhibition of 35 works of art from the Kresge Art Museum Collection at Michigan State University will open at the Museum that evening. Through paintings, photographs, prints and drawings Artists Portray Artists explores the various approaches to portraiture by a variety of artists including Man Ray, Milton Avery, Káthe Kollwitz, Jim Dine, Larry Clark, Chuck Close, and Cindy Sherman.

Event co-chairs Elissa Basil of Saginaw and Dawn Pumford of Midland and a planning committee of 15 have overlooked no detail. To them and our honorary chairs, Matt and Kathleen Davis of Midland, we say thank you. Individual tickets for the event are $80 per person or $150 for two, of which $40 per ticket is tax deductible. Tickets may be purchased in advance through the Museum at (989) 964-7082, or online at www.svsu.edu/missions.

The proceeds from Saints, Sinners and Swing will support the Museum’s educational and exhibition programs. Call (989) 964-7082 to order your tickets. Hurry, my dance card is filling up fast!

From the Archives: Museum receives Federal Grants

Recently, the Museum has been very fortunate to receive funding from two federal funding agencies in support of its activities in the archives. Funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has allowed the Museum to embark on projects which it otherwise would have been unable to initiate on its own.

This past April the NEH provided funds for Elizabeth Buschor, a Senior Paper Conservator from the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis, to conduct a survey of 129 of Marshall Fredericks’ life figure drawings. In-depth Condition Reports and Treatment Proposals were prepared for 25 high priority works selected from those surveyed. Elizabeth provided the Museum with a detailed conservation assessment of the drawings and recommendations for conservation, which when completed will make it possible for the drawings to be exhibited and made available to researchers.

In July 2009, the Museum received a grant from the IMLS to support collection stewardship activities. This grant will enable the Museum staff to complete the processing, cataloguing and digitization of its archival collection resulting in a fully searchable, metadata-driven online digital library. To date, project staff has uploaded and entered metadata for approximately 5000 photographs and created a finding aid for the collection which will be made available online in the near future.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute’s mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.imls.gov.
2010 Summer Art Camps Supported by the Dow Corning Corporation

In mid-July the Museum wrapped up its third year of summer art camps for youth ages 8-13. Forty-five youth enjoyed learning about the visual elements of art while doing fun art projects in the Museum and sculpture garden.

A $2,500 gift from the Dow Corning Corporation made the program affordable for more young people.

SVSU Art Education majors Katie Harris and Laura Weld designed and taught the classes, giving them a teaching experience that will enhance their career opportunities. Katie and Laura share their experiences here:

“This summer we were privileged to participate in the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum’s summer art camp program. Despite the fact that we come from very different backgrounds and experiences in life as well as art, after much collaboration we were able to capitalize on our collective strengths and design a curriculum that surpassed anything either of us could have accomplished on our own.

As senior art education majors, we spent much of this past year writing art lesson plans. However, the art camps gave us an opportunity to see our thoughts and ideas come to life. It was the students that infused joy into the experience. Students quietly and eagerly dove into each activity. It became obvious some things worked amazingly well, while others needed revision.

One of our favorite lessons involved using raw wool to create a piece of felt. The students were completely awestruck as they learned how an ancient primitive process evolved into our modern textile industry. Our other favorite project was inspired by Albrecht Durer’s original woodcut of a rhinoceros based on a verbal description. While Durer’s depiction contained many inaccuracies, it remained Europe’s image of what a rhinoceros looked like for over 300 years. We gave the students nameless animal descriptions and they drew their own interpretations. Their imagination and creativity rivaled any animal illustrations we’ve ever seen. Witnessing each students’ unique personality emerge through each experience, reminded us why we chose this profession.”

-Katie Harris and Laura Weld

Museum launches Storytelling

In June the Museum launched a “storytelling” program for youth ages 5-10. While the Museum normally focuses on the visual arts, we are now offering for local children another art form known as storytelling.

Volunteer storytellers include a variety of folks from Saginaw Valley State University and the community. Each storyteller selects a book(s) of their choice that may relate to animal sculptures in the Museum, such as the Friendly Dragon, Bay and Bear, Baboons, or they may select stories about important global issues that affect all of us, like the environment.

SVSU Athletic Director Mike Watson (above) reading one of his favorite stories.

The program is designed for children ages 5 to 10, who must be accompanied by an adult. Lively discussion occurs during and after the reading, followed by a museum tour.

Storytelling at the Museum is on Saturdays (see schedule below) from 1:00-2:00 pm and is free and open to the public. For more information visit the Museum website at www.marshallfredericks.org or call the Museum at (989)964-7125.

Storytelling Schedule:
September 18, October 23, November 6, 2010 – 1:00-2:00 pm
January 22, February 5, March 12, April 9, May 14, 2011 – 1:00-2:00 pm

Photo: Andrea Ondish

Dedication of Mural at Good Neighbors Mission

Twelve brightly-colored mural panels were recently installed on the building exterior of Good Neighbors Mission at 1318 Cherry Street in Saginaw. The mural panels, dedicated at a public reception on Thursday, April 22, were painted by students in the SVSU Art 433: Community Mural Painting, History & Technology class.

Funded with a $2,000 grant from the Saginaw Community Foundation, the mural project brought youth from the Good Neighbors Mission neighborhood to the Museum several times last winter. Jacinta Seals-Henderson, Director of Good Neighbors Mission, worked with SVSU Professor Mike Mosher and Andrea Ondish, Curator of Education at the Museum, to plan and coordinate the program.

Under the direction of Professor Mosher, 7 young people from the Saginaw neighborhood spent time drawing in the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum with the Art 433 students acting as mentors. They developed visual images of what they believe their neighborhood needs: Education and study, good health care and healthy habits, recreation and the arts, love, friendship, recycling, neighborliness, respect, and an end to violence, all of which are depicted in the panels.

Good Neighbors Mission youth, whose ideas have come to life in the mural, are Janelle Henderson, Jeanene Henderson, Tommie Henderson II, Jewel Lee, D’hyah McKeethen, Demetrious McDonald-McKeethen, and BreAna Prince. Art 433 class students were Bethany Ambrose, Akia Bell, Amber Bennett, Corey Gilbert, Caleb Guthrie, Ryan Haebermehl, Howard McLean, and Esmeralda Perez Lopez.

Photo: Howard McLean
Artists Portray Artists opens at the Museum Oct. 1


Through paintings, photographs, prints and drawings Artists Portray Artists explores the various approaches to portraiture by a variety of artists including Man Ray, Milton Avery, Käthe Kollwitz, Jim Dine, Larry Clark, Chuck Close, and Cindy Sherman. Kresge Art Museum Director Emeritus, Susan J. Bandes, says, "I believe visitors will be surprised at the enormous variety of portraits on view from the conventional to the conceptual. The purposes of portraits and their contexts vary widely, offering a wide range of representations."

Searching for models, artists only have to look as far as the nearest mirror or to their family and friends (often fellow artists). Artists have portrayed themselves for centuries and some did so frequently. While many of the subjects are familiar—Pierre Renoir, Isadora Duncan and Jo Baker among them—some are no longer recognized.

Susan Bandes will give two gallery talks about the portraits and their artists in the Museum on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Both are open and free to the public.

The Museum is grateful to the Dow Chemical Company for their support of this exhibition.

Top: Chuck Close, Self Portrait, 1978
Bottom: Barbara Morgan, Martha Graham – Ekstasis, 1935

Museum hosts second Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition

The Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition will be on view at the Museum through September 18. The exhibition was open to all living artists working in sculpture and residing within 200 miles of the Museum.

Forty-one artists submitted 106 works to be adjudicated. Thirty-two artworks by 24 artists were selected by juror Charles McGee for inclusion in the exhibition.

The juror awarded four Merit Awards that were distributed to the winning artists at a July 10th reception at the Museum: First place award of $2,500 was sponsored by the Dell-Loesel Foundation and was presented to Dustin Farnsworth of Lansing; second place award of $1,250 was sponsored by Heinz and Marlis Haller and was presented to Diane Carr of Honor; third place award of $850 and fourth place award of $400 were sponsored by the Fredericks Family Foundation and were presented to Jena Hupp Andrews of Mt. Pleasant and M.E. Ware of Mt. Pleasant respectively. Honorable Mention awards of $150 were presented to Sharon Que of Ann Arbor and Ray Katz of Pontiac.

"Marshall Fredericks was a working artist for 70 years. We believe it’s important that the Museum and Saginaw Valley State University support today’s working artists, and hosting a regional biennial sculpture exhibition is an excellent way to do it," said Marilyn Wheaton.

The exhibition is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural and the National Endowment for the Arts, and Maxwell K. Pribil Memorial Fund, administered by CITIZENS BANK Wealth Management. Thank you for your support.

Top: Charles McGee and Marilyn Wheaton
Bottom: Marlis Haller presents the second place award to Diane Carr

Photos: Geoff Haney

SVSU President Eric Gilbertson and Sue Vittoe at the awards dinner.

Photo: Ernie Paulick
Welcome New Board Members

MFSM Board of Advisors
Donald J. Bachand - Midland
Andrew Bethune - Saginaw
Madeline Burke - Cass City
Alma Gilmore Doud - Saginaw
Kelly Fabiano - Freeland
Carl M. Fredericks - Cardiff, CA
Chris Fredericks - Charleston, SC
Suzanne (Suki) Fredericks - Leicester, VT
David Fry - Traverse City
Marlis Haller - Midland
Barbara Heller - Birmingham
Gary Labadie - Bay City
Judy Lore - Bay City
Ernie E. Paulick - Bad Axe
Dawn Domke Pumford - Midland
Alexandra Rymal - Brighton
Roz Fredericks Rymal - Brighton
Odail Thorns - Saginaw
Donna VanSteenhouse - Midland
Sue Vititoe, Chair - Gross Pointe Shores

Honorary Board Members
Jack Martin
Mrs. Ned (Honey) Arbury

Dawn Domke Pumford
is a licensed professional engineer. She worked for the Michigan Department of Transportation from 1989-1997. She has been active in the Junior League of Saginaw Valley for 14 years, and has served on the boards of the Saginaw Art Museum and the Saginaw Children’s Zoo. Dawn and her husband Matt Pumford live in Midland with their sons Andrew and Sean.

Odail Thorns
is the Director of Development for the City of Saginaw where he is responsible for economic and community development. He has an extensive record in Civil Rights and community service. Odail has served continually as a Steward in the AME Church for 38 years. In Anderson, Indiana he served as President of the Community Hospital Medical Corporation, Chairman of the United Way, and the Mayor’s Commission on Human Relations. He and his wife Mamie Thorns live in Saginaw.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)
Program at the Museum
This summer OLLI offered a program to its members on “Marshall Fredericks: The Man and the Museum.” Museum Director Marilyn Wheaton, Registrar Geoffe Haney, and Curator of Education Andrea Ondish presented three classes on: Marshall Fredericks the man, the artist, the teacher, the humanitarian; how the collection and archives are preserved and made accessible to the public; and how the Museum’s collection is used as a teaching tool.

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum
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