

SPRING 2015

focus

Steelcase Director of Design featured in February

Bruce Smith — *The Art of Industry* – February 11, 10am



Bruce Smith is Director of Design for Steelcase Inc., the global leader in the office furniture industry. Appointed to his present position in 1999, Bruce is responsible for directing the design of Steelcase's global seating products and global surface materials portfolio. Earlier assignments include manager of design for systems furniture and senior industrial

designer for the firm. Prior to joining Steelcase in 1986, Bruce worked at Gates Lear Jet Corporation in Tucson, Ariz., from 1978 to 1986 as a senior industrial designer. His work included designing private jet interiors for custom orders, cabinets, seating, exterior graphics and corporate graphics design.

He will join us in February to discuss the art of industrial design and the process of designing in response to human need. As always, you are invited to continue the conversation with the speaker during the coffee reception following the program.

Art League Members	Free
KIA Members	\$10
General Public	\$12
Students with ID	\$ 3

President's Notes

Goodness, what a busy time! So busy that we've scheduled an extra meeting in May to properly honor Past Presidents and vote on officers and revised Bylaws. Meanwhile, we'll host excellent speakers at Art League's 2nd Wednesdays programs.

First you'll meet Bruce Smith, Director of Design at Steelcase; and in March artists Sharon Sandberg & Don Kerr who will tie their experiences in Japan to the KIA's exhibit by Japanese artists. Then in April, a 7 p.m. program will feature gallery owner Debra Force whom you may have seen on *The Roadshow* on PBS.

Two depARTures are announced in this issue of Focus, and the committee is working on additional art-focused depARTures for early summer.

Then there is the work going on in our self-study, board development and review of policies and operations. All in all, there is a lot of very good work taking place on your behalf; and there are many smiling faces at committee and Board meetings. It's a great time to be part of Art League.



Barbara



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Now You Know!

Mark Your Calendars!

On May 13 we'll honor Past Presidents, elect officers, approve Bylaws, and celebrate our 60th anniversary! A mini-program will make sure we also take time to learn something new about art. Please plan to attend.

Nina Belle Ward

In May the KIA will open an exhibit of paintings by Nina Belle Ward (1885 - 1944). A native of Georgia, Ms Ward made her home in Kalamazoo for over 21 years. She was instrumental in founding the KIA where she was the first and only teacher for several years.

Nominating Committee

Board directors Marissa Harrington, Barb Jongeward, Pat Turner, and Anne vanGiessen, along with community representative Alisa Carrel have accepted the responsibility for evaluating candidates and recommending a slate of officers for next year's Board.

Ad-hoc Steering Committee

Board directors Ann Gunia, Emily Duguay and Julie Smith have agreed to help facilitate the collaboration between our organization, its institutional and community stakeholders and Birch Consulting.

March Program

Artists Share Insights Sharon Sandberg & Don Kerr *Japanese Art: The After Images* March 11, 10am

Don Kerr and Sharon Sandberg will speak about their four semester residencies as Visiting Scholars at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities in Hikone. The core subject of their teaching has been Art and Japanese Culture during these sojourns.

They will elaborate on the influence it has had on their lives, appreciation of non-Western Art and Culture, and, in the case of Sandberg, to what extent it has had a tangible impact on her artistic vision and painting imagery.



Sharon Sandberg is an award-winning artist and an educator, currently serving as Director of Painting at Aquinas College. In addition to his time in Japan, Don Kerr is a Professor Emeritus and Artist in Residence of Grand Valley State University and an adjunct professor at Aquinas College.



Art League Honored to Receive Community Foundation Grant

Legal requirements change, "best practice" evolves, but one thing doesn't change in Art League: we continue to strive for excellence. To that end, break-out groups and big post it notes have become a feature of recent Board meetings as we affirm our mission and begin to look at strategies that will take us into the future.

As we read our history, listen to our fellow members, and celebrate 60 years of service, it's a good time to reflect on where we've been and where we are going. With best wishes from KIA senior staff and the support of our Board, last fall Art League prepared and submitted an

application to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for a "capacity building" grant. In December we were notified that the "grant request to support Board Development and Bylaws had been approved in full for \$2400."

What does that mean for Art League? It means an expert in non-profit management will help us align our policies with changes in law, will advise us of best practice, and will help us determine if our Bylaws are consistent with our current goals as well as our legal responsibilities. It means it's important to "get it right" and the Foundation has faith that with a little help, we'll do just that.



Spring depARTures



South Bend Museum Tours and a Twilight Party Thursday, April 16

Once the Saint Patrick's Day craze and the Easter solemnities are over at Notre Dame, our first 2015 Art League depARTure will leave Kalamazoo for South Bend in a luxury motor coach on the morning of April 16th.

Our first destination will be the Oliver mansion, an imposing 38-room Romanesque Queen Anne house built in 1895-1896. It's a time capsule of "Gilded Age" decorative arts. Following our visit to the Oliver mansion, we'll enjoy an elegant luncheon in an equally lovely setting, the famous Tippecanoe Place Restaurant in the old [original] Studebaker family mansion.

After lunch we will be welcomed to the South Bend Museum of Art with galleries featuring Indiana-born artists of note from William Merritt Chase to Robert Indiana. Other famed artists exhibited represent the Hoosier Group, the Ashcan group, and contemporary Chicago Imagists.

Next we will drive to the University of Notre Dame Snite Museum of Art. There we'll be given a special Curators' Favorites tour led by the museum's curators. The Snite's extensive collections range from Old Masters paintings to a vast collection of Mesoamerican and Northern Native American art.



As April 16 is special at the Snite, you have been invited to "3rd Thursdays @ The Snite: Figure It Out" which begins at 5 p.m. You'll be offered a complimentary glass of wine, and a chance to browse through open galleries where along the way you may discover working artists and their live nude models.

Before heading home to Kalamazoo, we'll take time to savor the day's experiences together, enjoying the classic Tuscan fare at Carmela's.

Lunch, dinner, museum admissions, all taxes and tips and motor coach included. Registration deadline: March 14. Sign-up forms are available at the KIA's registration desk and at www.kiarts.org or www.KalamazooArtLeague.org. Payment is not refundable unless there is someone on the waiting list.

Art League \$135 / KIA member \$155 / Non-member \$185

Philadelphia Overnight May 4-7

In 2013 Art League's guest speaker/curator Dr. Anna Marley invited Art League members to see "*The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement 1887-1920*" which would open at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) in 2015. In addition to accepting her invitation to visit the PAFA, we plan to spend a day at the world famous Barnes Collection of post-impressionist and early-modern art.

Pair these two great art institutions with a Group Reservation at the Alexander Inn within walking distance to museums and many restaurants, and you've got a terrific 3-night depARTure.

Includes taxi to museums as needed, entry fees, VIP tours, and two dinners
For details, please contact dbrose@umich.edu or pick up a reservation form at the KIA Reception Desk or online at www.kiarts.org or www.KalamazooArtLeague.org.

Deposit is not refundable.

Deadline: March 30, 2015.

Art League \$300 / KIA member \$350 / Non-member \$400





Kalamazoo Art League
 314 S. Park St.
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Non-Profit Org
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Kalamazoo, MI
 Permit No. 1365

Board of Directors: Barbara Brose—Christina Chin—Jennifer DiGiuseppe—Emily Duguay—Ann Gunia—Marissa Harrington—Barb Jongeward—Mary Licavoli—Becky Marvin—Becki Moffet-Moore—Peggy Napier—Gwen Raaberg—Mary Ann Rabe—Julie Smith—Sandy Spencer—Mary-Louise Totten—Pat Turner—Anne vanGiessen—Kathi Vlachos—Darlene Warren—Bianca Washington—Esther Wurfel—Carianne Zomonski

KzooArtLeague@gmail.com www.kiarts.org www.KalamazooArtLeague.org



It's Not Too Late! Join Art League Now Enjoy Benefits through June 2016

Hurrah! Art League is celebrating its 60th anniversary in a number of ways. One is this special offer: join now for \$60 and be a member through June of 2016! That's right, you will begin enjoying lectures, receptions, and discounts on depARTures right away and you will keep enjoying them through next season. When you join Art League you become part of a congenial group of art enthusiasts with whom you can share ideas and friendship. If your mailing label does not say "current member" you are eligible for this special 60th anniversary \$60 celebratory membership.

Special Art League Membership Offer

Name: _____ Date: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zipcode: _____ Email: _____

Art League 18-month dues are \$60 (and you must be a member of the KIA);

Please check to confirm that you are a member of KIA: _____

May we use your information in the Art League directory? Yes _____ No _____

Make checks payable to Kalamazoo Art League

Mail to:

Art League Membership
 314 S. Park Street
 Kalamazoo MI 49007

- _____ New member
- _____ Renewing member
- _____ Rejoining former member