

Spring
2017

KALAMAZOO ART LEAGUE FOCUS

serving the KIA, our members and the community since 1955



*Kalamazoo Art League Presents
Annual Meeting and Lecture*

**Election new 2017-18 Board Directors
Recognition retiring Directors**

Comics, Graphic Novels, and the Tradition of Visual Storytelling



Award-winning illustrator and writer Sean O'Neill is the featured speaker at our last lecture of this season. Prior to publication of his first graphic novel, Sean was known for his series of live-drawing "whiteboard" videos on language. While his work reflects interests in the serious subjects of history, science, and architecture, it is described as fun and playful. Like many endeavors, creating fun and playful graphic novels involves a lot that doesn't immediately meet the eye. As Sean writes, "Comics and graphic novels are...part of a long tradition of visual storytelling going back, not just to 20th century cartoonists like Will Eisner and George Herriman, but all the way to classic works like the Bayeux Tapestry."

In his talk, Sean will discuss how his work fits into this tradition, and how he uses imagery to develop characters, create mood, and tell a story. Enjoy as you learn about a form of art that may not be familiar to you, but is more popular than ever before. You may even be tempted to find out why GeekDad.com voted *Rocket Robinson and the Pharaoh's Fortune* one of the Best Books of the Year in 2013.

Prior to the lecture we'll recognize retiring Directors, and members will vote on next year's new Board Directors. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

6:30 pm in the KIA Auditorium

Art League Members FREE
KIA Members \$10
General Public \$12
Students w/ID \$3

**Art League accepts cash,
checks and credit cards**

Spring 2017 Calendar of Art League Lectures & Events

March 8

Joe Lucchesi, PhD, Prof.
*Discovering
Romaine Brooks*
Lecture—10:00 am

April 12

Joseph Becherer, PhD
Chief Curator,
*Building America's Garden
of Art from Rodin to
Ai Weiwei*
Lecture—6:30 pm

May 10

Sean O'Neill, Illustrator
*Graphic Novels and
the Tradition of Visual
Storytelling*
Lecture—6:30 pm

depARTures

April 26

Art & Apple Blossoms
—enrollment closed

May 16

**Muskegon to Meijer
Gardens—from Edward
Curtis to Ai Weiwei**
—enrolling until April 14



FOCUS

Spring 2017

2016-17

Board of Directors

Marissa Harrington
President

Diane Eberts
Vice President

Karen Matson
Secretary

Janae Aasen
Treasurer

Barbara Brose
Past President

Laura Cathcart

Jennifer DiGiuseppe

Becky Marvin

Becki Moffett-Moore

Aubrey Rogers

John Schmitt

Pat Turner

Darlene Warren



A Message from the President

WOW! What a busy spring and summer we had. I am so grateful to be a part of an organization that continues to add programming to the artistic landscape in Kalamazoo. This spring and summer will be no different as we prepare for exciting upcoming lectures, an awesome depARTures trip in May, and elections of our 2017–2018 Board Directors. If you love the direction that we are going and would like to give back, please consider volunteering for the Artists’ Dinner in June, or for joining a committee. We would LOVE to have you! Once again, thank you so much for your outstanding support.

Warm Regards, *Marissa Harrington*

Art League presents
Dr. Joseph Becherer, Chief Curator Meijer Gardens
Building America’s Garden of Art from
Rodin to Ai Weiwei
Wednesday, April 12 @ 6:30 pm KIA Auditorium

You may remember from reading the winter issue of Focus that Dr. Becherer is a highly regarded scholar, as well as an engaging speaker. As Chief Curator and Vice President of Collections and Exhibitions at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, he has led an ambitious acquisition endeavor, building a nationally recognized art collection. Find out more on April 12, and then join Art League friends for refreshments following the talk.

Note: *Dr. Becherer’s insights about the artist Ai Weiwei will provide an excellent preview for Art League’s May 16, depARTure to Muskegon & Meijer Gardens. Details on page 3.*

Art League memberships are valid for a 12-month season which begins each July. All members of the KIA are eligible and invited to join Art League.

Volunteers Needed to Feed Hungry Artists
No cooking required!
Five years ago Art League accepted an invitation from the KIA to serve the Friday night dinner to Art Fair artists. Our participation soon became our annual event as members discovered it’s fun and very satisfying in addition to being a great service to the KIA.
Details are at www.KalamazooArtLeague.org. You are invited to join our team of volunteers by signing up at the KIA reception desk or at KazooArtLeague@gmail.com. The dinner takes place on Friday, June 2.

April 14 is the Enrollment Deadline



depARTure MAY 16, 2017

Muskegon Museum of Art
Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian

An exhibition of national significance, this is the most ambitious undertaking of the Museum's 104 year history. Featuring over 700 images, never exhibited in their entirety!



Anthropologist and scholar *David Brose, Ph.D.* will help us understand the powerful, yet controversial work of *Edward S. Curtis*; plus *Art Martin*, Muskegon's Director of Exhibitions will provide behind-the-scenes insights into producing this once-in-a-lifetime show.

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
Ai Weiwei at Meijer Gardens: Natural State

Artist and activist *Ai Weiwei* is internationally recognized as one of the most important cultural figures of our time. He champions free speech and global human rights through his art, from sculpture to photography, and his wildly followed social media posts.



Meijer Gardens Chief Curator and VP of Collections and Exhibitions, Joseph Becherer, PhD. will welcome us upon arrival. After lunch docents will lead small groups to all the various locations of *Ai Weiwei's* work, and tram drivers will take us through the spacious gardens.

Art League members \$114
KIA members \$134
Non-members \$164

Includes transportation on luxury coach, all admission fees, tours, tax & tips. Enjoy tasty snacks and beverages on the bus and a light lunch in the Meijer Gardens Cafe.

Names of nominees to the Board Directors will be posted on the website by April 12
Members will elect Directors at the Annual Meeting on May 10, 2017

SAVE THE DATE

Membership Celebration
Wednesday, October 11
6:30 pm

art - music - food - beverages
friends & fun
and a wonderful speaker
talking about a current KIA exhibit

THANK YOU

The Art League would like to thank *George Baltmanis* for serving as the staff liaison on the Board for the KIA and wish him a very Happy Retirement! He was instrumental in helping us develop our rigorous mission plan and goals and the bylaws that support those goals.

Contact tour leaders Barbara or David Brose for details at 269 382-2118

Enrollment forms are available at the KIA reception desk and at
www.KalamazooArtLeague.org

Art League memberships are valid for a 12-month season that begins on July 1 and extends through June 30.

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

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FOCUS

SPRING 2017

The Mission of the Kalamazoo Art League is to fund, organize, and sponsor an annual lecture series and other activities to promote understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the visual arts.

We value and actively support diversity and inclusion on the Board, in our membership, in the lecture series and other programs we offer.

The Kalamazoo Art League is a 501c3 nonprofit organization; donations are tax-deductible.

Early Renewal Brings an Extra Benefit Share Art League with a Friend

It's easy! When you introduce friends to Art League you have the pleasure of hosting them at an enjoyable lecture and reception. Your friends learn more about art and enjoy the reception too. Perhaps they decide to become members themselves! Art League is again offering a popular early renewal incentive — a free pass you can use to bring a friend to any lecture next year. Just make sure you renew by June 10. New members who join by the June deadline will also receive a guest pass for next year. *Membership dues are the financial foundation on which we build each lecture season.* Whenever you send in dues you are saying, “yes” to another year of bringing vital and engaging speakers to Kalamazoo!