

Belmont Art Association Meeting: September 11, 2018

Location: Belmont Gallery of Art

Members in attendance: Patricia Crotty, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas, Irene Fairley, Susan Kottler, Ned Levering, John Norton, Dari Paquette, Derrick Te Paske, Brita Riley, Fleur Thesmar, Jane Wentzell

A Productive Meeting

1. Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas began the meeting by welcoming new members Ned Levering and Brita Riley of Indigo Fire Pottery Studio.
2. Members' current shows: John Norton has a group show at Gallery 416, is participating in Allston Open Studios in October and another show in West Acton. Jane Wentzell has a show at Coldwell Banker (Arlington?).
3. Naomi and John briefly discussed the Mass. Cultural Council grant sponsored workshop *Portraits in Fabric*, scheduled for 9/22 but thus far only had 4 people registered. [The workshop was subsequently cancelled.] The next workshop is supposed to take place in November, Floor Cloth Painting (placemats). Naomi suggested replacing it with a kumihimo class since the previous one was well received. She is contacting the teacher.
4. Naomi has switched the BAA email platform from Mail Chimp to Constant Contact. Constant Contact has changed its format and is presenting some challenges. Naomi could use an assistant with BAA communications and is seeking volunteers.
5. Naomi, Erika and John attended the Meet Belmont Community Information Fair table for the BAA at Chenery Middle School on the very hot evening of Tuesday August 28th from 6-8 pm. For the BAA display, Dari Paquette created a tabletop exhibit and looping slideshow of BAA members' artwork, along with various flyers, to introduce our work and organization to new Belmont residents and other community members. The event went very well despite the uncomfortable climate. The tabletop display, slide show and many of the printed materials will be able to be used again at future events.
6. Next month's meeting will take place at 7pm on Tues. Oct. 16th at Hagop's Art Studio, 33 Belmont St, Cambridge (near Sofra Bakery and Café). Tom Coppi will discuss the nuances of professionally framing 2-D artwork.
7. April 2019 BAA show at the BGA: We will ramp up preparations for the members' show in January, 2019. Current and returning members must help produce the show. Possible themes for this show that were discussed at the March meeting include New Growth, Alive, Inspired by Other Artists, Creation, Flowers, and Current Work. These are subjects general enough to appeal to many artists.
8. The BAA survey asking for members' opinions about the future direction of our group has not yielded many responses. The BAA is seeking new members and is considering ways to reorganize and revitalize. Members' opinions are requested. Membership benefits include:
 - a. Participation in our annual show
 - b. Listing on BAA website with bio and artwork photos
 - c. Discount at several area merchants with a BAA membership card
 - d. Workshops, lectures, and field trips of interest to artists
 - e. Social and networking opportunities with other Belmont artists
 - f. Contributing to public awareness of local artists with more opportunities to market and sell one's work
 - g. Information on local exhibition opportunities
9. Rebecca Richards, director of the BGA, is interested in greater collaboration with the BAA. This includes hosting more of the BAA meetings at the BGA and developing and sponsoring programs with the BAA. *For the BAA to meet at the BGA, our meetings would need to switch from Tuesday to Thursday nights because the town has priority for use of the gallery for meetings on Monday-Wednesday evenings.

10. Indigo Fire Pottery Studio, 60 Concord Ave, Belmont: Ned Levering, owner and potter, and his studio manager, Brita Riley, also a potter, introduced themselves and described their pottery studio and their business. They primarily teach adults but have some kids' classes and many independent study students. They have 15 pottery wheels, handbuilding tables, three kilns, and host Friday and Saturday night BYOB studio time. They proposed joining the BAA in hosting a pre-holiday small works show at the BGA during the weekend of December 7-9. A party with local musicians could accompany this pop-up show and sale which would feature work by BAA members and Indigo Fire students. Indigo Fire has the staffing capability to manage most of the event. Ned will be speaking with Rebecca Richards to see if this is feasible.

Minutes recorded by Jane Wentzell with additional notes by Dari Paquette.