

Belmont Art Association Meeting: February 7, 2019

Location: Belmont Gallery of Art

Members Present: Martha Bazakas, Paul Beckingham, Nicole Bernstein, Laura Dozor, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Erika Hartweg (Outgoing Treasurer), two friends of Erika's, Linda Hicks, Kay Hudgins, Tony Kastor, John Norton, Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary). Dari Paquette was absent due to family health reasons.

Business Meeting

1. Dari picked up the BAA hanging system plus additional units from Karla Cohen when she closed Gallery 613 (not sure exactly how many pieces) and is storing items for the BAA in her home. Karla also gave BAA a sidewalk chalkboard sign to use if we have open studios and other events.
2. Anne Katzeff made a document listing various BAA accounts for web hosting etc. She prepared a login and password for Paul B. to allow him access to our website and start posting BAA updates. Paul posted the minutes from our last meeting very promptly! Dari resized and sent Anne several images of member artwork that she had on file from various BAA projects. Anne wants to update the website theme (owned by Warren Croce and which she can't update) before giving Paul more to do with the site. She will be incorporating the images Dari forwarded to her, but is in the process of phasing out doing BAA updates, which Paul has taken over.
3. A BAA member has made a small donation in honor of the work Anne has done for the group.
4. Erika Hartweg has also done an amazing job as our treasurer this past year, putting time and energy into getting our financial situation in order after taking over from Rick and Christine. Unfortunately, Erika will be stepping down at the end of February. Bert Halstead has graciously agreed to take over as treasurer and membership record keeper, effective February 20th.
5. Annual dues for 2019 should have been paid by the end of Jan. We use the dues to pay the web hosting and domain registration fees, etc. There are a number of benefits to membership including: supporting an arts presence in Belmont; camaraderie of being with fellow artists; monthly meetings that generally include artist presentations; and member discounts at many venues, all listed on our website under the "Join" tab. At present these include Indigo Fire, The Picture Place (formerly Hagop's), Big Picture Framing, any location, Hollingworth 5&10, Play Time, and Mosaic Oasis.
6. We need to firm up plans with the BGA regarding a BAA show this year. Spring is already full with two shows: Matthew Gallagher solo show March 16-April 6 and Birds, Blossoms and Botanicals April 22-May 15 with Lauren Meier as guest juror. The latter is an Open Call for Art Show, and BAA members are encouraged to submit entries. The annual Schools Art Show opens mid May-June 2, so a BAA show could go up afterwards. Fall 2019 is getting booked up as well. If the BAA wants a group show in 2019, we will have to move quickly to prepare a concrete proposal to Rebecca including a theme and suggested dates. IF members want to have a show, they must be willing to help plan it, hang it, etc. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A GROUP ENDEAVOR.
7. Paul Beckingham will be presenting his work at our March meeting, which will be Thursday March 7th at the BGA. Paul is a painter of contemporary realism and photorealism in oils, primarily on aluminum composite material. Paul has been training under Mark Carder, and is currently being coached by Stefan Baumann.

Presentation by Erika Hartwieg

Erika gave the group a very enjoyable presentation on her 50+ years of work, accompanied by interesting stories. She began in 1962 in Germany as a lab technician preparing samples for electron microscopy. She made full use of an available darkroom for her photography. Moving to the USA in 1973, she again worked with electron microscopes at MIT and continued to utilize the darkroom facilities there. When the darkrooms were closed due to the advent of digital photography, she inherited a lot of equipment and chemicals, which allowed her to continue her work. Erika's creativity had fertile ground to develop at MIT, with proximity to the pottery studios and readily available discarded lab equipment left out in the halls for anyone to pick up. Her enthusiasm and energy have created a fine body of work in many different media, including etchings, photography, pottery, sculpture made from lab equipment, and bead crochet. Attendees felt privileged to see her work and hear about her artistic process.

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617- 489 - 0412

Additional contributions from Paul Beckingham and Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas

Edited by Dari Paquette and Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas