

Belmont Art Association Meeting: June 24, 2020

Location: Our second Zoom meeting was led by Co-Chair Dari Paquette, with 13 people attending:

Members Present: Nicole Bernstein, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Irene Fairley, Bert Halstead (Treasurer and Membership Coordinator), Kay Hudgins, Anne Katzeff, Susan Kottler, Liz LaManche, Debbie Page, Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Fleur Thesmar, Ian Todreas, Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary).

Meeting

1. Transformer Box Project: Three transformer box design submissions were chosen by the Selection Committee, which included representatives from the BAA, the BGA, and the Belmont Town Manager's office. This competition was open to everyone over age 18 in the Belmont area. Two local artists were chosen. Dari said, "We loved all the designs submitted." Artists were selected whose concepts were unanimously appreciated and whom the committee felt could paint professional-looking designs with materials designed to withstand time and the elements. Three boxes were specified by the Town Administration, and we anticipate outstanding work for this fledgling project.

The two artists chosen were present, and they spoke about their planned transformer box work. Liz LaManche, a known public artist, spoke about her current work at Artists' Row in Derby Square in Old Salem, where she painted a design on a brick walkway using masonry floor paint with a clear coating. The transformer box near the Town Hall was ready for work after removal of nearby obstructions from a damaged road sign. Liz plans an abstract floral design evoking both Belmont's agricultural history and the stained glass windows in the historic Homer House across the street. Liz will also be painting at a second location. The box at the intersection of Pleasant and Brighton Streets is near an oriental carpet store and will be a colorful simulacrum of a carpet wrapped around the transformer box.

Ian Todreas, of Updog Gallery, spoke about his plan for the transformer box he was chosen to paint at Trapelo Road and Slade Street. Ian paints dog portraits in watercolor that focus on each dog's personality, and he will translate this work to the box, with different dogs on each side. This design will be especially pleasing to dog walkers and dog owners, of whom there are many in Belmont!

While the boxes are being painted, Roger Coulton will conduct a video interview with each artist through the Belmont Media Center. The video will show the artists working and will help publicize the BAA's "Transforming Belmont" project. The boxes will be painted during the summer.

2. Artful Nature at the BGA: The spring show at the Belmont Gallery of Art is still hanging in the Homer Building with no accessibility. Several BAA members have artwork in this show. Dari posted images on Facebook. Adine Storer, co-director of the BGA, worked with Frederique Rigoulot from the Belmont Media Center to produce a video tour and discussion of the show in four segments. These videos range from 15-24 minutes in length, are extremely well done, and can be viewed at:

<https://www.belmontmedia.org/watch/artful-nature-bga-exhibit-1>

<https://www.belmontmedia.org/watch/artful-nature-bga-exhibit-2>

<https://www.belmontmedia.org/watch/artful-nature-3-070620>

<https://www.belmontmedia.org/watch/artful-nature-4-071520>

3. Online Gallery: Dari reminded people to email images of their work to add to the gallery on the BAA's Facebook page, "Creating During Covid-19." This is an ongoing gallery which she updates whenever she receives new artwork images.

4. Next Meeting: Our September meeting will probably also take place using Zoom. Naomi will send out a Constant Contact email announcing the date and time. **Make sure you RSVP in time to receive the invitation to join the meeting!** This procedure is necessary for security.

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617- 489 - 0412

Edited by Dari Paquette