

Belmont Art Association Meeting: April 21, 2022

Location: Our sixteenth Zoom meeting was brought to order by Naomi and Dari with 17 people.

Attendees: Sheila Benedis, Nicole Bernstein, Jessica Caruso, Diane Covert, Jennifer Dubost, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Helen Hankin, Martha Heller, Theresa Herlihy, Laura Hern, Kay Hudgins, Kirstin Ilse, Anne Katzeff, Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Catherine Pujol-Baxley, Derrick TePaske, and Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary).

Business Meeting

1. **“Transforming Belmont” Update:** The BAA received a grant from the Belmont Cultural Council to design and paint two more utility boxes this year. Dari is trying to fundraise to enable us to paint more boxes; she has connected with Glenn Clancy and hopes to finalize the Call for Entries soon.

2. Calls For Entry, Etc:

- Ian Todreas is having a Y’Art Sale in his yard on 4/30 from 10am – 4pm to benefit Ukranian refugees through the Ukranian Crisis Relief Fund via GlobalGiving. Art will be deeply discounted, and ALL PROCEEDS will go to the cause. Address: 16 Chenery Terrace, Belmont
- Lexington Open Studios – BAA members are invited to participate this year. Early registration ended 4/16, but applications are still being accepted through April 30th.
- LexArt has a Call for Entries for a 2-D show called, “Coastline: A Celebration of the new England Shoreline and Coastal Way of Life,” which will be on display from May 20 – June 2. Submission deadline is May 1st. See our last newsletter for more details.
- “Belmont Climate Art Collage” seeks community artwork squares by April 24th. The finished collage will hang in Homer Hall.
- The library is looking for artists for a panel discussion at their Teen Career Fair on April 23rd regarding why students might want to consider a career in the arts. Info posted on our FB page.

3. BGA News:

- “Bits and Pieces” exhibit continues, featuring mosaic, collage, and assemblage. It is great to see in person. The variety is amazing. This Saturday, the BGA will host a meditative stitching workshop. Next Saturday 4/30, BAA Co-Chair Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas will teach a ribbon bead class at the BGA, along with showing a video of the home, studio and work of Janet Haigh, a British jewelry and embroidery artist who has collaborated with renowned textile artist Kaffe Fassett.
- BGA’s birdhouses painting public art project “Nesting” is being coordinated by BAA member Kirstin Ilse and is planned for April and May. They are looking for artists to paint the birdhouses and volunteers to help hang them in suitable locations.

4. Belmont Cultural Council members Kathleen Hagan and Vicki Amalfitano arranged an opportunity for three artists to show their spring-themed work in the windows of an empty storefront in Belmont Center at 48 Leonard Street, between Il Casale and Marcou Jewelry. Artists are Jane Levin (recommended by the BGA), Jessica Lomeli, and Catherine Pujol-Baxley (BAA members). The work will be on display until the end of April; they will continue to look for other opportunities for artists to show their work around town.

5. **Artist Pages on BAA Website:** Member artists can have their own page on the BAA’s website. Submit a head shot, photo of your work, and a paragraph about your background and artwork to belmontart02478@gmail.com by late April in order for webmaster Anne Katzeff to create your page. Images should be 72 dpi and 1200 pixels wide. Check belmontart.org to see other artists’ pages.

6. **May Meeting:** Next month at our May meeting we will be delighted to discuss the latest collaborative effort of long time BAA member and webmaster Anne Katzeff and her partner, Peggy Kornegger (featuring Peggy as writer and Anne as artist and graphic designer): a book titled, “Inside the Rainbow: Soul Connection in Nature;” along with Helen Morse’s recently completed memoir, “The Difficult Girl.” Also a long time BAA member, Helen used her photographs and graphic design skills to self-publish her book. The unifying themes of this joint presentation are using language as a medium to communicate,

and using art and photos to better communicate.

7. Welcome to new members! We have about a dozen new members. This month we will hear from six of them as they introduce themselves and their work. In June we will learn about several other new members.

Presentations

1. **Sheila Benedis** has been an artist for many years. She has done everything from baskets to artist books, collage and sculptures. Her current specialty is making artist's books out of paper incorporating a combination of imagery and text (poetry) embedded in a woven structure. She showed us a brightly colored book with curving edges that is currently in the BGA's "Bits and Pieces" show, called "Rushing Onward." It is a combination of paper collage and marker.

2. **Jessica Caruso** introduced herself second; she described herself as a retired language teacher (French and Spanish) now taking acrylic painting classes at NewArt in Newton. She showed us some of her paintings, encompassing a scene in France, an Icelandic glacier, a scene from Great Meadow in Lincoln, and gardening with her two grandchildren. Her website is jessicacarusoart.com

3. Our next artist was **Jennifer Dubost**, a returning member who specializes in pastel portraits of people and pets. She is getting back to her artwork post responsibilities and Covid. She spoke about using the delicate medium of pastels to sculpt the depth of skin tones. She showed us a portrait of her daughter and one of her dog. She has recently exhibited at the BGA. Her website is jenniferdubost.com

4. Documentary photographer **Diane Covert** spoke about her long career in the Midwest. She showed us photos she took of Presidents Carter and Ford, the prisoners in the Jackson County Jail, a meatpacking plant in Kansas City, and economically struggling families in Missouri. She later moved to the Boston area and photographed local Holocaust survivors, and then became interested in the survivors of political violence. She worked with hospitals in Israel to collect x-rays and CT scans of civilian survivors of terror attacks in Jerusalem. She printed them on Duratrans, a special x-ray film, and displayed them backlit in an installation supported in free-standing kiosks. It was seen by roughly 1.8 million people and received international coverage. Several years later she created a similar installation after seeing an old catalog of photographs of anti-Jewish violence, (pogroms), made during the Russian Civil War period. This project explored why large groups of Jews fled their homes in Eastern Europe and came to the US in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Both the "X-Ray Project" and "Why They Left" were on display at the Belmont Media Center in 2011. You can visit <https://www.x-rayproject.org> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1jxAw_LTKc

5. Our fifth presenter, **Martha Heller**, has been a ceramic and clay artist, a costume designer, and is now working as a self-taught textile artist. She has a piece in the current BGA show and will have collage work in the upcoming Gallery Twist show. Martha experiments with the chemistry of natural dyes to design and craft quilts and wall hangings. She grows indigo, coreopsis, chamomile, and more in her garden and only uses vintage or repurposed materials. Her website is marthahellertextileartist.com

6. **Catherine Pujol-Baxley** is a microbiologist who studies and develops biochemicals, biofuels, and sustainable agriculture. She received a PhD in Microbiology from France's National Institute for Agricultural Research and completed post-doctoral studies in plant pathology at the Universities of California, Davis and Berkeley. She grew up in France and moved to the US about 25 years ago. She moved to Belmont in 2020. Needing a creative outlet, and with zero professional art training, she employs very fine detail to paint watercolors of flowers and animals. She does pet portraits, botanical art, commissioned house portraits, and sells prints and home goods on her website. Her paintings have been part of the window display in Belmont Center mentioned earlier. She also paints on cloth. Her website is embelliedesigns.com

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617- 489 - 0412
Edits and additional notes by Dari Paquette