

Belmont Art Association Meeting: June 25, 2022

Location: Our 18th Zoom meeting was brought to order by Co-Chairs Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas and Dari Paquette, who welcomed new members once again. There were 14 people present.

Attendees: Sheila Benedis, Nicole Bernstein, Jennifer Dubost, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Irene Fairley, Bert Halstead (Treasurer and Membership Coordinator), Helen Hankin, Martha Heller, Laura Hern, Anne Katzeff (webmaster), Lauren Palmer-Merrill, Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Minna Rothman, 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, and we have outside funding for two additional boxes. The Call For Entries is live on our website, and the deadline for entries is June 18th.

2. Member News:

- Lexington Open Studios was very successful! Minna Rothman won first prize in the textile category. Helen Hankin now has a juried show.
- Bert and Louise Halstead have a photography show at the Beech Street Center, “Views of Iceland,” from June 1-30. There will be a reception on June 8th at 1pm. The show displays some of the beautiful photos they took on their trip to Iceland this past September.
- Martha Heller is in several exhibits. Two are: Inspiring Change for the Climate Crisis exhibit at Arthaus Galley in Allston (which will be seen at other galleries in coming months); Under the Sea and Over the Rainbow at Mosesian Center for the Arts- artwork of all types for children (Grace Julian Murthy also in this show).

Presentations

Tonight’s program features another eclectic and exciting group of our new members, who will introduce themselves and discuss their work.

1. Helen Hankin: lives in Waltham. Covid gave her the opportunity to focus on her artwork during retirement. A mixed-media artist, she is constantly experimenting and enjoys the process. She creates abstract and semi abstract work. She loves her blue palette and uses no specific symbolism.
2. Laura Hern: grew up creating art with her mom. During high school went to MassArt, FIT for college and worked in the fashion industry for 10 years. Now creating hand-illustrated greeting cards and hand-embroidered crafts as a business, Bow & Stern Designs.
3. Lauren Palmer-Merrill: her great-great-grandmother grew up on a tobacco farm and has paintings in a museum. Lauren grew up in Belmont and took art classes during the summers. Also studied French and Clinical Analysis, which is her professional career in elementary education. She uses art as self-care and enjoys many different media: photography, acrylic, mixed media, collage, fiber arts (hand-dyed yarn – sewing, knitting, weaving). Her flying geese quilt block in the BGA show “Bits and Pieces” is painted geese over oil pastel.
4. Minna Rothman: started weaving in 2014 with Navaho techniques. She is a handwoven tapestry artist and physicist who worked in complex climate modeling. Now retired, she has lived in Brookline for 40 years, but originally was from Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Her in-laws were members of an earlier iteration of the BAA in the 1960s, plus Rockport Arts. She uses Gobelins techniques and many others and has 7-8 looms. She had work in the Climate Change tapestry show at the BGA in 2019 and also does watercolor paintings. For tapestry shows, the weaver must show all four edges of a piece. She uses various intricate tapestry techniques including Aubusson and others to create original designs of organic images. She uses commercial yarns and maintains high standards for all silk, linen and wool yarns that she incorporates into her work. Her tapestries appear in national and international exhibits, and she has won awards for her creations.