

News from *Under the Oaks*

Micanopy Community Council for the Arts, Inc. 501 (c)(3)

Volume 4, March 2005, Number 2

President's Notes

Once again, "Gallery Under the Oaks" comes to Micanopy. On March 19 and 20 the tents go up around the gazebo. We have a good mix of new and repeat artists along with the up and coming junior artists. The Gator Nationals are going on this weekend so there will be quite a crowd in the area. Look forward to more publicity coverage both here and in Ocala, as MCCA is getting wider recognition. We have two exciting changes for the artists participating in the show. The first is a new awards program. Mallory O'Conner and Lauren Garber will be judging the art. Both these ladies are art professors and artists in their own right. Cash awards include, from MCCA, Best in Show, Honorable Mention and Best Jr. Artist. There is also \$300 in Purchase awards sponsored by Pearl's County Store, Custom Caterers and The Law Office of David Etherington. The second major change is that there will be a cap of \$100 on commissions paid to MCCA. This was done to even out the playing field and still allow an opportunity for everyone to participate and have a venue to exhibit or sell their work. It's going to put a little strain on the income for MCCA, but in the long run, we feel it will give us more diversity and representation from a wider pool of member artists.

At the last Board Meeting, we reviewed the Membership Program and came up with some changes. Membership now will revolve around date of enrollment. You will receive a membership card and be notified of renewal by a red sticker on your newsletter, "Under the Oaks". We are also negotiating with a number of art supply stores in the area to offer a discount on purchases made by our members.

And finally, the time has come to pass the baton. From our beginnings as a group sitting around the front porch hashing out ideas, to what Micanopy Community Council for the Arts has become today, this has been a most rewarding and exciting adventure. Those who were involved at the beginning included Annabelle and Nancy Leitner, Eva-Jo Callahan, Jean Tyson, Kim Hirsch, Dan and Sharon Eberlein, and Sonya McDaniel. Today's roster includes Rudy Strohschein,



Win Blazier preparing for show

Eva-Jo Callahan, Ed Geers, Robin Waters and myself as the executive board. Other board members are Sue Smith (publicity), Alana Kolifrath (membership), Marianne Gamble (webmaster), Brenda Osborne (newsletter), and Cheryl Baldwin, Pam

Hager and Melody Foreman looking after the junior artists. Janet Jones continuously has made sure there was music for the Gallery shows. We have had on average 70 members per year and today the newsletter goes out to almost 200 interested parties. To everyone who has rolled up their sleeves and pushed this effort along, I say "Well Done". MCCA has filled a void in the community and has the foundation and structure to move on to greater heights. We have explored many avenues for how an organization such as this should impact the community and its people, and with new blood, comes new ideas. MCCA is still in its infancy, but the future holds much promise and success.

Luke



artist: Irene Salley, see Spotlight on page 2

Artist Spotlight - Irène Salley



Irène Salley is a relative newcomer to the world of painting, though she is a long-time veteran of the world of art. Having lived in Paris for over a decade (after moving there from her home island of Guadeloupe in the French

West Indies), she developed early on a love for the stories and emotions expressed in the works of Post-Impressionist artists. Indeed, she spent much of her time in Paris attending art shows and exhibitions, absorbing all the vivid, raw, and often troubling images that artists such as Picasso and Matisse instilled in their paintings. Salley, however, wasn't compelled to take up the brush herself until she moved to the United States.

After moving to the States, away from the great 'stone city' of Paris and into the quaint wooded prairies of north central Florida, she developed a deep appreciation for the local scenery. She was profoundly affected by the natural beauty of the South and believes it is partly responsible for driving her to paint.

To explore the vivid colors she sees in the plants, flowers, and trees that surround her provides Salley with the perfect outlet for both her new-found discovery of nature and her long-standing love of painting as expression. And, it provides those of us who view Salley's work with a unique perspective of the landscapes which dominate the Southeastern United States – a perspective teaming with the vitality and spirit of Post-Impressionist artists such as Cezanne, Gauguin, Vlaminck and Van Gogh.

Like these artists, and others of the Post-Impressionist period, or more specifically the Fauvist movement, Salley is in love with color and motion. She is not concerned with capturing the physical realism of the image before her, rather she is intent on combining her emotional reactions with the essence of the nature she sees around her... the intense colors emanating from the flowers, bushes, and trees of the surrounding Florida landscape.

When asked about the emotional connection between herself and her paintings, Salley explains, "Only when I understand and capture my mood before the painting takes its shape, am I able to bring to light the story I see before me. Only then does it become more than

a simple exercise... it becomes a celebration, a feast of color, that I can come back to and know I've achieved what I intended."

Salley's technique evokes that of traditional Post-Impressionists, like Cezanne or Van Gogh. She paints fast to capture the raw emotions she feels, covering a canvas of seven square feet in less than four hours. Her brush moves in rhythm to the intrinsic sway of her subjects, as well as the classical music playing in the background of her studio. The music, chosen to reflect and amplify her mood, provides the melody along which she applies her paint in giant, surging brush strokes or short, rapid swipes of her painter's knife. She is, in fact, in love with the process of painting almost as much as she is with the subjects and stories of her art.



And what do these stories say about Irene Salley as French artist and American nature lover? Merely that art, as an entity, can be discovered within even the most ordinary scenes – those which surround us daily. Salley, herself, discovered it amidst the subdued swamps of Florida, only after leaving behind the glamour and prestige of Paris. In fact, it may be this "escape from the extraordinary" which allows someone like Salley to achieve that certain stillness of heart from which art, beauty and emotional awareness can be fully realized.

For 2005 exhibit and show schedule visit Irene's website at www.irenesalley.com. ✱



Lee and Tom Staley with friends entertaining the crowds

Show and Purchase Awards

Best in Show \$50

Best Junior Artist \$25

Honorable Mention \$25

Special Thanks - The following businesses are sponsoring the Purchase Award program. Each have promised to buy \$100 worth of art from the MCCA artist or their choice.

Pearl's Country Store

The Law Office of David Etherington

Custom Caterers

Also, a special thanks to Marlene Oberst and The Shop for her support of the show.

Gallery Under the Oaks

Following is a list of the participating artists in this month's show:

J.W. Baker

Win Blazier

Mabelin Castellanos

Dana Cavallero

Marianne Gamble

Kat Harris

Lennie Kesl

Annabelle & Nancy Leitner

Bryan McCartney

Howard Seitz

Rudy Strohschein

Jean Tyson

Gary Borse

Tom Brady

Peter Carolin

Jacki Collis

Reisa George

Frank Hurt

Alana Kolifrath

Judy Lindberg

Irène Salley

Sue Starling

Linda Triebe

Ty Tyson

Jr. Artists

Holly Foreman

Casey Foreman

Amber Carter

Sarah Waters

Caroline Lesousky

Teis Hennessy

Jennifer Foreman

Robyn Prichard

Robin Waters

Michael Lesousky

Ama Hennessy

Great Food

Janine & Dan Dylla & crew

Welcome New Members!

Gary Borse

Sue Starling

Barbara Franklin Martin

Teig Hennessy

Irène Salley

Robin Prichard

Amy Hennessy

MCCA Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 19, at The Herlong Mansion Conference Room

Date: March 19, 2005

Time: 5:30pm Sharp

Place: Herlong Mansion

starting at 5:30, following the close of Saturday show. Again it will be a pot-luck dinner with Janina Dylla (466-0307) and Eva-Jo Callahan (591-0579) working behind the scene. You can co-ordinate with them regarding what you would like to bring. If you are in the show and time does not permit bringing food, a \$5.00 cover will do. The Election of Officers will take place at the meeting.

Roster for Executive Board Elections

President:

Linda Treibe

Vice President

Luke Osborne

Treasurer

Alana Kolifrath

Secretary

Ed Geers

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting

Bragging Rights!

MCCA members awards and upcoming events:

Please let us know what is happening with you. Send us information about your awards and events.



Need to contact us?

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