



NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Greetings all! I hope everyone had a nice summer, and found time to be creative. Me, I like the cooler weather and the light effects downtown this time of year. The summer heat and wild-fires dried the paint way too fast when sketching en plein air.

As you will no doubt already be aware, our Club is relocating. This decision was made after much scouting and consultation and extensive deliberation, and the Executive and I feel we've made a good choice — although, given the nomadic nature of our Club, no decision regarding location is ever truly permanent, and we will continue to keep our options open.

We are happy to announce that we are now live with sketch nights, at our new location, and at a new time: Monday evenings 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Archwood Community Centre, 565 Guilbault Street, upstairs on the second floor. The drop-in fee for approved guests is still \$10, payable to the Treasurers or convenor on duty.

-Thomas Steur

Keep reading for more about the move, what our members are doing, and what's happening around town.



Watercolour of our new home at Archwood Community Centre, 565 Guilbault Street, by Thomas Steur

What's Great About the New Space?

I think we'll be very happy in our new arrangement, and here are some reasons why:

1. The Space: The facility is clean and very well maintained. We'll be sketching in a spacious well-lit room on the second floor of the Community Club. There is enough space for lots of members and drop-in artists to gather around a model, with possibilities of sketching in rows of seated and standing artists as we have been doing, or who knows — even sketching 'in the round' for a figure drawing night.



Sketch of WSC sketch night...long ago, artist unknown

2. Accessibility: The space is accessible to all, regardless of physical ability or mobility limitations. There is an elevator. We have members who have wanted for years to come out regularly, but simply couldn't manage the stairs. Now we can truly welcome all our members.

3. Parking and Safety: The Archwood has a large parking lot, with more than enough spaces for everyone to park close to the doors. We will lock the front door when we are settled in upstairs for the evening. In wintertime, let's walk each other out to our vehicles at the end of the evening and make sure everyone is on their way home safely before the last of us leaves.

A Few House Rules

Because a new beginning like this is a prime opportunity to start with good habits, we have a few new house rules:



1. If you are using messy media such as chalk or paint, please cover the floor underneath your workspace with a sheet or some plastic. We will try to have some construction plastic roll on hand. Members are to clean up after themselves. A broom & dustpan and mop & pail will be available. Let's stay in the Archwood Community Centre's good books.

2. Safety First: The downstairs (main) doors will be locked at 7:00 p.m. It's okay if you're late; just ring the doorbell & one of us will come down and let you in.

3. In winter, we are to remove dirty footwear before entering the room. Winter footwear can go on the boot trays in the hall just outside the room. Members who don't want to walk in their funky socks should bring indoor footwear, although socks are of course fine too.

More Ways to Help!

We have an Exhibition Committee whose task it is to (1) find a venue for, and coordinate, next year's Annual Juried Exhibition, and (2) find a Juror who can adjudicate our show. We need to start on these things pretty soon. Exhibition Committee members, you know who you are. But additional help is always welcome!



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Some Ancient Stuff to Think About

Moving has advantages and disadvantages. One complication we face every time we move is that we are pretty much forced to downsize, which can lead to making some hard choices. WSC is at this time having to deal with two collections:

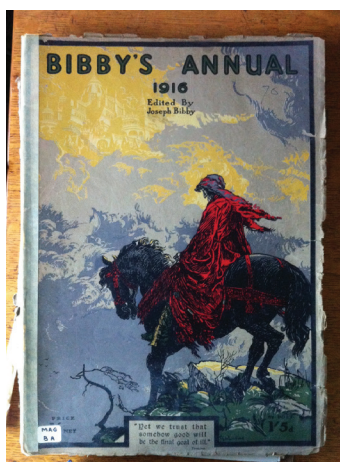
1. Our Musty Library

Do you love old books? I know I do, but my ratio of spines to shelves reached its tipping point already a few years ago, and I really do not need any more! Our Club has in its possession quite a collection of books related to art: art history, art theory, schools and methods, past exhibition catalogues of other Canadian collections, and other miscellany. The lot of it was appraised by a professional within recent years, I'm told, and this book buyer apparently bought only one and left the rest.



We do not have room for any books at our new digs, so what to do? The more common, non-antique volumes have been added

to the Forum Art Centre's ongoing book giveaway, so if you're there, take an armload. The most interesting books — the old, the rare or arcane, the truly beautiful — are in my possession for now, but I'll share. If you have an interest in any of these books please get in touch with me and you can take them away. (See pictures for examples.) If no one expresses an interest, I may, despite my better judgement, keep most, or try again to sell to some unsuspecting antiquarian, with proceeds to the Club.



Another great sketch of WSC long ago - artist unknown

2. Our Amazing Archives

Any archivists out there? I spent a most enjoyable day last summer sifting through most of our Archives, which I strongly suspect have been downsized several times over already. The issue here is the same as for books: What to keep, and where? And what among it is truly valuable and irreplaceable? (See pictures for examples.)

We could consider approaching a venerable institution like the WAG / qaumajuq, or the Universities, or the Manitoba Museum, to see if any of them have an interest in preserving our Club's unique slice of Manitoba history. Some works were made by notable past members — for example, we have prints of woodcuts by our founder, Alexander Musgrove. Lots of others are pretty terrific too, including things by artists who were never famous but whose work, in my opinion, could hold their own against anything made today. Remember, we are 110 years old next year, and we are SO MUCH a part of Manitoba's history that I'm surprised we don't have a Heritage Minute vid by now.

It's also been suggested that works can be professionally scanned, and kept only on digital media.

If you have thoughts on how best we can deal with our Archives, please get in contact with me. And if anyone knows of living relatives of past members whose works we have in our possession, again, please let me know, and if we can repatriate something to a family, by all means, let's.

And it's not just artworks - there's also fantastic pastel portraits of members from bygone days (except for George, who is, thankfully, still with us), boxes of scrapbooks of members' records, AJE programmes, schedules and forms so old they blong in a museum, and newspaper articles about us from waaay back...

Congrats!

Wanda Slawik's solo show is still on until 24 September, in Carman. Take a trip and go see!

<https://www.goldenprairieartscouncil.com/2023-exhibitions/wanda-slawik>

Mohan Tenuwara also has a solo show at the Pulse Gallery in the Johnston Terminal from 31st August til 30th September. It's at The Forks, folks. No excuses.

<https://pulsegallery.ca/artists/mohan-tenuwara/>

If anyone else has a show coming up, either by yourself or as part of a group exhibit, let us know, and we'll promote the heck out of it! - Thomas

Lastly, What's Happening in Winnipeg??

There are SO many things happening in Winnipeg through the Fall, I couldn't begin to list them all. What I CAN say is don't forget about Culture Days, starting with Nuit Blanche!

Nuit Blanche, Saturday, September 23rd - <https://nuitblanchewinnipeg.ca/2023-events/>

Culture Days: from September 23 - October 15th - https://culturedays.ca/en?gclid=CjwKCAjwjaWoBhAmEiwAXz8DBdhV-mR_cLhRQUHFsaH_IF7CLOWXC6YwPuzIMlvCjbZG6ETTYu-DcxoCsPoQAvD_BwE