MISSION

The Sioux City Art Center’s mission is to enrich our region’s quality of life by bringing the excitement of the visual arts to our community through education, exhibitions and permanent collection.

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Jeanine Coupe Ryding, Seeing Stars, Woodcut print on Hanji paper
Curtesy Olson Larson Gallery
Report from the Director

Spring in Sioux City is a hopeful season, even if it is the most unpredictable. Hopeful and unpredictable: I think that’s where the Art Center is as we approach spring 2021. From exhibitions and classes to fundraising and promotion, our activities are shifting gears. We are not yet preparing to open things back to our full capacities and levels of interactivity. But we are looking to the future with great optimism, and we have great confidence in our ability to deliver exciting programs without the need to gather indoors in large groups.

Among the events and programs we always look forward to during the spring are exhibitions such as The Briar Cliff Review Exhibition, Youth Art Month Exhibition, and an exhibition of artworks made by children in the Head Start program of the Community Action Agency. All three exhibitions were impacted last year by our Covid-19 closure. We also welcome back Sioux City Art Center Selects, back for its third incarnation and quickly becoming one of the upper Midwest’s most significant juried exhibitions.

In the Gilchrist Learning Center, we will welcome students back into the building in March. Classes will be kept small to allow for social distancing with a mask requirement to assure the safest possible environment for you and your family.

And we are planning a unique and creative fundraising event that will run a full week, May 1-7. We will be rolling out details on our “Pure Imagination” project as they are finalized. To reach as many people as possible and to make fundraising as much about the “fun” as it is the “fund,” Pure Imagination will consist of both live and online events, which are designed to awaken your senses. Make sure you reserve time to participate!

Because this March through May newsletter is written and designed during January, the activities presented here could very well have changed by the time this reaches you. I encourage you to follow us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information and to visit our website for additional clarification. As always, you should feel free to give us a call if you have any questions.

For information about becoming a Business Partner, please contact Erin Webber-Dreeszen at (712) 279-6272 ext. 232 or ewebber@sioux-city.org

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New & Upgraded Memberships
(October – December)

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Bold – New memberships
*italics – Upgraded memberships

Sioux City Art Center

GILCHRIST LEARNING CENTER

Shake off the winter blues and start the Spring season exploring and creating art! We are excited to announce that we are now able to offer in-person studio classes. The class sizes will be limited since social distancing is of the utmost importance. Should students wish to learn via virtual ZOOM classes, they may do so from the comfort and safety of their home. Classes begin March 29 and run through May 7. Our annual in-person Spring fling workshop will take place on Saturday, March 27. Registration is required as space is limited due to social distancing. Art Camp for children is back and will begin in June. Five 2-week camps are geared toward the art loving 7-13-year-old child. Morning, afternoon and full day sessions are available. Registration begins in April.
CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

20 Artists, 20 Parks
January 30 – May 9, 2021
Main Gallery

“Wilderness in the source of what we can imagine and what we cannot – the taproot of consciousness.”  Terry Tempest Williams

In her remarkable memoir, *The Hour of Land*, naturalist Terry Tempest Williams writes eloquently on the relevance of national parks marking the centennial of the National Park Service with a reverence that can be extended to all parks. *20 Artists, 20 Parks* celebrates the state parks of Iowa that recently celebrated their centennial. Williams reminds us that parks are “portals and thresholds of wonder … breathing spaces for a society that increasingly holds its breath.” Iowa’s beautifully diverse state parks have inspired visitors from around the country ever since Backbone State Park opened in Delaware County in 1920. A century later, the parks’ natural beauty remains a source of creative inspiration. Organized by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs; the Iowa Department of Natural Resources; and Iowa State University, the installation showcases artwork that 20 Iowa artists created during the summer of 2019 while working in 20 state parks to celebrate the state parks’ centennial anniversary. Artist Carol Faber worked in Sioux City’s Stone State Park. The Art Center is pleased to partner with Stone State Park and the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center to host an outdoor photo contest. Winners in the youth, amateur, and professional categories along with the grand prize winner will be displayed at the Nature Center and the Art Center beginning April 9 and running through May 9, 2021.

Youth Art Month Exhibition: Elementary School Students
February 13 – April 11, 2021
Jensen, Everist, and Terra Galleries

This annual exhibition celebrates the artwork of Siouxland students from the tri-state area. The 2021 installation includes creative expressions by elementary school students in diverse styles and materials. The juror for this year’s exhibition was Professor Cory Knedler from the University of South Dakota.

Pieces of the Puzzle: Artwork by Head Start Students
January 30 – April 25, 2021
Community Gallery

The Sioux City Art Center is pleased to present artworks created by the children who are supported by the Community Action Agency of Siouxland Early Childhood Programs. The Head Start Program supports learning for low-income children from the age of three until the child is age-eligible to begin kindergarten. Innovative learning is encouraged through play, creative expression, and guided activities.
20 Artists, 20 Parks

Paula Streeter (Ames), *The Lodge*, 2019, Acrylic paint on linen, Gull Point State Park

Barbara Walton (Ames), *The Weight (I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud)*, 2019, Oil on panel, Pikes Peak State Park

Kimberly Moss (Ames), *Backbone Unearthed*, 2019, Wood, watercolor, colored pencil, digital rendering, Backbone State Park

Youth Art Month Exhibition

Maren Dreckman, *A Good Day*, Mixed media, Gehlen Catholic, First Place - Fifth Grade

Betsy Olson, *Flamingo*, Tempera paint, Kingsley-Pierson, Curator's Choice - Fourth Grade
NEW EXHIBITIONS

The Briar Cliff Review Exhibition
April 22 – July 18, 2021
Jensen, Everist, and Terra Galleries

Virtual Reception: Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day), 6:00 pm

The Briar Cliff Review Exhibition includes artwork by local and regional artists featured in the 2021 edition of The Briar Cliff Review, Briar Cliff University’s award-winning journal of literature and the arts, now in its 33rd year. The Art Center installation is an exciting mix of artwork showcasing a diversity of media, style, and techniques from contemporary Midwestern artists.

Join us online for a digital reception featuring the visual artists and writers featured in this year’s Briar Cliff Review.

Siouxland Artists, Inc. Annual Competitive Exhibition
May 8 – August 8, 2021
Community Gallery

Siouxland Artists, Inc. is a local arts organization dedicated to fostering the development of the visual arts and spreading the appreciation of art throughout the community. Members from the Tri-State are of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota include amateur and professional artists working in a variety of media.

Sioux City Art Center Selects
May 21 – September 12, 2021
Main Gallery

Sioux City Art Center Selects is a regional juried/curated exhibition with accompanying programing designed to create a more meaningful experience for both the selected artists and the audience. The call for submissions is open to all artists in Iowa, as well artists living within a 300-mile radius of Sioux City. Eight artists were selected based on digital images of artwork, with specific selections for the exhibition chosen during follow-up studio visits by the Art Center’s curator and director. The goal of the exhibition is to showcase contemporary regional artists of superior quality, outstanding creativity, and displaying a consistency of aesthetic vision. The Sioux City Art Center organized the inaugural Sioux City Art Center Selects exhibition in 2016, hosting a second installation in 2019.

In addition to the exhibition, during the opening weekend, May 21 – 23, 2021, exhibiting artists will participate in a program called The Artistic Experience. Due to ongoing uncertainty about the Coronavirus Pandemic at the time of the Quarterly Calendar publication in January, plans for The Artistic Experience remain flexible. The eight exhibiting artists will give presentations (either in person or via a digital platform) on the creative development of their work. Please check the Art Center’s website and social media for updated information.
Pure Imagination
May 1 - May 7, 2021

A week of delights
at the Sioux City Art Center
All exhibitions and programs are supported, in part, by a grant from the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts; the Art Center Association of Sioux City; and the City of Sioux City.

We support local art programs because they matter. Art ignites our imagination, makes our lives more vibrant and brings our community closer. So let’s join together to support the creativity and dreams of the children in our schools and neighborhoods. Because it matters.