

MIXED MEDIA

Reading Art Association
P.O. Box 114
Reading, MA 01867
www.ReadingArt.org

May - June 2020



Remainder of RAA Season Canceled

As you probably know already, the remainder of the Reading Art Association 2019-2020 season has been canceled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is simply not possible to have a large number of art lovers congregating in tight spaces for the show. Therefore, the RAA Board decided to cancel the rest of the events scheduled for this season.

As far as I can remember, this is the first time that one of our exhibits has ever been canceled.

The RAA board is going to be working hard to make the 2020-2021 season happen as normal, although there are no guarantees during these chaotic times. Check the web site later, as we will be posting the status there as the situation evolves.

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

I hope you and your families are safe and well. As we all practice social distancing and self quarantines, let us take this time to reflect on what we have, count our Blessings so to speak. I know it can be difficult during this tough and uncertain time to see the positives - but it's important to remember that every day is a gift, a blessing. Now more than ever it's important to stay healthy and keep fighting, taking the necessary precautions and follow the advisories and recommendations from State and Town authorities as well as the CDC.

Also, I know we have a few members who are on the front lines who put themselves at risk in order to help and save others. I can't put into words the gratitude and admiration I have for you. From the bottom of my heart. I THANK YOU! for all that you do.

Hopefully soon we'll be able to get back to some normalcy. My love and prayers go out to all of you.

Rick

Message From Your Mixed Media Editor

The RAA Board has decided that it is necessary to end the printed and mailed version of the Mixed Media newsletter. While we are aware that some of our members are not comfortable with internet technology and rely on the print media, it has become too expensive for us to print and mail the newsletter.

Like so many other organizations, Reading Art Association is running out of money. Our funds are just about depleted, and when they are gone it will not be possible to sponsor the shows and demonstrations that we have been doing for over 60 years. While most of the work is done by volunteers, we still have to pay rent to the Congregational Church for the space. We also must pay the demonstrators and judges. Refreshments for the shows and demos are not free. Ribbons must be purchased, and the cash awards must be funded. There are lots of expenses.

Annual dues and exhibit fees make up the bulk of our income. However, about half of our membership has not paid dues in several years. Without the income, we must pay the expenses out of our

savings. Hence, the savings have been going down for some time.

Therefore, the Board decided that it would be best to end the print issue of the Mixed Media and save the money we were spending on that for the shows and demos. The Mixed Media will still be published and available online at our web site. You can simply read it online, or if you want a paper copy of it, you can download the file and print it. We will continue to send occasional email reminders of demos and shows as well as letting you know when the next Mixed Media issue has been posted.

If you want to receive reminders, send your email address to webmaster@ReadingArt.org. Similarly, if you want to be removed from the list, send us an email requesting your removal and we will take you off the list.

Brian

Important Notice About Your Dues

As mentioned in the above paragraphs, membership dues are an important part of RAA income. A large percentage of our members have not paid dues for several years. Without the income from the dues we are hard pressed to meet our expenses. Please pay your dues each year so we can continue to provide the events that we have all become accustomed to.

We have changed the schedule for dues payment. In past years your dues were due on the anniversary of your membership start date. That procedure has caused an undue amount of bookkeeping for our treasurer. Hence, we are going back to the way we used to do it: All dues are now due on September 1 for each season. Please add an event to your calendar to pay your RAA dues by September 1 of each new season.

Another important change is that we have found it necessary to increase the membership dues from \$25 per year to \$30 per year. The last time we raised the dues was in 1998 when it went from \$20 to \$25. That was 22 years ago. Considering the financial straits that we find ourselves in and the effects of inflation, the Board decided that a small increase in the dues would be justified, and would be helpful toward balancing our budget.

In Memoriam Ingeborg Burggraf

It has come to our attention that one of our long time, beloved, members, Ingeborg Burggraf, passed away on April 14.

Inge created fanciful collages using all natural materials like seeds and tree bark and grass. Her works displayed her wonderful sense of humor and were well loved. She will be missed.

People Doings...

Not much going on. Everyone is staying home and staying safe.

Opportunities...

DRAW

DRAW stands for "**Downtown Reading Art Walk**".

The DRAW events that were scheduled for June have been postponed until September to coincide with the Reading Street Faire. This is in the planning stages, and nothing is guaranteed. But if all goes well, we will still have the event in the Fall.

So continue to paint. Send photos of your art to the DRAW committee. As you recall, local artists are invited to create two-dimensional works of art that fit with the theme "2020 Visions of Serenity".

Art work will be displayed in the downtown area at various venues through the month of September. The exact dates have not been determined yet.

The DRAW committee can be contacted at the email address draw01867@gmail.com. For more information, go to the Facebook page,

www.facebook.com/DRAW01867

or to the HomeTownDays web site,

www.hometown01867.com

Tewksbury Library Exhibit

I do not know if the Tewksbury Library exhibits are continuing or not. To find out about status and cancellations, get in touch with Val at

vjb@valeriejeannesart.com and she will send you the information.

webmaster@ReadingArt.org

Each exhibit hangs for approximately two months. Each exhibit has a theme. Here are the remaining themes for 2020.

May 26 -2020 **UNDER THE SUN**

Pickup is July 28th

July 28 - 2020 **NEW ENGLAND**

Pickup is Sept 22nd

September 22 - 2020 No Theme – new works since Jan. 1, 2020

Pickup is Nov. 27th

November 24-2020 **WINTER'S WHITE**

Pickup is Jan. 26th 2021

More information and application forms are available at the web site.

tewksburycommunityofartists.com

Exhibit your work at the Reading Library

The Reading Library is currently closed with an unknown opening date. As far as I know, they will still be hosting the ongoing series of art exhibits in the Studio when they open again. To find out the status of the exhibits, contact Eileen Barrett at the library. Her email address is barrett@noblenet.org

Exhibit your work at the Pleasant Street Center

The Pleasant Street Center is closed until further notice, so we cannot hang any new art for a while. However, we anticipate that the exhibit will continue once they open up again. If you would like to show your work at the Center, let us know. We will put you on a list and let you know what is going on. You can contact us at our email address webmaster@ReadingArt.org.

Whitelam Bookstore Display

The Whitelam Bookstore is closed for the duration of the lock down. After the Bookstore opens again, we will resume hanging paintings. It has space for a single painting over the fireplace. We swap the painting every month. Let us know if you would like to exhibit your work in the bookstore. The schedule is flexible because of the closure.

Happenings...

Spring Show

The Spring Show has been canceled this year.

Deadline for next Mixed Media

The next issue of Mixed Media will cover September and October of 2020. The issue will be published in late August or early September. I am setting the deadline for Friday, August 28.

Email news to

webmaster@ReadingArt.org

or send using the US Post Office to

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A Final Word

There is a lot of negative news in this issue of Mixed Media. But do not lose heart. Let's work hard together to keep Reading Art Association going and as vibrant as it has been for the previous 60 years. There is nothing quite like the RAA in Reading, and we do not want to lose it.

Take Care. Be safe. Be well.

Brian Kimerer
Your Mixed Media Editor

RAA Contacts

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Spring Show

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