

Artists with Disabilities Alliance (AWDA)
Tuesday, October 14, 2003
at Outsiders & Others Gallery, 1010 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis
6:00 social time -- 6:15 meeting starts -- 8:15 adjourn

Participants: Yuri Arajs, Suzanne Byrne, Paul Hanson, Tara Innmon, Daryl Jenkins, Laurie McKiernan, Chris Osgood, Joy Purchase, Mary Schmitz, Lynn R. Schwartz, Jon Skaalen, Janet Winckler

Meeting Host: Yuri Arajs, curator of the Outsiders & Others Gallery (612-338-3435, www.outsidersandothers.org) talked briefly about his current "Lawyers as Artists" exhibit running until Nov. 8, about the next exhibit, "Strictly Women," opening Nov. 15, and another exhibit, "Playthings," featuring found objects, opening Nov. 22 in the Uptown area. Artists can submit work samples at any time for consideration in his future shows. Submit up to eight images, an artistic resume and artist statement (to tell briefly about your work) so Yuri can see if it fits into the mission of his gallery or the theme of a future show. Send to Outsiders & Others Gallery, 1010 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55404. He also shared some really tasty drinks donated by Kemp's, a sponsor of the gallery's current exhibit.

Artist of the Day: Laurie McKiernan performed a story, "Stop Preening and March," recalling a notable marching band experience on her high school's football field. She will perform again on Nov. 7-8 at 8:00 at Patrick's Cabaret (see Artist Announcements below).

Discussion:

* Joy Purchase facilitated a discussion of the Support, Mentoring and Promotion areas of potential focus / services which a group of artists worked on July 15th.

1. **SUPPORT:** established through

* Support groups / types to be determined by demand – such as artists who experience depression and how they can work through blocks; dealing with isolation; highlighting successes and challenges; these could be addressed through a co-counseling process with a timer to assure that everyone can participate; Tara Innmon and Lynn Schwartz agreed to work on a format or structure for the November meeting.

* Critiques / facilitated by members for members – Laurie McKiernan has a method to critique involving emotional/technical response; this gives the artist more control to say what they want in terms of critiquing. She will further explain and help teach this method. Critiques and involvement of other artists would help artists to see their art objectively and further improve their art. A challenge would be to format meetings to create an environment of constructive, supportive critiques. Co-facilitators at meetings could provide back-up and resource assistance.

* Resource information – such as where to find studios, rehearsal spaces, professional development workshops, advice on resumes, work samples, portfolios, grant-writing, auditioning, how to market books/articles/plays, etc., how to get one's work into the community, obtain video equipment to record performances (Chris Osgood at Springboard for the Arts), helpful web site addresses (such as for Jaws Software to make meeting notes accessible to members who are blind or of low vision), etc.

* Trading skills

2. **MENTORSHIP:** established through

* Workshops / facilitated by members for members

Types of workshops to be determined by demand; can include but not be limited to:

+ Techniques in mediums

+ Grant writing – this could be a separate meeting

+ Resume building

+ Artist statements

+ Dealing with disappointments (slow sales), denials (of grants), etc.

+ How to prepare for auditions, how to get into a show, etc.

+ How to promote yourself, your art, your show – perhaps taught by Dean Seal or by visual artists who have had success in preparing effective brochures, websites, etc.

+ Develop business skills to get an artist's work out into the community

+ How to get donated space for workshops, exhibits, performances, etc.

+ How to structure a workshop

+ "Threshold Of Earnings Seminar" to show how not to lose Social Security Insurance/SSDI benefits if arts income exceeds specified level. (Jim Czechowicz of the SSA has offered to present at one of our future meetings.)

+ Audience Building – "the list" of people you want to reach via mail or e-mail

People who give workshops can then add these experiences to their resumes.

Joy Purchase will create an outline for how to submit a workshop plan or proposal – where it would be done, size of class, estimated costs and supplies, etc.

+ Advocacy – perhaps led by Rachel Parker, an advocate at PACER Center

3. **PROMOTION:** established through

* Creating a web site / billboard – how to develop an accessible website (Jaws can read it)

* Community projects

* Creating group venues

* Creating a larger annual festival of arts for artwork by artist with disability labels.

4. **PUBLIC AWARENESS:** established by

* Creating a presence through artistic expression.

* Promoting the work of artists with disability labels.

* Political Activism / dictated by individual interests.

Old Business:

* **Minneapolis Community & Technical College (MCTC)** Global Extravaganza (for Global Diversity Week) is looking for table displays from artists (no selling) and performers to participate on Wed., Nov. 19 --

9-12 Artist display - 9-1 Jewelry display - 12-1 Lunch/Presentation - 12-3 Performers

Participants: Janet W., Tony W., Pamela, MariJayn D., Margo Rochelle, Lynn S., others?

- * **Dunn Bros. in Linden Hills** (2814 W. 43rd St., Mpls., 612-925-5669) offers an opportunity to display art & jewelry. They also showcase performers Fri.-Sat. 6-10 pm. Need a volunteer to get more details from Chris or Drew. Possible participants: Tara, Tony, Margo.

Artist Announcements:

- * **Char Coal** and **Bridget Riversmith** both won awards at the Artability at Apollo show (Oct. 2-4 in St. Paul). Char sold all of her paintings at Artability on opening night.
- * **Tara Innmon** will present some of her art and poetry during the Seward Art Crawl on Saturday, Nov. 8 from noon to 5:00 at her house, 2016 27th Ave. S., Minneapolis (a half block off Franklin and a few blocks from the I-94 exit at Riverside).
- * **Laurie McKiernan** will perform a piece called "When the River Floods, You Don't Walk In With Your Hands Up" on Fri.-Sat., Nov. 7-8 at 8:00 at Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis. Five other artists/groups will also be presenting work that evening. Tickets are \$6 (no one turned away due to lack of funds). All ticket income is divided among the performers. Patrick's Cabaret is wheelchair accessible. So that everyone can be comfortable, please do not wear perfume, cologne or other scented products. For more information, go to www.patrickscabaret.org or call Patrick's Cabaret at 612-721-3595.
- * **Leslye Orr** will do some storytelling and talk about her new kids book, The People on the Corner, as the Artist of the Month on KFAI's "Disabled and Proud" radio show Tues., Nov. 25 at 7:00 to 7:30, on 90.3 fm Minneapolis and 106.7 fm Saint Paul.
- * **Maureen Pranghofer** will give a concert at Church of the Open Door on Nov. 14, and will be on KTIS radio on Nov. 6 promoting her new CD and previously recorded songs.
- * **Bridget Riversmith** (Duluth) will be in the "Strictly Women" show at Outsiders & Others.
- * **Lynn Schwartz** will show and sell her photos Nov. 6-8 at Eden Prairie Center and Nov. 28-30 at the St. Paul Armory on Maryland Avenue.

NETWORKING:

Our website: www.Angelfire.com/mn3/awda

- * Remember to check there for meeting notes, and fill out an Artist Profile

Events:

Workshops:

- + Heidi Arneson Performance Workshop Nov. 5- Dec. 17, Wed., 6:30-8:30 at Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls. Cost \$180. 612-362-3381.

Job Opportunities:

Resources:

- + Great Frame Up in Minnetonka is looking for framers or for artists to train how to frame work for display; part-time or full-time; free framing of work if employee. 952-931-9212.

Grants:

- + State Arts Board Pilot Grant Program to Fund Minnesota Artists, \$2,000-6,000: deadline Nov. 21
- + VSA arts of Minnesota Artist Recognition Grant, \$1,000: deadline Nov. 14

Calls for Art:

- + Jewish artists living with mental illness in Minnesota are asked to submit entry applications by Feb. 1 for an exhibit to take place May 6-20, 2004. Sponsored by the Mental Health Education Project and Rimon: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council, the call for art will be administered by Outsiders and Others Gallery. Send up to 10 slides or photos (and a SASE

if you wish to have them returned), write a detailed description that matches the slides submitted (title, dimensions, media) and label with your name, address, city, state, zip, phone and e-mail. This info and your art may be used for promotional purposes. If your application is accepted, you must deliver or ship your art to and from Outsiders and Others, 1010 Park Ave. S., Mpls. 55404. If you need artwork framed, Outsiders and Others can frame your work or refer you to others to present the work well and keep it affordable. All work will be available for sale; artists receive 55%, Outsiders and Others 45%, with transactions completed within 30 days of the end of the exhibit. For more information, call 612-338-3435 or go to www.outsidersandothers.org

Next Meetings:

- * Tuesday, Nov. 18 at Interact Center for Visual & Performing Arts, Inside-Out Gallery, 212 Third Ave. N., #140, Minneapolis; 612-339-5145; www.interactcenter.com; enter from Second Street N. (below Moose & Sadie's coffeeshop, next to the House of Balls) We will hear reports from Lynn/Tara, Laurie and Joy, and see photos by Lynn Schwartz.
- * Possible Future Dates:
Dec. 9 or 16 – a celebration together
Jan. 13 or 20; Feb. 10 or 17
- * Possible Future Hosts: Outsiders & Others, Northern Clay Center, Patrick's Cabaret, Intermedia Arts, Bryant-Lake Bowl, Stevens Square Art Co-op, Bloomington Art Center, Hennepin Center for the Arts, Anodyne Artist Co., Hopkins Center for the Arts, and other locations that would be free.

8:00 Meeting adjourned 15 minutes early!

Regrets from people who could not attend Oct. 14: Rachel Parker, Eric Peterson, Brian Stavig, Sunny Steinmetz, Gail Burke and Amy Frimpong (State Arts Board)