

**Artists with Disabilities Alliance (AWDA)**

**Tuesday, November 18, 2003 – 6:00 to 8:15 PM**

Interact Center for Visual & Performing Arts, Inside-Out Gallery

212 Third Ave. N., #140, Minneapolis, 612-339-5145, [www.interactcenter.com](http://www.interactcenter.com)

**15 Participants:** Monique Bourgerie, Suzanne Byrne, Char Coal, Deb Costandine, Deb Helmke, Tara Innmon, Bill Lipkin, Terry Mayer, Chris Osgood, Rachel Parker, Joy Purchase, Bridget Riversmith, Lynn R. Schwartz, Jon Skaalen, Janet Winckler

People who arrived at 6:00 were able to check out the Inside-Out Gallery's "Surfacing" exhibit on Raku and Fiber Art. Interact visual arts staff members Joy Purchase and Deb Helmke were hosts and answered questions about the gallery art.

The meeting opened at 6:15 with brief introductions. Joy Purchase talked briefly about Interact's visual and performing arts programs.

**Artist of the Day: Lynn Schwartz** presented slides of her photography, mostly black & white, as well as samples of greeting cards using her photos. She will be exhibiting her work at the Magic Carpet Coffee Shop in Lowertown St. Paul at 509 Sibley St. (between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in the Renaissance Square Building housing the Loading Dock Theatre) just off I-94.

**Discussion:** In response to past discussions about wanting some meetings available for support group experiences, some for workshops on various art topics, and some opportunities for mentoring and promotion of participants' art, three members volunteered to present reports.

**Tara Innmon** presented a proposal for Guidelines for Support Group meetings. People offered feedback, which she will incorporate into a revised version of guidelines and a short mission statement about support groups that will be circulated to members and placed on the website. The groups are intended to be small, lasting about 90 minutes at the start with all information shared kept confidential within the group. People could take turns leading the group. Each person would say who they are and respond briefly to an opening question. More in-depth sharing could take place after everyone has had a chance to participate. If more people come, people could divide into two groups, or sessions could last longer.

**Joy Purchase** presented a format for making Workshop Proposals. This format could be used for offering workshops to our group or through other sources such as community education, arts centers, VSA arts, Springboard for the Arts, etc. The format would include a description of the subject, the objective (what skills or information would the workshop address), background info on the presenter, cost (\$2 for instructor plus fee for materials), class size, location, date, time, registration procedure and cancellation details. Workshops should be accessible & affordable.

On the priority of **Promotion** events and opportunities, possible venues may include the Fringe Festival Visible Fringe or Frinj of the Frinj (at Center for Independent Artists), Powderhorn Art Fair, VSA arts Festival, or a separate AWDA event on a cohesive theme. Joy Purchase said that **Dean Seal** has offered to assist in this area. He is past director of the Fringe Festival, has written a guide for how to promote and sell a show for under \$100, and currently publicity for Interact and a column for *Skyway News* while he attends school.

**Laurie McKiernan** will discuss a Mentoring process at a future meeting.

## Other Business:

- \* **Janet Winckler** and **Lynn Schwartz** will participate in a Global Diversity Week fair at **Minneapolis Community & Technical College** on Wed., Nov. 19. Artists who wish to display their art (no selling) or perform at other times should contact Kim Engman, MCTC Office for Students with Disabilities, [Kim.Engman@minneapolis.edu](mailto:Kim.Engman@minneapolis.edu) or 612-659-6735.
- \* **Dunn Bros. in Linden Hills** (2814 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> St., Mpls.) offers an opportunity to display art & jewelry. They also showcase performers Fri.-Sat. 6-10 pm. If you are interested, call Chris or Drew at 612-925-5669. A sample process for pitching your work is included in VSA's Artists' Pipeline or will be available at the next meeting.
- \* **Our website:** [www.Angelfire.com/mn3/awda](http://www.Angelfire.com/mn3/awda). Remember to check there for meeting notes and updates. Fill out an Artist Profile and send in website links you think are helpful to MariJayn Duchene at [opusarts@aol.com](mailto:opusarts@aol.com).

## Artist Announcements:

- \* **Bridget Riversmith** (Duluth) and **Jane Gerus**, St. Paul, are in the "Strictly Women" show at Outsiders & Others (1010 Park Ave. S., Mpls.). Bridget is also in "We 3: The Artwork of Sarah Anderson, Bridget Riversmith & Adeline Wright" at the Lakeview Coffee House in Fitger's Mall, Duluth. Opening reception is Fri., Dec. 5, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Both exhibits are up through the end of December.
- \* **Maureen Pranghofer** gave a concert on Nov. 14 at the Church of the Open Door in Maple Grove. Her CD of original Christian music, "Some Run the Race," is available at Northwestern Christian bookstores.
- \* **Leslye Orr** was the Artist of the Month on KFAI's "Disabled and Proud" radio show (90.3 FM Minneapolis and 106.7 FM St. Paul) on Tues., Nov. 25 from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. She told stories and talked about her new kids book, *The People on the Corner*.
- \* **Denise Martineau** has been hired as part-time coordinator of a statewide series of Careers in the Arts workshops for VSA arts of Minnesota.
- \* **Tony Wentersdorf** is coordinating an Open Mike night at Walker Community Church, 3104 16th Ave. S., Minneapolis, on Fri., Dec. 12; sign-up is 7:00; the night goes until 9:30.

## Networking Announcements: (Events, Workshops, Resources, Grants, etc.)

### Grants:

- + Dec. 10 deadline for letters of interest online: The Beaumont Foundation of America provides grants for Toshiba laptop computers to schools in low-income areas (at least 50% of school student population is eligible for National School Lunch Program) and for persons with disabilities. Individual grants appear to be by invitation only. Letters of interest are required for school programs that meet the guidelines. FMI: call 1-866-546-2667 or go to [www.bmtfoundation.com/grants](http://www.bmtfoundation.com/grants). These awards seem to be the result of a class action lawsuit and are required by the court system.
- + Jan. 7 Deadline: Artwork created by Minnesota artists with mental illness is sought for a poster campaign promoting the employment of people experiencing mental illness. Two winning artists will each receive a \$500 stipend and have their art reproduced as 17" x 22" posters distributed to employers, providers of mental health services and the general public. Artists will be recognized at a public reception in February at the Minnesota Department of

Human Services office in Roseville. For guidelines, contact VSA arts of Minnesota at 612-332-3888 or (statewide) 800-801-3883 or [craig.vsarts@bcmn.com](mailto:craig.vsarts@bcmn.com)

- + Jan. 21 deadline: Disabled Artist Juried Exhibition is looking for all kinds of artwork by artists regardless of experience or formal training. The exhibit, to run May 13-28, 2004, aims to encourage patients and visitors to reach beyond limitations and encourage the creative spirit in everyone. No entry fees. All work must be available for sale. Submit to Ruth Hall-Daly, Viewpoint Gallery, Sunnypoint Rehabilitation Hospital, 1270 Belmont Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308; or <http://www.sunnyview.org>. Or send SASE for application forms.
- + Submissions due in January: Lynn Schwartz is looking to collaborate with a writer for a book for the Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor Prize. This \$10,000 award from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University promotes the collaboration between a writer and photographer in the formative or field work stages of a documentary project. Lynn is open on the documentary topic. Contact her at 651-312-1277 or 651-206-3262.

### **Next Meetings:**

- \* Bring food, beverages, stories, music to share on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 6:00 to 8:15 at Interact, 212 Third Ave. N., #140, Minneapolis. We will celebrate our hard work and commitment in forming this group as well as to celebrate the holidays. Interact's year-end Inside-Out Gallery sale will be going on, and a tour of the visual arts department will be available. This is an "off" night for Interact's performers, who are doing an original "Outcast Elves Christmas Cabaret" through Dec. 20.
- \* Possible Future Dates: Jan. 13 or 20; Feb. 10 or 17; March 9 or 16
- \* Possible Future Hosts:
  - St. Paul*: Goodwill Easter Seal Society (one block north of University off Fairview); Anodyne Artist Co. (one block north of University on Carleton); Springboard for the Arts or the Minnesota State Arts Board (downtown)
  - Minneapolis*: Northern Clay Center, Patrick's Cabaret, Intermedia Arts, Bryant-Lake Bowl, Stevens Square Art Co-op, MN Textile Center, meeting room at Eric Peterson's apartment building, Outsiders & Others Gallery, Hennepin Center for the Arts, Center for Independent Artists, Interact
  - Bloomington*: Bloomington Art Center; St. Paul;
  - Hopkins*: Hopkins Center for the Arts;
  - Other locations that would be free

8:15 **Adjourn**