



Searching for truth and beauty, preaching through the transforming power of the arts

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OPalette editors express their deep appreciation to all those DIA artists who responded to our recent appeal for timely content for these pages. Your verbal and visual contributions (supplemented by dogged phone & email correspondence) testify to the perennial inspiration DIA artists provide for their congregations and how art impacts their diverse ministries. We hope that the sampling provided in these pages will spark your own creativity and encourage you to share it.

UPLIFT FROM DOWN UNDER

Sheila Flynn (Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands) writes to us now “from sunny Sidney” to describe a compelling example of how she incorporated art, spirituality, and social justice. First, she gave a theological reflection to high school students at Siena College in Melbourne on the life and impact of Saint Catherine of Siena which had inspired her series of



acrylic canvases.

“The students were then encouraged to look at the justice issues that form the shadow-land of what happens in Australia. They chose to look at the Aboriginal issue and hon-

ored their focus by utilizing the dot techniques in their imagery beside strong metaphors and symbols connected with Catherine’s life.” Since Sheila has spent many decades serving the people of South Africa, their influence is evident in her versions of the Dominican shield.

CELEBRATING A DETROIT RESURRECTION

by Nancyann Turner

“You can’t heal the land until you heal the minds of people”

Approximately thirty-two years ago, a young Detroit artist, Tyree Guyton, began his Heidelberg Project, an outdoor art environment in the heart of a struggling neighborhood on Detroit’s east side, with a mission to improve the lives of people and neighborhoods through art. That mission consistently embodies a theory of change based on his belief that citizens from all cultures have the right to grow and flourish and that, by using their diverse artistic attributes as building blocks, a community can redevelop economically and sustain itself from the inside out. During Heidelberg’s annual exhibition, local artists fill three square city blocks with artworks, all created from found objects **Detroit** cont. on p. 3

“ART MAKES ITS MARK” ON FORMATION

When **Lucianne Siers** DIA Board past president, began her latest ministry as Director of the Institute of Religious Formation at the Chicago Theological Union, she was delighted to learn that vocations to consecrated life are flourishing on every continent except Europe and North America and that formation personnel for this new generation comes to the U.S. for training. Last summer when she welcomed an international class of twenty-three “formators” to a left-brained curriculum heavy with lectures in theology and spiritual reading, she immediately recognized the need for some relaxing right-brain sessions with an artist to reawaken their creativity and perhaps, facilitate communication among them through a common experience of visual language. More importantly, Lucianne reasoned, the right experience of art could fulfill formation goals in personal development

Daley, cont. on p. 3



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the “perks” of being DIA President is having the privilege of chatting with so many of our members. Sometimes, it is by email but mostly through the courtesy of Alexander Graham Bell. We chat about lots of things – how we are doing personally, our art, our church, spirituality, books, politics, etc. Following these conversations, I often find myself thinking: “I never thought about it that way”.

Several months ago, a member and I were discussing art. She shared with me that when she was teaching art, she often told her students about Babe Ruth. (Being an avid Boston Red Sox fan, she had me at Babe Ruth and yes, I know the Red Sox traded him to the Yankees!) She went on to say that Babe Ruth didn't always hit the ball. Sometimes, he struck out. She said that it is the same way with our art. Sometimes we strike out.

Following that conversation, I did some research on Babe Ruth who was the greatest hitter in baseball history. His baseball career batting average was .314. Now there is a complicated formula to calculate a batting average but, bottom line, it comes down to the fact that when you are up at bat if you hit the ball 3 out of 10 times, your batting average is .300.

Last week, a member shared with me that she was really struggling with her painting. Thanks to that prior conversation with a member several months ago, I was able to share the Babe Ruth story with her. She liked the concept.

So the next time the colors don't blend, the notes in a musical composition don't seem right, the words won't come or the image is out of focus, remember Babe Ruth. He was the greatest hitter in baseball history and he only connected with the ball 3 out of 10 times at bat.

Take care of yourselves and be well. The weather is getting nippy so stay warm.

Peace, *Pat Daly*



Practicing the Arts in the Healing Professions

At DIA Gatherings, she is appreciated primarily for her dancing and drumming. But in Houston, Texas, **Dr. Phylliss Chapell** is recognized as a teaching physician who will soon introduce an academic course entitled The Healer's Art Elective. As Co-director of the program, she will be offering this enriching opportunity to first year medical students from McGregor Medical School and Baylor College of Medicine. In her “spare time,” Phylliss recharges her own batteries by playing with “Joy of Djembe Drumming,” an ensemble performing with the tradi-

tional African hand drum. Besides providing healthful recreation for themselves, these percussion artists reach across continents to address one of Africa's most serious problems, access to potable water. For two consecutive years, they have held benefit performances to raise money for the H Kumi Foundation, a funding organization founded by an immigrant to finance a system for providing clean water for the people in Ghana. Phylliss promises to give us more detail about her Healer's Art Elective” in our next **OPalette**.

Detroit, cont. from p. 1 —everything from houses to Teddy Bears. Exhibits are put together in ways designed to make people really think. Over the years, the Heidelberg Project has revealed three core principles found to be true in Detroit:

- Art can be a catalyst for promoting positive change in a neighborhood
- Art is a medicine
- Art changes attitudes in the short term and behavior in the long term.



Tyree Guyton’s inspired event boasts over 2000 visitors annually from over 144 countries. **Barbara Cervenka, Sue Schreiber, and Nancyann Turner** are among the most longtime supporters and participants. Sue and Nancyann recently participated in a wonderful three-day conference

highlighting the history and “mission effectiveness” of this unique outdoor museum where art has successfully focused an international spotlight on poverty and neglect.



Daley, cont. from p.1 and self-expression. Immediately she thought of **Joeann Daley** an artist always eager to explore new possibilities.



Joeann accepted the challenging request with the same enthusiasm with which she always embraces a new genre. In two ninety-minute sessions, Joeann presented neither a standard art appreciation lecture nor an inspiring Visio Divina meditation. She answered the perennial question, “What is art?” by giving the group hands-on experiences designed to release the fearful from self-inhibition and stimulate ways to explore new terrain. “I can’t draw a straight line myself, and probably no one here can either,” she assured them. “So, let’s just make marks on paper. No mistakes, just possibilities.” Outdoors, Joeann urged the class to observe how the Creator had made distinctive “marks” on grasses, weeds, rocks, and flowers. Gradually, blank white papers filled with a startling variety of rhythmic lines and shapes. The room filled with excitement and faces became radiant as the group relaxed, comfortable with a unique version of “continuing formation.” Joeann herself enjoyed engaging with a new population. Her impact encourages Director Lucianne to hope that this distinguished professor will return next year to contribute to the CTU Hesburgh Sabbatical program.



“JUST TO LIVE IS HOLY”

“Women Religious and a Tradition of Art, Faith, and Justice”

Sinsinawa artist Joeann Daley contributed two etchings and a cup to the current exhibit at the Dubuque Museum of Art “honoring the work of artists affiliated with a religious order, each of whom has made a unique contribution to our understanding of the relationship between art and faith.” Highlighted in the exhibit was the work of the late Iowa-born Corita Kent, IHM. Her startling serigraphs—for example, “damn everything but the circus”—were ubiquitous in popular culture of the sixties. The show continues through January 6, 2019.

AAAAAAAAAA

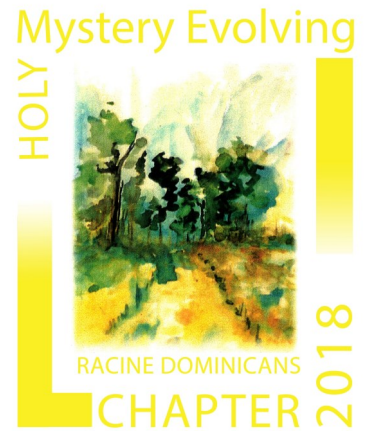
Sister Magdalena Ezoe regrets to announce that physical therapy prescribed after a recent fall has precluded her monthly piano concerts for a while. She hopes to resume them in the spring.

VARIATIONS ON FAMILIAR THEMES

These are the results of OPalette's recent call for samples of designs members had done for events in their congregations.

Holy Mystery Evolving was the theme for the Racine Dominicans' 2018 Electoral Chapter. For a Chapter communication logo Barbara Kukla chose to symbolize this mystery with a gentle watercolor. With a few brushstrokes the picture creates an invitation to quiet, thoughtful participation. A golden path leads into a woodland of trees in various colors and sizes. The end of the path is hidden beyond dark clouds prompting the question: "Where is the path going?" Radiant color dominating the scene evokes a feeling of hope.

For many months the windows in **Irene Mary's** convent chapel at Mission San Jose were an unwelcome distraction. Barren glass, peeling paint, faded colors, and undecipherable texts taunted her with a desire to do something. Above all, she longed to enhance their potential to inspire with imagery relevant to Mission San Jose Dominican identity. This desire peaked just before the community celebrated its congregational Feast of the Holy Rosary. Irene Mary did not have the means to replace the windows, so the artist designed silhouetted Dominican saints and symbols, placed them against the stained glass, and photographed them. When the camera captured the brilliance of the morning sun, the restored windows amazed and excited the sisters. They lifted up their hearts as their prayers soared with a jubilation that rippled out beyond the convent.

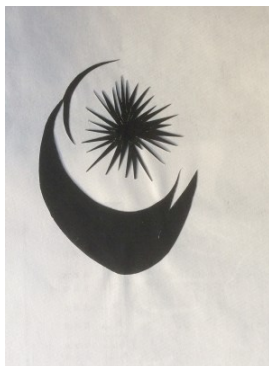


Liz Sully's variations on Sinsinawa's signature require no explanation while Sheila Flynn's do. See P. 1.



Martina Stegman begins work on 32 centerpieces for the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, in St. Louis, Missouri. Martina's committee is in Oxford, Michigan.

Sheila Flynn's African variations of Dominican Theme.



Liz Sully's Sinsinawa chapter art.



Soliloquies: Two Voices

That God has gifted the Adrian Dominican community with many talented artists is abundantly evident from the walls of every building on the Siena Heights campus. Hence, it was appropriate that INAI Gallery, the congregation's officially dedicated studio, opened last year with an exhibit showcasing their rich heritage. Now under the direction of Sue Schreiber exhibits in 2018-2019 will show that heritage in dialogue with contemporary artists working in a variety of media, both traditional and technological. From July through October 2018, ***Soliloquies: Two Voices*** featured the art of Aneesah McNamara, OP and Alyce Van Acker, OP.



For Alyce Van Acker, OP, color is a first language requiring no translation. She developed fluency in that lan-

guage as she earned her MA in Painting from Northern Illinois University. In nearby Geneva, Illinois Alyce with her sister organized a gallery to promote the work of local artists including their own. She continued this work with other artists in St. Charles, Illinois at Fine Line Creative Arts Center, a thriving arts community where she teaches today—and continues to learn. “I’m continually learning more about color,” says Alyce, because each painting is a journey, . . . no inspiration. until the pours and dabs come together in an unanticipated expressive abstract painting.”

Aneesah, who holds a Master of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from the Savannah College of Art & Design, celebrates

the power of words with her masterful calligraphy in works that combine text and imagery to communicate a compelling message. Constantly learning, Aneesah got to know much about an unfamiliar culture as she designed the book, ***Drawn by Love: A History of the Dominican Sisters of Iraq*** (pictured here).

Note: Alyce Van Acker is a Fra Angelico Award Winner.

An Artist's Salve

by Rev. Cathy Johnson



We take up pen and brush, yarn and camera, dance shoes and piano, and give thanks to the Divine Artist.

Jesus took bread and he gave thanks.

We break open the ordinary to see images beyond the visible, to hear beyond the not-yet-heard notes, to touch something larger than ourselves, to imagine the kin-dom of God.

Jesus broke the bread and said, "This is my body, broken for you, that you may have life."

We pour our hearts into our work, our souls into creating beauty, our love into places of great need.

Jesus took the cup and said, "'This cup is God's new covenant, sealed with my blood.'"

We carry our art and our music, our dance and our words, our very lives as artists into the world as bearers of Good News: comfort for the weary soul, hope for the distraught, inclusion for the marginalized, challenge for the comfortable, love for all as these fractals of beauty bring healing to our fractured world.

Jesus said, "Do this too with your lives."

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The Dominican Sisters of Peace present Albertus Magnus College President Marc Camille with "New Haven's East Rock Cliff," a painting by Thoma Swanson, former faculty member at Albertus..



"Sacred Images: Mary & Jesus"

*a Juried Art Show at
the Martin de Porres Center*

*Columbus, Ohio
November 1, 2018-January 4, 2019*

*Included in the exhibit is
The Visitation — Study of Fra Angelico
by Elaine DesRosiers*

SAVE THE DATE: DIA GATHERING 2019

JULY 24-27, 2019

PALLOTINE RENEWAL CENTER

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Keynote speaker: Margaret Ormond, OP

Theme: The Attitude of Gratitude as Beatitude

Planning Commission: Elizabeth Slenker, O.P, Chair;
Ann Marie Santen, OP, Board Liaison; Judy Smith &
One More