

Art Spots

Gail Katz-James, fiber arts teaching artist, will have her work on exhibit at the Tychman Shapiro Gallery through February 21. This exhibition is titled *Dream Weavings: Interpretations through Collaborations*. Also of note, Gail recently completed a 12-week integrative art residency program, *A Fiber Art Journey into Wetland Ecosystems*, in four Eden Prairie elementary schools that concluded with an exhibition of students' work.



The artwork of **Donna Bruni**, teaching artist of *Intuitive Painting and Painting through Life Transitions*, and sculptor **Richards Poey** will be on exhibit at the Mill City Clinic, Minneapolis, through March.

Accomplished sculptor and 10-year teaching artist **Foster Willey, Jr.** has been commissioned to create the public art for the Victoria Street station of the Central Corridor light rail line. Tapping into community history and working with local experts, Foster is pulling inspiration from the location and architectural details especially the Prairie School of Architecture style, and planning to work in terra cotta and bronze for the public installation. Previous public projects include the Central Avenue Contemporary Stelae in

Northeast Minneapolis and the Bee Way in St. Louis Park.

Teaching artist **Terry Genesen Becker** is showing her watercolor paintings at a major exhibition featuring internationally-known artists at the Nash Gallery titled *The House We Built – Feminist Art Then and Now* which runs through February 23. The exhibit and related public programs explore the national network of feminist art activity that emerged in the mid to late 1970s and changed the course of contemporary art.

Carey Netherton, teaching artist in the sculpture studio, has been awarded a 2013 Artist Initiative Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB). Carey's work plan is to design and research enlargement of his sculptures into large-scale public art works. This is his second award of this MSAB grant.



In a recent assessment, it came to light that **21,000 pots** have moved through the Ceramics Studio (mostly by **Lee Persell**, ceramics studio manager and artist-instructor) in the past 12 months. That is an undeniably impressive statistic!

Welcome to our new teaching artist **Geneviève Chamberland** who will be teaching children and youth outreach and series classes. Please

see her biography on page 18 and welcome her to the Art Center community.

Glass artist-instructor **Ria Neilson** created colorful custom glass panels that were recently featured on the HGTV show, *I Hate My Bathroom*.

Look for us again this year at the **American Craft Council Show**, April 19-21 at the St. Paul River Center, where our teaching artists will be conducting art-making demonstrations throughout the weekend.

An oft-forgotten benefit of membership is access to the Minnetonka Center for the Arts library. Members are welcome to browse the vast selection of quality art books in the **Lindahl Family Library & Conference Room** on the second floor. It's a wonderful, quiet space to read and reflect. Open Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Donations and membership purchases or renewals may now be done online.

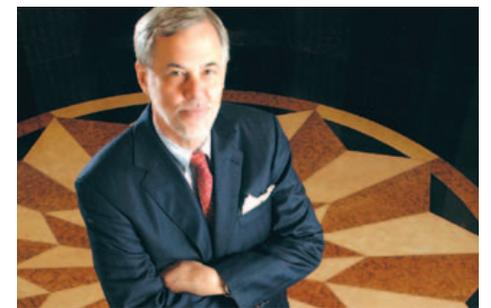
Spring appeal donations may be made at www.minnetonkaarts.org by clicking on Donations. Transactions are safe and secure. In addition, members, guests and students may register and create a profile, which provides access (login) to secure pages to view transaction history, easily update contact information and quick checkout convenience on future transactions (donations, memberships and class registrations).

In December, **Robert Bowman** and **Carl Beihl** judged the photography and visual arts entries from Oakwood Elementary School in Plymouth (Wayzata Public School District) for the National PTA's Reflections program. Winners of the more than 80 entries juried go on to compete at the regional, state and national level.

IN THE NEWS

Traudi Bestler, fiber teaching artist, in the December issue of *Lake Minnetonka* magazine / **Jeanne Obermeier** and **Wade Smith**, students of **Ellen Richman**, in the December issue of *Lake Minnetonka* magazine / **Heidi Hoy**, sculptor, in the December issue of *Maple Grove* magazine / **Arts of the Holidays** Show and Sale in a FOX9 Morning News spot by MA Rosko on December 17 / **Andy Juelich**, ceramics teaching artist, in the December issue of *Plymouth* magazine / **Michele Combs**, painting artist-instructor, in January issue of *Plymouth* magazine / **Laurie McNeil**, wild fowl sculptor, will be in the May issue of *Lake Minnetonka* magazine.

Art4Lunch, the annual Spring luncheon and fundraiser, is set for May 29 with keynote speaker **Ford Bell**, president of the American Alliance of Museums. It will be a very interesting, enlightening program.



Wayzata Art Experience Celebrates 10 years!

Celebrating 10 Years, June 22-23. Downtown Wayzata will come alive with all forms of art – visual arts, landscape art, culinary art and performing arts. Application deadline for artist exhibits is April 16. Go to wayzataartexperience.com for more information!

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Krissy Catt

While working on a psychology degree, Krissy Catt filled an arts credit with a ceramics class – and changed her major that quarter! “I just fell in love with doing clay. I fell in love with the whole process. I knew right away that it was something that it was going to be a part of my life forever.”

From that time until about a year ago, Krissy had a studio at Northern Clay Center working at her art for nearly 20 years. While she started out doing functional handbuilding, she moved into figural work 15 years ago creating tall, slender female figures that she adores, never tiring of it. “I just love making them and people seem to love having them in their homes,” she says. “That excites me when I can make pieces that people want to live with everyday and see everyday.” Numerous clients have told Krissy that her figures are comforting, like the woman fighting cancer who took two home. Others say they remind them of someone, like the mother who connected

with a piece resembling her daughter, who had passed away, and found comfort in its presence. Others simply enjoy the fun of having a group of them peering into the room.

The figures have always had a tall, lean silhouette though the form has evolved over time. Krissy says they used to be more referencing of trees, then there was a period in which they were more like stone. She's also adopted flower-like headdresses and started making her figures more colorful. According to Krissy, “They've changed in that they used to be more organic, more stone-like, and now they're definitely more detailed and design-esque, I would say.”

Krissy loves teaching her outreach class of seniors at Lake Minnetonka Shores, in Spring Park, and Summerwood, in Chanhassen. They are both rather large residences, so the classes provide an opportunity for students to build community as well as art.

Krissy is often greeted with comments such as “We're just so excited it's Wednesday!” or “We get up extra early because we know that you're coming in the afternoon,” which two of her students said just the other day. In class, Krissy strives to provide a little taste of all things ceramic, creating a couple functional pieces and sculptural pieces and experimenting with painting and glazing.

For Krissy, it's “just stuff I do all the time being an artist,” but – as many of us have experienced – art has the power to change everything. Recently a student shared how the class had given her new lease on life. Krissy felt so renewed just having something to come out for, saying, “I was completely humbled by that.”

Krissy Catt is teaching a new class, *Handbuilding and Ceramic Sculpture*, this session. We welcome her to the ceramics studio team.

