

The Museum Messenger

July 2016

Independence Historical Museum & Art Center

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Letter from the President – Ray Rothgeb

I often speak of the abundance and commitment of volunteers in our community. I am convinced that the cultural glue of Independence is that volunteerism. I'm not sure what our community's volunteer statistics look like, but I'm sure we compare favorably with our state. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service in 2014, 35% of Kansas residents were volunteers, ranking Kansas 5th among the 50 states and Washington, DC. Pretty impressive I'd say, and looking at just the number of volunteers in our museum as an indicator for our community, I'd say we are likely consistent with that datum. According to this same source, 732,910 Kansans volunteered over 70 million hours in their communities. Among the services provided were distribution of food, fund-raising, general labor, mentoring youth, management activities, and more. In that same year about 56% of all Kansans donated \$25.00 or more to charity and contributed \$1.6 billion of services. Doesn't that make you proud to be a Kansan? Look around, do you see an IHMAC volunteer? I'm sure you do, and I'm sure you're looking in a mirror. Undoubtedly we compare favorably with our state. Thanks



Museum Hours

Tuesday through Saturday:
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Special feature through 7/15:

Verdigris Valley Art Exhibit

Continue reading this special edition of *The Museum Messenger* for VVAE coverage.

Another successful VVAE: Reception honors winners

More than 80 people gathered at the museum June 24 for a reception that honored renowned illustrator Tim Raglin along with the 2016 exhibitors. Tim Raglin, who was introduced as “illustrator extraordinaire” by Ray Rothgeb, IHMAC Board President, has a list of accomplishments far beyond expectations for a local phenomenon gone viral. (See separate article on pages 3-4 for more on Tim Raglin.)

Emcee for the event was Kym Kays. She introduced show juror Mike DeRosa, Coffeyville, who announced the awards and critiqued key artwork.

The Sharon Viets Best of Show was awarded to TaeRee Glover, Sedan, for her #106 acrylic painting of “When I Grow Up I Want To Be...” The piece, which is not for sale, is a 29 ¾” x 53 ½” painting of a vertical conception of an Idaho picture taken by Glover who once lived there. DeRosa selected the piece for its unusual vertical perspective, its use of balancing complementary colors, and good use of space and color.

Additional awards were given in the five major categories and in a separate honorable mentions listing.

Andre Tapacio’s oil painting of a nude figure, number #131, titled “LaMona Libertad,” won First Place in the Oil and Acrylic division. DeRosa said the figure was unique in its “melancholy” and strong colors. Normally, DeRosa said, a nude is given a “Statue of Liberty” or other positive pose. The work is priced at \$50,000. Second Place in the same category was awarded to #126, “Field of Purple Bliss,” an acrylic piece by Lacy Franko. Priced at \$1,549, this art work is an impressionistic, Monet style, field of flowers.

Monte Toon’s #207 art work titled “Quiet Thoughts” (\$1,500) won First Place in Watercolor. The painting depicts a woman in a plain white bonnet and dress who is looking from a starkly empty, dark room through a vertical window at a gray-blue sky with only a bit of the brick building and a little grass visible. Second Place in Watercolor was awarded to Dee Hutchison’s #225 titled “Red.” Listed for \$550, the abstract work is predominately red, complemented with purples, greens, yellow, black, white and blue. Some shapes hint at flowers.

First Place in Drawing was awarded to Whitney B. Powell’s #315 “Heat Wave,” a pencil composition of a young black man with exaggerated perspiration captured on the face and chest. The placement of the person in the upper right third of the canvas is highly effective, according to DeRosa. Second Place winner in Drawing was also Whitney B. Powell. Number 316, “Feel the Silence,” is a charcoal of a seated child, with hands on head and chin tucked under. The emaciated body is purposely framed by softened edges that radiate out in muted values, creating a more poignant feeling of despair.

Jim Hayward is the Mixed Media First Place winner for his work #408, titled “Five-Alarm Fire.” Valued at \$550, the artist used various wood tubes capped with metal that protrude from the bottom of a wooden box painted black and red, and topped with a small metal piece adorned with a switch, DeRosa’s favorite part of the work. Second Place in Mixed Media, submitted by Paul L. Eck, is #410, titled “Crow.” The price is listed at \$200.

“Shutter Dance” (\$1,500) by Jim Hayward is First Place in the Three-Dimensional category. The large selection is a collection of obvious shutter pieces and other found objects arranged artfully. Second Place winner of the Three-Dimensional division is Lacy Franko. Number 511 titled “This Side of the Law” is priced at \$799 and depicts a papier-mâché of a man seated on a law book with a chain and handcuffs.

Honorable Mention awards were selected from the whole show: “Red Hen” # 220 by Rachel Unruh in Watercolor, “Rose of the Dessert” #401 by Lavena Rhae Sellers in Mixed Media, “Case Steamer” #302 by Skip Kreibach in Drawing: Graphite, and “The Hollowed Place” #109 by Lavena Rhae Sellers in Acrylic. No Honorable Mention was given in the Three-Dimensional division.

The 63rd Verdigris Valley Art Exhibit is co-chaired by Louise Woodard and Eenie Fitzpatrick. The show spans two states, extending from Derby, Kan., to Bixby, Okla. Twelve cities in Kansas and four in Oklahoma are represented by 30 artists and 128 art works. The communities included are Coffeyville, Sedan, Cherryvale, Derby, Independence, Caney, Neodesha, Thayer, Iola, Elk Falls, Chanute and Cherokee of Kansas; and Bartlesville, Owasso, Cleveland, and Bixby of Oklahoma.

“Thank you”

- ✚ The 2016 VerdigrisValley Art Exhibit is a great success—both organizationally and financially. It takes so many to make that possible. Thanks to the following:
- ✚ IHMAC board for their confidence in us
- ✚ Sylvia Augustine for all of the assistance
- ✚ Independence Chamber of Commerce Convention and Visitors Bureau for the generous \$500 grant
- ✚ Members and businesses who donated more than \$2,000 in prize money
- ✚ Five involved in the two preliminary notices to potential artists
- ✚ Six involved in posters, brochures, programs
- ✚ Area newspapers and radio stations for event releases before and during the exhibit
- ✚ The 30 participating exhibitors from 16 different towns
- ✚ Five who helped with artist check-in
- ✚ Steve Greenwall for consulting and physically arranging the standards and art work displays
- ✚ Twelve who assisted with all of the aspects of the honoree and artists’ reception and critique
- ✚ Twenty-one who are serving as greeters/sitters during the show.
- ✚ We are grateful to all of you. And to some of you (Kym kays, Donna & Ray Rothgeb, Becky Foster, Rachel Unruh) who have been involved in multiple steps along the way—many thanks.

Eenie Fitzpatrick & Louise Woodard

Larry Augustine

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Sylvia's husband, Larry. He was a kind and gentle man who could be seen bringing the museum mail every weekday morning. He was always preceded by Squirt, the little dog with the tongue hanging to one side. The leash was so long that Larry would appear in the office door well after Squirt. Larry will be missed!

63rd VVAE Honoree: Tim Raglin

Tim was born and raised in the town he calls home today: Independence, Kan. At age 8, Raglin received private lessons from artist Nell Reneau, who taught him to observe and practice. Humbly, he now tells others they can be great by doing the same.

With a degree from Washington University’s School of Fine Art in St. Louis, Tim worked in New York City for major magazines and advertising agencies. Two illustrated children’s picture books, *Deputy Dan* (Random House) and *The Five Funny Frights* series (Scholastic), have sold over 2 million copies.

Other recognition is also out of the ordinary. A series of greeting cards created by Raglin for Sunrise Publications are still in print after 20-plus years. Likewise, Tim became involved in a children’s video company called Rabbit Ears productions. He illustrated several of Rudyard Kipling’s *Just So Stories*; earned a Grammy Award for *The Elephant’s Child*, narrated by Jack Nicholson; illustrated and directed his own version of *Pecos Bill* for Rabbit Ears, narrated by Robin Williams; earned a Grammy Award for Best Children’s Recording and a Parent’s Choice Classic Award, and served as a Creative Director for the company until 1991. And that’s not all!

Publications such as *The New York Times*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Smithsonian*, *Rolling Stone*, *Sesame Street*, and *Time* have featured Raglin’s illustrations. Raglin has also illustrated a number of other children’s picture books: *The Thirteen Days of Halloween* (Scholastic), *The Wolf Who Cried Boy* (Putnam), *Twelfth Night* (Dial), *Go Track a Yak!* (Simon and Schuster), *Bill in a China Shop* (Bloomsbury), *Cowboy Jose* (Putnam), *Dinner in the Lion’s Den* (Putnam), and *The Sheep in Wolf’s Clothing* (Lion Hudson).

(Continued on page 4)

VVAE honors Raglin (continued from page 3)

Raglin produced a series of illustrations for the Disney Corps, titled *A Nautical Alphabet*, displayed aboard their cruise ship line and published several of his own picture books: *Uncle Mugsy and the Terrible Twins of Christmas*, *Yankee Doodle Mugsy*, and *Birthday ABC* (chosen as an American Library Association 1995 “Pick of the List” and written in comic verse of best-selling author Eric Metaxas). Raglin has published under his own imprint, *The Curse of Catunkhamun*, and is currently working on its sequel, *Footsteps in Katmandudu*.

This amazing illustrator has won a Silver Medal from the New York Society of illustrators, had illustrations appear in “The Original Art Show: The Best in Children’s Books,” earned the Reader’s Choice Award, the Parent’s Choice Awards, and the Notable Kansas Book award by the State Library—and the two Mugsy books with words by Eric Metaxas and illustrations by Raglin, *Uncle Mugsy and the Terrible Twins of Christmas* and *Yankee Doodle Mugsy*, have been set to orchestration by Jean Dane, a renowned violist and composer based in New York. In addition, a major animation studio and children’s cable network is currently considering *Uncle Mugsy* for television.

And quiet Tim Raglin lives on in Independence, Kansas, unassumingly observing and practicing, just as Nell Reneau taught him to do so well. If you Google “unassuming,” this statement appears: “You’ll find that some of the most unassuming people are actually the most interesting and powerful of all.” What’s next, Tim Raglin, Illustrator Extraordinaire?!

Calendar of Events

July 2016

1 -15	Daily	VVAE
11	8:30 a.m. – Noon	Art Club Meeting
14	3:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
14	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Photo Club
25	8:30 a.m. - Noon	Art Club Meeting

August 2016

8	8:30 a.m. - Noon	Art Club Meeting
11	3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
11	5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Photo Club
22	8:30 a.m. - Noon	Art Club Meeting

Have a happy summer ~ See you in the fall!

Be sure to keep up with the museum online. Find and like us on Facebook at Independence Historical Museum and Art Center and on the Web at www.ihmac.org.