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Issue 39

## OTTAWA ART ASSOCIATION

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### PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS

With the start of the new year, I want to wish everyone good health and joy and in all your painting activities! If you missed our wonderful January presentation by Brandon McVittie from Art Guise on health measures for artists, read below. Being educated on this subject is so important. Also, in our quest for new volunteers to keep our organization vital, this month and next in the newsletter you will find 'thumbnail sketches' of many of the board members' duties-beginning with the areas where we most need new people. Please consider volunteering your time helping with one of these positions! Lastly, see also below those most vital 'requirements for hanging'. And if you are coming to Quebec City with us this Spring, welcome on board!

### SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE

- February 13: UPS Guest Speakers George and Anne Stairs: commerce and your art-making cards, mailing your work, etc.  
March 13: Critique Night: Rob Hinchley; please bring no more than 2 of your works.  
April 24: \*NOTE CHANGE OF DATE: Spring Awards Show-Ottawa Little Theatre  
May 8: speaker from the National Gallery  
June 12: Social end of Year: elections to the executive, materials exchange, fun.

### OLT HANGING SCHEDULE:

Please note the change in our Spring Awards night date, and the reminder that your paintings must be framed or on wide 'gallery' stretchers. Also of course, for awards' shows, one painting only per person, no more than 30"x 40" framed, and for sale. From Keith, our coordinator, 'make sure your painting's hardware is sturdy and has no sharp edges'!

- Dates: Feb. 11, 2007  
March 18, 2007  
April 22, 2007 (note change)  
for Awards night  
May 27, 2007  
July 8, 2007 (pick-up only)

OLT Cheques for your sales: Please be aware that 6 weeks approximately are required to process your cheque for a sold painting. There are two organizations involved.

### NEXT MEETING

**Tues., Feb. 13, 2007**  
**7:30 to 9:30**  
**On the 3rd Floor, Multi-Service**  
**Centre,**  
**1480 Heron Road, Ottawa**

**Topic: Commerce and your Art-**  
**George and Anne Stairs**



## JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE OAA

\*Programme Co-ordinator: With suggestions for events from members and the board, the Programme Co-ordinator organizes outings. These may be both local and outside the Ottawa area, for example, visits to galleries and studios, weekend workshops, paint-outs.

\*Social Convenor: The social convenor purchases and organizes food and beverages for monthly meetings and Awards Shows. Following given budget amounts, the convenor records expenses and submits them to the treasurer.

Newsletter Editor: The editor collects and collates items of interest to members and reports on them in the monthly newsletter. Other tasks are recording the OAA monthly presentations, attending executive meetings for other information, and liaising about the final look of the newsletter following proofreading.

\*Help needed with these positions, as well as a new Membership Secretary in June 2007, replacing Cindy Hauck.

## ART AD: FREE!

Ron C. has large frames for watercolour&/or pastel (approx. 2' by 3'), free to good artists' homes. He is available for calls after Feb. 22, at 613-820-3732.

## JANUARY PRESENTATION -- Health Issues in Art -- Brandon McVittie

Members were privileged to have Brandon McVittie, from Art Guise, present an overview of health and safety issues for artists. This is an area of increasing interest for artists and producers of materials many of which have a potentially harmful primary makeup.

Recently, some action has been taken in this important area. For example, since 1990, there have been universal standards for testing and labeling of art materials. The best quality materials will now list toxicity and health concerns.

Brandon discussed the dangers inherent in pigments, thinners and dilutants, when they are absorbed through the skin, ingested, or inhaled. He suggested, for example, protecting hands with olive oil, vasoline or gloves; using good ventilation, such as an air exchange system; avoiding eating and drinking near art work; using a smock in your studio; cleaning up dust from pastels or other work with a damp cloth frequently; and cleaning brushes without skin contact. For example, use an old coffee cup and keep a soap bit in the bottom for brush cleaning.

He spoke about the dangers in each media area, pastels and oils presenting the greatest risk. With pastels the greatest danger is exposure to pigments through inhaled dust, hence the need for frequent wet wiping of surfaces, skin protection and ventilation. The main concern with oils is again contact with highly toxic pigments (especially the cadmiums and cobalt blue) and with thinners and products like Liquin. Oil artists should use gum spirit of turpentine or health friendly substitutes, such as those provided by the Canadian company, Eco-House Inc.

Brandon answered a number of questions from members, including providing members with the latest information on water-soluble oils and the merits of various kinds of white (titanium, zinc, flake, etc.). It was a very informative evening.