

ArtSpace/Lima

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2012

March 2 - April 14

Kewpee High School Invitational: 24 Years and Counting

It was 1988, 24 years ago this year. We were the Lima Art Association then. Harry Shutt, then as now, was the owner of the Kewpee Restaurant in Lima. Then as now, there were hundreds of high school students doing art and needing a place outside of the classroom to display it.

Then, magic happened. The powers that were and the forces that are came together for the first *Kewpee High School Art Invitational*.



It was ground-breaking: high school students in Allen and surrounding counties had a place to show their art work, professionally mounted, displayed, and hung, in an established gallery space. No one could have predicted that, 24 years later, the tradition would continue: that the now-renamed ArtSpace/Lima and the legendary Kewpee Restaurants would still be cooperating to bring attention and recognition to the talents and skills of young area artists.

In the intervening years, the *Kewpee Invitational* has served hundreds of our most impressionable young people by way of encouraging them to find the best that they can create and offer artistically to the world around them.

The *Kewpee* is a juried show. So its title, especially the word “Invitational” needs interpretation. Students are indeed “invited” to participate, and teachers are “invited” to submit

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April 27 - June 2

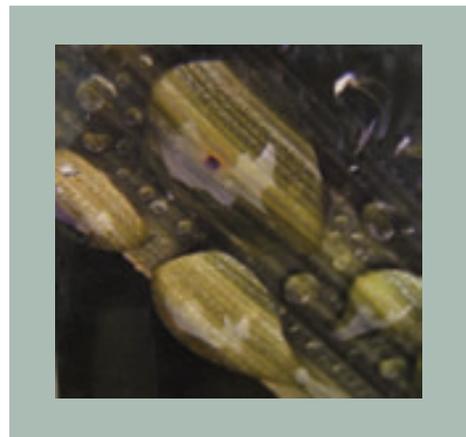
Spring Show 2012: The Signature Exhibit of the Year

If you're an artist in the area, when you think of ArtSpace, you probably think of *Spring Show*. Almost since the beginnings of the organization, *Spring Show* has been the hallmark, the one exhibit by which we define ourselves and our mission to Northwest Central Ohio.

With multiple awards, including a \$500.00 award for Best of Show, and a People's Choice Award, voted on by visitors to the gallery in the course of the show, a nice sprinkling of other awards, medium- and sponsor-based, and a charge which invites a wide range of media, *Spring Show* recognizes, nay, celebrates the creative genius among us.

Jurors for *Spring Show 2012* are Lowell Tolstedt, Professor of Art Emeritus, Columbus College of Art and Design, and Jack Earl, ceramist, Lakeview, Ohio. The exhibit opens with a reception for the artists on Friday, April 27, from 6:30-8:30 pm. The show runs through June 2.

For more information about *Spring Show 2012* and a printable *Prospectus* in pdf format, visit http://www.artspacelima.com/spring_show_2012.htm



Ashleigh Carrigan
Natural Observation Series (detail)
Best of Show, 2011

June 16 - July 28

Hand-Pulled: Ohio Printmakers

By now, most visual media have a long and honorable tradition, (witness the recent *Still Life Now* exhibit), none more so than the artist-made print. With its combination of aesthetic inspiration and historically informed technology, the print is among the oldest, best-established forms in the culture. But like all of those forms, it is constantly being re-invented by contemporary artists who see its potential, producing new work worthy of standing in the line of succession.

That sense of the old-made-new is what inspired the upcoming *Hand-Pulled: Ohio Printmakers*, scheduled to open June 16, with a reception for the artists at 6:30 pm.

The exhibit is open to any Ohio printmaker eighteen years or older. Artists may submit up to three pieces. Work must incorporate at least one hand-pulled printmaking process. Mixed media and 3D works are welcome. No digital prints or photographs. As befits its contemporary emphasis, entries are being solicited on CD only, with image files in JPEG format. The full *Prospectus* is at:

<http://www.artspacelima.com/Hand-Pulled%202012.htm>

Jurors for *Hand-Pulled: Ohio Printmakers* are David Cayton, Professor Emeritus of Art, Bowling Green State University, and Joe D'Uva, Assistant Professor of Art, Youngstown State University, both distinguished printmakers in their own right.

With prizes totaling in excess of \$1,200, including \$500 for Best of Show, *Hand-Pulled* promises to be another milestone in ArtSpace's continuing exploration of the best current work in the oldest traditional forms.

Hand-Pulled: Ohio Printmakers will run through July 28, 2012.



Kewpee High School Invitational

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the best work of their current and recent students. At that point, though, two independent jurors select the best of the best for inclusion in the exhibit. In one very real sense, then, the *Kewpee* is a professional exhibit, observing all the rituals of standard art shows and for those students whose work is selected, a step into the real world.

In 2011, over 350 individual pieces by students from 19 area high schools were entered and judged; a total of 113 works by 100 students were accepted into the show. There were nine categories of entry: drawing, painting, mixed media, jewelry, photography, digital media, sculpture, printmaking, and ceramics. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible. There are several awards, including Best of Show (\$100) and First, Second, and Third Place prizes in each entry category.

This year, the Kewpee show judges are Linda Lehman, Adjunct Professor of Art Education, Ohio Northern

University, and Steve Smith, Professor of Art Emeritus, Defiance College.

By now, the *Kewpee Invitational* is something of an institution in the Lima area, and for good reason. As one teacher said to me last year, there are very few (if any) other organizations willing to offer high school students a professionally prepared and mounted, juried show. She might have added that there are few (if any) other community-minded businesses ready to support our young people in a way so significant to their growth and creativity. We are all in the debt of the Kewpee Restaurant and especially of its visionary leader, Harry Shutt. His generosity makes the *Kewpee* show possible.

This year's *Kewpee Invitational* is scheduled to open with a reception for the artists on Friday, March 2, from 6:30-8:30 pm. The show will be up through Saturday, April 14.

For more information about the *Kewpee High School Art Invitational*, please see <http://www.artspacelima.com/Kewpee%20Invitational%202012.htm>

DONORS AND SPONSORS 2010

It is a pleasure to thank our donors and sponsors in 2011, those people, organizations, institutions, and businesses who have generously supported ArtSpace/Lima in the pursuit of its mission.

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	Martha MacDonell	Yellow Tuesdays Hair Club

Spring Classes at ArtSpace

When the Kewpee show opens on March 2, there's a good chance that more than one of the represented artists got his/her start in an ArtSpace classroom. As someone has said, "You're never too young to do art."

So, once again this coming Spring, ArtSpace will offer a choice of Kids classes on Saturdays from April 14 through May 12.

Anna Fisher will offer her popular course in Ceramics, focusing on "spring-themed pottery." Maia Fisher introduces five different artists as her students get the basics in five different media for a class she calls "5 x 5 in 5 Classes." Then, Andrea Scheckelhoff brings back her popular course in sculpture, exploring multiple techniques in 3D artistry.

For adults on Tuesday nights (April 17-May 22), Barbara Spurgeon continues her hands-

on examination of watercolor techniques, including composition, color, and hue. Anna Fisher offers an adult class in Ceramics, focusing on building the form and glazing.

All classes at ArtSpace are \$50.00 each. There is a printable registration form at http://www.artspacelima.com/classes_spring_2012.htm Registration closes April 6. Early registration is strongly recommended.

The parent of one of our young students recently reported to me: "She loves that class. She literally counts the days until Saturday."

Not bad as a reference.



Maia Fisher



Anna Fisher



Andrea Scheckelhoff



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Last Words from the Operations Manager

“Feedback”, Speaking of Buzzwords



It didn't start out as such a lovely thing. The blare and screech of unintended acoustic feedback can be pretty awful.

But we've borrowed it from the sound guys, cleaned it up a little, and made it into a buzzword of modern marketing: “Give me your feedback.” “We need your feedback.” (Am I the only one who detects an almost literal hunger there?) And the constant call for marketing feedback can be as annoying as the screech and blare. You can't open a webpage without facing the pop-up asking you to take a survey. “How's my driving?” on the back of a semi. And don't get me started on the cold calls!

Still, the necessity to know how you're doing is real. Without it, we just blunder along, doing the same-old, same-old until we perish of our own inertia.

Every year, the Ohio Arts Council, as part of its paperwork for Sustainability Grants, asks about feedback and evaluation protocols. There are multiple responses, as you can guess. Some of the feedback we get is informal to the max: a chance comment, a note in an e-mail. Some of it is more structured: evaluations for classes, even the gallery Guest Book, which, while voluntary, gives us valuable insights into how we're doing at a given moment and in a given situation.

Is it enough? Probably not. Ideally, we'd be awash in patron commentary, of all kinds and qualities. Can we use it? Most definitely, yes. Your response to what ArtSpace does is valuable closure. If we did well, we need to know that, not just to feed our self-satisfaction (there's “feeding” again), but to confirm our instincts. If we did not so well, we need to know that even more. Nothing is so sad as a blind pushing forward on an arbitrary path.

All of which is to say: Give us your feedback. Let us know how we're doing -- in exhibit strategies, in our publications, in e-mail alerts, on the website, in our class offerings, in the musical and other events on which we expend considerable energy. We won't hound you with surveys. But we will pay attention. The e-mail address is artspacelima@woh.rr.com. As we approach our 60th anniversary next year, it's critical that we not rest on the laurels of mere longevity.

Rather, we can continue to evolve along paths which satisfy all criteria: they're alert to the contemporary, they're faithful to the mission, and they respond to your, ahem, feedback.

Best,
Bill Sullivan