



# KISHWAUKEE VALLEY ART LEAGUE

KVAL • PO Box 523 • Sycamore, IL 60178 • [www.kval.us](http://www.kval.us)

*The Kishwaukee Valley Art League (KVAL) was formed in 1972 to support the arts in the Kishwaukee Valley area. Our purpose is to encourage the practice and appreciation of the arts in all media and to educate people within the community.*

## FEBRUARY 2011 Newsletter

### FEBRUARY MEETING

**Board meeting:** 6:30pm, Thursday, February 3, 2011, at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 158 North Fourth St., DeKalb, IL

**General meeting:** 7:30pm, Thursday, February 3, 2011 at the same location. Refreshments will be provided this month by Barb Grant and Denise Funfsinn.

### FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Clay sculptor, Phil Cuthbert, will be the guest demonstrator at the next monthly meeting of The Kishwaukee Valley Art League. Cuthbert will be demonstrating techniques, materials, and tools for sculpting polymer clay figures. The figures often take many weeks to complete so he will demonstrate a portion of the figure.

With a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois, Cuthbert has been a practicing fine and graphic artist for over 20 years now. Although he has always liked painting and drawing, he has only recently become involved in the creation of these figures. This interest was sparked by a TV show on George Stuart that he had seen. Stuart creates historical scale model figures using authentic materials whenever possible. Cuthbert was fascinated by these figures and wanted to create such figures himself. His first sculpture was Babe Ruth. The sculpture sold immediately and gave Cuthbert inspiration to continue with the creation of these figures.

Historical figures are not the only sculptures Cuthbert makes. He often takes figures from literature, movies, or even individual commissions. Research and correct accuracy are used for each individual figure's replication. Each figure can take months to create based on the complexity of the figure and the accessories required. This year Cuthbert hopes to be able to cast his own metal parts, and silicone skin, which will greatly improve detail possibilities.

Cuthbert has been blessed to have achieved the following: Jack Johnston Scholarship Award - 1st place, Artist's Choice Award - Washington D.C. Expo 2006, Best Sculptor - Barrington Art in the Barn Show 2010, and Best Overall Sculpture - Lifelike Dolls Magazine 2010. He has been featured in Western Art Collector Magazine, Doll Crafter and Costumer, and will be having a feature article in the March American Miniaturist magazine.



## CLUB NOTES

### President's Letter

Hope your holidays were wonderful, that you have rested, and you are ready for a new year filled with creativity and opportunity! KVAL is doing so many good things to promote art within our community.

Please mark your calendars: The Northern Illinois Art Show is fast approaching. In order to have a successful event that runs smoothly, we need YOU to assist during the event on Saturday and Sunday, May 21st & 22nd. This is our main fund raiser for the year. Demonstrators fees, facility rental, and other expenses are paid with the monies collected. Your help is needed and always appreciated. Please generously volunteer when the sign-up sheets are posted. Active participation by our membership is what will take our art league to the next level. Thank you!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding KVAL; please feel free to contact me at [president@kval.us](mailto:president@kval.us).

Cheers,  
Erin Nolan

## UPCOMING DEMONSTRATORS

*March: Susan R. Wilson - painting with oil sticks, April: Laura Lein Svencer - collage with heat fusion, May: Barbara Lipkin - oil painting, June: salad supper, July: TBD, August: Glory Fraulein Wolfe - landscape painting, September: TBD, October: Vicki Crone - wall murals*

## KVAL 'ON-LINE'

The new KVAL website is launched, so check it out at [www.kval.us](http://www.kval.us)!

The Member Gallery section of the KVAL website needs member info and photos. Please provide your name and title of each piece for no more than 10 pieces. Optional info you can provide is: contact info, prices, artist statement, artist bio, links, or artwork stories. Please email info and photos to [publicity@kval.us](mailto:publicity@kval.us) or give a CD to David Wennemar at the next KVAL meeting.

KVAL is on Facebook, so please click the like button if you have a Facebook account to connect with KVAL. If you do not have a Facebook account, check it out anyway by clicking the Facebook icon on the KVAL website!

## EXHIBITS

ANNOUNCING the brand, spankin' new **Small Works Show!** Each year in March, KVAL has the opportunity to display member's artwork in a display window at the DeKalb Public Library. This year I would like to limit it to artwork that is 8"x8" or smaller. This way many members will be able to exhibit.

At this small size, you can create something special just for this show. I can't wait to see what you can come up with! All skill levels and abilities are welcome. If you have never exhibited before, this is the perfect show to try it out. If you have shown your work with KVAL before, then you know how easy it is and I hope you will sign up!

Please bring your artwork to the February KVAL meeting or contact Erin Nolan at [president@kval.us](mailto:president@kval.us) to sign up or for more information! Work may also be dropped off with Erin at her employer: OC Imageworks, LLC 1600 E. Lincoln Highway, Suite A, DeKalb, IL. (Pen's Pointe Market - aka the "old" Farm & Fleet).

The next **exhibit at the Egyptian** will be from Saturday February 12th to Saturday March 26th. Both set up and take down are at 9:00 am. The recent holiday exhibit and reception at the theater was successful.

**TRAVELING EXHIBITS:** Greetings from the "heart of art in Naples Florida". Just reminder that the traveling exhibits will move the first week of March. In my absence, Eileen Bosc (815-758-0034) will be doing the new schedule. We really could use one more regular artist for the traveling rotation or one or two that would be willing to step in for a three month slot when needed. Please let me or Eileen know. The Sycamore School District administration building has a new space with more visibility available by April. American Title has given us a more visible location as well. Please be aware that the Sycamore Library hangs "high" and requires a ladder or step stool. Let us know if this is a problem. They have room for big pieces on two walls. Please, please let us know if you cannot get to your designated location within a reasonable time. Please let Eileen know if you can exhibit at the DeKalb clinic. We are still asking for you to volunteer. (9pcs) (6 and (4) We usually take down and hang the last Saturday of February. Lots of exhibit opportunities between now and July. Watch for dates: Feb: Egyptian Theatre (Linda Groat) March: small works-DeKalb Library (Erin Nolan) Last Picture Show- Dixon (-Barb Grant) April -Borders? (Marion Swenson) May- NIAS-KVAL June-rotation July- Ellwood House-group show. Hope you are busy creating!

Feel free to reach me by e-mail [doncarstraka@hotmail.com](mailto:doncarstraka@hotmail.com) or call forwarding: 815 758-5268 (no toll). Sending sunshine! Carleine Straka

### **FRAMING INSTRUCTIONS FOR KVAL EXHIBITS**

2D work must be framed and equipped with proper hanging devices. NO SAWTOOTH HOOKS! If work comes in with improper hanging hardware, the work will not be hung. All other work ( 3D ) must be ready to install. Artwork with damaged frames will not be hung. All artwork must be delivered on the specified due date and time or will not be included. Once the KVAL Committee has installed the work, it WILL NOT BE MOVED. Also, work is to be identified with KVAL cards, not personal cards.

### **KVAL VIDEO LIBRARY**

The Art League has art videos for your viewing. If you have a video out and have had it for awhile, please return it so that other members can view it. You will receive a call from Ken to remind you if it has been a while. Lots of very good instructional videos to choose from. If you have any art video you think the club members would like to see, let Ken know.

### **MEMBER'S NEWS**

**Larry Bond:** I have sold two giclee's of my "St. Peter's Red Door" watercolor since our last newsletter.

**Erin Nolan:** was selected as Dick Blick's January 2011 Featured Artist of the Month on Facebook. She was presented with a \$75.00 gift coupon from Blick Art Materials.

Vividbook.com out of East Northport, New York selected [www.erinknolan.com](http://www.erinknolan.com) as their featured website for their company newsletter (Dec., 2010).

In December/January, 6 pieces sold during the Holiday Reception at Plum Bottom Pottery in Egg Harbor, WI. Another 6 pieces sold locally.

February 26, 10:30-12:00 - Artist Erin Nolan will lead a printmaking class for children ages 10 to adult. Participants will learn printmaking techniques, carve their own blocks, and create their own prints based on the museum's collection. \$25/member, \$30/non-member; space is limited; call 815-895-9777 to register by February 17.

**Marian Swenson:** Four of my mixed media photo acrylic collages have been accepted into the Norris Gallery surface Variations show. The dates for this show are January 15th through February 26th. The reception is February 13th.

Also, Allison Johnson at Bliss Beads is letting me exhibit at her store from January 24th through February 12th. There will be a reception Thursday January 27th.

### **UPCOMING SHOWS & COMPETITIONS**

**COLOR SHOTS 4** - Color Photography Only Jan 7 - Feb 22, 2011

The Next Picture Show - Dixon, IL, [www.TheNextPictureShow.org](http://www.TheNextPictureShow.org)

**SURFACE EXPLORATIONS** Jan 15 - Feb 26, 2011, 2D & 3D Explorations of surface variations

Norris Gallery, St. Charles, IL, [www.norrisculturalarts.com](http://www.norrisculturalarts.com)

**EGYPTIAN THEATER EXHIBIT** - KVAL Members Feb 12 - Mar 26, 2011, See Linda Groat for details, 9:00 AM set up, reception date TBD

**DE KALB PUBLIC LIBRARY EXHIBIT** Mar 1 - Mar 31, 2011, KVAL Members - Small window exhibit, See page 2 or Erin Nolan for details

**THE NEXT PICTURE SHOW** - KVAL Members Mar 4 - Apr 9, 2011, Dixon, IL See Barb Grant for details  
[www.TheNextPictureShow.org](http://www.TheNextPictureShow.org)

**REGIONAL ARTS SURVEY** - All Media Mar 4 - Apr 9, 2011, The Next Picture Show - Dixon, IL Deadline Feb 1, 2011,  
[www.TheNextPictureShow.org](http://www.TheNextPictureShow.org)

**WATERCOLOR '10** March 12 - May 7, 2011, Water based media on different surfaces Deadline Jan 10, 2011, Norris Gallery St. Charles  
[www.norrisculturalarts.com](http://www.norrisculturalarts.com), 630-584-7200 Ext. 14

**THE RICHESON 75:** Still life & Abstract 2011 April 18- June 10, 2011, Kimberly, WI, Deadline Jan 20, 2011,  
[www.richeson75.com/callforentries.html](http://www.richeson75.com/callforentries.html)

**27th ILLINOIS WATERCOLOR SOCIETY SHOW** Jun 10 - Jul 16, 2011, The Next Picture Show Gallery Deadline Apr 9, 2011  
Dixon, IL [www.TheNextPictureShow.org](http://www.TheNextPictureShow.org)

**THE RICHESON 75:** Landscape 2011 June 24 - Aug 26, 2011, Kimberly, WI Deadline Mar 28, 2011, [www.richeson75.com/callforentries.html](http://www.richeson75.com/callforentries.html)

**35th TWSA NATIONAL EXHIBIT** May 7 - July 31, 2011, Transparent Watercolor Exhibit Deadline Jan 15, 2011, TWSAEXHIBITION @aol.com

**THE RICHESON 75:** Figure & Portrait 2011 Sept 9 - Nov 4, 2011, Kimberly, WI Deadline June 10, 2011, [www.richeson75.com/callforentries.html](http://www.richeson75.com/callforentries.html)

**THE GRAPEVINE,** A Quarterly Directory of Arts & Crafts Shows, ( \$29 for 4 issues ), [www.grpvne.com](http://www.grpvne.com)

**CRAFTER'S BLUE BOOK,** Lists Arts & Craft Fairs & Fine Arts Festivals in 14 states in the heartland, 1-888-206-6311, [www.craftersbluebook.net](http://www.craftersbluebook.net)

**WEB SITES:** [www.artcalendar.com](http://www.artcalendar.com), [www.artdeadlineslist.com](http://www.artdeadlineslist.com), [www.artfaircalendar.com](http://www.artfaircalendar.com)

**2011 ART FAIR DIRECTORY, IL ARTS COUNCIL,** [www.state.il.us/agency/iac](http://www.state.il.us/agency/iac), or email to: [iac.info@illinois.gov](mailto:iac.info@illinois.gov)

#### **WORKSHOPS In The Area**

**BLISS BEADS STUDIO & GALLERY,** Jewelry Making - DeKalb, IL, Contact Allison Johnson 815-517-0164 [www.blissbeadstudio.com](http://www.blissbeadstudio.com) for schedule

**THE NEXT PICTURE SHOW** - Dixon, IL, Variety of Workshops Available, Check schedules at [www.TheNextPictureShow.org](http://www.TheNextPictureShow.org)

\*WHAT: Mid Winter Festival of Artists (free event for visual artists and friends)\*

\* WHEN: Sunday, March 6, 2011, 11-2:00 PM\*

\* WHERE: The Next Picture Show Gallery, Dixon, IL \*

\* Dillman's Creative Arts Foundation (DCAF) of Lac du Flambeau, WI (350 miles from downtown Chicago) will partner with the Next Picture Show

Gallery, Dixon, IL to bring \*\_free\_\* art demonstrations to artists and friends in the Chicago Area. Invite your friends to join you. For 34 years DCAF has organized complimentary Mid Winter Festivals of Artists across the country in your home town. The Festival in Dixon includes hour-long \*demonstrations by well-known artists\* in their chosen medium; art sales of prints and original artwork, artist's books and DVDs by internationally known artists; \*information on resources\* for artists; plus \*refreshments\* hourly \*door prizes\*.

**DILLMAN'S CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION,** 715-588-3143, [ART@DILLMANS.COM](mailto:ART@DILLMANS.COM) or [www.dillmans.com](http://www.dillmans.com)

**TWSA WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS,** [www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org), or Suzanne Hetzel 847-372-5622

**THE ART ATTACK** - Sycamore, IL