

WEST HILLS ART LEAGUE

Minutes for Meeting of May 18, 2017

Cindy Gilberti Presiding

Minutes for our 4/20/17 meeting have been posted on line. Anyone with corrections or additions should feel free to submit them. Meantime, the minutes were approved.

Audra Zampogna submitted her current **Treasurer's report** which shows a current balance of \$4040.77. The report was approved.

50th Anniversary Celebration: We all agreed that this was a most successful party – great company, excellent food & drink and wonderful music. Congratulations to the Tobins and a special shout out to Amy Short (socks), Sue Vandertie (marketing materials), Sandra Beitsinger (alcohol), Sarah Simmons (name badges), and Audra Zampogna for the countless checks she wrote.

New Officers: With the help of Sue Vandertie, we elected and thanked three new officers of WHAL who will begin their two-year terms in September of this year = Ashley Robles, President, Dianne Bauman, Vice President and Lance Maloney, Membership Chairman.

We also thanked our outgoing officers for their diligent and effective service over several years – Cindy Gilberti, President, Starr Hull, Vice President and Janine Simmons, Membership

RMU Summer Classes: Members suggested that Cindy and Dianne look into possible instructors for summer classes at Robert Morris, including acrylics and portraiture. Cindy urged members to submit other ideas as well.

Gilberti Art Gallery Events:

A free marketing Roundtable with Cindy and marketing consultant Becky Sciuillo, Tuesday June 20 or Saturday June 24, from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Framing help and service on the first Monday of every month, beginning June 5, at 1 p.m.

A solo exhibit by Natiq Jahlil through July. Reception on Saturday, June 10, 6-8 p.m.

Annual Exhibit: There were 88 entries in our annual show and three sales. During the Mother's Day reception, the weather turned beautiful, we had a large attendance, and we were entertained by wonderful songs and guitar music.

The judge was Randi Morgan, art collector retired curator for the Sewickley Library and former Assistant Director of Perimeter Gallery in Chicago. Among her general observations about judging and art shows, she said she looks for art that is different, noting that florals, for instance, have a hard time breaking through the wealth of similar works often submitted to shows and exhibit venues. In our case, she did a "sneak preview" on one day, then went home to see which pieces stuck with her overnight. She looks for originality, for a sense of mystery, for a "story," and for the ability of a painting or sculpture to touch her and make her "lust" for it.

Specifically, her choices were:

Best of Show: “Fetch,” oil on canvas by Kim Freithaler. Randi thought it was full of joy, that it had great color and energy and that after viewing it once, she couldn’t get it out of her mind.

First Prize: “Wonder,” oil on canvas by Dianne Bauman. Another picture that stayed with her, said Randi. She liked the fact that the child and the baby owl were looking at each other instead of the viewer and thought that the painting told a “great little story.” Her only concern with the piece was the frame, which she thought detracted from the painting.

Second Prize: “Madonna and Child,” ceramic sculpture by Amy Short.” Randi was delighted that the child was a dog and didn’t think it irreverent at all. In fact, she noted, she thought it symbolized a reverence for life. (Parenthetically, she also mentioned Amy’s other submission, a ceramic sculpture of an octopus titled “Stand Up.” She said it pleased her, but “she wouldn’t take it home.” She also wondered if an added touch might have been some sort of glaze that made the animal look wet. Amy said she had considered it, but thought it would detract from the glistening eye.)

Third Prize: “Backbone Road,” oil on canvas by Sandra Beitsinger. Randi liked its mystery and sense of loneliness/, as well as the variety of brush strokes in the painting.

Honorable Mention: “Steel and Paper,” stainless steel wire, hand spun paper and waxed thread, by Jill Valenzuela. Randi said she “lusted for it” and wished she could take it home. A detail she especially liked was that the piece hung down over its stand, rather than lying flat

Honorable Mention: “The Womanly Art of Growing Old,” a mixed media piece by Sarah Simmons. “Very witty and conceptual,” said Randi, who admired the extensive handwork that had gone into the piece.

Honorable Mention: “Part Time Femme Fatale,” a watercolor by Will White. Randi thought it was visually appealing, liked the humor and said that it reminded her of a political cartoon. She said it was the kind of painting that made the viewer want to get up close to look at it.

Viewer’s Choice: Separate from the judge’s choices was the selection by attendees at the reception. The winner was Shannon Flannery’s photograph “Ol’ Red.”

Respectfully submitted,

Will White