

SEPTEMBER 2011 OUTLOOK ON THE ARTS by NEDRA FISHER

This month brings exciting programs and exhibitions to Art Reach, beginning with the Gallery exhibition of photography by Al Wildly from September 1-24. Wildly is as remarkable as his unique form of digital photography. At CMU he has served as Associate Professor of Photography and Digital Imaging, Chair of the Art Department, and an Interim Associate Dean. In the past two years his work has been exhibited in Paris, London, Florence, Beijing, Dublin, and Prague. He states, "The synthesis of layered images and aluminum reveals and conceals information allowing the composite to become a powerful metaphor and, like the reflected light from the image surface, encourages us to reflect on our individual, often symbolic, journeys." It is a fascinating exhibition. Please join us in the Gallery at a reception for this fine artist on Thursday, September 8 from 5-7 p.m. to meet him and learn more about his work.

Our September 7 "Let's Do Lunch" program will feature Basso-cantante Eric Hoy Tucker, Associate Professor of Voice and Bass at CMU. A native of West Virginia, he received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Florida State University, Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Illinois, and his Doctor of Musical Arts from Ohio State University. Tucker has a marvelous voice with amazing range. His operatic portrayals include Mozart's "Figaro", and Britten's "Superintendent Budd". Tucker has performed recitals and master classes in Nanjing, China and Trujillo, Peru, and as a soloist as part of the XII International Bach Festival in Peru. He has also served as Musical Director for various regional theater companies. This program is open to the public and is free of cost. Just come at noon and bring your lunch and your love of fine music. Art Reach provides cookies and water.

Our popular Wellspring Literary Series will feature poet Francine J. Harris when the program returns on September 19 at 7 p.m. in the Art Reach Gallery. Her recent works appear in *Rattle*, *Callaloo*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and she is the author of the recent chapbook, "Between Old Trees". Harris is a Cave Canem fellow, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and is entering a Zell Postgraduate Fellowship year at the University of Michigan. Her first collection, *Allegiance*, is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2012 (Wayne State University Press). The Russ Herron Poetry Fund of the MPACF funds this series. Poetry readings and musical entertainment are presented monthly, with refreshment provided by Max & Emily's. The program is free and open to the public.

The Art Reach Picture Program (ARPP) begins its' 27th year in 29 area schools this fall. The program introduces Kindergarten through sixth-grade students to the history of art from cave drawings to modern times. Volunteers go into classrooms once a month and discuss two fine art reproductions with students. For the lower grades colors, shapes, and feeling may be discussed, while older students talk about the world and what it was like when De Vinci painted the Mona Lisa, or the expressionist style of Monet and how Picasso and Braque developed cubism. Volunteers are needed in all area schools. All of the research is provided so you don't have to know anything about art. You can learn right along with your students. All you need is to enjoy working with children, 2-3 hours once a month to share with them, and to attend one short 1 ½ hour training session.

Training for new volunteers will be held on Thursday, September 22 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, September 24 at 10 a.m. at the Art Reach Center, 111. E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant. Please enter through the back door Thursday evening. Training sessions in Alma will be held later in September. Please call Pat Knapp (989-463-6477), or Sandy Sheldon (989-463-5147) for that information. Call Art Reach (989-773-3689), Nedra Fisher (989-772-2570), Nancy Cantrell (989-772-4009), and Pat, or Sandy for further information about the ARPP. There will be 9,000 children in the program this year, but it depends on volunteers. Please help us bring the arts to them.

A Special new class! “Art’s Alive! 2011” is a unique art program available to 7th & 8th grade students from Isabella, Gratiot, Clare and Gladwin counties. The program will run from 3:15 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. on Mondays-Thursday from September 26 – October 19 and is a partnership between Art Reach and CMU. It features a form of integrative learning called “Worldplay”, a method of teaching that encourages purposeful play to facilitate the complex thinking skills that are the basis of all scholarly disciplines. Students will create a “world”, complete with its own culture and creatures. The “World” will come alive through use of media such as watercolor, bookmaking, puppet making, scene design, and finally a puppet show integrating these creatures. This class is limited to 14 participants and requires an application that is available at Art Reach or on line.. Applications are due to Art Reach by September 23.

Other classes at Art Reach this fall include:

- *Saturday, September 17, “Get Your Hands in Clay” with Barbara Taylor for adults
- *September 17, “Acrylic Painting Workshop” with Pat Bursch, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., lunch included, for adults.
- **”Step into the Life of Your Dreams”, with Anne Notestein

For complete information on all classes, call Art Reach or check our web site at www.artreachcenter.org

The 2011 Art Reach Auction for the Arts, *Discover the Treasures of Art*, will be held on Friday, November 4 at the Industrial Engineering and Technology building on the CMU campus. Perhaps this year seems so special to me because it’s part of our 30th Anniversary year, but this gala affair does seem to get better each year. Local artists also seem to get better each year, as do the artworks they donate for the auction. Shops, businesses, and restaurants are also donating wonderful items and services for the event. Proceeds from the auction will be used to fund the many programs that the Center provides our mid Michigan community. I like to think of it as a partnership, because whether you donate, or attend the event, your help makes you a part of what we can do.

A special welcome to our new Education/Programming Coordinator, Kari Chrenka. Please come in and meet her. You’ll be as delighted as we are with this new member of our Art Reach “family”.

REMEMBER, mini-grants applications to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for up to \$4,000 must be submitted to Art Reach by October 3,2011.