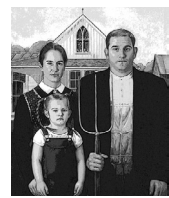


Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



Reasons to be creative

In the last column, art collector Lawrence Arendt discussed the fine art of collecting. This column will feature a well known regional artist represented by the Steeple Gallery, **Barbara Meeker**. Meeker is a nationally recognized, award-winning local artist/educator, who has been included in numerous publications and films.

Having been born into a family with many creative ancestors, I think I was destined to spend my life encouraging others to discover creativity by working with children and adults.

Since childhood, I have had a vital interest in the visual arts. My creative mother was very

supportive by providing me with supplies, art classes, and exposure to art by attending exhibitions and museums. Because of her, I was doing pastel portraits as a teenager.

Subsequently, I won many accolades at school and in our community for my abilities to draw and to be creative.

My need to create has changed directions over the years. It began with a strong interest in representational drawings and then moved to the desire to experiment with all kinds of new media and materials in a more abstract design. As a teacher, this activity became a real stimulant for inspiring my students to try new methods of expressions.

For over 20 years I studied with many seasoned artists around the United States in order to broaden my knowledge of art. This was invaluable to my success in being recognized regionally and nationally in the art world.

Much of that experience was gained by painting with other artists who were equally passionate about creating art. My

artist friends and I often had many discussions on why we feel the need to continue to create.

For a visual artist, the art we create is like a writer's composition or a dancer's interpretation through form. It's our way of communication and interpreting what we see, feel and love about our lives.

Even my love of gardening becomes a part of my creations. Images of abstract flowers have often been a part of my subject matter.

Another reason why I create involves the great pleasure that comes from seeing one's students create and later be recognized for their uniqueness, and knowing that you had some small part in that creative process.

Similarly, the simple act of helping an interested friend to understand an art object through one's explanation can be another rewarding experience. I have often become the art museum "tour guide" over the years, confirming the statement "once a teacher always a teacher."

In 2000, the former

Northwest Indiana Arts Association, now Southshore Arts, honored me with a 55-year retrospective of my work, which included over 90 pieces. Twenty-five of those pieces were borrowed from collectors all over the United States. I was very pleased that those who viewed the exhibition could see transitions of my interests and the evolution of my methods of expressions.

I plan to continue making new creations as long as I am physically able, because making art is a vital part of my existence. We who have this privileged are very lucky, for we should never be lonely when we have this continual urge to express our new ideas.

I believe everyone has some capacity to be creative. I highly recommend investigating the arts as a pleasurable activity that will enhance the quality of one's life in many unexpected ways.

Try it and you may be pleasantly surprised

Contact Sam at The Steeple Gallery at (219) 365-1014 or at samown-er@sbcglobal.net.



CROWN THEATRE
Crown Point, IN • 663-1616
Admission ONLY \$3⁰⁰
17 and under must be accompanied by parent or guardian on Friday & Saturday nights.

MARCH 2
THE MESSENGERS
JOHN CORBETT
PG-13

Don's Foundation Repair
Repair or Replace:
Basement walls
Level floors
Replace rotten wood
Sill plate, face plate & joists
FREE ESTIMATES
956-3355 or
644-7644
25 Years in Business
Don & Deb Dillabaugh, Owners
Licensed • Bonded • Insured

SICK VACUUM?

\$10 OFF REPAIR

Crown Point Vacuum
516 N. Main
219-662-2336

Greater Crown Point Chamber Perspective

American Heritage Construction
"Quality Homes, Remember Them Well"
11045 Broadway, Crown Point • 663-0740

CROWN POINT • CEDAR LAKE/LOWELL
STAR
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWS
112 W. Clark Street • Crown Point
663-4212

YOUR HOMETOWN SHOPPING SOURCE
shoppingNEWS
CROWN POINT • LOFS • WINFIELD • CEDAR LAKE • LOWELL
112 W. Clark Street • Crown Point
663-4212

American Heritage Construction

For thirty years American Heritage Construction has been dedicated to building fine homes. Responsible for the construction of over two hundred homes in Lake and Porter counties, American Heritage has received the *Decade of Excellence* award and is an accredited member of the *BIA, IBA* and *NAHB*. Additionally, Mr. Anderson is the only builder board member renovating the oldest homestead in Lake County and has deep roots in the community and dedicates his time and money to the local community.

American Heritage Construction takes pride in customer satisfaction and being accessible and accommodating to new and established clients. Being a third generation builder and attending Crown Point High School and Indiana University, Mr. Anderson served his country in Korea and Germany.

Building a home is one of the important decisions a person makes, this process if singularly attached to the memories of the past and dreams of the future. The builder of your home should be qualified, accommodating and creative. American Heritage Construction is this builder.

American Heritage Construction is located at 11045 Broadway, Crown Point, and can be reached at 219-663-0740. Please visit them at www.AmHeritage.net for a more detailed summary as well as examples of exterior and interior craftsmanship.

Strack & Van Til
200 Franciscan Dr., Crown Point
663-3345

BURNS Funeral Home
10101 Broadway, Merrillville, IN
769-0044

Centier
Service Worth Celebrating
756-BANK