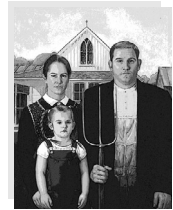


Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

Ring in new year with art



There's nothing like partying with

an artist. The stories are wild, but are they true? I've been to several parties thrown by artists throughout the years. Most of them wanted me to "BYOB" and usually there was little food as there were so many starving artists gobbling up the appetizers. The artists, however, were fascinating, talented and alive.

You're invited to a party with some of the best American artists. No need to bring food or beverages. Simply drive the short distance to the Art Institute in Chicago for the best New Year's party of the year.

In connection with New Year's is the fabulous tradition of making a list of everything you want to improve on by preparing a List of Resolutions. Don't ask if mine have worked.

This year my suggestion is to make an Art Resolution. During the coming year, try to see 10 pieces of American art in the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. The Institute was founded in 1879 and houses 5,000 years of art. My choices are:

1. "American Gothic," oil completed in 1930 by Grant Wood (1891-1942)

This is one of the most parodied pieces of all American art.

The painting was inspired by the window which was gothic in style. The painting suggests the rural way of life in the 1930s. The man in the painting is Wood's dentist, and the woman is Wood's sister.

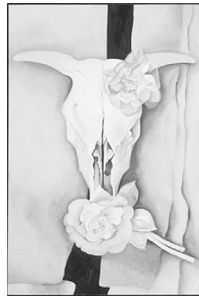
2. "The Herring Net," oil on canvas 1885 by Winslow Homer (1836-1885)

Homer painted many scenes showing the power and beauty of the sea. The Maine coastline was a frequent subject in his paintings.



3. "Cow's Skull with Calico Roses," oil completed in 1931 by Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986)

O'Keeffe focused on the American West in a way unlike any other artist. Her subject matter included flowers, skulls and landscapes. She is most famous for her flowers, which are magnified and encompass the entire canvas. The Art Institute has several originals of her work.



This all-night diner in New York has a timeless quality.

Together in the diner late at night, they are alone in their thoughts. These are experiences most have felt.

8. "The Fountain, Villa Torlonia, Frascati," oil on canvas 1907 by John Singer Sargent (1856-1925)

Born in America but European trained, he is best known for his society portraits. He developed a close friendship with Monet, and they occasionally painted together outdoors. The painting at the Art Institute depicts plein-air painting.



4. "The Child's Bath," oil completed in 1893 by Mary Cassatt (1844-1926)

Cassatt studied Degas and Japanese prints and this led to a new interpretation of form and composition. She is most famous for her portrayal of women and children.



9. "Ready-to-Wear," oil on canvas 1955 by Stuart Davis (1892-1964)

Davis was influenced by European modernists. He painted the sights and sounds of American urban life. His inspiration came from jazz, neon signs, store fronts, taxicabs and other pulsating images of his time.



5. "The Advance-Guard, or The Military Sacrifice (The Ambush)," oil completed in 1890 by Frederic Remington (1861-1909)

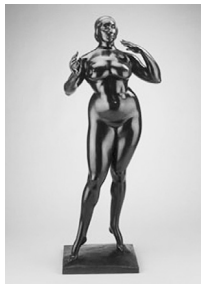
Famous for his popular portrayal of the rugged West, he immortalized the soldier as well as the Indian in his oils as well as his bronzes.

6. "Grey and Silver: Old Battersea Reach," oil on canvas 1863 by James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903)

Whistler's best known work is a portrait of his mother titled "Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of the Painter's Mother," currently in a museum in Paris. He had a brief stint at West Point Academy. He admired Japanese woodcuts and was influenced by the 17th century Dutch and Spanish schools.

10. "Standing Woman," bronze cast in 1927 by Gaston Lachaise (1882-1935)

As a sculpture major, I've spent many hours pondering the beauty of "Standing Woman." It stands over 15 feet but, at the same time, is as graceful as a ballerina. The model for the sculpture would eventually become his wife. His representation of the idealized female form brings reminiscences of Venus of Willendorf. The idealized woman became a constant



7. "Night Hawk," oil on canvas 1942 by Edward Hopper (1882-1967)

Cedar Lake's Old Alaskan Pipe Line restaurant and bar on the south side of the lake is now the Port Cedar Restaurant and Lounge. Last Friday they had all-you-can-eat crab legs. YUMMMMM!

... In a mention in my Dec. 29 Scratching Post, it is my fault that only one side mentioned at a public meeting in Cedar Lake was included in a comment made about the care and condition of a Camelot street built by Mike Poe.

I do apologize to everyone, particularly Mr. Poe, for not calling him to hear his comments.

Poe told me he had sold his theme in his art.

If for some reason you can't make it to the Art Institute, search through old postage stamps. In 1934 an 18-cent Frederick Remington stamp was

Kitty Conley's

Scratching Post

last unit and finished landscaping in the fall of 2005. Therefore, he did not have time to put the final coat on the street. Poe stated, "The streets are not falling apart. I plow that street and maintain that street."

... I hope everyone enjoyed Crown Point's fireworks on New Year's Eve at the old football field. It was very nice of the school corporation not to charge the city for that use.

... Sharon Black- issued. Mary Cassatt was honored with a 5-cent postage stamp in 1966. As a post-script to my last column, Raphael's angels were featured in 1995 on a Christmas stamp.

Anderson, director of Crown Point's Tree Division, won a national award.

She has been chosen as the 2006 recipient of the National Lawrence Enersen Award, which was announced by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"Recipients of the award are individuals whose life's work exemplifies commitment to tree planting and conservation in community improvements," said John Rosenow, president of the foundation.

She, along with others from around the United States, will be honored at the 34th annual awards banquet and ceremonies in April.

Art photos courtesy of the Art Institute Chicago.

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

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| Saturday - | House Stromboli Pure Italian Style | \$4 ⁹⁵ |
| Sunday - | Half Time Appetizers During Half Time | N/C |
| Monday - | Hot Ham & Cheese and Chips | \$2 ⁵⁰ |
| Tuesday - | 2 Homemade Tacos | \$2 ⁵⁰ |
| Wednesday - | Hamburger & Chips | \$2 ⁵⁰ |
| Thursday - | Bowl Homemade Chili with Crackers | \$2 ⁵⁰ |

NIGHTLY DINNER SPECIALS

| | | |
|-------------|--|--------------------|
| Friday - | All You Can Eat Crab Legs | \$24 ⁹⁵ |
| | Prime Rib Every Friday & Saturday | |
| Saturday - | All You Can Eat Walleye | \$19 ⁵⁰ |
| | Canadian Fresh - Average Pc. 12-16 oz. | |
| Sunday - | FREE Pitcher of Pop or Beer with every Dine In Large or XLarge Pizza | |
| Monday - | 25¢ Wing Night | |
| Tuesday - | 1/2 PRICE Dine In Pizza Night | |
| Wednesday - | All You Can Eat Spaghetti and Meatballs and Salad | \$6 ⁹⁵ |
| Thursday - | 6 oz. Filet Mignon top Choice and 4 Large Shrimp | \$14 ⁹⁵ |
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