

## Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

# Anyone can be an art collector

In the last column, I discussed why some people collect art. My unscientific survey was too long for one column. The reasons for collecting art are varied but the passion is the same. I hope you will enjoy these remarks as much as I did. Maybe this will spark an interest in the field of art in the coming months.

Barbara Klawans, a decorator specializing in art and the owner of Art Smart said, "Art and music have always been my passions. As an art collector I've tried to maintain a commitment to supporting artists whose standards of quality and insights have yielded a vision of enduring value. I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to create an art collection with diverse artistic expressions while maintaining a similar theme: Chicago Art. The Chicago artists' stylistic approach vary but the Chicago influences connect them to one another."

Recently, a 15-year-old Valparaiso High School student came to the gallery. I was surprised when he told me he was an art collector.

Patrick Fraley said, "I collect African abstract art because I like them ... It is so bold ... ." It was a joy to discuss art with someone half my age (I'm not revealing my age, but I'm not as old as my mom.).

Gail Weillbaker, a math teacher at Crown Point High School, said, "I teach geometry and really like works of art that bring out the geometry in everyday objects and scenes, such as architecture and nature. A truly original piece of work never goes out of style ... There are three major things that attract my eye to a piece of art. The first is color. I'm a big fan of brilliant color.

The second is geometric design ... The third is local zest. I love Chicago cityscape scenes and regional (dunes) scene. But most of all, I enjoy looking at the art every day in my home. Every time I walk by a piece, I smile and am reminded of my own life experiences."

Suzanne Wasmund, a retired supervisor for the mentally and physically challenged, states, "My taste for art was cultivated at an early age from my parents. They

of something inside of me. I purchase a piece as I relate to its colors, textures or design. I want to 'adorn' my environment with those pieces."

Paul Marusic, a Cedar Lake resident, said, "I don't go looking for art. It goes looking for me. When I see it, it will hit me. I like historical subjects, such as Civil War scenes, ancient battles, reproductions of Roman weapons ... I go to auctions, look in magazines, small shops, etc. ..."

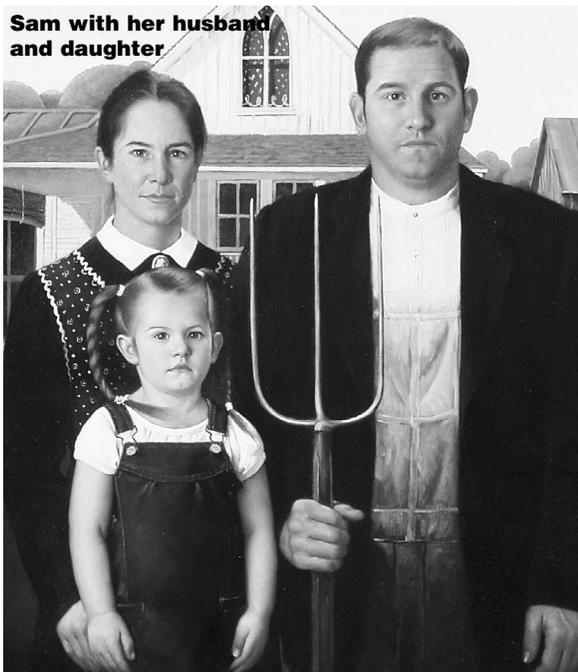
Shawn-Kristin Reynolds, a nurse, states, "I have always been drawn to beauty and the freedoms of expression ... I enjoy color and subject matter. I particularly have many Barbara Meekers ... She has great diversity and refuses to be held captive by one type of art. A word of advice ... don't think about what will go with what in your home. Don't think about where the perfect place shall be to display the art. Just choose what you like and everything will fall into place. This is one of the many beauties of art collecting. You don't necessarily choose it. It chooses you."

The October issue of *Art & Antiques* has an excellent article on print collecting. It discusses many important factors including price, age, categories, signatures, rarity, condition, beauty and so on.

Is there famous Thanksgiving art? Turkeys? Pheasants? Pilgrims? Indians?

Keep those cards, letters, e-mails, faxes, couriers, pony express, federal express, UPS, Western Union, signal flags, telepathic thoughts, telephone calls, smoke signals, morse code, and carrier pigeons coming in.

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Sam with her husband and daughter

exposed me to many different forms of art. I especially appreciate paintings, sculptures and architecture. I am particularly drawn to art that displays beauty, form and unusual perception. I tend to gravitate toward realistic paintings with subdued colors.

"Of interest to me are paintings dealing with nature. I generally select a piece of art that appeals to me or is reflective of an event in my life. The work I collect appeals to me in a realistic and spiritual way."

Tom Sufana, Art Department chairman at Lowell High School, said, "Art enriches my life. It brings me in touch with other artists' views of life."

Sherron Pampalone, a Crown Point artist, said, "Throughout my life I realized that the art I buy is reflective

Sgt. Eldon Strong has been appointed assistant chief of the Crown Point Police Department, replacing the retired Bill Babjak.

Strong has been with the police department since 1976. He served under Chief Charlie Franko when Mayor Jim Forsythe was in office.

Sgt. Sam Trapani has been appointed operations commander, filling the vacancy created when Strong moved up.

Most recently Trapani was detective sergeant and under the former administration he was assistant chief. He has been with the police department since 1980.

Kitty Conley's

## Scratching Post

... Crown Point City Councilwoman and Plan Commissioner Carol Drasga is inviting all residents to come to the Nov. 14 Plans Commission meeting and share how they feel about big-box stores like Wal-Mart.

A lot of people have called her to say that they don't want big-box stores in Crown Point.

Drasga sees the need for the community to show up with signs at the meeting to make a statement.

Those who want a big-box store like Wal-Mart also have

the right to show up and let the Plan Commission know their feelings.

... After the first of the year SBC will officially change its name to AT&T. What goes around comes around.

... Olthof Homes is planning a new subdivision at 129th Avenue and Delaware Street in Crown Point, highlighting a new passive park with walking trails around a pond and possibly through the woods.

In a small 88-home subdivision Olthof should be congratulated for planning on keeping our canopy of green intact.



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