

# DOOR COUNTY ART LEAGUE

March, 2008

## DCAL Mission Statement:

The Door County Art League was organized in 1986 for the purpose of developing active community interest in the field of creative arts. Membership is open to artists and persons interested in and supportive of the visual arts in Door County. Since our first season we have offered a variety of programs to members and guests wishing to enrich their lives through the knowledge, use and enjoyment of art.

Door County Art League P.O. Box 405 Fish Creek, WI 54212



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Winter has really been with us this year.

Hopefully the paintings have been prolific, the pottery is piled high and the photography is developing. Soon the plein air painters will be springing up everywhere. Jim Leatham and friends are planning places to paint. To join them by contact Jim, or read the website for the latest.

Dianne Saron has arranged a great group of speakers/demonstrators for our meetings in 2008. Deborah Rosenthal, Miller Art Museum curator, will be speaking to us at our first meeting in April. May will be the annual Pot Luck, welcoming back our snowbirds and June finds

Carl Mengert sharing his wisdom. More about the programs in later issues...

Again this year the Art League will support the young artists at the Miller High School Exhibition, giving \$100 gift certificates to the winner from each high school and an honorary membership to DCAL. It's a pleasure and an obligation to support our upcoming artists. Looking forward to seeing all of you in April!

~Jeanne

Jeanne Whildin Co-President DCAL

\*If you are interested in becoming a member of the Door County Art League, contact Jeanne Whildin or JoAnne Rosenfeld for more information.

\*send all newsletter info. to : [aaron@hollandartstudio.com](mailto:aaron@hollandartstudio.com)

[www.doorcountyartleague.org](http://www.doorcountyartleague.org)

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## ART-TALK Q&A

By: Randy Rasmussen

watercolor painting by Tony van Hasselt



This month's interview was done with the internationally recognized watercolorist, Tony van Hasselt. Mr. van Hasselt has conducted

international painting workshops worldwide for over 40 years. His work has been featured in almost all the major art publications and he has authored/co-authored 4 books.

**RR-** Mr. van Hasselt, how did you become a watercolorist?

**TVH-** Like most watercolorists, I started watercolor as a kid...just having fun.

**RR-** With your background in commercial design, was this a logical medium to specialize in?

**TVH-** Yes, in a pre-computer age, it was...plus Guache of course.

**RR-** How many years have you been painting?

**TVH-** I've always been in the art field. I started as a window dresser and show-card letterer in one of Europe's big department stores. (Mr. van Hasselt is from Holland); then here in the United States I switched to commercial design, working for various ad agencies. All that before my "formal" art training, which began with a once-a-week class, then developed into some time in New York studying under Frank Reilly. Mr. Reilly taught at the Art Student's League for 27 years.

**RR-** Who did you study with early in your career and how did they influence you?

**TVH-** To earn money to support this New York schooling, I started organizing European painting workshops taught by nationally known watercolorists. In retrospect, that took a lot of chutzpah. After organizing and conducting a Rex Brandt workshop, the word spread and I was able to attract teaching talents of other well-known names in the watercolor field.

Naturally I sat in the front row of the demonstrations and learned a lot from John Pike, Robert E. Wood, Herb Olsen, Milford Zornes, Tom Hilll and many others over the 15 years that I owned and operated Painting Holidays. These artists and friends influenced me to become a plein air landscape painter in watercolor.

**RR-** How has watercolor changed over the years.?

**TVH-** Watercolor lends itself to so many interpretations and so much freedom. I feel two trends have developed. I see more experimental, abstract work as well as the super realistic enlargements of objects and flora, which to me gets a bit tiresome. When I am asked to judge a show, I feel that I create a very balanced presentation since the work is judged by basic design principles and it does not make a difference if it is an abstract or highly realistic painting. In addition, I'll include a painting that may break all the rules...yet it makes me stop and "listen".

**RR-** Do you still get excited about painting? The thrill of the blank sheet?

**TVH-** Yes I do, and get cranky if other duties stop me from spending as much time at my love. I also enjoy the sharing of those wonderful happenings on the blank sheet of paper, the flowing of color and the beautiful design of the untouched areas. Pike used to call watercolor "the gambler's medium". It's the thrill of being able to think ahead and skip the areas that need to remain white.

**RR-** What is the most common flaw you see in the beginning watercolorists you see in your workshops?

**TVH-** Being an on-location-painter, I see the beginners problem as not having logical equipment and a logical approach to setting up. They, many times, don't use freshly squeezed paint and instead wear out expensive brushes trying to bring back 25 cents worth of paint.

**RR-** Any idea how many paintings you have done?

**TVH-** I don't have the slightest idea how many pieces of paper I have filled...often on both sides. I remember John Pike saying a 300 lb watercolor paper rolled tightly is a great way to start a fire. I have a lot of unfinished work which I'll get around to one day. I do a lot of cropping to see if some little art of an effort is "frame-able".

**RR-** How would you describe your current work? In your books you seem to be able to paint anyway you want...tight or loose.

**TVH-** I have had an opportunity to be influenced by East and West Coast masters. My major influence was both John Pike and Robert E. Wood. As a result some call me versatile. I call myself confused. I love the realistic on-location impressions, but after those, I will often do a more creative, loose interpretation of the same subject. With those the failure rate is higher, but when they come off I prefer them as do collectors.

**RR-** What do you really enjoy painting?

**TVH-** In one word, the landscape, although I think I am a glorified house-painter. I like structures, quiet street scenes, and the natural beauty of rocks and streams. I love to paint trees. It depends on where I am of course. I also enjoy painting the "seedy" part of town. I'm sad to see the old barns being replaced by metal structures.

**RR-** Do you think an individual can still make a living as an artist and if so what would you advise.?

**TVH-** Wow, this is a bad time of the year (and the economy!) to ask that question. It also depends on how you define "making a living". You better accept your life style or find a very understanding partner, ideally with promotional talents. Few artists are financially successful.

Those who make a living spend spend time honing their skills to create a sale-able product, and more time to market that product. My advice? If you are really into art enjoy the work, create something you are proud to sign and like the Nike commercial says, "just do it". As far as promotion is concerned have a data base of possible collectors. Photograph your work before it is framed and under glass so you have a record. Explore websites like [www.printsmadeeasy.com](http://www.printsmadeeasy.com) which give you the opportunity to do postcard promotions for practically nothing. Keep it up, keep on doing, and don't become discouraged.

## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*"May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,  
Until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand."*  
-commonly attributed to St. Patrick

## **DCAL - IMPORTANT DATES**

### **Miller Art Museum**

March 1- April 15

#### **"The Making Of An Artist"**

featuring student work from the  
Kewaunee Academy of Fine Art

Opening Reception Saturday, March 1, 3 - 4:30pm.

### **Dal Santos Annual Winter Show**

now through May 13, 2008

**See new work by DCAL Members**

the theme of the show is "Winter"



*Painting by member Rich Delcarson*

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT\***

**Bonnita Budysz** will be at:

ARROYO GRANDE ART CENTER, Arroyo Grande,  
California

March 24th, Monday Evening, 6:30 p.m.

DEMONSTRATION/LECTURE for the Arroyo Grande Art  
Guild

**Aaron Holland** will be offering a workshop:

#### **"Introduction to Oil Painting"**

at the Peninsula Art School May 14, 15, and 16.

*Sign up now to reserve a place!*

**Karen DeNoto** is the featured artist at the Unitarian  
Universal Fellowship in Sister Bay.

Congratulations to **Mary Anderson**, who received a  
grant from the Peninsula Arts Association, to create  
artwork honoring the Sesquicentennial celebration in  
Fish Creek.

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

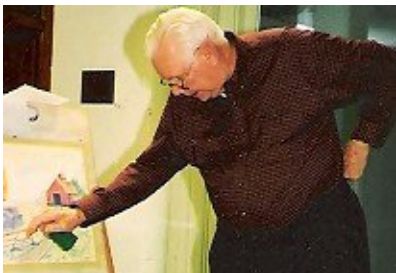
"Happy New year wishes to you from Australia, Steve and I are in the midst of what may be a monsoon here in coastal New South Wales...We plan on returning to Wisconsin in April, latter part of the month, or at the latest by mid-May I think. I don't have anything planned yet for my time in Door, but I am going to teach in West Bend again for a week in July. The art museum as you may know, is doing a fund-raising campaign and they will probably start tearing the old building down in 09, to build a new building to house Carl Marr and the Wisconsin collection which has really grown in the last ten years. amazing how things evolve.... cheers to you"- **Cheryl Stidwell Parker**

"The Door County Art League is a very valuable organization. I wish I could be more active again as I was at one time. Currently I am an active volunteer at the DuPage Art League in nearby Wheaton, Illinois. ([www.dupageartleague.org](http://www.dupageartleague.org)). We have our own gallery in downtown Wheaton and have over 400 members. We have a different exhibit every month each with a different theme. We usually get 80 to 112 pieces entered... It keeps me busy and is very enjoyable but miss my activities in Door County. Looking forward to seeing you and my many other Door County friends this summer. "

-Best regards, **John Cather, Sr.**

"Hey, it sounds like you've had one beauty of a winter, the good old fashioned kind with lots and lots of snow.

I wanted to write.. to all of you to send Kudos for the great jobs you are all doing  
Everyone keep up the good work, and we will be back in Wisconsin by the end of April this year. We will be leaving here near the end of March and coming back to WI via the scenic route (since we did Truman's Library on the way to Tucson, we're going to do Reagan's library on the way home) along the coast of California and up to Portland, and then east to WI with at least one stop in Jackson Hole. We've been along I-80 and I-90 at least 15 times and never did that detour to Jackson Hole to the Grand Teton's, so this time we will, even if it is April."-**Dorie Zimmerman (DCAL President)**



**Ed Dosenbach** demonstrating in front of his class  
"Watercolor 101"

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

Dear Friends,

We are writing to inform you that the **Francis Hardy Center for the Arts** has issued a Call for Artists. If you are an artist, we hope that you will consider participating in the FHCA's 46th Annual Juried Exhibit.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth M. Meissner  
**Exhibitions and Community Relations Director**  
Ph: (920) 854-2210  
E-mail: [info@thehardy.org](mailto:info@thehardy.org)  
Web: <http://www.thehardy.org>

The **Art League** will again sponsor a tent for Art League members at the **Arts and Crafts Show** in Sister Bay, July 19-20, a Liberty Grove Historical Society fund raiser. Last year we had a double tent and the only charge to Art League members was \$20 for the registration fee. A prospectus will be available to Art league members in the near future.  
contact: [Jane Delcarson](#) for more information

If any artist or gallery still wishes to place an ad or a listing in our **2008 Door Peninsula Arts Guide** the deadline is Friday, March 7. Anyone can call me (Kim Jacobs) with questions (even after the deadline) at: 920-559-1394.

### **AMO Gallery & Framery**

gives 15% off to all artists in the Door County Art League.  
*We also discount student framing!*

### **Artist Guild**

Discount for DCAL Members  
Mention that you are a member and receive 10% Discount on all materials and framing.  
\*Discount only available the *first Sunday* of each month.

### **Winnebagoland Art Fair**

June 8, 2008  
Paintings, collages, drawings, photographs, jewelry, and pastels.  
SASE to P.O. Box 2805 Oshkosh, WI 54903  
E-mail Susan J. Spanbauer  
Phone Number 920 232-0359

### **Wisconsin Watercolor Society Spring Exhibit 2008**

Schauer Arts & Activities Center  
March 22nd through May 11th, 2008  
Opening reception Sunday March 30; 2:00-3:00 p.m.

### **Membership applications for Wisconsin Watercolor Society**

contact: Karen Finerty, 1335 Wood Lawn Circle  
Elm Grove, WI 53122 [jkfin@msn.com](mailto:jkfin@msn.com)

### **Cedarburg Plein Air Painting Competition**

sponsored by the Cedarburg Artists Guild  
Cedarburg, Wisconsin  
June 19-29 2008  
[cedarburgpleinair.com](http://cedarburgpleinair.com)

Donna Lash at The Bridge in Egg Harbor is looking for artwork to hang at the coffee house.  
Call Donna (920-559-3221) for more information.

The owners of the Third Avenue Café at 50 S. Third Avenue, Sturgeon Bay, are looking for artists to hang work at their place. Contact Anna or Scott Merrens at 743-6640.

### **\*We apologize if we missed you!**

Please send all your news and happenings so we can share what you are doing (artistically) with your fellow members! All news is carefully considered and we make every effort to include as many submissions as possible.  
send all newsletter info. to : [aaron@hollandartstudio.com](mailto:aaron@hollandartstudio.com)