DEAR MEMBERS,

Thank you for your affirming feedback about the new Art Update following its inaugural winter release. The world we currently live in requires all of us to remain nimble; the new newsletter supports that need. You also told us you think it’s just plain more fun, and we love that!

How will you know what’s going on at KAC this summer and moving forward? At the start of each class term and exhibition you will receive a postcard in the mail. These postcards will direct you to krasl.org for updated information on classes, programs, and events. Additionally, the periodic #ExploreKrasl emails highlight timely KAC happenings. To receive these updates, please email marketing@krasl.org.

Krasl Art Center, both indoors and out, is here for your use. The newly renovated indoor space overlooking KAC’s yard was built for you. Whether you need a getaway for a work project, a spot to meet a friend, or a new place to read, you are welcome here. Looking for a small event or meeting venue? We can help with that, too.

Outdoors, Krasl Art Center’s campus is a dynamic, inclusive space to gather. Stop by the Oval Lawn for a free performance or the return of the Summer Art Markets on the Green; take an outdoor class or workshop; explore the new experiences in the East Garden dedicated in memory of Maria G. Lupe Hopp (sponsored by Horizon Bank); or enjoy food trucks while meeting friends for lunch in the Shaded Plaza. KAC’s campus reflects the vision of our benefactors George and Olga Krasl to “make life more worthwhile.” It is a space where all are welcome and all are invited.

At long last, we are proud to announce a partnership with 1928 Planning Co. to host your intimate event or one-of-a-kind celebration on KAC’s grounds. This partnership offers exceptional event rental services with proceeds supporting KAC’s mission. Learn more at krasl.org/events/rentals-weddings.

We hope the arts continue to be a bright spot in your lives; we strive to continue offering new and traditional opportunities for you, your family, and your friends.

S U P P O R T P R O V I D E D I N P A R T B Y

A C C R E D I T E D M E M B E R

BOOM BLOOM:
FEATURING NIKKI RENEE ANDERSON & RENEE ROBBINS

Chicago-based artists Nikki Renee Anderson and Renee Robbins share an affinity for fantastical, candy colored other worlds. Together they present Boom Bloom. This visually enticing installation of paintings and sculptures is informed by science as much as by feminine experience. Anderson’s artworks from her Sugar Dreams series evokes a dreamland of confectionery curiosities. Robbins’s microscopic swaying forms invite the viewer to immerse in their water-laden landscapes. Collectively, the exhibition is visual dynamite flowering before your eyes.

“I often have scientific images around me in the studio while I’m working. Since I’m doing so much inventing with shape, I really take a lot of liberty with color to use my own voice within the subject.” – Renee Robbins on her color palette

THE UNDETECTABLE PRESENCE: A SELECTION OF SCULPTURE BY MIKE SLASKI

“My work tends toward the dry and analytical with an occasional touch of wit.”
– Mike Slaski

Nikki Renee Anderson’s artworks have been described as bulging with gravid, fleshy fragility.

**Gravid** (def): 1. pregnant, carrying eggs or young; 2. full of meaning or a specified quality.
BLOW UP II: INFLATABLE CONTEMPORARY ART

BLOW UP II: Inflatable Contemporary Art explores the medium of inflatable art with imagery that is figurative, conceptual, and abstract. These large-scale inflatable sculptures, conceived by nine artists and art collectives from around the world, connote fun and whimsy, are familiar yet strange and challenge the definition of art. Here, in an unusual feat, artists use air as an active tool in their work to subvert our perspective and surprise us.

Featuring a new roster of artists, BLOW UP II includes work by Chromaforms, Sharon Engelstien, FriendsWithYou, Josh Harker, Susan Lee-Chun, Matt Ritchie, Lizbeth Rossof, Jen Stark, and Max Streicher – many of whom have never previously worked in the inflatable medium. The resulting artworks reflect a variety of themes, including consumerism, pop culture, history, and even mortality.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, JUNE 12 – OCTOBER 3, 2021

UPCOMING IN 2021

April 3 – June 6: Boom Bloom: Featuring Nikki Renee Anderson & Renee Robbins
artlab: Mike Slaski: The Undetectable Presence
June 12 – Oct. 3: Blow Up II: Inflatable Contemporary Art
Oct. 9 – Nov. 28: American Society of Marine Artists North Regional Exhibition
Dec. 4: 2021 Members’ Show

Rebecca Hungerford volunteered on the Art Fair Task Force to review and make a recommendation to KAC’s board of directors regarding Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff. Here she shares her experience.

“The Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff was my introduction to St. Joseph 15 years ago when relocation from Kansas City was a personal priority. I loved St. Joe, the lake, studio space at the Box Factory; I moved here six months later.

“For 45 years I’ve sold my work primarily at art fairs. The pandemic caused those shows to cancel, severely limiting income for working artists like myself. Fortunately, the 2020 Summer Art Market on the Green proved a safe avenue for public sales and provided a template for reopening art fairs in 2021.

“It’s exciting to know Krasl Art Center has created a comprehensive and approved plan for this year’s Art Fair! I look forward to buying my admission in advance, purchasing wonderful art from those who made it, and continuing to shop and support The Shop at Krasl Art Center!”

Rebecca Hungerford’s artwork may be found in The Shop at KAC, at the Box Factory for the Arts, at the 2021 Summer Art Markets on the Green, and online at pewtershop.com.

The 2020 Krasl Art Fair is scheduled for July 10 & 11, 2021. For up-to-date information about this year’s event, visit krasl.org/art-fair/event-information.
Mural Painted by the Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

In 2019, KAC launched a partnership program with the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor (BGCBH) Teen Center. After brainstorming project ideas, KAC and BGCBH staff quickly developed a series of weekly art lessons to introduce a wide variety of media and career opportunities to young artists. Projects ranged from graphic design to ceramics to animation, but perhaps the most exciting project was a collaborative mural painted in the Teen Center basement, led by KAC Teaching Artist Sharron Ott. Ott worked with a small group of talented BGCBH youth to develop their ideas, make preparatory sketches, and paint the image directly on the wall. The mural has become a focal point of the teen center, and even served as the backdrop for the 2021 MLK Week Celebration Keynote Speaker, Takeidra Masters. After a break in programming due to COVID-19, KAC is excited to return to the BGCBH this summer!

Sharron Ott: Murals give voice to ideas in a way that many may receive the message. The arrangement of the composition parades past the viewer, telling a story as they visually engage. And as grand as it is to see large scale art, it is even more enjoyable to paint it. The process, being challenging mentally as well as physically, is rewarding and educational.
ArtPlay Participant, Annelotte, Age 10 working on a ceramic plate.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH—ARTPLAY WORKSHOPS

THE COMMUNITY PARTNER

Nancy Church, President/CEO of Berrien County Cancer Service: When a family member is diagnosed with cancer, every member of the family is affected. Children in particular may have difficulty expressing their emotions about the changes that are occurring within the family. The Berrien County Cancer Service has a monthly ArtPlay workshop to reach out to children and families impacted by cancer using art as an expression of emotions. We are delighted to partner with Krasl Art Center for these ArtPlay workshops which are held the third Thursday of the month from 4:30 – 6 PM.

THE TEACHING ARTIST

Keith Stevens: ArtPlay is very special to me; the participants are all young artists who are impacted by cancer. Some of the pieces have little bits of them and what they have gone through in the design. We work together in class to experience many different styles of art. This class has a large age gap and the project can be varied from basic to complex. I have respect for these artists; they demonstrate a real willingness to accomplish a piece that they can be proud of and say they are the artist who made it. One thing we try to do in all of the classes is to have FUN and share that with each other. Art gives them a chance to just enjoy what they are experiencing, and they do.

THE PARTICIPANTS

Tara, Age 14: ArtPlay helps me like it did when I was in the hospital. It gets my mind off of everything. I enjoy showing everyone my art and giving the art as gifts. I wish there was more ArtPlay!

Annelotte, Age 10, & Annelotte’s Mom, Marie: ArtPlay is fun and brings people together in a positive way. [It’s also] a great way to help support cancer patients through BCCS, and show the importance of art to people of all ages. I really feel like I can connect with people in a very engaged way, and I hope others do too. We come with all sorts of interesting topics to talk about while we create art. I think ArtPlay is awesome!

Examples of an ArtPlay project.