

INSPIRE MEANINGFUL CHANGE AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY THROUGH THE VISUAL ARTS.



KRASL

ART CENTER

ART UPDATE



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.

KAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OCT. 1, 2020 - SEPT. 30, 2021

President: **Laura Lukas**
 Vice President: **Brian Edlefson**
 Secretary: **Grace Kelmer**
 Treasurer: **Budd Haemer**
 Vice Treasurer: **Heather Marschke**
Paul Fletcher
Juan Ganim
Desie Hardin
Dr. Katherine Kwon
Susan Miller
Jeff Saylor

KAC STAFF:

Julia Gourley Donahue, Executive Director
Tami Miller, Deputy Director & Curator
Nathan Margoni, Education Manager
Matthew Bizoe, Marketing & Events Manager
Suzanne Arent, Executive Assistant
Emily McKenna, School & Comm. Programs Coordinator
Laura Winkle, Interpretation & Engagement Coordinator
Keith McCoy, Facilities Technician
Margaret Osborne, Guest Services
Teri Gersonde, Volunteer Coordinator
Jennifer Zona, Ceramics Studio Manager

SUPPORT PROVIDED IN PART BY



ACCREDITED MEMBER



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM: 98.3 The Coast, Art FX Signs & Graphics, Berrien Community Foundation, Boulevard Inn & Bistro, Frederick S. Upton Foundation, Horizon Bank, The John DeVries Insurance Agency, Kruggel Lawton CPA's, Silver Beach Pizza, Starks Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, TCF Bank, & Vail Rubber Works, Inc.





Nikki Renee Anderson,
Standing Bodies (detail), 2014.
Ceramic and acrylic. On view
in *Boom Bloom* thru June 6.

ON VIEW THRU JUNE 6, FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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.



Nikki Renee Anderson,
Sugar Flora 3 (detail),
ceramic and acrylic,
21" x 8" x 8", 2018.

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*.

2021 Exhibition Sponsors: 98.3 The Coast, Starks Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Bistro on the Boulevard, TCF Bank, Art FX, Kruggel Lawton CPA's, The John DeVries Insurance Agency, Silver Beach Pizza & Vail Rubber Works, Inc.

ARTISTS INTERESTED IN EXHIBITING CAN LEARN
MORE AT [KRASL.ORG/ART/ARTIST-OPPORTUNITIES](https://krasl.org/art/artist-opportunities)



"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

Renee Robbins, *Night Croquet*, 2018. Acrylic on canvas.



**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

Mike Slaski, *Wheel*, 2021. Poplar.

IN THE **artlab**





Forefront: Sharon Engelstein, *Seeker*, 2012.
Nylon fabric, electric fan. Background:
Lizabeth Rossoff, *5 XI'AN AMERICAN
WARRIORS* (detail), 2019. Nylon, fabric,
electric fans. On view in *Blow Up II:
Inflatable Contemporary Art*,
June 12 - October 3.

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

BLOW UP II: INFLATABLE CONTEMPORARY ART

BLOW UP II: Inflation Contemporary Art explores the medium of inflatable art with imagery that is figurative, conceptual, and abstract. These large-scale

Artist Lizbeth Rossof intersects popular culture and ancient artistry in *5 XI'AN AMERICAN WARRIORS* (shown on reverse). Inflatable sculptures feature monumental figures based on popular American animated characters. The figures include *Armored Warrior Spiderman*, *Emperor Batman*, *General Bart*, *General Mickey*, and *General Shrek* and are grouped together, mimicking the historical Chinese Terracotta Army.



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.

Jen Stark, *Cones*,
2019. Nylon fabric,
electric fans.



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: Inflation Contemporary Art*

Oct. 9 – Nov. 28: *American Society of Marine Artists North Regional Exhibition*

Dec. 4: *2021 Members' Show*

2021 Exhibition Sponsors: 98.3 The Coast, Starks Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Bistro on the Boulevard, TCF Bank, Art FX, Kruggel Lawton CPA's, The John DeVries Insurance Agency, and Silver Beach Pizza.



Rebecca Hungerford,
Leafy Vessel, Pewter.

AN ARTIST'S PERSPECTIVE ON ART FAIRS

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 2021 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.



The 2019 Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff in Lake Bluff Park and KAC's grounds.



Rebecca Hungerford in her studio.

SUPPORT WORKING ARTISTS: CONSIDER BUYING AT SUMMER ART MARKETS & ART FAIR, FROM THE 2020 ACCEPTED ART FAIR ARTISTS AT KRASL.ORG, IN THE SHOP AT KRASL ART CENTER, AND WITH ANY OF THE OTHER SHOPS FEATURING HANDMADE ITEMS. 57.9% OF ART FAIRS (WHO, LIKE US, USE ZAPAPPLICATION) WERE CANCELLED IN 2020.



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!



Boys & Girls Clubs of America 2020 Midwest Regional Youth of the Year, Takeidra Masters, giving a keynote speech at the MLK Week Celebration Kickoff.



In-progress work from the Boys and Girls Club 2019 Mural Project.

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, Annelofte, Age 10
working on a ceramic plate.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH—ARTPLAY WORKSHOPS

THE COMMUNITY PARTNER



Mr. Keith's caricature of BCCS President/CEO, Nancy Church.

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.



Berrien County Cancer Service

For more information, contact Nancy at 269.429.3281 or director@bccancerservice.org.

THE TEACHING ARTIST



A caricature of himself, Keith Stevens, also known as Mr. Keith

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.