Wishing you joy.
Learn more about Richard Hunt’s 2018 stainless steel, site-specific sculpture Rising Crossing Tides and Krasl Art Center’s public sculpture collection at krasl.org.
INSPIRE MEANINGFUL CHANGE AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY THROUGH THE VISUAL ARTS.
DEAR MEMBERS,

I say it quite often, your membership makes a difference. But let me tell you a bit more. When times are tough, we look around to see who is with us. Who is standing by, showing up, affirming that the shift in direction is right even when it’s hard. When the budget is slimmed down, we look critically at what matters most, we check in with our strategic plan, and we check in with you, our members. Are you still here? Does this work still matter to you?

Sometimes you join for a class discount or for a special drawing, we know! And that’s ok! But we hope that you stay because you see the impact the arts bring to our community, to your neighborhood, to our most vulnerable residents.

As we now must squeeze a bit tighter to prioritize mission-centric work, we hope this new, revised Art Update will be a welcome addition to our members’ homes every few months. In the past, the Update was shared widely with all. It will now be exclusively just for you, our members. We hope you’ll hold onto the pages that mean the most to you, share a page with a friend, or leave an inspiring message with a stranger. We hope these begin to feel like gifts, from us to you. Because we treasure you. And we thank you for putting faith in the work we do at Krasl Art Center.

With admiration and gratitude,

[Signature]

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OCT. 1. 2020 - SEPT. 30, 2021

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KAC MEMBER ARTISTS
MARK TONCRAY AND JANET SULLIVAN

Member artists Mark Toncray and Janet Sullivan faithfully participate in KAC’s annual Members’ Show. Neither are afraid to push boundaries or question limitations, and both produce serious new artworks for the show each year.

[Interview]

KAC: AS ARTISTS, WHAT IS MEANINGFUL ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL MEMBERS’ SHOW?

More than anything the Members’ Show is a gathering of community, the assembly of our tribe. It is a continuation of the dialogue of what is art and what is its purpose.

KAC: WHY DO YOU CHOOSE TO BE MEMBERS OF KAC?

As far as we are concerned, the Krasl Art Center is the heart of Berrien County. For many people their heart is their church or other organization, for us it is the Krasl and the community it serves, a community asking similar questions and searching for answers.

WHAT DO YOU WISH OTHERS KNEW ABOUT ART, THAT THEY MAY NOT KNOW?

Engaging in the art experience enables one to view every experience with an additional perspective. To learn to look at life as an artist and discover the artist within.
An integral part of the artistic process, inspiration is the spark that shapes new creative endeavors; it creates momentum for the artist and helps make meaning for the viewer.

Inspired by... showcases the work of KAC’s member artists and the people, places, and objects that have informed that work. KAC member artists are invited to display one artwork created within the past two years that addresses the theme. All media are accepted and artists of every skill set are encouraged to submit in this annual celebration of local talent.
COLOR THIS PAGE & COMPARE IT TO RENEE ROBBINS’ ORIGINAL IN THE GALLERY.

BOOM BLOOM: FEATURING NIKKI RENEE ANDERSON & RENEE ROBBINS  APRIL 3 – JUNE 6, 2021

Coloring sheet inspired by a detail of the painting Sanctuary by artist Renee Robbins.
Boom Bloom features sculptures by Nikki Renee Anderson and paintings by Renee Robbins that explode, reconfigure, and blossom. Hybrid forms simultaneously evoke all kinds of things, such as cells, botanicals or the human body. Layers of attraction and repulsion manifest on the micro and macro scale like daydreams inside candy-colored otherworlds.

Live at Lunchtime: Artist Talks

“Don’t lose those personal connections.” - Andy Sawyer.
Artists like Andy share advice, talk about art, and lead virtual studio tours via Facebook Live Thursdays at noon.
Ever find yourself feeling a bit off, agitated or just not present in the moment? These simple steps can help you reset and increase resiliency in the face of daily stresses. Give them a try!

1. **Describe the temperature of your surroundings in 1 word.**
2. **Identify 2 sounds you hear right now.**
3. **Name 3 colors you see in the room.**
4. **Count backwards from 4, 8, 16 or 32. How far did you make it?**
5. **Look around you and notice 5 objects that catch your attention. What are they?**
LOCAL ARTIST DARRELL WILLIS HUMBLES ILLUSTRATES RESILIENCY IN ART

KAC, in collaboration with Spectrum Health Lakeland, is pleased to publicly launch the Art & Wellness Pop-Up project. The colorful, artistic Pop-Up will engage audiences and provide tools to build resiliency. Local artist Darrell Willis Humbles provided illustrations for the project.

KAC: WHAT WAS YOUR PATH TO BECOMING AN ARTIST, DARRELL?

DWH: I believe I was born to be an artist. I started at the age of 5. All of a sudden I picked up a pencil and paper and started doodling. I started with stick figures. Since then, I picked up the talent and went with it. Some people say it was in the family. But I consider it a God-given gift.

KAC: WHAT COMPELS YOU TO KEEP MAKING ART WHEN TIMES ARE CHALLENGING?

DWH: Art is a part of my life. It keeps me occupied on good days and bad. I enjoy doing it. Sometimes critics can bring me down a bit, but I keep doing it and through art I pick myself back up. It represents who I am, my emotions about life itself.

The Art & Wellness Pop-Up is a collaborative project developed by Spectrum Health Lakeland and Krasl Art Center. Content, including the strategies featured on the front of this card, is informed by the Trauma Resource Institute’s Community Resiliency Model. Financial support provided by Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

Illustration for the Art & Wellness Pop-Up (above), featuring illustrations by Humbles (right).
Artwork: Aaron V., Age 8. 2D Art Sampler Student
MESSAGE FROM KAC EDUCATION MANAGER, NATHAN MARGONI

Krasl Art Center education programs are always changing. Virtual classes, outdoor classes, art-at-home kits, free art bundles (fundles), hospital coloring books, virtual Family Days, virtual PechaKucha, and curbside clay guild are only the latest examples of programs that have been modified or newly developed to meet the needs of our community. Although the pace of program development has accelerated rapidly during COVID-19, the process of listening to and collaborating with our community to provide relevant and engaging hands-on art experiences remains the same. Our strong relationships with partner organizations, local school administrators, teaching artists, students and volunteers make it possible for us to be responsive to the needs of our community before, during, and after the pandemic.

“[KAC] offers top-notch, insightful artistic experiences, [and] engaging exhibits that provoke deep conversation amongst our family. We are so grateful [for the] well-thought out at-home projects, virtual learning, and in-person experiences that are all presented in a safe and highly organized fashion throughout the pandemic that rival those previously offered at the center indoors. Furthermore, Nathan and Emily’s personal engagement with our family as well as the bonds that our kids have formed with their instructors mean so very much to us. Thanks so much to you all!”

- Lisa, Artist Guardian
FUNDLES = FUN BUNDLES OF ART
THE PARTICIPANTS
Sylvia, Age 9, says: The pickup art crafts are amazing! I had so much fun painting my pumpkin and landscape canvas! It was so much fun getting to do stuff with my family without just watching TV! I really hope you make another one soon!

Sylvia’s Mother, Kerry: The Krasl Art Fundles have offered such a unique opportunity for our family to come together in a creative way during the pandemic. We have truly looked forward to each one and found them to be an opportunity to expand our family time outside of board games and movie night.

THE DONORS
“Thank you for brightening the days of so many people in our communities - young and old, artistic and not. ART is such a healer during these COVID TIMES!!!” - Terry & Liz Allen

To date the Fund a Fundle campaign has brought in $4,980 of our $9,000 goal. Donor gifts make it possible for KAC to say “YES!” to each and every fundle request.

Donate at public.krasl.org/web/donate

THE VOLUNTEER
Debbie Stanford is a volunteer for KAC’s Family Days, Docent Program and more! She is inspired to help children and families learn through art. She feels good knowing she can encourage creativity and bring out the artistic side of people. With each Fundle, Debbie likes to imagine what families are going to create out of what they find inside. Debbie says, “I encourage others to believe they have gifts they haven’t even unlocked yet. I help children with the art they create and encourage them to think what they create is worthwhile. When I volunteer at Krasl, I leave better than I came.”

THE TEACHING ARTIST
Miss Dani: When I’m helping to create lesson plans and ideas for our Fundles, I always think about the families and friends who would come in and participate. Since we can’t be together in person making art, I want the projects to still have that same, personal feel. Like I’m there helping along! We are able to do that, in a way, when we have our live online family day/night sessions. It always makes me so happy to see everyone share the artwork on Facebook and Instagram that they’ve done together by using the plans and supplies we’ve provided. Even though I really miss seeing everyone, I think this is a fun way for us to stay connected!

FUNDLES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO OVER 700 FAMILIES SINCE APRIL 2020.

MAKE ART ANYWHERE! PURCHASE KRASL KITS IN THE KAC SHOP TO CREATE HIGH QUALITY ART PROJECTS AT HOME.