

**INSPIRE MEANINGFUL CHANGE AND STRENGTHEN
COMMUNITY THROUGH THE VISUAL ARTS.**



KRASL
ART CENTER
ART UPDATE

WINTER 2022
JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL

MEMBER NEWSLETTER VOLUME 44, ISSUE 1

Artwork: Gail mally-mack, *Young Flight*. Stainless Steel, 2005.

Dear FRIENDS,

I sit in a state of reflection for the year gone by and with optimism for what the future holds. Although the year wasn't without ongoing COVID-19 related challenges, Krasl Art Center continues forward motion.

In October, we were pleased to welcome new board members, Zachary Vaughn of Cornerstone Alliance and Anna Brooks of Arcadia Gardens. We are deeply grateful to the outgoing members of the board, Susan Miller, Jeff Saylor, Heather Marschke, and Desie Hardin. Your board of directors give generously of their time and financial resources to help KAC grow in your community. Please join me in thanking them.

Team KAC is actively working to advance the new and updated initiatives in the 2021-2025 strategic plan, available at krasl.org/about/mission-vision-history. We have completed a master plan for the flagship Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff, continue to strategize around current and potential facilities use, and are in the midst of launching a committee to help lead diversity and inclusion efforts. All the while, we are deepening relationships with community partners both to help make southwest Michigan a destination for the arts and to expand the impact of exhibitions and education programs.

January 17 is the closing date for the annual *Members' Show: Resiliency Redux*, the final exhibition of the 2021 exhibition schedule. Following the *Members' Show*, you'll notice the primary galleries remain unscheduled while we invest in gallery HVAC updates (see card #3 for details).



Executive Director Julia Gourley Donohue.

Rest assured, The Lounge, The Lab, The Shop, and studio programs continue.

We are grateful to have received a challenge grant of \$15,000 from Frederick S. Upton Foundation. By the end of January 2022 our goal is to raise \$15,000 in gifts to secure the grant. All funds support KAC's education programs. If you have not yet given, please consider your support. With a dollar for dollar match, a gift of \$25 brings \$50 of support.

Thank you for making a difference!

With gratitude for your membership,

Julia Gourley Donohue

Executive Director

**KAC Board of Directors;**

Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021

President: **Laura Lukas**

Vice President: **Brian Edlefsen**

Secretary: **Grace Kelmer**

Treasurer: **Paul Fletcher**

Anna Brooks

Budd Haemer

Juan Ganum

Dr. Katherine Kwon

Zachary Vaughn

Steve Wessel

KAC Staff:

Julia Gourley Donohue - Executive Director

Tami Miller - Deputy Director & Curator

Nathan Margoni - Education Manager

Matthew Bizoe - Marketing Manager

Emily McKenna - School & Community Programs Coordinator

Laura Winkle - Interpretation & Engagement Coordinator

Suzanne Arent - Executive Assistant

Keith McCoy - Facilities Technician

Nat Carow - Guest Services

Rowan Davis - Guest Services

Margaret Osborne - Guest Services

Ra Veles - Guest Services

Chandra Williams - Guest Services

Jennifer Zona - Ceramics Studio Manager

ACCREDITED MEMBER



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"I BELIEVE A PERSON SHOULD DO
WHAT THEY WANT TO DO. I HAVE A
LOVE FOR FLOWERS, AND I WILL DO
FLOWERS REGARDLESS OF WHAT
YOU TELL ME."

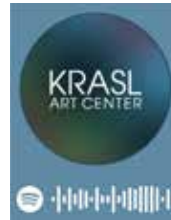
- OLGA KRASL



IN THE LOUNGE

See this portrait of Olga Krasl and more as we celebrate our benefactor and namesake at KAC. Explore a slowly rotating selection of family photos and original artworks by Olga on view in The Lounge through summer 2022.

Thank you to the Warren and Schultz families for sponsoring the exhibition and for the generous contributions of artworks and anecdotes about Olga (Schultz) Krasl.



Did you know that KAC has its own Spotify with playlists inspired by Olga and her artwork? Follow us by clicking the search button in your Spotify account, selecting the camera option, and hovering your camera over the Spotify code to the left.





the **lab**





Before he was KAC's Education Manager, Nathan Margoni was an exhibiting artist in the artlab. Margoni is pictured here giving an artist talk in front of a giant monster-version of his own head back in 2013.

(RE) INTRODUCING THE LAB

In 2011, Krasl Art Center introduced **artlab** - an intimate gallery space for artists pushing the boundaries of medium and form. **artlab** became a dedicated venue that was not afraid to showcase the fruit of visual experimentation and did not require a 'finished' product or an 'established' artist.

In 2022, KAC is renaming the space and re-amplifying the vision. The Lab will not only be a place for arts-based, boundary-pushing experimentation, but will also serve as a catalyst for critical conversations. As artists question the systems and structures around them, so will we. Look for vigorous new projects, engaging artist talks, virtual studio visits, and more in the year to come.

Images on reverse highlight **artlab** installations over the years.

GALLERY UPDATES

The Galleries at Krasl Art Center present historical, contemporary and thematic exhibitions that are thought-provoking, relevant, and relatable. Our goal is to display world-class art that you would not see elsewhere in the community.

Beginning January 18, KAC's galleries will temporarily be closed for HVAC updates. Keeping proper humidity and temperature is crucial to safely exhibiting great art. As soon as the project is complete, we will celebrate with a fresh display of KAC's sculpture collection.

KAC's exhibition sponsors, your membership, and visitor donations support expenses associated with gallery improvements like these and help bring quality exhibitions to KAC.



Hygromograph (image from Oakton Instruments) and graph paper.

LIVE AT LUNCHEON: ARTIST TALKS

Visit krasl.org for program registration information



KraslArtCenter



@KraslArtCenter

RAISING PUBLIC ART IN
SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN
IN HONOR OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

UNIFIEDMONUMENTS.ORG





TOP IMAGE: Members of the Unified Civic Monuments Project gather to march in the Juneteenth Celebration Parade 2021.

RIGHT IMAGE: Community members join the Unified Civic Monuments Project to learn more, share their feedback, and enjoy a special performance by Erick Oneal Fisher and Tameka Seawood during a pop-up at the African AMERICAN History & Literature Gallery.



KRASL ART CENTER IS PLEASED TO BE A PARTNER OF THE UNIFIED CIVIC MONUMENTS PROJECT

The Unified Civic Monuments Project is an initiative to commemorate social justice and honor the historic legacies of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph. Two complementary monuments, one in each city, will represent recognized civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., with additional sites honoring local historic figures specific to each city.

This project is led by the founders of the African AMERICAN History & Literature Gallery, with the support of Krasl Art Center, Lake Michigan College, the BH/SJ Arts & Culture Social Justice Group, Berrien Community Foundation, and the cities of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph.

In addition to the announcement of the selected artist(s) to realize the monuments, the fundraising campaign in support of the project will launch during Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Week with Lake Michigan College starting January 17, 2022. Please consider giving in support of this important community work.

NOW is the Time!

KAC FACULTY FEATURE



Artwork: Jessica Hightower, *youth*, 18"x24". Acrylic, spray paint, silver gilding, 2021



"Teaching art at KAC has been a blessing. To be able to give the same lessons to others that help encouraged me to pursue a life in creativity. Every class I see my students grow in their skills and their own confidence. It's a wonderful feeling to know that I've helped them reach these new heights."



FACULTY FEATURE: JESSICA HIGHTOWER

Painter Jessica Hightower was hired as a KAC Teaching Artist in the summer of 2021. She began by teaching weekly drawing, painting, and graphic design lessons at the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor Teen Center, a KAC partnership program. One of her most popular projects was spray painting on canvas. BGC participants created their own stencils by cutting out positive shapes on acetate and experimented with color combinations and layering images. In addition to her work at the Boys and Girls Club, Hightower now teaches after-school youth classes at KAC.

Winter classes start January 24. Look for Hightower's *Drawing and Painting People* class for ages 11-14.

Top from Left to Right: Jessica Hightower, *Cynthia*, *Golden Son*, *Neon Woman*, acrylic, spray paint, silver gilding, 2021

Bottom from Left to Right: Hightower and students at the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor. Student painting in Hightower's KAC youth class, *Drawing and Painting Animals*. Hightower in a gallery full of her work.





TEEN ARTS COUNCIL

Teen Arts Council Members on a Field Trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. August 2021.



The KAC TAC hosts all sorts of meetings: From artmaking, to field trips, to professional support.

KAC TEEN ARTS COUNCIL

Hey YOU! Did you know Krasl Art Center has our very own Teen Arts Council? The TAC has been regularly meeting to build a community of young artists, ages 13-19, interested in pursuing art beyond what is available at school. Our meetings have covered everything from college prep, writing workshops, skill building, art making, and more!

We have big plans for the future of the TAC. In the coming months, we will be hosting plenty of free meetings, workshops, and field trips! If you are interested in joining you should come to our upcoming Make & Hang "Open Studio Night", January 20, 5 – 7 PM! The best way to stay in the loop with the Teen Arts Council is by checking out our Instagram, @kraslteens. Our group is always growing and open to new members, we would love to have you on board. We hope to see you involved with the TAC in the future!

If you have any questions regarding the TAC - reach out to us! The TAC Co-Chairs are Rowan Davis rowan@krasl.org and Eliot Schlaack eschlaack2003@gmail.com

Read more about the Teen Arts Council

krasl.org/education/teen-arts-council/



Stay tuned for the Community Student Art Exhibition at the Box Factory for the Arts this spring:

krasl.org/art/community-projects/community-art-exhibition/

ELEMENTARY | MARCH 6 – 26, 2022

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL | APRIL 9 – 24, 2022

Founded in the summer of 2020, the 2021-2022 Teen Arts Council (TAC) expands thanks to a Memorial Gift in honor of Greg Howell. Additional support is provided in memory of Sarah E. Cayo and by Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

