

ArtsPaper

Summer 2020

News &
Information on
the Arts from the
Huntingdon County
Arts Council

Challenges and New Directions

Arts Council is Moving

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges for public and private organizations across the country, and the Huntingdon County Arts Council has suffered too. The cancellation of Folk College along with our spring and summer fundraisers—significant sources of revenue—has constrained our budget. Moreover, in the interests of safety this fall, we have cancelled the Fiber Arts-Fest, and we are changing the Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering from a live to a virtual event. (Details will be posted on the Arts Council's website.)

As often happens, constraint encourages innovation and creativity, and the Board of the Arts Council has used this time to renew its vision and goals for promoting the arts throughout Huntingdon County. As part of this process, we have decided to relinquish **The**



The Arts Council is leaving its home **The Art Space** at 212 Fourth Street with many fond memories

Art Space on Fourth Street as of August 1.

While reducing our financial overhead, this move will encourage us to form new partnerships and experiment with innovative ways of connecting with people in locations across the county. We will seek to find sustainable

ways to position ourselves as a hub for arts engagement: your go-to source for quality programming and resources that enrich the lives of people in our community.

The **Art Space** has been a congenial environment for hosting exhibitions and our annual Holiday Shoppe. Rest assured, these offerings will continue, although in different locations. Please watch for

communications from the Arts Council or check our website for the latest information about future events.

We understand the need to have a physical space for the Arts Council and a “permanent home.” To achieve that end, we will work hard to expand awareness of our value to the community and diversify our revenue stream. You are part of that strategy, and we hope that you will join with us to make Huntingdon County a place that welcomes, enjoys, and promotes the arts.

Changes to Membership

How does the Huntingdon County Arts Council support itself? We receive only a small amount of money every year from state and local government sources. The great majority of our funding comes directly from individuals and families like yours. For this reason, memberships are crucial to our survival as an organization.

Some people have been confused about the distinction between being a “member” and being a “supporter.” Others have been confused about the benefits of membership. Moreover, keeping track of memberships has been challenging from an administrative perspective. To simplify and clarify matters, we have made several improvements in how we handle memberships.

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Local artist **Chris Drobnock** tries to stay productive during this crisis

How the Pandemic is Affecting Local Artists and Performers

The COVID-19 virus pandemic has affected just about everyone in the country in some way. The shutdown of nonessential activities in Pennsylvania in March, in particular, created challenges for many

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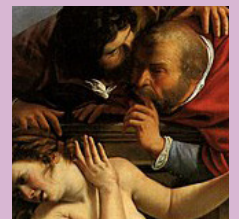
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Memberships and contributions help us fulfill our mission to provide opportunities to experience the arts in Huntingdon County.



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Dear Member:

The so-called Chinese proverb/curse says: “May you live in interesting times.” And life certainly has been interesting. When COVID-19 hit Pennsylvania and closed Huntingdon County, including **The Art Space**, we were a few days from publishing the spring newsletter, gearing up for Folk College, hosting a terrific exhibit, and prepping for Spring Thaw.

All of that had to be scrapped, along with Art by the Book, a joint fundraiser with the Huntingdon County Library, and our Summer Solstice Party at the Gage Mansion.

Arts organizations all across the nation are struggling right now, and the Huntingdon County Arts Council is no different. We have not had a solid funding stream for a number of years, with Folk College being our largest source of revenue. We were able to secure a small amount of federal funding this year, but we need to regroup and refocus.

Our mission, as always, is to provide arts and cultural opportunities in Huntingdon County. We want to be an arts hub in the area and have regular classes and

workshops.

As we transition to the next chapter in the life of the Huntingdon County Arts Council, public support is a key part of funding the Arts Council. We hope that you will continue to support the Huntingdon County Arts Council with your continued membership, donations, and when we are allowed, attendance at our events. Thank you for your part in being a slice of the arts community in Huntingdon County.

We hope to see you in the near future.

John Kearns
Executive Director



CouncilNotes

New Board Members

We are delighted to welcome three people who joined the Arts Council Board of Directors this year.

Rachel Miller

Since 2013, Rachel has been the president of the Mount Union Art Guild. Although she is primarily a painter, she also works with pen and ink, graphite, and charcoal. Her work, which she describes as “fantasy surrealism,” has been exhibited at **The Art Space**, Penn Highland Hospital, the Art Station at the Fairgrounds, and a variety of other locations in Huntingdon County.

Rachel also operates the Inspire Art Studio at 28 West Shirley Street in Mount Union (in the Bricktown Event Center) where she offers weekly classes, including paint nights for adults and children. As Rachel notes, “Many adults think art is for children, or feel that their own

work is not good enough to be considered art. I try to get people out of that way of thinking.”

When people hear about her studio, they often say, “You realize you are in Mount Union, don’t you?” But as Rachel said, “I don’t want it to be weird. I want it to grow here. Art seems foreign to



many people. They think it’s unattainable because it’s expensive. Or they think it’s frivolous. But art gives people an outlet that might have been shut down as they were growing up.”

Keith Sutton

Keith Sutton has been a resident of Huntingdon County since 1982. He recently retired from a 37-year medical career, with his time divided between a solo private practice in Family Medicine and a full-time position in the Emergency Room at JC Blair Memorial Hospital. He also spent three years as the medical director at Westminster Woods, and most recently was medical director of the JC Blair Urgent Care Center.

Keith is an avid fan of pipe organs and has substituted at the console for several churches in Huntingdon. Together with his wife of 30 years, Jeanne Nagurny, he has been affiliated with the Playhouse at McConnellstown since 1986. He enjoys designing the lighting for their productions, as well as directing shows and occasionally appearing on stage. His other outside interests include

boating and sailing, hiking, scuba diving, tennis, bridge, and most recently, pickleball!

Keith said that he fell in love with Huntingdon County and the Raystown Region when he moved here, and he plans to live out his retirement in the area. As Keith said, “I am

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CouncilNotes

New Board Members

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glad to be in a position to assist in the development of the artistic resources available this dynamic community.”

Olivia Gennaro

Olivia was raised in Alexandria and was passionate about art throughout her schooling at Juniata Valley. After high school Olivia attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania and received a degree in Art Education as well as minors in Studio Work (with a concentration in Woodworking) and Art History. Olivia worked at Southern Huntingdon County School District as their middle school/high school art teacher after spending five amazing years at their elementary schools. She is currently preparing to teach art in her home school district, Juniata Valley. She also is an Adjunct Professor at Penn Highlands Community College where she teaches Art History. Olivia is getting ready to finish a master’s degree



in art education through Kutztown University.

Olivia owns Arts & All LLC, which is a business focusing on providing quality art experiences, such as summer camps, tutoring, and lessons to central Pennsylvania. She lives in Huntingdon County with her husband Nick Gennaro, Duke Dog, and

Kiki the cat. She has two amazing stepdaughters who absolutely love the arts! In addition to the visual arts, Olivia has a background in dance and percussion.

“I am so excited to be joining the Art Council. I think providing a localized place for anyone in the county to come and get information regarding the arts in our area is so important. I am looking forward to bringing some exciting new ideas to the Arts Council and having fun with the arts!”

Folk College Will Live to See Another Day

Folk College in 2020 had promised to be one of our best. John McCutcheon—world-famous folk singer, songwriter, storyteller, and multi-instrumentalist—was scheduled to be our featured artist. In addition, an all-star supporting cast of talented instructors and performers was lined up to enrich the weekend.

As you probably know, we had to skip Folk College because of the COVID-19 crisis. In the 20 years since Folk College began, this is the first time it had to be canceled. To ease the pain a little, a virtual Folk College was held over the Memorial Day weekend. About 30 people participated in a meet and greet session, an open-

mic session, and jam sessions on two nights (via Zoom).

The good news is that we will be able to offer almost all of this year’s line-up, including John McCutcheon, next year. People who registered in advance were able to receive full refunds, although some chose to donate all of part of their fees to the Arts Council. Many expenses are incurred in planning an event like this, and we sincerely thank these people for their generosity!

We recently received news that bodes well for the future: The National Endowment for the Arts awarded the Huntingdon County Arts Council a major grant to help cover the costs of Folk College next year. We hope to see folk music fans again at Folk College in 2021. It’s never too early to start thinking ahead!

Art Space Attendance

For many years **The Art Space** at 212 Fourth Street in Huntingdon served as our gallery—a place for art exhibits, receptions, workshops, and other activities. But how often did members of the public actually use **The Art Space**?

To answer this question, we looked at data from the previous year. During 2019, 471 people attended receptions and 246 people participated in an Art Walk activity. An additional 789 people visited a gallery exhibit and another 299 children visited as part of a school field trip. Overall, there were 1,805 visits to **The Art Space**, not counting people who stopped in to the Holiday Shoppe at the end of the year.

On a typical day, six people visited **The Art Space** to see an exhibit, with Saturday being the most popular day. Most people came during the first week of an exhibit, with attendance declining gradually after that. Spring Thaw, which features the artwork and writing of local school children, was always a popular exhibit, and this show had the largest attendance last year.

The Art Space has been a popular destination for people in the area, and we regret that our presence at this location is now passing into Huntingdon County history. Nevertheless, we are committed to finding new venues in Huntingdon County to stage future exhibits and other activities. We will keep you posted as we assess new options and possibilities.

Arts Council Gift Membership

Almost everyone has experienced times in which you need to purchase a gift for someone, but you don’t have a clue what the gift should be.

The next time this happens to you, why not give that special person a gift membership in the Huntingdon County Arts Council? Just go online and use the Get Involved tab on our website: www.huntingdoncountyarts.com. We will provide you with a certificate that you can hand to the lucky person or include in a greeting card. We also will send a membership card to the recipient that provides discounts to future art-related events. What are you waiting for?



A Gift Certificate for You

YOUR FRIEND has given A FAVORITE PERSON a gift certificate for a one-year membership for 2020 to the Huntingdon County Arts Council

- This membership entitles you:
- Advanced information on art exhibits, workshops & concerts
 - Postcards announcing monthly exhibits
 - Newsletter keeping you informed on arts activities
 - Discounts on the Arts Council workshops, events & concerts
 - Support Spring Thaw student art juried exhibitions
 - Help us bring art to our community

Congratulations on your support of the arts in Huntingdon County



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Event Updates

Recent Exhibits at The Art Space

Below is a recap of some recent exhibits at **The Art Space**.



The Mount Union Art Guild exhibitors were (left to right) Rachel Miller, Pat Stewart, Paul Amato, Bill Crownover, Peg James, Cheryl Querry, Gail Pollock, Gerry Wakefield, and Arlene Swope. Not pictured: Joy Carter, Dorothy Jancart, Vonnice Orlowski & Nancy Strayer.

Mount Union Art Guild Searches for (and Finds) Beauty

Although the weather last January was often cold and dreary, the walls of **The Art Space** were shimmering with warm colors and bright images. The first exhibit of 2020, *In Search of Beauty*, featured 13 artists from the Mount Union Art Guild. The show included paintings along with drawings, felting, and pottery. Viewing these works as a group revealed that the artists, although varying in experience and style, share a desire to find charm and grace in everyday objects and scenes. As one artist said, “It’s great to show our work again at **The Art Space**. We’re lucky to have a place in Huntingdon County that supports the work of local artists.”

The exhibit ran from January 10 to 31.



Dojo exhibit artists: Left to right, bottom row: J.P. Dougherty, Avery Belser, Eames Aeschbacher, and Sebastian Vargas; middle row: Sofia Aeschbacher, Stephanie Swindle Thomas, Natalie Gonzalez, Mitchell Valentin; top row: Emma Kappel, Alysa Rubin, Sarah Nekich, Damian Heltman-Gray, Jacob Iwinski, and Briana Bennett.

Dojo: Photography from Penn State

Last February’s exhibit at **The Art Space** featured photography from Stephanie Swindle Thomas and 13 of her interns. Stephanie is Director of Social Media and Visual Assets in the College of Arts and Architecture at Penn State University. Most of the

photos on display were realistic images of landscapes, animals, architecture, and people. The exhibit also included portraits of the contributing interns, along with a display of glasswork from Briana Bennett. Almost all of the interns were able to attend the reception, where they had opportunities to describe and explain their work—an element that added a nice personal touch to the exhibit.

The show ran from February 7 to 28.



*Artist Paul Amato at the opening reception of the *Colors, Shapes and Textures* exhibit in March, along with a shawl from Ginny Mutti. The exhibit featured his artwork along with shawls and wraps from 17 local fiber artists.*

Colors, Shapes, and Textures Live Up The Art Space in March

The March exhibit, *Color, Shape, Texture: Drawings and Textiles*, was an immersive experience that allowed viewers to enjoy art in multiple dimensions. Half of the show featured works from Paul Amato, a retired professor from Penn State who now resides in Huntingdon. His works included abstract drawings made with pens, pencils, and markers, as well as collages and cut-paper constructions.

The other half of the show, curated by Alexandria resident and Arts Council board member Ginny Mutti, featured colorful shawls and other wearable textiles created by local fiber artists. The contributors included Fran Bowman, Sarah Braxton, Sarah Buckley, Claire Butchkoski, Eileen Butchkoski, Marie Campbell, Deb Hetrick, Prudence Ingerman, Pam Kavanaugh, Ginny Mutti, Lona B. Norris, Lucia Panico, Anita Randall, Diane Ross, Kim Roth, Gail Schaeffer, and Elaine Whitesel.

The show opened on March 6 and continued through March 14 when it had to close because of the coronavirus. The exhibit had been well attended prior to this, with many positive comments from viewers. As it turned out this was the last exhibit to take place at **The Art Space** on 4th Street. Thus ends an era.

How the Pandemic is Affecting Local Artists

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artists and musicians. Several local artists spoke with us recently about how social distancing and stay-at-home restrictions have affected their creative work and activities.

Jack Troy, Huntingdon potter extraordinaire, said that as a “diabetic geezer with lung issues from breathing clay dust for 50+ years,” he needed to be cautious and avoid the virus. Although one of his wood-burning kilns was fired in mid-March, it remained unloaded for months because it wasn’t safe for the many potters who used it to come together. “The prolonged sense of unknowing is unprecedented for all of us,” he said.

Jack went on to say that he had to cancel the most important event of the year: hosting a Japanese potter to a firing with 19 other potters in mid-June. As he lamented, “So many painstaking details to scuttle.” In addition, three pottery workshops scheduled for later in the summer are unlikely to happen.

To pass the time in seclusion, Jack has been revising more than 40 of his poems, based on feedback from three other writers, for inclusion in a book (as yet untitled).

Andrea Darby is a painter, yoga instructor, and owner of A. C. Darby Studio in Huntingdon. Because her studio is closed, she no longer is able to sell art, teach in-person yoga classes, or hold events like open-mic nights. She is fortunate to have another job as a mental health worker, however, and is not entirely dependent on her studio for income.



A recent painting by Andrea Darby

To adapt to current circumstances, Andrea has been teaching yoga classes online and has received some donations from this work. She also is thinking about offering drawing lessons online.

As Andrea said, “I have been making the most of this time. It has been years since I’ve had this much time at home. Being back with family is nice, even though I miss the shop, planning events, and being in my creative space.” Andrea is still being productive, however, and has been filling orders for custom artwork from her home.

Rachel Miller runs the Inspire Art Studio in Mount Union and is president of the Mount Union Art Guild. She was forced to cancel weekly meetings of the Art Guild last March, and it’s not clear when the group will be able to meet again. Rachel also had to close her studio for the time being, which means that she no longer is able to offer group painting sessions or zentangle and mandala classes.

During the downtime, Rachel has been learning how to live stream—something that was on her to-do list for a long time. Several of these painting lessons have been posted on Facebook. As she said, “The situation is a hardship but also an opportunity. I actually have become more “social” in some ways. Although live videos



A skateboard recently painted by Andrea Darby

and streaming are new for me, they allow me to connect with friends and family all over the country, people that I never get to see.” Rachel also has been working on several commissions.

Chris Drobnock is a ceramic artist living in Mount Union. A former student of Jack Troy, Chris creates traditional wood-fired pottery and brightly colored, playful ceramic wares. He said that he is fortunate to have his own private studio—a place where he can stay productive during the crisis. Like many people these days, Chris feels a strain every time he goes to the store. As he said, “It feels like winter has dragged on even though it is spring time.” He also worries about people without access to healthcare or who need to be tested but can’t.

During these difficult times, Chris has been finding solace in games of all sorts: computer games, card games, and table top games. He especially likes multiplayer games for the social element. As he said, “Learning the rules of games, the format, and how to flourish within the limits of the game. Much of life is like that now.”

Like other artists, the pandemic has put a dent in Chris’s sales. He usually sells his work at several “brick and mortar” places, including 321 Gallery in Hollidaysburg. But Chris also sells his creations online and through personal contact. He hopes that the pandemic has “heightened the awareness of people to connect through the internet and find handmade objects.”

Mark Hill is a musician and a member of Biscuit Jam—a State College based group that also performs in the Huntingdon area. In fact, one of their performances was at the Arts Council’s Summer Solstice fundraiser in June of 2019. Mark said that 10 of their gigs were canceled in March alone. To make ends meet, members have turned to other activities such as dog walking and paper routes.

To keep active musically, they have been posting videos on Facebook on Saturday nights (with a virtual tip jar), and they use Zoom to perform for Happy Valley Winery regulars on Fridays. They would like to offer full live concerts online but do not have the necessary audiovisual equipment.

Despite the hard times, Mark was optimistic about the future, once restrictions are lifted. As he said, “I think the nonstudent venues will fare the best. The student venues lost a big chunk of their 2020 business and some will likely not reopen until fall. The wineries, breweries, cider joints, and distilleries have been busy doing curbside sales, so they will be okay. Within weeks of social distance being lifted, most will bounce back with a vengeance.”

These vignettes show that our local artists and performers are finding ways to express themselves through their art, despite the social and economic restrictions resulting from a worldwide virus pandemic. Of course, this is what artists always have done: find ways to continue creating beauty despite the inevitable hardships life throws in one’s way. As these restrictions are relaxed, let’s support our artists whenever possible. After all, they are local business people too!

CulturalSpotlight

Redbud Quilt Guild

Making Intricate and Delightful Art with Textiles



The Redbud Quilt Guild is the home for quilt makers in Huntingdon County. The group started in 1992, when Ann Overmeyer, a devoted quilter, moved to Huntingdon from the Lancaster area and became the group's first president. Since then, the Guild has grown to include nearly 70 members. Although the group predominantly involves women, a handful of men also participate.

Marcia Stewart, the media representative for the Redbud Quilt Guild, filled us in on the group's activities. Like other groups across the country, the Redbud Quilt Guild was forced to curtail their face-to-face meetings this year. Prior to the pandemic restrictions, however, the group held monthly meetings at the Huntingdon Career & Technology Center in Mill Creek. These meetings, which typically attract 35 to 40 people, deal with business items, such as charity projects the group might be involved with. Meetings also focus on the annual show in April—a task that requires a great deal of planning and organizing. It's not all business, however, and these meetings also provide opportunities for people with a particular quilting talents to share what they know with the group. For example, a recent discussion dealt with how to make a flying geese pattern.

In addition to the business meetings, the group holds monthly sit and sew sessions at the McAlevy's Fort Fire Hall. On these occasions, which run for a full day, members bring their sewing machines, irons, cutting boards, and other materials and work on

their own projects. With 20 to 25 people showing up, these meetings provide many opportunities for people to discuss and share what they know with one another. In addition, guest speakers sometimes give half-day presentations on particular quilting topics.

And if anyone doubts that this is an energetic group, the Guild also has two weekend retreats (Friday through Sunday) every year, one in the spring and one in the fall. These retreats often feature guest speakers who discuss particular type of quilts, with members spending the rest of the weekend working on their own versions of a common model.

The Redbud Quilt Show is the biggest event of the year and is held annually at the Huntingdon Community Center in April. (Unfortunately, the 2020 show had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 crisis, but it will return next year.) These shows are open to anyone who wishes to participate; exhibitors do not need to be members of the Guild or reside in Huntingdon County. In previous years, exhibitors from a variety of states, such as Florida and California, have shown their work. Submissions can be any type of quilted item, ranging from large bed-size quilts to small wall hangings.

The Guild hires a certified judge who evaluates all submissions. Items are sorted into various quilting categories, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards are given for each. The event also features door prizes, silent auctions, demonstrations of quilting crafts, and quilted items for sale.

Ann Overmeyer, the founder and first president of the Guild, passed away in 2003, but the group continues to honor her memory. During the annual quilt show, the group gives an award in her name, based on the votes of all Guild members, to a quilt exhibited by a member.

As Marcia said, "Many people enjoy creating art through textiles and fabrics, and that's why we are here." Marcia noted that it's easy to find videos on Youtube that demonstrate aspects of quilt construction, and she recommended these for beginners as well as more advanced quilters.

The Redbud Quilt Group always welcomes new members. As Marcia said, "Anyone is welcome to join. People can come to a couple of meetings, and if they want to join, it's only \$10 a year!"

You can visit their website at <https://redbudquiltguild.weebly.com> or contact them at redbudquiltguild@yahoo.com.



Artemisia Gentileschi: Yes, There Were Great Female Artists in the Past

When we think of the great Italian masters, we recall artists like da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli, Titian, and Caravaggio. All were great painters, of course, but one gets the impression that this was a male-only club. Many people don't realize that many talented and accomplished women painters also achieved fame in the past.

Artemisia Gentileschi, born in Rome in 1593, is a noteworthy example. Her father, Orazio Gentileschi, was a well-known painter, and she worked and studied with him as she grew up. By the time she was a teenager, she had become a master painter. *Susanna and the Elders*, shown below, was painted when she was just 17 years old. In this work, Gentileschi depicts a young woman being harassed by two older men.

After marrying another artist, she moved with her husband to Florence. She had one child there while continuing to work as an artist. She soon began to attract the attention of other prominent artists and important patrons, including members of the Medici family. While in Florence, Gentileschi became the first woman to be accepted into the prestigious Academy of the Arts and Drawing, a guild for eminent artists. She even became good friends with the astronomer and physicist Galileo Galilei.



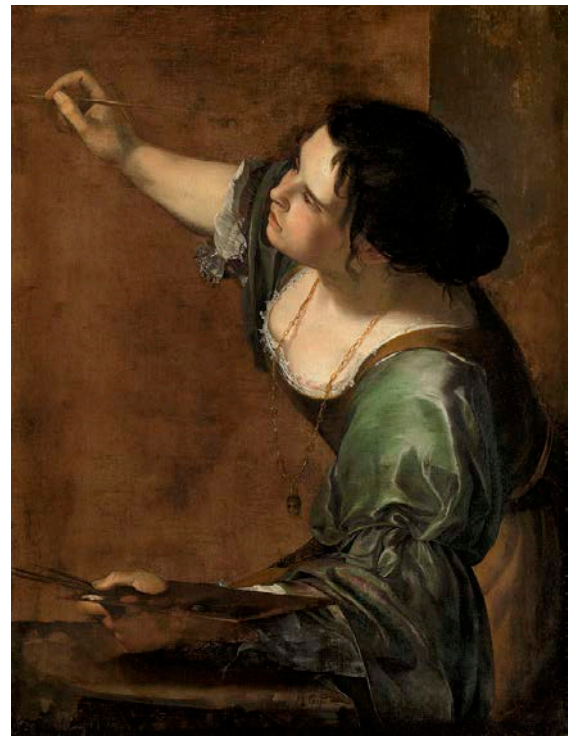
Artemisia Gentileschi, *Susanna and the Elders*, 1610

Her paintings feature naturalism, a careful portrayal of anatomy, intense colors, and striking contrasts between light and shadow. She had a successful career as a painter, and her work was in demand throughout Europe. She died around 1656, although the exact year is not known.

Gentileschi painted several portraits of herself. One shown above right, *Self-Portrait as the Allegory of Painting*, was completed in 1639 when she was living in London. In this work, she proudly portrayed herself as a female painter. She probably used two mirrors to view herself while she painted in this somewhat uncomfortable pose.

Gentileschi's achievements are impressive, especially when we consider the fact that she painted during a time when women were not encouraged to have artistic careers. She faced many challenges during her lifetime, including being raped as a young woman, having a troubled marriage, and constantly struggling for respect as a woman artist. For these and other reasons, her work has generated a good deal of interest among feminist scholars.

Many art historians argue that Artemisia Gentileschi should be more widely recognized as a great artist. A major exhibition of her work had been scheduled at the National Gallery in London but was postponed because of the COVID-19 epidemic. If you are unfamiliar with this artist, many of her works can be viewed on the internet, and many interesting articles about her are available. But be prepared to be shocked, because some of her paintings are quite violent!



Artemisia Gentileschi, *Self-Portrait as the Allegory of Painting*, 1639

Wood

*In the fireplace
wide chunks of tree
unwrap,
release their tightly packed coils, burn
from brown
to black
to bright orange embers.
Poke the red-orange,
it sighs and falls into
soft pale orange squares.
At last, powder grey ashes
rest under the fire grate.
The tree gives up
its last shard of sun.*

*In the blackness
outside the window
float horizontal white stripes -
snow draped on dark branches,
black branches of sun and sap
still packed tight,
holding on,
cold and hard,
wrapped.*

Claire Holzner



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Changes to Membership

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In our new system, all memberships will begin on April 1 and end on March 31 the following year. Members will now receive a membership card that can be used to obtain discounts. For example, you can use the membership card to receive a 10% discount on all items sold at our end-of-the-year Holiday Shoppe, as well as all sales at future Arts Council exhibits. (We will announce the location in the near future.) Members also will receive discounts to Folk College concerts and Juniata Presents performances starting next year, as well as discounts on concessions sold at the Playhouse in McConnellstown.

In addition to receiving a membership renewal letter in the spring, all members (as well as nonmembers on our mailing list) will receive a letter requesting a donation during our fall fundraising campaign. So keep in mind that if you are a member, and you wish to make a donation in the fall, you will not be renewing your membership at that time. Instead, your donation will represent an effort on your part to provide an even greater level of support to the Arts Council.

We do our best to minimize costs by operating as frugally as possible and relying on unpaid volunteers to conduct most of our activities. But it requires money to stage art exhibits, hold concerts, and provide art experiences for local school children. Although the current year has restricted our ability to provide these services, we hope to bounce back next year, bigger and better.

Needless to say, we value each and every person who becomes a member or provides a donation during the year. Thank you for your support!

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Befriending a Nameless Stream

*"The impeded stream is the one that sings."
Wendell Berry*

*I am of two minds about the stream running
beside the path I've walked for forty years.
Early on, we were level with one another
but here it's carved a narrow gorge
deeper than I am tall; an easy leap for deer.*

*Last week, a day after the rain stopped,
it spoke to me in six languages, first in the narrow cascade
where it leapt away from a clay shelf
to a frothy yammering in a narrow bowl
it means to deepen with mad hydraulics.*

*From there it slithered, slowing its passage,
catching up with itself behind a sturdy limb
fallen crosswise, trapping twigs and leaves,
where reflections float steady,
mirroring a pine's bare root.*

*Above the streambed, inches deep and
soft with settlings, a dace flutters,
then another and another. Have they made it
through that lispig filigree of leaks
breaching the flotsam dam downstream?*

Jack Troy