

# MIDWEST MUSEUM BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART • 429 South Main St. • Elkhart, IN 46516 • (574) 293-6660  
Volume 31, No. 2 MAR/APR 2009 MUSEUM HOURS: Tues. - Fri. 10:00-4:00, Sat. 1:00-4:00, Sun. 1:-4:00 (Free)

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## YOUTH ART *in Elkhart 2009* March is National Youth Art Month

The Midwest Museum of American Art presents the Elkhart Community Schools' exhibition of selected work by middle school and high school students beginning **Sunday, March 1**, and continuing on view through **Sunday, March 29, 2009**. This event has been held annually for the past thirty years in conjunction with National Youth Art Month.

The **Mary Jane Parmater Keefe Award of Excellence** will be presented to six outstanding art students. The award winning students will be chosen on the basis of votes cast by 16 Elkhart art teachers to encourage students in the visual arts. Carolyn Keefe of Houston, Texas, continues her support of this prestigious award in memory of her late mother, a former Elkhart native and patron of the arts.

Other awards to be given include the Elkhart Junior Women's **Middle School Student Award of Excellence** along with two Honorable Mentions. Kappa Kappa Kappa, Alpha Rho Chapter, for the 26th year will give monetary awards known as the **Curator's Choice Awards** to ten students. For the sixth year, there will be a **\$500 Scholarship Award**, named in honor of **Phillip Monteith**, given by the Elkhart Evening Optimists. New this year will be the **Four Arts Club \$1,000 Scholarship** and the **\$1,000 Tri Kappa Scholarship**. Finally for the third year, Kathleen Zienty and her mother, Mary Boyer, will present the **Robert Boyer Memorial Awards** to several students in the exhibition.

The Opening Reception for students, teachers, parents, and invited guests will be held on **Sunday, March 1, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**. Art Instructors, Susan Platt and Kathryn Freehafer, (Pierre Moran Middle School), are the Co-Chairs of this year's exhibit.

Sponsors for **Youth Art in Elkhart 2009** include Elkhart Noon Optimists, Elkhart Luncheon Optimists, Elkhart Evening Optimists, Elkhart Junior Women, Four Arts Club, Carolyn Keefe of Houston Texas, Tri Kappa, Alpha Rho Chapter, Robert Boyer Memorial Fund, and State Farm Insurance—Rocky Enfield.

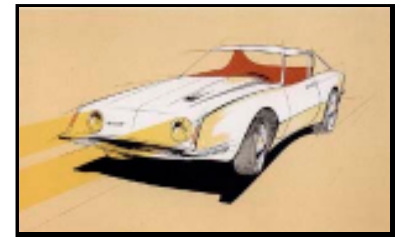
## Trains, Planes, & Automobiles

Works of Art about Transportation

*March 1 thru April 26*

The Midwest Museum of American Art is pleased to present a selection of works from its permanent collection by artists of both regional and national significance. This spotlight exhibit will feature paintings and lithographs that feature some element of transportation as a central theme. **"Trains, Planes, & Automobiles"** will run concurrently with Youth Art in Elkhart and be installed in the Mary Jane Parmater Keefe Gallery.

The acrylic on canvas painting, "Cherry Pie", done in 1973 by William Schenck portrays a street roadster posed in a desert setting with a young woman standing beside it. This recalls the often illustrated images of cars from the late 20th century "hot rod" era. Schenck today is known for his depictions



of contemporary life in the Southwest. Two other images of automobiles are offered in the work titled, "Avanti", by mid-20th century designer Raymond Lowey (1893-1986), and "Kentucky Lipstick Buick" by Indiana based artist Bill Whorral (b.1949- ).

Four images of trains will be shown created by artists of local renown: the late Ted Drake (1908-2000), David Allen (b.1954-), Martin Petersen (1866-1956), and John Bannon (b.1938- ). These paintings and prints depict subjects well recognized by area residents including the Elkhart depot and the Grand Trunk Railroad yards.

Finally, the depiction of flight is represented historically by the nationally recognized artist/illustrator Mort Kunstler in his World War II gouache (opaque watercolor) painting, "Double Jeopardy". Two other images of war planes include "Bombardier" by North Carolina artist John Doyle and the contemporary *photo-realist* silkscreen entitled, "Red, White & Blue Mustang", by Tom Blackwell.

Two More SPOTLIGHT exhibits   
**Al Capp: The Li'l Abner Lithographs**  
**APRIL 3 thru APRIL 26**

The Midwest Museum presents 15 large, color lithographs depicting characters from the “Li'l Abner” series by Al Capp. These works from the museum’s permanent collection will be displayed from April 3 to April 26 in the Dorothy Greenleaf Boynton Gallery.



Al Capp (1909-1979), born Alfred Gerald Caplin in New Haven, Connecticut, invented the comic strip “Li'l Abner” in 1934 working with United Features Syndicate. Within Four years circulation exceeded 60 million readers and Capp wrested control of his artwork & writing from UFS, one of the few artists to do so.

Most of the most memorable characters appeared during the Great Depression—Li'l Abner, Daisy Mae, Mammy & Pappy Yokum, and Sadie Hawkins. The annual Sadie Hawkins Day Race (introduced in 1937) became a national craze as more and more *girls-ask-boys* dances grew across America.



By 1952, Li'l Abner & Daisy Mae got hitched; an event that shocked the country making front-page news around the world. Capp’s comedic characters continued to inhabit the town of Dogpatch

until he retired the strip in 1977. Two years later Al Capp died.

## CERAMICS from the Permanent Collection

The Midwest Museum features over 30 selected ceramic works from its permanent collection for this third spotlight exhibit displayed in the Russell & Patricia Warner Gallery. A variety of form and function can be found in the various examples of pottery including works by Dick Lehman, Goshen, Tom Meuninck, Walkerton, & Bill Kremer, Cassopolis. Other artists represented in the collection include, Marvin Bartel who taught ceramics at Goshen College for over thirty years as well as Will Ruggles (formerly of Elkhart) and his wife Douglas Rankin, two potters living in North Carolina. Works acquired from Elkhart Juried Regionals over the past three decades include examples of pottery by Gundega Penikis, David Gamber, and Patricia Bunner. Other sculptural works by Stephen Hansen of Barrien Springs and Bryan Steinberg of St. Charles, Louisiana are included in the exhibit. In total the exhibit should delight all those who are interested in ceramic vessel forms to sculptural clay. The exhibit will run concurrently from April 3 through April 26, 2009.

## BUS TRIP to Chicago Becoming Edvard Munch: Influence, Anxiety, & Myth Tuesday, April 21

Join us on the Midwest Museum’s first educational bus excursion of the New Year as we venture to the Art Institute of Chicago to see “Becoming Edvard Munch: Influence, Anxiety, & Myth”. This superb exhibition offers 150 works in 17 galleries exploring the life and times of the great Norwegian artist. In addition a special exhibit of photographs by the legendary Yousuf Karsh entitled “Regarding Heroes” will be on display at the same time.

**The itinerary will be as follows:**

Depart for Chicago (MMAA; Marion St.)	9:30 AM
View Munch exhibit	11:30 AM
Lunch (on your own)	1:00 PM
Depart Art Institute of Chicago	3:30 PM
Arrive Elkhart	5:30 PM

**FEE: \$50.** *includes deluxe motorcoach & admission*  
**Call for reservations at 293-6660.** Seating will be limited  
 Fees are due immediately after registering by phone.

## Ukrainian Egg Demonstration

“PYSANKY”, the Ukrainian art of decorating Easter eggs will be demonstrated by **Mr. Gale Balmer** on **Palm Sunday afternoon, April 5, from 1:00 to 3:00pm** at the Midwest Museum of American Art. This annual event is an opportunity to view the craftsman at work, while discovering the array of designs and colors he employs. The demonstration is **FREE** to the public and finished work will be available for purchase.

## The ARTIST’S ATTIC

unique ODDITIES and • •  
 cast-off treasures

If you are doing your *Spring cleaning* early... remember the Midwest Museum is looking for donations of “unique junk-tique” for its Artist’s Attic fund raiser sale. You may call the museum for pick up of objects, books, furniture, reproduction prints, statuary, ceramics, etc. at 293-6660. The items will be placed on sale **Friday & Saturday, June 5 & 6** during the two-day event which benefits the museum’s educational and acquisition funds. Remember—one person’s junk is another person’s treasure!

## Become a Museum Volunteer

Do You have special knowledge and/or experience you would like to share? Do You want to be a valuable asset to a successful organization? If you are a member and are interested in volunteering at the Midwest Museum of American Art, contact the Director today by calling (219) 293-6660.

## NOON TIME TALKS

*A variety of Gallery Talks featuring topical issues.*

**FREE Every Thursday at 12:20**

### Art Education in Our Public Schools

A special series of gallery talks by art educators from the Elkhart Community Schools Corporation highlight the various approaches, techniques and accomplishments of their programs.

- MAR 5** **Jodi Oldfather**, Art Educator & YAE 2009 Chair, North Side Middle School.
- MAR 12** **Tom Grove**, Art Educator & Photographer, Elkhart Central High School
- MAR 19** **Sue Plat & Kathryn Freehafer**  
These teachers discuss their students' art projects at Pierre Moran Middle School.
- MAR 26** **Bradley Sheppard**, Art Coordinator, Elkhart Community Schools Administration

### *A Special Series devoted to the* **Permanent Collection**

- APR 2** **Trains, Planes, & Automobiles**  
Brian Byrn, Curator, will deliver a short talk about works from the permanent collection with themes of transportation.
- APR 9** **AL CAPP: The Li'l Abner Lithographs**  
Brian Byrn, Curator, introduces the exhibition featuring some of the famous American cartoonists last works depicting his famous citizens of Dogpatch.
- APR 16** **Ceramics from the Permanent Collection**  
Brian Byrn, Curator, discusses the art of the post-war era to about 1990. Slides will be used to illustrate important movements in this period in relation to the work of John Cavanaugh.
- APR 23** **Dick Lehman, Potter**  
A discussion by the nationally recognized Goshen potter about his latest work in ceramics. Lehman's has been in business at the Old Bag Factory for over 25 years.
- APR 30** **Tony Natsoulas**  
Stacy Jordan, Assistant Curator, introduces the work of this *California Funk* master who studied under the late Robert Arneson at the University of California at Davis. Natsoulas has become known for large-scale ceramic portraits and funky figures.

**The Arts and Humanities**  
**There's Something in it for You**

## TRIBUTES

The Midwest Museum of American Art gratefully acknowledges gifts in honor or in memory of special friends. Notes of acknowledgment are sent by the Museum to those honored or to the families of those memorialized. Recent memorials and donations include:

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#### **Dorothy Bedell**

by Marie & Francis Kennard

#### **James C. Boyer**

by Mary Boyer

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#### **Marjorie Leonard Rimmel**

by Elkhart High School  
"Class of 41"

#### **Jan Reynolds**

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#### **June Walker**

by June Burns  
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#### **Darwin Wiekamp**

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### Gift Membership

Why not share the **Midwest Museum** with family or friends? There are many benefits to enjoy together. Memberships in any category may be given as gifts.

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Senior Citizen or Student	\$ 10

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*The Museum in SPRING!!*  
YOUTH ART in Eikhart opens March 1  
TRAINS, PLANES, & AUTOMOBILES  
Al Capp: The Lit'l Abner Lithographs  
and Ceramics from the Permanent Collection  
Ukrainian Egg Demonstration, April 5



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