

LONDON VISUAL ARTS GUILD

LONDON ART CENTER



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APRIL SHOWERS

“April showers bring May flowers”

That is the saying I grew up with over the years. I taught it to my kids and even a couple of my kids kids. It still holds true, with a few exceptions. April showers are no longer confined to April. They now include March and, at times, May.

I was born into a beautiful spring 83 years ago and have waited with bated breath for each and every one since. There was a song recorded by Frank Sinatra in 1950. The lyrics were by Haven Gillespie and the music by Beasley Smith. I decided to print it below. It was done as a love song but just seems appropriate at this time.

The Old Master Painter

The old master painter from the far away hills
Painted the violets and the daffodils
He put the purple in the twilight haze
Then did a rainbow for the rainy days.

Dreamed up the murals on the blue summer sky
Painted the devil in my darlins eyes
Captured the dreamer with a thousand thrills
The old master painter from the far away hills

Then came the masterpiece and when he was through
He smiled down from heaven and gave me you
What a beautiful job on that wonderful day
The old master painter from the hills far away

Since that first caveman scribbled connecting lines on the wall of that cave of his we have had art. He may have wanted to record those beautiful things he saw running around those ancient forests of his. We don't know his reasons, but the drawings are there for us to see. Some are called glyphs or petroglyphs. Want to see some? Check out the ones we have in Ohio.

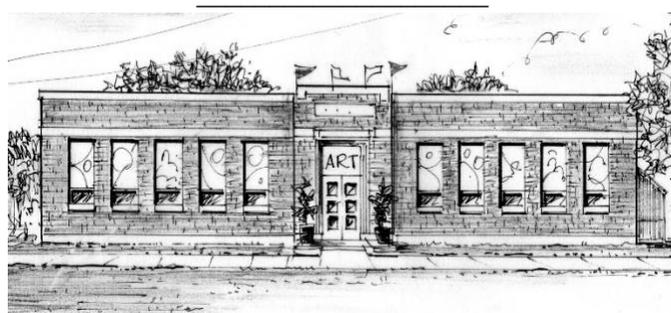
I love what the old Master Painter has given us and, those of you who are the artists, have given us all visions of

those beautiful things. Like everyone else, I have developed a few favorites over the years.

One of these artists is not known for his artwork, but for his books of which he was the lone illustrator. He also did the art for most of his jacket covers. His was born Joseph Ernest Nephtalli Default. He went by Will James. He was born in Canada in 1892 and died of alcoholism in 1942. He began drawing with charred wood on his family's cabin floor at the age of 4. Look him up and look at the wonderful artwork in his books.

There is a current artist who does unbelievable work. She leans toward the religious and spiritual genre. I have never seen anything like it. She has also been painting since she was 4 years old. Her name is Akiane Kramarik and was born in Illinois in 1994.

The old Master Painter created the work we view everyday if we simply open our eyes and look. He also loans his artistic talent to some of us as he passes through our lives. We thank him for that, and we thank all those who have shared their given talent with us over the years. We hope this terrible health catastrophe ends soon and all our communities will be able to regain some type of normality.



With the previous prose in mind consider London Visual Arts Guild. Above is a drawing by Judy Dillon Smith, of the new building we will soon occupy.

The natural gas line has finally been replaced. This enables the HVAC crew to come in, place the furnaces and connect them. In the meantime, a few members have been working, in the cold, to have the new building ready for

our opening, which now depends on the control of the virus.

The interior reconditioning is moving slowly and is on schedule to be finished by the time we are able to open. Our opening is now being dictated by our common enemy, *the virus*. If you have the time and inclination, drop



by and grab a hammer, brush or roller. We appreciate any help you can give at this time.

At times I have placed an ongoing request for any information or concerns having to do with the LVAG. Once on a while I receive an item for publication. The following is one of those items.

The gas line is near completion. The heating system is in the process of being installed and should be operational in a few weeks.

Tony Reeder and his team of Kim, Lynn, Steve Hume and Sara and Ryan Le Van have hung dry wall and painted the first two rooms. They have been working Wednesday nights.

The afternoon crew of Colleen, Jo Ann, Pam Stanforth, Bob Rea and Sandy have been painting and cleaning. Bryant Riley and Dennis Guinther have been working on moveable walls for the gallery.

Because of the corona virus members Ned Neely, Liz, Kim Burnette, Mick Harris and others are working from home on the Internet taking care of business.

Once the rest rooms have been installed, we will be calling for volunteers to help with tidying up and painting.

If the good Lord is willing and the creeks don't rise, we will be ready for our first community and members show in August.

And, do not forget. We always need help. At the present we need help with reconstruction and clean up. In the future we will need you to help with our general operation. Contact Sandy Fox at 937-207-7400.

Since there will be no exhibit in May or June, I would like to share some information I collected while I lived in Arizona.

I was a friend of a family whose grandfather had a close connection with Fredrick Remington. Most of us are familiar with the numerous paintings Remington produced containing cowboys, roundups, bucking broncos, and cowboys on the trail. While Remington was sketching on the Douglas Ranch, he took time to visit the Yavapai and O'odahm Indian camps. He also visited camps in other states and areas making sketches everywhere he visited. The following are a few of many depictions of the Indians he met during his travels.



We won't have any original Remingtons on display, but we will have some of our best local art, so check in with us after our social structure has been reopened and we are in our new showplace.

Have something you want to see in the newsletter? Email me at, Jim Donohoe, ohkrill4@yahoo.com.