

FROM THE DIRECTOR

BY ANDREW BRECK / INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



WATERCOLOR BY WASECA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OAKLEY GRAY

Who decides what good art is; who decides what art is?

That's the \$100,000 question isn't it? The beautiful thing is we're entitled to our own opinion. We are free to believe in what inspires us, and we're free to fill our walls and minds with what resonates throughout us. There are people whom would love to let you know their opinion and there are those that will do so without asking. /// I've had the privilege of visiting scores of art and cultural museums in recent years – and there's a lot of work I've glanced at while walking by because there was no connection between us. With some things you know instantly when there's a connection – and that's where the magic lies; positive evocation through physical or visual interpretation is the enchantment

that artists possess.

Art is also interesting in that once it is made public – it becomes its own phenomenon. It may trace the emotion of its creator but how it's interpreted is solely up to us, the viewer, and our experiences lead us there. It becomes parallel with nature in that it may evoke awe; and like nature, it doesn't judge us for how old we are, how many assets we currently hold, or that we may have snuck an extra piece of cherry pie while nobody was watching (if you haven't been to an opening reception lately, we've upped our food and drink game and our confection concoctions and scrumptious savory snacks don't go to waste. Just kidding... get your rusty dusty here so the leftovers don't go to mine). Art, like nature... just is – and the beautiful moments will find us if we are patient enough to listen.

Shhhh. You don't have to consider yourself an artist to create art.

I love stories; someone was recently telling me about their first time inside of WAC. It was for a friend's opening exhibit; a question and an invitation from then Executive Director, Rachel James changed their life.

Rachel asked an innocent question, "Are you an artist?" Their spouse shouted, YES from across the gallery but the one being asked had never seriously identified themselves as an artist – they were only at the gallery supporting a friend. As the conversation developed it was shared that they enjoyed taking

photographs – and at some point Rachel invited them to have a solo show; they eventually accepted the offer.

The almost artist was forced to create, and somewhere in the process frustration made way for clarity—that moment when we embrace what we were given and decide to live our lives our way; to appreciate our differences and to not be influenced by what others think. They told me it just clicked, "why am I trying to recreate what someone else has already done?" From that point forward they stopped comparing themselves to anything or anyone and changed their medium. They began using their hands to put color to surface and in their own way; eventually the rhythmic movements became therapeutic. What they told me next still has me awestruck; eventually, through the act of creating, their anxiety and depression medications became unnecessary. They listened and forged their own way through the woods.

A little encouragement goes a long way; kind words can change a life. I'd like to think our organization was created to help the willing find their voice... and to encourage trying new things. And like nature, our organization is constantly growing and changing with each season.

Ok. I'm pretty good about holding secrets but I'm going to let the cat out of the bag because I'm way too

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UPCOMING MEMBER SHOW DROP OFF DETAILS

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS/ FAMILIES

NO AGE LIMIT

Deliver your artwork to the art center between
Tuesday, April 16th - Friday, 19th 11am - 5pm.

Choose up to four [4] of your best pieces per member. Artwork must be hang ready; picture wire preferred. 3D Pieces must stand on their own. Please email us word processed artwork information for each submission including: artist name, title, medium, and contact info to: info@WasecaArtsCouncil.org

Visit or call us with any questions. Earlier drop off arrangements may be made by phone or using the e-mail provided. Earliest pieces may be used for social media purposes.

Information available upon request if you wish to list anything for sale.

FROM THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED

excited, grateful, overwhelmed, and honored to announce the following: we have received a benevolent philanthropic opportunity to launch our Accessible for All Campaign.

An anonymous donor will match up to \$50,000 dollars towards our elevator fund! We are currently working on obtaining an updated estimate; working in architecture has taught me that we will need donations over the generous dollar for dollar match to make this happen – but in the meantime,

when we reach \$100,000 I'll cut my mustache off. When we reach \$135,000 we'll hold a concert and I'll sing you a song or two.

Art may be a concept.

Art may be a memory of something once beautifully perceived.

Art may be the melody you hope lingers.

Art may change a sour mood; it may make you blush, though it all solely depends on you.

ANDREA EEN, CONTINUED



new and what's interesting, but also says her "desert island composer is Bach".

Her advice to young students, "every classical musician should learn an improvisatory tradition... it's so powerful all the music I learned in Norway was through ear, by ear, and that completely changes where you store it in your brain and how you feel about it... even the kinesthetic energy that you can feel is so much more connected than when you're reading it off of a page."

If we have at all piqued your interest; please come to Ms. Eens performance this Saturday. Doors open at 6:30pm and the trade winds will echo timeless music starting at 7pm and will continue without intermission until 8:30pm. Ms. Een will be available for questions after her performance. We look forward to seeing you soon.