



# Lines from the LEAGUE

May - July 2009

Newsletter of the Art Students League of New York



Elisabeth Page Purcell



C. L. DeMedeiros



Yuko Ueda



Randall W. L. Mooers



Evelyn Wang



Tony Loftman



Haksul Lee



Yuka Imata



Elizabeth Allison

## Exhibition Outreach League Artists @ AAF & AAT (All Around Town)

From harmonic, mixed-media abstractions to spontaneous collections of vibrant pop images, works by nine Art Students League artists will be on view at The Affordable Art Fair New York City, May 7-10. League Exhibition Outreach Program Director Leah McCloskey says the works of these emerging artists "represent the incredibly wide range of art being created at the League."

Elizabeth Allison, Carlos Luis DeMedeiros, Yuka Imata, Haksul Lee, Tony Loftman (vibrant pop images), Randall W.L. Mooers, Elisabeth Page Purcell, Yuko Ueda (mixed abstractions), and Evelyn Wang were selected from 60 applicants by a jury of SoHo gallerists to have their works offered for sale at the show. At last year's AAF, the League's first, nine artists including Seo Huang Yoo sold work for a total of about \$15,000 and painter Sylvia Mendel earned representation from the Woolff Gallery of London, which will show her work at this year's AAF.

The League's Exhibition Outreach Program continues the ASL's commitment to "artists and students who intend to make art a profession." In its first two years, Ms. McCloskey has brought work of 250 League artists to 35 shows at office buildings, community clinics, restaurants and libraries. Some 200,000 New Yorkers and visitors have seen the displayed work. Current supporters include the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the George A. Ohl Jr. Trust.

The Affordable Art Fair is at the 7W New York building, 7 West 34th Street, NYC, Thursday-Sunday, May 7-10. Hours are Thursday 12:00 to 6:00, Friday and Saturday 12:00 to 8:00, and Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Admission for League members and students is \$10 with the enclosed flier.

Exhibition Outreach is also showing student art at Tower 49 (49th & Madison), where Abhijit Goswami, Sally Lord, and David Antonides exhibit through June 17. Jessica Doh, Evgenia Fisher, Kentaro Fujioka, Basia Goldsmith, Dalia Haber, John Kneapler, and Yuko Ueda are at Ogilvy & Mather (309 West 49th Street) through July 2. Jennifer Sidel's first solo show is at 680 Fifth Ave. through May. John Baber curates "The New Jersey Show" of 34 artists June 12-14 at 113 Design Co., 930 Newark Ave. in Jersey City; Friday 6:00 to 11:00, Saturday 12:00 to 5:00, Sunday 11:00 to 2:00.



# From Ira's Office

by Ira Goldberg, Executive Director

As the 2008-2009 term winds down and the Art Students League of New York looks forward to year 135 this fall, I welcome this chance to share with students, members, and supporters my update on Gauguin's famous title questions, "Where do we come from, what are we, where are we going?"

First, "**Where are we going?**" Every day the League is strengthening its mission to support "artists and students who intend to make art a profession" and to cultivate "a spirit of fraternity among art students." Growing programs in Exhibition Outreach, Apprenticeship, and Residency are offering ever-greater opportunities for emerging League artists. Our new Student Advisory Group is lifting the dialogue between students and staff, reaching potential donors, and launching initiatives like a student professional networking group planned for the fall.

Another "destination" is the establishment of more partnerships with colleges and universities. The League's *atelier* approach to teaching artists along with its related programs, and growing residency opportunities at the Vytlacil Campus offer unique and cost-effective off-campus programs for college students. Initial outreach has already shown progress, including recognition by several colleges allowing transfer credit for League classes. A multi-channel campaign to build partnerships is in the works.

We are and will be belt-tightening. We're realizing efficiencies in printing, mailing, compensation, and registration processes. On the revenue side, we have judicially expanded our development staff. With these and other efforts, the board and I are striving to continue to improve programs for 2009-2010.

"**What are we?**" It never hurts to reiterate: We *are* one of the nation's oldest and largest independent art schools. We *are* maintaining registration levels and we *are* exceeding our development budgets even in



these tough times. We *are* grounded in the study of studio art and practices that encompass a broad spectrum of aesthetic philosophies. But most importantly, we *are* the students, instructors and members that make up the community of artists that *is* the League, where individuals can develop their own skills and pursue their own vision.

"**Where do we come from?**" Founded in 1875, by artists for artists, our prestigious history has included Frederic Remington,

Georgia O'Keeffe, Helen Frankenthaler, Jackson Pollock, John Marin, James Rosenquist, Al Hirschfeld, Alexander Calder, Barnett Newman, Cy Twombly, David Smith, Donald Judd, Joseph Stella, Lee Bontecou, Louise Bourgeois, Louise Nevelson, Mark Rothko, Milton Avery, Norman Rockwell, Red Grooms, James Montgomery Flagg, Robert Rauschenberg, Romare Bearden, Roy Lichtenstein, Ruben Nakian, and Will Barnet, to name a few illustrious League alumni. Luminaries such as William Merritt Chase, Daniel Chester French, Gutzon Borglum, Thomas Eakins, Childe Hassam, Thomas Hart Benton, John Sloan, Rockwell Kent, Max Weber, George Luks, Hans Hoffmann, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Will Barnet, and George Bellows have served on the ASL faculty. Joining those lists are today's distinguished instructors, the artists recognized in this newsletter, and other emerging artists in our 2,500-strong student body.

I welcome your interest in the Art Students League of New York, and specifically request your new or continued financial support for our 135-year tradition, and for our students, instructors, and programs that enrich all of our lives through the teaching, learning, and creation of art.

## Don't Forget: Key Events Upcoming at the League

### Plein Air at Wave Hill Landscape Watercolor Painting with Frank O'Cain

Monday – Friday, May 4 – May 8  
10:00AM – 3:00PM Fee: \$400

### Studio 6: Photoshop for Artists Workshop with Sylvie G. Covey

Monday – Friday, May 11 – 15  
8:45AM – 12:30PM Fee: \$400

### Vytlacil Residency Information Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 5:00PM Studio 16



Summer at the Vytlacil Campus. Director Gary Sussman will discuss residency opportunities May 19 at 57th Street.

### First Day of Summer Classes

Monday, June 1

### Red Dot Exhibition

Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery

June 1–13

Reception: June 2, 6:00PM – 8:00PM

### Scholarship Winners Exhibition

Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery

June 22 – July 7

Reception: June 23, 6:00PM – 8:00PM

## About the Art Students League of New York

Founded in 1875 by artists, for artists, the Art Students League of New York provides affordable studio-based art education of the highest quality to anyone with the interest in making art. Great artists have trained, taught, and exhibited at the League and enriched its community.

Apprenticeships, classes, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and residencies uphold the League's mission to support "artists and students who intend to make art a profession" and to cultivate "a spirit of fraternity among art students."

## Emphasis

News of League People & Events



Macauley Campbell, *OsoPolar*, 13 by 18 inches, alabaster

Painter **David Jon Kassin** recently completed a solo show at Gallery Henoch. The *American Artist* website characterized the show's success in its headline: "How One Artist Sells His Work During This Recession." The paintings of **Yuka Imata**, a Phyllis H. Mason, Xavier Gonzalez and Ethel Edwards grants winner, graced eight pages of the April 2009 *American Artist* magazine. Work samples from **Yoko Suetsugu**, **Ed Giordano**, and **Macauley Campbell**—former resident artists at the Vytlacil Campus—were submitted in support of the League's recent application for a National Endowment for the Arts Artistic Excellence grant for Vyt's residency program. *New York Magazine's Best of New York* issue in March recognized the League as the "Best Bargain" for kids art classes. The DCimPrint website of the Washington Printmakers Gallery loved the League's traveling exhibition "**A Century on Paper: Print by Art Students League Artists**" at the St. John's College in Annapolis, Md. "It deserves a visit from anyone interested in the long run of American printmaking."

## Thanks to Donors for Funding New Printmaking Scholarship

Dear Friends and Relatives of Y. G. Srimati,  
Thank you for your generous support making it possible to fund the

**Y. G. Srimati Scholarship** for women in printmaking at the Art Students League. Through some sense of karmic harmony it is appropriate that this will be the first League scholarship designated exclusively for printmaking. There were many first's in Srimati's life. At the age of 7, she was one of the first girls from outside the devadasi caste to give a public performance in dance. She was the first artist to inaugurate Centenary Hall at Madras Museum in 1952. Undoubtedly, she was one of the first Indian Artists and Musicians to perform and exhibit in the U.K. She arrived in the U.S. in 1963 and was one of the first Indian musicians and artists to exhibit, tour and teach about Indian art and culture nationally in America. The *Bhagavad Gita* was her bible and in her life-art she lived by its essence.

Srimati was admitted to the ASL on a scholarship in 1964 and continued for over five years, studying printmaking with Harry Sternberg, Roberto Delamonica, and Michael Ponce De Leon.

"Srimati's painting exhibitions included one-woman shows at the Mark of the Phoenix Gallery, Philharmonic Hall at Lincoln Center, the Indian Consulate. She received commissions from the Geneva Peace Conference, UNICEF, Think Magazine; her prints are in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress, and her paintings are in numerous private collections. Her miniature watercolor paintings illuminate the Limited Editions and Heritage Press Editions of the Indian classics, *The Bhagavad Gita* and the *Panchatantra*."\* She is the first modern Indian artist to have her paintings acquired by the Department of Southeast Asian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Y.G. Srimati with *Gandharva*  
Photo: Michael Pellettieri

—Michael Pellettieri

\*Quote from Beryl Bernay, senior United Nations communications specialist

## Saving the League's Precious Century-old Drawings

(Continued from page 4)

set in the League's earliest years and maintained to the present day in the annual purchases from the *Red Dot Exhibition*. Such works tell the school's story, reflecting a tradition of excellence and respect for diversity. It allows the past to speak to the present, and we owe it to the future to preserve this unusual heritage.

### 50 Works to Be Exhibited in October

The October exhibition will present 50 drawings that will convey their importance in both League history and American art education at the turn of the twentieth century. It will shed light on the discipline of life drawing and varying approaches taught by some of America's greatest artists: Kenyon Cox, H. Siddons Mowbray and George Bridgman. The few drawings in this collection that have been framed and exhibited at the League in the past are among the most popular works with contemporary League students and visitors. The exhibit and planned catalog will make it available to an even wider audience. The "Drawing Lessons" project can also serve as original source material for academic re-

search. Researchers might, for example, explore connections between the Parisian and American art schools at the turn of the 20th century.

### You Can Help

We thank the students and friends who so graciously contributed to this project. If you have not contributed or know of a foundation or friends who might like to help us raise the additional \$30,000 needed, please pass along the information or send a check to:

**The Art Students League of New York Attn: Development**  
215 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019

If you would like to make a contribution by credit card, please call **Denise L. Greene, 212-247-4510 x130**. For additional information about the Drawings, e-mail **Pam Koob** at [pam@artstudentsleague.org](mailto:pam@artstudentsleague.org).

The Art Students League of New York is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Donations are 100% tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

# Saving the League's Treasures

by Pam Koob, Curator

Recently, League students contributed to the cost of conserving some of the school's outstanding academic drawings by purchasing watercolors by Nathaniel Dirk and Ethel Katz at a special sale in the League gallery. These watercolors had been given to the League for its general benefit, and the proceeds will help prepare some fifty drawings for the October 2009 exhibit, *Drawing Lessons: Early Academic Drawings from the Permanent Collection*.

Marilyn and Bob Laurie, through their Marilyn & Bob Laurie Foundation, also generously donated funds to be used specifically for repairing these student works from the 1890s through 1925. The exhibit will later travel to the University of Houston-Downtown, which has contributed \$6,000 to the cost of conserving the drawings.

## Drawings Traded for Scholarships

Worked in charcoal, such drawings were among the first gifts to the League's Permanent Collection, reflecting the importance placed on them. Learning to draw the human figure was essential for careers in fine arts painting, mural commissions and illustration, and the League was revolutionary in providing students with unprecedented opportunities to practice and learn those skills. The best student drawings were acquired in exchange for

scholarships. Early photos show some framed and hanging on the studio walls. Most were carefully kept in portfolios and shown to generations of League students. The fact that they have survived for more than a century reflects a long-standing respect for their excellence and an understanding of their importance in telling the League's history.

## How to Fix Losses and Mat Burns

Time took its toll, nevertheless, and it can cost \$350 to \$1,900 to have a professional conservator repair ONE academic drawing. Tears need mending with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste. Missing sections of paper, or "losses", are replaced with paper carefully matched to the original and sometimes toned with watercolor. Fortunately, most early League students used high quality, French rag paper for their drawings, which helped them survive. (The acid in wood-pulp based papers makes them brittle, yellow and fragile over time; this acid can also "migrate" into the drawings from wood-based mats and backing boards.) In cases where an acidic mat left a yellow area or line called a "mat burn," bleach can be used to soften the effect. Particularly challenging for the conservator are works where students glued drawings to acidic boards. Soaking the drawing makes it possible to pare it away from the backing. It is then washed in alkaline water to



**Augustus Vincent Tack (1870-1949) Academic drawing, November 2, 1894, charcoal on laid paper, 24 1/2 in. x 18 1/2 in. Student of H.S. Mowbray. Permanent Collection, the Art Students League of New York.**

neutralize any acidity and reduce discoloration.

The League's permanent collection makes it unique among art schools. Acquiring and preserving student work as a "record of what has been accomplished" was a goal proudly (Continued on page 3)

## Dot Org

The League Online:  
Sign Up to Get E-mail

Are you getting e-mails from the League? E-mail is a timely, cheap and green way to keep up on League news. To sign up, go to [theartstudentsleague.org](http://theartstudentsleague.org) website, and click [Join our Mailing List](#) in the bottom, left-hand corner.

**NEWSFLASH! The ASL Online Store opened** for business April 24 at [theartstudentsleague.org](http://theartstudentsleague.org). Support the League; buy online from our huge selection.

**Send Us Your Best "Lines."** If you have an idea for a story, would like to write one, or have any comments or good art jokes, please e-mail to: [lines@artstudentsleague.org](mailto:lines@artstudentsleague.org). Our next issue will be coming out in time for the new session in September.

4 Lines from the LEAGUE

## In Memoriam

The Art Students League mourns the passing of our alumni, staff, and friends, including:

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Christel Bieroth-Rock  
Stephanie (Shep) Connell  
Dan Dickerson  
Ardis Hughes  
Edythe Kimmelman  
Andrew Kosten, Ph.D  
Giuseppe La Salle  
Rita Murphy  
Miguel Peraza

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The League has been the beneficiary of many generous bequests, both large and small. If you would like to consider the ASL in your will or estate planning, please contact Denise L. Greene at 212-247-4510, x. 130.

The Art Students League of New York

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