

# *Greencastle Art Council*

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

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### **Promoting the Arts throughout Putnam County**

The purpose of the Greencastle Arts Council is to celebrate and promote the arts and artists throughout Putnam County. We are currently supported by volunteerism and fundraising.

If you would like to become involved, please visit our website

[www.greencastleartscouncil.org/](http://www.greencastleartscouncil.org/) Or you may call or text Lynne Tweedle at (765)720-8058.

#### Board Members:

Lisa Cooper

Rachel Curtis - Treasurer

Ron Dye

Barbara Fields-Timm

Lavinia Hale - Vice President

Suzanne Hassler

Lane Ralph

Toni Ridgway-Woodall

Lynne Tweedle -President

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## Local Opportunities

The Greencastle Arts Council will be hosting a booth space at the 2019 Greencastle Farmers' Market located in downtown Greencastle. This space is available to our artist members at no charge.

Please contact us to reserve your day at the marketplace.

<https://www.facebook.com/GreencastleArtsCouncil/>

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## Upcoming

The Greenlight Art Festival will be celebrating the arts on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 5p-9p and September 14<sup>th</sup>, 10a-4p at 630 Tennessee Street, Greencastle, IN 46135. Meet local artists, enjoy live music, and delicious food. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/events/474631836431639/](http://www.facebook.com/events/474631836431639/)

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## Your Opinion Matters

Do you have knowledge or a skill that you would like to share with the Art Community?

What would you like to gain from the arts?

Get to know others, just like you. Please visit our facebook page and start a positive conversation. We appreciate hearing from our members.

[www.facebook.com/GreencastleArtsCouncil/](http://www.facebook.com/GreencastleArtsCouncil/)

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# Recent Events

## Annual Bonne Soirée

The Greencastle Arts Council would like to thank everyone for attending our 2nd annual Bonne Soirée at DePauw's Peeler Art Galleries on April 26th. We had the pleasure of hosting local fine artists, musicians, poets, and our dedicated members.

Greencastle Arts Council commissioned 2-D works of art inspired by the DPU Nature Park for the occasion. Eight artists created individual pieces, each highlighting a different slice of a 360 panoramic view from a specific location at the park.

“Regeneration” was the theme for the evening.

Mechanization carved out the space, but left something beautiful and new behind. The goal of the artists was to not only create visually appealing works, or photographic copies of their viewing angle, but to consider the location as an evolving, recovering ecosystem and to personally express their ideas about this historical place. They explored natural, emotional, and spiritual layers of the site. Visual artists included; Daniela Chaparro, Holly Sims Cooper, Emily Graves, Alex Hirt, Kathleen Kirkpatrick, M. Rees, T.L. Ridgway and Natasha Vidger.

In addition to visual works, local artists shared original writings, musical and video works throughout the evening. A drone video of the Nature Park was created by Andrew Cooper. It gave a bird's eye view of the quarry area. It enabled the viewer to encounter the park's geological features and natural wonders.

Joe Heithaus shared his writing talents with us by his quarry-inspired short story. Cathie Malach performed a delightful, impromptu instrumental on the keyboard, and John Bean entertained the audience with his humorous rendition of the Who's, “Talkin' bout My Generation”.

Two of our commissioned artists, T.L. Ridgway and M. Rees, wrapped up the program by sharing their inspirational stories of how the quarry personally impacted their visual artworks.

Artworks highlighted at our event exhibited at the following venues:

May - Putnam County Public Library

June - Roachdale Public Library

July - Wasser Brewing Company

August - Plainfield Public Library

September - Putnam County Museum



Winslow Homer, Artists Sketching in the White Mountains, 1860

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
**Bonne Soirée**  
Peeler Art Center  
Friday, April 26th, 7-9 p.m.

Art inspired by the  
DePauw Nature Park • readings  
• live music • cash bar  
• auction of original works  
• light hours d'oeuvres & sweets

greencastle  
ARTS COUNCIL  
PUTNAM COUNTY

The DePauw Nature Park is open daily from 8am-6pm year-round, with extended hours in spring and summer. Visit their website for more details about the parks fascinating history (<https://www.depauw.edu/about/campus/naturepark/hours-and-rules/>)

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## From Our Local Art Scene

Value and Appreciation has been a long-time battle for many artists. Few people understand the daily processes of creative professionals because they seem far removed from our everyday lives. Many artists live a fairly normal life, one less glamorous than the eccentric individual shown in blockbuster films. It is very likely that a creative professional lives within a few miles of your home.

The Greencastle Arts Council would like to highlight these hidden gems, our local artists, by giving them an opportunity to share various aspects of their daily practice. -- TLR

## Q&A with M.Rees

*Q. What is your artistic background?*

“The brilliant tutelage of Mrs. Linda Gjesvold at North Putnam High School and some Saturday Herron classes. Beyond that, self-teaching.”

*Q. What does your work aim to say?*

“I'm mostly unaware, but it seems maybe that nature is very important and it should be cherished and protected. I've also got some religious baggage that shows up from time to time. I'm more interested in compelling images than ideas. I usually don't approach a piece with an agenda or statement.”

*Q. How does your work comment on current social or political issues?*

“I tend to focus on my internal noise, not the external world noise. But I have noticed, like probably everyone my age, that I worry about the impact of our modern-day consumption and our dependence on all things virtual. It's becoming an undercurrent in newer work.”



*Q. Who are your biggest influences?*

“Twins Seven Seven, Tom Huck, Paul Klee, E.L. Kirchner, Shinsui Ito, I'm obsessed with all 3 of the Wyeths', Anthony Van Dyck, Sargent, Norman Rockwell. I have to say, as cliché as it is, I keep going back to Klimt. Can't escape that guy.”

*Q. How has your practice changed over time?*

“I've had to become more practical with the process because of my age and the ground I need to make up.”

*Q. What advice would you give someone who is interested in pursuing a career in the arts?*

“Take as many business classes as art classes. Don't think you're going to be 'discovered'. Nobody cares about your art but you. You have to make people care. That's business and marketing.”

*Q. What would you like others to understand/know about your work or processes?*

“This seems like a copout, but I get a bigger thrill out of hearing people's interpretations of my work than whatever the hell I was trying to say with it. Maybe that's because it's not totally clear to me.”

*Q. What methods or processes do you enjoy the most?*

“Right now, woodblock printing. I think I'll be sticking with it for a while.”

*Q. What activities/objects/etc. inspire your work? creativity?*

“Rural Putnam County all the way.”

*Q. What sacrifices have you made for your art?*

“It doesn't feel like a sacrifice when you are driven. And that's the dangerous part. You are sacrificing your time from the people who love or count on you. Sometimes it's hard for them to understand why you can't see what they need. You have to tread very carefully there. Not everyone understands or can tolerate obsessive behavior.”



If you are interested in learning more about M. Rees, or if you would like to purchase his work, please check out his website, or visit Conspire: Contemporary Craft.

<https://www.mreesart.com/>

Conspire: Contemporary Craft is located at 2 W. Washington St., Greencastle, IN 46135

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# Because it is Not a Choice

T.L. Ridgway

“An ordinary artist usually produces art that adheres rather closely to the standards of taste that prevail in the environment. The great masters are often innovators. They are independent and self-assertive people who do not conform to fashionable forms and content. They seem to have a kind of inner direction that is not affected by most environmental reactions and opinions.” (Lansing, Kenneth M. University of Illinois, (1967), *Art, Artists, and Art Education*, Italy, McGraw-Hill Book Company.)

Most people likely believe that being an artist is a choice. In all actuality, it is more like a never-ending battle, full of internal turmoil. Being in a constant creative state is challenging. It can consume your mind and prevent you from completing daily tasks. An artist may struggle with personal relationships, economic hurdles, social acceptance, and self-satisfaction.

Many artists may spend (too much) time ruthlessly beating themselves up with internal conflicts... “Am I letting my family and friends down by pursuing this nagging, unsettling desire to make? Why does no one understand I cannot stop obsessing until I find a way to complete this? Why do I dream about what I am making rather than the ones I love?” The questioning can go on forever. The desire to express original concepts can cause chaos, however it can also help ensure balance for the artist type.

Of course, everyone can enjoy art, and everyone should enjoy some form of art making or art appreciation, but being an artist is more complex. Everyone thinks that you can “just make something”, that it is easy, and that you always get it right on the first try because you were born with the knowledge of technique. Artist, self-taught or academically trained, must do research to learn what works best to express concepts and ideas. An artist must spend a lifetime learning, or they will never move forward. Furthering your education, completing research, and funding your art making is not only time consuming, but it can be very expensive.

Encouraging others to appreciate the vision of the artist is crucial. It is difficult to compete with fast fashioned artworks and convince people to buy original art rather than mass-produced throw-a-ways, especially when the audience does not understand the depth of the work. Purchasing authentic artworks is an investment in your future because the value increases with time and is more sustainable than buying trendy items from mass-markets.

Personally, it took me many years to admit to myself that I was an artist. Why would I want to willingly put myself (or others) through this? It is not easy, by any means to be an artist. The need to make often puts stress on personal relationships and it is difficult for people to understand; “why do you spend all your money on “art” supplies? why do you drag stacks of branches out of the woods? why can’t you focus on intimate encounters? why are you always late for everything?” or “why did you only sleep four hours last night? What were you doing?” ... just making art that most people do not yet understand. Why would I willingly do this to myself? Because it is not a choice. --TLR

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## Regional Art Resources

Greencastle Arts Council

<http://www.greencastleartscouncil.org/>

Indiana Arts Commission

<https://www.in.gov/arts/>

Arts Council of Indianapolis

<https://indyarts.org/>

Arts Council of Wabash Valley

<http://artsilliana.com/>

Tippecanoe Arts Federation

<http://tippecanoearts.org/about-us/>

Bloomington Arts Commission

<https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/arts>

Indianapolis Art Center

<https://www.indplsartcenter.org/>

Harrison Center for the Arts

<https://www.harrisoncenter.org/>

The Tube Factory ArtSpace

<https://www.tubefactory.org/>

Indiana Art in the State Parks

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/8423.htm>

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# Greencastle Arts Council Membership

Are you, or someone you know, interested in becoming a member?

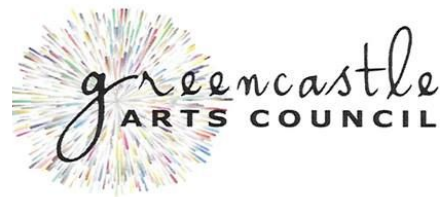
Want to give a gift that keeps giving?

A Greencastle Arts Council membership supports local events and encourages our community to explore and celebrate the arts.

## Memberships:

Artist/Venue/Student – \$10  
Basic – \$25  
Patron – \$50  
Elite – \$100  
Lionhearted – \$500

The Greencastle Arts Council is a non-profit organization. We rely on the generosity of our loyal patrons for support, patrons just like you! Please consider donating so that we may continue to encourage creativity in Putnam County. (All proceeds go toward supporting local events and GAC expenses via PayPal, or check.)



### **Annual Membership Levels\***

\$10 Artist/Venue/Student  
\$25 Basic  
\$50 Patron  
\$100 Elite

## *Love ART? Join today!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level/Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



Check us out and join online at

**greencastlearts council.org**

or mail a check payable to Greencastle Arts Council to  
PO Box 631, Greencastle IN 46135

Questions: [greencastlearts council@gmail.com](mailto:greencastlearts council@gmail.com)

*\*All membership levels are entitled to the same benefits - your generosity helps us better serve you and our community!*

## Contact GAC

PO Box 631

Greencastle, IN, 46135

Email us at: [treasurer@GreencastleArtsCouncil.org](mailto:treasurer@GreencastleArtsCouncil.org)

Or visit our webpage: [www.greencastlearts council.org/donations](http://www.greencastlearts council.org/donations)