

OLIVE CRAIG GALLERY ANNOUNCES 2012 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

The Olive Craig Gallery, based in Alberta House, has eleven months of stimulating and beautiful exhibitions on its 2012 schedule. The season opens February 1, with the 20/20 Photography Exhibition. There is still time for camera buffs to apply for this show. Because Alberta House is closed in January, the director has chosen two dates that photographs may be brought in—Saturday, January 21, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and Saturday, January 28, between 3 and 6 p.m. The entry information is on the Sault Area Arts Council website (www.saultarts.org) in both the December and January downloadable newsletters. Photographers with questions should call Joan Muckelbauer at 635-0469 or e-mail: saac@saultarts.org. The February Mini Gallery exhibit is titled "The Spiral Dance of Wind and Water"—paintings by Ellen Van Laar. Van Laar moved from Michigan to near Coppermine Point, Ontario to live on the lake she loves. Her paintings embody the light and motion of Lake Superior's waters and the waters of the rivers that feed it.

In March the watercolor paintings of Katie Eberts will occupy the main gallery. A recent graduate of U. of M.'s School of Art and Design, Eberts has an upbeat and whimsical approach, perfect for the watercolor medium. A husband and wife photography duo will fill the Mini Gallery in March with an exhibit titled *Images—His and Hers*. Many are already familiar with multi-media artist Sue Johnson, who has exhibited both paintings and collages. Now she is exhibiting her photographs with those of her husband Dale Johnson.

April brings the Olive Craig Gallery's Annual Juried Exhibition and this year's theme is "Then and Now". The multi-media exhibition attracts artists from both Michigan and Ontario and will fill both galleries.

The work of Brimley blacksmith Otto Bacon will be in the Olive Craig Gallery in May in an exhibit titled "Iron in the Garden". Bacon, who operates Whiskey River Forge, combines solid blacksmithing techniques with a sly sense of humor. In the Mini Gallery during March will be art of a type rarely seen, the wire drawings of Stephanie Moran. The wire drawings are spare, yet evocative; eloquent in their simplicity.

An invitational exhibition and a rare treat is scheduled in the main gallery in June—paintings by the incomparable Grace Dubow. Dubow, a charter member of both the Sault Area Arts Council Board and the Olive Craig Gallery Board, retired to Florida a number of years ago, and it is a distinct pleasure to welcome her back, even temporarily. In the Mini Gallery during June will be paintings by Algoma artist, teacher and juror, Diana Blazek.

The work of Sault, Ontario artist Susan Chow will be in the Olive Craig Gallery during July. Chow's subject matter includes intensely observed moments of stillness: landscapes, canoes, and figures in natural settings. The scale ranges from small watercolors to very large acrylics and oils. Oil paintings by Sault, Michigan artist Mary Stroba will be in the Mini Gallery.

An dual exhibition by Maureen Mousley and Ron Corey, both of whom are multiple award winners, will fill both galleries during August. Mousley is a Sault, Michigan artist who usually works in oils and favors landscapes. Ron Corey is a Rudyard artist who works in a wide variety of media and has a broad range of subject matter which includes portraits.

The September show is part of a long standing tradition that began with Alberta House's first exhibition in 1986: a joint show by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Craftsmen and the Le Sault Artists Guild. This year they will be joined by the Bridge Shuttlers. Another traditional exhibition, the Annual Art Auction Preview, will be in the Mini Gallery.

The October show will be a dual exhibition by a Sault husband and wife team—David and Phyllis Bigelow. Dave works primarily in watercolor, pastel and pen and ink. Phyllis is a stained glass artist and a rug hooker—two crafts that don't seem to have a lot in common, but when you see her work, you'll see that they do.

Two Judys, both multi-media artists, both former teachers, both members of the Le Sault Artists Guild and both frequent Alberta House volunteers, take over in November. Paintings by Rudyard artist Judy Hamilton will be in the Olive Craig Gallery. A mixed media exhibition by Sugar Island artist Judy Colein will be in the Mini Gallery.

Another traditional exhibition, the annual "Christmas at Alberta House" display will fill both galleries December 1 through 22, with the annual "Christmas at Alberta House" Open House on Saturday, December 1, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Alberta House Arts Center is open February through December, Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is owned and operated by the Sault Area Arts Council, a nonprofit corporation whose mission is to promote the arts in the Sault area. Admission is, and has always been, free of charge.