

behind the MASC

NEWSLETTER OF THE MEDALLIC ART SOCIETY OF CANADA

Winter 2011, Issue 31

President's Message



I hope everyone had a good holiday season -- best wishes for 2012! This should be quite an exciting year for MASC.

The commemoration of 200 years of peace since the War of 1812 will start celebrations this summer, and continue over the next three years. And MASC will be front and centre, thanks to all the hard work of Art Ellis, MASC member from St. Catharines and our liaison with Rodman Hall Art Gallery. The open Call for Entry went out prior to the end of the year to our members, the British Art Medal Society (BAMS), the American Medalllic Art Society (AMSA), and FIDEM, Fédération Internationale de la Médailles d'Art -International Art Medal Federation. Notices were also in the December issue of Canadian Art, a special sculpture edition, the February/March issue of Slate Art Magazine and immediately on their website, an Akimbo blast and notice on their website, and an Instant Coffee blast. This show will also be a themed show for students, and notices went out to relevant art school student newspapers across the country in January 2012. (This will replace our usual un-themed

Student Recognition Program for this year only.) The winner will get \$1000 in return for the copyright of their piece, and their piece will be made available to the Niagara Legacy Council for limited reproduction for visiting dignitaries during the three years of festivities. A runner up will receive \$500. The show of medals submitted will be held at Rodman Hall Art Gallery during the months of June, July, and August, 2012. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MAY 15, 2012.**

At our last Council meeting in November, Kris Bovenizer, MASC member and past Recording Secretary, agreed to take on the role of Vice President. We are delighted, and I hope you will join me in thanking Kris for taking this position. Now, if we could only find a newsletter editor ... anyone??

Sincerely,

Sarah Tothill
president@medallicart.ca

Vice-President's Message

Well, hello there. My name is Kris Bovenizer, and I am your new VP. A bit of a strange statement, considering two years ago I wrote a somewhat similar hello article for the newsletter introducing myself as the new recording secretary, and admitting that this "medal stuff" was all new to me. A couple of years later and several medals, it's a pleasure to be back on the Council. (continued on next page)

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Vice-President's Message - continued



Kris Bovenizer and Adam Brockie pouring bronze at the Central Technical School foundry.



I look at the website and see such huge improvements. And look at the new shows MASC has put on! The Gardiner Museum, and now the 1812 Legacy show! Remember the submission deadline folks - May 15th! A bit of history on your VP: I am a full-time artist with a background in Archaeology, and then later, corporate strategic planning. After a sabbatical in the corporate world (a world I never did get back to) I attained my certificate in fine art from the Art Centre at Central Technical School in Toronto. The two photos show me pouring bronze there. I now teach mosaics and printmaking at the same school, in their continuing adult education program; although in my personal work, I specialize more in Sculpture and Painting. If you are interested you can check out some of my work at www.krismadethis.com.

Sarah Tothill and I, your new “P” and “VP” respectively, have met over many lunches, talking about the future of MASC, and how best we can both serve the MASC mandate. The VP position seems to have been haunted for many years (I’m not going to take that as an omen!), and so we are deciding what the position actually entails. Right now, ALL signs point to making the 1812 show the best it can be!

I also want to continue to improve on the wonderfully strong bedrock that the leaders of MASC have created over the last 10 years. I want to ensure that the next 10 are set up to be as productive and expansive. We will be looking at strengthening the “brand name” of MASC, continuing to make the website the one-stop-shop it is destined to become, and making sure that there are more MASC shows to be involved with each year.

As members, we always want to hear from you. What do you want to see more of? What do you look for as a member? I can be reached at vicepresident@medallicart.ca. Or you can provide feedback, ideas or ask questions at feedback@medallicart.ca. I am excited to serve.

Kris Bovenizer
vicepresident@medallicart.ca

Member News - Geert Maas, YMCA-YWCA Project



Artist and MASC Director Geert Maas has created a sculptural donor structure to recognize donors to the Kelowna YMCA-YWCA Capital Expansion Campaign. The monument located in the main lobby of the Kelowna Family YMCA in Rutland was unveiled on September 7, 2011 together with the expanded facility. Total height of this stainless steel artwork is 3.66 m. (12 ft.) The sculptural structure has been decorated with mirror finished stainless steel imagery of running youth and faces as well as the logos and core values of the Y: Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility.

Four panels that are part of the monument have given ample space for the extensive engravings. Geert Maas received the commission after an open call to artists resulted in a five-person shortlist.

Finding Peace with the War of 1812 – an Opinion Piece by Kris Bovenizer

As I jump back into life at MASC, I find myself eating, sleeping and dreaming all things 1812 Legacy. What an opportunity! To make a piece of art that will be potentially seen by representatives from many countries, to maybe make the collection of a diplomat or two!

I started to respond to the call for submission. I found myself in a sticky situation. I was very clear about what I wanted to communicate; I wanted to concentrate on the 200 years of peace between two countries with the longest undefended border. I wanted to honor the sacrifice of the people who gave up their lives for others. But I wanted to say this without advocating for, or in any way being pro-war. I decided some research was in order.

I must bashfully admit, I really didn't know a lot of particulars about this war past what I learned in grade school. I quickly could list them on my fingers, and the facts were embarrassing... Yep, I know Laura Secord did more than inspire chocolatiers with her bravery, and that the 1812 overture was around due to this war. This was the kind of "knowledge" baseline I had to work with... not cool. I couldn't even really say who won, even though I had been taught in elementary school that of course Canada had been victorious!

So, I first researched what others thought of the outcome of the War of 1812. Now this was getting really interesting! There was a myriad of different theories! Some go by the "we won" scenario ... regardless of what side of the border you are now on. Others feel that it is a war "that everyone won" due to the comparatively small casualty rate and the outcome, which is 200 years of peace (although I don't think I can buy into the war being the sole reason for this wonderful peace. Both of our countries are decidedly not at peace with other nations on the globe, which I feel must be recognized).

Still others say the War of 1812 is a war that all of us lost, in that neither side achieved their stated military objectives. And what of the native elements, the men and women who helped future Canadians defend ourselves, feed ourselves and live off the land? This theory also expounds that none of us won the war because both sides decimated the native peoples. Tecumseh, perhaps the best known native player in the war, and the people he spoke for, literally helped us survive in the bush, and then we did not honor our agreements with them.

I was beginning to understand what my medal was going to communicate. I felt more comfortable knowing that many others were conflicted. I wanted to honor the native aspects of the war, and honor their sacrifice. I wanted to honor the fact that a lot of people with divergent backgrounds (natives, ex-patriots, etc.) banded together to ensure there would still be a land that ended up being called Canada. That many cultures did work together is a nice start to what is today a very multi-cultural country. I wanted to say that I do not like war, but I certainly do like that Canada and the US have managed to play nice in a very large sandbox for a very long time. This itself is a legacy worthy of much celebration. I looked more into Tecumseh, thinking that honoring him specifically would say what I wanted to say ... and realized right away that others had travelled this road. Indeed there are already numerous Tecumseh honorifics out there already. The one pictured here is a huge piece, inset into a monument to Tecumseh located near Highway 2, in Thamesville, Ontario.



Obviously, I needed an idea that was unique. I need to keep working on winnowing down the essence of what I want to say. Good thing there is still more time to research and to create and cast my response to the call for submission.

Remember friends, the deadline! By May 15th your medal needs to be in Art Ellis's hands! Look to our website for all the information you need. I am looking forward to going to Rodman Hall and seeing the culmination of your journey of discovery of the Legacy of the 1812 War, and the blessing of 200 years of mutual peace.

Pssst! MASC Logo contest coming soon!

What is MASC? Who is MASC? What is MASC's mission statement? (Hint: it's printed in every newsletter!) These are some of the questions MASC council has been asking of late. MASC has been an active, successful organization for 10 years. An entire decade! It's time to think about where we came from, who we are now, and where we want to go. As VP, I will be helping MASC in answering these questions, and in strengthening our "brand name". A brand is an amalgam of symbols, fonts and colour schemes that become, if marketed correctly, the symbol (in text and in image) of a group. Branded fonts and logos are standard. Take, um, Trojan condoms, as an example (bear with me). Their logo is a Trojan warrior silhouette in full armour. It doesn't have to be a condom. It is successful because the logo says all the things the company wants you to think about when you think protective, shielded warrior. And they have successfully tied those thoughts to their product.

Our own Canadian Flag is a less cheeky example. The ultimate, most important brand of all - a nation under one symbol. And we don't have one of those three horizontal stripe flags, where you are sometimes left thinking "Does the green stripe go on top or on the bottom?" No! We are talking three VERTICAL stripes here folks. TWO colours and a big honking leaf in the middle. There is no mistaking the Canadian flag. And we are proud to have this symbol identify us, indeed to brand our backs, as we backpack across the world. I feel that our flag is a successful representation of how genuine and clear-thinking the majority of Canadians are.

A logo is a symbol of the answers to all of those questions about who and what you stand for. And a successful logo does all of this while being short, visual and interesting. At present, MASC has a font style (castellar) and all the fun branding rules around a branded font. But we do not have a logo. We have been using a stylized version of one of our most beloved medals, a medal created by Del Newbigging, our founder, and given to Dora de Pédery-Hunt, as an image that represents at least some of the important facets of what MASC is. (to find out more about Dora, visit <http://www.doradepederyhunt.ca/>. To find out more about the last 10 years of MASC, start with our website at <http://medallicart.ca/MascHist.php#Home>.

Although this medal symbolizes the heart of the last 10 years of MASC, there is a feeling, as we become bigger and are seen more and more on a global stage, that we need to think outwardly; to rethink what we are saying on that much larger stage. Who are we? What is our identity? If someone from FIDEM or BAMS, for example, comes to our website, or gets a letter with our letterhead, do they immediately know they are amongst friendly peers? Are we stepping out with our best foot forward as we partake in all of the press releases, representing our members and member artists, when more and more, we are showing in places like the 1812 Legacy Program, or at the Gardiner Museum?

We will be putting this question, "what should our logo be?", and all of the others above, to you, fellow MASC'ers. I will be announcing a logo design contest, where you, gentle MASC-folk, will have the chance to say who we are. Our new logo will be designed by you, and used by all of us. Look to your inboxes! I will be emailing you all more information in the near future.

Kris Bovenizer
vicepresident@medallicart.ca

FIDEM XXXII ART MEDAL CONGRESS



The Hunterian Art Gallery
Entrance

The City of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum is hosting the next FIDEM Congress in July 2012. It will be organized by the Hunter Coin Cabinet of the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery at the University of Glasgow in collaboration with FIDEM. The Hunterian is one of the oldest public museums in Scotland and is found in the magnificent Main Building of the University. Sir George Gilbert Scott designed it in the Gothic style. Situated in the west end of Glasgow, a short distance from the city centre, the University is one of the city's best known landmarks.

The Congress marks the 75th anniversary of FIDEM. It runs from July 10th to July 14th 2012 and is accompanied by a special

exhibition which will display worldwide submissions from medallic artists. The Biennale committee has not set a theme for this year's Congress, rather leaving it to individual artists to decide what they wish to portray. FIDEM Canada members have sent 24 medal sides. The FIDEM members whose medals are in the exhibition are Jeanne Bates, Lynden Beesley, Pauline Dalby, Hilary Quigley, Lorraine Wright, Geert Maas, Del Newbigging, Yoshiko Sunahara, Susan Taylor, Magdalena Lesniak, Art Ellis, and non-FIDEM member Benjamin Trickett Mercer.



Main Building
Hunterian Museum

Over 1100 Medal sides from 35 member countries will be displayed in the Kelvin Gallery and the lectures will take place in both the Kelvin Gallery and the Hunterian Art Gallery Lecture Theatre. Our medals have all arrived safely in Glasgow. Our medals are varied in theme as well as mediums. This year no Canadian FIDEM members have come forward to be part of the lecture program. Please keep this in mind for future Congress. I am looking forward to visiting Glasgow in July and seeing the exhibition for myself.



Kelvin Gallery



Hunterian Art Gallery Lecture Theatre

The program this year consists of Executive and Delegate meetings as usual followed by the daily lecture series. There will be workshop sessions, which are always fun to attend. FIDEM members, who wish to, will be able to sell their medals on Saturday 14th July at the Medal Fair. On a lighter note there will be a city bus tour as well as an optional excursion to Loch Lomond and the Glengoyne Whisky Distillery. Whoopee! I will be on that tour. The Congress will host an opening reception and the City of Glasgow will host a civic reception. There will also be a Formal Congress dinner. The post Congress tour is an overnight trip to the Scottish Highlands and Islands.

For your information the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery was built on Dr. William Hunter's bequest of scientific instruments used by James Watt, Joseph Lister and Lord Kelvin and his anatomical teaching collection; outstanding Roman artifacts from the Antonine Wall; major natural and life sciences holdings; one of the world's greatest numismatic collections; objects from Captain Cook's Pacific voyages and a major art collection. It also houses the world's largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler, the largest single holding of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and The Mackintosh House, the reassembled interiors from his Glasgow home.

I look forward to writing and telling you all the news and greetings from FIDEM XXXII Scotland on my return.

Respectfully submitted Lynden Beesley (Canadian Delegate)

lynbee@shaw.ca

Winterstone Workshop

Eleven people enrolled for the workshop. The creator of Winterstone, Lorne Winters, met the group and talked about the product and how it could be utilized in making medals. Winterstone is a cement-based product. The participants tried the material in the rubber molds that they had brought to the workshop. Winterstone requires many hours and days to dry so it was impossible to try all of the steps. The number of coloured patinas that are possible are limitless.

I felt that some of the steps appeared too difficult to understand so I worked with Lorne the next week and prepared a detailed and simplified approach to using Winterstone to make medals. This was sent to all of the participants.

Some people felt that they would like to continue with this material and they have agreed to share the cost as small quantities are needed for medals. Others felt that this was not the material for them. Lorne insisted that everyone be given his phone number so they could call for help if needed.

After the workshop everyone was invited to my home for tea. Enjoying a relaxed social time together was felt to be a big benefit for MASC. John made delicious sandwiches, Jane supplied date squares and Pauline brought lemon squares.

Submitted by Del Newbigging
newcar@sympatico.ca



Del Newbigging and Lorne Winters (creator of Winterstone)



L to R: Elli Konkle, Jane Juda, Lorne Winters, Pauline Dalby



Lorne demonstrating applying a backing to add strength



Examples of what is possible



"Making Medals, Making Friends", Del Newbigging, 2011

Newsletter Editor Needed - You Can Help!

Would you like to be the first person in MASC to know what's going to be in the next newsletter? Do have a knack for layout and a passion for photography? Then you will love this job!

Currently, "Behind the MASC" is published three times a year: (Spring (May), Fall (Oct), and Winter (Jan)). MASC also publishes a special edition for the Student Recognition Program each year. It's an exciting time to come on board; as we move into the second decade of MASC, you will have a say in how we approach our communication strategy moving forward!

As newsletter editor, you will be the one gathering content from our membership, strategizing with the VP about future newsletter content, and the overall look and feel of the newsletter itself. What a great way to hone your skills and pad your resume! It's a wonderful thing!

If you're interested, please contact Kris Bovenizer @ vicepresident@medallicart.ca

Exhibitions, Workshops & Events

Watch - "The War of 1812" online at WNED.org
<http://www.pbs.org/wned/war-of-1812/>

Running - "My Favourite Medal"
September 2011 to May 31, 2012
Rodman Hall, St. Catharines

Call for Entry - "Commemorating War & Peace, 1812"
More information to follow shortly.
Last day for submissions - May 15, 2012
Show at Rodman Hall from June 1 to August 31, 2012

FIDEM 2012
10th - 14th of July 2012, Glasgow, Scotland

<http://www.fidem-medals.org/congress%20next.html>

Feel free to email the Newsletter Editor at info@medallicart.ca with any information and details of upcoming events that would be of interest.

Did you know ...
that the Canadian Mint has produced a coin to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812?

<http://www.mint.ca/store/coin/200th-anniversary-of-the-war-of-1812-%13-proof-fine-silver-dollar-coin-2012-prod1230004>

Council Matters - meeting held January 21, 2012

A special edition newsletter will be produced for this show, will be posted on our website for the public to see, and will be available electronically for our members.

The Call for Entry for "Commemorating War & Peace, 1812" has gone out. (See President's Message on page 1.) Council decided that this show would also be considered a themed show for students, and would replace the "student recognition show" for 2012. (The normal, un-themed Student Recognition Program will return in 2013.) Council is considering the publication of a soft cover 8"x 6" photo book as a catalog for the show. We plan to coordinate with the communications plan of the 1812 Legacy Committee to advertise the show starting in April.

As Rodman Hall Art Gallery now has a new permanent director, Stuart Reid, we will be able to finalize our agreement with them. We believe that Stuart will be very supportive of our organization: at their last show opening, he made a point of telling the 150 guests about our show,

which was also on. Art Ellis was in attendance, and took the opportunity to tell people about MASC and answer any questions they had.

Since 2013 will be the 100th year since Dora de Pédery-Hunt's birth, we are planning a special show in her honour to run from January to May, 2013. We are also looking at the possibility of having a show of Del Newbigging's collection from September to December of this year. Stay tuned!

Member News:
MASC would like to welcome new member *Rosario del Azar Cordeu*. Rosario is a recent graduate of the three-year adult art program at Central Technical School.

Good wishes to *Ray Scott*, our Treasurer, as he recovers from hip surgery ... we wish him a speedy recovery!

The next Council meeting will be held on March 10th.

behind the MASC

MASC Mission Statement

The Medalllic Art Society of Canada is dedicated to the creation, promotion, appreciation, and education of the fine art of the medal

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Meet the MASC Council

President: Sarah Tohill
Vice-President: Kris Bovenizer
Recording Secretary: Hilary Quigley
Treasurer: Ray Scott
Membership Secretary: Andrea Yermy
Newsletter Editor: Presently open
Webmaster: Paul Petch
Honorary Directors: Dora de Pédery-Hunt
2000-2008
Anne Lazare-Mirvish

Directors:
Pauline Dalby
Eric Knoespel
Eleanor Konkle
Antonio Louvado
Geert Maas
Del Newbigging

Rodman Hall Liaison:
Art Ellis

Past Presidents:
2010-2011: Doug Taylor (interim)
2008-2010: Paul Petch
2006-2008: Saulius Jaskus
2003-2006: Susan Taylor
2000-2003: Del Newbigging

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Obverse



Reverse

Antonio Louvado
MASC Member
"Great Poet"
Bronze, patinated
88mm dia. x 15mm