

SPRING 2017

News from *The Plastic Club*

Jessie Willcox Smith and Friends

On Sunday afternoon, March 12th, **James C. Thompson** came to the Plastic Club and gave a lecture about late 19th / early 20th century illustration and the involvement of some of the Plastic Club's founding members, particularly Jessie Willcox Smith. Mr. Thompson is the author of "*Painting America's Portrait, How Illustrators Created Their Art*". To supplement his lecture he brought with him four original Jessie Willcox Smith paintings generously lent by the Illustrated Gallery of Fort Washington, PA. Much of the lecture centered on the improvement of the means to reproduce illustrations in books and other media in the late 19th / early 20th century. These improvements gave illustrators the ability to use color and continuous tone in their works rather than just black line. Many of our founding members were professional illustrators, There is a copy of the book now in our library.



James C. Thompson with a painting by Jessie Willcox Smith

Animation Festival

Christopher Magee, for the fourth year in a row, organized an Animation Festival at the Club on Saturday March 4th. Mr. Magee teaches animation at UARTS and has many contacts in the world of animation. Called **Philadelphia Independents**, Chris presented an eclectic group of 21 works by local and regional artisan-animators. One of them was our own **Andy Hoffmann**. We know Andy's work as a cartoonist and we also know Andy from our regular movie nights when he shows vintage cartoons from his collection. Go to andrewhoffmann.blogspot.com to see his work. He is hereby encouraged by all of his friends to do more!

It's That Time Of The Year Again

The fiscal year of our club runs from May 1st to April 30th. So, accordingly, the annual dues are collected in May. You should find a bill for your dues enclosed. They are still \$60.00 for Full members, \$40.00 for Associate Members, and \$25.00 for Long Distance members (those who live 50 miles or more from the Club.) We hope you can continue to support the Plastic Club as it enters its 120th year.

JACKSON GALLERY SHOWS

The Board of Directors of the Plastic Club understands that younger people can invigorate and revitalize an organization. Our newest board member, **Roberta Gross**, has launched an initiative that we hope can encourage younger artists to become involved in the Club. She is inviting students in the local art schools to participate in month long shows downstairs in the Bob Jackson Gallery. Our first group of students opened their show on Sunday, March 5th to coincide with the opening upstairs of the Small Worlds Show. The students, all from PAFA, were **Francine Renee Schneider, Sophie Brenneman, Justine Ditto, and Chenlin Cai**. The second show has now opened to coincide with the Home and Community opening on April 2nd. The six students from Tyler are **Ben Holzwarth, Taylor Parchinski, Zac Bradley, Sophia Kim, Jared Verratti, and Joseph Drakeford**. One is from PAFA, **Zheng Qin**. It's our hope that they and their friends will see that the Plastic Club has a lot to offer artists of any age and can provide support that can be helpful when they're just starting out. Helping Roberta with this endeavor is clubmember **Paul Davis Jones**. On a side note, we want to thank Roberta and Paul for painting the Bob Jackson Gallery walls and refreshing the lighting. It really looks good down there!

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SMALL WORLDS SHOW

We've been holding the annual Small Worlds Show for at least fifteen years. It remains one of our most popular shows. This might be because there is no special subject theme and the small size required by the prospectus (no larger than 13" x 13") makes the work easy to handle and bring to the club. For whatever reason, we were happy to do it again and 113 artists apparently agreed with us. This year, the prize juror was **Miriam Singer**. She chose **Karen Frank's** acrylic, "**Spring Blossoms**" for the First Prize. Second Prize went to **Bob Bohne** for his little painting of the U.S. Untied States entitled "**Stacks**". Third Prize went to **Nick Brown's** painted ceramic "**Bowl**." Honorable Mentions were won by **Mark S. Conti**, **Iva Fabricant**, **Elizabeth Hughes**, and **Alice Meyer-Wallace**. We hope to see everyone next year when we'll do it again!

A Show Close To Home

Once again, our Exhibition Chair, **Susan Stromquist**, has come up with an interesting and challenging theme for our April show. Entitled "**Daily Life and Community: Points of View**", the show opened on Sunday, April 2nd with our usual nice reception attended by a good deal of artists and art lovers. The Juror was **Linda Fernandez** who is associated with the Knight Foundation and Amber Arts. She picked **Dorothy Roschen's** ceramic/mixed media piece "**Protest**" for First Prize. **Alan J. Klawans** received Second Prize for his photograph "**A Philadelphia Poem**," and **Jack Gerber** got 3rd Prize for his colorful painting "**City Park**." Honorable Mentions were won by **Alice Chung**, **John Attanasio**, **Laura Storck**, and **Michael Guinn**. Congratulations to all 70 artists who took part.

MARATHON

Once again, we will be running a 12 hour Drawing Marathon. It will take place on Sunday, April 23rd from 10AM to 10PM. Models will be posing on all three floors. Life, croquis, and portrait models will be available to all. There also will be a still life set up for those of you who like to work from a still life. The fee for all or any part of the day is \$15.00. Profits from the marathon will be donated to the Sunshine Arts School in Upper Darby. This is an after school art program that teaches drawing, painting, dance, film and music to the neighborhood children. It is run by our member, Sheila Modglin. Food will also be available for a donation. Come out and draw yourself silly.



Small Worlds prizewinners l to r: Iva Fabricant, Liz Hughes, Bob Bohne, Nick Brown, Karen Frank, and Alice Meyer-Wallace



Daily Life and Community prizewinners l to r: Alan J. Klawans, Jack Gerber, Dorothy Roschen, Alice Chung, Laura Storck, and Michael Guinn

The Rabbit is Baaaack!

For those of you who are new to the Plastic Club, the "Rabbit" is our annual costume party. It got its name from the fact that the founders (wayyyy back) served Welsh Rarebit at the party (cheese on toast...yummy!) among other goodies. But, it's not just about costumes. There are skits, a play, and an assortment of entertainments, amusements, and general fun. There will also be a buffet dinner with assorted things to eat and drink. Enclosed is your invitation. Please RSVP soon.

CABINET OF CURIOS

Club member **Bob Bohne** asks, "**What's in your Curio?**" For Bob it could be a round metal tin with a glass top that contains a beautiful iridescent beetle, or a blue and grey mug that was a still life prop for the famous American painter, John Frederic Peto, or a bust of a child's head that was a reproduction of the original head that Bob saw in the Musee D'Orsay in Paris. Bob has been going to auctions, thrift stores, and galleries for 35 years, bidding on or buying objects that tickle his fancy, and he's formed quite a collection of interesting things. He's showing some of his collection favorites this month in the glass case. Take a look.