

May 2014

Nice weather has finally arrived in Vermont. And as our Spring Show comes to an end, a new show has been mounted in the old Family Dollar (formerly – for those old enough to remember - the Fishman Five and Dime) store. The idea for this show originated, so I am told, by Sharon Carcoba. Linda Kiniry then took the ball and ran with it, contacting the Barre Partnership, which holds a key to the building, and got their concurrence for our use of the storefront for an 8-week period. We mounted our first 4-week show on Monday the 12th of May, and 13 artists are represented. One critical piece involved in mounting this show was cleaning the windows, which were very dirty. We got invaluable help from Karl Miller, Dee's better half, who is (as she says) an expert at cleaning windows. He proved his mettle that day, and we are indebted to him for his efforts. Come by and see the show. It is an eye-stopper and a credit to the City of Barre.

Speaking of Barre, one of the issues discussed at a recent board meeting had to do with the possibility of a future theme show on the subject of Barre. If you have ideas on such a show, please bring them to our next membership meeting on Tuesday, 10 June, at which time it will be a topic on the agenda. Although theme shows are fun, we may not want more than one each year. However, when we DO have theme shows, we may wish to consider limiting entries only to those which comport with the theme. In the past we have allowed non-theme entries, but my sense is that it is a distraction from the main thrust of the show.

Four of us made a trip to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston on May 2nd. The trip down on the Dartmouth Coach was pleasant, and we enjoyed a fabulous day (weather-wise) in Beantown. Riding the MTA to the Museum of Fine Arts stop was an experience, and buying tickets, learning how to use them to open gates, and finding the correct line to board were all a challenge for us. We finally arrived, however, and after ingesting a delicious lunch at the Gardner café, we toured the “castle”. The building, left as Isabella wanted it always to remain, features a spectacular courtyard, which in my mind is the highlight of the place. Fountains, plants, and wonderful skylight makes the location one of peace and beauty. The building consists of four floors, three of which are crammed full of art. For some of us, the reliance almost solely on ambient lighting from windows made viewing artworks sometimes difficult, and the lack of identifying information next to the artworks on the walls was a challenge. In order to learn the artist and anything else about the art, one had to consult one of four cards for each of the four walls. Each card was identified as describing art on the “North Wall”, “East Wall”, etc. Now for those of us who were directionally-challenged, identifying the correct wall was the next problem. Despite these drawbacks, however, it was a day well spent. We returned on the Dartmouth Coach in heavy Friday Boston-leaving traffic, so the return was later than expected. After dinner at Margarita's in Lebanon, we all returned home, happy that we had made the trip.

Bob Murphy