

ARTISTRY

MID-MICHIGAN'S FOREMOST ART INFORMER

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MEET THE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Gabrielle Alston

Creative Director
Gabrielle Alston

FROM THE EDITOR

Whether you are an artist in the studio or an artist at heart, Artistry is mid-Michigan's foremost magazine for all connoisseurs of the arts.

Art and the artist's community is a vibrant universe in which one can create something beautiful in the world and something beautiful in themselves.

Artistry features local art, local exhibitions, and local art fairs. Artistry focuses on local arts and the way in which they contribute to the community. Talent is not always the artist at the center of the world's eye; talent is the artist who creates what they love in a unique and beautiful way simply to share it with the world.

Therefore, do not be afraid to create and celebrate the art that gives meaning to your world. Go create and enjoy.

Gabrielle Alston
Editor-in-Chief

Lead Reporter
Gabrielle Alston

Photographs Courtesy of
Laurie Sharkus
Detroit Institute of the Arts
University of Michigan Museum of Art

SPECIAL THANKS

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Meet the Staff

ARTISTRY



**THE DETROIT INSTITUTE
OF ARTS**
**22 OCTOBER 2017 - 4
MARCH 2018**
MONET: FRAMING LIFE

**THE DETROIT INSTITUTE
OF ARTS**
**22 OCTOBER 2017 - 15
JANUARY 2018**
**CHURCH: A PAINTER'S
PILGRIMAGE**

This exhibit features artwork by artist Frederic Church, a highly successful painter in mid-19th-century America. In particular, Church was famous for his landscapes portraying the wild places in North and South America. Church also had a subset of paintings featuring ancient cities from his travels. The exhibit featured at the DIA focuses on the transition in Church's work from natural landscapes to human history. The exhibition features nearly all of Church's architectural paintings. It explores the artist's motivation for the transition as well as the importance of the transition as a testament to the portrayal of human history. This exploratory exhibit will be on display until January at the DIA.

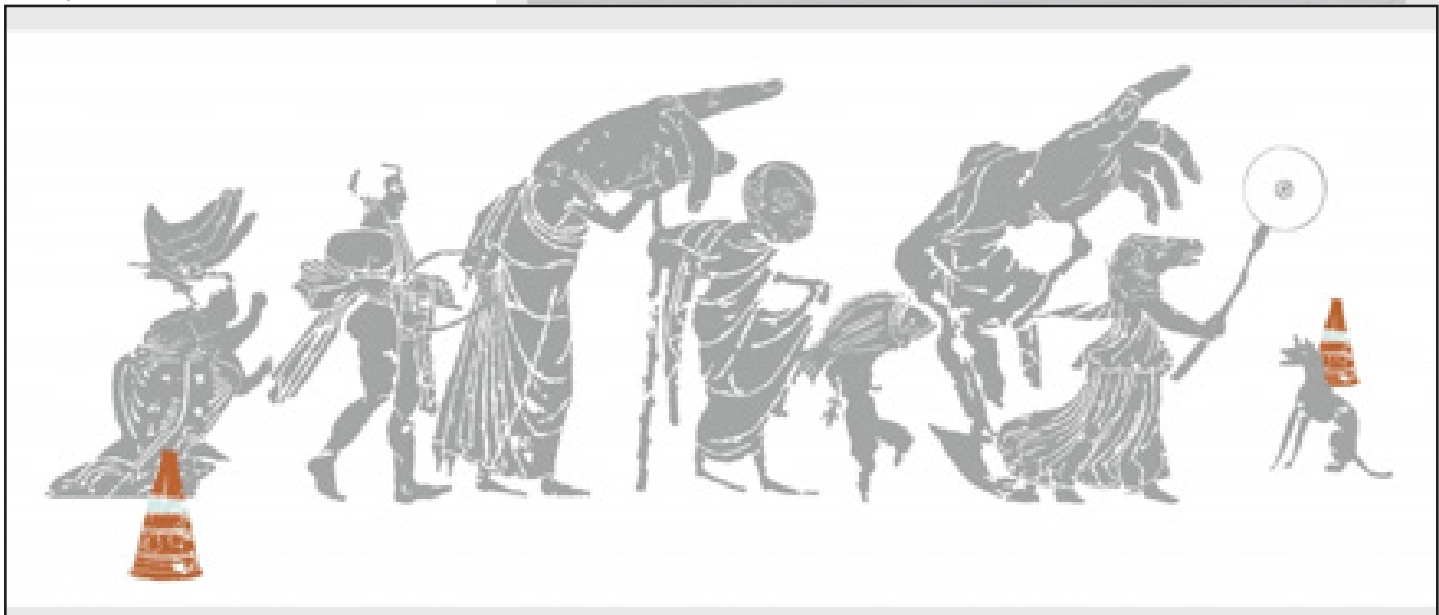
The DIA is currently hosting an exhibition centered on the only Monet in the possession of the museum, Rounded Flower Bed (Corbeille de fleurs). This painting by Claude Monet was painted sometime between late 1871 and 1878. This painting was important for the development of the Impressionist movement. This exhibit features Rounded Flower Bed along with 10 other paintings of the same area, painted by both Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. The exhibit also presents a great deal of information on Monet's work and the Impressionist movement. This exhibit is funded by the DIA and the Bonnie Ann Larson Modern European Masters Series. This important exhibit of Impressionism will be on display until March at the DIA.



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM OF ART

22 APRIL 2017 - 3 JUNE 2018
COSMOGONIC TATTOOS

The UMMA is currently hosting an exhibition by Jim Cogswell. The exhibit features several cosmogonic tattoos that were created for the museums. This project began as a celebration of the University of Michigan's Bicentennial in 2017. The creations were a series of public window installations. They are a response to the holdings of the University of Michigan Museum of Art and the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. The artist created vivid images that were pasted to the glass walls of the museums in beautiful rhythm and symmetry. These creations were loosely based on compilations of artwork in the permanent collections of the museums. The artist brings in the architectural significance of the buildings as well as the meaning behind some of the artwork housed in the museums. This unique exhibit will be on display until June at UMMA.



*Information courtesy of The
University of Michigan Museum of Art
and the Detroit Institute of Arts.*

Spotlight on Local Artist: Laurie Sharkus

Eastern Michigan is lush with the talent of local artists. With hubs of activity such as Ann Arbor and Detroit, the artistic community thrives. One such artist is Laurie Sharkus, a sculptor from Newport, Michigan. Sharkus' work consistently appears at art shows across Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Her unique style as a sculptor makes her art a primary example of the successful creativity of the small town artist.

Sharkus' art career began in earnest in 1979 when she graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Eastern Michigan University. From there, her art gained focus as she began to establish herself as an artist.

Sharkus' art has always centered around nature. Operating in the medium of kiln-fired, hand-crafted clay sculptures, Sharkus creates highly detailed sculptures of animals, such as those pictured. These animal subjects are both local wildlife and exotic wildlife.

"I think I was born with a love for animals, and a desire to portray their gentle and peaceful spirits," said Sharkus when describing her art.

The pieces she creates are not only beautiful, but also hold environmental significance. Sharkus describes her creative process as one that begins with capturing the spirit of the animal, shaping it based on her own personal experiences, and then also including any environmental specifics.



Pictured is the "Singing Whale" piece is sculpted in two separate pieces: the whale and its pedestal of water. This is representative of the diminishing habitat available for these majestic creatures. It symbolizes the way in which humans destroy the natural world. This makes the piece not only beautiful, but meaningful.

Many of her creations incorporate the environmental stance, reminding viewers that for this beauty to exist, there needs to be somewhere for it to exist.

"The animals that I create speak for themselves; they are representational of real animals. But I want to say more than that. I want people to realize their preciousness, the beauty and peacefulness of their existence. I hope people can feel that beauty and peace when they look at my sculptures and hopefully they will want to protect them [the animals]," said Sharkus when asked what she wants to say with her art during an interview.

Sharkus became focused on African exotic animals after her safari there in recent years. She published several photo collections of the wildlife she encountered there in addition to creating a great number of sculptures based on her unique encounters.





Pictured is a photograph that Sharkus took herself during her African safari. The picture of the cheetah served as the inspiration for the sculpture that follows. This is a unique look at the artist's process from inspiration to creation. It is clear to see that the photo itself is high quality, but the artist's emotion shines through the art that came from the photograph. This is visible in the tension inserted into the animal's posture and the intense realism.

Many of Sharkus' pieces stemmed from her African journey. She has many sculptures of elephants, wild cats, giraffes, zebras, hippopotamuses, and other such creatures.

Sharkus' more local inspirations include birds, bears, deer, and otters, among others.



Alongside the sculptures that capture the animal's actual shape, Sharkus also has a collection of tile sculptures that portray animals in naturalistic scenes. These tiles can be stand alone pieces or can be used in mural type tiling. Pictured is her tile sculpture of polar bears.

Whether the sculpture is a stand-alone or a tile, Sharkus uses the same creative process. She uses white stoneware clay to sculpt her animals, working through a process that takes weeks to complete. The pieces go through different stages during which the artist sculpts, carves, and paints the pieces. The sculptures must dry for two to three weeks before they are finally fired in a kiln to harden the clay and seal the final creation.

Many of the artist's hand-crafted pieces are held in prominent collections worldwide. Her sculptures are held in private collections in the United States, Taiwan, Japan, and England.

Sharkus has two sculptures in permanent collection for Nature's Neighborhood Exhibit at The Toledo Zoo in Ohio, a Glazed Tile Relief Wall Mural at the Frenchtown Library in Monroe, Michigan, the 'Savannah Elephants' sculpture in permanent collection of Bedford Library in Monroe, Michigan, the 'Humpback Whale', 'Cliff Dweller' and 'Green Sea Turtle' are in permanent collection of Monroe County Community College in Michigan, the Bust of Sir Winston Churchill is located at Churchill High School in Livonia, Michigan, the 'Humpback Whale' is in the collection of Junichi Yoshii, Mayor of Hofu, Japan, and the 'Bear Clan' and 'Seals' are in permanent collection of the City of Hofu, Japan.

The additions to the Japanese collections were the result of a group show that travelled through Japan.

Sharkus has done exhibitions alongside other local artists from Monroe County such as Blue Turtle Designs, Mary Gaynier, Patti Kerr, David Larkins, Christy Laroy, Laura Lemke, Jiro J. Masuda, Sylvia Pixley, Catherine Rehbein, Kim Rhoney, Nancy Lee Smith, Richard Sowa and Gary Wilson.

The success of local artists is important for the art community. Local artists enrich their communities with the talent and beauty they contribute. Their success speaks not only of their own talent, but it also speaks for the community they come from.

Sharkus' art creates a beautiful aesthetic of both local and exotic wildlife that praises the natural world in all its beauty. ■



Photos and interview courtesy of Laurie Sharkus.


List of local artists obtained from The Monroe Evening News.

Interested in seeing more of Sharkus's work? Find her online at:

www.lauriesharkus.wixsite.com

or on Facebook as

Laurie Sharkus Clay Sculpture



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DECEMBER

2 December 2017

Grand Rapids hosts the UICA's 29th Annual Holiday Artist's Market 10AM to 6PM at Steelcase Town Hall, 901 44th St.

2 December 2017

Lowell hosts the 35th Annual Rogue River Artisans Fine Art and Craft Holiday Sale 9AM to 4PM at Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes Road. Admission: \$1

8-10 December 2017

Northville hosts the 38th Annual Tinsel and Treasures Holiday Mart 9AM to 8PM at the Northville Community Senior Center, 303 W. Main Street. Admission: \$3.00

9 December 2017

Troy hosts the 27th Annual Festival Art and Craft Show 9AM to 4PM at Athens High School, 4333 John Rd.

FEBRUARY

24 February 2017

Kalamazoo hosts the 22nd Annual Garage Sale Art Fair 9:30AM to 4PM at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street. Admission: \$5.00

MARCH

2-3 March 2017

Royal Oak hosts the Royal Oak Market: Spring Art Market 11AM to 8PM in downtown Royal Oak.

23-24 March 2017

Northville hosts the Spring Fling 9AM to 8PM at the Northville Community Center, 303 West Main Street.

25 March 2017

Saline hosts the Spring Craft Show 8AM to 3:30PM at Saline Middle School, 7190 North Maple Rd.

Michigan Art Fairs

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

ARE YOU READY TO SHARE YOUR ART WITH THE WORLD?

THE ANN ARBOR ART GALLERY IS NOW ACCEPTING LOCAL SUBMISSIONS FOR AN EXHIBITION OF MICHIGAN'S ARTISTS.

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An abstract watercolor splash background featuring a central red and pink blotch with yellow and orange tones on the left, and blue and green tones on the right. The paint splatters radiate outwards, creating a dynamic and artistic feel.

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