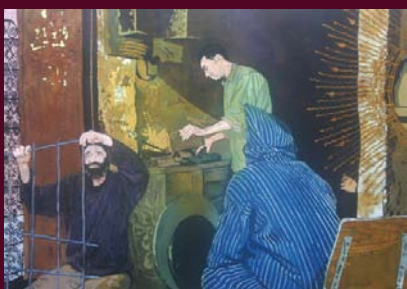


In this newsletter...

1. In "Art Will Find a Way" explores issues of the importance of art in tough economic times.
2. "Follow Our Blogs!" A fresh new look with two new blogs
3. "News and Announcements" keeps you up to date with what we've been doing

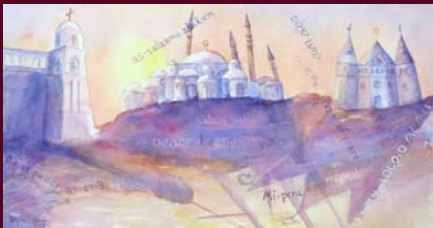


"Fabricantes" Batik on Silk by David Lucht

News and Announcements

David just wrapped up his latest show with Evansville Museum of Art and Science where his painting "Fabricantes" was shown among 57 other artists' works for The 54th Annual Mid-States Art Exhibition, running from December 7, 2008 – January 8, 2009.

Stefanie participated in a local exhibition through the Paducah Arts Alliance called "Ripple Effect." The show was on display at the Maiden Alley Cinema during the month of January. Her painting, "One People," was part of the artist-in-residence inspired show depicting community and connections.



"One People" Watercolor by Stefanie Graves

Art Will Find a Way

Economic downturn. Job layoffs and unemployment. Foreclosures. The economy is on everyone's mind, especially artists, in these times of turmoil. We're no different here at Cowango Studios as we start the new year. A tough economy means even tougher times for artists, never purveyors of necessities. Or are we?

During the Depression, people escaped into fantasy with the likes of Fred Astaire, Betty Grable, Humphrey Bogart, and Judy Garland. Big bands became popular, and FDR's New Deal created the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that included work for muralists, photographers, and other artists to enhance the quality of American life during the Depression. Art and cultural events were never needed more than at that time to help inspire, uplift, and encourage people. The soul needs food to sustain it during times of hardship and distress, and art provides that sustenance.

Supporting the arts means supporting yourself. It gives back to you in a thousand and untold ways: a lighter step, a deeper appreciation of beauty, a connection to others, a broader sense of humanity, a smile on your face. Listening to a song, watching a stage performance, reading a book, or experiencing a painting are timeless moments that have the ability to transport us, make us think, and stick with us far longer than last year's latest fads. The arts give meaning to our lives and reason to believe in a greater world. It is our soul's savings account to draw on in times of need.

But how will that "savings account" help us pay the bills as we feel the economic pinch? As a kind of emotional stimulus, there to get us through the day. Otherwise, how to live? A world without art is hard to imagine, a place dull and dreary. It is as necessary as the air we breathe, and for some of us, the artists, it's a way of life.

So, visit a museum, go to a book signing, a poetry slam, listen to a concert, take an art class, buy something hand made rather than mass produced. Art doesn't have to be expensive, but remember it pays dividends by way of essential nourishment to stockpile against a rainy day. You never know when one might come along.

— To do more, contact your Senator and Congressman to let them know you support the arts and all it provides for our society.
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Follow Our Blogs!

As part of our activities for the new year, we are excited to announce our own individual blogs apart from the Cowango blog many of you are familiar with. The two new blogs will take on their own flavor and emphasis and give our audiences a chance to get to know us and our distinctive art in a closer way. We invite you to visit and subscribe to both of our blogs to keep up with our latest artistic creations and views on the world.



Life in the Hyphen (David Lucht's new blog)

You'll find small swatches of his mental fabric here which you are welcome to examine. Each thread was found somewhere between two worlds.
www.cowango.com/lifeinthehyphen



Accidental Truths (Stefanie Graves' new blog)

Like the "happy accidents" of watercolor that occur as a consequence of some unexpected happening in the painting process, these writings are meant to explore the serendipitous effects of my artistic journey. Sometimes it's just a blot of water...sometimes it leads to an improved painting, richer for the happening.
www.cowango.com/accidentaltruths



You can also continue to enjoy the Cowango blog, a more general take on the narrative of our lives in Paducah and San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.
www.cowango.com/weblog