

OCTOBER 2011 OUTLOOK ON THE ARTS by NEDRA FISHER

The 28th Annual Art Reach Auction for the Arts is only about a month away on November 4. The theme this year is *Discover the Treasures of Art* and is a special part of our 30th anniversary celebration. But first there are many great things happening at the Center that I need to tell you about.

Dana Gardner Clark's mixed media exhibition will continue in the Gallery through October 15. Her use of color is enchanting and vibrant, and, I believe you will find the personality of her "subjects" endearing. Her work can be enjoyed by people of all ages, but children should find it fascinating.

Mark and Mary Jo Cox will provide a delightful program, *Musical Imagery* combining the arts of music and photography for our *Let's do Lunch* series at noon on Wednesday, October 5. Cox recently completed a sabbatical in which he used music written for him by nationally known composers or other pieces that have inspired him and combined them with photos he took that captured the emotions of the compositions. Music can tell many stories, and adding the component of photography brings them to life in a visual and real sense. He and Mary Jo will play as photos that compliment their music are projected on a screen. Cox is a Professor of Tuba and Euphonium and she is a Professor of Piano at CMU. This program is free and open to the public. Just bring your lunch and a love of the arts. Water and cookies are provided courtesy of Meijer, Inc., Mt. Pleasant.

Poet William Olsen is the featured artist for our Wellspring Literary Series at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 10 in the Art Reach Gallery. Olsen has published 5 books of poetry, including *Sand Theory*. His awards include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Breadloaf. Magazine awards include Poetry Northwest, Crazyhorse, and two Pushcart Prize awards. His poems and essays have appeared in many anthologies and magazines, including Poetry and Poets of the New Millennium. Olsen teaches in the MFA and Ph.D. Creative Writing programs at WMU and the MFA in Writing Program at Vermont College. This series is a joint project between CMU and Art Reach and is open to the public at no cost. Join us for an evening of poetry, music, and discussion. Refreshments are provided by Max and Emily's.

The 28th Art Reach Auction will be held on the CMU campus in the Industrial Engineering & Technology Building on Friday, November 4. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for this gala event. Tickets are \$50 per person and include an open bar and strolling dinner. I don't know how they do it, but the food seems to get better every year. You'll discover musical entertainment provided by *Retro*, friends to chat with, and a silent auction with many treasures on which to bid. Art works, jewelry, furniture, romantic dinners, gift certificates for services and to special events, canoe trips, golf outings, shopping sprees, and much more. Artists, local businesses, and individuals, who wish to support Art Reach and the services we provide this mid Michigan community, have donated every item. We could not continue without their help.

The live auction begins at 8:00 p.m. It will showcase the art of our generous local artists who have donated their work for this fundraiser. Please consider how special this is. That work of art is a part of their lives, a unique object that only he or she could create. To me that is a very special gift. Later this month those works will be juried by Roy Saper from Saper Galleries in East Lansing. Of the 3 pieces that he finds would make the best poster, the Auction Committee will choose one to represent Art Reach this year. The winner will receive a \$500 award at the auction. You'll find many other items to bid on. How about a round-trip ticket to New York, a basket of goodies from downtown shops, a Legislative Day in Lansing with Kevin Cotter, a Vera Bradley designer package from Trillium, and a few surprises! The Honorary Chairpersons of the auction will be announced soon. The committee doesn't want me to tell you yet, so I can only say it's a great choice.

Preparations for our special Holliday Collection sale in the gift shop are underway. Over 100 Michigan artists participate in this event each year and they are already bringing in new items. You'll discover paintings or photography to hang on the wall, decorative or useful things for the home, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, clothing and much more to help you with your holiday shopping list. There is something so special about buying an original work of art. The recipient will never receive another one just like it. Even in a set of mugs, each one is an individual piece. Artists will continue to bring in new creations until November 11 (though I wouldn't be surprised that if you drop in after that date you will find Kim and her volunteers still unpacking new boxes). So, come in often to discover the perfect gift for family, friends, or yourself. Because store hours will be extended during the sale we will need additional volunteers. If you have some time you can share with us just call Art Reach or stop in and visit with Kim.

Classes at Art Reach include: *Say No to Stress & Yes to Calm and Confidence*, provides ways to become more self-confident and achieve your goals, October 10, 17 & 24; *A Pumpkin Carving Workshop*, for all ages October 21; *Working with Pastels*, will teach the different tools and techniques needed to create a work of art in pastels, October 29; *Art Therapy*, will teach you to connect with your inner energy and create an animal mask in the form your energy identifies with, November 1 & 3. For complete information call Art Reach, 989-773-3689 or check our web site at www.artreachcenter.org.

Last week Marcia Brooks and I went to CMU to visit Roy Reynolds's Visual Arts Ed. Class in hopes of finding new volunteers for the Art Reach Picture Program as it begins its 27th year. We met some wonderful students, and during our presentation we told them that they wouldn't need to do research as it was all provided – however they could if they wished to. At that point a thought struck me, *27 years ago there was no Internet!* At least not as we know it today. In 1983-84 our committee researched every artist and typed it all on (gasp) manual typewriters. We've all grown and changed over the years, but the need for the arts and a good education continues.