Tuesday, October 29, 2024

MAC NEWSLETTER

Sam Parker Going Retro

Our final exhibition of 2024, the MAC is thrilled to present **Sam Parker Going Retro**, a retrospective of the beloved and prolific local artist's work.

Of the collection, Parker reflects:

"Early in my career I was fascinated with nostalgic and counter culture images . I liked playing with space, color, and design with my techniques varying from 'painterly' to 'hard edge.' I was influenced by everything from French Impressionism, to Art Deco, to Pop Art. I experimented with a range of common and unusual images presenting them in a variety of ways from simple to complex compositions. In the 1970s and 1980s I expanded my work into silk screen printing and reverse painting on plexiglass. By the 1990s I moved into an entirely different direction of abstract painting. For me, art is a highly dynamic process involving exploration and evolution."

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

- *Sam Parker Going Retro* opens to the public **Tuesday, October 29**. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Thursday: 11am-6pm, Friday: 11am-7pm, and Saturday 11am-5pm
- Please join us for the **Opening Reception Friday, November 1 from 5-7pm**. Light refreshments will be provided. Donations accepted.

Sam Parker received his MFA from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1965. He taught art at Western Illinois University from 1965 to 1997. Currently he has his own studio in Macomb.

His national and international exhibits include The Dong a Ibo Korean International Invitational Print Show in Seoul, Korea; New Talent Midwest USA Gallery 1640 of Montreal, Canada; University of the Pacific National Small Painting Show in Stockton, California; Mini Art 69 Invitational at Bradley Galleries in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Three-Man Show Hyde Park Art Gallery in Chicago, Illinois; Illinois State Museum in Springfield; Chapman College New Talent Midwest USA in Orange, California; One-Man Show at the Madison Art Center in Madison, Wisconsin; National Polymer Exhibition in Ypsilanti, Michigan; One-Man Show at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa; National Print Invitational at the Artist Contemporary Gallery in U. of Sacramento, California; Illinois Print Commission of the Illinois Arts Council Traveling 2-year show, the National Realism Invitational Show at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. among others.

His paintings are in various collections including the Laura Musser Museum in Muscatine, Iowa; Container Corporation of America; The Rock Island Art Museum; the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, Illinois; and numerous private collections.

NOVEMBER EVENTS:

The Western Ramblers

November 1 from 5-7pm: Opening Reception for *Sam Parker Going Retro.*

November 3 at 3pm: Please join us for an afternoon of live country music featuring the Western Ramblers! $3 admission benefits the Macomb Arts Center. Additional donations accepted online or at the door.

November 6 at 6pm: *A Thousand Words* is a writing experience inspired by the MAC's current exhibit, *Sam Parker Going Retro.*

November 20-27: Stop by the MAC to add a leaf to our Gratitude Wreath interactive window display.

November 23 from 9am-12pm: Macomb Beautiful Association's Fifth Annual Cookie Walk.

November 24 from 4-5pm: Interested in volunteering at the MAC? Attend our fourth Sunday drop-in style orientation.

November 29 at 3pm For some, it's *Black Friday*; for others, it's *Buy Nothing Day.* Please join us as we celebrate *Make Something Day,* a craft swap and potluck which celebrates frugality, friendship, and creativity.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jamy Hamilton

If you've visited the MAC in the past year, there's a good chance you've met Supervolunteer Jamy Hamilton. Jamy started volunteering as a gallery host in August of 2023 because she wanted to connect more with people in the community. When she went to the MAC, she met Nan Crossman. "Nan was very welcoming and embracing and made me feel like I was a part of the community."

Being a part of the arts community has given Jamy a place where she feels she belongs. Jamy found time to explore her interest in art once she retired: She does embroidery, painting, and recently got into beadwork making windchimes. She also loves hiking and canoeing. While in college, Jamy regularly visited the Current River in Missouri. The state's trails and rivers drew her to move to Missouri, where she taught until 2013.

When she moved back to Illinois, Jamy didn't forget her love of nature. She regularly kayaks in local areas. Her love of nature also extends into her love of reading. Besides historical fiction, Jamy enjoys ecology books such as Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer, and novels by Barbara Kingsolver.

Jamy has traveled all over the country to hike and kayak in such places as the Ozark Trail, South San Juan, and the Flat Tops. Visiting the Redwoods in California is on her bucket list. In a few months she will be traveling to Alaska, where she hopes she will be able to see the northern lights.

The MAC is incredibly grateful for the time that Jamy has given to our organization.