A short one-block walk through River North brought C3 members and their guests to five stellar art galleries for our annual Gallery Walk, Tuesday, October 18th. As always, our trusty guide Natalie van Straaten, publisher of Chicago Gallery News, had selected an eclectic and enthralling lineup.

Our first stop was the Roy Boyd Gallery at 739 N. Wells, established in 1972 as one of the first River North galleries. Owners Roy and Ann Boyd own the building and live above the gallery in a “working space” where selected pieces are also on display. The gallery primarily focuses on abstraction in paintings, works on paper, and sculpture. The artists represented range from emerging, to seasoned mature artists. While many of the artists are from the Chicago area, the gallery also represents artists from both coasts as well as Europe. C3 members were particularly captivated by artist (and School of the Art Institute Professor) Joan Livingstone’s creations made from industrial felt — from large wall hangings to small hats called “little critters.”

Next up was DouglasRosin Decorative Arts & Antiques at 730 N. Wells. Owners Gene Douglas and Barbara Rosin display an impressive collection of mid-20th century modern, art deco and art noveau pieces — from home furnishings to jewelry to carpets — many obtained through estates. As our collective wallets were a little bit light that evening, sadly the items we eagerly viewed, held and sat on that evening remained in inventory.

We then headed next door to Perimeter Gallery at 210 W. Superior, also one of River North’s longest-running galleries celebrating its 20th year anniversary season. The gallery features contemporary painting, sculpture, works on paper and master works in ceramic and fiber. Director Frank Paluch gave us an informative tour of their large collection; most C3 members were drawn to the sculptures of Berkeley professor Robert Hudson whose complex steel and iron works, often incorporating discarded bathtubs and sinks, masterfully combine form and illusion.

photos: Cindy McEwen

continued on page five
I guess you can say I’m an advocate of continuing education.

I was recently working on sales materials for an early childhood program—accredited learning for those very new minds ages 6 months–5 years—the infant to kindergarten years—those years where you’re actually trained to learn—those years when you begin the process of developing skills to realize your potential.

As a kid, your whole life revolves around school and learning. You’re in such a learning mode that it’s easy—like a sponge absorbing water. You can’t not learn from the world around you. But as an adult sometimes the learning is more difficult. You get out of practice. You forget how to process new information. And in some cases you start to think you can’t learn new things—that your mind isn’t able to do it anymore.

Since I was in school, technology has changed my profession tremendously. Drawing with your hands went to designing on a computer. It forces you to keep up. You have to take workshops, seminars and classes just to keep your job. And the technology changes so fast it’s a continuing effort. What you knew yesterday is now obsolete today. So adult education is a wonderful thing. Some professions are required to take continuing education classes to keep up a certification. Others, like me, just have to keep up with the market.

But I think some of the best education is the kind you get on a daily basis—the life kind. And the best way to get that is to continually experience new things—to take everyday life and make the world around you your school. Take a class that has nothing to do with your work. Go to a wine tasting. Take an art class. Learn to make something with your hands. Go to a new restaurant. Vacation in a new place. Listen to different music. Go to an art show, the theatre, a museum. Explore. Inquire. Open your mind to new possibilities. You’ll find it makes you a better person. It stimulates your mind. It keeps you young.

I don’t have kids. They say they keep you young. (I have a husband that mostly does that for me.) I take that time that I would be investing in my kids, and invest in me. But I do occasionally rent a kid. You know. Spend a day with a niece. Become a Big Sister. Baby sit a friend’s kid so they can get away and you can watch the childhood wheels turn—so you can remember what it’s like to be a human sponge. It’s a very educational experience.

The next time you’re feeling like you can’t learn, stimulate your brain. Go to a new place. Try a new thing. Attend a C3 program. It just adds to your lifelong knowledge.
Upcoming Programs

Tips and Tricks on Running a Profitable Design Business

Creative professionals need specific tools to capture the value of their time. Computer-aided tasks are only as good as the business savvy that backs them up. How do we maximize the value of our time in a digital world? Join us February 16 at the Portage Park Center for the Arts as Mary-Lynn Bellamy Willms shares tips and tricks on running a profitable design business. Topics we’ll cover include:

- What should your profits look like?
- How much should your overhead be?
- What should you charge?
- Are your clients paying what you’re worth?
- Do you have the right mix of clients?

Mary-Lynn Bellamy Willms, founder and president of Suburbia Advertising and FunctionFox Systems Inc., takes a practical look at the business side of design and shares tips and tricks to help you achieve greater financial success. Suburbia Advertising is recognized as one of Canada’s leading retail advertising and design agencies. FunctionFox Systems provides tools to help smaller creative companies improve their business. FunctionFox Systems Inc. (www.functionfox.com) has offices in Victoria and Calgary.

February 16, 2006
Doors open 6:00pm
Program begins 6:30pm
Portage Park Center for the Arts
5801 West Dakin St.
Chicago, IL 60634
PPCA is located 1 block south of Irving Park Rd., 1 block west of Central.

For the latest information on any upcoming event, check the C3 website at www.ChicagoCreative.org or call the C3 Hotline at 312.409.9945. Programs are subject to change.

Thanks to the Tims

By Michael Tanimura

C3 has always been blessed with outstanding members, willing to donate time, money and effort in helping us be a better networking and continuing education organization. High on any list of C3 benefactors would be the two Tims — Tim Sonder, of Innovative Design & Graphics, and Tim Walsh, of TKW Graphics.

For more years than can be remembered (which has to do with both the longevity of their commitment to the organization and my failing memory), Tim Sonder has produced film for, and Tim Walsh has printed, C3’s newsletters and event postcards.

Let us collectively thank them for their generosity in helping to keep all of us informed and aware of C3 happenings: thank you Tims!

Welcome to Mid-American

By Mary Eagan Badinger

We are happy to welcome Joel Amettis and Mid-American Printing Systems, as a new C3 member and newsletter partner. Joel and his team have generously agreed to docutech our quarterly newsletter, and to automate our mailing process. It is a great pleasure to work with the printing professionals at Mid-American.

Wanted: Recording Secretary

Chicago Creative Coalition seeks a recording secretary to join our board and complete the term of our current recording secretary, Mary Wagner, who has resigned her position due to work conflicts. The job is not a labor-intensive one. It entails taking notes at board meetings, sending out board meeting announcements (by e-mail), writing and distributing the minutes (also by e-mail), and keeping a set of current files. Interested in joining us? Contact Cindy McEwen at macindy@aol.com.
Seeing is Believing

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• In Summer 2005, 36% of design and production firms expected business in the next 12 months to be “excellent, better than the last 12 months,” up from the 33% who said this six months earlier.

• In Summer 2005, 64% of publishers cited “printing costs” as a business challenge, the highest this challenge has ever charted in the 10 years we have been surveying the publishing markets.

• In Summer 2005, 56% of Web design and production firms cited “database development projects” as a sales opportunity, the highest this opportunity has charted in the six years we have been surveying the Web design markets.

• In Spring 2005, 28% of printers cited “design/creative capabilities” as a sales opportunity, an all-time high and a sign that print clients may be increasingly competing with their printers.

• In Summer 2005, 42% of design and production firms said that “jobs designed for color digital printing” were increasing, while 27% said that “jobs designed for traditional offset printing” were decreasing.

Forecasting the Future
By Brent Brotine

TrendWatch Graphic Arts has recently released its fifth annual forecast of graphic communications content creators. The report presents a positive outlook, forecasting that 2006 will provide creative firms across all markets with “new business, new opportunities, and, naturally, new challenges.”

Members can purchase the entire 170-page report online at www.trendwatchgraphicarts.com for $995 — sorry, there is no C3 discount — here are some of the highlights:
A few steps west took us to Andrew Bae Gallery, 300 W. Superior, which showcases contemporary Asian art. Gallery owner Andrew Bae showed us a wide range of interesting paintings, prints and sculptures from Korean and Japanese artists — many exclusive to his gallery. The highlight for C3 members was Washington D.C.-based sculptor Jae Ko’s amazing creations turning adding machine paper rolls and ink into wall-mounted artwork of surprising beauty and deceptive first appearance.

Last stop was the Stephen Kelly Gallery at 750 N. Franklin. This newcomer to the River North scene represents a second career for owner Stephen Kelly Smith, and specializes in contemporary, abstract and African American art. We viewed a group showing of such emerging and established artists including Jordan Dauby, Luiz Gonzales, Ginny Sykes and Stephen’s own works. Stephen was also kind enough to host our wine and cheese reception, where everyone had the chance to network and talk over the evening’s events.

Bunny Looking for a Good Home

Bishop, a small 5 lb. bunny, is very sociable and affectionate. Treat him right and he will follow you everywhere. Litterbox-trained, comes with cage and other necessities. Call Sue at 773.202.1770.

Kool-Stride baby jogging stroller in great condition!
Features: hand brake, cordura wrist tether, sun canopy, adjustable seat, large undercarriage storage basket. Asking $125 (retailed for $300). Call Leah at 847.299.2121.

Corrections

We failed to credit Gerta Sorensen as the designer of our outstanding Annual Meeting invitation. Great job, Gerta!

We were incorrect when we stated that the missing weapons of mass destruction were found in the sub-basement of Portage Park Center for the Arts. False alarm!
Consolidated Printing Company was founded in 1973 by Marilyn K. Jones. Marilyn saw it as an opportunity to develop a company to provide service and quality printing to all its customers and provide a safe, healthy environment for her and her employees.

Always a leader in safety and environmentally friendly printing, Consolidated joined the Great Printers Project in 1996 and became the first Illinois Great Printer. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has recognized Consolidated Printing Company as a leader in safety and health programs. Working with OSHA, Consolidated helped create a Nationwide Safety Program for the printing industry.

Consolidated continues to research and update its equipment to keep up with the demands of higher quality and faster turn times to meet customers’ needs and stay at the forefront of environmentally progressive printing.
How to Join C3

The easiest access to a C3 membership application is through our web site: www.ChicagoCreative.org/app.htm. Fill out and print a membership application and mail with a check to:

Chicago Creative Coalition
P.O. Box 578477
Chicago, IL 60657-8477
Attn: Membership Director
E-mail questions to:
C3@ChicagoCreative.org
or e-mail the membership director at:
mike@sicreative.com

You’ve Got Mail

Need help with a software glitch? In the middle of a tricky design problem? Want to bounce an idea off your fellow members? That’s what the C3 e-mail list is here for, and it should be the first place you turn when you have a question on virtually anything creative.

Some recent discussions have included:

• How do I collect from a deadbeat client?

• Who has a good health insurance solution?

• Any other good networking meetings taking place?

• Who’s available to work on a project? (Yep, it happens!)

Remember, this is a free benefit of your C3 membership, and there can be times it’s worth its weight in gold. If for some reason you aren’t on the C3 e-mail list, it’s an easy situation to fix — just send an e-mail to c3list-subscribe@chicago creative.org. ♦

tips & tricks

Selecting Text in InDesign

Did you know, you can select text from the insertion point to the end of the story by pressing Command-Shift-End? Or to the beginning of the story with Command-Shift-Home? It also works for selecting paragraphs with Command-Shift-Up Arrow or Down Arrow. ♦
The C3 Mission

The Chicago Creative Coalition (C3) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting the professional growth of our communication arts members. We provide programs on business and technology plus social and networking opportunities; all in a noncompetitive atmosphere that encourages member involvement.

creative's corner
C3 Talks with Linda Cassady

Name: Linda Cassady
Company: Milkweed Studio
Occupation: Graphic Designer & Illustrator
Current Project: Same old hodgepodge of projects, just a different day!
Family/Kids/Pets: My dog, Butch, who is a Shepherd mix and just about the greatest pet ever!
Hobbies/Interests: Drawing/painting, cooking, reading, sailing & brunch.
Three Words that Best Describe Me: Loyal, creative and funny.
Gadget I Can’t Live Without: It’s not really a gadget, but I’ll put wheelchair in this category. I mean, I could live without it, but I sure wouldn’t get very far!
Favorite CDs / Recording Artists: Ooh, where to begin? I have really varied musical tastes ranging from Roxy Music and the Stones to Franz Ferdinand and Modest Mouse. I suppose I would quantify myself as more alternative than anything, if I had to pick a category.
Book I'm Reading Right Now: I just finished The Historian and am about to start either Beware of God or Rescuing Patty Hearst — hmm, where to go next . . .
Favorite Web Site: My friends often send me these great links to sites that are extremely funny, have little movies on them, or are just plain wacky — like the sheet of bubble wrap that you can pop with your mouse — and I sometimes wonder if I am even on the same Internet as them! I mean, I don’t even know how they find those things! Clearly, they have more time on their hands in the web-for-entertainment department than I do ... I should work on that and get back to you!
My Fantasy Is: I’m thinking I’ll be keeping those to myself, since I do have to see all of you at the next event!
Prized Possession: He’s not a possession, but I would have to say my dog. I would be lost without him.
My Inspiration Comes From: A combination of all kinds of media; I’m a bit of a sponge in that way.
Favorite Restaurant: Lula Cafe and Flo
Favorite TV Show: The Daily Show with John Stewart, although The Colbert Report is a close second!
Places You’ve Traveled To: I’m probably the least well-traveled person in C3! It seems I never have the opportunity to go on vacation. I wish that weren’t the case, but I make up for it by reading incessantly — then I can just fake it! Uh-oh, I guess now I’ve blown that avenue for anyone who reads this profile!
The One Thing Nobody Knows About Me Is: I’m pretty mystery free, so I’m not sure there’s much that isn’t common knowledge — at least to my friends!
Three Things In My Medicine Cabinet: Activated charcoal, eye drops, various hair products that have fallen out of favor.
If I Won The Lottery, I’d: I’m assuming we’re talking big win here and not some namby-pamby amount that will go nowhere? That said, I would make sure my family and friends got some of it, then I would pay off my house and maybe do a little restoration. (Okay, maybe more than a little ...).