Third Time’s a Charm for PhotoArt Fest

by Brent Brotine
photos by Stan Kotecki

On July 25–26, C3 shepherded the third successful year of PhotoArt Fest, our juried fine art photography show held as part of the Jeff Fest Arts & Music Festival.

Our distinguished jury of C3’s own Gary Adcock, Linda Levy and Debbie Vyskocil were joined by architectural photographer David Seide and artist representative Patti Sugano. From a large body of online submissions, the judges selected fifty original works of photography to be hung and displayed during Jeff Fest. Cash prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, plus three Honorable Mentions.

In addition, Jeff Fest attendees were also able to vote on their favorite entry, with the winner receiving our People’s Choice cash prize.

New this year, the Fest included a juried Student Show open to students in kindergarten through 8th grade. The top student submissions were exhibited, and cash prizes were awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place along with two Honorable Mentions.

And since this was a show as well as a competition, we were delighted to rack up quite a few sales to Jeff Fest attendees—from both the main show and student show. Which of course was good both for the artists and the C3 treasury.

Although hundreds of people attended Jeff Fest and voted for their favorite works, frankly two days were not enough to showcase all this talent. So thanks to 45th Ward alderman (and former C3er) John Arena, the winners of both the juried show and student show—as well as other art by C3 members—was displayed throughout August at his office on Milwaukee Avenue. Our opening reception on July 30th drew a large crowd of area residents and notables.

Our thanks go to the many C3 members and friends who volunteered their time and talents to hang photographs, make sales, tally ballots, promote C3 and engage booth attendees.

New this year: a juried Student Show where the top submissions were exhibited.
Circadian Rhythms and Creativity

A week’s vacation in California—first in San Francisco and then in the Silicon Valley—made me a tad jealous of the light, temperature and weather conditions where a good portion of our economy-driving technology sector do their thing. A Friday evening stroll down Castro Street in Mountain View, CA made me curious about how the circadian rhythms of this late dinner crowd are different from my own. Is unremitting sunshine and dry weather conducive to a creative explosion?

A cursory review of the interwebs indicates our bodies have light-responsive “master clocks” consisting of a group of about 20,000 nerve cells in the brain called the suprachiasmatic nucleus. Located in the hypothalamus, these cells send signals throughout our bodies that control sleep-wake cycles, hormone release, body temperature and other body function.

Consider the unique light conditions of the part of the earth we occupy—dominated by the largest body of fresh water in the world with short fluctuations in temperature, humidity, cloudiness, and wind direction. We are always on our toes in Chicago, adapting to change in a short space of time.

Adaptability is a great synonym for creativity. Chicago Creative Coalition has a long history of adaptation. Starting in 1977 as a professional society to support female designers, nearly 40 years later our members include men and a very broad welcome to creative professionals, educators, fine artists, performance artists, crafters of language and reproducers of visual image. If you don’t find yourself in the former list, consider yourself added!

At this writing, the light conditions in Chicago are stunning. Clear brilliant skies, gardens in pots and across lawns in full regalia, light reflecting off the lake in ever changing patterns dominate our days. It’s hard to beat anywhere in the country.

The onset of September brings a new circadian rhythm. You can see its influence on the 34 million people that live in the Great Lakes Basin. We get down to business.

Chicago Creative Coalition is getting down to business with a slate of exciting, fun and stimulating programs and events for its members. Chicago Artists Month is a grand celebration of Chicago’s creative community. In the spirit of adaptability, we will create and host “My City, Your City: A Photographic Mashup.” This participatory celebration of imagery from around our city will culminate with an interactive sculptural installation at the Sulzer Library in Lincoln Square. Don’t miss the fun!

As your suprachiasmatic nucleus serves up a gently changing response to life in Chicago this fall, pay attention to your creative adaptation. We are privileged to witness a broad spectrum of change in our fair city. Join your fellow members at Chicago Creative Coalition in adapting. We are committed to making your adaptation enriching and inspiring!
**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**Fall Right Into Excitement**

by Gerge Berlin

After a fun night of grilling and brainstorming at our annual Programs BBQ, we’ve got a ton of amazing programs all, ahem, “cooked up” for this year and beyond!

In December, it’s the Chicago Creative Coalition Holiday party at the ice skating ribbon in Maggie Daley Park, followed by some tasty vittles at a local purveyor of fine foods downtown. We did our good deed last year helping WTTW—now we can party! All skills levels welcome (Olympic, wobbly, falling down—you name it!) Lace up your blades and meet us there—’they’ve got hot cocoa around the ribbon, too!

We’ve got some great learning opportunities coming up next year, too! Plans for a social media tips and tricks program, and even a little deep dive into some Google products are on the books for 2016.

We’re also going to show you all how to shoot and use video for promoting yourself and your clients with some fun doo-dads for dolly shots, and even editing. We’ll be taking some high level looks at Photoshop, and copyright issues in the next year, too.

And we’re even bringing back Learn Jam, so start thinking about what you’d like to teach (or learn!) in a ’speed-learning’ style hands-on short presentation. Last year we learned to cross-stitch, block print, we played with stones and fire, and even picked up some music playing tips!

There’s also some outdoor fun to look forward to on the docket next summer, so keep sunny thoughts in mind! Stay tuned.

**From the Board**

by Kathleen Kearns

For most people, summer is generally a time to take a break from usual routines and slow down the pace a bit. Our pace might have been somewhat slower but the Chicago Creative Coalition Board kept the creativity and planning humming all summer. They worked across the broad spectrum of efforts that it takes for an organization to evolve, grow, and thrive.

Starting another chapter year we would like to thank all of our generous Board members and volunteers for their continued commitment and talents to maintaining an incredible creative momentum at C3. Also, we extend gratitude to outgoing board members T. J. Hine, Special Events Director; Karen Woodbury, Education/Intern Coordinator; and Mary Badinger, Secretary, for their contributions, and considerable time and energy.

The C3 Board, this small, but mighty group of people work to make things happen, from the most mundane details to community advocacy to forming allies. The C3 board of directors continues to seek out partnerships, develop programs and activities that bring value to our members and supports our mission. Events and programs such as the PhotoArt Fest III, the Expose Yourself series which included Improv for Business, and Speak for Your Work inspired a few of our members to pursue new creative endeavors.

On a warm August eve, we put our minds to the task of planning the 2015–16 programming and special events calendar at the Program Planning BBQ. And as we kick off the new season, the Board is pleased and excited to announce that our October program has been selected as a Chicago Artists Month (CAM) 2015 Featured Program.

We keep it fun. The Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of every month. As with any group, it is vital to strike a balance between fun and business at board meetings—we make sure there is a balance of both. We welcome your input and feedback and we encourage you to participate in board meetings and/or work on a committee. Board meeting locations alternate monthly so contact a board member if you wish to attend.

All of us on the Board hope to see you at our events starting in September.

**ARTS ON ELSTON**

**Summer Kickstart with Sizzling Art**

by Caleb Mikenas

Photos by T. J. Hine

While the last bits of grey slush were melting away, several C3 members were gearing up not only for spring, but to put their work front and center for C3’s May Art Show. Held at the Arts on Elston Gallery, this was an event exclusive to C3 members to strut their stuff.

With the show assembled, the doors opened that warm Friday night, ready to show the city what this assemblage of creatives was made of. With a cool glass of wine and nibble or two, guests could consider the different pieces, from an impressive display of abstract art to swanky photos of our fair city. Yet while the work was upscale, the show remained casual and laid back, allowing the patrons to get to know the creators, as well some of the newer members to melt flawlessly in with the C3 crew.

Featured was an interactive installation with music and light effects, conceived by George Berlin. With taps and plucks, various musical notes would play and images or video would project onto the walls, creating a marriage of color and sound.

It was a great experience to see all the work and preparation manifest itself into this pop-up gallery. Whether a member was showing their work, or helping curate, or just there to show support, their contribution to this show brought out some of the best of Chicago’s talent.
Each year at the Annual Meeting, the Friend of C3 Award is given to a person(s) who has made a substantial impact on our ability to fulfill our mission of enriching, educating and inspiring creative lives. With her tireless efforts over the years, the selection of our long-standing Treasurer, Carolyn Aronson, was an easy choice.

Carolyn is a flagship member of our predecessor organization Women In Design. She was assigned #7 back when numbers were given to new members. She has served continuously on the Women In Design board, and then the C3 board, for 26 consecutive years. And depending on your interpretation of what the job means, Carolyn has been Treasurer the whole time. While she notes that she once took a couple of years off from the job, when she started up again she had to reconcile the books because they hadn’t been touched while she was absent. So we’d call it a continuous streak.

After working as a designer for Joss Design Group and Alberto Culver Company, Carolyn started her own firm in January 1988. Her entrepreneurial skills helped her land packaging and print design assignments for some of Chicago’s top businesses and organizations. Carolyn also keeps herself busy with the Chicago sailing community, restoring her cabin in Michigan, and working part-time as a tax filing specialist for H&R Block.

For keeping us on target financially, contributing to our group shows and programming events, and being a creative inspiration for all of C3, we are delighted to present Carolyn with this well-deserved honor.

Hunting for Fun at the Botanic Gardens

by Cindy McEwen
photos by Kaitlyn Keely and Cindy McEwen

It was a beautiful spring morning at the Chicago Botanic Garden when 20 C3ers gathered outside the Garden’s visitor center for the Annual meeting and outing. Brent Brotine and Stephen Starr had previously visited the garden to develop “missions” for C3 members to complete via a mobile scavenger-hunt application called GooseChase.

Members divided into 5 random teams with the GooseChase app on at least one mobile phone per team. At the designated 10:30 hour, the game became “live” and each team had 1 1/2 hours to find and record as many of the 20 possible missions that they could by snapping a photo. These photos were submitted to the master GooseChase game and awarded predetermined points. Teams could track their rankings against the other teams and see photos that others had submitted through the activity feed.

Some missions were relatively easy—take a photo of a team member having a thumb war with a Garden employee. Others not so much—find an attendee with yellow socks or a particular dwarf cypress with 3 trunks. Sneaking and spying on other teams to find a specific item was not unheard of.

Photos could be awarded extra points, deducted points or rejected altogether if the photo did not meet the criteria of the mission. Master judges Brent and Steve monitored the photos as they came in to determine point worthiness.

After a picnic box lunch, the annual meeting was held and board members for 2015–16 were elected. The Friend of C3 award was presented (see separate article) and we went inside for a viewing of the photo slideshow diligently downloaded and prepared by Brent. All teams got to see everyone’s photos and laugh at some of the creativity displayed by our members in their interpretation of the missions. Team Tootsie ultimately won the game but all teams had a wonderfully inspirational day.
Having Our Say at the Backyard Barbecue Brainstorm

by Brent Brotine
photos by Stan Kotecki and T. J. Hine

Over a dozen C3ers had another productive evening on August 20 at this year’s Program Planning BBQ. Meeting once again around Steve Starr’s Evanston backyard firepit, a variety of food contributions fueled our appetites and our cerebellums as we explored dozens of programming possibilities for 2015–16.

George Berlin has already tipped you off to some of the ideas we discussed in his column. But we have plenty of thought-starters that can use your help to become reality. For example:

Do you have connections with a studio or production facility that would make for an interesting tour? Many members expressed interest in seeing other creatives at work, and we’d appreciate hearing from anyone who can open doors.

Do you attend meetings at any interesting spaces that could host C3 gatherings? We’re always looking for potential venues for upcoming programs, and would appreciate any referrals to locations around Chicagoland that are worth checking out.

If you’re able to help, or would simply like to become more involved with C3 programming, just get in touch with either George or Steve Starr—we’d appreciate it!

Like what you see?

Ink Printed digitally on Xerox 700.

Paper This newsletter is printed on Mohawk Options 70# text, 100% PC white. A 100% PCW paper with an exclusive Inxwell process to give the color of ink more pop without having to print on a coated paper.

Process The digital press uses waste-free toner and no fuser oil. The process is 100% chemical free—printed courtesy of Consolidated Printing.

How to join C3

The easiest access to a C3 membership application is through our website: www.chicagocreative.org/join-c3/. Pay online through PayPal or contact membership@chicagocreative.org for a membership application to fill out 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 to the Membership Director: membership@chicagocreative.org
1. **Fun And Sun And Chaos** is a drawing in pen and gouache that is a fine art piece. The subject is a commentary on the apparent ability of some to ignore the disaster and chaos that surrounds them.

2. **Cowgirl** is an acrylic on board painting from a series I did of fluffy women.

3. **ABA dog lawyer** is an illustration I did for an article in the ABA Journal, the subject was obviously a lawyer who had dogs for clients. The media was pencil and watercolor.

4. **OBOMBa.** This is a quick watercolor caricature I did while watching Obama explain his get tough with ISIS stance. His delivery is always like that dull professor I had in college who never seemed to believe a word he was saying.

5. **Dietrich** is one of a number of caricatures and illustrations I did for a book called *Wine Wisdom*. I think I did sixty some pen and ink illustrations for the book.

6. **Is There A Doctor** is a cartoon from a series of cartoons that I illustrate for a client who writes the gags and I do the drawings. The media is pen and ink and wash.

7. **The Cigaret** is a small acrylic fine art piece, the subject is two people together at the end of the day.
T. J. Hine organized and participated in the Eagles Over Oshkosh skydiving team, a group of 108 jumpers from 15 nations attempting a three-point world record skydive at the big Oshkosh, Wis., air show in July. While falling just short of their goal, they did set a new state record, and he considers the event one of the highlights of his skydiving career.

Jason Feinberg went ziplining with his girlfriend Querube in Panama, successfully traversing the trees and waterfalls none the worse for wear. They’re shown in El Valle de Antón high in the mountains on the valley floor of a volcano crater.

T. J. and Claudia Hine traveled to Hamilton, VA, for a Hine family reunion in August. In addition to great family time, they enjoyed a wine tasting at the Bluemont Vineyard and a trip to the National Air and Space Museum in Chantilly.

Stan Kotecki traveled along the vestiges of historic Route 66 around Albuquerque, NM to shoot many of the original buildings and signs—a challenge to find today amid the concrete of I-40. Most interesting was a neon arch running across the highway that is lit up at night. He also went to Santa Fe and Farmington to visit ancient ruins.

George Berlin painted a truck (right) that rode in the Pride Parade for Zipcar covered with big bright hearts and fun shapes, just days after the Supreme Court ruling. He’s painted many cars for Zipcar, including one available to rent a few years back. George also showcased two interactive installations at the Cleveland Mini Maker Faire in June. “Touch the Art” is a series of 6 touch-reactive projection paintings made with conductive paint on canvas that comes alive with animation. “Play Your Heart Out” is group of cardboard heart, skull, and star sculptures that are connected to toy instruments which drive the visuals projected on them. He’s heading back in the fall for “Ingenuity Cleveland” a 3-day all-night interactive art festival with a new installation sure to make people happy.

Karen Woodbury (right) participated in the annual Northeastern Iowa Artists Studio Tour October 2–4 at her studio, The House at French Creek, in Lansing, Iowa. The tour included over 55 artists at 30 locations and led visitors and art lovers on a scenic tour of the back roads and byways of Iowa’s Driftless Region. For more information on the area visit www.frenchcreek-farmhouse.com.

New Member

Linda Levy
Workbook
www.workbook.com
312.944.7925
C3 Talks with Linda Levy

Name Linda Levy
Company Workbook
Occupation Sales and Marketing Agent
Current Project bringing Improv-for-Business to a wider group of creatives
Dream Client Doctors Without Borders
Family/Kids/Pets Fabulous husband, sweet Finch
Hobbies/Interests Reading, walking, music, theater, inspired conversation, travel
Three Words that Best Describe Me Focused. Fun. Questioning.
Gadget I Can’t Live Without: Sharpies
Favorite CD/Recording Artists Barbara Streisand, Maurice André

Book I’m Reading Right Now All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
Favorite Web Site weather.com
My Fantasy Is To be slightly taller
I’d Give Anything to Meet Plato
Prized Possession: Mart Chairs
My Inspiration Comes From writing and walking
Favorite Food pumpkin polenta
Favorite Restaurant my dining room, or Naha
Favorite TV Show Grey’s Anatomy
Favorite Radio Station(s)/Air Personalities MeTV FM
Places I’ve Traveled Morocco, Europe, Israel, Canada, Caribbean, most United States
The One Thing Nobody Knows About Me I sing
Three Things in my Medicine Cabinet tweezers, breath drops, pencil sharpener

I Always Find this Funny YouTube videos “The Expert” and “Conference Call in Real Life”
Favorite Way to Chill Out Beach. Beach. Beach.
If I Won the Lottery, I’d Establish an endowment for Shimer College, and contribute to the Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery Advisory Council board at Northwestern Medicine

C3 Membership Benefits
Programs and seminars for personal and professional development
For-members-only workshops that spark new ideas and promote networking
Member exhibitions that generate awareness, commissions and sales
C3 website showcase that has search engine preference and directs traffic to your own site
Social events and outings that strengthen Chicago’s creative community
Publicity opportunities through the newsletter, website and E-list
Committee and Board appointments that build leadership skills
Free member classifieds plus discounts on newsletter display ads
Quarterly newsletter featuring member success stories and event recaps
Mentoring opportunities such as internships and special events
Private e-list where members exchange ideas and provide assistance

Don’t miss out!
If you haven’t renewed your membership yet, please go to www.chicagocreative.org/join-c3/. You can pay with any major credit card or with PayPal to do so. Don’t miss out on any of the great events we have planned for this year!