



Northern Arts News

A Publication of the Region 2 Arts Council

March/April 2009
Vol. 11 No. 4

Guest commentary: Exploring the Low-Residency M.F.A. in Creative Writing

By Erin Lynn Marsh

I have wanted to obtain my Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (M.F.A.) since my freshman year at the College of Saint Benedict in Saint Joseph, MN. I had just taken a writing seminar and saw myself in the role of professor, with plenty of time to write in my free time. I dreamed of going to graduate school immediately after getting my Bachelors Degree, but, as often happens, life just didn't work out that way.

I quickly learned that an M.F.A. was often seen as an impractical degree. Poetry, or any other creative writing for that matter, doesn't pay the bills. Deciding I did indeed want to eat and have a place to live after graduation, I went into publishing. My internship at a Bloomington business publisher lasted around two months, then went bankrupt, leaving me to enter another line of work. I spent my twenties and early thirties working a variety of administrative assistant jobs: a large mega-corporation, a small nonprofit charity and a residential facility for adults with severe, persistent mental illness. Poetry was still a part of my life, but was more of a hobby than a life's passion. After years of poetry standing at the periphery, I started to realize that I needed to move it to the forefront.

Due to a congenital physical disability, health insurance was something that I couldn't do without. I needed to continue working, but knew that entering an M.F.A. program would give me time to improve my craft and get some teaching experience. A traditional M.F.A. program wasn't going to work for me, so I started looking at low-residency programs. I eventually chose a relatively new program based in Boston, MA and

now can see how that decision was exactly what was best for me.

How does a low-residency M.F.A. program work? Each semester typically begins with a 7-10 day residency of seminars, workshops, readings and meetings to design each student's program of study. Students work independently during the semester, under the guidance of their faculty mentor. Semester study plans often include a lot of reading in the chosen genre, craft annotations and submissions of original creative work.

One of benefits of a low-residency M.F.A. program is it allows me to stay near my family and friends, but gives me the opportunity to become acquainted with a new and diverse group of writers. I am meeting life-long mentors, friends and professional colleagues. My particular low-residency program has an interdisciplinary component that allows me to branch out and try new things. During my first two semesters I have taught a poetry course to adults with mental illness and worked with a professional to improve my critical writing.

If you are interested in exploring M.F.A. writing programs, a useful source is *The Creative Writing MFA Handbook: A Guide for Prospective Students* by Tom Kealy, available from Continuum Publishing. This handbook includes a special section about low-residency writing programs.

Erin Lynn Marsh is in the low-residency M.F.A. program at Lesley University in Boston, MA and lives/writes poetry in Bemidji.

Region 2 Arts Council Seeking Board Members: *Hubbard County*

R2AC is currently seeking a board member from Hubbard county to fill a two-year term vacancy beginning July 1, 2009.

Those who feel that the visual, performing and literary arts are an important contribution to the quality of life in north central Minnesota are encouraged to consider serving on the board of Region 2 Arts Council.

The board is responsible for planning, setting policy, and reviewing, and awarding grants. It meets seven times per year in Bemidji on the third Monday of the month. Members are reimbursed for travel.

Region 2 Arts Council is one of eleven arts councils in the state of Minnesota and awards over \$69,000 annually for arts activities in the five counties of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods and Mahnomen. The council operates with funds from the Minnesota State Legislature and a generous grant from the McKnight Foundation.

To receive an application, please write to: Nominating Committee, Region 2 Arts Council, 426 Bemidji Ave, Bemidji, MN 56601; or call Executive Director Terri Widman at 218-751-5447 or 800-275-5447.

Completed applications must be received by **April 1, 2009**.

Workshop Funding Available

Region 2 Arts Council invites individuals and organizations from our five-county area (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods and Mahnommen counties) to propose workshop ideas for direct funding. The workshop is funded with no financial risk to you.

The workshop must focus on learning experiences for adult artists and be open to the public. Any group that wants to bring in an artist to do a workshop is eligible, as are regional artists who wish to present a workshop themselves. Proposals are considered on an ongoing basis, but funds are limited. The sooner you contact us, the better.

Contact Terri Widman, R2AC Executive Director, at 218-751-5447 or 1-800-275-5447 if you have questions or wish to request an application.

Region 2 Arts Council Grant Deadlines

Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Grants Mar. 4, 2009

Arts Project Grants Mar. 11, 2009

Staff assistance is available to all applicants to discuss ideas, select artists, or to complete the application form.

To request an application or assistance, contact Terri Widman at 218-751-5447 or 800-275-5447. To download application, visit www.r2arts.org.

Showcase Artist Terry Honstead

"Dances of the Daisies"
17 1/2 x 23 1/2
Acrylic Collage

~ See Page 4 for more from Terry ~



NORTHERN ARTS NEWS is a free publication of the Region 2 Arts Council, published 6 times per year, with a distribution of over 1,300.

Funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, *Northern Arts News* provides news and information to artists in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen counties of north central Minnesota.

We welcome:

- story topic ideas;
- guest commentary topic ideas;
- names to add to our mailing list;
- collaboration and registration notifications.

To submit information and/or to be added to our mailing list, contact the R2AC office:

Call: 218-751-5447 or 1-800-275-5447

FAX: 218-751-2777

E-mail: r2arts@paulbunyan.net

Website: www.r2arts.org

Northern Arts News
Region 2 Arts Council
426 Bemidji Avenue
Bemidji, MN 56601

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Permission to reprint *Northern Arts News* is granted (excluding Guest Commentary) so long as *Northern Arts News* is credited as the source.

GUEST COMMENTARY inquiries are invited. Submit your topic idea to Terri Widman by telephone, FAX, or e-mail. Selected works must be previously unpublished and fit within the space allotment.

Due to the advanced print deadlines of this publication, we suggest that you call to confirm dates, times, and other pertinent information about events and opportunities listed here.

R2AC Awards Individual Artist Grant Awards

Region 2 Arts Council (R2AC) recently awarded \$5,700 through the Individual Artist Grants Program which is funded through an appropriation from the McKnight Foundation.

Tandy Bowman received \$325 to assist in enhancing skills as a facilitator of drumming.

Terry Honstead was awarded \$375 to purchase a digital camera and printing dock to take pictures of ideas and of finished paintings to a record.

CarolAnn Russell received \$1,000 to assist her in attending a Seminar in Archetypal Patterns in the Psyche which correlates to Part III of a series of poetic conversations with the "eternal Feminine."

Kathy J. McKeown was awarded \$1,000 to assist in pursuing her interests and further develop her photographic skills while exploring macro photography.

Michelle Laliberte received \$1,000 to assist in purchasing a new violin bow.

Steven R. Maanum was awarded \$1,000 to complete a photography wildlife manuscript and create a traveling photo gallery of 12 framed wildlife prints.

Paige Lee McCoy received \$1,000 to produce a hand bound limited edition including a CD of her poetry.

Call for Artists

11th Annual Bemidji Sculpture Walk

Up to 15 sculptures will be selected for one year outdoor display. Artists will receive a \$300 honorarium and qualify for \$1,750 in awards.

Deadline: March 28
Selection Notification: April 6
Installation of works: May 15 & 16

Please contact abel@paulbunyan.net or (218) 243-2685 to receive an entry form.

First City of Arts Studio Cruise

Artists within a 40 mile radius of Bemidji are invited to apply for the Bemidji - First City of Arts Studio Cruise 2009.

Deadline: April 1
Studio Cruise Dates: October 16-18

To apply, visit Bemidji Community Arts Center website at <http://bcac.wordpress.com> or <http://firstcityart-cruise.wordpress.com>.

Questions or information, contact Dave Towley at (218) 333-3547 or dtowley@paulbunyan.net.

Call For Entries

Talking Stick Volume 18

Jackpine Writers' Bloc of Northern Minnesota is accepting submissions for Talking Stick Volume 18. Writers must be from Minnesota or have some connection to this area.

Deadline: March 1

Prizes are \$500 each for the three categories of poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction. Works are to be unpublished. For complete submission guidelines, visit www.jackpinewriters.com.

Revealing Culture

VSA Arts is seeking visual artists interested in the VSA Arts International Festival in 2010. *Revealing Culture* will be the most comprehensive survey of international artists with disabilities brought to the United States.

Open to artists (18 and over) who have a physical, cognitive or mental disability. There is no entry fee. Each artist must complete the submission process online.

Deadline: April 30

For more information and complete guidelines, visit www.vsarts.org/revealingculture.

Northern Arts News

Submission deadline

April 7

for the

May/June issue

Please send to:

amy.zimmermann@hotmail.com

r2arts@paulbunyan.net

OPPORTUNITIES

Artists of Minnesota Juried Show

May 15, 16, 17
At the Hampton Inn, Bemidji

Registration Deadline: April 15

All entrants must be an Artist of Minnesota member.

"DREAM INSPIRE CREATE" will be the theme for the 2009 Spring Show.

The show is sponsored by Northern Minnesota Artist Association and Gallery North with a grant from the Region 2 Arts Council through funding from the Minnesota State Legislature.

For more information, contact Pat Shough at 218-760-2308 or visit www.artistsofminnesota.org. Pick up registration forms and information at Gallery North.

VSA Arts and CVS Caremark
All Kids Can

All kids, ages 5 to 15, are invited to submit artwork showing your creativity. Submitted artwork will be included in an online gallery.

Deadline: March 6

For more information, visit www.vsarts.org.

2009 Art Contest
Water is Life

Art contest is open to students grades 9-12. Acceptable media for this contest are photography, sculpture, fountains, painting, drawing and short video.

Deadline: March 20

For more information, visit www.freshwater.org (click Programs, then Water is Life).

American Composers Forum

Applications are being accepted for the 2009 McKnight Composer Fellowship.

Any mid-career composer who has lived in Minnesota for the last 12 months and has not been awarded a fellowship in the last 3 years is eligible to apply.

Postmark deadline: March 21

For full guidelines and application, visit composersforum.org/mcknight-fellowship

For more information, contact Wendy Collins at 651-251-2824 or wcollins@composersforum.org.

About the Showcase Artist Terry Honstead

Artist's Statement:

Terry Honstead is an up and coming artist who works in a variety of mediums. She does both abstract and realistic paintings and loves to experiment. Whether she is doing a commissioned piece, one for a show or just experimenting, she always has fun.



Majestic Texture
10 1/2 x 7
Acrylic

Auditions

Pequana Playhouse *The Sound of Music*

Auditions: March 2 - 3
Performances: April 23 - 26

Takes place at the Lake of the Woods School Auditorium. Tickets will be on sale on the website in early April. www.pequana.org.

Northern Light Opera Company *Fiddler on the Roof*

Auditions:
April 14 5 p.m.
Calvary Lutheran, Park Rapids
April 16 5 p.m.
Hope Lutheran, Walker

Callbacks:
April 18 10 a.m.
Calvary Lutheran, Park Rapids.

For information, contact Paul Dove at (218) 732-7096 or pd5@evansville.edu.

Visit www.northernlightopera.org to get involved.

Long Lake Theater Kids Academy *The Wizard of Oz*

Auditions:
March 8 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
March 9 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Performances: April 17-19 & 24-26

Rehearsals begin March 12. Long Lake Theater is located in Hubbard (about 8 miles south of Park Rapids).

For information, call (218) 732-0099 or visit www.longlaketheater.net.

Bemidji Area Arts Endowment Project Grants and Scholarships

The Bemidji Area Arts Endowment, a component fund of the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, announces several grant opportunities and scholarships.

Project Grants

BAAE Arts Project Grants totaling \$4,429 will be awarded through the BAAE Endowment Fund, the H.B. & Ina T. Roholt Family Fund for the Arts, and the Richard & Pam Nelson Family Fund for the Visual Arts.

Schools, nonprofit groups, or arts organizations in the Bemidji area may request a grant up to **\$1,000.00** to produce an arts event, put on a workshop, develop an arts organization, sponsor touring arts events, sponsor an artist in residence, etc. Applicants that are not schools or 501(c) 3 organizations must use a fiscal agent.

Everett Wilimek Orchestral String Scholarships

Two Everett Wilimek Memorial Scholarships for Orchestral String Studies will be awarded. These \$300 scholarships provide funds for young people in the Bemidji area, ages 8–15, to study violin, viola, cello or bass, including but not limited to costs for lessons, training, and instrument rental.

Applications are available at the Bemidji Community Art Center, Headwaters School of Music and the Arts, Region 2 Arts Council and Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

The application postmark deadline is April 1, 2009 for both opportunities. For more information, contact Pat Rall at 218-755-8942 or prall@charter.net.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Centennial Celebration of the Arts is looking for community members to participate in a hands-on residency with the "In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre" (HOBT).

The culmination of this residency will be a two day Pageant Presentation at the 42nd Annual Art in the Park festival July 18th -19, 2009.

HOBT is looking for:

- Children and adults with theatrical interest
- Musicians of all ages
- Volunteer crew members

For more information or to volunteer contact Janet Brademan at the Headwaters School of Music and the Arts at 218-444-5606 or headwatersschool@yahoo.com.

This activity is sponsored by the Bemidji Community Art Center, Headwaters School of Music and the Arts and Bemidji Community Education. It is also made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

March 6

April 3

Downtown Bemidji

More information in our
"Calendar of Events" under each
participating business or gallery.

MARCH

Through March

Wild Hare Bistro and Coffeehouse

will present "Express This!" drawings by Nina Lubarski. **First Friday** opening reception 3-5 p.m. Mar. 6th. First Friday Wine Bar from 5-9 p.m. featuring a dazzling new menu every month with wine and beer list to match. 523 Minnesota Ave. downtown Bemidji. 218-444-5282.

Through March

Bemidji Community Art Center

will feature the exhibit "The Palette: Exploring the media of painting," works by Natalia Himmirska and her students in encaustic and other media of canvas and panel. **First Friday** Art Walk Opening reception on Mar. 6th from 5-7p.m. and an artist talk with Natalia Himmirska at 6 p.m. 426 Bemidji Ave N (Carnegie Library). www.bcac.wordpress.com. (218) 444-7570.

Mar. 8 Bemidji Symphony Orchestra presents "French Fanfares" at 3 p.m. at the Bemidji High School Auditorium. Tickets required. For more information, please visit www.bemidjisymphony.org.

Mar. 10 Heartland Concert Association presents "Spanish Brass" at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Rapids Area High School Auditorium. Admission

by season ticket only. Season tickets can be purchased at Park Snyder Pharmacy, Beagle Books and Walker Art Gallery.

Mar. 14 TIN PAN gALLERy will host the second annual "Art Gumbo." The show will be on display through April 4. The TIN PAN gALLERy is part of the Blackduck Area History and Art Center and is located at Main Street and Margaret Ave. in downtown Blackduck. 218-835-4478.

Mar. 27 & 28 The Beltrami County Historical Society presents "Antique, Art & Craft Fair" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bemidji Armory. This two-day fundraising event features Eggers' Antique Roadshow 1-4 p.m. on Sat. with \$5 per item to be appraised and a 2 p.m. special auction of eight original 1900 Beltrami Courthouse juror chairs. General admission is \$3 and \$15 for each vendor table. For more

information, call 218-444-3376.

Mar. 27 - 29 The Pirates of Penzance will be presented by a group of local enthusiasts at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse downtown Bemidji. Tickets will be for sale at the door at 6:30 p.m. for evening shows. Advance tickets are available at Ken K Thompson in the mall and Iverson Corner Drug. 218-751-9194.

APRIL

Through April

Wild Hare Bistro and Coffeehouse

will present "Edible Mandala: An Exploration of Culinary Inspiration" photograph works by Mackenzie Lindahl and Moni Schneider. **First Friday** opening reception 3-5 p.m. April 3rd. First Friday Wine Bar from 5-9 p.m. featuring some of the recipes featured in the show. 523 Minnesota Ave. downtown Bemidji. 218-444-5282.

Bemidji State University Performance Calendar

March

20,21	Spring Musical: "Cabaret"	7:29 p.m.
28	Ione DeKrey Competition	3:00 p.m.
27,28	Spring Musical: "Cabaret"	7:29 p.m.
29	Spring Musical: "Cabaret"	3:00 p.m.

April

5	Bemidji Choir Home Concert	3:00 p.m.
6	Bemidji Concert Series: Western Brass Quintet	7:30 p.m.
8	Varsity Singers: Home Concert	7:30 p.m.
9	Trombone Choir	7:30 p.m.
16	Choral Chamber Choirs	7:30 p.m.
17, 18	Children's Theater	7:29 p.m.
18	Children's Theater	3:00 p.m.
19	Jazz I	3:00 p.m.
22	Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Concert	7:30 p.m.

Please contact BSU Music Department at 218-755-2915 for locations and to confirm dates and times of events. Contact the box office at 218-755-3863 for theater tickets.

Through April

Bemidji Community Art Center presents the 9th Annual Bemidji Area High School Invitational. **First Friday Opening Reception** April 3rd from 5-7 p.m. for this exciting exhibit showcasing work by students in several mediums. 426 Bemidji Ave N (Carnegie Library). www.bcac.wordpress.com. (218) 444-7570.

Apr. 2 - 5 The Pirates of Penzance will be presented by a group of local enthusiasts at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse downtown Bemidji. Tickets will be for sale at the door at 6:30 p.m. for evening shows and 1:30 p.m. April 5. Advance tickets are available at Ken K Thompson in the mall and Iverson Corner Drug. 218-751-9194.

Apr. 11 TIN PAN gALLERy will feature artist Roger Kallroos with his "Wildlife on Wood" and oil paintings. Roger will be at the gallery from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. to talk with visitors. His work will remain on display through May 2nd. The TIN PAN gALLERy is part of the Blackduck Area History and Art Center and is located at Main Street and Margaret Ave. in downtown Blackduck. 218-835-4478.

Apr. 17-19 & 24-26 Long Lake Theater Kids Academy presents "The Wizard of Oz." Showtimes: Fri.-Sat. at 7 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. 3 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$14; Children (ages 4-12) \$7; lap children free. Long Lake Theater is located in Hubbard (about 8 miles S. of Park Rapids). For tickets, call (218) 732-0099 or visit www.longlaketheater.net. Tickets also available at Beagle Books in Park Rapids.

Apr. 26 Bemidji Symphony Orchestra presents "Final Fanfares" at 3 p.m. at the Bemidji High School Auditorium. No reserved seating for this concert. Tickets required. For more information, please visit www.bemidjisymphony.org.

R2AC Awards Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Grants

Region 2 Arts Council (R2AC) awarded \$4,767 through the Anishinaabe Arts Initiative Program which is funded through an appropriation from the McKnight Foundation.

Maxine L. Moe received \$162 to carve a 30" x 10' free standing wood sculpture from green white pine or oak.

Franklin P. LaRoque was awarded \$700 to purchase and master Adobe PhotoShop CS3 Extended computer software to create 3-D images and bring cartoons to life.

Adam Carrier received \$572 to assist in framing his artwork for an exhibit in a community gallery.

Bonita Desjarlais received \$623 to frame and matte three completed paintings on 22 x 30 watercolor rag to be exhibited at the "Fall Has it All" art exhibit in September.

Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School was awarded \$462 to create a Cultural Video Production class and purchase three digital cameras and two tripods.

Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Cultural Arts Department received \$1,135 to be used to purchase materials to matte and frame children's art (K-12) to install at the Indian Hospital in Cass Lake.

White Earth Tribal and Community College Student Senate was awarded \$1,113 to host a traditional Pow-wow, an artistic grand entry performance of drum, music and dance displaying regalia and arts of the Anishinaabe people.

Make a Difference - Become a Partner with R2AC

It's been a while since we've heard from you. Your renewed financial support of Region 2 Arts Council is extremely important. Please renew your support today. Your partnership with Region 2 Arts Council strengthens the presence of the arts by supporting opportunities for arts creation, promotion, education, and funding for the people of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahanomen Counties. People like you help to sustain our programs and services.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Circle Level of Partnership

\$50 Individual

\$100 Family

\$250 Sponsor

\$500 & Up Corporate



Region 2 Arts Council
426 Bemidji Ave.
Bemidji, MN 56601-3139

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NORTHERN ARTS NEWS is a free publication of the Region 2 Arts Council, funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation. Mission: "The Region 2 Arts Council strengthens the presence of the arts by supporting opportunities for arts creation, promotion, education, and funding for the people of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods, and Mahnommen Counties."

Noteworthy

Albert Belleveau, Bemidji, won second place, Best of Show Other Materials in the 2008-2009 Sioux Falls Sculpture Walk with "Stone Booth." He also won Critic's Choice Award in the 2008-2009 Bemidji Sculpture walk with "Stone Spectre" and tied for first place Children's Choice Award in the 2008-2009 Sioux City, Iowa Sculpture Walk with "Outcropping House."

Pawlenty Proposes to Cut Arts by Half

Despite the passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment that showed Minnesotans want more investment in the arts, not less, the Governor has proposed big cuts to the arts. We want all legislators to know that Minnesotans believe the arts are important. Take Action now!

Contact your legislator at www.mca.org to write your elected official a note about your opposition to cuts to the arts.

*Bemidji Sculpture Walk
People's Choice Award
We want your vote!*

Please vote on which sculpture is your favorite. There is a \$1,000 People's Choice Award based on your votes. **Place this ballot in the yellow ballot box located at the Tourist Information Center, at the pedestal by Niimi and in front of City Hall attached to the rock with the lion sculpture.** You may use this ballot or one attached to the walking guides available at the BCAC, Tourist Information Center and other places in town. **Deadline for voting is April 30, 2009.**

Sculpture: _____

Artist: _____

Your Name: _____

Town and Date: _____

Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt, and poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen.

Leonardo daVinci