

CURRENTS

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Editor's Message



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Editor

*Creating is about
sharing ideas, sharing
aesthetics, sharing
what you believe in with
other people.*

- Shepard Fairey

It was a wonderful start to 2022 to be back in-person at the Crossing Arts for a few days and see the community blow in from the chilly streets to enjoy art. The beginning of a new year is often a time to reflect on the past and set goals for the future in pursuit of actionable change, and with this spirit in mind we at the Crossing are excited to continue to serve our community. Stepping into this role as editor of our *Currents* magazine, I am so appreciative of the opportunity to engage with our community, and I would like to thank our previous editor, Elsie Husom, for all she has done for the *Currents* and the Crossing Arts. We are very grateful for her work.

And, speaking of the spirit of change in the new year, we have been considering the possibility of a new name for the *Currents* that perhaps better reflects our magazine. However, we are blanking! Do you, reader, have any ideas for a new name, or should we continue as the *Currents*? Feel free to share your thoughts at maren@crossingarts.org.

Inside this issue, you will find a treasure trove of creative inspiration that takes shape in project ideas, featured artists, moments that remind us of why art is so meaningful and significant, and more. Is there anything better to warm the heart while we wait for winter to thaw?

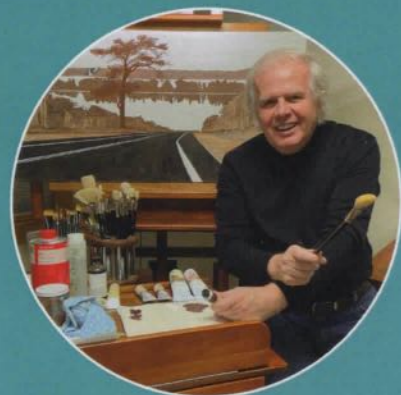


Cover Image:
Redwood Burl Bowls by Tom Larson

Crossing
[Arts]



Crossing Arts Featured Artist



Jack William

What is your earliest memory of creating art? My earliest perception was of a blue crayon touched to paper that unleashed a spiraling motion in my arm. My awareness of the results let me know I was destined for the art world. I then observed an older brother and sister finger painting. When I was able to get hold of the fingerpaints my vision spontaneously unfolded in six bright colors of self-expression across the 1950s patterned kitchen floor. This is my earliest memory of creating art.

What has been your journey to becoming the artist you are today? Brainerd, Minnesota is my home town. As a youngster besides attending public school, I enjoyed playing outdoors, board games and drawing with a pencil to fill my days. Somehow a blending of all these activities carried over into the pictures I looked at. I was fascinated by how images of the real world were captured in pictures. One day my father purchased our first television. You might think I was enraptured by pictures that moved, but I wasn't. It was a man by the name of Jon Gnagy who came on the screen and taught me to stop the action by teaching me to draw the image of a stone arch bridge. By the time I was 14 years my art skills were being noticed. An acquaintance asked if I would paint a sign for his resort, my first art commission. From then on I pursued the applied arts making signs for many years. This is a time when I was able to work with many materials, learn a multitude of trade skills and take classes on the side.

During my midlife I was tutored in the craft of classic patent illustrating in the tradition of the Renaissance, where a student studies with a master. When I started the art of patent illustrating my tools were pen and ink on Bristol board. Because of world changes in technology, today my tools are digital. During this time I went back to school to study law as well. Now, I have about five decades of experience as a professional artist, intellectual property specialist, inventor and author. I have worked on over four thousand product development projects during my career.

My illustrations appear in thousands of patents and publications throughout the world. This year my portrait and profile go on display at the Smithsonian Institution in an exhibit themed "Create" that highlights the artistic representation of invention. In May through October about thirty of my draw-

ings will be exhibited at the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center in Pueblo, Colorado along side Leonardo DaVinci's drawings.

How would you describe your art? My fine art has been perfected out of the spotlight. I commission portraits and landscapes as well as paint poetic figures and other subjects hallmarking unlocking the transcendental. My fine art is known as THE ART OF PEACE®. This theme is so unique, to me as a fine artist, the United States Patent and Trademark Office awarded a registered trademark for THE ART OF PEACE®. I believe the most perfect patterns are found in nature, and my fine art can only mirror what is already there. My fine art originates with the flow of things, like an ever flowing mountain stream, and focuses its essence in the heart. This is what THE ART OF PEACE® is all about.

What tools and media do you use? Because I pursued the applied and fine arts from the beginning of my career to the present. I became proficient in drawing, painting, designing, modeling, writing, metal-wood-plastic working, music, inventing, trademarking, patenting and more. Today, I work with virtual materials in 2D and 3D with software using computers and other digital means, as well as real world media. I must say, my favorite media to work has always been oil paint.

What inspires you? I am inspired by life, nature, persons, exploring and creating compositions and the beauty I find there.

How does art impact you? Art impacts me in the same way it impacts every one. Art belongs to an aspect of reality which is universal to consciousness. A distinguishing characteristic of a work of art is, it is an end in itself. It serves a purpose of contemplation. For an individual that contemplation is so personal, a person experiences the contemplation first as feeling and can be so deeply moved, leading to self realization and ultimately embracing primary pure consciousness, the joy of being.

What impact do you hope your art has on others? I hope my art, THE ART OF PEACE®, moves viewers to find their best self, the joy of being and join with the community of like hearted souls.

What does success in art mean to you? By your own definition, what is your most successful piece of art? Success in

art means doing what you love and being sustained, day to day, by that love. My most successful piece of art is one that speaks to the viewer. The viewer starts an internal dialogue with the piece of art. Then, the work of art takes on a life all its own. It becomes a masterpiece.

What is your biggest challenge as an artist? What do you do when art challenges you? My biggest challenge is the same challenge there is in riding a bicycle, forward momentum and balance. If I start to lose forward momentum it reminds me I need more balance in my life. If I start to lose balance I know I need more forward momentum in my life. When art challenges me it is the time to set it aside for a bit and come back to it later. By doing this. In time one way or another the challenge will resolve.

Are there other areas in art you are interested in exploring? I am perpetually interested in exploring all areas of art. I leave no stone unturned and do not allow any grass to grow under my feet. I have pursued both the applied arts and fine arts throughout my art career, in the same fashion as the Renaissance artists.

Is there anything else you would like readers to know? As artists we are always looking for ways to improve our artwork. Sometimes we get so caught up in the practice of doing we need to step back, relax and take a deep breath. At the most rudimentary level art always involves an artist and the artists model. Whether that model is real or imagined it really does not matter. The artist is a perceiver and the model is the perceived. From this interaction a new creation is born, a work of art. Maybe, in our artist process, there is not so much to do as we sometimes think.

You can find out more about Jack William Smith and his work, at these websites;
www.magellangloballlc.com
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