*Art is…*

*Fall Membership Exhibition*

September 1st – November 2nd, 2023

Exhibition sponsors: Randy Michener and David Volkman

The Art Association of Harrisburg is pleased to present the fall membership exhibition theme, *Art is…* The exhibition will run from September 1st through November 2nd, 2023 with a reception on Gallery Walk Day, Sunday, September 10th, 2023 from noon to 5pm. Music during Gallery Walk will be provided by “Hemlock Hollow.”

When you read the phrase, “art is…” did your mind automatically fill in the rest of the sentence? Perhaps you thought, “art is necessary,” or “art is freedom,” or even something like, “art is fun!” The purpose of this exhibition is to show several different interpretations of what art is or what art means to the artist creating it. Another way to think about this theme is to consider the purpose of art or the function of art. In the book *Art as Therapy*, co-authors John Armstrong and Alain de Botton suggest that the purpose of art is to make up for our psychological shortcomings by extending, “…our capacities beyond those that nature has originally endowed us with.” In this way, art functions as a tool to aid humanity, be it the artist or the viewer. Armstrong and de Botton lay out seven specific functions of art: remembering, hope, sorrow, rebalancing, self-understanding, growth, and appreciation. Let’s look at the function of remembering. As humans, we naturally forget things – moments, encounters, people, etc. This is a psychological “shortcoming”. Art can be used as a tool to help aid in our remembering. When Armstrong and de Botton speak of remembering, they are specifically referring to remembering nuances of a moment or the idiosyncrasies of a person. For example: in the painting *Woman Reading a Letter* by Dutch Golden Age painter Johannes Vermeer, the figure appears to be completely absorbed by the letter she is reading. This is indicated by certain idiosyncrasies, such as the way she grips onto the paper, whereas another reader may hold the letter lightly with the tips of their fingers. Remembering is not about recalling the features on a loved one’s face, but rather the way their eyes would squint every time they smiled, or the way they focused intently during conversation. These are moments we can forget as time passes, but art can aid in our remembering.

So, what is art to you? What does art mean to you? What is its function or purpose? Whichever question you choose, we at the AAH look forward to seeing your answer to “*Art is…”*. We welcome all styles and mediums.

If you have further questions about the fall membership exhibition theme please contact curator Rachel O’Connor at [Rachel@artassocofhbg.com](mailto:Rachel@artassocofhbg.com).

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Intake Instructions

INTAKE DATES: August 14th – 27th, 2023

ELIGIBILITY: All AAH artists whose dues are up to date are eligible to enter the show. (Artists may join or renew when entering the exhibition.)

RULES OF ENTRY:

. All artwork must be convey the theme “Art is…”

. Limit 2 entries per artist.

. Entries may NOT have been exhibited in the AAH main galleries previously.

. All styles are acceptable, from abstraction, to realism, to Impressionism, to Expressionism, to Surrealism. All media are welcomed!

. No works may be larger than 72” in any direction.

. All 2-dimensional works MUST have screw-eyes and wire in place for hanging.

. All works on paper must be framed under glass or plexiglass. (No uniframes permitted.)

. Works on stretched canvas may have painted edges in lieu of frames.

. All stained-glass pieces or fragile works of any kind may be entered only with a special appointment with Curator Rachel O’Connor. (Call her at 236-1432 or email her at rachel@artassocofhbg.com.)

ENTRY FEE: $15 per entry for works smaller than 48” on any side; $20 for works 49” to 72” on any side .

AWARD CATEGORIES: Oil/Acrylic, Sculpture/Ceramics, Other Media, Photography, Watercolour, Pastels/Drawings, Best of Show.

PRIZE SPONSORS: Randolph Michener, E.M. Avery & Robert Lau, Susan Sheetz Fortini, Carlo Ditono, Cumberland Financial Group, Dr. John “Ski” Sygielski, and Steve Perrault, Midtown Cinema, Rick and Jan LeBlanc.

PRIZE JUROR: To be announced.