

The AAPARS

Celebrates its 30th Anniversary!



The "Association des Artistes Peintres Affiliés de la Rive-Sud" (Association of South Shore Affiliated Painters) is this year celebrating its 30 years of existence. Founded in 1981 by four students of painter Pierre Duhamel, this association of some twenty initial members has since increased its membership to almost 400 artists. Although it has gone through some gradual restructuring to better meet the professional needs of its members and the overall art milieu, its objective has remained the same: favouring the development of painters by increasing their visibility with the general public.

The grouping together of professional or semi-professional artists and dilettantes procures everyone with an opportunity to evolve and grow by allowing them to break their isolation

and share with others, thus increasing their self-confidence. Indeed, the Association's 18 public relations officers maintain regular communication and follow-up with members by calling each and everyone monthly. The Association's management team is also able to negotiate numerous advantages that benefit the whole of the membership, particularly concerning the promotion of exhibitions such as printing of invitation cards, advertising posters, venues and equipment, Internet site, etc.

The Association has in fact overtime developed its own aluminium exhibition panels as well as a lighting system that enhances the professional character of all its activities. Moreover, each participating artist signs an operating protocol before each exhibition which sets forth precise conditions to



be respected, notably regarding the hanging of paintings. This constant effort towards offering highly polished presentations, through structured organization and sound management, heightens the calibre of AAPARS exhibitions.

The annual \$40 membership fee gives access to the *Babil- l'AAPARS* monthly bulletin which assesses recent past Association related activities, informs members of upcoming ones as well as provides precise information on future technical exposes which are monthly free attendance courses animated by a remunerated experienced artist. Members are also able to benefit from the Association website by incorporating their own virtual gallery of up to 50 works or their blog at very minimal costs.

Live model workshops offered throughout the year have also garnered many participants during the last 10 years, as have the free attendance painting workshops that are being held each week at the Saint-Bruno Community Centre which facilitate meetings and exchanges among participating artists. The AAPARS also sponsors the *Circuit des Arts de Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville*, which exclusively features artists of this municipality who open their workshops to art aficionados.

Each fall, the Association organizes a very popular competitive exhibition where numerous prizes are awarded. Aspiring participants must submit their dossier which is reviewed by three external judges following criteria that evaluate the originality, technique and continuity of artistic approach. Oil, acrylic, watercolour, pastel or mixed media, all techniques and styles are represented and artists paint on site, directly in front of the public.

This year's slogan: *30 ans, ça se fête en grand!* meant the scope of the event will be even greater in view of the 30th

anniversary of AAPARS. Money awards totalling \$2000 will be granted. The size of the venue at the Centre Marcel-Dulude of Saint-Bruno, where the event was held, allowed the presentation of larger formats. Moreover, visitors, which turned-out in great numbers, had a chance to win part of the price of the artwork they purchased.

For this special edition of the Fall Expo-Contest event, which was held on October 15-16, 2011, well-known painter Littorio Del Signore was the AAPARS' guest of honour and 74 talented artists were selected to participate. A sales office, which receives no commission, as well as a wrapping kiosk, were set-up, where sales receipts and authenticity certificates were delivered to customers thus freeing exhibitors of this task. Thanks to the implication of numerous volunteers, the AAPARS has enjoyed constant growth since its inception and continues to organize quality events rallying people who are appreciative of talent in many forms. For the artists, the Association is an efficient vehicle for creative expansion and an excellent way to increase their contacts network. **I**

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