



newsletter

I never imagined what 2020 would become when I was elected board president this January. We have done our best during this downtime to work on making significant changes to the NPAA. As you can see from our banner, we have a beautiful new NPAA brand, designed by our talented graphic design team of Shelle Barron, Jodi Staniunas-Hopper and Jack Stone. This redesign is part of the new direction that the NPAA is taking—we are working to make the NPAA an inclusive, diverse, and representative professional organization that is a vital part of the arts community. We will be presenting new membership guidelines at the virtual general meeting on October 13 at 7PM. Jodi Staniunas Hopper, along with Edinboro University professor Dr. Leslie Sotomayor, is leading our diversification efforts via a new Artist Liaison subcommittee. We are also working on behalf of our existing membership, forming beneficial relationships with service providers (commercial photography and framing); utilizing NPAA's social media channels to promote our artists; and developing the website to allow for online purchases of member work. Most excitingly, we secured a gallery space for the NPAA for the remainder of the calendar year at 1020 Holland St, now known as 1020 Collective. Thanks are due to Tom Ferraro for brokering this deal with the building's current owners. In order to make the most of this space, Sarah Moody is leading a new curatorial committee that will work in conjunction with our existing exhibition committee and chair Greg Zbach to formulate our upcoming show, *Sense of Place*, and the annual Christmas event. As part of our commitment to the greater arts community, this exhibition is in conjunction with the Neighborhood Art House. NAH students photographed their neighborhood and surrounding environment, and their excellent work will hang amongst our own. I recognize that the changes, both new and proposed, seem to be heady ones. But they are necessary for the continued survival of the NPAA. The Erie arts landscape has changed dramatically since the NPAA's inception, and we must evolve and adapt to remain relevant to the community we represent.

FROM
THE
DESK
OF THE
PRESIDENT



— Alexa D. Potter

Schuster Gallery features local, global, female artists

Schuster Gallery to feature NPAA members

Lori Steadman, director of the Schuster Gallery at Gannon University, sought to showcase the work of a diverse population of regional female artists. This exhibit is a vibrant celebration of life and culture through the feminine lens. This exhibit is a vibrant celebration of life and culture through a feminine lens.

This exciting exhibition was going to premiere in March, just in time for Women's History Month. Because of COVID-19, the opening has been moved to Sept. 25. Participating NPAA members,

In no particular order, are:

- Lainie Addressi
- Marsha Langman Cisek
- Deb Sementelli
- Stephanie Wood
- Barb Yerace
- Lake Erie Fiber Guild

Erie Historical Society



Deb Sementelli-Hoenes

[Deborah Sementelli](#) was commissioned to paint a scene that depicted the view from a specific point just to the right of the barn built in 1840 that stands behind the Wood Morrison House (old Erie Art Center) on the grounds of the Hagen History Museum. The barn was used to house the mules that pulled the boats along the canal.

The only visual reference available was a hand-drawn, birds-eye view from 1870, and a visit to the Canal Museum in Greenville.

The project was a challenge to the imagination.

The Erie Extension Canal was in operation from 1844 to 1871 when the railroad took over the transportation of goods and passengers.

Long gone, the basin where canal boats readied for their trips was located at Sixth and Myrtle streets in Erie. The two apartment houses that are under renovation were built over the filled-in basin.



NPAA member profile: **Sarah MK Moody**

By Pat Bywater

The social isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of the racial justice movement in the wake of George Floyd's murder have left no artist untouched.

Some find inspiration, some experience creative disruption and others are connecting with the energy to transform their communities.

Erie's [Sarah MK Moody](#) may be one of those in touch with the transformative flow. These historic moments have given her renewed sense of purpose.

She has a studio at the Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA) at 1505 State St. in Erie and she's activated exhibit space in the building in the past. There's little doubt what she'll use it for next.

Moody founded what's now known as Maggie Knox Western in Miami in 2014 to serve, as her website explains, as "an incubator, studio and gallery space with artist residencies, workshops, gatherings and creative happenings. I am committed to sharing space as a way to foster community with creativity at its core."

In Miami's Little Haiti community, Moody worked to bring artists together with residents of the neighborhood to find common ground and understanding as the area experienced gentrification. Connections



made there got her involved in the Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator and arts travel and work in Cuba, the Bahamas and Suriname.

Through those experiences, integrated, cross-cultural art communities became the norm for Moody.

Just how different the landscape is in Erie, which she made her home in 2017, came into sharp focus recently. Moody attended the initial peaceful protest for racial justice in Erie and was particularly struck by a speaker who highlighted the fact that the event had brought residents from across the city together under the banner of a common cause, yet those same people rarely interacted on a day-to-day basis.

Those comments "made me rethink how I organize events," Moody said. "What is the purpose and what is the audience?"

"How do we mix up the segregation in Erie?" she considered. How do we "come into each other's space?"

Moody's clear that building trust and signaling intentions lies at the heart of breaking down walls in Erie, and she knows how difficult and personal the effort will be. There's "nothing comfortable there," she says. "Get comfortable being uncomfortable. This is a marathon, not a sprint."

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"It's the artist's job to work through issues for the community," Moody reflected. Now "is a moment to be creating space for showing black artists."



Colonial Studies – Bahamas

*NPAA member profile:
Sarah MK Moody continued.*

"It's the artist's job to work through issues for the community," Moody reflected. Now "is a moment to be creating space for showing black artists."

Being in that sometimes uncomfortable space of breaking down walls and forging new connections does not intimidate Moody. She embraces the role. It is part of what motivated her to become one of the youngest members of the Northwest Pennsylvania Artists Association and to serve on its membership committee.

By joining and serving, Moody hopes to show young artists they may not have to reinvent the wheel by creating their own organization. She also hopes to lead NPAA members in embracing generational change.

Part of Moody's willingness to take on these challenges stems from her art, which often leads her to deeply personal disclosures. She describes her work as so personal that it transcends the personal and becomes universal.

An example residents of the region may recall is "CLAIRE," a project documenting the life of Moody's sister, who died in 2016 at the age of 24. She was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a rare soft tissue bone cancer, in 2012.

"CLAIRE," which was exhibited at Erie's 419 Artifacts, includes photographs taken by Moody dating



From the top:
Brick Lane – London;
Be on Euclid; Colo-
nial Studies – Havana
Cuba; Colonial Studies
– New Orleans
© Sarah MK Moody

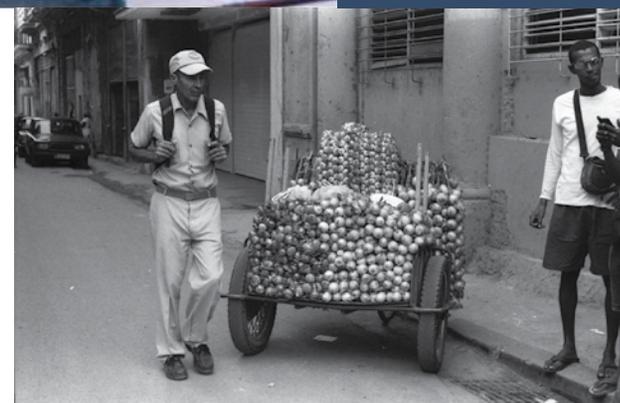
back to when she was 10, as well as photos taken by friends and family showing Claire's name spelled out in natural materials in a variety of settings. That part of the project took on a life of its own when friends shared their images on social media, inspiring others to get involved.

"This becomes a universal story that remembers a person that you love," Moody explained to a reviewer for the Erie Times-News.

Moody's long history with Erie, which she visited regularly for years to see relatives, became deeper as she travelled between Miami and the city frequently to support her sister.

Impressed by the city's effort to revitalize, Moody relocated to Erie and hasn't looked back.

Since moving, Moody's forged connections with women who are working for change. "That's inspiring to me," Moody said. "There is a lot of opportunity to do new things in Erie."



NPAA members and Graphic Designers Jack Stone, Shelle Barron, and Jodi Stainiunas Hopper formed a graphic design committee at the request of our president, Alexa Potter. They had been working since June on a refresh of the NPAA logo and ultimately a “rebrand” of the NPAA. They created ten unique new logos, and the board voted from five final design choices. The committee said that it was “a collaborative effort.”

“It’s been a unique challenge and a pleasure to work as a team on such an important aspect of the club’s identity.” stated Jodi Staniunas Hopper.

The original logo dates back some 40 years and was created by member Dave Seitzinger. The team moved forward confident in the knowledge that David is in support of the endeavor.



Erie Art Museum Meet the Artist **Eerie Eric**

Recently one of our own NPAA members, Eric Fargiorgio, was interviewed by Roman Glass of the Erie Art Museum on how the quarantine has affected him and his art. The EAM posts interviews on Facebook with local and regional artists.

Please [click here for the online video interview](#) on the Erie Art Museum Facebook Page.



Roman Glass



Eric Fargiorgio

CALENDAR

Hopefully soon we will be able to add a calendar of upcoming NPAA events to our newsletter. Unfortunately we have not been able to schedule anything as to date. Please be patient with us as we try to navigate through these unprecedented times.

We want to deliver you with timely and accurate information to keep you informed of what’s going on in the organization. If we do not cover it in the newsletter please be assured we will cover it in the next general membership meeting. One will be scheduled once it is safe to do so. Minutes will be provided to those of you unable to attend.

If you would like to submit a story to be considered for the NPAA newsletter [please click here](#) and fill out the form.

portfolio photographs

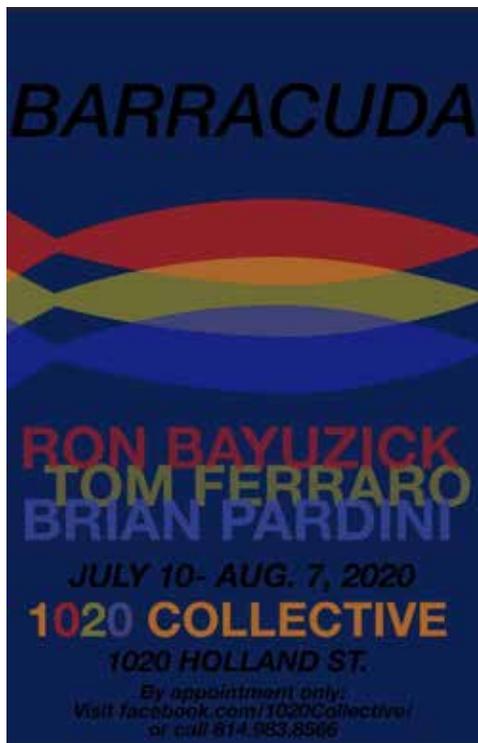
both flat and 3-dimensional. \$20 per piece. images delivered digitally as jpegs. tiff files available for an additional \$5 per piece.

1505 state st. studio 4N3 erie, pa
814.450.5509 | jakeswanphotos.com

Barracuda

The 1020 Collective will be premiering the gallery's inaugural art exhibition, *Barracuda*, featuring artists Ron Bayuzick, Tom Ferraro and Brian Pardini.

Friday, July 10 through Aug. 7. There will be a closing party in the parking lot of 1020 Holland Friday evening, from 4-9. Tours will be available.



Art House Face Lift



Ehren Knapp, professional mural painter and former Art House teacher, painted a set of beautiful murals depicting youth seeking a better future through classes at the Neighborhood Art House. The large mural is located at Neighborhood Art House on 10th Street.

Visit the mural anytime, if you take a selfie please tag it #neighborhoodarthouse. They will share your picture on social media.

For more information, visit the Art House website or email Sister Annette Marshall. For more information, visit the [Art House website](#) or email Sister Annette

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And The Winners Are...

This year now more than ever our mission was vital. The NPAA once again chose to provide scholarships to deserving students looking to continue their art careers in colleges and universities. The NPAA Scholarship committee over the course of several months this Spring was lead by Barbara Crone who was hard at work sending out application materials to area high schools looking to attract students who wanted to compete for the annual scholarships. In a typical year we would usually receive a dozen or more responses. This year however because of the pandemic, we received only six, but those six were extremely qualified high school seniors who met the application criteria.

The six students who applied were Sophia Bakken, Matthew Gunn, Cleo Kendrick, Morgan Murphy, Katherine Peters and Grayson Ticer. Once the materials were in hand Jack Stone assembled a slide show featuring their portfolios and posted it on the NPAA website so that all the membership could vote. All members were then invited to preview the slide show and vote for three students who they felt should receive this year's scholarships. This year we were once again joined by Erie Insurance who raised additional monies to partner with the NPAA in awarding two scholarships which they have named the Robert Sajewski Memorial Scholarships. Because of the limited number of applicants the Board



Grayson Ticer, Acrylic Painting

decided to forego our usual three scholarships and this year award only one. So together with Erie Insurance, three scholarships were awarded in total. Once the votes were tabulated, Erie Insurance selected two from the three winners while the third recipient received the NPAA Scholarship.

The two Robert Sajewski Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$2000 each were awarded to Sophia Bakken and Morgan Murphy from Saegertown High School and the Crawford County Career Technical Center in Meadville. Sophia has enrolled and will continue her studies at Ringling College of Art & Design in Sarasota, Florida majoring in Computer Animation. Morgan has enrolled and will continue her studies at the College for Creative Studies in



Sophia Bakken, Digital Painting



Morgan Murphy, Digital Painting

Detroit, Michigan majoring in Illustration. The third scholarship awarded by the NPAA in the amount of \$1000 went to Grayson Ticer from Fairview High School. Grayson has enrolled and will continue her studies at Carnegie Mellon College of Fine Arts.

The NPAA and Erie Insurance are thrilled to provide these scholarship awards to these three outstanding high school artists. We know you all share in our enthusiasm for their continued pursuit in the creative arts and we look forward to sharing in their success in the years to come. In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, the NPAA was once more able to find a way to fulfill our mission and support these exemplary young artists.