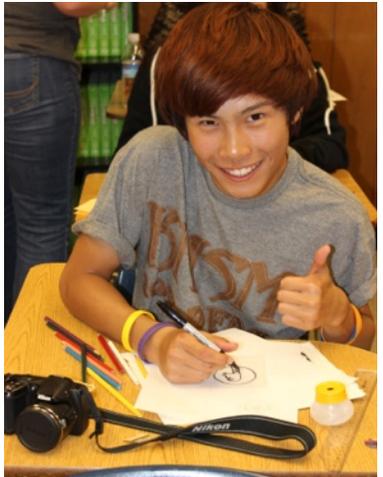
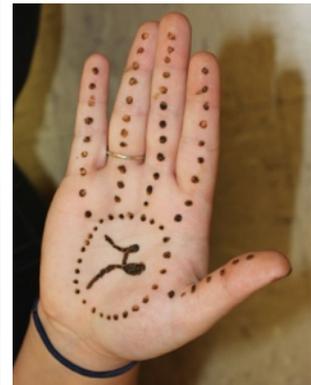


horizon line

A NEWSLETTER
BY THE MAEA
FOR THE MAEA

FALL 2012



MAI Artstock 2012... by Amy Hirschbach -Florence High School

You could almost feel the creativity buzzing throughout Florence High School over MAI weekend. Ok, maybe that was the effect of all the caffeine I had consumed before people even hit the doorstep, but, either way, the atmosphere was electric.

This is the thing that always amazes me about MAI. The kids are just SO enthusiastic and overwhelmingly excited about being at the event. I don't know about you, but my kids start at our very first Art Club meeting of the year- "When is MAI? Where is

MAI? What is the theme?" etc. Students of art from all different walks of life, different social circles and students with different art backgrounds, put all their differences aside and band together to create, talk, and critique. THIS is what MAI is about. This is WHY we do it. The event is definitely a lot of work to put on. Lots of coordinating and emailing, talking to people and networking. But when you get to look out across 180+ students and know that they are genuinely glad to be working together and connecting over making artwork, it is all worth it. Thanks a million to

everyone who helped make this year's MAI a successful event.

My kids are already excited about heading to MAI at CMR in Great Falls on April 26-27, 2013.

Best,
Amy Hirschbach



Your Art News for Fall



2012

This publication allows you to share what is happening in your classroom with the rest of the Montana. You can read the earth friendly version online or print your own copy to hold, read, and pass on to another art teacher and eventually recycle.

Bookmark the MAEA Website
<http://www.maeamt.org>

Please contribute anything you would like to share, send some pictures too.
Visit the newly designed MAEA website to submit your article on the NEWSLETTER page.

A Message from MAEA President Marvin Pauls:

Greetings Everyone,

Life has been busy for us all since last October and I have a few great things to report on.

I got the pleasure of going to the NAEA national convention in NYC in early March. Courtney Christopher and myself spent a very fast paced four days in the city absorbing the art works all around, going to sectionals, listening to keynote speakers, and simply being amazed at how many people would visit MOMA on any particular day. For a more articulate response to our adventure read Courtney's account of the trip in this issue of The Horizon Line.

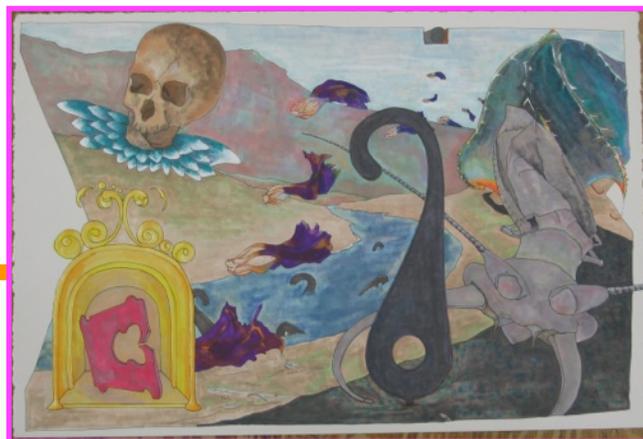
Closer to home, MAEA officers organized a workshop for art teachers with Courtney Blazon last March. Wow! This was a blast! Courtney taught us her basic marker techniques and the dozen of us that were there ran with it, in all sorts of artistic directions. Not only did we learn a new media and make a nice piece of art but it was great to chat with each other about everything from teaching, to what we ourselves are all about. It was such a hit with those attending we reserved Lubrecht for next year at about the same time. Start thinking about what you want to learn and experience next year and email me your ideas or bring them to the October conference in Billings next fall.

MAI was hosted in Florence last April. It was a smashing success. When I asked some students if they enjoyed the workshops and would like to attend next year, they all enthusiastically nodded a bleary eyed YES! When you see Amy Hirschbach congratulate her on a job well done. Thanks Amy! We are all looking forward to the next MAI adventure in Great Falls at CMR on April 26th and 27th.

Lastly a quote from Chuck Close spoken at the national convention "inspiration is for amateurs, the rest of us just show up and get to work."

Keep creating,

Marvin P.



<h1>What's Going On?</h1> <p>What is happening in the Montana Art World</p>	September	October	November
	<p>Sept. 8</p> <p>Raphael Christy portrays Charlie Russell on a tour of the watercolor exhibit.</p>	<p>Oct. 18-19</p> <p>MEA days in Billings, MT</p>	<p>Nov. 22</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>
	<p>Sept. 15</p> <p>Charlie Russell's watercolor exhibition closes at the C.M. Russell Museum.</p>	<p>Oct. 31</p> <p>Happy Halloween!</p>	<p>Visit MAEAMT.org for information.</p>

Winter Retreat!

by Brittanie Jo Thibodeaux
Great Falls High School

As a young student teacher I was thrilled to be invited to participate in the Montana Art Educators Association's trip to Lubrecht National Forest for the wonderful introduction to the painterly use of markers in art. After some short visiting and warm welcomes, Courtney Blazon, our featured artist, met the nine other teachers and I to begin the overview of our art packed weekend.



Myths, storytelling, collage, narrative and personal imagery were all components of the pieces each of us created. Courtney first introduced her methods of narrative creation, discussing where and how she finds her inspiration and reference images.

Her work exhibits very detailed illustrations, including small and elaborate parts of her narratives in spatially deep and captivating environment. Some of the other teachers and I felt challenged and inspired to make a narrative with a comparable quality and charisma to Courtney's. With a few short demonstrations and her attentive guidance, we started sketching out our plans and dove into this foreign art making process. Experiencing the group taking off with such creative ambition was an exciting experience I hope to generate within my classroom when I become a teacher.

The markers were only one factor of making narrative art for the weekend. Through the somewhat intimidating experimentation of the Prismacolor markers, each one of us found our favorite palettes and personal mark making techniques. Many of us were so consumed in the process of arranging a composition that the markers became the easiest and most rewarding part. Working for such an extended period of time with such an amazing group of artists inspires me to remain a life learner. This trip was a weekend I will never forget.





Art Teacher Tips:

Submit tips for Art Teachers to....

glacierhighart@gmail.com

Blue Skies

Musings from your Retired Rep Nancy Zadra

If the trees could speak they would tell the story of all the art retreats we have experienced in their midst. Lubrecht Forest calls to us with the promise of artistic renewal.

I took the drive up the Blackfoot from Missoula on St. Patrick's Day with a sense of quiet anticipation. Turning into Lubrecht, I was struck again with the timeless grandeur of the place and the way in which the stately trees embrace the traveler.

Courtney Blazon is a professional artist and illustrator from Missoula who gave our M.A.E.A. group a two day workshop at Lubrecht Forest over the St. Patrick's Day weekend. Courtney has devised a personal style using Prismacolor Markers and Micron Archival Pens. She combines images to create a narrative story, with the images placed within a specifically designed environment. Traditional rules of space are put aside to be replaced by artist-created spatial combinations.

Reactions and responses of the participants tell the story. Brittanie Thibodeux, a student teacher from Great Falls, said, "As a process this may change the way I do art." She added that it's awesome to learn a new technique, and so important to keep an open mind.

Tess Jacobs commented, "This is a non-traditional way to work and it's taking me way out of my comfort zone."

Mary Schneider said, "This is very different from what I usually do. I'm finding out about using a variety of reference material." Mary added that she thought she might have a graphics class work on an illustration project with compositional factors such as what Courtney was presenting: the creation of an environment or setting for the characters with inclusion of a foreground, middle ground, background.

Josh Lancaster thought that the workshop's strategies "showed students a better way to do foreground, middle

ground, background. Layering seems to be of help." As an exercise, beginning with a collage technique might be favorable. Josh liked the new way of handling spatial relationships.

My conversation with Courtney brought out the compositional factors—establishing a setting that shows depth in a fantastical way, and making connections between things that are not normally connected. Disparate things come together, and cohesion forms among the elements. The objects become grounded by their connection to the setting. Courtney favors utilizing multiple sources of images—books, magazines, internet, photographs, memorabilia.

Clearly this retreat rewarded the participants with new inspirations for their own art work, as well as for ideas to incorporate in student art projects. In conclusion, Marvin Pauls said, "Being here we inspire each other to learn and to do more."

It's too bad if you missed this retreat; however, I'm hoping there's sufficient description here to prompt your art brain in new directions.





Brushing aside the remnants of a once proud hairline the fastidious gentleman in an expensive suit sat in legs-crossed contrast to his sleek white chair. Regaling the 7000 strong audience of ardent admirers with tales of counterculture glory days, Peter Max slightly betrayed the aura by his more pedestrian concerns of accumulating wealth. Through the pock-marked hubris of an artistic icon, a national convention began. Out of the grand ballroom poured art teachers from around the United States. They spilled into the conference rooms and concert halls of the Midtown Hilton and the neighboring sky-scraping Sheraton.

good fortune and Marvin's good will I received a rare opportunity to marvel at the soaring edifices cast in stone and steel, not to mention the extraordinary professional opportunity of twisting my teaching techniques into something acceptable.



Coffee-fueled attendees bustling from one room to the next, hour after hour from 9 am to 9 pm for four days absorbing, revering, and occasionally panning, art techniques as diverse as killer sketchbooks, to "Strangers in a Strange



NAEA: New York, NY

Feb 29-March 4 2012

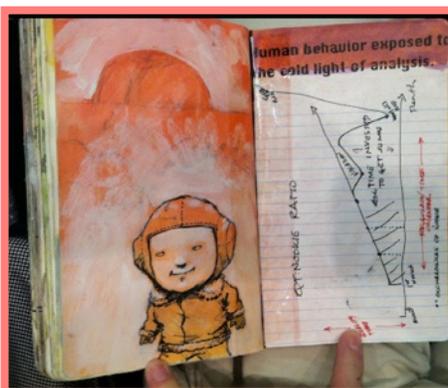
A recollection by Christopher Courtney



Land" lectures on the fate of higher education, among others added to the frenetic New York tumult. You could tell when



We self-righteously bypassed Peter Max's autograph line in favor of headier pursuits. Later, we vindicated our prescience, when a conference mate revealed she "schlepped" a 41-year-old Peter Max clock all the way to New York only to be told he would not sign it. He only signed the \$40 brand new books. Opportunist. Meanwhile, Marvin went on a tour of Chelsea's bulging art galleries and I went to a multitude of conferences. I saw "Making the Most of Creative Discoveries: AP Studio Art-based Research", "Portfolio Perspectives", "Jean Shin: Artist Series, Installation Artist", "New Perspectives on Teaching Advanced Drawing in a High School Program", and "Creating a Culture of Sketchbooks in a High School Art Program". I realized that even at the national conference level a disparity exists in the quality of presentations. Some made me wonder if I could ever compete. So, I did what any self-respecting lout would do, I loudly decried the use of student ringers, and their bounty of time, or (my favorite) obscene budgets. Other presenters made me feel superior. Turns out, I can embody hubris as easily as Peter Max. Marvin returned from Chelsea wide-eyed and full of pizza. "Basically" he admonished "I can't show any contemporary art in class because it's all school inappropriate". We consoled ourselves with a visit to MOMA



art teachers skipped sessions by the bevy of neon-yellow deep-well give-away bags haunting the concrete canyons of Manhattan each screaming 'I am a tourist, please mug me'. Fortunately, New Yorkers were nicer than expected. No mischief ensued. Into this environment, Marvin and I plunged, tired, but excited enough to take a rain-splattered walk through Times Square, 30 Rock, and Grand Central Station. I was camera happy. Possessed of remarkable





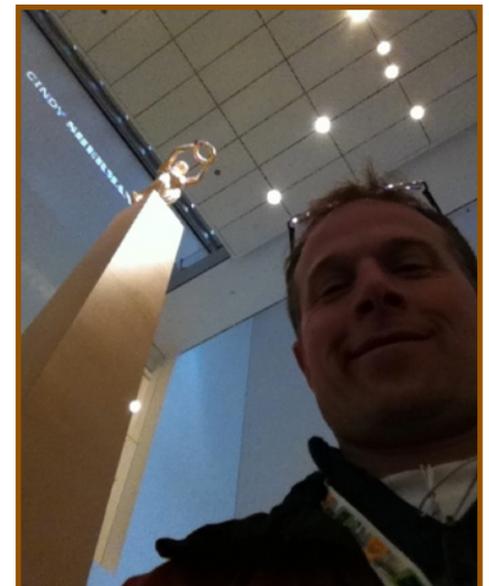
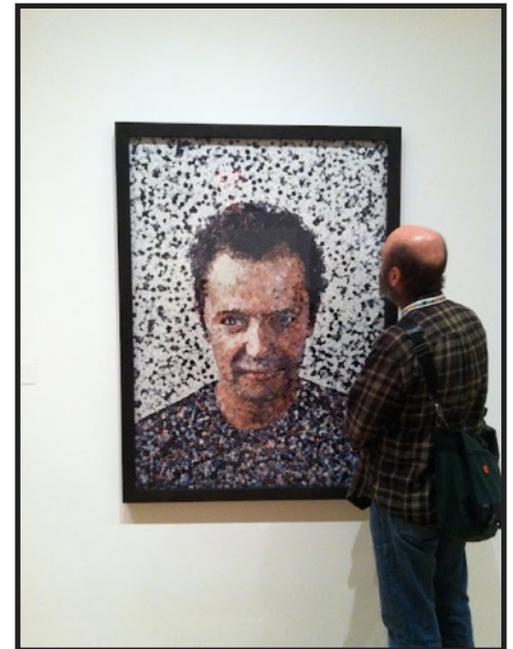
just steps down the street. MOMA was crowded. We saw works featured in Art 21 as well as a few Diego Rivera's, but hunger and agoraphobia soon chased us from the building. We attended evening sessions and then found an adult beverage or two.

Day two started with Janine Antoni. A conceptual performance artist she stood slight and demure before the throng of badly behaving art teachers in the Grand Ballroom. Soft-spoken with hair perpetually determined to obscure her face, she let her grace flow. It washed over the audience in a quiet tide. By the time she stopped a sea of respect lapped before her. An auspicious beginning to a day culminating, after many sessions, in a trip to the Met. Halls of pyramid stone and Persian daggers beckoned and did not disappoint. Marvin and I generally geeked out over the Ingres' grisaille *Odalisque*, the Sargent works, and a set of satirical prints we liked so well we bought the book. It was hard to leave the modern wing with its Picasso's and Brancusi's, in no small part due to the labyrinthine building, oh yes, and our artistic dedication. Returning to an evening session we experienced 101 things to do with Golden Acrylics. By 9:30pm, worn out, we traipsed back to the Sheraton to rest up for Chuck.

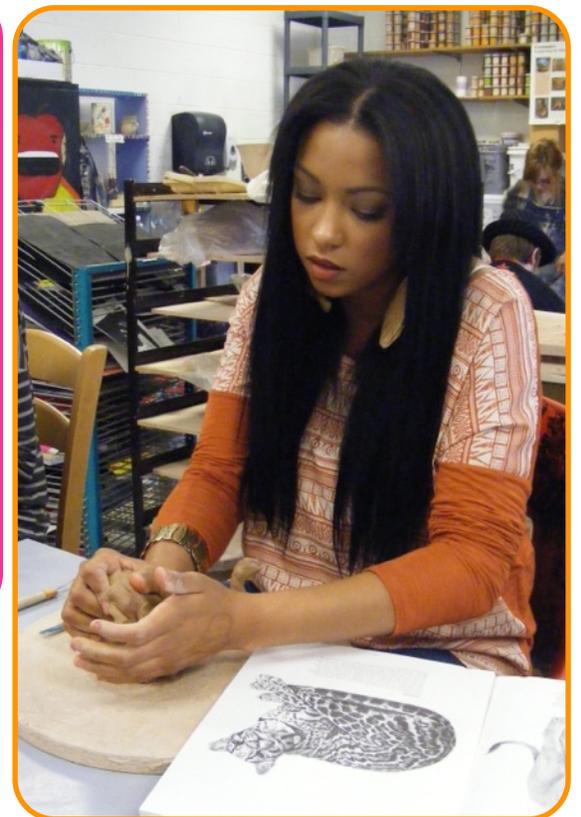
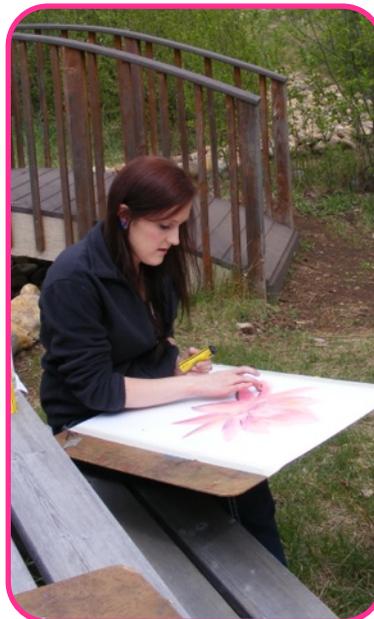
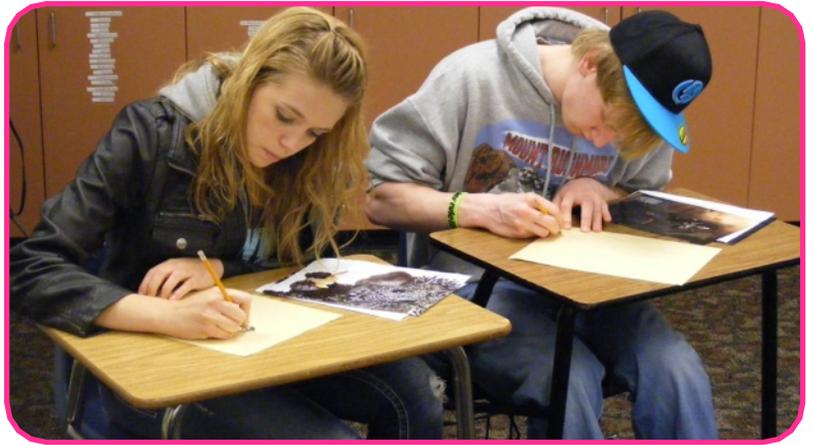


Chuck Close wheeled in to thunderous applause, subsequently proving he deserved it. Recounting his life, a theme emerged; work. Words wove together in patterns of pragmatic creativity. WORK. Work every day. Just get in there and work. No one left that hall uninspired. Another day of sessions and a trip or two through the exhibitors left my artistic interest and stamina drained. Marvin of course soldiered on, soaking up as many ideas as his able faculties could absorb. In late afternoon we braved MOMA once again, getting in trouble in Cindy Sherman's exhibit for taking pictures. Later, we closely inspected the DaDaists. Afterwards, I skipped out of an evening session to attend the theatre. My Dad gave me some money to see a Broadway play so I sat enthralled in "Wicked". Dreamily, I returned to sleep. One more day would bring a set of amazing young people and a flight home.

The young people represented alumni of Scholastic arts awards and scholarships. An environmentalist sparkling with incredible verve preceded a toymaker and an astro-physicist. Eloquent, funny, and humble they embodied the importance of a creative life, promoting the future leadership in valuing art as a necessary method for resolving life's most pernicious problems. These speakers sounded pitch perfect harmonies, encapsulating work and creativity to close a national caucus with style and hope.



MAI 2012: ART STOCK IN FLORENCE!



COME JOIN THE FUN AT MAI:2013

CM Russell High School

Great Falls

April 26 and 27, 2013

Details to come!