



News from Elmhurst Artists' Guild

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Elmhurst Artists' Guild

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“Collections” – The Art of Joan Ladendorf Featured at the EAG Gallery in March

The Elmhurst Artists' Guild (“EAG”) will host “Collections,” a solo exhibition featuring the art of Joan Ladendorf. The show will include a selection of her past and present work including her latest in photo collage. The show runs from March 3rd through March 29th, 2019 in the EAG Gallery at the Elmhurst Art Museum (EAM), 150 S. Cottage Hill Ave., Elmhurst. The public is invited to the opening reception on Friday, March 8th from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

Joan Ladendorf is a self-taught artist who resides in Hanover Park. The EAG solo show "Collections" will feature a variety of her artistic styles that reveal a penchant for collecting unique oddities. Ladendorf admits that she “tends to overdo,” and amasses hundreds of whatever she's collecting. This can be textural images, fabrics with scattered patterns, Funko POP figures, books, Star Wars stuff, bowls and dishes with feet, red stones, or retro cocktail glasses.

Ladendorf began her creative career in theater costuming and graphic design. She then progressed through traditional quilt-making and later experimented with various art quilt techniques and styles. Her lively abstract compositions display a passion for shape and color and incorporate an extensive fabric palette numbering over 12,000 pieces of fabric.

Later, the artist turned to photography, ultimately capturing thousands of images from places such as the creek in her own backyard, auto junkyards, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Spring Valley Nature Center, and the Illinois Railway Museum. Before long, her traditional photographs became fodder for more complex digital art using Photoshop software.

Two years ago, bored with sitting at a computer, Ladendorf once again allowed her creativity to expand. She began exploring abstract paper collage techniques featuring her own hand-painted, repurposed papers. Currently, Ladendorf is back on the computer creating what she likes to call "Photo Collage," making use of her vast collection of interesting landscapes, textures, and shapes. She states she is “creating visions, monsters, and creatures.” It should be noted that her visions are stunning and

otherworldly, and her monsters and creatures tend to be of the sympathetic and whimsical variety. Most recently she created a series of abstract computer art inspired by her travels and the beauty of Santa Fe, NM.

Ladendorf's work has been featured in area galleries since 2005. She has participated in many juried fine art shows over the past ten years, winning multiple awards. Her abstract quilts were featured in *Quilters Newsletter Magazine*, *American Quilter*, and *Fiberarts Design Book 7*. Her photography has been featured in *B&W Magazine* and *Practical Photoshop Magazine*. More recently, her "Juxtae" series was featured in the December 2018 of *B&W Magazine*. Her art is also in private and public collections, including Harper College and Edward Hospital. You can view current and past work on her website joanladendorf.com.

The exhibition can be viewed during regular museum hours, Tuesday through Sunday from 11am to 5pm. While admission to the EAG Gallery is always free, admission to the Elmhurst Art Museum is \$12 for adults, and \$10 for seniors. EAM offers free admission to students, children under 18, as well as members of either EAG or EAM. All visitors to EAM are admitted free on the first Friday of each month. More information is available at elmhurstartistsguild.org and elmhurstmuseum.org.

The Elmhurst Artists' Guild is a not-for-profit organization that runs the EAG Gallery which features contemporary works of art in a variety of styles and media. In addition to four member shows each year, the guild hosts exhibitions of individual member's artwork and invitational shows for significant local artists. EAG welcomes new members.

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Attached images:

Joan Ladendorf, *Home Sweet Home*, 2018

Joan Ladendorf, *Monsters Glin Jones*, 2018

Joan Ladendorf, *Spooner Reconstruction*, 2018

Joan Ladendorf, *Mel Catches a Walleye*, 2018