

Dear Guild Members,

We hope this issue of Portfolio finds you well! The **Summer 2020** issue features a Spotlight on Sylvia Peters, long time KMA and Guild member and patron, as well as a recap of **Winter 2020** events. Who would have ever thought that we would be where we are today? Our new normal consists of Zoom meetings, social distancing and wearing facial coverings due to Covid-19. One thing the KMA Guild does well and enjoys so much is bringing people together and we cannot do that right now. The Guild Board is in the process reaching out to you, our treasured Guild members. We want you to know that we are thinking of you and that we miss our time together! We will continue to reach out and keep you updated for Fall 2020 programs and events. **Artists on Location: A Plein Air Painting Event**, is planned for Friday evening, October 2, 2020, mark your calendars and look for more information as we get closer to the event. The KMA is finalizing plans to reopen the museum in early July. Members will be the first to know dates and times for the reopening.

All Best,

Johnnie Creel and Karen Mann
Guild Co-Presidents, 2020-21

Guild Happenings Winter 2020



Richard talks during a studio tour

Richard Jolley and Tommie Rush: Art Glass Studio Tour

Thursday, February 20, Guild members gathered at the art glass studio of Richard Jolley and Tommie Rush as they shared their experiences in working with hot formed glass, custom color blends and textures to give desired effects to each piece. Richard's artworks tell stories of humanity in the traditional classic narrative and Tommie's botanical glass works celebrates nature.

The tour began on the ground level hot shop where all the amazing glass creations are produced among the scattered components that just did not make the cut and others are waiting for assembly. After an interactive conversation, Richard lead the group to the upstairs loft to view his large format drawings and semi-completed sculpted artworks.

Richard and Tommie have been instrumental in artistic development in our community, as well as obtained national and international recognition. They keep a continually active schedule of workshops and studio time, so we are incredibly grateful to them both for their hospitality. A special thank you goes out to Marga and Jay McBride and Becca Sparks for their generosity of providing van transportation to and from the studio on a snowy day.



Richard and Tommie talk with guests in the hot shop

Guild Happenings Winter 2020 *(cont'd from page 1)*

Tour of Historic Westwood and New Membership Program

Thursday, March 12, Membership chairs Emily Cox and Linda Haynes hosted a tour and luncheon of Historic Westwood for members and guests who were invited to experience the art and décor of this significant home. This luncheon was well received and brought in several new members to the Guild. More events to welcome members to the Guild are planned for the next year.



Luncheon and tour of Historic Westwood

KMA GUILD UPDATE - "Make a Tile for a Child at KMA" (October 2019)



All Together Now, tiled art project created for East Tennessee Children's Hospital

Many of you have wondered about the Guild's tiled art project created by Marga McBride and Susan Watson for the East Tennessee Children's Hospital. Fortunately, all the tiles survived the firing and placed within a custom triptych frame fabricated by Jay McBride with the assistance of Seth Simmerman. The work entitled "All Together Now" 2019-2020 will be hung at the entrance of the newly created Simulation/Innovation Center. A Guild viewing event will be planned for a future date.

KMA Guild Board 2020 - 2021 Slate of Officers

Co-Presidents.....	Johnnie Creel Karen Mann	Program Chairs	Suzanne Jack Wendy Ellis
Co-Presidents Elect.....	Johnnie Creel and Emily Cox	Membership Chairs	Teressia Blair Emily Cox
Past President.....	Karen Mann	Hospitality Chairs.....	Elizabeth Grant Judy Doyle
Treasurer	Pam Peters	Volunteer Placement Chairs.....	Tamara Warner Helen Hewitt
Asst. Treasurer	Gail Van Hoozier	Parliamentarian.....	Susan Farris
Recording Secretary.....	Harriet Hodge	Members at Large	Paige Troutman Janet Greer
Asst. Rec. Secretary	Conni Collins	Art House Representative.....	Mollie Turner
Corresponding Secretary.....	Lisa Carroll	HHT Co-Chair	Johnnie Creel
Nominating Chair	Maribeth Ergen	HHT Home Selection Chair	Barbara Apking
Yearbook Chair.....	Courtney Jernigan	AOL Co-Chairs	Carol Coode Sandy Steer
Newsletter Chairs.....	Mary Morris Sandy Steer		

Spotlight - Sylvia Peters

Meet Sylvia Peters: artist, educator, civil rights activist, art collector, community leader, mentor, "Dancing Queen" and known also as *The Gray Diva*.

Sylvia is one who seizes opportunities at the right time, take risks without fear, and works difficult tasks without complaining. These core values have carried her through life and found special merit when she met with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who encouraged her to serve the people of her community. Sylvia returned to southside Chicago and began teaching inner city students when she capitalized on the use of a closed-circuit television studio being used to broadcast lessons to inner-city schools. Here, she found herself auspiciously placed to script and produce the first curriculum of Negro History, a subject which had long been excluded from school textbooks. Sylvia made history in bringing African American history to these students. Sylvia states, "I wrote other scripts for broadcast about influential African Americans who lived and worked in Chicago. Artists, musicians, and writers flocked to our schools because of those video tapes and I became known for my production of great tributes to Negro History."



Sylvia Peters

While Principle for *The Alexandre Dumas Elementary School* in Chicago, Sylvia was featured in the documentary film "See Dick and Jane Lie Cheat and Steal", which highlighted a transformational approach to elementary education, grounded in manners, morals and character education, and providing academic excellence to minority students in Chicago. The film caught the attention of Chris Whittle, who asked Sylvia to join him for *The Edison Project* as a Founding Partner. Sylvia states, "it was an exciting opportunity to frame other school reform initiatives and speak to audiences from coast to coast. I believe that I can do anything because that voice, compassion and drive borne so long ago in Chicago's community of Cabrini-Greene is still a part of me." Sylvia met Jan Peters while teaching together. They were married in 1969 and soon started buying art and supporting emerging artists while they were living in Chicago. Sylvia's warmth and inclusiveness draws people toward her and over the years, she has created wide and growing network of students, artists, and friends of all walks, several of whom have become successful within the community and beyond. Sylvia and Jan are longtime members of the KMA, and Sylvia served as president for the Guild and Board member of Trustees. Sylvia is recognized as a **Hometown Hero** by Federal Bank, and she and Jan are recipients of the James Clayton Award in 2016, for their extraordinary support for the KMA.

Using her visionary skills, Sylvia achieves her most heartfelt initiative to date, *Gathering Light: The Delaney Project*. Sylvia and leaders from Beck Cultural Center, The Links, Inc., UT, ETHC, KSO, Marble City Opera, City of Knoxville, and the Wells International Foundation, volunteered their time and support, raising funds to bring recognition to the Delaney brother's lives and their significance to the artworld. The Delaney Project brings people together to experience and exchange multi-cultural ideas through the collaborative of events and programs, including the premier of Marble City Opera's *ShadowLight*. Bravo Sylvia!

The Guild of the Knoxville Museum of Art
1050 World's Fair Park Drive
Knoxville, TN 37916

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Renew Your Membership Today!



Centennial Ducks by Kevin Menck, 2020 Featured Artist



Art Show and Sale
Friday, October 2, 2020 ♦ 5:00–9:00PM
Juried Artists ♦ Free Admission ♦ Cash Bar
Knoxville Museum of Art
1050 World's Fair Park Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee