

# INK NEWS

Volume 41 Issue 08, August 2020



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- **The Outer Space brings socially distanced poster art to Arcata**
- **Art educator Maureen McGarry teaches through the pandemic**



We're getting better at these Zoom things. Our July Board meeting included our Annual Meeting in addition to a regular meeting with a DreamMaker presentation: Rise and Shine. We are getting some really great DreamMaker inquiries. Rise and Shine was happily adopted by the Board.

Rise and Shine's mission is to make the arts (dance, music, performance, and painting/physical art) accessible to our low-income youth in order to build both meaningful exposure and lasting community relationships. The project director is Holly McLaughlin, a teacher at Alice Birney School, who has witnessed the emotional impact and dislocation being experienced by children in families that cannot afford "extras" like art supplies and experiences. If you would like to learn more about this project or to get involved, contact Holly at [hollyrmclaughlin@gmail.com](mailto:hollyrmclaughlin@gmail.com).

This month, we are launching a new program: Funds for Artists' Resilience, or FAR. It is inspired by the 1930s Work Projects Administration. Per Wikipedia: "In one project, Federal Project Number One, the WPA employed musicians, artists, writers, actors and directors in large arts, drama, media, and literacy projects. The five projects dedicated to these were: the Federal Writers' Project (FWP), the Historical Records Survey (HRS), the Federal Theatre Project (FTP), the Federal Music Project (FMP), and the Federal Art Project (FAP)."

We received seed funds from the Humboldt Area and Wild Rivers Foundations' COVID-19 Funds to fund public arts projects in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties that will aid in the healing and rebuilding of these communities. It is an exciting program that we hope will continue far beyond present circumstances as we deal with the pandemic and reckon with the legacies of an inherently unjust society's impact on Black, Indigenous and People of Color. If you would like to make a contribution in support of this program, please contact Libby at [libby@inkpeople.org](mailto:libby@inkpeople.org) or Gabrielle at [gabrielle@inkpeople.org](mailto:gabrielle@inkpeople.org).

We are writing grant proposals, planning fundraisers, revamping our membership program, and starting to plan for "hybrid" art exhibitions. It's busy here. If you would like to come see us, please make an appointment, arrive masked, and practice physical distancing. We have lots of hand sanitizer and clean our surfaces regularly and thoroughly. You need to make an appointment because we have to monitor the number of people in the building. Thank you for helping to keep us all safe, healthy, and happy.



# AUGUST 2020 FEATURES



Above: “Fairie Tree in the Connemara,” 2017, watercolor by Maureen McGarry.

Cover: “Flying Pig” photography by Licken Rossi, 2020, from the Outer Space Arcata’s poster exhibition.

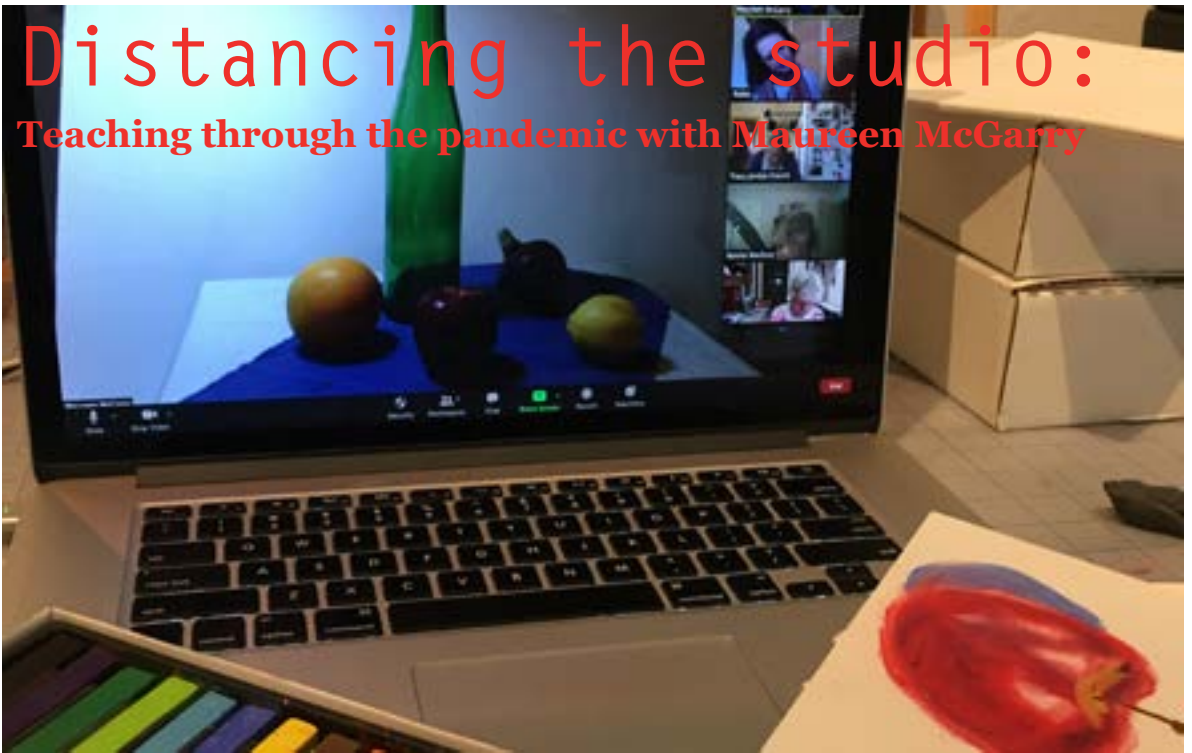
- **p. 2: Ink Spawn**
- **p. 4: How to teach through a pandemic**
- **p. 7: The Outer Space takes it outside**
- **p. 8: “Distancing”**
- **p. 10: Printmakers unite against racism**

## **Mission Statement**

The Ink People changes lives by connecting our communities with resources for cultural development. We encourage people to exercise their humanity, build civic discourse, and engage their creative potential.

# Distancing the studio:

## Teaching through the pandemic with Maureen McGarry



**P**ainter and art educator Maureen McGarry has taught art to people of all ages, but the COVID-19 pandemic presented her — and her newest students — with some novel challenges.

McGarry was elated when the DreamMaker project she created, Art for the Young at Heart, received a grant from the California Arts Council this spring. She had previously written a proposal to offer free watercolor painting classes to senior residents in area assisted living homes. These classes would be similar to ones that the artist, a seasoned watercolorist, had taught before. After graduating from Humboldt State University with a degree in painting in the late 1970s, McGarry had gone on to receive a teaching credential and a master's degree in art. After teaching art to children in local schools for several decades, she pursued a graduate degree in gerontology and began teaching classes for area residents in the over-50 age group after receiving her degree in 2012.

“Drawing and painting is my own focus,” she explained. “I’ve taught kids for decades, and the lessons I do with adults are very similar to what I do with kids in schools: communicating technique and the elements of basic design.”

But then the pandemic hit, and what had been a straightforward teaching assignment became more complex. The class had originally been scheduled to meet in a community center, but once California’s shelter-in-place order went into effect, McGarry reconfigured her approach so she could teach the class in a way that maintained social distancing requirements.

Fortunately, Zoom is compatible with watercolor. “When people are at home with the computer, the only thing that can spill is water. You can sit down at a desk with a computer or a tablet and your watercolor block, and it’s manageable. You don’t need an easel or a dropcloth.”

*Continued on p. 11.*

*Photo credit: Maureen McGarry.*



Students aged 12-26 can now work with our  
mentors online and in person one-on-one!



*Learning must go on!*

# MARZ NOW OPEN ONLINE/FACE-TO-FACE BY APPOINTMENT

Meet with our Video and Music Mentors  
online or make an appointment and  
continue the MARZ experience!

**CONTACT US VIA EMAIL OR  
MESSAGE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!

General: [marzproject@inkpeople.org](mailto:marzproject@inkpeople.org)  
Video: [marzvideo@inkpeople.org](mailto:marzvideo@inkpeople.org)  
Music: [marzmusic@inkpeople.org](mailto:marzmusic@inkpeople.org)

THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL LOOK A LITTLE DIFFERENT,  
BUT WE ARE STILL BRINGING MURALS TO EUREKA!

# EUREKA STREET ART FESTIVAL

MURAL BY NICK SWEETMAN, ESSA 2019

**August 10 - 15, 2020**

The Henderson Center Neighborhood, Eureka

## HOW YOU CAN "DO" THE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR:

### Daily Virtual Art Walks: 5:30pm

Live-Stream on Facebook  
+ find videos on our website

### Self-Guided Mural Tour

Grab a map from our website or around Henderson Center + wander the Festival area to see the murals being painted throughout the week.

### ...and while you're there...

support the businesses in Henderson Center!

\*HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE: WEAR A FACE MASK,  
OBSERVE PHYSICAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES,  
AND STAY HOME IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL \*



[WWW.EUREKASTREETARTFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.EUREKASTREETARTFESTIVAL.COM)

## EUREKA STREET ART FESTIVAL: AUGUST 10 - 15, 2020



- |   |   |   |                            |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES  | 2. MURAL BY EVELYN, TAVANA, CA            | 3. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES  | 4. THE PINKIE, TAVANA, CA  |
| 5. MELITA, TAVANA, MOUNTAINVIEW, CA       | 6. JAMES GARY, MOUNTAINVIEW, CA           | 7. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES  | 8. THE PINKIE, TAVANA, CA  |
| 9. LAILA, KATEY, BETHANNA, CA             | 10. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES | 11. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES | 12. THE PINKIE, TAVANA, CA |
| 13. ALICE, ALICE, MOUNTAINVIEW, CA        | 14. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES | 15. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES | 16. THE PINKIE, TAVANA, CA |
| 17. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES | 18. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES | 19. CONWALL STREET MURAL BY JESSICA GILES | 20. THE PINKIE, TAVANA, CA |

### KEY

- MURAL
- CONWALL STREET MURAL
- ★ FESTIVAL HQ





# Taking It Outside:

## The Outer Space brings public poster art to Arcata

Art venues emptied this summer, then reopened, only to close again almost immediately in response to a shelter-in-place order as COVID-19 case numbers began to climb. Arcatans got some respite from the art drought in July thanks to an open-air poster exhibition organized by the Outer Space Arcata artists' collective.

Outer Space Arcata, a DreamMaker Project of the Ink People Center for the Arts, is a volunteer-run arts and music nonprofit that aims to create all-ages safer-spaces with the goal of "representing under-represented voices." The group exhibition of posters on view in the Arcata alley between H and I Streets, between Don's Donuts and Northtown Books, showcases what the group calls its Do-It-Together (D.I.T.) ethos.

Twelve large-scale inkjet prints along the alleyway reproduce charcoal drawings, pen-and-ink illustrations, photo collages and a still life with a mask at center. They have been equalized for display by being reproduced this way, as big prints pasted on the scarred brick walls of the buildings that frame the alley.

The story of how the show came together highlights the challenges grassroots arts organizations face, as well as the flexibility that allows them to survive. Taylor Snowberger of the Outer Space Arcata explained that the exhibition, funded by a grant from the California Center for Cultural Innovation and Entrepreneurship, had originally been conceived for an indoor gallery space. But those

*Continued on p. 9.*

*Above: "Happy 21st, Man!" by Sullivan Tustison. 7*

## “Distancing”

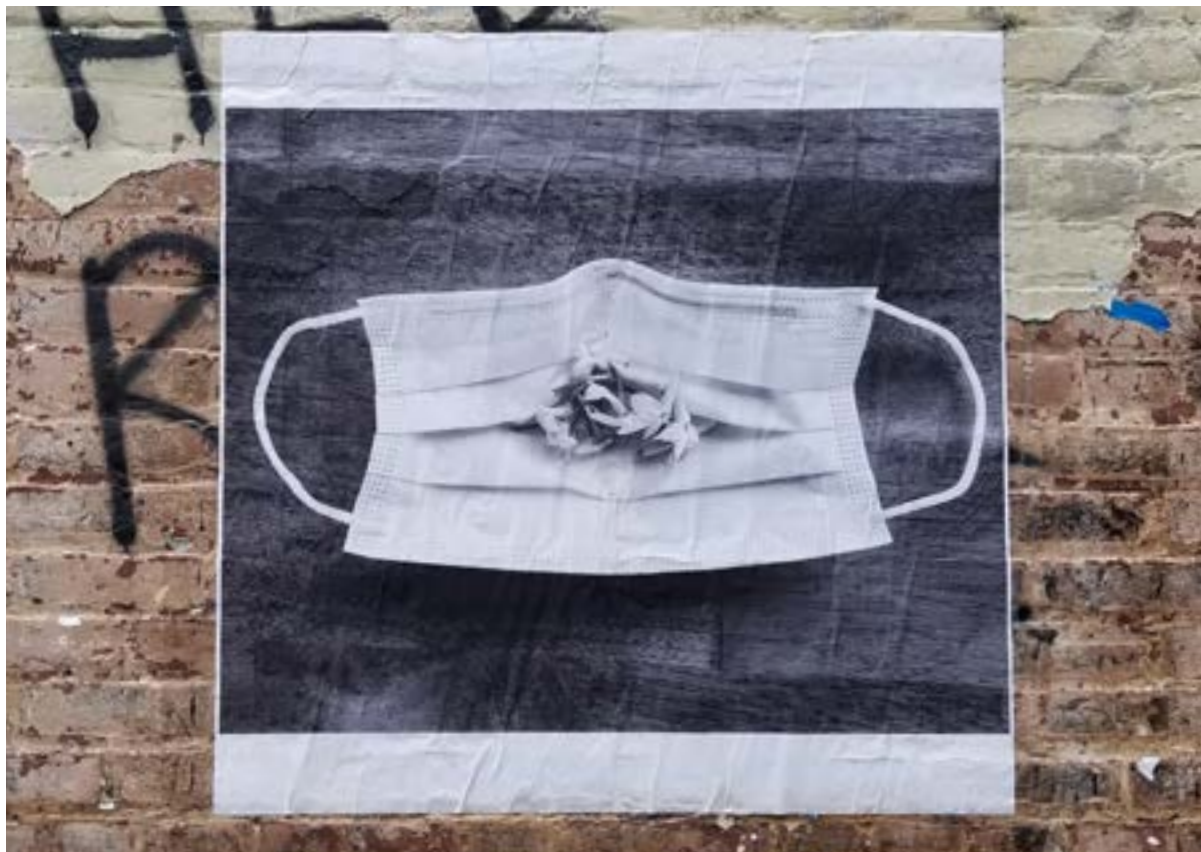
Jason M. Marak

Distance perches on dark cliffs above gnashing seas overlooking scattered eternity. Molted, cracked beak, dead eyes. But make no mistake, she sees. And she demands to be counted: feet, furlongs, meters, miles, six of one, half dozen of the other. Distance is distance — by definition, the space between: Point A, Point B. Bridge of Sighs, Caesars Palace pool. Lovers separated by ten steps across a crowded cocktail party or by the mysterious chasm of time. Makes no difference. Both spans measurable and felt. She’s powerful. But here’s the trick: She owns a weakness great as Achilles. You see, it’s like they say, takes two to tango. No destination, no distance. No point of departure, same math. A magnet, one tick beyond attraction’s elemental pull is no longer consumed by the tug. But at heart, electrons still hum, content with knowledge of the other.

*‘Behind the Mask: 40 Quarantine Poems from Humboldt County,’ a new chapbook edited by writer Anne Fricke and Eureka’s Poet Laureate David Holper, presents lyrical reflections by local poets on community, hope, isolation, division, racial injustice, and social inequality.*

Download copies at <https://www.inkpeople.org/eureka-poets>





plans changed when the summer was turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic, Black Lives Matter protests, and civic unrest nationwide.

Snowberger, who graduated recently from Humboldt State University with a degree in education, is interested in points of intersection between visual art and social practice. Her original plan was to issue a call for proposals related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but “the call went out three days before the BLM movement exploded,” and public spaces across the nation began to fill with people protesting the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others at the hands of police. Snowberger decided to expand the concept of the exhibition.

The posters figure our “new normal” in different ways. Shared themes include a preoccupation with linked systems and feedback loops. A gra-

phic by Nikki Harris turns the ancient image of the ouroboros, a snake devouring its own tail, into a sign for infinity.

Other artworks picture impediments to flow. Tania Fonseca’s collage of a masked woman who sits beneath an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, framed by palms, is titled “Stay Home (But it’s 700 Miles Away).” “Miasma,” by Jacquelyn Stuber, is a still life of a medical mask with a spray of flowers nestled in its central fold: pretty, but also a reminder of the role such posies served in past eras as talismanic would-be antidotes to noxious vapors. “Q: ‘what feelings have influenced you to create the artwork?’ A: ‘fear of death and bad breath,’” the artist deadpanned.

A detail-rich illustration by Sullivan Tustison takes on the mixed feelings elicited by Zoom cele-

*Continued on p.11.*

*Above: “Miasma,” by Jacquelyn Stuber. 9*



## Printmakers unite against racism

The Vandercook 219OS letterpress emits a mechanical *ka-chunk*, and a print is born. Lynn Jones reaches for a wet black broadsheet with neat rows of center-justified white text and holds it gingerly as it peels, glistening, from the roller.

Jones is pulling prints in her Old Town Eureka shop, Just My Type Letterpress. She is taking part in Printmakers Against Racism, an event that organized printmaking artists around the world to create original prints for a global virtual art sale to raise money in support of the fight to end systemic racism.

Seventy-five percent of proceeds from sales of Jones's print "What We Believe" will benefit Justice for Josiah and Black Humboldt, a Dre-

amMaker Project of the Ink People Center for the Arts. Jones carved the lettering by hand from a linoleum block ("It only took about sixteen hours spread out over nine days") and printed the first edition of forty one at a time, double inking each sheet to ensure extra-velvety blacks.

Printmakers Against Racism, launched by Desiree Aspiras, a therapist, educator, and printmaker in San Diego, brought together more than 200 printmakers from 100 cities, eleven countries, and four continents to support organizations that fight against systemic racism in their communities.

For more information see [justmytypeletterpress.com/activism/blmprint](https://justmytypeletterpress.com/activism/blmprint)

*continued from p. 9.*

brations. And Elizabeth Knaus's simple line drawing of an origami crane communicates both a desire for peace and the crafty spirit of self-reliance imposed on everyone by the times.

Lisken Rossi's street scene "Flying Pig," shot on 35 millimeter film with a Diana Mini, juxtaposes the Arcata Theatre Lounge's G Street marquee with an inflatable cartoon on a foregrounded rooftop. It speaks optimism with regard to unlikely but serendipitous outcomes - a spirit that responds to the pandemic, while being wholly in keeping with Outer Space's stated goal of making "radical beautiful little acts of opposition to the drudgery of mainstream life." §

*continued from p. 4.*

Some program participants had difficulty accessing computers to take part in weekly Zoom lessons, so McGarry set about raising money to acquire tablets. Some seniors, she allowed, "aren't used to the technology," which has presented its own challenge.

McGarry relies on experts in her family to get her own skills up to speed. "I've been practicing with my nieces, grandnieces, and nephews, and it's great — they are teaching me so much about Zoom."

For some older people, quarantine has amplified tech savvy. "I have a friend who's in her 80s, and every time I stop by to check in, she's on a computer Zooming with someone," McGarry said. "She is scared, and she does not want to go out. But this technology is a godsend for her. It has been a lifesaver for a lot of people."

"Seniors are going through a lot right now," McGarry points out. "And they're a group that is, sadly, so often forgotten." She's hoping that her watercolor classes reach "parents, grandparents, and aging people from all walks of life."

The creative act of painting "can help process some of the negative emotions older people may be experiencing. Maybe we can't remove fear and anxiety entirely, but we can alleviate them." §

*Art for the Young at Heart is offering watercolor painting classes for senior citizens starting in November. Contact [maureen@totalbehavioralhealth.us](mailto:maureen@totalbehavioralhealth.us).*

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## Workshops & Classes

### ARISING HOLISTIC CENTER

Yoga videos and meditations

YouTube: [Arising Holistic Center](#)

Facebook: [Arising](#)

### ENGLISH EXPRESS SPRING 2020

English Language Classes for Adults

Clases de Inglés para adultos

NEW! English Express classes, online!

Tuesdays 7-8 pm, Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am.

Everyone is welcome!

Classes are FREE. Join anytime.

For more information/Para más información

[englishexpresshumboldt.org](http://englishexpresshumboldt.org)

Facebook: [English Express](#)

(707) 443-5021

### HUMBOLDT UKULELE GROUP

Learn to play in a relaxed group setting

Facebook: Humboldt Ukulele Group for online meetups and resources

Contact Deanna: [dsander1@arcatanet.com](mailto:dsander1@arcatanet.com)

### KARUK LANGUAGE CLASSES WITH JULIAN LANG

Thursdays 5:15-6:15 pm ONLINE

Facebook: [Karuk Language Project](#)

### SINGING WITH HUMBOLDT SINGS

Come sing in a relaxed, non-performative group setting—no experience necessary.

Facebook: [Humboldt SINGS](#) for virtual song circles

[humboldtsings@gmail.com](mailto:humboldtsings@gmail.com)

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# INK NEWS

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