

Local artists win awards, recognition

Congratulations are in order!

Four area artists have been named winners of the Racine Art Museum's 2016 Artist Fellowships awards. They are Kirsten Bartel of Racine, and Tim Abel, Martin Antaramian and Lisa Bigalke, all of Kenosha.

What this means for the artists (and the community) is that each will be awarded \$2,500 to use for any expenses that will assist in the development of new work and the advancement of their artistic careers (supplies, studio rental, travel etc.). It also means that their work will be exhibited in concurrent, solo shows at RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, 2519 Northwestern Ave., running Aug. 25 through Nov. 25, 2017.

The awards, which are sponsored by a grant from the Osborne and Seckic Family Foundation, aim to foster the continued creative and professional development of area artists by increasing critical attention and exposure for them. And, in turn, the awards showcase the diversity and vitality of the visual arts community in Racine



SCENE & HEARD
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and Kenosha.

So far, the artwork of the 2016 recipients includes a range of styles and media, including sewn paper collages, wooden sculptures, photography and digital media, printmaking, book arts and more. We look forward to seeing the work their fellowship awards inspire.

RAM's 2016 fellowships mark the third round of the biennial selection program.

Next entry deadline will be in January 2018. For more about the RAM Artist Fellowships, go to www.ramart.org.

Musical congratulations

The Belle City Brassworks — Racine's own brass band — recently issued its annual John Hemkes Memorial Scholarship awards to high school musicians in the Racine/Kenosha area. This year's winners are two Tremper High School brass players — Mike Krellwitz, tuba (first place) and Kevin Koesser, French horn (second place), and Waterford High School French horn player Adam Nelson (third place).

In addition to their monetary awards,

these students get the chance to perform with the Brassworks in its John Hemkes Memorial Concert, which will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 20, in the Bedford Concert Hall at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 900 Wood Road, Somers. The 45-plus piece band and its guests will perform a variety of music, custom arranged for brass band, including "With Clouds Descending" by Philip Sparke, "Into the Sky" by Stephen Bulla" and "Russian Sailors' Dance," arranged by Ken Norman. Tickets are just \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. For more about the Brassworks — which has been entertaining and educating here for 28 years — go to www.bellecitybrassworks.com.

National recognition

You may recall, back in January, when we introduced you to a relatively new area band called the Well-Known Strangers. Back then, the WKS were the featured act at the "Voices Against Trafficking" concert at Memorial Hall, benefiting the Racine Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Since then, the cello-infused, alternative pop/rock band has signed with a national management firm — FM Music Management, based in Chicago. This is

huge news for the Strangers, who said "We're hoping that this opens the doors we need to get our music across the nation."

As their name implies, the WKS feature six area musicians whose names are recognizable from their work with other area bands and combos — Joe Adamek (rhythm guitar), Betsy Ade (vocals, mandolin), Roger Gower (percussion, vocals), Sacia Jerome (cello, vocals), Ted Koth (lead guitar, banjo) and John Kulas (bass guitar). Adamek and Ade are the main songwriters, and the band describes its sound as being "reminiscent of familiar pop/rock of the 90s, while being expressively groundbreaking and melodically rich."

As they work their way into the national circuit, audiences here will have the opportunity to experience what they do at local shows scheduled for March 26 at Kenosha's Civil War Museum; April 1 at the Route 20 Outhouse; and April 30 at McAuliffe's Pub. For details and to listen, go to www.wellknownstrangers.com.

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