

Eight Local Artists Inspired By Island's Ambiance

By Leslie Rott

It is rare that chance meetings lead to lasting relationships, but that is how, more than 10 years ago, a group of local artists on the Island came together and became what is today the Mackinac 7. Coming from various academic and artistic backgrounds, the group was formed to use the Island and each other as an inspiration for their artistic expression.

Mackinac 7 is comprised of eight artists, Catherine Brockman, Maeve Croghan, Pam Finkel, Nicki Griffith, Katherine Hannabass, Marlee Musser, Marta Olson, and Pat Pulte. The group name is derived, however, from a Canadian art group in the 1920s and 1930s called the Group of 7, whose work many of the Mackinac 7 members admire.

"It was really the art that brought us together," said Maeve Croghan. "We have become a wonderful, close group of friends."

Marta Olson agreed. "The friendship is so important," she said.

Some of the members had no formal painting experience when the group was formed, and through their exhibits at the Murray Hotel and at the Mackinac Island Public Library, Islanders have watched the artists experiment with various media, techniques, and subject matter.

Catherine Brockman describes the group as being "like a band without a leader," however, she said the group is full of compassion, which makes it work.

The group enjoys getting together for outdoor painting sessions and weekend excursions to Canada and other northern venues, where they learn and paint together.

On Sunday, June 12, they hosted a reception for their art show at the Mackinac Island Art Gallery at Murray Hotel. The

show opened at the hotel on June 4 and will run through the end of June. It is free and open to the public.

The group will hold two other shows this summer; one July 3 through 18 at the Three Pines Studio in Cross Village and the other in August at the Mackinac Island Public Library.

Meet the Mackinac 7 Catherine (Cathy) Brockman

Mrs. Brockman is a summer resident on Mackinac Island. She resides in Arizona during the winter. She received her bachelor's degree in English literature with a minor in studio art from St. Catherine's in Saint Paul, Minnesota and her master's in psychology from the University of Wisconsin. She said she has been painting for about 20 years, ever since she finished working on her degrees. She always wanted to paint, but "circumstance intervened" and it took her longer than she thought to get started. Now she is a studio painter who enjoys abstract paintings. Painting for her is "spiritual, not commercial," she said, and she loves the Island as a "mystical place," which she discovered on her honeymoon.

Maeve Croghan

Ms. Croghan is originally from Alexandria, Virginia, and has spent summers on the Island her entire life. She now resides in California during the winter months. She describes herself as an "expressionist nature painter" and said Mackinac Island has inspired in her a sense of nature and the environment. She attended the San Francisco Art Institute Bachelor of Fine Arts Painting Program, the Portland Museum School, and the New College of California, where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She has studied at various art

schools around the world, including schools in Tuscany, Italy, and San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Ms. Croghan has been the recipient of several awards and her paintings have been in museum showings around the country, including Alaska, California, New Mexico, and Oregon. She owns Maeve's Arts on Market Street. To view her work, visit www.maevecroghan.com.

Pam Finkel

Mrs. Finkel has lived on the Island since 1981. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in printmaking from Albion College and teaches drawing and painting to Mackinac Island Public School students. Of her art, she said, "It's about revealing myself intimately and connecting with people through shared experience. I also love working with children and encouraging their self-revelation. Painting is simply the best way I've found to get along with myself." She resides at Woodbluff with her husband, Lee, and children, Jane and Tyler.

*Please turn to page 11



Maeve Croghan, Marta Olson, Pat Pulte, Catherine Brockman, Pam Finkel, and Katherine Hannabass pose at a reception for their art show at Murray Hotel Sunday, June 12. Not pictured are group members Nicki Griffith and Marlee Musser.

Photographers for Hire



Family Portraits
Group Photos ~ Anniversaries

We will meet you anywhere on the island

8x10 \$45⁰⁰ photo
Same Day Delivery

Hunters Creek at Mission Point
call for appointment 847-0246

The Carriage House Restaurant

at

Iroquois Hotel

Waterfront Verandah Dining

101 years of style and service



The Carriage House commands a stunning waterfront location and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner on the verandah or in the glass-enclosed dining room and piano bar.

At lunch, the Smoked Chicken Salad with Apples, Almonds, Currants and Gorgonzola Cheese.

For dinner, try our Pan-seared Diver Scallops with Lemongrass, Ginger, Vermouth and Frizzled Leeks or Maple Glazed Pork Tenderloin with Carmelized Apples, Calvados Sauce and Dauphinois Potatoes.

For a sweet ending to your day on Mackinac, try one of our special desserts; the Mile-High Lemon Meringue Pie or the Famous Iroquois Hot Fudge Ice Cream Puff.

Iroquois
ON THE BEACH

(906) - 847-3321

www.iroquoishotel.com



Licensed Insured

CRYDERMAN BUILDERS, INC.

~ Jeff Cryderman ~

New Homes • Remodeling • Garages
Additions • Roofing • Siding

ST. IGNACE (906) 643-7437



Luxurious Mackinac Island Homes

Specializing in Homes priced \$500,000+



Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors' Previews program is the leader for sales and marketing of luxury homes in northern Michigan. We closed 675 sales of homes priced \$350,000 or higher in the past 48 months. Over 40 of those homes were priced at \$1,000,000 or higher.

If you're interested in selling your home or condominium on Mackinac Island, you should work with the company that provides the best marketing exposure. Call Ken Neyer, Associate Broker, at (906) 643-1538

Visit us online at coldwellbankerpreviews.com.



Ken Neyer
Associate Broker
(906) 643-1538