



Confluence: The Newsletter of Artist/Writer Donna McVicar Kazo

Where my love for our natural world all comes together...Vol. 1, No. 1: Autumn 2009



Art and Miracles

We see so many images in our daily round that we have become oversaturated and jaded. With little effort, we view millions of images, static or moving, from every era in history and every country on earth. We take so much for granted. Yet with this embarrassment of riches, are we happier than people were hundreds, thousands, of years ago? Let's take a moment, a deep breath, and consider the vital alliance between Art and Miracles.

The First Miracle: humanity chose to accept that marks made on a surface represent something significant, as in, "Oh, that looks just like (it, her, him)!" Why do we believe in this? It's a miracle, but one so ingrained into our collective consciousness that we've lost our sense of wonder. Could we ever imagine the first artists, who used what they found in their limited worlds to make marks, shapes, objects—then suddenly made connections between their emotions, memories and thoughts? Is this the Second Miracle? Did they find acceptance in their societies? Or were they feared as magical, evil beings?

To create at any age, in any society, an artist must live in the flow of miracles. The most essential miracle is the transcendence of seeing as most people do to the development of what is called "The Artist's Eye" with its profound attention to light and detail.

Very young children enjoy making marks to help them understand their world, a similar experience to the first artists. Sadly, the older they get, the fewer their works of art. These fledgling artists are easily shot from the air by adults who often harshly criticize their artistic endeavors.

Childhood is a miracle itself, much less surviving it as an artist! It might have been a miracle that he was able to attend a single art class, or that she found a sympathetic family member to believe in her and back her up.

Then, how many hours did the artist put into learning the tools and techniques of the trade? Given our society's demands and distractions, just carving out time to hone artistic skill is a series of miracles. Every hour alone in the studio struggling with one's muse is cause for celebration.

Where did the money come from to buy the materials needed? Quality art supplies cost more for many good reasons.

When the artist felt confident enough to create, is it not a miracle that a worthy subject was found? Then the subject required the miracle of Light to transcend the dull, everyday aspects of its existence in space and time.

That we are viewing the finished work at all means the artist miraculously received some measure of attention by others! The artist felt safe and brave enough to share her creation with the world; and miraculously found support from those sometimes called the "gatekeepers."

And then it comes down to you, the viewer, with your jaded, stressed out and saturated mind. You may not even notice the artwork, or you may ignore it. Perhaps you decide to hate it; which means at least you chose to pay attention to it! Or it may resonate joyously in your brain, make your soul sing, feel as if the artist has discovered the deepest places of your heart. You may even be able to love it enough to buy it so it will continue to bring wonder to your life.

This is a miracle that allows the artist to go on seeking, creating, leaping into the unknown, and for which she is profoundly grateful.

—Donna M. Kazo ©8/09

ART ON TV: Georgia O'Keeffe biopic, September 19 on Lifetime, starring Joan Allen as one of my favorite artists and the amazing Jeremy Irons as O'Keeffe's brilliant mentor/husband, Alfred Stieglitz.

Sayaway Now for Christmas!
(Also known as 3 months of interest-free financing!)

According to *Wikipedia*, another of my very favorite artists, **Andrew Wyeth**, has had a surprising influence on our popular culture: both **Snoopy** and **Mr. Rogers** collected his work; and his somber palette guided the look and feel of movies *The Reflecting Skin*, *The Ring* and *The Village*. Aussie rock band **Icehouse** said Wyeth's "Helga" paintings inspired their 1987 album, *Man of Colours*.

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PADDLE, PAINT & PICNIC

When the cool weather returns, as Wildlife Research Team's President & Head Guide, I'll be planning a special canoe trip for us artist folks; we will choose an inspiring location, paddle our WRT canoes there, paint, draw, take photos to our heart's content, picnic and then work off the calories on our paddle back. *I will also teach a nature drawing class on location.* Price, etc. of this madcap adventure yet to be determined. *I'll split the proceeds 50/50 with WRT.* Let me know if you have a special destination in mind! And if you are not able to paddle, we can work something out; just let me know well in advance.

ON THE EASEL

Next up, "Bailey," Lauri Hubbard's rescued red Doberman, housemate of the gorgeous "Princess Lexi" whose portrait is featured on my website. In the queue are portraits of "Brutus," "Luna," and "Bogey." I'm happily developing a new series, "Pieces of the Sky." Will keep y'all posted through Facebook, email, my website, and *Confluence*. See ya!

DON'T WAIT TOO LATE TO GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT TO YOUR FAVORITE PET LOVER!
DEADLINE FOR PORTRAIT COMMISSIONS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS: SEPTEMBER 30!

A FEW OF THE PLACES ON THE INTERNET YOU CAN FIND ME, MY ARTWORK and/or WRITING:

START HERE, at my online galleries: www.donnamcvicarkazo.com

I'm co-founder (along with my late husband, NOAA Environmental Hero **Dr. Tom Kazo**) and President of **Wildlife Research Team, Inc.**, a unique nonprofit organization; we use volunteer-paddled canoes for our environmental education projects: www.wildlife-research-team.org; blog, <http://wildliferesearchteam.wordpress.com/>

Artfinity Editions: www.artfinityeditions.com

So proud to be Contributing Editor of the wonderful **Pet Planet Magazine**, www.petplanetmagazine.com

Kyle Jones, awesome Fort Lauderdale Realtor, links to my site: www.coralridgerealty.com

Happy to be a Green Business listed with **Green League of Broward**: <http://www.greenbroward.net/network/>

Bob Cannon and I used to edit *Tropical Fruit News* for the Miami Rare Fruit Council. My writing and artwork lurks at his rare tropical fruit websites, www.quisqualis.com and <http://www.cannonconsult.com/donnaart.html>.

Facebook! Plus I also administer a Wildlife Research Team Group: www.facebook.com/donna.m.kazo

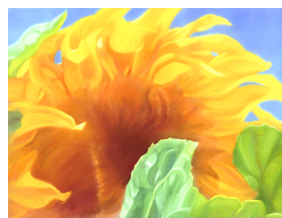
Visit my **CafePress** shop for my art printed on neat stuff: www.cafepress.com/DonnaKazo (IntrepidArtist)

Etsy is an amazing global art fair! Go to <http://donnakazo.etsy.com> for extra-special deals just waiting for you!

Hey, how about an old-fashioned Home Phone? Call me & leave a nice message! 954.474.8194

Email! Donna @ donnamcvicarkazo.com; adiona @ yahoo.com; WRT: paddle4research @ yahoo.com

Welcome to Vol. 1, No. 1, of my newsletter, **Confluence** (also available as a PDF on www.donnamcvicarkazo.com)



"Diamond SBuc" and "Princess Lexi" are but two examples of my highly detailed animal portraits in pastel: resemblance guaranteed! I am accepting commissions for that perfect Christmas gift only until September 30th! More portraits on my website.

Gift certificates available!!!

"Solar Flare"
limited edition giclée
reproductions available
from \$60 on my website



"Silver River: Depths & Reflections"
original was oil/alkyd on 36" x 24" canvas;
limited edition giclée reproductions on paper
or canvas starting at \$88 on my website,
www.donnamcvicarkazo.com.

Visit my grumpy bulldog & his pals in my Line Art Gallery

Donna McVicar Kazo
8530 Old Country Manor, #125
Davie FL 33328-2914 USA
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