

MID-DEL ART  GUILD



**NEWSFLASH**

[www.mid-delartguild.com](http://www.mid-delartguild.com)

**Meetings:**

The first Monday of each month (except Sept.) from 6:30pm to 8:45pm. In-person & by Zoom

**MIDWEST CITY LIBRARY**

Auditorium  
8243 E Reno Ave. (East of Midwest Blvd) OKC (Midwest City), OK 73110

**March 2024 Newsflash**

**Joshua Cook**

**Guest Artist Demo 6:30 pm Monday March 4**



Joshua Cook with his entry "Well Armed" at the USAO Seven-State Biennial Exhibition

Joshua Cook, known by some fans as the "Bug Man" has always enjoyed sculpting and building, whether with clay, LEGO or whatever else he can get his hands on. He started his current style in 2013 while earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma. *"I originally intended to get my emphasis in graphic design, but I fell in love with my jewelry and metalworking classes."*

Joshua added *"Using recycled metals, wood, and plastic I sculpt plants and animals. They are then hand painted to mimic the subject's natural colors, but with a metallic twist. My process is often shaped by the constraints of the materials and the place that the piece is being made"*

***in. In fact, the reason I use glues, epoxies, and tension to assemble my sculptures instead of welding was due to lack of space and tools when I first developed my style. A decade of making my “Recycled Monsters” out of whatever I can find has pushed me to try new materials, new methods of display, and more challenging subjects.”***

Admirers of Joshua’s work get so caught up in the transformation of discarded materials in the creation of his insects, spiders, and ocean dwellers they collect objects for his use. He has to reject a lot of donations because he doesn’t have room to take everything. *“Now I get to be selective about the coolest odds and ends.”* You can tell from a quick look at FB the attention to detail and the creative way he adapts recycled materials to playfully give life to his subjects. *“I have always loved insects and watched a ton of insect documentaries as a child. I still follow a lot of bug social media pages to get inspiration and learn new things.”*

Joshua is willing to share his sculpting technique and insights with children and adults. He has presented a number of workshops and shows. Although Joshua has *“touched all seven continents”*, his furthest show away from Oklahoma City was at a Wizard World Comic Con in Chicago many years ago. Closer to home was Tinkerfest held this past September at the Science Museum Oklahoma (SMO). The event didn’t have anything to do with Tinker AFB as one might guess. Tinkerfest is a one-day festival celebrating creativity, curiosity, and innovation. Artist and tinkerers come together to showcase their work and allow young people (of all ages) to experience hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and creativity.

Asked how Joshua applied to demo at Tinkerfest, he said, *“SMO contacted me because they were having a Steampunk themed event that they thought my work would be a perfect fit for. After that event, we stayed in contact and they invited me to do demonstrations at their Tinkerfest as well.”* Wouldn’t it be great if MDAG could get on Joshua’s schedule to arrange a workshop so we can let our inner creatures run wild! Bring your calendar to determine your availability and checkbook to the March 4<sup>th</sup> demo in case a workshop is offered.

Today there is a greater emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) to improve educational performance and preparation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce of America’s youth. MDAG members are not in the traditional STEM focus group, but we have not stopped learning. Perhaps best said by OG&E Director of Regulatory Affairs Kimber Shoop, “Experimentation is essential to developing a curiosity about the world.” Most of us probably agree on the merits of STEAM which adds the ARTS to STEM. The “A” in STEAM represents fine arts, liberal arts, language arts, social studies, music and physical arts.

When asked what excites Joshua in teaching adults to sculpt with recycled materials he answered *“I enjoy showing them unusual uses for common objects, and they always have their own interesting ideas for how to use those items in sculptures.”* Just imagine how you might sculpt similar critters as those that Joshua creates.



# Joshua Cook Workshop

## Sculpturing with Recycled Materials

Joshua's workshop will be held **Saturday, March 16, from Noon to 4pm** at "Hideout Art" (owner is Lisa Lampton Allen), located at 911 West Britton Road, OKC, which is just east of Western Ave. There are now 3 places nearby you can eat before the workshop: Zero Tolerance Coffee, Burger Punk, and El Coyote Cantina.

**Playfully give life to a "Recycled Critter". Most supplies will be provided. Bring an apron as the glue won't come off. You can also bring regular scissors, jewelry or junk to add texture, Loctite Professional Super Glue & acrylic craft paints like metallics (if you don't want to share). The workshop will cost MDAG members \$40 per person with a maximum of 15 participants. (Non-member cost is \$50). You will need to pay at the March 4 meeting or made other arrangements with treasurer Kara Gardner (405)317-7655. Make checks to MDAG.**

### Thank You Madeline Dillner



*Maddie with MWCE School Staff. Photo by Cindy Van Kley*

**Madeline Dillner prepared a power point presentation for her demo "A Mural from Start to Finish" at the MDAG meeting February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Not only did Madeline design and managed the execution of the mural at the MWC Elementary School, she shared extensive information an artist should know when contemplating painting a mural themselves.

I (Susan Schmidt) have long been interested in painting murals and kicked myself for scheduling the program when I was unable to attend. I knew Madeline would do an excellent job and share valuable tips on large-scale painting projects that would be nearly impossible to learn on my own. **Madeline surpassed my every expectation.** The following notes from the meeting are worth the cost of my MDAG membership.

**A huge thanks goes to Cindy Van Kley for the following nearly word-for-word account of Madeline's demo. I am saving the info in a**

**"Murals" folder for the time when I am willing to tackle such a project on my own.**

**"Madeline Dillner has been an artist professionally since 2016. Her website is [www.madworldart.com](http://www.madworldart.com) . She participates in the OKC Festival of the Arts, Paseo Arts Festival, Downtown Edmond Arts Festival, Ruidoso Arts Festival and does occasional murals. The Midwest City Elementary School mural was started in October 2023 during fall break, and finished in January 2024 over MLK holiday weekend.**

**Many cities have mural projects. Madeline uses a projector to put the design on the wall. In fact, she uses a projector for most of her art to work from photos she has taken on vacations.**

**Madeline gave tips for evaluating the potential wall for painting, including considering the property, access, level of the ground, and suggested you take pictures and measurements. Make sure your pictures are head-on,** not at an angle, so you can design your mural properly. You can do a mural on your own wall, a friend's wall, a city-owned wall. Look for "calls for artists" for public art projects.

**A private wall requires written permission from the business owner.** You may still need a **permit**, depending on ordinances. You can get your feet wet painting large by painting on a huge canvas, roll of canvas attached to a wall, or fastening some plywood together. A roll of canvas makes the mural moveable.

**Do a site visit.** Look at its construction. Is it structurally sound? Very rough or very smooth surfaces are difficult. The rougher the surface the more paint is needed, and the time required will be much more. Is the wall clean or dirty? How will you clean it? (this will add to the cost/time). Is the wall oily? Will it get dirty again, maybe even while you are working on it? Brick can be power washed, but on LOW so you don't wash out the mortar by accident. Look at its paint. If it has no paint, will you need to prime it (probably so!)? If it has paint already what kind? You can't paint water base over an oil base. Is it oil base, enamel, latex, or lead paint? Is it chipping off? If you are going to sand it off, you should test it for lead and follow OSHA guidelines. Walmart even sells lead testing kits. If paint needs removing, see if the landowner can do that or arrange for it to be done for you. Consider the property. Get the landowner permission in writing (they could die before you finish!) No trespassing!

If it is an indoor wall, will you be safe in the house? **Will you need someone else with you to feel safe?** Can you get access whenever you need to? Is there sufficient ventilation?

**HEIGHT OF THE MURAL** – what equipment do you need to reach the top? Can that equipment fit on the site? **A Genie lift or scissor lift is much safer than a ladder or scaffolding.** Check on rental cost before guessing at the cost you'll need to add to your estimate.

**ACCESS** – No driving up curbs, fighting through vines or shrubbery. Paint is heavy. How will you store it, carry it, get it up and down ladders?

**Outdoor considerations:** weather, sun, water, heat, cold, access to water for brushes, electricity, restroom, place to dump your used paint. If you have to paint at night, do you have a way to light it up? Light may attract insect pests.

**#1 Rule is SAFETY FIRST.** Wear hard-soled shoes for standing on ladder rungs!

**INSURANCE** – Use all tools as they are intended to be used. No shortcuts. Stay hydrated. Don't forget to eat. Watch your blood pressure, don't hold your breath while reaching or twisting. Dress for weather, but don't wear things that can get caught on scaffolding or ladders.

***Whenever I'm about to do something, I think, "Would an idiot do that?"***

**Take pictures and take measurements, both for doing the design and for estimating paint quantity** needed (check paint container for coverage per square foot). Take pictures as straight on at the wall as possible. You may have to take several pictures and piece them together to get the full panorama without it being skewed. Cinder block is 8"x8"x16" but you need to also allow for mortar. Measure the width of the mortar. It's easier to spray paint on cinder block than paint with a brush due to its rough surface and extreme porosity. Square footage impacts time spent, paint used, everything. If it's a remote site, have the landowner do a walk through and send the measurements to you.

**PRICING** – Murals are a service, so there is no sales tax. Per Oklahoma Admin. Code §710:65-19-9

**PAINT** – Square footage divided by the sq. ft. per gallon of the paint you're using

**EQUIPMENT** – Non-consumables (rags, brushes, rollers, ladders, lights, ropes, scaffolding, rentals, projector and generator, first aid kit, etc.)

**SUPPLIES** – Stuff you need that isn't paint (drop cloths, solvents, wipes, cleaners, tubs with lids for mixing and storing paint, etc.)

**TRAVEL** – Getting there and back for the duration of the project + trips to purchase supplies. OK state rates or IRS rates

### **MEALS and INCIDENTALS**

**LABOR** – You and whoever is working with you. What is your time worth? \$35/hr? \$50/hr? \$100/hr?

**“I like Behr Marquee Exterior paint.** Some people even use craft paint. You want the perfect mix of price, opacity, and viscosity.” Consider if you will use latex vs. enamel vs. oil based paints. Matte vs. glossy paint.

Consider the level of detail your client wants (or your style requires). **How many times will you end up going back over the mural? Primer, base sketch, outlines, flat color areas, rough detail, final detail, anti-graffiti coating?**

For the MWC Elementary mural, it was 1250 square feet in area, and ended up taking about 300 man-hours for labor. I originally estimated that one square foot would take about 15 minutes. I was way, way off!

The city of Norman guarantees \$25 per square foot for their pre-qualified artist pool. **You could charge by the square foot or by time,** but do a better job than I did estimating your time.

**I used a website program at [www.sketchup.com](http://www.sketchup.com) to visualize the space and then drop in the design done in Adobe Illustrator (so I could have the outlines and colors and embellishments on separate layers).**

**CONTRACTS** – Some of the items you may want to include: how long the quote is good for, half payment up front, half on completion (or whatever terms you want), detail of what they can expect to get and by when, how much they must pay and by when, other terms and conditions. You may also want to have contracts between you and any helpers. Take payment in advance to cover supplies and as insurance. Google “artist invoice” or “artist contract” for ideas or samples. Add an amount for interest for late payment. Some artist adds a clause something like “If you don't pay, I reserve the right to sell it wherever and to whomever I want for whatever price I want. Signing this contract means you agree to these terms and conditions.” If they make changes, there is an additional cost. You can specify how many changes they can make before there are penalties.

**DESIGN** – **Get a good idea what the client wants before you say yes to the project. You want to spend as much of your time as possible going in the right direction.** Have them send you pics that remind them of what they want. Ask them what they like about the photos. Invite them to look through your catalog of work and tell you which pictures they like and why.

Don't be afraid to stand up for your style. If they ask you to paint in someone else's style, you CAN say NO.

Explicitly state how many hours you are expecting to spend on edits. **TRACK YOUR HOURS.** Log time on your Google calendar. **Do your design in Adobe Illustrator. The art boards are exportable. Several layers, line work, color blocks, embellishments that you can turn on and off. You can pull in a picture of the room and “see” how it's going to look.**

Make sure your design isn't sloppy or sketchy if it's going to be projected. Printers don't always print colors correctly so have your laptop on site to reference colors.

When you buy paint, if it's for a school or non-profit, it may be tax exempt. Pre-mix colors if you're going to have helpers. And to help you remember the plan, you could color-code the mural and the paint tubs. Like a paint-by-numbers.

**Plan to use the projector at night so you can see to sketch. Sketch on the wall and then fill in. Take pictures as you go. Try hyperlapse mode on your camera or phone to document your project.**

Last minute things you might need: apron, paint clothes, shower cap or hat, music, food, drinks, business cards and/or flyers or maybe a sign telling what you're doing.

Take breaks. Short sits turn into long sits. Walk around. After a day's work be sure to stretch, bathe, use Epsom salts, get plenty of rest. This work can be exhausting!

Be sure to store paints and brushes properly.  
**For final coating see muralshield.com."**

## **February 5<sup>th</sup> WINNERS (L to R)**

2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbon: **June Rea** "Majestic" oil

3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbon: **Georgia Myers**  
"Hibiscus" oil

1<sup>st</sup> & Judge's choice: **Sandra Patterson**  
"Left Hand" acrylic



### **Door Prize**

**Gale Gendron**

art supply pack (canvas & brushes)

## **An Army Marches On Its' Stomach**

**Karen Dickerson, MDAG Hospitality Chair, as a retired veteran knows how important being well provisioned is to an organization's ability to achieve its' mission. Karen extends our thanks to Sandra Patterson and Lyuda Cameron for the January snacks and to Georgia Myers, Elisa Dewhirst, Cheryl Hudson and Gerald Hudson for the February snacks.**

**More tasty treats are being planned. Karen gives a shout out of thanks to the following:**

**March 4 – Cindy Van Kley, Susan Weber and Sandra Dossey.**

**April 1 - Elizabeth Painchaud, Dana Masters, Lyuda Cameron and Gale Gendron**

**May 6 – Candice Fredericksen, DeAun Olive, Helen Davis and Sandra Patterson**

**June 3 – Jane Morgan, Margee Gaeddert, Marilyn Ragan and June Rea**

## **MDAG Officers and Appointed Positions for 2024:**

### **Executive Board:**

President – Joan Faught

1<sup>st</sup> VP Show Chair – Marilyn Ragan

2<sup>st</sup> VP Program Chair – Susan Schmidt

Treasurer – Kara Gardner  
Secretary – Cindy Van Kley  
Member at Large - Mary Jude Delaney  
Newsletter – Vacant [Susan Schmidt can continue until someone volunteers to take over].

**Appointed Positions:**

Parliamentarian – Cindy Van Kley  
Hospitality – Karen Dickerson  
Hang Around town – Sandra Patterson (Get well wishes to Sandra who broke her wrist recently)  
Greeter – Dana Masters  
Webmaster – Arelia Rocker  
Social Media - Marilyn Ragan

**SCHEDULED EVENTS**

**(all events shown are in the MWC Library Auditorium unless noted)**

**March 4** – MDAG Board meeting 5:15 pm.

**March 4 – Demo: Joshua Cook** “Metalmorphosis; Sculpturing with Recycled Materials” 6:30 pm.

**March 16 – Workshop: Joshua Cook** “Sculpturing with Recycled Materials” Noon to 4pm

Held at Hideout Art located on Britton Road east of Western Ave at 911 West Britton Rd, OKC. See details in article.

**April 1** – MDAG Board meeting 5:15 pm.

**April 1 – Demo: Margee Gaeddert** “ Digital Art Using Procreate and Other Software” 6:30 pm.

**April 6 – FREE Workshop: Margee Gaeddert** “Discover Painting Traditional Mediums Digitally” 1- 4pm.

**May 6** – MDAG Board meeting 5:15 pm.

**May 6 – Demo: Connie Seabourn** “Illustrating Childrens Books Using Watercolors” 6:30 pm.

**Renew Your Membership for 2024**

The member year now runs January 1 through December 31. We want to see you and share our passion for art together. Renew your membership if you haven’t done so yet. You can pay at the next meeting. Or copy the app and mail to Kara Gardner at address below. And consider sharing an app with an interested artists to build our guild. We all know someone else who loves to dabble or who paints passionately! Please remember to hand out the new black MDAG business cards wherever you meet or interact with other artists. You can pick cards up at the next meeting. Life is more fun together.

## Join Mid-Del Art Guild

### Membership

**type:**  Single/\$35  Student\*/\$20  Family\*\*/\$40  Business/\$40

New

Renewal Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite Medium(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail** (for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Must be enrolled full time as Art Major, with current Student ID, or aged under 19 yrs old

\*\*Two family members residing in the same household

Make checks payable to: **Mid-Del Art Guild**

Mail to: **Kara Gardner, Treas. • PO Box 10393 • Midwest City, OK 73140**

**Susan Schmidt, Newsletter Editor**

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