

THE FAUX FINISHER

THE MAGAZINE

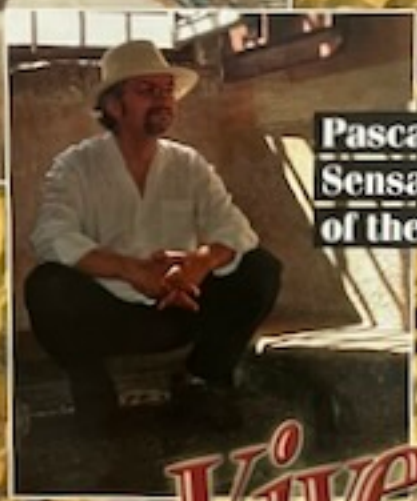
FOR THE DECORATIVE FINISHING PROFESSIONAL

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**Pascal Amblard...
Sensation on Both Sides
of the Atlantic**

Vive La France

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- Chicago-Land Cavalcade
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Plus Much, Much More!



**Michel Nadaï...
Excerpts from
His New Book**



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International Salon 2008 in the U.S.A.

The U.S.A. was the geographic location for International Salon 2008 and, lucky for this writer, a mere 60 miles from my studio. Held at the spacious International Union Of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) building in Aurora, Ill. This newly constructed training facility along with the helpful ongoing assistance from union members of DC 30, provided a memorable experience for all the demonstrating participants who represented no less than 13 countries from around the world. Hosting the event was Michele Santilli.

During the registration process, names were checked off the list, tags located, complimentary goody bags dispersed while orange plastic identification tags were fastened around our wrist. Not missing a beat, I quickly scooped up the traditional T-shirt



The author at Salon 2008, with her exhibition panels successfully hung!



Evening view of Chicago from the 95th Floor.

and walked out the door. Thankful that the sign-in process had been accomplished with assembly-line efficiency, the next hurdle when arriving at Salon is to stake out exhibition territory and hopefully securely

hang the painted panels without a hitch. Thanks to help from willing friends and new participants, this was accomplished in no time at all. With all display tasks completed, I was now ready to settle in and enjoy the evening's festivities.

The Welcome Reception serves a dual purpose, because it gives all

by Cynthia Borman



Christian Martincourt from France demonstrates his vast talent.

Salon members the opportunity to relax after travel and feed our hunger while we reconnect with old friends and meet new. In keeping with Salon tradition for the first evening together, champagne glasses are raised frequently. It was only while grazing the lavish buffet table and finishing a glass of bubbly that I happened by chance to glance at the schedule for the next day's events. My surprise quickly turned to panic as I realized I would be the first on the list to present a keynote lecture.

On the otherwise unexpected late-night drive home, I kept my fingers crossed hoping that my presentation and all corresponding notes could be located without too much of a hassle on the external hard drive. During the entire event throughout the main floor and upper area, attendees to the International Conference had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to observe firsthand skilled artisans at work. Employing the long-lost and often forgotten recipes and techniques of Old World Masters, participating Salon members reproduced various forms of marble, faux bois, trompe l'oeil architectural elements, along with lavish and expansive murals. All presented an extremely profes-



Community mural presentation to Mayor Tom Weisner.

sional appearance in white lab coats complete with the paint spatters from previous assignments.

At times, spectators could not resist the temptation to touch the newly painted multi-dimensional forms. Doing so reconfirmed that these areas had been transformed from flat surfaces into the various forms of deception. Observers agreed that members were indeed creating a visual treat for the visitors.

Within the Salon community, good fun and fellowship could be observed during a self-proclaimed painting challenge that involved several of our illustrious members. All contestants were amply prepared with visual subject matter of their choice, tools, paints and knowledge. As the brushes were raised, the timer was set and they were off. Painting with the speed of lightning, making strokes with the precision of a surgeon and with honed skills of a true master, each contestant matched the color and characteristics exactly to their preferred marble of choice. As if by magic, within minutes, before our very eyes, beautiful examples of faux marble appeared from beneath their brush tips. In my opinion, all contestants were winners.

A road trip was required to attend Thursday night's Opening Dinner.

Most managed to meet at the appointed location to catch the chartered bus before its departure without too much difficulty. However, in their haste to catch the ride, some had not enough time to don footwear. Not to worry...after all, aren't we among friends? We would be spending the evening at John Hancock Center's famous Signature Room, located just steps from Chicago's historical landmarks and the Magnificent Mile. Upon arriving, all were quickly shuffled onto the waiting elevators and immediately began to experience the ambience of the evening.

Floating high above the clouds on the 95th floor, we had the most breathtaking romantic view of the



Susan Arnold, Denmark



At left, the group contributes talents to the Music Mural, which is shown completed, above.



city. Throughout the evening, there was access to an open bar and a comprehensive delicious buffet menu. In addition, there was a separate sweet buffet that had attendants preparing individual mouth-watering desserts. David Santilli and friends provided music. A special thanks goes to Faux Effects International for its generous contribution that made the evening a remarkable experience.

With the state-of-the-art facility this brand new building had to offer, and assistance from knowledgeable techies, my presentation experience was a pleasure. The various topics encouraged all to attend.

Thursday:

11 a.m. - Cynthia Borman: The Historical Stenciled Room Revisited
3 p.m. - Lori Wilson: Modern Materials and Traditions: Decorative Craftsmanship in the 21st Century

Friday

11 a.m. - Andre Martinez: Defending the Principles—A View of Decorative Painting in the 21st Century
3 p.m. - Jan Berghuis: Joy

Division

4:30 p.m. - Pascal Amblard: Perspective and Composition

Saturday

11 a.m. Chris Erney: George Washington Mural Project
3 p.m. Pierre Finkelstein: Effective Business Practices For The Professional Decorative Painter

Sunday

11 a.m. Michele Santilli: Everything you always wanted to know about organizing a Salon, but were afraid to ask!
3 p.m. - George Zaffie: Itinerant Artists in the American West

As always, it is fun to discover and then be able to review firsthand anything that is new to the trade. It was our pleasure to have Editions Vial Publishers supply a substantial amount of outstanding rare and hard-to-find book titles that relate to the decorative arts.

Throughout the conference, the activity of painting both a Community Mural and a Music Mural was ongoing. Begun on Wednesday before most of us had even set up, the former was located on the far north wall in the exhibition area. Wearing the required hard hats and using scaffolding to ascend 30 feet, participants painted frantically to finish their chosen subject matter in required shades of blue. Upon completion the individual vignettes assembled into the pleasing cohesive whole Community Mural that was presented by our hostess, Michele Santilli, and Patrick Kirwin to the Mayor of Aurora.

Also, ongoing during the conference and contributing to the various main floor activities was the rendering of the Music Mural. Singing with jewel colors and alive with various instruments, this fantasy mural also commenced at the beginning of Salon and invited all members to contribute their vast painting talents. Those who might have been otherwise somewhat skittish about heights



The completed Community Mural.



Jacek Prowinski paints the final vignette.

or not quite confident of their visual appearance in a hard hat joined in the efforts to finish this large expansive mural.

While enjoying another delicious meal and great music, important announcements were made during the closing dinner. The much anticipat-



Illustrious members enjoy fellowship.

ed location of the next Salon was revealed. Disguised behind a mask, Lucretia Moroni, host of Salon 2009, successfully stimulated our anticipation to the cultural environment of the chosen area, Bergamo, Italy. Robert Woodland gave a touching and fond farewell tribute to his friend Don Grey, Master Craftsman and author. The Local Union DC 30 took this opportunity to present everyone with a special remembrance.

The after-Salon events were chosen to highlight exactly how unique Chicago is. Monday morning, we toured the Art Institute while lunching afterward at a charming outdoor cafe. All would agree that the weather for the day was picture perfect. On Tuesday, a boat ride was scheduled at Navy Pier. Chicago decided to make a strong memorable impression on her visitors, and as luck would have it, overnight the temperature dropped to 35 degrees with somber gray skies, accompanied by wild winds of 45 mph that made walking difficult only to get worse once we hit the water. Those from warmer climates were unprepared in

their thin summer clothing. As teeth chattered and the chill entered the bones, most wondered out loud how anyone could live with this drastic change in temperature.

Much like Chicago weather, Salon starts with a warm rush and we feel a chill once it ends. How does it happen, and where does it go? Time that is. As I survey the pile of forgotten snippets of mementos, I am sure that the collection could only have meaning for this Salon member. The lecture notes, new contact numbers, book listings, a brush catalog written in French are treasures. The notes for that brilliant idea, along with dated details for the next job assignment, can be found written on stained paper towels and wadded-up Kleenex. Somehow that reporter's notebook was nowhere to be found. At the time, that seemingly insignificant orange plastic identification wrist tag now triggers memories of what has all too soon become a past Salon.

SALON FOREVER! *TFP*

Special thanks to Jacek Prowinski for sharing photos and Annabel Armstrong's special treasure. For further information regarding sources mentioned and a QuickTime movie of SALON, please go to: www.classicalbycynthia.com/resources and www.classicalbycynthia.com/salon/004.html.

Cynthia A. Borman has been actively involved with Classical Decorative Arts by Cynthia since 1992. In addition to over 30 years of fine art and decorative finish experience and the new skill of website development, she has since broadened her technology interests to include the filming, producing and editing of video documentation of projects. Soon, in addition to the latest projects, historical lectures, museum events and other topics related to decorative arts will be found on the website in QuickTime format or as a educational video podcast in iTunes. Please feel free to contact her by phone at (708) 922-1271 or email at classicalbycynthia@comcast.net. Or visit online at www.classicalbycynthia.com.