



## Letter from the President

### *No Longer Lexington's Hidden Gem*

Wayne H. Davis

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To our new and returning members, friends, and supporters:

In speaking with many of you over the past 18 months, I heard repeatedly that LexArt was a “hidden gem” valued by members and a few longtime friends, but largely unknown to the public. This summer, LexArt set in motion a series of exciting innovations in our space, programming and partnerships that will enhance our public profile and strengthen our ability to serve our mission of supporting artisans and promoting art in the community.

In July, we hosted our first Collaborative Artisan Market and Family Fun Days in partnership with the Munroe Center for the Arts. The Community Endowment of Lexington (CEL) provided financial and technical support that enabled us to expand our outreach and marketing, including our first social media postings in Chinese. The Munroe and CEL partnerships and broader marketing efforts attracted hundreds of first-time visitors who enjoyed an array of demonstrations and do-it-yourself projects, toured our studios, and purchased items for sale in the gallery.

In August, we began the transformation of our front streetscape along Waltham Street into a more welcoming, public-friendly plaza paved with antique granite, including benches, and enlivened by artwork, flowers, and shrubs, contributed by our members. A new colorful sign is being installed as I write. The Overall design message is an invitation to enjoy learning, creating, and sharing the art made here.

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## Fall Fair is coming October 4, 5 & 6!

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**This year our primary fundraiser is the Fall Fair. All guild members are encouraged to participate.**

Please be generous in your contributions as this is what keeps our operations, building and programs running. This year we have new submission guidelines for inventory. Your guild rep will have information to distribute to all members. These materials can be found online in the [Membership Resources](#) section of [LexArt.org](#). *Hint:* If you haven't previously logged into the Member section of our new website, be sure to click on “Sign Up” at the Member login screen.



From September 14-29, we'll be hosting our first invitational woodworking show, "Respecting the Grain: Fine and Functional Modern Studio Furniture." The show will represent the most innovative and finely crafted woodwork being done in New England today. (See article below.) By showcasing the work of outside artists alongside that of our own members, we hope to attract new audiences to learn about our offerings. We are grateful that Brookline Bank will sponsor and help promote the Opening Reception on September 15. And to build and strengthen our relationship with other local businesses and community groups, we will be holding a private showing for members of the Lexington Chamber of Commerce, with the sponsorship support of TD Bank.

LexArt is also adding new classes to bring in new audiences. Check out the new offerings featured at [page 6](#). I'm especially proud of the Woodworkers Guild for partnering with the Bedford VA Medical Center to offer a class for Vets recovering from various illnesses, including PTSD. Thanks to Steve McKenna and Barry Kahn for teaching and to the entire Guild for supporting this effort.

Even with all this change, much remains to be done. LexArt is, and will continue to be our members' home and a welcoming community for inspiration, rejuvenation, and joy of learning and creating art and craft together. If you haven't stopped by lately, please do visit soon and see what we're doing to make LexArt a cherished, beloved, and no-longer-hidden gem.

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***New Exhibit Coming This September!***

**Respecting the Grain September 14 - 29, 2019**  
**Fine & Functional Modern Studio Furniture**



Modern studio furniture, crafted by some of New England's most renowned local woodworkers, will be on display in the LexArt Gallery, September 14-29. A reception and gallery talk will take place on Sunday, September 15, with special guest Tom McLaughlin, known for his own work and for his role in PBS's "Classic Woodworking" show.

The show has been curated by Katina Leodas, member of the Woodworkers Guild, who selected 16 furniture artists (including LexArt members) and invited them to submit work for this show. The artfully designed pieces that will be displayed are broad in scope and diverse in form, covering the gamut of uses: tables and chairs, floor and wall cabinets; desks; lamps, benches, and stools; sideboards and a clock. Rendered with hand and power tools, they reveal the beauty, sensuality and diversity of both common and exotic woods.

According to Leodas: "There's a new wave of exceptional design and execution occurring today in the world of modern furniture building. It's been inspired by 20<sup>th</sup> century American designers like James Krenov, Charles and Ray Eames, George Nakashima, and Florence Knoll; Europeans like Alvar Aalto, Hans Wegner, and Arne Jacobsen; and generations of Japanese masters. Contemporary makers are producing work that is new and exciting."

Please encourage your friends to attend the Opening Reception or stop by between September 14-29. All members are also invited to attend a private showing on September 25 at 5:30 p.m. with the Lexington Chamber of Commerce.

# Annual Potluck Dinner at LexArt and Volunteers of the Year 2019

Many thanks to the Painters Guild for  
hosting this great event!

The food was terrific – thank you to all who came to enjoy the evening. Although we said thanks to four special people, we cannot forget all the others who work tirelessly in making our organization work. Thank you to every member for doing your part! Music was provided by Alexander Drysdale on the violin and Susan Bagley-Koyle, on the Viola.

In addition to LexArt members visiting with one another, Wayne reviewed Spring events at LexArt. Louise Hara, handed out awards to Volunteers, whose work has been exceptional this year!

## Wilda Ward Volunteer of the Year 2019

**Wilda Ward** is a very special person and a wonderful friend to many of the members of the organization. She is now a member of the Decorative Arts Guild and while she spends time with her fellow guild members, she also spends time helping the organization in many, many ways. At the age of 93, she has become, for want of a better word, a “super volunteer.” When asked, she steps in to help in any way she can, always with a lovely attitude, sense of humor, and professional standards that speak to her long history of professional responsibilities. Her presence enriches our lives and our community.



## Eric Ranney Volunteer of the Year 2019

If you tried to get on-line or use your cell-phone inside the LexArt building within years past, you may have experienced a lot of problems and frustrations. Thanks to **Eric Ranney**, those problems have been addressed, and now our phones and internet services are all running like champs. Eric is a relatively new member of the Woodworkers Guild, and his willingness to give his time and expertise to help address one of the most pressing needs of the community is exemplary. He’s constantly stepping forward to help out with tasks large and small. We are all grateful for his generosity!

## Peter Demuth Volunteer of the Year 2019

**Peter Demuth**, a member of the Woodworkers Guild, has talents in his craft but also talents in his professional life as a corporate lawyer -- particularly as that field of law relates to the governance of nonprofit organizations. When he was called upon to help LexArt modernize its legal documents, he was there for the organization -- patiently listening, offering thoughtful advice, and ultimately crafting documents that the organization will be able to draw upon for years to come. His contribution to ensuring a stable structure of governance will be appreciated for the decades ahead.



## The Sustained Volunteer Achievement Award 2019

### Lynne Fisher Volunteer of the Year 2019

**Lynne Fisher**, a member of the Ceramics Guild, was recognized for her sustained volunteer achievements. Since 2007 Lynne has been the hands-on manager of the Bowls for Hunger project in her guild. The members of the guild, with Lynne's guidance, annually make bowls and mugs that they glaze and fire and donate to a local restaurant where they are sold throughout the holiday season. Since its inception this all-volunteer program has netted roughly \$2,000 per year for local programs addressing hunger and food insecurity.



### Art Walk 2019 – Lexington, MA

A “Call for Artists” has gone out for Lexington’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual ArtWalk. The deadline for submission is Monday, September 16. Individuals may submit up to 3 pieces online (<http://sites.google.com/view/artwalk>). Anyone may apply – it’s NOT restricted to Lexington residents. Both 2D and 3D work may be submitted. For more information, contact [lexartwalk@gmail.com](mailto:lexartwalk@gmail.com) or call Cristina at Munroe Center for the Arts 781-862-6040. Flyers are also available in the office at LexArt.

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## Artisans' Market a Hot Hit

LexArt and Munroe Center for the Arts collaborated to host a new format for the annual Artisans' Market. The event featured demos in wood turning, painting, and weaving, along with Do-It-Yourself ("DIY") leather stamping; printing using vegetables, paint and T-shirts; and zentangle and metal stamped bookmarks. The gallery was full and gross sales matched last year's despite the record-setting heat.

A hearty thanks to everyone for contributing!

The Community Endowment for Lexington provided funding support and helped us gain access to a newsletter to the Chinese community in town. Many families attended with kids in tow and had a blast. Lots of our loyal friends came out as well in the oppressive heat.

The event also featured food trucks which we will try again next year. If you have any suggestions for demos or make-and-take and would like to participate in the community building event next year, please send your ideas to the office so they can be included in the info packet for next year's planners.



### Demos for Artisans' Market

#### Saturday, July 20

Susan McFarlane – Zentangle Bookmarks  
Son-Mey Chiu – Chinese Brush Painting  
Chin Lin – Wheel throwing  
Ceramics Guild raku firing  
Rob Butler – Nature painting  
Jon Lam – Lathe  
Terri McEleney – Metal and beaded bookmarks  
Monroe Center for the Arts – assorted crafts for children.

#### Sunday, July 21

Steve Reznek – Lathe, making toys for kids  
Helen Fitts – Wheel throwing  
Maria Giacchino – Tapestry Weaving  
Su Wani – Acrylic Painting  
Louise Hara and Sue Schiffer – veggie printing on t-shirts.

### Flash Updates

**The new Board has met several times**, including holding a strategic planning session. Minutes from board meetings and other key documents can be found in the [Member](#) section of [LexArt.org](#).

**Juna Accounting is now handling our bookkeeping** and most transactions will become electronic. If you'd like your consignment sales payment via direct deposit to your bank account, please see Terumi Irizawa.

**Membership Renewal is in progress.** Go to the [Member](#) section of [LexArt.org](#) renew your membership. Committees are coming together based on responses to the volunteer interest forms which were filled out with membership renewal. Let us know what you'd like to do by completing the [Member Volunteer Form](#) on the website.

**Painting meets pots meets jazz meets Korean traditional music.** Catch an exciting cross-cultural, multi-art event at the Opening Reception of the Korean Cultural Council's Annual Exhibition "Light", featuring a live performance by Gugak Jazz, coming October 12 to LexArt.

## Fall Classes: Old Favorites and Exciting New Offerings

Visit the [Learn](#) page [LexArt.org](#) to see the broad array of classes being offered this Fall. In addition to the return of favorite and familiar offerings, there is an exciting assortment of new, never-before-offered classes including the following:

**Laurie Lloyd** (Polymer Clay/Beading Guild Member)

From Skinner Blends to Bullseyes to Kaleidoscopes!  
Saturday, September 28, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



**Eric Weiss** (Outside Instructor)  
Carved Foam and Simple Mechanism Puppets  
(Adult's Class) September 21/22 10 a.m -3 p.m.



**Eric Weiss** (Outside Instructor)  
Foam and Rod Puppets (Children's Class)  
Nov. 23, 10 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Nov 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



**Kristina Goransson** (Outside Instructor)  
3D Felt - Saturday, October 19, 1 p.m.-5p.m.



**Kristina Goransson** (Outside Instructor)  
Nuno Felting Saturday, September 28, 1p.m.-5p.m.



**Jodi Colella** (Outside Instructor)  
Sculptural Crochet: transforming traditional  
technique into abstractions.  
3 Tuesdays, October 8, 15, and 22 from 6 p.m



**Al Hiltz** (outside instructor)  
Explorations in Digital Photography  
Tuesdays Sept 24th - Nov 19th,  
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., 8 Classes (no class on Oct 1.)

