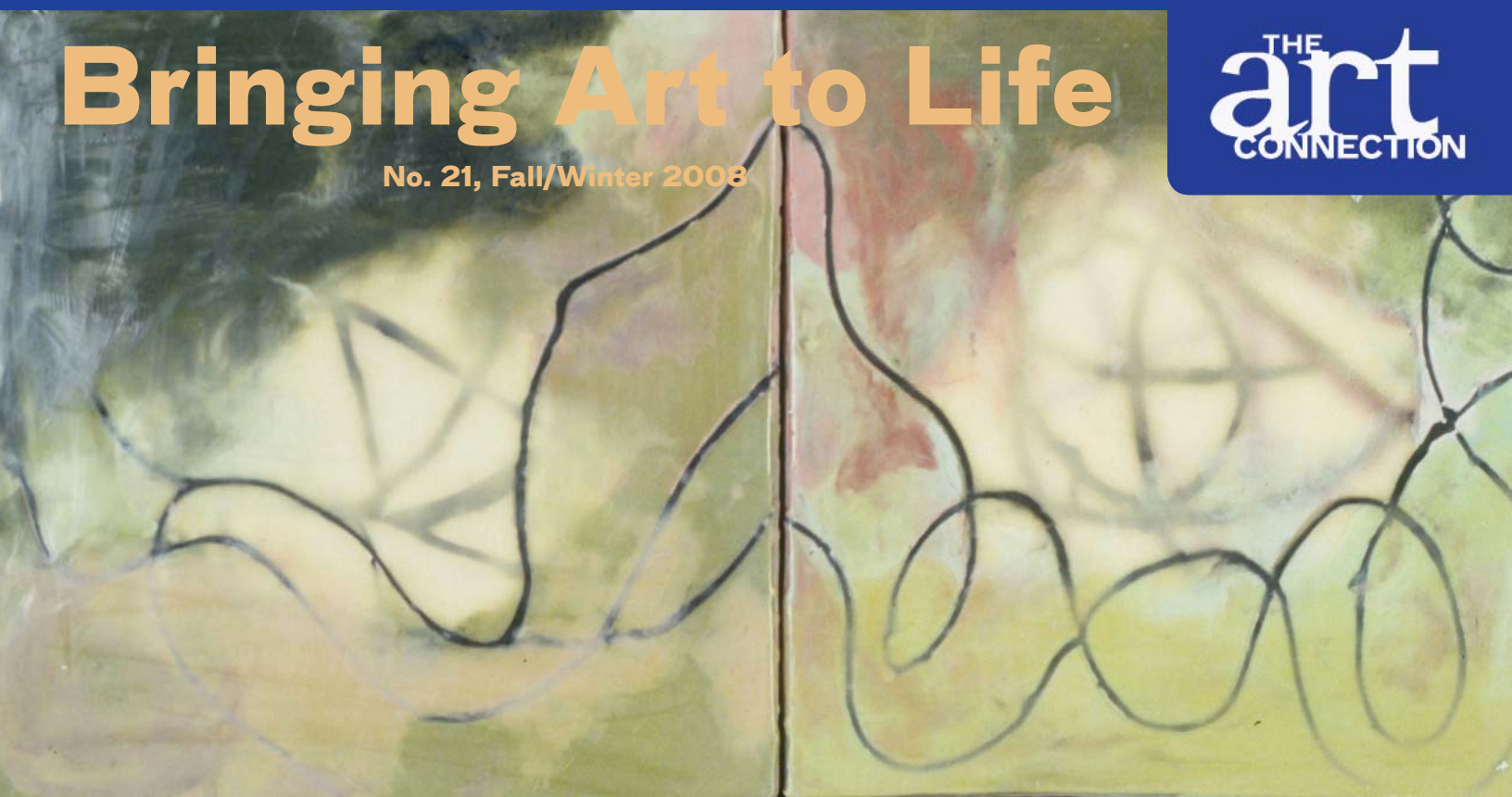


# Bringing Art to Life

No. 21, Fall/Winter 2008

THE  
art  
CONNECTION



## A Veteran's Perspective on Art

Our house becoming a home, the stale, antiseptic look of our hallways fading...is just part of the gift from our friends at The Art Connection. Through many talented artists, The Art Connection has generously donated 20 pieces of art to grace the walls of the Bedford Veterans Quarters (BVQ).

**“Do the works inspire, threaten, do they evoke emotions that have long since been forgotten?”**

Located on the grounds of the Bedford VA hospital, the BVQ is a pilot project undertaken by Caritas Communities that provides permanent housing for 60 veterans. All the veterans have a history of homelessness, and many have a substance abuse or psychiatric diagnosis.

Each veteran has his or her own unique story to tell. They are the stories of our lives, and more times than not they are stories of pain, loss, and suffering. Each story is different, but all end with one common goal. We have come to face our demons, to heal, to grow, and to once again become strong, productive members of our communities.

The artwork adds a unique opportunity in this healing process. It gives us a chance to flex our creative muscle. Do

*continued inside...*

## Our 13th Anniversary Celebration: Harvesting the Dream, Seeding the Future

On a beautiful late summer evening, partygoers convened at the green Epicenter in South Boston. The space filled with two hundred warm-hearted and art-loving people. The front wall of the building dramatically lifted and the Harvest Party was underway. It was a lovely occasion with music, food and wine flowing, along with welcomes from Board

*continued on back...*



*Joan & Kevin Donahue show off their giant vegetables, painted by artists and friends at a pre-event party to decorate the Harvest Party, then sold through silent auction to benefit The Art Connection.*

**THE MASTHEAD** features “Scan 16: River Run 2” by Nan Tull. This encaustic on board, a gift from the artist, was placed at Advocates, Inc. in Waltham. Advocates, Inc. is a mental health agency that helps enhance their clients lives through residential, day support, advocacy, community justice, outpatient, and emergency services.

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The Art Connection, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, seeks to enrich and educate underserved communities by expanding public access to original works of art. Since many public and nonprofit institutions have no resources with which to acquire original art, and because artists often have unsold work, The Art Connection aims to increase the flow of art from the artists to those who would not otherwise have the opportunity to experience art in their lives. Copyright 2008 by The Art Connection, Inc. We welcome your contributions and comments.

This program is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events.



## A Wonderful Opportunity...



On September 15, our celebration "Harvesting the Dream: Seeding the Future" marked our 13th year of bringing art to life and honored one of our dear friends who passed away last year, Alfred D. Chandler Jr. The title of the event aptly reflects our wish to acknowledge both the past work of those who have made The Art Connection a reality, and the need to build for the future. I hope that the images from the event included in this newsletter reflect the sincere sense of joy, dedication, and belief in the work being done that permeated the evening.

The Harvest and Seed Fund, officially launched that evening, will strategically advance our mission through investments in the following initiatives: expanding our reach through technology; increasing our visibility through strategic outreach; strengthening our art donation and placement program, and; exploring collaboration and partnerships. I'm pleased to announce that we have received a Harvest and Seed Fund \$100,000 matching gift challenge in memory of Al Chandler. All gifts by new donors or increased giving by current donors will be doubled through June 30, 2009. I hope that you will help us take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to continue to bring art to life by making a year-end contribution.

Thank you,

Jim McDonald, Executive Director



## At our Harvest Party...

Artist Anyahlee Cañas creates a harvest painting during the event. City Councilor Bill Linehan (at left) presents event Co-Chairs Lynn Babington and Mary Coogan and Board Chair Henry Goodrow with official recognition of September 15, 2008 as "Art Connection Day." And Alisha Bhadelia applies a radish tattoo to Laura Sceppa. (All event photos by Jessica Burko.)



**The Art Connection now welcomes online donations!**  
**Visit our website to learn more: [www.theartconnection.org](http://www.theartconnection.org)**



*Jonathan Parker, author of our cover story, and artist Suzanne Hodes in front of her large scale oil, "Urban Lobby at Xmas," during a recent art reception held at Caritas Communities BVQ. Also in attendance were members of the Middlesex County MA Chapter 239 of STAR Touring and Riding Association, a group of motorcyclists that helped raise money for framing costs.*



*Samantha Johnston's inkjet photographic dye, "Stump Pair," also selected by Caritas Communities.*

*... Veteran's Perspective... (cont.)*

the works inspire, threaten, do they evoke emotions that have long since been forgotten? As I reflect on this I'm struck by the many different reactions there can be to a single artwork. That was evident from the beginning. I was fortunate to be a member of the selection committee for this project. It began slowly, almost guarded, looking to each other for guidance and approval of our choices. But momentum grew quickly, each of us getting comfortable in our new role. I recall one piece in particular, one which now hangs in our foyer. It's a large piece by artist Suzanne Hodes, and it evoked as many different thoughts and feelings as there were people in the room. It is a tribute to the many different life experiences we've brought with us, and highlights the different paths of our lives.

Both Caritas and The Art Connection have done a great service by undertaking this project; this is an opportunity that few, if any of us, would have encountered had we not landed here at the BVQ. They most certainly have the gratitude of this veteran.

- Jonathan Parker, resident,  
Caritas Communities



**Recent Selections...**

*(Left) Joan Bragen's woodcut, "A Flower for my Lady Love," was installed at Visiting Nurse Association Hospice Care in Woburn. (Right) Randy Garber's "Secret Garden," 2 plate etching, 2 plate litho roll, was selected by Dare Family Services in Somerville. Casa Esperanza, in Roxbury, selected Susan Makin's oil "Tomatoes" (below).*



*...Harvesting the Dream...(cont.)*

Chairman Henry Goodrow and co-chairs Mary Coogan and Lynn Babington. There was a tribute to Al Chandler and a toast to both Fay Chandler, founder of The Art Connection, and Al, in recognition of their shared birthday. And there were testimonies from artist Marian Dioguardi and art recipient Tony Rello of St. Francis House to the power of art to transform a space and those who inhabit that space. People mingled and met: artists, FOF (friends of Fay), Art Connection board members and staff, art donors and recipients. It was a wonderful party with a great sense of community and commonality!

- Artist Ellen Rich



*At the Harvest Party, Alfred D. "Appy" Chandler III talked about his father, noted business historian Alfred D. Chandler Jr. "Dad discovered what made institutions – be they IBM or The Art Connection – successful. The key, he argued, was that institutions needed both a strategy and a structure... When he took the time to understand The Art Connection that is precisely what he found: an institution with both a clear strategy and an appropriate structure."*



*(Above) Jessie Nickerson's "Untitled (Cityscape)," oil on canvas was selected by First Literacy in Boston and (right) "Blessings in Every Room, #5", charcoal / acrylic on paper by Antoinette Winters was placed at the new Victory Programs' Victory Housing in Boston.*

## New Art Donors



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Check out our new website!  
[www.theartconnection.org](http://www.theartconnection.org)

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