

## MANIFEST'S FUTURE IN THE BALANCE

A couple months ago I was sitting down to put this newsletter together, and had begun to write about the finalization of our funding for the long-running Manifest HVAC/expansion campaign. You see, that week we were scheduled to close on the low-interest non-profit loan from the Greater Cincinnati Energy Alliance which would make up the difference between our donations and grants received and what we needed to cover the cost of our full-facility high efficiency HVAC system. We had contractors doing detailed drawings for permits and setting up equipment orders and schedules. It had been three years in the making, and we were *this* close. Then, the unthinkable happened. We received word that our building had been *sold*. This naturally resulted in some uncertainties about whether the new building owners understood or would honor our complex agreements built into our long-term lease, meaning that everything had to stop, at least until we were sure everyone was on the same page.

Needless to say, the weeks that followed had us mighty worried about the future of Manifest. We had a lot riding on our home staying on Woodburn Avenue, and our considerable investment in the effort to achieve the project at hand. After several meetings and much discussion we came to terms with our new landlord, which allowed us to move forward and close on our loan. Then, as contractors were about to start, we learned the HVAC plans needed approval of the City related to historic guidelines - another delay. That too has been settled, and work should begin any week now. This means Manifest will not only be able to decommission the old baseboard heaters and window A/C units and enjoy a reasonable and healthy climate. It also means we will now occupy the entire first floor of the Victoria building, where just about 9 years ago we launched Manifest in one-quarter of the floor. This also means that rather than dream about what we *could* do if we had the additional space (something we've been doing for years now), we can actually *plan* what to do. And plan we have. Our staff and board have reviewed revised concepts for the 'new Manifest' that will be born out of this effort. It is exciting, and we think pretty dramatic. Of course our next step is to fund these space upgrades, the 'phase 2' of our expansion effort (HVAC was phase 1). With a little help we expect to be able to share with you a 50% larger Manifest Gallery by the opening of our 10th season at the end of September. If you would like to help make this happen, please let me know!

— Jason Franz, Executive Director



### BEST OF CINCINNATI

Manifest was recently named **Best Gallery Scene** in Cincinnati Magazine's 2012 BEST OF issue. The accolade read: "Manifest Gallery is that rarest of places in the art world: a space for students, up-and-comers, and established artists. The exhibitions tend to be "out there" (like the all-video Projections show, which featured 13 videos from 13 artists, shown both in sequence and in a loop during each artist's "solo day") and spark delight and debate—which is exactly the point, according to Manifest's manifesto. The Creative Class is alive, well, and working at Manifest."

We had no idea this recognition was coming our way! Whatever we did to deserve it, we're grateful and determined to keep doing it. Thank you Cincinnati!

## THANKS FOR COMING ALONG

We're about half-way through our season, having just opened our 5th exhibition period (of 9 total). A lot has happened since September. The first International Photography Annual (INPHA) arrived from the printer and launched to the public alongside its sister project the 2nd International Painting Annual (INPA). Both received rave reviews from the artists involved, our patrons, and those just looking. At our book launch party in October we had a very happy crowd of participating artists, all delighted to be at Manifest, meeting each other, and getting the great positive vibe from our little corner of the art world here in Cincinnati. Along with this, our season opening FotoFocus-sponsored exhibitions had an amazing 655 people visit the galleries in that four week period! At the start of the year we launched our first ever curatorial gallery talk series, led by our own Associate Curator Tim Parsley. These happen for each exhibit period, and offer a deeper view of our approach to exhibit production and into contemporary art from around the world. We also offered two artist talks in the gallery, and another in our ongoing public drawing demonstrations at the Drawing Center, this one by Shelby Shadwell.

*"When faced with a choice of two options, all other things being equal, always choose the most challenging."*

A MANIFEST FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

## SEASON 9

### *remaining schedule*



Above: Solo exhibitor Shelby Shadwell at work drawing.  
Below: Ty Wilkinson's MAR studio 2013.



#### March 8 - April 5

*CODE D. (new media)*

*SMALL is BIG: paintings by Kehoe, Kennedy, Kewly, Mansdorf, & Saniga*

#### April 19 - May 17

*Kinetica (movement in art)*

*Solo Show: Dennis Olsen (printmaking)*

#### May 31 - June 28

*Rites of Passage 9*

*9th annual Magnitude 7 (small works)*

#### July 12 - August 9

*Master Pieces 7*

#### August 16 - September 13

*NUDE 5*

*Selections from the INDA 8*

*Solo Show: John Westmark (painting/collage)*

### *reminder - back issues*

Just a reminder that all previous Manifest Members' Newsletters are available for reading on our website. You can find them at: [www.manifestgallery.org/members](http://www.manifestgallery.org/members). Feel free to read them online or download and print them for later reading. These are a nice overview of our evolving history, and those who have supported Manifest along the way.

### *a major gift*

In fall of 2012 Manifest was surprised to receive \$10,000 from the Mary T. Verkamp Trust. We are thankful for the thoughtfulness of ZiZi and her trustees. Such a sum may seem small to many organizations, but to Manifest it can (and has) made all the difference. It could not have come at a better time! Thank you ZiZi!

### *reflecting on last season*

For its 8th exhibit season (Sept. 2011 - Aug. 2012) Manifest presented 18 exhibits across 9 four-week periods for a total of 36 weeks (900 hours) of free public presentations. During this time 3,485 people visited the gallery. This represents a 31% increase over the year before. Collaborative efforts on the part of new and existing businesses and area residents in the form of a rejuvenated *Walk on Woodburn* contributed to a 53% increase in attendance at our opening receptions, and presumably at all the participating Woodburn businesses too. During the same season 2776 artists from all 50 states and 45 countries submitted works for our jury committees' consideration. Throughout the year 200 artists from 36 states and 10 countries, including Canada, China, Ireland, Germany, Mexico, Argentina, Scotland, Latvia, Hungary, and the U.S., were exhibited in the galleries.

We couldn't have predicted such a specific outcome back in 2004 when we wrote about our ideas for Manifest being a catalyst in the community - but this certainly fits the bill, and serves as a perfect illustration of what we meant when we named the organization MANIFEST. When one small non-profit which covers 80% of its costs with its own hard-earned revenue can attract nearly 3500 people into a struggling community's vitality, and draw the attention of almost as many artists in all 50 states and 45 different countries towards our small corner of the world, in East Walnut Hills, one cannot but be stunned by the impact of this little organization and the artists it collaborates with. We don't often reflect on our past statistics like this, but when we do we are rendered humbled and hopeful.





*Prehistoric Pegasus*, by Robin Sheets, 2013 (Manifest Drawing Through Time with Debbie Brod)

## MINIFEST

serious youth art education

### *new programming comes to the Drawing Center!*

In January we launched our first ever drawing course for youth at our Madisonville Drawing Center. Debbie Brod led the four pioneering young ladies who attended on an artful adventure in "Drawing Through Time." Through drawing they learned about the art of pre-history, ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, and China - and how charcoal can really stain socks.



Manifest makes a distinction between 'community art education' and 'continuing art education'. And this steers how we program the Drawing Center, because we are committed to the latter. There are many excellent community art programs in Cincinnati, and we don't need to replicate what they already offer. However, we realize our goal to 'make artists better' can be carried into the younger strata of the creative public our educational offerings are intended to serve. In other words, children are artists too, and many really want to be better at it, in addition to just having fun. Or their parents take very seriously the importance of a solid creative grounding for their children. So MINIFEST is our official entry into continuing art education for youth, supplementing the perhaps depleted or rigor-lacking programs in their primary education. The Minifest program will return this summer, and may expand as well.

## BOARD GROWTH

Over the past several months our board of directors has expanded, adding the insight and expertise of several new members. Since the start of this season we welcomed Dan Dutro, Attorney at Barron Peck Bennie & Schlemmer; Dick Lajoie, recent CFO/COO at Forte Industries; Chrissy Rother, Institutional Advancement Manager for the Cincinnati Art Museum; and Nicole Summers, Executive Communications Manager at Procter & Gamble. We are excited about the maturation of Manifest's board of directors, under the strong leadership of board president Debbie Heuer. As Manifest sets the stage for its next decade having a diverse and seriously capable group of active board members will be key. These folks help round out our team nicely, yet we still have the need for filling spots with folks bringing architecture, interior design, accounting, and fundraising/development skills. A major initiative of the board is to increase its own fundraising capacity, with the aim to bring in more key sponsorships for facilities and specific projects, as well as larger donations to complement the many individual and personal contributions that come from folks like you.

*"We don't do this because it's easy, rather we do it but because it's not."*

A MANIFEST FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

MANIFEST ARTIST RESIDENCY

**Ty Wilkinson's Experience**

**executive director**

Jason Franz

**associate curator**

Tim Parsley

**office manager**

Katie Schoeny

**exhibition &**

**drawing center coordinator**

Katie Baker

**current interns**

Laura Brooks

Joanne Easton (*gallery assistant*)

Tyler Griesse

Kelia Hamilton

Chrissy Rother (*gallery assistant*)

Michelle Sanchez

Jacqui Underwood

Chris Von Holle

Faye Zimmerman

**board of directors**

April Besl

Dan Dutro

Jason Franz

Pamela K. Ginsburg

Debbie Heuer

Richard Lajoie

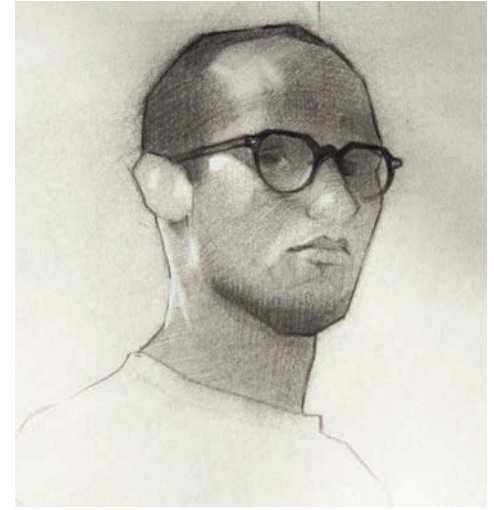
Brigid O'Kane

Carrie Pollick

Chrissy Rother

Nicole Summers

Tyler Wilkinson is just about three-quarters of the way through his one-year Manifest Artist Residency. I asked him recently if he could name the single most significant aspect of the residency program. He thought for a moment then confidently answered that at the top of his list is the culture, collegiality, and the family-like group of serious artists which he finds at Manifest, especially during our Tuesday evening Open Figure drawing sessions at the Drawing Center. This, he explained, is something he would be hard-pressed to find anywhere else the way he's found it here. Ty will be moving on to pursue his MFA at Indiana University in Bloomington this fall. We have but a few short months to enjoy his own contribution to our family dynamic. Of course we'll never really let him go! — JF



*Tyler Wilkinson self portrait (shot in-situ in the MAR studio).*

MANIFEST PRESS HEADS TO NYC

As you read this the 7th International Drawing Annual (INDA) is on its way to the U.S. from our overseas printer. The INDA 8 was just juried and curated, and will include 104 works by 72 artists, and should arrive from the printer by this time next year. The design of the 3rd International Painting Annual is almost finished, and that book will go to press very soon. Needless to say Manifest Press is busy with a capital B! Copies of

the INDA 7 were debuted in NYC at the College Art Association's book and trade fair in February. Katie Baker and Jo Easton represented Manifest in our booth for the three-day event, making new friends and greeting old ones, all happy to cross paths with Manifest in the Big Apple. We had nearly 300 people stop by our booth during that time to view our books and learn about Manifest's programming. Next year... Chicago!

SEASON 9

**donors + members (you!)**

*\* renewing member from season 8 | \*\* in memory of Aidan Schapera*

**MONUMENT** (\$5000+): Mary T. Verkamp Trust. **MASTER** (\$750+): Carolyn & Steve Bloomfield\*, Debbie Heuer\*, John T. Heuer\*, Harvey C. Hubbell Trust\*. **CONNOISSEURS** (\$300-\$749): Sally Fennell\*, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip C. Long\*, M Katherine Hurley & Jens G Rosenkrantz Jr. , Murray & Robin Sinclair\*, Sara Vance, Richard & Vanessa Wayne\*. **PHILOSOPHER** (\$150-\$274): April Besl\*, Patrick Cusick, Margaret Faimon\*, Chip Finke\*, Suzanne Gagnet Fischer\*, Pamela Ginsburg\*, Camilla S. Haneberg\*, Polly Hart\*, Mary Heider\*, Yumiko Irei-Gokce\*, Al Lopez\*, David & Vickye Payton\*, Carrie Pollick\*, Leslie Shiels\*, Gina Stevenson\*, Raphael Zammit. **CRAFTSMAN** (\$75-\$149): Allison Allemang, Farron C. Allen\*, Richard Boydston\*, William and Kate Baumann\*, Cole Carothers\*, Nancy Crace, Diane Debevec, Daniel G. Dutro, Brett Eberhardt\*, Jason Franz\*, Cathy Giovanetti\*, H. Drewry Gores, Jack Hennen\*, Shirley Hudson, Janice Kagermeier, Annette Kitchen\*, Richard Lajoie, Mary Anne Lee\*, Scott Lenkowsky, Janet Link, Craig Lloyd, Dave Lockard\*, Margaret Mathile, Henry Metzner, Chris Motley, Murray Monroe, Jr\*, Brigid O'Kane\*, Rachel O'Malley, Marilyn Ott\*, Daniel Pfahl, Robert & Leslie Pollick, Chrissy Rother\*, William Rybolt, Marcia and Paul Shortt\*, Herbert Hood & Barbara Schulman, Heather Smith\*\*, Sheldon Tapley\*, Mollie O'Neil & Paris Traganos. **ARTISAN** (\$25-\$74): Karen Bondarchuk\*, Kevin & Tamara Munte\*, Carl & Liz Solway\*, Jim and Jane Dean\*, Jean Donaldson\*, David & Nancy Dorsey\*, Mark & Susan Flaspohler\*, Alexandra Sophia Franz\*, Fred Franz\*, Couper & Kerry Gardiner\*, Kenneth Hochberg, Kris Rehling Jones\*, Echo Lew, John Robinson\*, GE Foundation, AXA Foundation. **APPRENTICE** (\$25-\$74): Judith Affatato, Linda Augutis, Maria Blake\*, Roger Collins\*, Joyce Corum\*, Julie & David Doepeke\*, Jane Durrell\*, John Fleischman\*, Nancy Gamon, Aristotle Georgiades, David Hartz\*, Janalyn Hubbell\*, Jay Jansen\*, Vivian B. Kline\*, Sydney Kreuzmann, Carol Kunstadt, Brian Moore\*, Anne Nally\*, Olivia Petrides, Rebeca Calderon Pittman, Paul Sittenfeld\*, Andrew D. Smith\*, Elizabeth Fisher Smith\*, Kristin Spangenberg\*, Jane Stanton\*, Anne & Alfred Straus\*, Jo Vance, Melissa Vandenberg, Amy West, Dawn Wilson\*, Wendy Wilson\*, Lynne Ambrosini & Rob Contin\*, Kim Flora\*, Dan, Carla & Laura Fisher, Bob & Lauren Woodiviss\*. **DONOR** (under \$25): Patricia Bellan-Gillen, Billy Busby, Rebecca & Rob Joy\*, Sisters of Mercy\*, Neil Schapera, Alice Lee Timmins. **SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS**: Sarah Murphree, Daniel Pfahl.



CONTACT

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**gallery hours**

Tuesday to Friday 2–7pm  
Saturdays 12–5pm