



**District of Columbia
Arts Center**

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DCAC Archive : Director's Letters July : August 2010

It's summer, and it's hot here in the nation's capital. If you know me, you know that I am no fan of temperatures above 69 degrees. But when it gets hot, it reminds me that the 1460 Wallmountables exhibit is just around the corner. I think about that because it is always so, so hot during that opening reception. I've got pictures to prove it; people packed shoulder to shoulder with soaking wet clothes and ice-cold beverages in each hand. But we all survive it, and boy, what a happening night that is, floor to ceiling art, stretching wall to wall throughout the gallery. It's always a great opportunity to see what people are doing, especially the folks that do not consider themselves "serious" artists, but who nonetheless produce provocative and often very good work. For many of those people, Wallmountables is their primary opportunity to exhibit. And what makes it all the more interesting is that these artists will be showing alongside very serious and even accomplished artists. It makes for an exciting mix and results in a super interesting exhibition. I know some people for whom Wallmountables is the sole reason they belong to DCAC.

Which brings me to the subject of this letter: opportunity. In our longest exhibition of the year, all summer long, artists of all stripes and abilities will have the opportunity to have their work in an exhibition open to the public, and coinciding with the plays that are being presented here as a part of the Capital Fringe Festival, DC's annual summer theater festival. That means that not only during the opening (Which, did I mention will be packed? And hot?), but during the sold-out performances and whenever the gallery is open throughout the summer, people will have the chance to view and even purchase the work of over 100 artists. So opportunity abounds; the opportunity to show your work, the opportunity to sell your work, and the opportunity for hundreds of people to see your work.

We are looking forward to a great showing this year. If you have participated in the past, you know that on Wednesday afternoon, the first day we are open for hanging, there are over 60 artists lined up on 18th Street waiting for us to open the doors. And then it's mayhem for the next three days as the sound of hammering and screw guns wafts through the gallery, and subsequently, our offices. If you haven't participated before, now is the time to start thinking about it. All the information is on our website, and much of it is contained in this newsletter. If you are a member you can participate for free, and that just adds another line item to my list of opportunities within 1460 Wallmountables.

If you are reading this and find yourself wondering, “Why the heck is this thing called 1460 Wallmountables?”, let me elucidate. When the first Wallmountables event took place, DCAC still had all of the walls that made up the two apartments that had formerly been here on the second floor. When DCAC opened in 1989, they simply opened all the doors and hung art. So, in those days, there was 1,460 square feet of wall space in the gallery, and thus the name. Today, there is something like 1,100 square feet of wall space, but somehow, it’s not as catchy, and besides, we like to honor the history. In case you are so inquisitive as to wonder when all the walls came down to make the gallery one big, open space, the answer is that renovations were done in 1993 to make it basically what it is today. Just one of the tidbits of DCAC history I could share with you, but not right now; now I am talking about opportunity.

So, please join in the fun, participate in Wallmountables this year. It’s a great opportunity to meet lots of artists, and see lots of art; some crazy, some really good, some very clever, some very bad. You can purchase said art at usually really good prices (last year art started at \$5) and it is a heck of a party. I’ll have the big fan on helping to push our air conditioning around, so it won’t be so bad. Oh yeah, yet another opportunity: there is a \$100 prize for the best use of the 2’x2’ space by an artist. Not a prize for the best art, mind you, a prize for the best (most imaginative, clever, weird, etc) use of the space. I’m outdoing myself here; I have to stop writing before I think of other opportunities. I’m out of here; see you on July 23 for this year’s version of 1460 Wallmountables!

B Stanley,
Executive Director