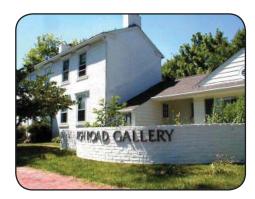
the avant-garde

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME VI NO. 4 APRIL 2012







{upcoming exhibits}

The Best Bloomin' Art Show in the City All Member Worthington Area Art League Exhibit

May 2-May 26, 2012

Artists Reception: Sunday, May 6, 2-4PM

The High Road Gallery 12 East Stafford Avenue Worthington, Ohio 43085 http://www.artinview.com

Columbus Cultural Arts Center Student Exhibit

June 1-30, 2012

Columbus Cultural Arts Center 139 West Main Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 http://www.culturalartscenteronline.org

Above: The Church at Mill Run; Paintings from left: *Indian Run,* oil on canvas panel, 2011, *Goodale Park,* oil on canvas panel, 2011, *Daniel,* oil on canvas panel, 2012, *Roses,* oil on canvas panel, 2011, *Antrim Lake 9:00am,* oil on canvas panel, 2010, *Antrim Lake 11:00am,* oil on canvas panel, 2010, by Katherine N. Crowley; Below: The High Road Gallery, The Columbus Cultural Arts Center.



Above: *Erzulie Auf Einem Delphin,* by Hector Hyppolite, late 1940s.



Above: Jacmel, by Préfète Duffaut, oil on canvas, 1974



Above: *We Need Help*, by Frantz Zéphirin, 2010. Image courtesy of The Monnin Gallery and the Dallas Monnin Foundation. The New Yorker, September 6, 2010.

{haiti pap peri: haitian art after the quake}

by Katherine N. Crowley

"My future paintings will be inspired by this terrible tragedy," Préfète Duffaut said hopefully to Bill Brubaker, a writer reporting on the fate of the artists of Haiti for Smithsonian magazine. Duffaut got his start at the Centre d'Art, the school and gallery that was the springboard for the primitive art movement in Haiti. On January 12, 2010, in a span of 15-20 seconds, the 66-year old Centre crumbled to the ground, The Haitian Art Museum at College St. Pierre was badly cracked and the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince was reduced to rubble. The 7.0 magnitude earthquake killed 316,000 people, injured 300,000 more, and over 1 million survivors became homeless.

Duffaut was one of the homeless, but he had survived. Among the dead were painter Raoul Mathieu, sculptor Destimare Pierre Marie Isnel (a.k.a. Louco), Rainbow Gallery owners Carmel and Cavour Delatour, and Flores McGarrell, an American born artist, film director and arts foundation director. The 79-year-old painter Alix Roy, who had lived on the top floor of a downtown hotel had perished and his body had still not been found 6 weeks after the quake. In the days following the earthquake, Haitian gallery owners provided aid to their artists in the form of money and art supplies, even though they were experiencing the same losses.

In the mid-20th century, the world began to take notice of Haiti's artists after an American watercolorist named DeWitt Peters moved to Port-au-Prince. He founded the Centre d'Art in 1944, and a year later - when the French leader of the Surrealist cultural movement, Andre Breton, visited the island nation - the art market began to take off. Breton was quite taken by painter and voodoo priest Hector Hyppolite and he helped to organize his work into a United Nationssponsored exhibition in Paris. Tourists began purchasing local art, however in the 1960s, political unrest turned the tourists away. But by then major museums and celebrities from around the world had begun to take an interest. Many works by early Haitian masters such as Hyppolite and Philomé Obin began selling for tens of thousands of dollars. By the 1980s fear of the pandemic spread of AIDS further alienated tourism, so gallery owners targeted overseas collectors. The artists of Haiti have seen many successes and tragedies and the earthquake was yet another setback. But the artists of Haiti are resilient.

Shortly after the quake, restoration to damaged works had begun with the help of the Smithsonian. George S. Nader, a prominent art dealer, and his son George, Jr. worked to recover and catalogue as much as they could from the family's collection of 15,000 works. All this despite the fact that they had not insured any of the paintings and sculptures, estimated to be valued at more that \$20 million.

Haiti's unique culture is made up of West African, European and native Taíno influences. The immediate concern after the quake was to secure the livelihood of the surviving people but as time passes there is concern over the preservation of the culture. Holy Trinity Cathedral featured 14 murals that represented a truly Haitian interpretation of Christianity. The mural of the *Marriage at Cana* by Wilson Bigaud, depicted Haitian drummers, a pig, and a rooster as part of the wedding ceremony. The earthquake destroyed the *Cana* mural, only three of the 14 survived.

Though the earthquake destroyed so much native art, it has also provided contemporary artists with a source of inspiration. Frantz Zéphirin walked out of a local bar when the patrons began discussing politics, one minute later came the earthquake and the 40 people inside died. Surrounded by death, Zéphirin walked several hours back to his home where he learned that many of his family members had died in the quake. The first thing he felt compelled to do was paint. "I wanted to paint something for the next generation, so they can know just what I had seen," he told Smithsonian magazine.

In September of 2010, The New Yorker printed an article about the artists of Haiti and how they continue to persevere after the quake. Zéphirin was commissioned to paint works for both the covers of the Smithsonian and The New Yorker magazines. One of his more notable works features skeleton protesters carrying signs that read "We need shelter, clothes, condoms, and more", "Necesitamos ayudas con desedo y dignidad" and "Special thank to the commander in chief and the American people". Vady Confident is one of five artists that began decorating rubble with Sharpie markers. The images on the concrete fragments depict the buildings from which they came or portraits of those who died in the buildings. Confident frequently uses found objects and materials created by the earthquake - such as concrete dust used as texture in paintings. Nadine Fortilus sketches and beads traditional voodoo flags in reaction to the devastation. Many artists repeat the number 12 throughout



Above: Serving Food to the Survivors, by Jean Emmanuel, 2010. Image courtesy of The Monnin Gallery and the Dallas Monnin Foundation. The New Yorker, September 2010.



Above: *Au revoir, Flores,* by Valy Confident and Ambroise Anderson, 2010. Photograph by Marc Lee Steed courtesy of Men Nou Gallery. The New Yorker, September 2010. Below: *Untitled,* by Nadine Fortilus, beaded flag, 2010. Courtesy of Men Nou Gallery. The New Yorker, September 2010.



their works to represent the 12th day of January when the quake occurred. The more traditional folk art often depicts aid workers helping the injured, people standing in food lines waiting for a meal, and the recurring phrase "Haiti Pap Peri", "Haiti Will Not Perish".

Sources: "In Haiti, The Art of Resilience", by Bill Brubaker, *Smithsonian magazine*, September 2010.http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/In-Haiti-the-Art-of-Resiliance.html; "Art After the Quake", *The New Yorker Online*, http://www.newyorker.com/online/2010/09/06/haiti_art_20100906#slide=1

{the avant-garde}

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Anne gade Makak avek youn figi desu epi li reponn, "Bonjou Rico, Mwen kontan wè ou. Sa se Makak li separe de fanmi l'nan Gwo Soukous la." "Oh," Rico reponn, "mwen separe de fanmi mwen tou." " Vrèman?" Makak reponn. "Wi," reponn Rico. "Nan premye fwa mwen te panse li te fòt mwen ke yo te pèdi, men koulye a, mwen konnen ke anpil nan bèt ki manke apre Gwo Soukous a, epi se pa fòt mwen."

Anne regarda Makak déçue et répondit, * Bonjour Rico, je suis contente de te voir. Voici Makak, il a perdu sa famille dans la Grande Secousse. * 4 Oh », dit Rico, * J'ai perdu mes parents aussi ». * Cest vrai ? » dit Makak. * Oui » répondit Rico. * Au début, je croyais que c'était de ma faute qu'ils étaient perdus mais maintenant je sais qu'il y beaucoup d'animoux qu'i ont disparus après la Grande Secousse et que ce n'est pas de ma faute ».

Anne looked at Makak disappointedly and responded, "Hi Rico, it's good to see you. This is Makak and he got lost from his family in the Big Shake." Oh," said Rico, "I got lost from my parents too." "Really?" said Makak. "Yes," replied Rico. "At first I thought it was my fault that they were lost, but now I know that lots of animals are missing after the Big Shake, and it is not my fault."

{haiti pap peri: the big shake}

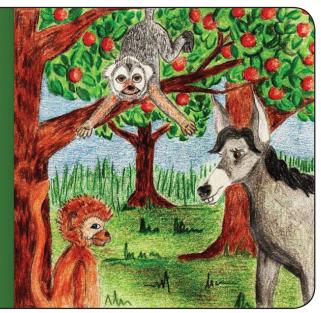
by Katherine N. Crowley

Written and illustrated by Lucy Bromer and Caroline Crowley, The Big Shake is a children's book that is dedicated to the children of Haiti whose lives were impacted by the 2010 earthquake. Ms. Bromer and Ms. Crowley created the book as their Master's thesis while studying social work and disaster mental health at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. The story centers around the experiences of Makak, a monkey who lives in a tree with his family. One day, the ground begins to shake so much that the monkeys must escape from their tree. Makak is separated from his family and does not know what to do. In time, Makak makes friends with a donkey named Anne and another monkey named Rico. The three make a new home in an orange tree. Makak learns to lead a new life with his new friends and each day he and Rico go to the top of the tree to look for their families.

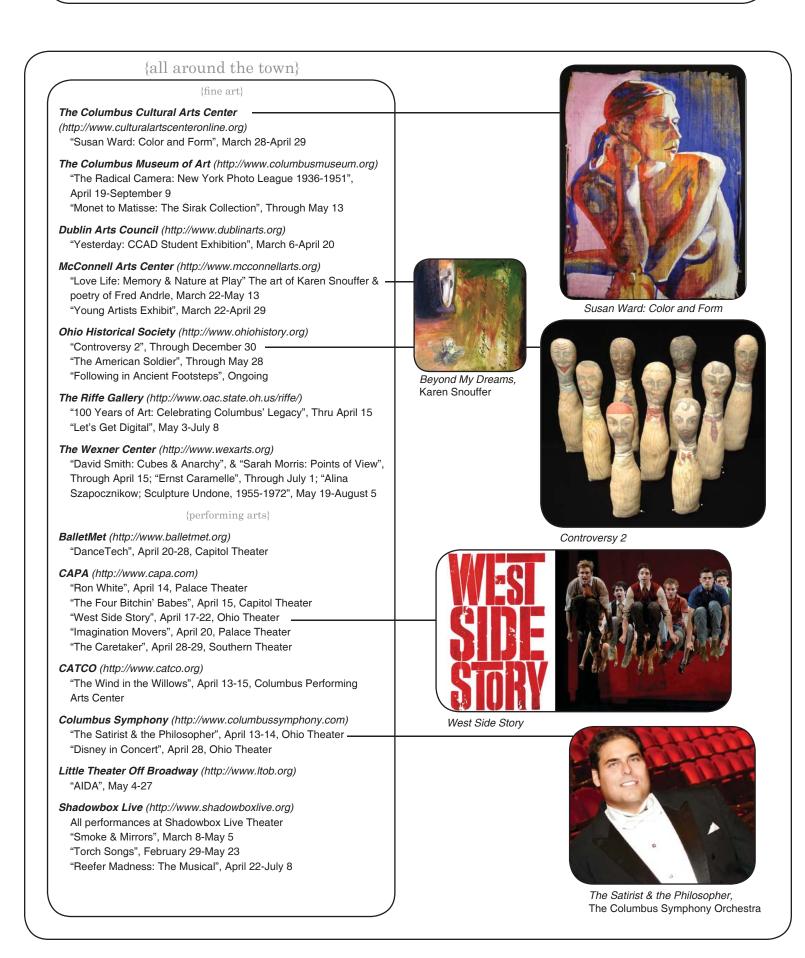
On the closing pages of the book the two authors provide notes so that teachers and aid workers can use the story as a tool to communicate with children who have experienced a traumatic event in their lives. The book was written to promote conversation and understanding so that children who have lived through disaster feel free to express their feelings in a healthy manner.

The Big Shake/La Grande Secousse/Gwo Soukos la was written in English and translated into French and French Creole so that it may be used to reach as many children as possible who were touched by the devastation. The Big Shake can currently be purchased at http://www.blurb.com.

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