

CAA BUZZ

SUMMER/EARLY FALL NEWS - 2026

So much has been happening at the Clinton Art Association thanks to our dedicated volunteers. The past few months have been filled with exciting accomplishments, and there is even more to come.

The "Tiny Art Show," in collaboration with the Clinton Public Library, was a wonderful success. The creative and beautiful canvases made it difficult for visitors to choose a favorite. We thank everyone who participated and attended.

The Clinton Middle School Exhibit filled our gallery with color, creativity, and talent. Featuring a variety of styles, techniques, and mediums, the exhibit has impressed visitors and highlighted the abilities of these young artists.

We hope to feature more student artists in the future.

Special thanks to Clinton Middle School teachers Grayson Eggers (Art) and Cecilia Hinsley (Science) for their extra efforts in showcasing student work, and to the Clinton School District and Administrators for supporting their vision.

Business continues to thrive at Rainbow Pottery & Over the Rainbow Studios. Diane and Tami recently hosted activities at the Clinton High School After Prom event, offering pottery painting and face painting. What started with two painting tables quickly grew to five and all seats were busy throughout the evening. Tami painted faces nonstop while Diane kept the pottery activities running smoothly. Their booth was such a success that they have already been invited back next year.

Birthday parties remain popular, often earning comments like "best party ever!" The Girl Scout "Cookie Champs" recently held a glazing party and generously invited another troop to join them.

Tami also provided face painting for the Head Start graduation picnic and participated in several community events, including the Ride for Recovery at the Copper Mill on May 30th and the Heroes and Hooks Fishing Derby on May 31st. Tami has more face painting dates in conjunction with community events this summer.

Community support remains important to us. Recently, we donated four gift baskets to local nonprofit and community organizations for fundraisers and special giveaways. We are grateful for the opportunity to help other worthy causes

Gift Shop & Gallery

Laura Readdy's exhibit was a tremendous success, with many visitors purchasing her artwork. In addition to the exhibit, she offered a hands-on art class that was well attended and enjoyed. Under her guidance, each participant created and took home a unique piece of artwork, making the experience both educational and rewarding.

Our Gift Shop/Gallery also experienced increased visitation through several collaborative and community-focused exhibits, including the "Think Spring" show, the "Tiny Art Show" (a collaboration with the Clinton Public Library), and the Clinton Middle School Art Show. It was especially rewarding to welcome parents, grandparents, students, and community members who came to support the artists. Seeing middle school students visit to encourage and celebrate their friends' artistic achievements was particularly inspiring.

Our exhibits draw visitors from near and far. One couple from Pennsylvania visited us after exploring our new Troll installations. They were so moved by an art piece in the Clinton Middle School Show that they photographed it because it reminded them of their son. Throughout the exhibits, visitors praised the creativity, vibrant colors, variety, and incredible talent showcased by our artists.

We are grateful for the opportunity to host and promote all of the above events. Together, these events enrich our community, showcase local talent, and strengthen engagement with the arts.

Gallery

Sean Foster

June 17th - August 8th

Sean Foster lives in Elburn, IL. He went to Elmhurst University for his Art Education degree and holds an advanced degree from National Louis University - Chicago Campus in Curriculum and Instruction.

Sean Foster is a middle school art teacher in the greater Chicagoland area who grew up in Clinton and actively creates his own art projects. He creates colored pencil drawings, acrylic and oil paintings, along with mixed media artworks on canvas. Creating art connects his interests to his students and inspires conversations about art, life, and society. Sean inspires confidence in his students to create a variety of art by his positive example.

His inspiration is ever changing and doesn't settle on one genre or style. The artwork evolves with exposure, time, and experiences. View his retrospective works and current series of mixed media artworks which focus on color, pop culture, architecture, and typography at the Gallery. Share in his artistic journey and come to his reception to meet this talented artist.

Reception to be held: Saturday, August 1st from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

URGENT NEWS!

Many of you know that we have had some plumbing issues, especially on the “Bassment” nights. Our building was built in 1889 and we need major plumbing done to eradicate the issues.

**WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR ALL EVENTS FROM
MONDAY, July 6th - MONDAY, July 20th (approximately)**

**See page 9 for more details*

UPDATED 2026 Gallery Exhibit Schedule

June 17th - August 8th

Sean Foster - Elburn, IL

Retrospective & current series of mixed media artworks which focus on color, pop culture, architecture, & typography (art/process of printing with type)

August 12th - September 26th

Barb Bianchi - Clinton, IA

Mixed media blending visual storytelling with elemental textures

September 30th - November 14th

Colleen Curry - Donohue, IA

Utilizing art techniques including various materials, creative beading & three-dimensional features in quilts

November 18th - January 2nd

Annual Membership Show

Please contact *Martha Hayes @ 563-559-2277*

to participate in the Membership Show

Barb Bianchi

August 12th - September 26th

Barb Bianchi's personal statement:

This body of work explores identity as something shaped through lived experience, memory, and place.

Working with found materials—torn paper, fragments of text, and layered surfaces—I create collages that reflect both disruption and reconstruction. The works resist containment. Edges remain irregular, surfaces distressed, and elements intentionally unsettled. These qualities are not incidental; they speak to a life shaped by change, resilience, and the passage of time. Meaning emerges through layering. Words are fragmented, images partially revealed, and surfaces carry traces of what has come before. What we see is never complete, but always in the process of becoming. For me, identity is not something fixed. It is layered, altered, and continually unfolding—formed through what is revealed, what is hidden, and what remains. The work carries traces of a life lived—layer by layer.

Barbara Bianchi, known as the “ArtistWithoutBorders”, creates mixed media collages that explore identity through layers of memory, experience, and place. Using torn paper, fragments of text, and found materials, her work reflects both disruption and reconstruction, revealing identity as something continually evolving rather than fixed. Bianchi's surfaces remain intentionally unsettled—edges irregular, images partially obscured—inviting viewers to consider what is seen, what is hidden, and what remains beneath. At 85, she continues to expand her practice, demonstrating that artistic expression is not bound by time, but deepened by it.



Barb is living proof that artistic expression knows no age limits and that the creative spirit can deepen and expand over time.

We are working with Barb to have her lead a collage workshop.

Tentative date will be Saturday, August 22nd from 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM - exploring layering, material and narrative. The afternoon will start with a brief tour around her exhibit where Barb will speak about her process & philosophy before her class.

We will post information regarding this class including cost and needed materials on our door signage, in the Gift Shop and on our website as the information becomes available.

Participants can bring personal materials/items that “speak to them”

Reception to be held: Sunday, August 23rd from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Art Talk at 2:00 PM - Barb will highlight her work and answer questions! Come and meet this inspirational artist!

The Clinton Art Association's Mission is to advance, stimulate, and promote an awareness of the arts and to provide opportunities for all in Clinton and surrounding communities to participate in a healthy arts environment.

The Clinton Art Association is a 501(c)(3) organization

Colleen Curry

September 30th - November 11th

Colleen started her career in Art Quilting in 1994. Since then she has exhibited in galleries and quilt shows around the mid-west. She gives presentations at Quilt Guilds and teaches classes on new techniques. She creates art quilts to represent reality, to show humor, to experiment with new materials, to play with design, color, ideas, and form. Watch for more great information about Colleen in our next newsletter!



Rainbow Pottery & Over the Rainbow Studios

Rainbow Pottery has been bustling with activity as customers take advantage of the new glazes and painting techniques available. Tami and Diane have been working closely with customers, teaching a variety of painting and glazing methods that add depth, dimension, and highlights to their projects. Rainbow Pottery & Over the Rainbow Studios continues to thrive, and our connection with the community keeps growing. We are welcoming many first-time painters, and we're delighted to see so many of them return again and again to create new projects and further develop their artistic skills.

Classes

Our classes continue to be a wonderful success, with students consistently demonstrating remarkable creativity and enthusiasm. Many of their projects are proudly displayed in the Rainbow Pottery windows, where visitors and patrons frequently stop to admire and comment on the beautiful artwork created by these talented young artists.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Tami, whose imaginative project ideas inspire excitement, wonder, and creativity in every class. Her passion for teaching encourages students to explore their artistic abilities and develop confidence in their work.

We would also like to give a special shout-out to Diane, who helps facilitate the classes and serves as Tami's right hand. Her support, creativity, and dedication play an important role in making each class a positive and rewarding experience.

It is not uncommon for a "Home Skoolrz" or a Pottery & Art Class student to attend class and then return later to paint with a parent or grandparent, creating meaningful family memories through art.

We are also excited to continue our partnership with Unity Christian School for the upcoming school year. Beginning this fall, the school plans to offer monthly classes for second-grade students, providing even more opportunities for young artists to explore their creativity and develop new skills.

"Home Skoolrz" classes: Monday @ 2:00 - 4:00 PM & Tuesday @ 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon
Kids Pottery & Art classes: Friday @ 2:00 - 3:00 PM & 4:00 - 5:00 PM
We can sometimes accommodate "drop-ins" - just text Tami to see if she has space!
Text Tami at **563-593-1642** or email: **Overtherainbowpotterystudio@gmail.com**
with questions or to sign up



Call **Diane** at **563-249-9158** to schedule a birthday party or special event.
She can answer questions and help you create activities for your group!

Wednesday Night Events- held Monthly

1st Wednesday of the Month

Quill Club

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Paper Quilling is a craft that involves rolling thin strips of paper into scroll or coils and then turning them into the shape or pattern of your choice.

No experience necessary and plenty of supplies for all!

Drop in at your convenience.

Questions: Call or Text Diane @ 563-249-9158



2nd & 3rd Wednesday of the Month

The Bassment

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM (ish)



Join us on **August 12th**, **August 19th**, **September 9th**, and **September 16th** for great music, and/or dancing, and community spirit! Enjoy our talented house band while supporting the many gifted musicians who make our local music scene so vibrant.

Thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors, complimentary food and beverages will be available for everyone to enjoy. We are also grateful to those who bring dishes to share, adding even more variety to the evening's offerings. Many of you have remarkable culinary talents, and your delicious contributions are always a highlight of these gatherings!



4th Wednesday of the Month

Pizza, Pop & Paint

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Learn different techniques for Acrylic Pour Painting

\$15.00 per person - includes Pizza, Pop & an 8" x 8" Canvas

Additional Canvases for \$5.00 each

All Paints & Tools provided -

No experience or reservations needed

The Trolls have arrived!

Fundraiser for the Sawmill Museum's Trolls

Trolls are available for glazing or acrylic painting. We are especially grateful to Pat Mooney for the Troll mold which was acquired many years ago and still bringing creativity and joy to our community. Pat is continuing to bless us even after his passing!

In April, Rainbow Pottery partnered with the Sawmill Museum for a successful fundraiser. Community members painted 47 Trolls, which were fired and displayed in our front windows. Visitors voted for their favorite Troll, generating excitement and support for the fundraiser. The winner received a lovely RAC gift basket with art materials and a gift certificate before all our "Troll Artists" took their creations home.

The Bassment and the Danish Engineers

One of the volunteers helping build the Trolls invited five of Thomas Dambo's engineers to visit the Bassment. While visiting the RAC, they viewed the Troll display and cast their votes for their favorite Troll. When the band started playing 1960's music, they eagerly took to the dance floor inviting several ladies to dance. Their friendliness, enthusiasm, and kindness made the evening especially memorable. We were delighted to know they enjoyed their visit as much as we enjoyed hosting them.

Troll Scroll for "Troll Hunters"

Since the Trolls arrived, visitors from across the country/world have been traveling to Clinton, and our social media has been buzzing with activity from enthusiastic "Troll Hunters." To track their journeys, we've created a Troll Station where visitors can sign the "Troll Scroll" and place a pin on a map showing where they're from. We have been amazed to find out where our visitors are from and how many Dambo Trolls they have traveled to see. We are enjoying welcoming visitors from around the United States & the World to see Clinton's amazing Trolls and the "Enchanted Branches" at Eagle Point Park.

Make & Take your own Troll

Visitors of all ages are invited to build their own Troll for free at Rainbow Pottery using recycled materials, twigs, and other creative supplies. Thanks to the generosity of our weekly ceramic painters and other supporters, the supply table is well stocked and inspiring lots of creativity.

Crochet Trolls

Bassment patron, Deb Rubey, is creating colorful crochet Trolls. Each Troll has its own unique features/personality! Deb will even make custom Trolls. Available for \$15.00 in the Gift Shop/Gallery and Rainbow Pottery, these popular Trolls have been a hit with both local and out-of-town visitors.

Thanks to Diane Guntzel's generosity, all proceeds support the River Arts Center's Maintenance/Building Fund.

Troll Totes, Insulated Drink Tumblers & Zippered Brush/Pencil bags (have many uses)

One of Rainbow Pottery's regular ceramic painters, Amy Woods, who is one of our newest artists has been creating adorable Troll-themed merchandise, including tote bags, insulated drink tumblers, and zippered brush/pencil/makeup bags (they are very versatile). These fun items have been selling well and are available in the front of Rainbow Pottery for visitors to enjoy and purchase. Custom orders are available!



Amy's "Troll"
Insulated
Tumbler
(directly left)

Artist/Board Member News

Many of our Board Members are also accomplished artists, and we would like to begin recognizing members whose work is being featured in and beyond our local community. Congratulations to long-time Board Member, **Greg Steele**, whose exhibit titled, "Midwestern Memories" has been selected as a featured component of a three-day arts conference at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN. Greg was invited after conference organizers discovered his work through the David Barnett Gallery and via Greg's personal website.

Greg will travel to Middle Tennessee State University on Sunday, July 12th for the conference. His exhibit titled, "Midwestern Memories", will be featured as a central component of the three-day event. Greg's paintings will be on display in the university art gallery throughout the summer.

His schedule includes a full lineup of engaging presentations: a 15–20 minute introductory talk on Monday. On Tuesday morning, a one-hour talk and demonstration with the students. Later that day, he will lead a two-hour Gallery Walk for teachers, sharing insights into his artwork, creative process and techniques. This will be followed by a 45–60 minute hands-on workshop with teachers. Greg is a featured artist for this conference!

Long-time Board Member, **Greg Dickinson**, is currently showing some of his work in Geneseo. You can view his art at several Geneseo establishments: the Geneseo Art League, the Rutabaga Art Gallery & The Cellar restaurant.

He received an Honorable Mention and a \$75.00 award in the recent competition in Geneseo.

Greg Steele and Greg Dickinson have items on display and for sale in our Gift Shop!

CAA Member News

Allen Eberle, long-time CAA Member has an exhibit at the Clinton Community College Library Gallery from May 20th - August 15th. His exhibit is titled, "Splintalism Old Maid" and viewing is enhanced by **black light and 3-D glasses!** His reception was June 23rd, but his work can be viewed until August 15th during Clinton Community College Library Hours. It is a unique and colorful exhibit - don't miss it!

Debora Stewart, long-time CAA Member, who has supported us, taught classes for us and always comes to view every CAA Gallery exhibit, has a beautiful exhibit at the **Gilded Pear Gallery**.

The Gilded Pear Gallery is located in Cedar Rapids at 808 - 3rd Ave, SE. You can view their hours and other information

at: gildedpeargallery.com

or Debora's website:

deborastewart.com

Stunning exhibit in an amazing space.



Urgent Closures

We will be completing a major building repair from

Monday, July 6th through Monday, July 20th (approximately)

Phase 1 - Dependable Drain will address plumbing and replace pipe in certain targeted areas of the building. Our hope is that this first phase will fully resolve the issue.

Phase 2, if needed, will involve excavation at the rear of the building to connect new piping to the city sewer system. We foresee this may be necessary given the age of our 1889 building and similar challenges in nearby structures.

We really appreciate your patience and support as we complete this important work to protect the future of our building.

Updates will be shared on our door signage, Facebook, and website.

Gift Shop/Gallery Phone #: 563-243-3300

Rainbow Pottery Phone #: 563-321-2848

Open hours: Wednesday - Saturday

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Website: www.clintonartassociation.org

Facebook: [RainbowPotteryandOvertheRainbowStudios](https://www.facebook.com/RainbowPotteryandOvertheRainbowStudios)

Tik Tok: [Rainbowpotteryclintonia](https://www.tiktok.com/@Rainbowpotteryclintonia)

Upcoming Special Event

Mark your calendars for the afternoon of Tuesday, September 22nd. The River Arts Center will host a Tea along with a Fashion Show presented by the Four Season of Davenport. The Four Seasons carries clothes, purses, bags, and jewelry. The event will start at 1:00 PM and the cost is \$15.00. Please call **Nancy Malli** at **563-357-9656** to make reservations or if you have questions. Space is limited and reservations are required. Payment is due at the time of the reservation. We will provide tea along with a variety of sweet and savory treats. Come and enjoy this first-time event!



WE NEED HELP!

In 2000, the Clinton Art Association purchased our building at 229–5th Ave S because of the vision and dedication of a forward-thinking Board. Moving from the Schick Hospital complex allowed us to grow into what is now the River Arts Center—a creative home for our community.

Today, this historic building supports every part of our mission. The upper level houses our Permanent Collection, ceramic molds, classrooms, kilns, and pottery wheels. The main floor features Rainbow Pottery, a Gift Shop showcasing local and regional artists, and a rotating Gallery that brings new exhibits and artistic experiences to our community every seven weeks. The lower level, once a theater, has been transformed into the “Bassment,” a welcoming venue for live music and gatherings. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, who are truly the heartbeat of our organization.

After 135 years, our building now faces significant repair needs. We are asking for your support to help preserve this important historical building and community resource to keep it open for future generations. Since 2008, we have made only one formal donation appeal (in 2011 for a new roof). We have worked hard to handle major expenses independently, including more than \$15,000 in state-required elevator upgrades in 2020.

We remain committed to keeping our programs affordable so everyone can continue to enjoy art, classes, ceramics, and live music.

At this time, we are facing two major expenses:

- \$21,500 for plumbing repairs (Phase 1 & 2)
- \$135,982.52 for tuckpointing, critical to prevent water damage and protect the structure of the building

We have recently applied for a special Clinton County Development Association (CCDA) grant and will apply for their standard grant in the fall. We know that recent funding available has been significantly lower compared to requests.

While we continue planning additional fundraising efforts, these urgent repairs require immediate support. Any donation—large or small—will make a meaningful difference.

Please designate contributions to our Building/Maintenance Fund.

Thank you for helping us preserve this joyful and creative home for our community!

**Please send donations to the Clinton Art Association at
P.O. Box 132, Clinton IA 52733-0132**

**Heather (our Treasurer) & Nancy B. will make sure you receive donation documentation for personal & tax records.*