



OPEN FIGURE DRAWING INC.  
NEWSLETTER

[www.openfiguredrawing.com](http://www.openfiguredrawing.com)

April 2016

STILL FREE

**Be sure to check out the NEW 2016 calendar listings on our website *along with easy signup for our informative emails!***

Complete updated info on all our sessions, events, and offerings: [www.openfiguredrawing.com](http://www.openfiguredrawing.com)

[Page 1 Our events for April](#)

[Page 2 Spotlight on](#)

[Page 3 Thanks to Dick Blick](#)

[Page 4 Travelling sessions and...](#)

[The Future of OFD Inc.](#)



**“Weather closings ... if Syracuse City Schools close for bad weather OFD will also cancel our events. Please check your radio and television for SCSD closings. S... can still happen!**

## **Our Upcoming Special Events:**

Sunday April 3, 1-3pm Maleficent and Aurora Costume session @ WCC Missed it? See August traveling sessions...  
Thursday April Everson Museum Traveling Session 6-8pm – Free  
Every Wednesday we have a special rate for bringing along a friend. 2 for \$16. Help fill the room and get a deal!

**“Art is not a thing , it is a way.”**

Elbert Hubbert -Send your favorite art quote to the editor [itjohnso@syr.edu](mailto:itjohnso@syr.edu)



Open Figure Drawing Artist spotlight!

# Scott Herrmann

Scott has been coming to OFD since 1995 and has been Board President since 2010. He enjoys working in red conte and ballpoint pen and also likes working in collage. Say hi to Scott on Wednesday night!





**2015 Group Show and Catalog** available for a limited time...

*A few catalogs remain for the group show 2015. Get yours before they disappear.*

---

# BLICK<sup>®</sup> art materials

BLICK donation helps us restart our materials collection that was lost during our last traveling session. Many thanks for a set of drawing goodies which includes 3 sets of pencils, 3 set of colored pencils, 2 sets of markers, & a box of gummy erasers. The supplies will help our participants who show up with limited or no materials...hurray to BLICK for supporting the arts!

---

**Last Months Special Events:** March Bride and Maid of Honor, Board Meeting @ CF.

**Our grant request from CNYArts *traveling* costume sessions...we have designated a number of potential sessions... stay tuned for more info on Third Sunday **Project Locations / Venues / Themes under consideration:****

- 1) June 19 - Hiawatha Lake/ Musician
- 2) Thurs July 14 is Fayetteville lib reception *Snow White*
- 3) Thurs Aug 4 Onondaga Library opening *Maleficent*  
Sat, Aug 13 - Drawing in Nature (not part of the grant)
- 4) Aug 21 - ***Shakespeare in Thorndon?***  
Sun, Sept 18 - WSCF (not part of grant)  
Sept 24 & 25 – **open (see alternatives to right)**
- 5) Oct 16 Oakwood Cemetery Beetlejuice and friends.
- 6) TBA Syracuse Stage – extended pose drawing w/Alex

**Alternative options for traveling sessions -**  
**\*Senior homes with local celebrity Liz Ayers\*,**  
**Erie Canal Museum, Native Americans @**  
**Mission at Irish Festival Dancers downtown**  
**Syracuse, Ball Room Dancing, Fashion Week @**  
**Armory Square. Stars Wars @ Cloud City Comics,**  
**Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys**

### *Unpolitical Commentary*

It is a sad state where our political leaders have been so derisive and unproductive for so long that they have turned so many people away from trusting anyone connected to government. Sadder still that because of this people so yearn for change that they would support an outsider that promises change that cannot be delivered. A person used to “getting the job done” by money, insensitivity, and power is not the person I want to lead me or my country. I wish for a candidate that values consensus, understanding, and cooperation. Please choose your candidates wisely for Your Vote Counts.



## Manifesting Our Future

How we define the Drawing Experience may be the essential task for our future. I think we need to hold on to **Inclusive** in that everyone can be creative. We should continue to be **non-judgmental**. We operate with multiple sometimes conflicting standards. The invasive white European standards of the Academies have lasted hundreds of years and may still be a needless influence. We can be open to contemporary choices. We can reject the Best of the Best notions that limit what is acceptable.

We are real, the antithesis of virtual worlds, disconnected from the Web. The virtual experiences of community pale to what we offer. Real **community sharing** is in real time. The images under construction are a powerful influence, a cornucopia of educational 'demonstrations' on a variety of skill levels. Participants meet face to face drawing without editing; successes and errors are all there to observe. Drawing is an activity that seems to strengthen with practice but especially when done within a group where observation of the models, pose, materials, and other participants are highly motivating and informational. To provide this environment aids the novice, dabblers, and even aficionados.

The **models provide incentives**: a subject that may contribute more to the final image than we acknowledge; nudity, beauty, and poses. These areas help to define the experience; the models, the poses, the images, the materials, and the participants in an environment that is nonjudgmental. All these have a beauty that is motivating.

It's not what we've done; it is what we will do next. What we do next is the larger question. Do we stay with what we know and hold onto past achievement? Do we take risks, gamble our current status? How do we support the passion we hold dear? Sharing passion can take many paths. OFD is like a wood stove, radiating pleasure but needing constant attention. The hosts and Board need to tend the fires and be sure that the other work to support drawing is done. Our service is to let people experience what artists do. We provide practice so that novices can try their hand, so that artists become better and the experienced can experiment.

Focus is a spotlight, an area of investigation. Attention is like flood lamp, a broad illumination which allows peripheral to be investigated. We focus on the figure but we need to pay attention to any other shifts that occur. The trends I see impacting representational drawing are the continued public and private move away from the nude due to society's pressure and economic costs. With less figurative sessions, fewer models will have the opportunity to learn their craft. The move towards digital is not yet clear; everyone has a camera in their phone. People will continue to crave creativity, what outlets they will discover is yet to be seen. There are different experiences for actual and virtual communities – online or over the phone communication is highly filtered.

**What might we manifest in the future?** Some participants have requested a long pose session for drawing, painting, and sculpting. Afternoon and evening have been requested. Perhaps gestures could be another offering, as well as drawing from casts (a throwback to Academy training). Formal workshops and teaching as ASOD would be a possibility. Afterschool or weekend art classes for youth are an untapped potential.

A gallery was suggested where opening and sales could take place along with a shop for specialty materials. Musicians appeal to and cultivate their audiences. Visual artists do so to a much lesser extent. Musicians rehearse in private to eventually perform in public. Artists that draw but then don't exhibit miss the opportunity for positive feedback. The spaces for non-juried (inclusive of all skill levels) or uncensored (disregarding cultural taboos) is limited. A dedicated space would solve some of the reoccurring problems of finding exhibit space and set up and strike for drawing sessions.

An art center is one suggestion that could encompass many ideas.

The open community studio has provided ways to advance through practice with a diverse group of people. This model may endure for another twenty five years or external forces may completely change the landscape. If we continue to just repeat our success we are not assured the same results in the future. If we dream we may manifest the future we desire. ..