



ROYCROFTERS-AT-LARGE ASSOCIATION
CHRONICLE

:: OUR MISSION ::

The Roycrofters-At-Large Association was formed over 30 years ago by a group of East Auroran's that included several descendants of the original Roycrofters, including Elbert Hubbard's granddaughter. The Roycrofters-At-Large Association, Inc. has been entrusted with educating, fostering and inspiring through the continual evolution of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

■ WINTER 2019 ■

From gamer to dancer to Roycroft Artisan, Keith Rust brings outdoor beauty indoors

By Joe Kirchmyer

I've never been to Yosemite National Park, but I feel I've done the next best thing ... viewed the amazing work of Roycroft Artisan Keith Rust. Rust is captivated and inspired by the natural beauty of Yosemite, and offers a glimpse on his website at keithrustillustration.com. We caught up with Keith as he prepared to make the journey to Grove Park.

A: I grew up when home video game systems were just starting out and after college decided to pursue a career in the video game industry. I thoroughly enjoyed my time working in the gaming industry for over a decade, starting out as an artist and eventually rising to the position of Vice President of Creative Arts, managing three departments. I really enjoyed the creativity,

collaboration, teamwork and comradery, however, the extreme demands and expectations on my time eventually became too much. I transitioned careers to becoming a high school art instructor. This allowed me to have an impact in kids' lives and provided me with time off to travel and pursue my own art.

Q: It looks like you're heading to the 32nd National Arts & Crafts Conference at Grove Park. How does this event benefit you?

A: When I first attended the National Arts and Crafts Conference last year, I was in complete awe. I found myself surrounded by the beautiful scenery of North Carolina and all kinds of Arts and Crafts furnishings and decorations on display. One of my favorite things was getting the opportunity to meet and socialize with the people whose work I have admired for so long. To be invited to exhibit this year alongside so many incredible artisans was such an honor for me. Having participated in some local shows, it has been very humbling to have the opportunity to speak with people who appreciate or collect my work. I have found that it is also a great way to expose people to my work who may not have seen it in magazines or their local stores.



Q: There's definitely something different about your style. How do you describe it?

A: I love the look of the block prints of the Arts and Crafts movement and over a period of several years worked to develop a painting style that paid homage to the woodcut prints. However, I wanted to give them a greater

sense of depth and detail I aspire to represent and capture the ideal composition as I scale and arrange all of the elements. After working on the initial designs, I let them sit for awhile. As I revisit my ideas, I continue to adjust them until I am completely satisfied with the design layout and color scheme.

After the design is finished, I begin blocking in the sky colors using layer upon layer of transparent acrylic washes. Once the sky

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2019 GOODIE BOX RAFFLE

The "Goodie Box" by Roycroft Master Artisans James Miller and Frank Glapa, is a Charles Rennie Mackintosh inspired design. Frank Glapa is supplying three copper repousse panels. The panels will be recessed in the quarter-sawn oak structure and completed by James Miller. (see insert)



2019 CALENDAR

February 15-17
Grove Park Arts & Crafts Conference
Asheville, NC

June 7-9, 14-15
Roycroft Chamber Music Festival
at St. Matthias Church
www.roycroftchambermusic.org

June 29-30
Roycroft Summer Festival
at the Healthy Zone Ice Rink

Goodie Raffle Drawing
Sunday, June 30th at 4pm





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Board Meetings

Board meetings are regularly scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month. The first 15 minutes of the meeting is reserved for member comments, after which the board will enter a closed session. Contact the RALA Coordinator for details.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Welcome to almost Spring (ha!) here in Western New York and elsewhere throughout the country. Since it's February, it's time for the annual National Arts & Crafts Conference at the Omni Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina. With generous support from the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, Roycrofters-At-Large Association, Inc. is thrilled to have a formal presence at the conference, led by Master Artisan and former RALA President Thomas Pafk. We are also grateful to Bruce Johnson, director of the conference for his generous support. In addition to our formal presence, there will be other RALA Masters and Artisans taking part in this 32nd annual conference from February 15 – 17th. From all perspectives, we're very pleased to be there!

Our winter show was successful and included, among other things, the introduction of this year's amazing goodie box (see enclosed).

Planning for the 26th annual Roycroft Chamber Music Festival are also underway. The concerts this year will be June 7, 9, 14 and 15, with all concerts beginning at 7:30 at St. Matthias' Episcopal Church in East Aurora. In addition, we are working with Friends of Knox Farm to present a second annual gala concert of chamber music in the Main House at Knox Farm State Park. We're hoping for early May and expect to release date and ticket information shortly. We will keep information current on the chamber music website (www.roycroftchambermusic.org) and on our Facebook page. Last year's event was nothing short of delightful (and in fact, was the way that chamber music was intended to be performed). For more information, please check those sites for updates.

We appreciate your interest and support. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at martha@marthabuyer.com.

Martha Buyer
President

From gamer to dancer to Roycroft Artisan, Keith Rust brings outdoor beauty indoor.... continued

is completed, I move to the background elements and then gradually progress forward. As the image comes together, I will often remix colors and repaint sections to better unite the whole. With my craftsman landscapes, the challenge is always to reduce the scenery down to the perfect shapes, colors and values that reveal the essence and mood of a specific moment in that chosen locale. The final stage is to outline the middle ground in darker variations of the colors and the foreground in black, giving the painting a sense of greater depth. With my work, I am trying to represent a location that captures a certain atmosphere and feeling which draws the viewer into the painting where they can further explore the scene. It is my desire that people find joy in viewing my work and hopefully capturing a place that held a fond memory for them.

Q: Your passion for nature and the outdoors is obvious. Do you paint anything else?

A: When I began my artistic career, my work was semi-photorealistic. As I continued to explore my style, I appreciated seeing more of the painterly brushwork being revealed in my artwork. I painted a lot of people and felt like I really excelled at portraits. As I moved into my freelance career, I was primarily focusing on advertising illustrations, which could be about anything. Since I began my Arts and Crafts paintings, I have not had time to paint anything else, but there is one painting I had started that is not Arts and Crafts. I have not had the time to go back and finish it, but I would like to when I have more time.

Q: You recently joined the ranks of the Roycroft Renaissance Artisans. How did you feel using the Roycroft mark for the very first time?

A: I cannot accurately describe how extremely proud and honored I felt to be able to use the Roycroft mark and to be included among so many artists that I respect. It is important to me to be recognized with an organization focused on the quality and dedication to our craft. My dad was always so supportive and excited to see how everything was developing with my artwork. I am sad that he was not able to share this experience with me, having passed away just months before I was accepted.

My first painting to utilize the Roycroft Renaissance mark was Luminous Misty Falls which captures the breathtaking Vernal Falls in Yosemite National Park. After nearing the end of an 8.9-mile hike, a buddy and I had to take a much-needed break at Vernal Falls. After becoming quite dehydrated, I had some



cool water and walked over to the river to cool off. We sat there for a good half-hour enjoying the falls and relaxing. Sitting at the river's edge I was inspired to try to capture the intimate, peaceful beauty and strength displayed before me.

Q: You've said that Yosemite National Park is one of your favorite and most inspiring places. What other locations are on that list?

A: I love traveling and capturing the spectacular beauty found in nature. I especially love the national parks, however, outside of Yosemite I would have to say I am captivated by the beauty of Carmel and Monterey with the unique Monterey Cypress trees twisting out over the rocky shore of the ocean and the crystal clear turquoise waters of Lake Tahoe, where I spent many vacations as a kid.

Q: When you step aside from art, what else do you do to occupy your time?

A: Since I have another job which takes a lot of my time, a good deal of my free time is working on creating new paintings. However, I love spending quality time with my family and good friends. I love to travel where I can see all the beauty of new locations and experience the local food and culture of that region. While traveling I enjoy exploring the city and its surrounding nature, taking photographs and going on hikes. This past summer I went on three different trips where I was able to visit one country and 13 states from the northwest to the southeast corners of the U.S. I also love watching movies and plays and hanging out at Disneyland.

Q: Finally, tell us one thing about you that might surprise us.

A: Although I have not been able to do it in awhile, I love to swing dance. I took ballroom dance lessons and learned rumba, cha cha, foxtrot and waltz, but my favorite was the East Coast Swing and Lindy Hop. A group of friends all had annual passes for Disneyland, and we would go one or two Saturday nights a month for dinner and dancing. They have a live swing band that plays for about four hours. It was so much fun!

Joe Kirchmyer is president of Kirchmyer Media LLC, a communications company based in West Seneca, N.Y.; co-owner of the popular website BuffaloScoop.com; and executive director of the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce. You can contact him at jkirchmyer@verizon.net.

