

CACA

Getting to Know Cassatot Arts and Crafts Association



Figure 1. Is an image of the Cassatot Arts Center Sign. The sign is located near the CACA building in King, Arkansas. By Lemser, A, 2015.

By: Amber Lemser

February 7, 2015

Getting To know The Cassatot Arts and Crafts Association, Inc.

The Association

The Cassatot Arts and Crafts Association, Inc. is a nonprofit association in Southwest Arkansas. The name Cossatot is chosen for its prominent place in the history of Southwest Arkansas. The Cossatot is known to be one of the most beautiful streams found in southwest



Figure 2. Is a photography taken of the Cassatot fall in Wickes, Arkansas, near the Cassatot Art Center in King, Arkansas. By Blaisdell, M., Summer, 2012. Copyright 2012 Matt Baisdell Photography.

Arkansas, and is only four miles from the association's art center. The association started in June 1973 in Sevier County, Arkansas. Some of its earliest members were Velna Jo Daniel, Kaye Blackmon, Neldene Smith, Lorene Hendricks, Jim Hicks, Winne

Silbert, Kittie Hughes, and many others who strive to keep the association alive. The mission of the southwest Arkansas group is to “further cultural and educational opportunities for young and old artist, and help create community interest and appreciation for the arts”. The CACA Mission Statement is as follows, “To aid, encourage, and when and where possible, in the opinion of the governing board, financing activities or programs in the territory of Sevier County Arkansas” (CACA, 2014, p.2). The group meets the 3rd Friday of every month in the REA Building in DeQueen, Arkansas. The association has 38 group members and counting. Its officers and board members consist of 9 local artist and supporters (Beuden, K. & Saylor, I., personal communication, January 26, 2015).

2015: Officers and Committee Chairpersons

- President- Lucretia Walker
- Vice President- Shirley Tipton
- Secretary/ Reporter- Iris Saylor
- Treasurer- JoAnn Holcombe
- Historian- Wanda Ledbetter
- Art Show Chair- Kathy Beuden



Figure 3. Photograph of the 2015 CACA officers at the REA building in DeQueen, Arkansas. By CACA. Copyrighted January 2015 by CACA

2015: Board Members

- Georgia Bunde
- Rebecca Harrison
- Jerri Rivers

The Big Event “The King Art Show”



Figure 4. A photograph of the historical King School House, now the Cassatot Arts Center from the front in King, Arkansas. By Lemser. A, 2015.

The association holds an annual art show each year in the first weekend of the month of May. The name of the show is called The King Art Show. This is its 44th year in existence. The show is held in the small community of King, Arkansas at the 100 year old King two story brick

school building now presently known as the Cossatot Art's Center (Beuden, K. & Saylor, I., personal communication, January 26, 2015).



Figure 5. A photograph of the historical King School House, now the Cassatot Arts Center from behind the building in King, Arkansas. By Lemser. A, 2015.

The King Art Show is a public event. It is open to artist and the public who wish to enter. The artwork entered must be two dimensional and original art created by the artist in the past two years. Artwork displayed can be placed for sell, and purchased for an award if allowed by artist. There are no prints allowed to be entered at the show, and the show has the right to turn away an art not displayed in good taste (CACA, 2014, p. 4).

Each year the association starts in January by calling sponsors, purchase award holders, and local teachers about the art show to create interest. Then they start preparing brochures and letters to go out to artist and supporter's letting them know the King Art Show is coming up. The art show chairperson Kathy Beuden notifies local television stations, radio stations, and newspapers to let the surrounding area know the art show is coming up with dates and times for the public to view artist work from the four states area. The four states area includes Arkansas,

Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. There are 81 contributors to the King Art Show, and as of last year 8,627 dollars donated for prizes, awards, and honors for the show. The show consists of 5 divisions (Beuden, K. & Saylor, I., personal communication, January 26, 2015).

CACA King Art Show Divisions

- Adult Division(18 years of age and up)-eight dollar entry fee / five dollar entry fee for members of CACA
- Clothesline Division (0- age 5)-No entry fee
- Children Division(1st-6th grade)-No entry fee
- Youth Division(7th -12th grade)-one dollar entry fee
- Photography Division(no age requirement)-eight dollar entry fee/ five dollar entry fee for members

Each division is unique and judged by two unknown adjudicators. The Adult division consists of Floral, Animal, Western Art, Genre, Old Barns, Landscape, Portrait, Still Life, Cossatot Country, and this year Recreational Arkansas. The Clothesline division is for the beginner artist, and their artwork can be no larger than 14x18 inches. Only ribbons are given to the Clothesline Art division. The Children's division is for young beginning artist. They may only enter two artworks, and artworks can only reach 20x24 inches. Awards for this division are given by grade level with 1st through 3rd place ribbon awards with small cash prizes and special awards given. The Youth division is set up much the same as the Children division with artwork size reaching 20x30 inches with cash prizes and awards given. The Photography division is open to artist in all age groups with special awards and prizes given for black and white photography and color photography (CACA, 2014, p. 4).

If a person, finds themselves in the small community of King on the first weekend in May at the Cassatot Art's Center. They will be greeted by a large display of community activity. There will be a buzz in the air of travelers and local artist, discussing the show, and the many pieces being shown. There will be enticing aromas of food and beverage, plus lots of laughter. It truly is a wonderful event to witness community coming together to celebrate local culture and artist.

Other Events and Awards by CACA

When the association is not busy preparing for their annual show, they do host other events and awards throughout the year. Each year the association host their monthly artist and

photographer awards for members of the club, and they host an annual CACA Artist of the Year competition for club members. They also work with the community hosting workshops for people in the community at the nursing home, schools, and other community areas. They also try to “when funds are allotted” help local school in purchasing supplies for art, and students (Beuden, K. & Saylor, I., personal communication, January 26, 2015).

The Future for CACA

Over all, the Cossatot Arts and Crafts Association strives to complete its mission statement and help the community. It does so with struggling numbers of members. It needs more community support. It needs your support to keep thriving and creating culture through art for the four states area. So, if you are in DeQueen, Arkansas area on a third Friday of the month, stop by the REA Building around 11 a.m., and support CACA. If you can’t come, please contribute to them and their funds for improving our community through Iris Saylor the CACA Secretary, or online on their Facebook page Cassotat Arts and Crafts Assn.

Special Thanks

I would like to give special thanks to Kathy Beuden and Iris Saylor from CACA for allowing me to sit and discuss with you the association, and giving me written/verbal permission to use information/images of the organizations in this research. You are wonderful vibrant women, I am happy to have met! Also, Matt Baisdell for allowing me to use his photography as reference to the Cassatot Falls! I love you cuz!

References

- Blaisdell, M. (Summer, 2012). Cassatot Falls [Photograph]. Wickes, Arkansas: Matt Baisdell Photography.
- CACA. (2014). *Cassatot arts and crafts association (handbook)*. DeQueen, Arkansas: C.A.C.A.
- CACA. (2014). Cassatot arts and crafts association newspaper, *C.A.C.A*, 1-4.
- CACA. (2015). Cassatot Officers [Photograph]. DeQueen, Arkansas: C.A.C.A.