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A La Art: Mary Telfer exhibits local artwork at studio

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Mary Telfer will open her studio to the public 5 to 9 p.m. April 30 and noon to 4 p.m. May 1 at 109 Heritage Drive in McHenry, near Crystal Lake and Bull Valley roads. She and other local artists will be showing original artwork, ranging from gallery paintings and prints to note cards and jewelry.

They include: Telfer, assistant instructor Lois DiPerna – colored pencil; Steve Heaviland – mixed media; Carol Colle, Teresa Guardi, Kris Blum, Marty Pfeifer, Mary Ann Whittenhall, Rita Coulombe and Jane Bishoff – watercolor; Kathleen Kenney – encaustic; Kay Benoy – painted glass; Michael Salazar and Kathie Jagman – acrylic; Emily Yantis – oil pastel; Anne Keefer, Gail Ericksen, Terry Balsamo, RoJene Windelborn, Bonnie Mueller, Nancy Johnson, Sandra Ferguson, Charlene Svihlik, Suzy Barbalace and Sandra Boreen – pastel.

Telfer, who prefers pastels and oils, focuses on organic subjects – landscapes, seascapes, nature, florals and animal portraits. She teaches three, 10-week classes at McHenry County College a year. Although the economy has affected art sales, interest in art classes remains strong, said the Northern Illinois University graduate.

“I want people to eventually find their own favorite medium, their own subject matter and their favorite way to do things,” Telfer said. “If you take a class it gives you a little bit of structure to get going again.” Twenty percent of all art sales at this month’s “Banquet for the Starving Artist” will be donated to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. Late last year Telfer painted 66 apples which she sold for \$50 apiece to benefit the pantry. The effort raised about \$150 for the food pantry so far. For information, call 815-715-1527 or visit www.telfleur.com.

Artropolis combines three art shows

Chicago will host a celebration of arts, antiques and culture April 30 through May 3 in the Merchandise Mart, 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza. Artropolis consists of three concurrent shows.

The first is Art Chicago, an international fair of contemporary and modern art, which will feature 150 galleries from around the world. In its 30th year, Art Chicago will offer curators, collectors, artists and art enthusiasts a comprehensive survey of current and historic work – from cutting-edge to modern masters – in a wide variety of media including: Painting, photography, drawings, prints, sculpture, video and special installations.

At the show, Perspective Texas will feature top Texas collectors and curators from the Dallas Museum of Art, Rachofsky House, Arthouse, Artspace, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and the Blanton Museum of Art. The fair also includes exhibitions such as New Insight, featuring top art students from some of the country’s most influential graduate art programs; Partisan, a display of works that critically explore social and political ideas; and Survey America, a floorwide exhibit that highlights works by artists living and working in the United States.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday. A preview benefiting the Museum of Contemporary Art will be from noon to 3 p.m. April 29. Tickets are \$150. The opening preview for the general public is 6 to 9 p.m. that day, as well. Admission for the preview is \$40 for all three shows. For information, visit www.artchicago.com.

The second component if Artropolis is NEXT, an exhibition of emerging art. Galleries, project spaces, art publications and key private contemporary collections from around the world offer a sampling of innovative, contemporary art. NEXT, which debuted in 2008, is dedicated to placing the newest developments in

contemporary art in a global context, and will be showing galleries from Antwerp, Dublin, London, Melbourne, Tenerife, among others, as well as American galleries. Hours mirror that of Art Chicago. For information, visit www.nextartfair.com.

Finally, the International Antiques Fair, in its 13th year, will unite more than 100 international dealers in an exhibition of 20th-century design, Americana, Asian art and antiquities, clocks, folk art, maps, tribal art and more. The fair opens with a preview party 5:30 to 8 p.m. April 29, benefiting the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Tickets start at \$150.

An hourlong public preview starts at 8 p.m. For details, visit www.merchandisemartantiques.com. On Friday, keynote speaker Thomas O'Brien, interior designer, founder and proprietor of Aero Studio, will discuss his design philosophy and his new book, "American Modern."

Tickets are \$20 for entry to all three shows, \$25 for a multiple-day pass. Seniors, students and groups pay \$15 for a multi-day pass. Children 12 and younger are free.

Raphael painting on display in Milwaukee

Wisconsin's 341,000-square-foot Milwaukee Art Museum is hosting one of the most celebrated paintings of the Italian Renaissance through June 6: Raphael's "The Woman with the Veil."

Completed circa 1516 – four years before Raphael died at age 37 – the painting has had a profound influence on generations of artists and writers. Rarely lent from the Pitti Palace in Florence, "The Woman with the Veil" will be on view in the museum's Koss Gallery.

For a schedule of gallery talks and other events, visit www.mam.org. The museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee, Wis., is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, and until 8 p.m. Thursdays. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for students, seniors and active military, and is free for children 12 and younger. For information, call 414-224-3200 or visit www.mam.org.