

Attention: April Feagley

American Association of University Women
Huntingdon Branch

For Release Right away

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September AAUW

“Women in the Arts” will be featured as a panel discussion at the September 19 meeting of the Huntingdon Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) at 7 p.m., in the Brumbaugh Academic Center (BAC) C116. The public is invited to attend.

The panelists are Ilona Ballreich (immediate past director of the Huntingdon County Arts Council), Kathryn Blake (museum curator, Juniata College), Kelly Kozora (owner, Studio One Fifteen in Huntingdon), Monika Malewska (painter and photographer, Juniata College), and Karen Rosell (art historian, Juniata College).

Ilona Ballreich, a native of Germany, holds a BS in Industrial Technology /Architecture from West Virginia State University, and certificates in Community Planning (WV) and Public Engagement (PSU). Her life-long interest in the arts has led to exploration of art from different perspectives: as a semi-professional soft sculpture artist in West Virginia, as an arts grant application review panelist, as entertainment director for the Huntingdon County Fair and as an art administrator for the Huntingdon County Arts Council. Her involvement in these different facets of art application has centered most significantly on art in the community. She has received numerous awards for this work, including the Chamber of Commerce Athena Award for Women in Business, the Pennsylvania Fair Volunteer Award, the Huntingdon Outstanding Citizen Award, Juried Artist at the WV Cultural Center Museum, and Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. Ilona has also served on numerous Boards including the Historical Society, WPSU Board of Representatives, HAHS Band Boosters, and is currently President of the Huntingdon Rotary Club.

Ilona did her most significant work in the arts as Executive Director of the Huntingdon County Arts Council. During her 15 year tenure, she transformed the organization to serve as the leading arts and cultural organization in the community and implemented public art projects, annual music events and established the Art Space in Huntingdon. Presently, she works part-time for Penn State in the Sustainability Institute as the coordinator for the Sustainable Communities Collaborative. .

Kathryn Blake is the Director of the Juniata College Museum of Art, where she also teaches Museum Studies and Museum Education. She holds a B.A. in Art History from Wellesley College and a M.A. in Art History from Boston University. Prior to assuming the museum directorship in August 2015, Kathryn was the Gerry Grout Education Director at Phoenix Art Museum and a member of senior management. She joined Phoenix Art Museum in 1991 as Assistant Curator for Education and assumed leadership of the Education Division in 2007. In 2013 Kathryn was selected as a Piper Fellow by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, allowing her to investigate the meanings of “engagement” through site visits to museums nationally and in the UK during an 8-week sabbatical. She has particular expertise and interests in museum interpretive strategies and organizational structures. Kathryn is sharing her enthusiasm for experimentation and innovative practice as a museum director and a teacher of the next generation of museum professionals.

The owner of Studio One Fifteen, Kelly Kozora, grew up in Alexandria, Pa and graduated from Juniata Valley High School in 2009. She attended several colleges dual majoring in Graphic Design and Fine Art including Columbia College Chicago, The Art Institute of Pittsburgh and California University of PA. Her passion for art started at a young age and she developed skills beginning in high school to drive her motivation to pursue a career in art. In college she focused on ceramics and painting. Upon returning to Huntingdon County she worked at in several locations locally. During her employment at Edgewater Inn and Riverside Grill she began hosting sip and paint classes in their dining room monthly. The interest was high and she enjoyed inspiring and instructing both beginners and artists of a higher skill level. This led her to open Studio One Fifteen, located at 417 Penn Street in Huntingdon in October 2015. The shop currently features twenty-two local artists where their work is sold for retail and there is also a class space where both public and private events are hosted.

Monika Malewska, an Associate Professor of Art at Juniata College, was born in Warsaw, Poland. She received her BFA from the University of Manitoba in Canada and her MFA degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She works in several art media, particularly painting, drawing, and photography. Her work has been shown in various galleries and museums, including Phoenix Gallery, NYC, Blank Space Gallery, NYC, Denise Bibro Fine Art Gallery, NYC, Camel Art Space, Brooklyn, NY, the Blue Star Complex in San Antonio, Texas, the Benton Museum in Storrs, Connecticut, the New Britain Museum of American Art in New Britain, Connecticut, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA, to name a few. Her work has been featured in *Huff Post* (Arts and Culture section), *Direct Art Magazine*, *Hi-Fructose*, *Fresh Paint Magazine*, *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture* and other publications.

A Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude graduate of the University of Richmond, Dr. Karen J. Rosell earned her M.A. in Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she was a teaching associate and named to Phi Kappa Phi. At Ohio University, she was awarded a University Graduate Fellowship and the Seigfred Award for Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship. There she earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Arts. She began her fulltime teaching career at Juniata College in 1986, where she was honored in 1989 with the Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, followed by the Beachley Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997. One year earlier, in 1996 she received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in the Fine Arts at her alma mater, the University of Richmond. Dedicating her career to building programs in the Department of Art and Art History at Juniata College, she has also devoted much of her energy and passion to sponsoring and supporting student research.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Since 1881, AAUW has been one of the nation's leading voices promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW has a nationwide network of more than 100,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 500 college/university institutional partners. Since AAUW's founding 130 years ago, members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. AAUW's commitment to educational equity is reflected in its public policy advocacy, community programs, leadership development, conventions and conferences, national partnerships, and

international connections. Call Pat Croissant for further details on membership, 643-0606.

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