



*Art Happenings in St. Louis*

**Two Innovative Exhibits Make Their Opening Moves Halloween Weekend at The World Chess Hall of Fame**

ST. LOUIS, MO, (SLFP.com), October 18, 2015 - Two new exhibitions, opening Halloween weekend at the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF), will use the chess board and its pieces as both an interactive learning experience for children and an opportunity to engage the community in a dialogue about race, peace and conflict, and inequality, among other issues.

**Kings, Queens & Castles**, created in collaboration with The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum, will open Saturday, Oct. 31. This innovative, interactive family exhibit brings the game of chess to life and provides an engaging introduction to individual chess pieces and game strategy. On view at the WCHOF through Sept. 11, 2016, the exhibit will then travel to the Magic House (Oct. 1, 2016 - Jan. 16, 2017) and nationally to select children's museums, libraries and other family facilities.

Admission to Kings, Queens & Castles, located on the second floor gallery: \$5 for visitors over 5 years old; Free on Tuesdays; Free for WCHOF Members.

**Ladies' Knight: A Female Perspective on Chess** examines how a game often dominated by men inspired 12 contemporary women artists to create chess artwork that explores societal issues. The exhibit is scheduled Thursday, Oct. 29 through April 17, 2016 and will feature chess sets by Yoko Ono; Jennifer Shahade, a two-time U.S. Women's Chess Champion; St. Louisan Yuko Suga, whose pieces explore race relations in U.S. cities; and nine other female artists. Their diverse interpretations of the game range from the playful and feminine to the serious, and encourage dialogue about subjects like crime, language, trust, notions of beauty and addiction. A signing by Shahade of her book, *Play Like a Girl!: Tactics by 9 Queens* followed by a lecture is scheduled for Nov. 11 at the World Chess Hall of Fame.

Admission to Ladies' Knight: A Female Perspective on Chess, located on the first floor gallery: Free with a suggested donation of \$5.

"We are excited to have these two very diverse displays running simultaneously, both of which reflect topics, issues and experiences that are reflective not only of our society today but, historically, going back nearly 1,500 years when the game first evolved," **Shannon Bailey**, chief curator at the World Chess Hall of Fame, said. "Exploration, integrity, foresight, intellectual curiosity, competition - it's all there."

Designed for children (recommended age: 3-11) interested in learning more about the game, Kings, Queens & Castles will feature an array of interactive elements, including a drawbridge leading to a castle, a dress-up station that transforms children into royalty, chess play stations and life-sized chess pieces. Kids can download an app that creates a personalized memory book of their visit and connects to a digital chess game.

"This unique exhibit is designed to provide an age-appropriate introduction to chess, a timeless game that develops important 21st-century skills," said **Beth Fitzgerald**, president of The Magic House. "We look forward to sharing our interactive learning experiences with the families visiting the World Chess Hall of Fame."

On Saturday, Oct. 31 the WCHOF will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and - as part of the Central West End's Halloween celebration - at 12 p.m. children visiting Kings, Queens & Castles will receive a complimentary chess set and a coupon for a lunch item that can be redeemed at Kingside Diner across from WCHOF. There will be a number of family-friendly activities on the Saint Louis Chess Campus that day, including craft activities on the WCHOF's patio and Chess Blitz Tips being offered to visitors outside the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (4657 Maryland Ave.), located across the street from the WCHOF. Shop Q Boutique for a wide array of child-friendly gifts, activity books, custom apparel, costumes and more both in-store and online.

**Bonsack Gallery at Fifty**

ST. LOUIS, MO, (SLFP.com), October 13, 2015 -

**John Burroughs School** will mark the 50th anniversary of its teaching gallery with an exhibit titled "**Bonsack Gallery at Fifty: Celebrating a Half Century of Art at John Burroughs School**" through January 8, 2016.

Formally dedicated on October 15, 1965, the Bonsack Gallery's first exhibit featured paintings by one of St. Louis' most prominent modernist artists, Ernestine Betsberg. The new gallery had been made possible through a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Arthur Bonsack, who wished to make a gift to the arts in memory of her son, Arthur A. Bonsack Jr. '31. When asked for a recommendation as to how the school might use the gift, painting teacher Fred Dreher proposed

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**How To Reach:**  
St. Louis Front Page  
3832 S Broadway Street  
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an exhibition area for works by professional artists that would not be a physical extension of the Art Department's classrooms, but a school gallery readily accessible to the mainstream of student life.

The school designated a classroom near the front door of the main classroom building for its "Little Gallery." Though the space shifted slightly to the north during a mid-1990s renovation, the gallery retains the Bonsack name and its mission as a teaching gallery. Fine arts faculty continue to bring their students to the gallery to study, analyze and react to the works, and artists whose works are displayed talk to students about their philosophies and techniques. Prominent artists who have shown their work include William Fett, William Kohn, James McGarrell, Edward Boccia and Tom Friedman '83, to name a few.

The 50th anniversary exhibit will highlight the Bonsack Gallery's history and will include works by artists connected with the establishment of the gallery and the John Burroughs School fine arts collection. Works by Arthur Bonsack, Ernestine Betsberg, Arthur Osver and Friedman will be included in the show.

The Bonsack Gallery is a not-for-profit educational gallery on the campus of John Burroughs School, 755 South Price Road in Ladue. Regular gallery hours are 8 am to 5 pm, weekdays. The exhibit is free to the public. For more information, contact Donya Allison (Fine Arts) at 314/993-4045, ext. 229.

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