

EYE ON THE ARTS

Various arts events will star in the Region

Artist **Dorothy Graden** invites you to visit her newest blog post, in which she chronicles her travels to southwest Texas, where she has



JOHN CAIN

recently been hiking in the scrub desert and exploring the rock art there that is thousands of years old: “Two hours on remote/ washed out and deeply rutted jeep roads in scrub country 15 miles from the Mexican border. Boulder outcroppings and shallow cave structures scattered through the harsh desert landscape. We leave the jeep and hike 30 minutes to what seems to be a

collection of large boulders and small caves. We enter a cave through a 4-foot opening into the darkness. I lay on my back on the rocky floor of the cave and enter another dimension. The entire ceiling is black from thousands of years of habitation and smoke soot from fires. Carved and pecked into the black ceiling are supernatural images, animals, symbols, anthropomorphs and one 20-foot wandering centipede.” Graden is a contemporary artist, long affiliated with the Ann Nathan Gallery in Chicago, whose art is inspired by ancient visions and prehistoric art of the Americas. Her mission is to bring awareness of these amazing places and to promote preservation

and protection of ancestral sites, most of which are considered sacred to Native Americans. The endlessly fascinating world that Graden explores and her very personal artistic perceptions of it, along with original artwork, prints, and even notecards, can be found at dorothygraden.com.

African American Achievers Youth Corps, a mentoring program for young African American males, presents the **12th annual Bill Johnson Black Film Festival** at the Glen Theatre, Feb. 17-18, featuring 26 films produced by African American filmmakers. Founded and led by Indiana State Representative Dr. Vernon Smith, African American Achievers

Youth Corps provides tutorial services, entrepreneurial experiences, social skills work and recreational opportunities for boys in grades six through 12. Operating and maintaining the Glen Theatre is just one way that the organization works to build community within Gary but especially with the young men enrolled in the program. Tickets available at Beautiful Things, 4335 Broadway in Gary.

The Crete Creative Gallery & School invites you to submit fiber artwork for its upcoming themed exhibit, “A Skewed View,” featuring work that is in some way “distorted, altered, deceiving, disfigured or having an oblique or slanting direction or position.” When looking for

inspiration, artists should think of everyday objects, or landscapes, but to use their artistic eye to create a piece that will be slightly hard to recognize at first glance by the viewer. Deadline for submissions is Feb. 20, and artists of all skill levels are welcome to participate. More info at cretcreative.com.

As always, please visit the South Shore Arts Regional Calendar for organizational contacts and updates on current exhibits, concerts, plays, and other arts events at southshoartsonline.org

John Cain is director emeritus of South Shore Arts and the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra.