

Manasquan River Group of Artists

Established 1938

Newsletter



MRGA, P. O. Box 614, Manasquan,

www.mrga38.org

New Jersey 08736

November, 2023

Letter from the President

As the month of November unfolds, the air will become crisper as the temperature changes, the colors of the season more intense as the leaves turn and the opportunities to be thankful multiply as we near the holidays. By the time you read this newsletter, the show at the Wall Library will be hung thanks to Show Director Donna Ferris. The exhibit at Spring Lake's Upper Gallery will be our next venue, so be sure and check out the details in this newsletter. Thank you to Show Directors Pam Fisezi and MaryAnn Goodwin.

The much anticipated annual luncheon at the Lobster Shanty is almost here and we thank Mona Kirk for organizing this event once again.

Not to rush the season but information for our December Holiday Party is in this newsletter. I'm sure Margo Jane Fletcher and Jackie St Angel have a fun afternoon planned for us.

In the spirit of thankfulness, we have much to be thankful for.....the friendship we share as members of MRGA, the opportunities afforded us as artists to share our work with others and I am truly thankful for all of you! As we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and friends, I wish you and yours an enjoyable holiday.

Happy November and Happy Painting!

Barbara



Please Note Next Members Meeting

The regular MRGA Meeting for November is replaced by the Annual Luncheon on November 5th.

Manasquan Group of Artists 2023-2024 Calendar of Events

ART SHOWS

November- Wall Library Show

Donna Ferris 732.995.5491

December-Upper Gallery Spring Lake

Pam Fesizi 908.233.4197

MaryAnn Goodwin 732.539.4150

January/February- Pt. Pleasant Beach Library Show

Sheila Soyster 732.674.2038

Pauline Mickle 732.892.5606

April-Brielle Library Show

Tracy Rocanova-Miller 732.822.2099

June- Spring Lake Art in the Park (Devine Park)

Susanna Anastasia 732.715.1555

July- Sea Girt Lighthouse Outdoor Show

Janice Collinson 908.489.7696

July- Brick Library Show

Margo Fletcher 732.259.7767.

July/August-North Hall Gallery Show

PT. Pleasant Presbyterian Church Pt. Pleasant Beach

Karen Norby 908.915.2301

MEETINGS, DEMONSTRATIONS, TALKS

November 5, 2023

Luncheon at The Lobster Shanty

December 2, 2023

Holiday Party

January

NO MEETING

February 2, 2024

Vinnie Nardone

"The Victorian Art Scene at the Jersey Shore"

Vinnie will share some fascinating documents, wood engravings and highlights from Harper's Weekly newspaper of that era, a "show and tell" eye opener of the turn of the 20th century artists and a new look at our MRGA predecessors.

March 1, 2024

David Levy

"What a Judge Sees or Should See and Where the Artist and Judge are Left in the Process"

David will discuss the "subjective" nature of judging, the qualities an "ideal" judge should possess, the criteria for excellence many judges use, how to think like a judge, and much more.

April 5, 2024

Karen Norby "Hands-On Origami Demonstration"

Using the ancient art of Japanese paper folding, Karen will teach how to transform a 2-D piece of paper into 3-D forms of a swan, a cat, a hopping frog and more.

May 3, 2024

Jim Inzero "Painting with Encaustic"

Jim will bring in some of his paintings and explain his process of wax encaustic

June 2024

Potluck Dinner.

Please visit the website for MRGA www.mrga38.org Our website is being updated regularly by Sheila Soyster. Please contact Sheila with any information: sheila624@comcast.net or 732-892-7692. Thank you Sheila.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION-

All submissions for the newsletter and changes to your address, phone or email should be sent by email to MaryAnn Goodwin at maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com by the 20th of the month for the next newsletter. When announcing an award please give the title of your work. Photographs should include the names of the persons in them except for a large group. "Classifieds" will run only once unless you request a repeat.

Art Classes

Sponsored by The Manasquan Group of Artists

Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the Sea Girt Lighthouse

2023

- October 3**
Lou Riccio-watercolor.....732.295.3575
- October 10 & 17**
Arlene Newman-watercolor.....732.682.3397
- October 24 & 31**
Margaret Patterson-pastel.....732.223.9048
- November 7**
Mona Kirk-portraits.....732.223.2569
- November 14**
Debra Herbster-watercolor.....908-380-7580
- November 28**
Janice Collinson-watercolor.....732.528.7179
- December 5**
Janice Collinson-watercolor.....732.528.7179
- December 12 & 19**
Leona Lavone-watercolor.....732.914.9941

2024

- January 9 & 16**
Bev Sirianni-watercolor.....732.774.0014
- January 23 & 30**
Arlene Newman-watercolor.....732.682.3397
- February 6 & 13**
Melinda Saminski-pastel732.610.8626
- February 20**
Barbara Calvo-pastel.....732.996.0738
- February 27**
Karen Norby-origami.....732.996.0738
- March 9 & 16**
Pauline Mickle-watercolor.....732.892.5606
- March 19**
Tamara Woronczuk-book art.....732.998.8286
- April 9**
Tamara Woronczuk-book art.....732.998.8286
- April 16 & 23**
Leona Lavone-watercolor.....732.914.9941
- April 30**
Rose Sinatra-watercolor.....626.797.1213
- May 7**
Rose Sinatra-watercolor.....626.797.1213
- May 14**
End of Year Class

Instructed Classes \$6.00 Catch-up Classes \$3.00
Please call instructor before attending class for necessary information.

Any questions, please call Mona Kirk 732.223.2569

MRGA Executive Board and Committees 2023-2024

PRESIDENT

Barbara Calvo.....732.996.0738

VICE PRESIDENT

Vinnie Nardone.....732.903.7468

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jackie St. Angel.....732.216.8568

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Sheila Soyster.....732.892.7692

TREASURER

Laura Lutz.....732.528.8698

PHOTOGRAPHER

Melinda Saminski732.610.8626

DEMONSTRATIONS/SPEAKERS

Ellen Price732.223.4670

HISTORIAN

Janice Collinson.....732.528.7179

WEBSITE

Sheila Soyster.....732.892.7692

PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Your opportunity to serve MRGA with creative energy awaits you in this position.

NEWSLETTER

MaryAnn Goodwin.....732.539.4150

SUNSHINE

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

HOSPITALITY

Margo Fletcher.....732.259.7767

Maureen Anderson732 306-7798

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

MEMBERSHIP

Mona Kirk.....732.223.2569

NOMINATING

Linda Hejduk.....732.714.0854

ART CLASSES

Sea Girt Lighthouse.....732.223.2569

Art Musings

An Oasis of Beauty

Recently, my husband and I spent the day at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. We wandered the paths that wind through the property, searching for new sculptures and greeting our old favorites. We found our way to the flagstone patio of Rats Restaurant (named after the character in *Wind and the Willows*), where we ordered lunch. Our table overlooked the pond filled with Koi and Mallard Ducks; the latter not shy as they wandered through the tables looking for a handout. In the water, a Blue Heron perched on a rock, pondering its next move. Opening in 1992, Grounds for Sculpture was developed by J. Seward Johnson as a museum, a sculpture garden and an arboretum, encompassing 42 acres of pure beauty. Vic and I have been going there since 1997. Since then, we have introduced many family members and friends to the world of sculpture in this tranquil setting. Everywhere you look there are contemporary sculptures of all sizes at every turn and some that are hidden amidst the many varieties of trees and plantings. Peacocks wander here and there, unperturbed by the visitors. There are several museum buildings that hold exhibits throughout the year. We have been fortunate to see the work of glass artist, Dale Chihuly, graffiti artist, Keith Haring, renowned architect and designer, Michael Graves and the larger-than-life horse sculptures of Deborah Butterfield, even meeting some of the artists. The artist whose work is most prominent, though, is Seward Johnson. Johnson reimagines works painted by Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters such as Renoir, Monet, Manet and Van Gogh, refashioning them into 3-dimensional figures. Placed in numerous locations throughout the grounds are Johnson's contemporary sculptures of people doing everyday activities such as reading a book in the grass or sitting on a bench with a friend. I took my students on class trips here for many years, and they were provided with an official Grounds for Sculpture for Sculpture sketchbook and a pencil. It brought me much joy watching them sitting on the grass in front of a sculpture as they sketched. I had a hard time getting them back on the bus!

If you haven't been to Grounds for Sculpture, I encourage you to make plans to get there, I'm sure you will fall in love with the beauty of this oasis!

Barbara Calvo

Shari Epstein Demonstration

Our October Meeting included a mixed media demonstration by Shari Epstein. Many of Shari's artwork feature birds.



Stars for Charity Reminder

Once again, MRGA artists honed their painting skills to create very creative stars. Linda Hejduk is still waiting for some of you to return your stars so please bring them to the luncheon on November 5 or contact Linda at 732.575.9062 to make arrangements to deliver to Linda. Here is a sampling of some of the completed stars. You can view all the Stars for Charity on the MRGA website soon.



Fun and Food for All! *Holiday Party*

Saturday, Dec. 2, 1-4 p.m. at the Curtis House

GIFTS GALORE!!! GOOFY GAMES!!! FANTASTIC FOOD!!!

Here's how you can make the party hearty:

Bring a wrapped art-related gift (new or gently used) for the gift exchange.

Bring a dish for the buffet.

Put on your holiday duds and enjoy the company of your fellow artists.

Please RSVP your attendance and the food you will bring to
Margo Jane Fletcher: margo812@aol.com BEFORE Thanksgiving.



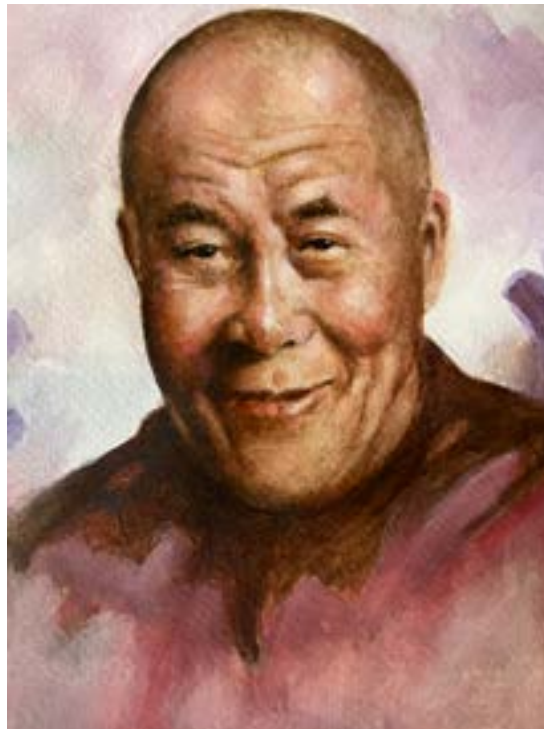
Member Spotlight

Lou Riccio

Lou Riccio just celebrated his 92nd birthday on October 18. Born in Jersey City, NJ, Lou attended the School of Art Instruction in NYC at age 17, completing a three-year course in Commercial Art and Illustration. He was hired by the O' Mealia Outdoor Advertising Company in Jersey City and after 2 years, was drafted into the Korean War as a Combat Medic. He returned to O'Mealias, becoming a top pictorial artist specializing in large scale billboard art. In the evenings, Lou continued his art education at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, attending classes for six years. Most of the billboards were painted on site where Lou, perched



high on scaffolding, would first grid the subject he was painting, then paint. One of his monumental endeavors was painting the Mona Lisa to laud the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition in 1963. He painted Mona inside in two sections which were then attached to the 15' x 30' billboard. It took Lou four days painting 8 hours a day to complete. Lou was 32 at the time. The Last Supper was another phenomenal billboard that Lou painted in 1966. The heads of the apostles measured almost 4' high. It took Lou 8 ½ months to complete, just in time for Easter. After 20 years, Lou retired from O' Mealias' to start his own sign-painting business with his son, John.



Lou has received many awards and accolades in his long career including Lifetime Achievement status from Ocean County, and most recently, Audubon Artists bestowed to Lou, the lifetime title of "Honorary Member". Lou has been a member of the Manasquan River Group of Artists for more than 15 years and stuns his audience each time he enters a show!

Lou has been married to his wife Eunice since 1953 and together they have 3 children.

Lou still paints each day in his garage studio and continues to teach classes at Manasquan Recreation and at Leisure Village West in Manchester. As a master artist in oil, watercolor and pen and ink Lou emphatically states this "Drawing is everything, if you can't draw, you can't paint!"

Barbara Calvo



Member News

November 2023

As a long time Signature Artist Member of the Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University in South Jersey, **Vinnie Nardone's** two art works have been selected for exhibition until the end of December at the "Arts Garage Gallery in Atlantic City. The two works are titled "Bayshore Synergy", Encaustic on Metal and on metal and "Beach Apparitions", Casein on Hardboard. According to the Show Curator, The Artist Signature Membership (presently twenty) is a highly competitive membership awarded to an established New Jersey professional artist in any medium whose original work exemplifies the highest caliber of artistic standards, who has previously exhibited in museums and/or galleries and/or teaches in their respective medium. The 2023 Noyes Signature Artist members is the newest rendition of this yearly tradition, highlighting the artists in our membership program."



"Bayshore Synergy"



"Beach Apparitions"

Lou Riccio has been bestowed the lifetime title of "Honorary Member" of Audubon Artist, Inc., located at the Salmagundi Club New York City. The Executive Board of Audubon Artists awarded this title based on Lou's outstanding distinction in this Art Society as well as his Fine Arts Community. This honorary membership is now composed of fourteen former Audubon elected members who are notable American artists.

Seventeen of our MRGA members were accepted to exhibit in the Audubon Artists, Inc. 2023-24 online show as follows: **Susanna Anastasia, Mary Jo Austin, Barbara Calvo, Margo Jane Fletcher, MaryAnn Goodwin, Linda Hejduk, Mona Kirk, Laura Lutz, Valerie Morone, Vinnie Nardone, Arlene Newman, Ellen Price, Lou Riccio, Melinda Saminski, Paula Shipman, Jackie St Angel and Bob Stetz.**

MRGA SPRING LAKE UPPER GALLERY SHOW

PROSPECTUS

RECEIVING: NOV. 20 (MON.) 11:30 to 1PM

PICKUP: JAN.15, 2024 (MON.)11:30 to 1PM

RECEPTION: DEC.5 (TUE.) 5 -7PM

- ENTRY FEE \$15: Check payable to MRGA. (No Cash)Please send check and entry form to **Pam Fisezi: 2555 Collier Rd. Manasquan, NJ 08736 No later than November 13th**
ONE FRAMED ORIGINAL WORK No larger than 24X36
- WORK DATED: within the last 5 years and not shown at this gallery.
- PREVIOUS MRGA award piece not eligible.
- ALL Exhibited and Sold Hanging Art Works must stay for the duration of the show.
- PUBLICITY: Media coverage by local papers, MRGA Newsletter and Website

EXHIBIT COORDINATORS:

Pam Fisezi (email) fispm314@gmail.com Phone: 908-930-8868

MaryAnn Goodwin (email) maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com Phone: 732-539-4150

MRGA ENTRY FORM

SPRING LAKE UPPER GALLERY SHOW

ARTIST_____

TITLE_____

MEDIUM_____

PRICE_____ CONTACT_____

LIABILITY: MRGA Officers, Trustees and Members are not responsible for loss or damage of submitted art work, however caused. Your entry into this exhibit constitutes an agreement with these terms and conditions.

SIGNATURE_____