

Manasquan River Group of Artists

Established 1938

Newsletter



MRGA, P. O. Box 614, Manasquan,

www.mrga38.org

New Jersey 08736

June, 2024

Letter from the President

I can't believe June is here already. This will be my last letter as President of MRGA with my term ending at the end of the month. The last two years as president have been very rewarding for me. Manasquan River Group of Artists has accomplished much in the way of moving forward as a viable and visible art organization. It would not have been possible without your support and the support of my Executive Board and the Trustee Board. I am honored that I was able to serve all of you. Sheila Soyster will begin her term as President on July 1, and I know she will be an excellent leader!

There is so much happening this month and during the rest of the summer so read carefully, and perhaps print out the newsletter so you don't miss anything as the weeks unfurl. The annual potluck dinner will be part of the June meeting and Margo has a fun evening in store for us. Be sure and contact Margo if you were not at the last meeting when the sign-up sheet was passed for food offerings. The general meeting will be brief and start as soon as the food is set up. Please arrive at 3:30 so that can happen.

Brick Library Exhibit June 22 through July 31

Brielle Library Reception June 29, 1-3

North Hall Gallery Exhibit July 9 through August 25

Sea Girt Lighthouse Outdoor Exhibit July 20

Curtis House Exhibit August 10

MRGA Invitational August 28 to September 28

These exhibits are all opportunities to show and sell your art, it may not be possible for you to participate in each exhibit, but the option is yours as an MRGA member.

I want to wish you all a healthy and happy summer filled with many painting days ahead!

Happy June! Happy Painting!

Barbara



Next Members Meeting

The regular MRGA Meeting is our Potluck Dinner June 7 at 4-4:30pm. Refreshments and Business meeting to follow. Next Meeting September 6.

Survey #2 Results

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey at the May meeting. All suggestions will be discussed at the June trustee meeting. There were 36 responses, here are the results:

Do you think \$15 is a reasonable entry fee for exhibits that are judged and have awards?

Yes - 28 No - 8

Are you discouraged from entering shows because of the entry fee?

Yes - 5 No - 28 Didn't matter - 3

Do you like having the opportunity to win an award at an exhibit?

Yes - 33 Didn't matter - 3

Do you mind contribution food for the reception?

No -35 Sometimes -1

Manasquan Group of Artists 2024 Calendar of Events

ART SHOWS

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

August- Curtis House Member Show and

Sept-MRGA Invitational Middletown Arts Center

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

AT-LARGE TRUSTEES

Debra Herbster..... 908.380.7580

Beverly Sirianni..... 732.861.7354

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Barbara Calvo..... 732.996.0738

PHOTOGRAPHER

Melinda Saminski.....732.610.8626

DEMONSTRATIONS/SPEAKERS

Ellen Price.....732.223.4670

HISTORIAN

Janice Collinson..... 732.528.7179

WEBSITE

Sheila Soyster..... 732.892.7692

PUBLICITY/SOCIAL MEDIA

Terri Groark.....732.859.8566

NEWSLETTER

MaryAnn Goodwin.....732.539.4150

SUNSHINE

Mona Kirk..... 732.223.2569

HOSPITALITY

Margo Fletcher.....732.259.7767

Maureen Anderson.....732 306-7798

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

Vincent van Gogh

“Now I understand what you tried to say to me....” Don McLean “Vincent”



The quotation above is from the song that starts out “Starry, starry night, paint your palette blue and gray....” The lyrics of that song are beautiful but so poignant. I’ve always loved the work of Vincent van Gogh and read much about him, but I wanted to know more about what was in his soul and to fathom how his life led him to his tragic death. I just finished reading *Dear Theo*, a biography of 480 pages edited by Irving Stone from 1670 original pages comprised of letters written to Vincent’s younger brother, Theo from 1873 to 1890. In those letters, van Gogh revealed his innermost thoughts, struggles, anguish, loneliness, and yes, his joy! He writes intelligently and cohesively. I was impressed by how well read van Gogh was, often quoting Voltaire, Victor Hugo, Zola and Shakespeare. Vincent philosophized about society, the art world and the future. I didn’t see “madness” unless you consider his ever present need to master his drawing and painting skills.

Theo supported his brother emotionally and financially which enabled Vincent to devote himself to painting. Vincent was able to do this but not without dire circumstances.

He often went without eating because he either spent the money from Theo on supplies or was working with such fervor that he didn’t stop to eat. My heart went out to him when he tried unsuccessfully to cultivate friendships and to interest others in his work. He writes “How can I be of use in the world, how can I not serve some purpose and be of any good?”

Vincent was drawn to the humanity of the poor and downcast who were subjects of many his drawings and paintings. The emotions of both the subjects and the artist were portrayed in each work just as Vincent had wanted but sadly, few saw his work that way. Vincent was so aware of nature, forever trying to capture the colors in the landscape and in the sky. He became so full of joy as he described what he saw. You become a part of this painting, not just the spectator. Vincent tried to engage the senses of all who viewed his paintings. I always felt that way as I viewed his



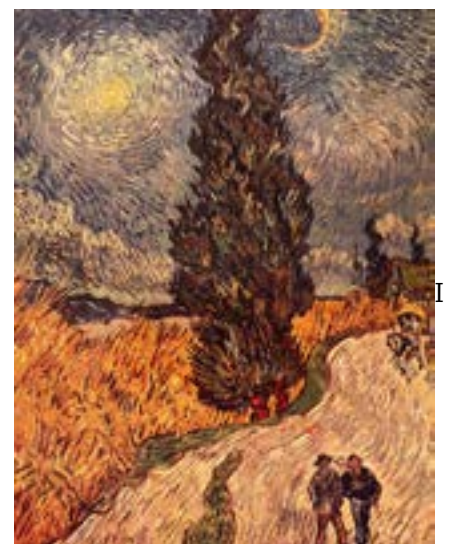
paintings, sometimes bringing me to tears.

When I read the letters describing his “attacks” as he named them, I kept thinking that they resembled epileptic seizures. The symptoms fit but because these seizures were sometimes accompanied by anger and violence, coupled with periods of bipolar disorder symptoms, those around Vincent had the impression that he was mad and hospitalized him. Vincent wrote “All artists had the same madness in them”. I empathized with him as he was locked in a room without access to the canvases or paints which were his life blood.

As an artist, can you imagine looking out a



barred window at the scene before you and not being able to pick up your brush and paint? Vincent wrote “Work strengthens the will and constantly leaves less hold for my mental weaknesses. Throwing myself into my work will be the best remedy”. Vincent was frustrated and lonely and poured out his feelings in his letters. As I got closer to Vincent’s last letter written two days before his untimely death, I remembered a note I wrote to myself when I began reading *Dear Theo*. Vincent wrote “If do not succeed, all the same, what I have worked at will be carried on. Vincent van Gogh only sold one painting before his death, but his art is immortalized and endures on in the hearts and minds of the world and I think we understand what he was trying to say. I hope you are finally at peace Vincent.





Member Spotlight

Mary Jo Austin



The memories of my youth rushed forward in me, as I got out of my car at Mary Jo Austin's house, a faint breeze hit my face and I could smell hints of salt in the air. What a lovely seashore house, on a lovely seashore street, in the lovely seashore town of Lavallette.

Mary Jo's love of the seashore began when her father (a mason contractor) built a house in Lavallette in 1945. Although Mary Jo was from Orange, she fell in love with the seashore every summer, and all it offered. Her mother was a dressmaker of bridal gowns, along with the skilled art of the beadwork that adorned each gown. Mary Jo would sit alongside, and sketch people wearing different gowns. In high school she was encouraged by her art teacher to explore her talents and pursue art as a career.

Mary Jo is a graduate of University of Maryland with a B.A. in Art Education. She told me a story of how she took a puppetry class there in 1959 with the same instructor who taught Jim Henson of the Muppet's. Isn't that a fun fact! Her first teaching job was in



Bettsville, Maryland. There she taught middle school students which she said was fun, but teaching high school students later in Verona was much more satisfying since most students wanted to be there. She has since taught many years to adults at the Ocean County Artists Guild. Mary Jo eventually obtained her masters degree at Montclair University, M.A. Fine Art / Painting. This is when she really started to paint and blossom into the award-winning artist she is today.



the waves with boogie boards, lifeguards and their duties. There were beautiful paintings of Longwood Gardens too. Each of Mary Jo's paintings encompass a masterclass of composition, color and light. The paintings call you to look and look again. We must consider lifting the five-year rule! After 3 hours, Mary Jo practically had to push me out. She is such a talented artist. A total tradesman of her craft and we are so fortunate to be able to share this love of art with her.

Walking around Mary Jo's home was like exploring a bright & airy gallery, on every wall hung award-winning oils. Each picture you can relate to: children digging in the sand, collecting shells, riding

Mary Jo is also a collector of art. In her living room, hangs a watercolor of her daughter done by Roberta Carter Clark, (a friend and influencer), Dick La Bonte and his daughter Ann Neff, Beverly Golembeski, Barbara Dela Cuesta and Elsa Hermann.



Is Mary Jo's influence of the impressionists the reason her paintings have so much warmth and depth of color? Is it



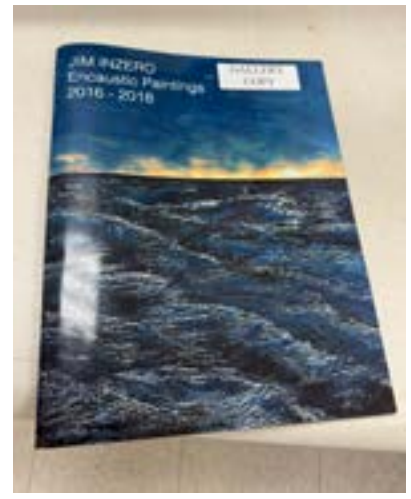
why she is infatuated with the use of all the colors in the blue palate or is it that she underpaints her oils with acrylics in complimentary under tones? She attributes a course in calligraphy to helping her to control her brush strokes. She works solely from her own photographs. Her advice is simply, "Paint what you love, and stay original".

Mary Jo Austin: mother, grandmother, artist, teacher; thank you for inviting us in, for your masterful body of work. We can't wait to see what's next, keep

painting Mary Jo Austin!
Debra Herbster

May Member Meeting...

Encaustic artist Jim Inzero spoke to the MRGA audience at the May meeting about his journey into encaustics and his fascinating process. He invited all to his exhibit opening on June 29, 5pm at his Point Pleasant Beach gallery, 502 Bay Avenue.



Member Opportunities



Painting in the Garden

The Point Pleasant Beach Garden Club is in search of artists for their Garden Tour on June 27, 2024, from 10-3 PM. If you are interested, please contact Mary Lynn Ritchings ritchings@gmail.com

Monmouth County Senior Show

Any senior who is interested in exhibiting in the 2024 Senior Citizen Art Contest and Exhibition held at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan please contact

Sandy Riddle at 732.2121890 ext. 102 sandy@monmoutharts.org for an application.

Point Beach Arts Party

MRGA artists, **Emily Beezley, Barbara Calvo, Margo Fletcher, Laura Lutz, Valerie Morone, Vinnie Nardone, Ellen Price, Sheila Soyster, and John Troise** gathered on May 30 at the Lobster Shanty for an event culminating in a juried online and in-person event. There was great food, lively music and the highlight of the evening was when **Vinnie Nardone** was awarded First Place in mixed media for "The World of a Visionary", casein paint on conservation board. Congratulations to Vinnie!

MANASQUAN RIVER GROUP OF ARTISTS
BRIELLE LIBRARY EXHIBIT APRIL 26 to JUNE 29, 2024

1 to 3 pm RECEPTION on 6/29 2pm AWARDS CEREMONY /

Awards Jurors: David Levy, Artist/Historian/President of Guild of Creative Art
Leslie Backlund, Artist & Former President of Guild of Creative Art



1. BEST IN SHOW

Artist: Jackie St. Angel

Title: BoFu Medium: Oils

COMMENTARY: "We love the treatment of light. Each asymmetrical shoulder brings us to the magnificent expression... the wrinkles and those eyes. His position slightly to the left was an excellent choice. He exudes wisdom; an old soul!"



2. BEST WATERCOLOR

Artist: Arlene Newman

Title: Cherry Blossoms

COMMENTARY: "Luscious in color. A wonderful dynamic between positive and negative space. The cherry blossoms pop. Compositionally, the diagonal branch was a great addition."



3. BEST OILS/ACRYLICS

Artist: Debra Herbster

Title: O's Stolen Garden

Medium: Acrylic

COMMENTARY: "This acrylic works on so many levels. It is whimsical and elaborate in detail. The colors are joyful. This is an octopus with attitude. The human debris is an usual and clever touch."



4. BEST MIXED MEDIA

Artist: Vinnie Nardone

Title: Shoreline Swirls

Medium: Casein & Gold Leaf

COMMENTARY: "Dynamic and unusual; a visionary seascape. This conjures up so many images. We see landscape, water, sky, clouds. The swirling lines suggest the unpredictability of the ocean; its power and how it changes in an instant."



5. BEST COMPOSITION

Artist: Melinda Saminski

Title: Markie Medium: Oils

COMMENTARY: "We love the corner placement. The line of the wall, coupled with the back of furniture brings us right to a thoughtful, contemplative person. The diagonals of the guitars are like parentheses... excellent color choices and treatment of light."



6. BEST FIGURATIVE

Artist: Lou Riccio

Title: Pop's Favorite Pipe

Medium: Oils

COMMENTARY: "The monochromatic treatment of Pop works so well; the expression; the physiognomy, and that hand! To use color for the pipe (and only the pipe) emphasizes the title and is a delightful effect. Great contrast in value!"



7. BEST LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE

Artist: Valerie Morone

Title: Golden Canopy Medium: Oils

COMMENTARY: "The spreading arms of the tree is like a mother; embracing, inviting, and sheltering. The truncated trees in the background are like the tree's children. The soft, warm colors are low key and complement the bits of blue sky."



8. BEST INNOVATIVE

Artist: Margo Fletcher
Title: Aurora Borealis
Medium: Alcohol & Ink

COMMENTARY: "The artist could not have chosen a better medium to suggest the Aurora Borealis (very timely too)! The linear quality of the tree serves as a fitting contrast. We get the impression that all will change momentarily, as all is in flux, all is dynamic."



9. BEST STILL LIFE

Artist: Tracy Rocanova-Miller
Title: Signs of Spring
Medium: Watercolor

COMMENTARY: "There is much to love here; the subtle treatment of the glass vase, the reflection, the stems, the water line, and the shadow. A unity is achieved through the repetition of color....very pleasing to the eye."



10. BEST FLORAL

Artist: Sherly Bennett
Title: Orchids Medium: Oils

COMMENTARY: "Wonderful color choices which the grey negative space amplifies. Excellent composition; our eyes constantly return to those three orchids, nuanced in degree of sharpness. ...a visual delight."



AWARD OF MERIT

ARTIST: Sheila Soyster
Title: Samba & Bob Medium: Watercolor



AWARD OF MERIT

ARTIST: Tom Nulton Title: Bear
Medium: Oils



AWARD OF MERIT

ARTIST: Sheryl Sepulveda
Title: Sweetness
Medium: Oils



AWARD OF MERIT

ARTIST: Denise Cahill
Title: Rhododendron
Medium: Watercolor



AWARD OF MERIT

ARTIST: Judy Hughes
Title: Gray Day
Medium: Oils

The 2024 MRGA Brielle Library Show has been a success! With 50 artists' entries (12 more than last year), this exhibit showcases the talents of our members and most of our new members! The Show Judges, Library Staff, and people that frequent the library have commented on the diversity of subject matter, the beauty of the work, and the joy that the exhibit brings to all who view it! There are 10 Award Winners, 1 People's Choice Award, and 5 Awards of Merit to be given out at the Reception and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 29th, from 1 to 3 pm. The Show ends on that day and all artwork must be removed/taken home. We hope to see everyone on the 29th!

Tracy Rocanova-Miller, Show Director

AWARDS JURORS BIOS

David Levy

David was an optical artist at age fifteen, well before he established his personal hard-edged style in painting ("Engineered Abstraction"), as a Fine Arts major at Lehigh University.

An award winning artist in three mediums, he has exhibited his works in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; eight one or two-person shows since 2013.

He has a Masters+30 in Art History (ABO), is certified as an Elementary School Teacher and Teacher of Art, and over the span of more than thirty years, he created the curriculum and taught college students, gifted students, and those with disabilities.

David has received grants, fellowships, and is the winner of three State of New Jersey Teacher of the Year awards (two in Arts Education, and one National Educator of the Year award).

He has served as a judge for elementary, middle school and high school shows, and as an adjudicator at the Teen Arts Festival for five years. He has also been a regular juror at the Guild of Creative Art, and has judged for other professional non-profit arts organizations as well.

David is an Exhibiting member, docent, and the President of the Guild of Creative Art.

Leslie Backlund

Leslie Backlund became a part of the Guild of Creative Art at the age of 14 when she began taking watercolor classes with Guild Founder Yvonne Aubert. After two years of learning watercolor with Yvonne, Leslie spent one summer studying watercolor with Don Vorhees.

After graduation from Lynchburg College with an Early Childhood education degree Leslie came right back to the Guild to study pastel painting, plus figure and portrait drawing with Mary Sheehan. While taking Mary's class Leslie had the privilege of meeting and becoming friends with fellow artists who are still active Guild members today.

Leslie Backlund has been an Exhibiting Artist at the Guild of Creative Art since 1977. During her years at the Guild she has earned awards in local, state, and national shows. She has been a signature member of the Pastel Society of America since 1992. In addition to watercolor and pastel Leslie is proficient in oil and pencil work.

Leslie has been teaching children's classes in all mediums at the Guild since 1994. Her experience in drawing and painting in all mediums has made it possible for her to help students with their portfolios and gain admission to various Art and Architectural schools as well as local high school programs geared toward the education and success for young artists.



Sea Girt Lighthouse Show and Sale

Beacon Blvd. and Ocean Ave., Sea Girt

Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024 Raindate: Sunday, July 21

Time: Show Hours – 10 am to 4 pm

Fee: \$20. Non-refundable, check made out to MRGA

Artists Set-up: There is no snow fence. Displays may be on racks or tables. Umbrellas ok if NOT stuck into the ground (because of the sprinkler system). We will set up on the side and back lawn areas of the Lighthouse. Restrooms inside will be open for the artists. A loading zone will be marked on Beacon Blvd. by 7:30 am for arriving artists. Get there early for the beach crowd!

Originals and prints welcome, but please keep the reproductions to less than half of the work you are showing, and label them as such. Thanks! No photography or crafts.

Please send the registration form with your check by July 10th to:

Janice Collinson, 2421 Beech St., Manasquan, NJ 08736

For info: 732-528-7179, cell 908-489-7696 or jlc7379@yahoo.com

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

Artist's signature _____



PRESENTED BY THE
MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER OF A.C.B.S.
&
THE NEW JERSEY MUSEUM OF BOATING
P.O. Box 155
BAY HEAD, NJ 08742

SHOW DATE: September 14, 2024 (rain date --next day)
Johnson Brothers Boat Works
Foot of Bay Avenue, Pt. Pleasant, NJ

MARITIME EXHIBITORS, DEALERS, VENDORS, AND CRAFTERS
APPLICATION / CONTRACT

CONTACT PERSON: _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

ALL SPACES approx. 10 ft. X 10 ft.

_____ NUMBER OF OPEN SPACE(s) @ \$40 each \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

NOTE: MARITIME-RELATED TRADES AND MERCHANDISE ARE STRONGLY EXCOURAGED.

TYPE / KIND OF MERCHANDISE: (art, jewelry, models, hardware, wood products, educational, etc.)

SIGNATURE OF VENDOR / EXHIBITOR

DATE

Check Box to Agree

Clear Form

Make check payable to: **Mid-Atlantic Chapter, ACBS**

Return your form and check to: **Tom Lewis, Vendor Chairman**

732.915.8695 – cell / e-mail: tomlewis11@comcast.net

OR

Follow the instructions on the attached Registration Options page to file and pay on-line.

THE SIGNATURE OF THE PARTICIPANT SHOWN ABOVE INDICATES AGREEMENT WITH ALL REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN THIS CONTRACT.

MANASQUAN RIVER GROUP OF ARTISTS
ART EXHIBIT PROSPECTUS 2023 4/5/2024

Theme: By the Shore

NORTH HALL GALLERY

RECEIVING JULY 9 (Tues) 11:30 to 1PM

PICKUP and RECEPTION AUGUST 25(SUN) 11:00 to 12 Noon

Entry form label must be attached to rear for Originals and Portfolio works.

Suggested donation, \$10.00 at registration, (\$5 MRGA, \$5 North Hall Gallery shades)

ONE HANGING ORIGINAL WORK: Properly framed and wired (no saw tooth hangers.

1. **Size Maximum: 20"X24"**
2. **WORK DATED: within the last five (5) years.**
3. **PORTFOLIO WORKS: Up to five (5) wrapped Reproduction Prints or Originals.**
4. **ALL Exhibited and Sold Hanging Art Works must stay for the duration of the show or substitute another piece of art if one is sold. 10% commission to Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church.**
5. **MRGA Officers, Trustees, & Members as well as the PPPC Staff will not be responsible for loss or damage to exhibited artwork. Your entry into this exhibit constitutes agreement with terms in Prospectus**
6. **PUBLICITY: Media coverage by local papers, posted on online calendar. Point Pleasant Beach Chamber and Ocean Country Tourism. Rack Cards in Point Beach Chamber, Point Pleasant libraries and Pt Pleasant Green Planet Coffee. Facebook, Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church, and Point Beach, Point Pleasant, Bay Head Group app.**
7. **NORTH HALL GALLERY, located in the Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church EXHIBIT COORDINATOR: Karen Norby email-hueforyou@gmail.com**

Manasquan River Group of Arts
North Hall Gallery *Entry Form*

Theme: BY THE SHORE

RECEIVING July 9 Tues, 11:30 to 1PM

Pick Up and Reception August 25 Sun. 11:00 to Noon

ARTIST (print).....

SIGNATURE.....

TITLE.....

MEDIUM.....PRICE.....

TEL #..... e-mail.....

5 PORTFOLIO WORKS: PRINTS AND ORIGINALS

1. TITLE..... 4. TITLE.....

MEDIUM..... MEDIUM.....

PRICE PRICE.....

2. TITLE..... 5. TITLE.....

MEDIUM..... MEDIUM.....

PRICE..... PRICE.....

3. TITLE.....

MEDIUM..... PRICE

MRGA Officers, Trustees, & Members as well as the PPC Staff will not be responsible for loss or damage to exhibited artwork. Your entry into this exhibit constitutes agreement with terms in Prospectus

SIGNATUREDATE.....