



Established
1938

Manasquan River Group of Artists Newsletter

MRGA, P. O. Box 614, Manasquan,

www.mrga38.org

New Jersey 08736 September, 2024

President's Message

As summer draws to a close, I reflect on the many wonderful events the MRGA has had in the last few months, and what a talented and thriving group we belong to. We are certainly fulfilling our mission of bringing art to our local communities!

We've had nice turnouts at our summer shows at Spring Lake, Sea Girt Lighthouse, Brielle and Brick Libraries and the North Hall Gallery. Our new show at the Curtis House turned out to be a wonderful experience, not only for the public, but for the members as well. I think we all wondered how 32 artists and their work would fit, and if anyone would come to buy paintings. It was cozy, but we fit, and yes, we had many sales. But best of all was the chance to get to know our fellow artists a bit better, and to see each other's work. Everyone agreed that it was a great venue, and we should do it again. Thanks, Barbara, for organizing this great show.

And now we've got more opportunities in the works! Our prestigious Middletown Arts Center Show will be set up on August 27th, with the reception and awards on September 29th. At the end of September, there's another new show, at the Turner House Gallery in Ocean Township. The prospectus for this two-month show is in this newsletter.

If you'd like to take a great day trip, we've been invited to join the Ocean County Artists Guild on their October 12th bus trip to Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. It's an amazing place –over 300 contemporary sculptures sited across 42 beautifully landscaped acres, plus indoor galleries and dining. Information on the trip is included in this newsletter. Sign up by September 5th to reserve your spot!

Hopefully you are all very actively involved in creating art – in one form or another. Many of you can relate to getting asked to do artwork beyond the traditional works on paper or canvas. I have been working on two murals in Point Pleasant's Memorial Middle School STEAM classroom. STEAM, an acronym for Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Mathematics, aims to spark interest and lifelong love of the arts and sciences, using creative thinking and problem-solving skills. The focal point of the room is a large "STEAM" mural, while the other is a 23-foot-long timeline of STEAM, starting with Fire, and ending with Artificial Intelligence. What are your unconventional art projects? Send them to me (sheila624@comcast.net) and we'll feature them in our next newsletter!

Enjoy the rest of the summer, and the glorious September days when our favorite spots aren't quite so crowded! I'll see you at our next general membership meeting on Friday, September 13th which is a change from our usual first Friday meeting, due to a conflict with the use of the Curtis House for Brielle Day. From 4 – 4:30, we will have refreshments and networking, followed by a brief business meeting, and the introduction of some new members. Our program will feature artist Joe Hughes as he creates a water-color landscape/cityscape while describing details of his painting process. The "what and the why" of the supplies he uses will be discussed as well as his thoughts on composition, value and color and their importance in his process.

See You Soon,
Sheila

Next Members Meeting

The regular MRGA Meeting is October 4. Refreshments at 4PM. Business meeting to begin at 4:30PM

Member News

Congratulations to several MRGA members who received awards at the annual Monmouth County Senior Show sponsored by Monmouth Arts. The award recipients were **Linda Alton**, 2nd place Non-Professional Drawing "Northern Plains Indian"; **Arlene Newman**, 2nd place Professional Acrylics "Glimmer Glass Drawbridge"; **Susan Penn**, 2nd place Professional Mixed Media "After the Rain"; and **Melinda Saminski**, 3rd place Professional Oils "Markie". Other participants were **MaryAnn Goodwin**, **Marilyn Shotwell**, **Bev Sirianni** and **Mary Ann Smorra**.



Valerie Morone's painting, Sonoran Saguaro, has been selected as a finalist in the Grand National Exhibition of the American Artists Professional League. Her work will be displayed at the historic Salmagundi Club of New York from Oct.28 – Nov. 15. Congratulations Valerie!

Thomas Nulton is teaching a Perspective Drawing Class at Ocean County Artists Guild, Island Heights on Fridays Nov.1, 8, 15, 22: 1:30-3PM \$100 for all four sessions Please contact:

<https://www.ocartistsguild.org/series/ocag244-intro-to-perspective-drawing/>

MRGA Executive Board and Committees 2024-2025

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Janice Collinson.....732.528.7179

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NEWSLETTER

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HOSPITALITY

Margo Fletcher.....732.259.7767

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 CLASSES

Sponsored by
The Manasquan Group of Artists
Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm
At the Sea Girt Lighthouse



2024

September	10 and 17 – Rose Sinatra – watercolor	626-797-1213
	24 – Arlene Newman - watercolor	682-3397
October	1- Arlene Newman – watercolor	682-3397
	8 and 15 – Margaret Patterson – pastel	223-9048
	22 – Mona Kirk – portrait drawing	223-2569
	29 – Barbara Calvo – pastel	996-0738
November	5 – Mona Kirk – portraits	223-2569
	12 and 19 – Leona Lavone watercolor	914-9941
December	3 and 10 – Debbie Herbster – watercolor	908-380-7580
	17 – Janice Collinson – watercolor	528-7179

2025

January	7 – Janice Collinson – watercolor	528-7179
	14 and 21 – Bev Sirianni – watercolor	774-0014
	28 – Arlene Newman – watercolor	682-3397
February	4 – Arlene Newman – watercolor	682-3397
	11 and 18 – Melinda Saminski – pastel	610-8626
	25 – Tamara Woronczuk – book making	998-8286
March	4 – Tamara Woronczuk – book making	998-8286
	11 and 18 – Debbie Herbster -watercolor	908-380-7580
	25 – Leona Lavone – watercolor	914-9941
April	1 – Leona Lavone – watercolor	914-9941
	8 – Debbie Herbster – watercolor	908-380-7580
	29 – Rose Sinatra – watercolor	626-797-1213
May	6 – Rose Sinatra – watercolor	626-797-1213
	12 – End of Year Class	

Instructed classes \$6.00
Catch-up classes \$3.00

Please call instructor before attending class for necessary information.
Any other information, please call Mona Kirk – 732-223-2569

MANASQUAN RIVER GROUP OF ARTISTS

ART SHOWS

July 9 – August 25

North Hall Gallery Art Exhibition

Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church
Bay & Forman Avenues, Pt. Pleasant Beach

Reception – Sunday, September 8th, 10:45 – 12 noon

September 3-29

MRGA Invitational Show & Sale

Middletown Arts Center,
36 Church Street, Middletown, NJ

Reception & Awards – September 29th, 12-2pm

September 27 – November 4

MRGA Art Exhibition

Terner House Gallery,
601 Deal Road, Ocean, NJ

Reception – October 6th, 2-4 pm

November 4 – January 3

Wall Township Library Show

2700 Allaire Road, Wall Township

December 2 – January 2

Upper Gallery Art Show

Spring Lake Community House
300 Madison Avenue, Spring Lake

Sea Girt Lighthouse Show

MRGA Members exhibited their wonderful artwork at the Sea Girt Lighthouse on July 20th. The weather cooperated with a beautiful day for all who participated and viewed the event.



MANASQUAN RIVER GROUP OF ARTISTS AWARD WINNERS 2024

Brick Library Exhibit June | July 2024

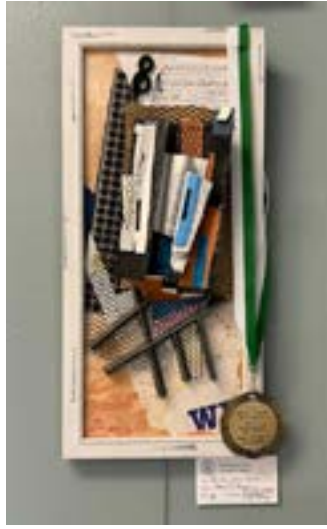
JUDGES: DAVID LEVY & BARBARA BIELLO RUSSO



BEST IN SHOW:

Karen Wachter, "Joan," Pastel

Her expression, as seen through her eyes and pursed lips, can be at once pensive, concerned, and confrontational. We sense the inner life of this individual; someone we would like to know. Each side of Joan's face is treated in a delightfully different manner: from great detail to a minimalist treatment. Form and content work together seamlessly.



ORIGINALITY/ CREATIVITY:

Robert Imperio, "Raise Your Voice," Mixed Media

The message here is richly provocative. Is it standing up for your rights? Is it all about vocals? Besides that, we love the dynamic composition, the variety of objects used, the color choices, and its whimsical nature.



COMPOSITION LANDSCAPE:

Arlene Newman, "Serenity Lake," Acrylic

Traditional in feel, but we imagine we have been here! Great attention to detail. The artist captured our gaze, by moving our eyes from the left edge of the pond to the road and bridge and back again. An excellent and consistent treatment of light, and those reflections!



BEST IN OIL OR ACRYLIC:

Lou Riccio, "Uncle Harold," Oil

The artist demonstrates mastery of the oil medium. Physical veracity, coupled with a palpable spirit within, work so well together. We love the treatment of the negative space behind. It adds to this traditional, powerful portrait.



BEST IN WATERCOLOR:

Linda Hejduk, "West Point Light, Canada,"

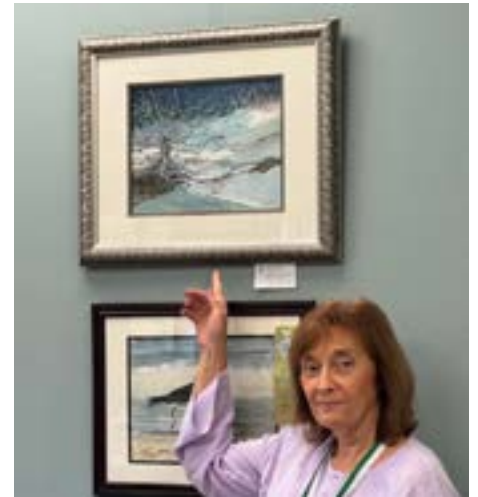
This appealing vignette offers so much in such a concentrated space. We feel the outdoors and that moving wind. It rustles the foreground vegetation, the clouds, and allows the seagulls to use updrafts to stay aloft. The use of light is consistent, and the trees and small structure to the right complement the monolithic lighthouse.



COMPOSITION SEASCAPE:
John Troisi, "Autumn Rising," Oil
The artist's choice of colors is daring. Our eyes are methodically led from foreground to background. The repetition of color unifies the composition. A striking design!



EMOTIONAL IMPACT:
Robert J. Stetz, "Best Friends," Watercolor
Nostalgic in feel, like a 100 year-old black and white photo. A great capture of emotion with little detail as realism here is unnecessary. We smile at the unadulterated joy of these children!



BEST FIGURATIVE:
Ellen Price, "Tree of Life," Mixed Media
This work is as much about value contrast as it is about line. The light branches against the dark blue was an excellent decision. The dark roots at the base of the tree also provide an effective contrast. We love the placement of the tree. Is this a positive message because of those extending branches or is a darker message focusing upon the death of the tree after Adam's and Eve's Fall from Grace? The viewer can decide!



BEST IN INNOVATION:
Tamara Woronczuk, "City Nights," Mixed Media
The artist has captured the feel of the city at night by value, texture, line, shape, and form. Great attention to detail. Accomplishes what so many artists desire: To have the viewer look and relook at the work of art.



BEST IN COLOR VALUE:
Valerie Morone, "Rise," Oil
Our eyes move from foreground to middle ground to background through three distinct treatments of value, that are still unified by the artist's treatment of color. We feel the distance, its vast nature, and that atmospheric perspective also.

HONORABLE MENTIONS:



Sheila Soyster, "The Oyster Catcher"



Mary Jo Austin, "Long Beach Island"



Mona Kirk, "Best Friend, Shea"



Tom Nulton, "Martha's Vineyard"



Jackie St. Angel, "Round Up"



Michael Dreher, "The Country Window"



Curtis House Exhibit

MRGA's first ever exhibit at the Curtis House was an ambitious undertaking. The biggest challenge was setting up the work on display racks, which many of us didn't have! Those who had racks kindly volunteered to share so 26 artists were able to exhibit. After nearly a week of rain, the weather was beautiful so the beach, not an art exhibit, was a destination for many, nevertheless, we had lots of goodies to share with each other and met lots of art enthusiasts who bought our artwork. Everyone enjoyed themselves and want to do it again.

Thanks to Jim Carlson who designed flyers for the local shops, for those who distributed the flyers, to those who shared their racks and to each one of us who worked together in making this show a success.





Artist Spotlight:

Meet David Levy



All of us at MRGA have met David either at one of our meetings where he was a speaker or at an exhibit reception but there is more much more to David besides being a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker and a respected art judge.

David was born in Manhattan and grew up on Long Island and was inspired at age 15 by the first Optical Art exhibit in the US. A graduate of Lehigh University in 1972, where he moved from Architecture/Urban Planning to Art History/Studio Art and had established his hard-edged painting style "Engineered Abstraction". Years later with a major in Fine Arts, a Masters + 30 in Art History from Rutgers and certification in both elementary and art education,

David used his knowledge and skills to teach elementary age students from the gifted to those with emotional and social disabilities for 27 years. He repeatedly turned to the visual arts to help make concepts fun and understandable across all subject areas. David has been the recipient of teaching, research and travel

fellowships, grants and three New Jersey State teaching awards. In 1999, David was the recipient of the National Teacher of the Year. David joined the Guild of Creative Art shortly

after resigning his teaching position from CPC High Point Elementary School in 2012. He had more time to paint and became an exhibiting member at the Guild, serving as Co-President or President since 2016. There, David created an educational program to serve the needs of elementary and high school age students, adults with developmental, physical and



1953 Corvette, acrylic

learning disabilities, adults with autism and seniors with cognitive and/or memory impairment. As Guild President, David was named the 2016 Arts Organization Leader by Monmouth Arts and in 2023, was honored as one of the fifty most impactful arts advocates in Monmouth County. An award-winning artist in three mediums, acrylics, photography and mixed media, David has had seven 1 or 2 person shows since 2013 and in November will be a featured artist at the Axlerod Performing Arts Center Gallery. At our May 2 MRGA meeting, we will welcome David to speak about "Italian Art in the Early Renaissance Period, 1400-1435"

Do you know David now?

BJC



Cooper River Bridge, acrylic



Brooklyn Bridge, photograph

Manasquan River Group of Artists
TERNER HOUSE GALLERY EXHIBIT

601 Deal Road, Ocean, New Jersey 07712

Delivery of paintings – September 27 – 9:30am-11:30am

Reception – October 6 – 2pm – 4pm

Pick up of Paintings – November 8

(The Turner Gallery is located next to the library with a separate entrance, but the gallery can be accessed through the library. Do not go through the library when dropping off your work or picking it up.)

There is no fee or commission for MRGA members

One original artwork, properly framed & wired.

1. Previous MRGA award pieces cannot be shown at any MRGA sponsored site
2. All work should be completed within last five (5) yrs.
3. All exhibited & sold hanging artworks must stay for duration of show
4. Nudes & Photography are not permitted for exhibition
5. MRGA entry form label must be attached to artworks

Publicity: Media coverage by local papers, MRGA Newsletter and Website.

Questions? Call Diana Greenblatt: 732-233-4927 or Mary O'Malley-Joyce: 908-247-4233

MRGA ENTRY FORM

Tenner Gallery Show, Ocean NJ

ARTIST _____
EMAIL _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE # _____
TITLE of ARTWORK _____
MEDIUM _____
PRICE _____
SIZE (including Frame) _____

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.

SIGNATURE _____

**ANNUAL MRGA
LUNCHEON BUFFET 2024**

at Jack Baker's
Lobster Shanty

83 Channel Drive, Pt. Pleasant
Sunday November 3rd, Noon ~ 4pm
\$35.00 per person

~ Buffet Includes ~

Soup du Jour ~ Caesar Salad
Apricot Chicken ~ Herb Crusted Salmon
Beef Tenderloin Tips
Coffee ~ Soda ~ Cash Bar
Ice Cream Sundae Bar

Your Name (s) _____ \$ _____

Number of People _____

Please make checks payable to MRGA by **Fri. October 18, 2024**
Mail to Mona Kirk: 67 Lakewood Road, Manasquan, NJ 08736
Questions, please call Mona at 732-223-2569

Grounds for Sculpture Trip

October 12 @ 9:00 am - 6:30 pm

\$95.00 – \$105.00



The Ocean County Artists Guild has invited us to join them on a day of wonder and delight as we walk along the garden paths of the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ to explore the awesome sculptures and art installations. It will be a beautiful autumn day to go out and mingle with other artists.



GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY! Eat your bag lunch on a garden bench or enjoy a lunch in one of the cafes. Participants who register and pre-book a reserved seat will enjoy a French inspired cuisine lunch at Rat's Restaurant in a beautiful French Villa setting. Lunches are on average \$30-40. *The \$105 price includes a restaurant reservation and \$10 for gratuities* **NOT COST OF LUNCH.**

The group will leave the Ocean County Library at 9:00 am sharp and return by 6:30 pm. Parking garage behind library. **Tickets sales will close on Sept 5 or before if all sold out.**

Choose your ticket preference below.

- \$95 Tickets include admission, round trip bus and snacks, and a fun-filled day.
- \$105 Tickets include admission, round trip bus and snacks, restaurant reservation/gratuity and a fun-filled day.

Any questions? Call 732-270-3111, or email Terry Konn, OCAG VP at TMKonnPHDRT@aol.com

To register & pay online, scan this QR code →



