



# Purely Pastel

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## Purely Pastel 2017



### CPS Exhibit: A Bright Kickoff to Summer



**Laurel Friedman** takes Best in Show award for her work "Reunion" pictured above.

Summer rushed in a week early when the Connecticut Pastel Society's 2017 exhibit, Purely Pastel, opened on June 15. On display at the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts through July 21 were works by artists mostly from states in the Northeast who created the 50 paintings in the show. Jurors Jamie Markle and Diane Rappisi selected works from 94 artists who submitted 178 paintings. Ten received awards, as directed by the juror of awards, Sam Goodsell.

*"The show is an impressive array of artistic talent," Sam said. "I was overwhelmed by the variety and number of images. It was a pleasure to spend a few hours savoring such a myriad of beauty. I was wishing there were more awards available to give away."*

The show featured paintings by Alain Picard, guest lecturer, and Margaret Dyer, workshop instructor. Following the opening reception, Alain spoke about his travels to Rwanda and Cambodia in a lecture entitled "Reflections of Hope" (Click to hear Alain's lecture:

[http://www.lymeacademy.edu/index.php/community-engagement/lectures/spring\\_2017\\_lecture\\_series/lecture\\_by\\_alain\\_j\\_picard](http://www.lymeacademy.edu/index.php/community-engagement/lectures/spring_2017_lecture_series/lecture_by_alain_j_picard))

Alain spoke about the people pictured in his paintings, whose beauty is apparent amidst terrible hardship.

Longtime CPS members Rainie Crawford, Frank Federico, and Rae Smith received Emeritus awards for their **lifetime achievement**.

The **CPS Scholarship Award** was presented by Steve Porter to Sanchitha Vishwanath.

### Awards

Best in Show: “Reunion,” by Laurel Friedmann

Founders Award: “Liz and the Thread of Flight.” by Janet Cook

President’s Award: “Ascension,” by Peter Seltzer

Honor Award: “In the Bag,” by Joel Sobelson

Board of Directors Award: “Dune,” by Elinor Freedman

Membership Award: “Breakthrough,” by Jeanne Rosier Smith

Merit Award of Excellence: “Chance of Snow,” by Steve Linde

Merit Award: “Layers,” by Jane Penfield

Honorable Mention: “Tunnel II,” by Gigi Liverant

Honorable Mention: “Blue Creek,” by Dave Kaphammer



Janet Cook “Liz and the Thread of Flight”



Jeanne Rosier Smith, with “Breakthrough”

## What’s Coming Up

### CPS Exhibits

#### **Renaissance in Pastel**

**24<sup>th</sup> annual National Juried Exhibition** October 4- November 5, 2017, Arts Center East, 709 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT

**Chairpersons**, Vicki Rooney and Jane Penfield

**Jurors of selection:** Maria Marino, Paul Leveille, Eileen Casey

**Jurors of Awards:** Jane McGraw –Teubner and Jean Dalton

**Artists Reception** Saturday, October 21, 2017 • 3 - 5 PM  
Awards Presentation at 4 PM

**Pastel Demonstration** by Dave Kaphammer  
Saturday, October 21st from 1:00 – 3:00PM

### CPS Workshops

#### **Deborah Quinn Munson: The Importance of Composition–The 80/20 Concept**

October 12 through October 14, 2017, Southington Community Cultural Arts Center 93 Main St., Southington, CT

#### **Coming up next year:**

Lyn Asseleta, Vianna Szabo, Karen Israel. Look for more information in the November issue of *Purely Pastel*.

## From our Co-Presidents: Karen Israel and Diane Stone



*Karen Israel*

Summer presents nature at its most bountiful--a very special time for artists. For pastelists especially, it is a sumptuous mix of dramatic light, texture and color. Why not go outdoors to see with an artist's eye all the subtleties that exist?

I am mostly a studio painter, but if you are like me and don't fancy the heat and the bugs, why not bring a bit of nature into the studio? I am always collecting bits of nature that I set up to paint in the studio. With the longer daylight hours, summer is as good a time as any to experiment... try a new paper, a new under-painting, a new subject, a new format. All this artistic exploring opens up so many possibilities for new creativity. I was inspired by

### Painting in Summer

visits to Lyme, Conn. for the masterful pastel paintings at the Purely Pastel Exhibit at the Lyme Academy College of Fine Art. I also enjoyed the Florence Griswold Museum and the Lyme Art Association--further inspiration from summer's bounty.

CPS has some exciting things happening in the fall. We look forward to our National show "Renaissance in Pastel." Deborah Quinn Munson will hold a three-day workshop on October 12-14, at Southington Community Cultural Art Center, 93 Main St., Southington, CT. --*Karen Israel*



*Diane Stone*

## Margaret Dyer Workshop



## Member Profile: Polly Castor



*House By the Bay*  
Polly Castor

**Polly Castor** is an artist who won't be put in a box. In her travels down the road of life she is called to be a spiritual leader. While that part of her is of paramount importance, you couldn't travel far without discussing her work life as a former structural engineer, or as a wife who homeschooled her three thriving children, her nine years as a blogger with a daily column, the photographer busy observing everything (and who can be relied on to photograph every CPS event), a painter, poet, traveler, and nature lover. In her spare time, Polly serves as our CPS membership chairman.

*“Contrary to what people say, that to be professional you must narrow your focus more and more, I thrive on a range of interests and mediums as vehicles that inform one another, and help me express my whole being more accurately and completely.”*

Growing up in Michigan, and as one of very few women in engineering, Polly was inspired by her mother, an art teacher, who loved abstract art and encouraged Polly to pursue her own creative voice. They painted together in pastel in every national park in the lower 48 states before Polly turned 18. *“She taught me that good art is never about copying.”*

She was no one's imitator when she set up her own engineering company in Manhattan. Picture her

dangling from a rope 40 stories up outside a skyscraper under construction and you get a vivid image of the kind of risks – both creative and professional – that Polly is willing to take.

Abstract art is a fitting way to express her boundless energy. Polly likes to start with a concept, such as “confidence” or “the month of July” and build her paintings from there. She enjoys painting in plein air but focuses her studio work on abstract landscapes and conceptualism. In life and in art, as she says

**“I can never have too much color.”**

Polly Castor can best be summed up in her own words:

*“I feel my love of nature, my structural engineering training, and my spiritual approach all contribute to my artwork like an under-painting does, subtly influencing every aspect of it.”*



<https://pollycastor.pixels.com>

Polly Castor

## Member Classes/Member's News

For more information, please follow the link after each teacher's name.

**Joe Baker** – Stockbridge, MA –  
[www.bakerworks.com](http://www.bakerworks.com)

**Janet A. Cook** – New York, NY – [janetacook.com](http://janetacook.com)

**Mally DeSomma** – Waterbury, CT –  
[www.mallydesomma.com](http://www.mallydesomma.com)

**Christine Ivers** – Meriden, CT, nationally –  
[www.christineivers.com](http://www.christineivers.com)

**Karen Israel**, Hartford area [artbykarenisrael.com](http://artbykarenisrael.com)

**Liz Haywood-Sullivan** – eastern MA, nationally –  
[www.lizhaywoodsullivan.com](http://www.lizhaywoodsullivan.com)

**Rita Kirkman**- nationally  
[RitaKirkman.com](http://RitaKirkman.com)

**Anne Heywood** – eastern MA –  
[www.anneheywood.com](http://www.anneheywood.com)

**Pieter Lefferts** – Sharon, CT –  
[www.northlightartcenter.com](http://www.northlightartcenter.com)

**Paul Leveille** – Holyoke, MA –  
[paulleveillestudio.com](http://paulleveillestudio.com)

**Leslie Lillien Levy** – Kent, CT –  
[www.leslielillienlevy.com](http://www.leslielillienlevy.com)

**Linda Bull Neilan** – East Lyme, CT

**Alain Picard** – Southbury, CT –  
[www.picardstudio.com](http://www.picardstudio.com)

**Jane Penfield** – Vernon, CT –  
[www.janepenfield.com](http://www.janepenfield.com)

**Claudia Post** – Chester, CT –  
[www.claudiapost.com](http://www.claudiapost.com)

**Peggy Davidson Post**, Mt. Kisco, NY  
[www.theartistsplace.net](http://www.theartistsplace.net)

**Peter Seltzer** – Woodbury, CT –  
[peterseltzerfineart.com](http://peterseltzerfineart.com)

**Jeanne Rosier Smith**

[www.jeannerosiersmith.com](http://www.jeannerosiersmith.com)

### New CPS Lifetime Members:

**Raine Crawford, Frank Federico and Rae Smith**

**Gary Ozias:** “High Country Color” earned the Jack Richeson “Savoir Faire” award at Arizona Pastel Painters National Exhibition

**Jeanne Rosier Smith** has a new website:  
[www.jeannerosiersmith.com](http://www.jeannerosiersmith.com)

**Jeff Fioravanti** achieved Master Circle Pastelist status from the International Association of Pastel Societies at the convention in June. “The Vision Place of Souls,” a solo exhibition of his paintings is on view until December 22 at the Lynn Museum, in Lynn Massachusetts.

**25 CPS** members exhibited at the International Assn. of Pastel Societies exhibits in Albuquerque.

**Chris Ivers** was voted in as Vice-President of IAPS, and is working closely with new President Richard McKinley.



“High Country Color” by Gary Ozias

# IAPS Convention 2017



Elizabeth Ventura and Christine Ivers representing CPS for the pastel societies on fiesta night.



How do you gather CPS members for a group photo on fiesta night? Not easily! Pictured are (L to R, back row) Jeanne Rosier Smith, Peggy Davidson Post, Joe Baker, Christine Ivers, Valerie Mandra, Rae Smith; with Elizabeth Ventura and Alain Picard (front).



Arlene Richman and Leslie Lillian Levy at the awards banquet.

## *Scenes from the IAPS convention, June 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico*

Michelle Poirier-Mozzone and Deborah Quinn Munson at the fiesta.





Susan Story (L) and Maria Marino (R) take advantage of Albuquerque's colorful Old Town.



**IAPS biannual convention** almost defies description. Working in the pastel medium it's easy to feel separated from mainstream art. After attending four conventions I decided that's because pastel artists have created their own universe.

It's hard to feel a part of a tiny minority when a group of nearly 700 artists signs up to spend a week with peers celebrating, exhibiting, learning, networking and embracing the medium. Those fortunate enough to attend have a chance to see so many artists who excel in their work, and are an inspiration to witness. Demonstrators and workshop instructors are generous with their time and often volunteer to review the work of students, offering personalized instruction and advice.

As Liz Haywood-Sullivan steps down as President, Richard McKinley has taken the reins. CPS's own Christine Ivers is now vice-president. Our pastel society was well represented as instructors and in the two IAPS exhibits, the 30<sup>th</sup> Juried Exhibition and the 4<sup>th</sup> Master's Circle exhibition held on site. CPS members whose work was included in the shows: Linda Armstrong, Barbara Berry, Eileen Casey, Jeri Greenberg, Joyce Hanson, Karen Israel, Christine

Ivers, David Kaphammer, Rita Kirkman, Judith Leeds, Gigi Horr Liverant, Maria Marino, Kathy McDonnell, Michelle Poirier-Mazzone, Maryanne Mullett, Judy Perry, Alain Picard, Peggy Davidson Post, Claudia Post, Deborah Quinn Munson, William Schneider, Janet Schwartz, Jeanne Rosier Smith, Anna Wainright, and Kurt Weiser. *-pdp*

**From the editor of *Purely Pastel*.**

I plan to publish the newsletter in November, March, and July. Send me your news a month before those issues at [peggydpost@gmail.com](mailto:peggydpost@gmail.com).

Your news should be summarized in a single paragraph. Please—no brochures, flyers or enrollment forms. Write **CPS News** in the subject line, so that your news and events don't slip into the black hole of my email stream. Thank you to a very inspiring group of artists.

*-Peggy Davidson Post*

