



CPS Member's Show 2018



Award winners 2018 Member's Show

The annual 2018 CPS Members Exhibit successfully showcased the wide range of talent from 74 members of our group, illustrating a variety of works—portraiture, landscapes, interiors, florals, and abstracts—within the pastel medium. Three artists sold paintings.

Members took advantage of a new option to enter a **Small Works** show, displayed adjacent to the gallery. This offered another opportunity to increase visibility and sales for our members.

The Southington Community Cultural Arts Center once again generously welcomed our member's exhibit. We want to thank Mary De Croce, Executive Director of SOCCA, and her team for giving CPS such a warm and inviting venue.

CPS gave out nearly \$5,000 in awards. A huge thank you goes to our Award Co-Chairs: Pat Boes and Maryanne D'Ambrosio. They obtained the support

of numerous vendors for gift certificate and merchandise awards.

We had a beautiful display, thanks to a full team of volunteers, including Christine Ivers, Diane Stone, Bonnie De Saulnier, Stacey Mayou, Linda Madin, Karen Israel, Carol T. Moore, Pat Boes, and Mary Anne D'Ambrusio

We thank our merchandise award sponsors for their generous and continuing support of CPS: Great American Artworks, Dakota Art Supplies, Dick Blick Art Materials, Jack Richeson and Company, HK Holbein Artists Materials, Jerry's Artarama of West Hartford, Hull's Art Supply & Framing, Terry Ludwig Pastels, Uart, and Wholesale Frames.

- Diana Rogers and Phyllis Brown, Show Co-chairs.

Polly Castor Speaks on Abstract Art

Abstract art “is really about composition, the freedom to be creative, and trusting your own inner voice and intuition” says Polly Castor in her presentation to CPS members “Abstraction in Pastel: From Impressionism to Non-Objective Art.” Polly shared her enthusiastic interest and appreciation of art when she gave her 300-slide presentation on March 24, before the closing of the CPS Member show. She illustrated the discussion with many of her own photographs and explained the genesis of different forms of abstract art. Many listeners responded enthusiastically and said they were eager to try abstraction, and add it to their own constellation of skills.



Polly Castor gave a lecture on Abstract Art on March 24 at Southington Community Cultural Art Center in conjunction with the CPS Member’s show.

From Wende Caporale, our judge of awards

A request for my expertise as a juror is always met with trepidation mixed with enthusiasm. The process of jurying is subjective although I would like to think that judges can be objective about the work they are assessing. With an appreciation for aesthetics a judge can have a visceral reaction to what artists are doing with the pastel medium. I am often inspired by the work I see. This exhibition featured over 70 works by the members of CPS that was highlighted by a wide array of wonderful landscapes, in addition to still life, portrait, and experimental works. The diversity of treatment of the pastel medium was in full display and it was dazzling to see the variety of texture and ingenious combinations. I hope the public appreciate the opportunity to witness this beautiful exhibition!



Susanna Dalponte won CPS Best in Show for her painting “Solitude”



Dave Kaphammer won CPS Board of Directors Award for “Shadow of a Tractor”



Member Profile: Eileen Casey



When her personal life handed Eileen Casey a couple of lemons, she started wondering what kind of dessert a lemon could make, except, maybe not a dessert exactly. Instead, she thought she'd dive more deeply into art. She had always loved art, majored in it in college, and had spent time on drawing,

lithographs, and printmaking. She'd long been inspired to bring nature to life. Years of teaching art and then spending 29 years at Cape Cod Child Development in early intervention programs had left her little time to devote to her passion. But now she wanted to discover what it would be like to apply herself more full-time to her art.

Eileen started by taking a plein air workshop with Rosalie Nadeau, who happened to be one of the founding members of the Pastel Society of Cape Cod. Rosalie approached Eileen as she was painting at the beach one day, and asked if she'd ever tried pastels. Eileen had an old set of them her parents had given her, so she pulled out the box and put them to use. After that "I just got hooked," she says. Her separate worlds came together one day when she was taking a group of her students on a visit to the Cahoon Museum of American Art - to what turned out to be the signature members show for PSCC. As chance would have it, the person who showed them through the exhibit was Barbara Stone, another founder of PSCC, whom she'd met before bringing kids to a summer food program. Barbara asked her to join, and Eileen became the society's secretary, then vice president, and has remained active with PSCC for 7 years.

I have never met Eileen, but I just as well *could* have. We've both attended the same four IAPS conventions, where we even showed up at the same demonstrations. So without meeting her, I'm still very familiar with her work, especially her beautiful series of birds' nests. Why nests? I asked her recently.

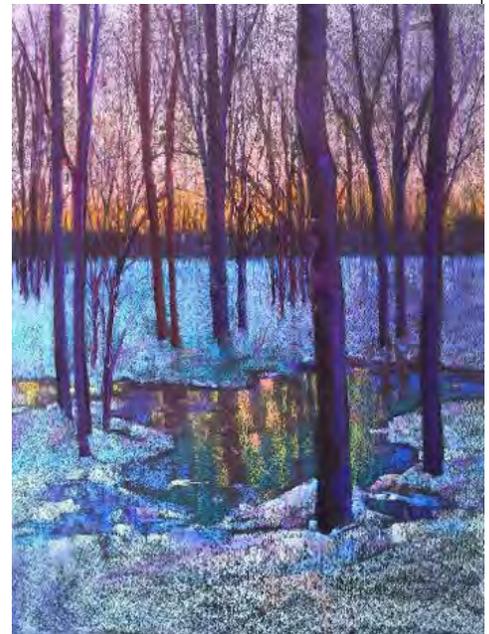
"I am very drawn to nests for both their symbolic nature and wonderful movement." It all started on a vacation in Maine, where she discovered a lovely nest and brought it home. Now she has a



large collection of them and estimates that she has painted nests on the order of 75 times. Her intense focus on nests transitioned to paintings of water and koi, and now trees. "I like ordering seeming chaos, like making marks of twigs and sticks to create a moving, 'alive' nest. I enjoy seeing and experiencing the beauty of nature, hoping to make sense of it and express it in my art work."

A signature member of the Connecticut Pastel Society, Eileen has also been honored for her work by the IAPS Master Circle, PSA signature status, and her home society, Cape Cod. She likes to be inspired by

working alongside artists in other media, and experimenting so that unexpected things begin to happen in her work – the "surprise element." The influences of her work, and the twists and turns of life, have shaped her into the very accomplished artist she is today. –Peggy Davidson Post



"Woodland Remembered" by Eileen won the Great American Artworks Award in the CPS Members Show

CPS Workshops Coming Up



Vianna Szabo *Painterly Pastels:* *Three day Color and Landscape Workshop*

April 13- 15, 2018

9am-5pm

Location: Jerry's Artarama, 1109 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, CT

Even though it's less than two weeks away, we still have spaces left in the **Vianna Szabo Workshop** beginning on April 13th and we would love to have you join us!

We can accommodate your busy schedule by offering a chance to take this workshop for one or two days at a prorated fee of \$120.00 per day, instead of all three days!



"Out of the Blue" 10x20" by Karen Israel

The Painterly Animal Portrait with Pan Pastel - One-Day Workshop with Karen Israel

June 9th, 2018 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Jerry's Artarama, 1109 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford, CT

Learn how Pan pastels can be used to create a painterly pet portrait or as an under painting when

used with traditional soft pastel. The pastelists will learn how to mix colors to establish clear value and temperature relationships using sponges and applicators, much like paint. The students will learn how to create a variety of mark making and edges to give the illusion of textures. We will apply this color mixing and mark making to achieve a painterly pet or animal portrait using a photo reference of your choice. The workshop will consist of demonstration, discussion, handouts and lots of interaction with the instructor. All levels are welcome.

"Make The Outdoors Yours, Three Day Plein Air Workshop"

**with Lyn
Asselta**

**September 27,
28 & 29th, 2018
9 a.m. to 4pm**

Location:

Wethersfield

**Academy of the Arts, 431 Hartford Avenue,
Wethersfield, CT 06109**



Plein air painting can be a daunting task. From what to pack, or what NOT to pack, to how to compose a painting in the midst of all that visual chaos, it is important to be discerning. The key is simplicity. By learning to effectively edit all parts of the plein air experience, we can approach painting outdoors in a more confident and relaxed way. We'll spend a little time discussing what to take with you into the field so that you're no longer carrying more than is comfortable. We'll also work on upgrading our field study sketchbook practice, since observation leads to familiarity with our subject matter and familiarity helps with decisions regarding both composition and content.

**For more information on CPS workshops
contact Debbie Temple dtemple860@aol.com
Elizabeth Ventura eav_83@msn.com.**

CPS Workshops cont.

Abstract Painting

For those of you who attended Polly Castor's presentation on abstract concepts, we have some exciting news.

Because her presentation was so positively received, CPS is considering hosting a **Polly Castor Workshop** in 2019 on "The Concept of an Abstract" using exercises in any medium to explore this direction.

If you are interested in a two-day weekend workshop instructed by Polly, please contact one of the co-chairs listed above.

We are now in the planning stages to bring more educators to Connecticut next year. If you have an instructor you have been waiting for, now is the time to let us know. —*Elizabeth Ventura and Debbie Temple*



Joelle Feldman won the CPS Honor Award of Excellence for "Poppies and Wheat"

From our President Diane Stone

CPS has earned a reputation for having high standards in its shows. Through the effort of many volunteers, we are able to put on three exhibits each year, and publish 3 issues of our newsletter,



Purely Pastel. We offer workshops with leading artists throughout the year. This organization belongs to you as members, and we welcome your help in whatever capacity fits your time and interest. You need not live in Connecticut, nor attend the meetings—reports can be emailed. We are in need of trainees now for a smooth transition as new people take on these tasks. We can send you details about what is involved and you can depend on our support.

At this time we need volunteers to co-chair a show in 2019, either the Members Show or our Renaissance in Pastel National Show. We're seeking a new editor for our newsletter. If you would like to show your support for CPS by helping out, please contact me at dstone322@gmail.com.



Diana Rogers won the CPS Membership Award for "August Sky and Cove"

Member Classes

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

Joe Baker – Stockbridge, MA –
www.bakerworks.com

Janet A. Cook – New York, NY – janetacook.com

Mally DeSomma – Waterbury, CT –
www.mallydesomma.com

Christine Ivers – Meriden, CT, nationally –
www.christineivers.com

Karen Israel, Hartford area artbykarenisrael.com

Liz Haywood-Sullivan – eastern MA, nationally –
www.lizhaywoodsullivan.com

Rita Kirkman- nationally
RitaKirkman.com

Anne Heywood – eastern MA –
www.anneheywood.com

Pieter Lefferts – Sharon, CT –
www.northlightartcenter.com

Paul Leveille – Holyoke, MA –
paulleveillestudio.com

Leslie Lillian Levy – Kent, CT –
www.leslielillianlevy.com

Linda Bull Neilan – East Lyme, CT

Alain Picard – Southbury, CT –
www.picardstudio.com

Jane Penfield – Vernon, CT –
www.janepenfield.com

Claudia Post – Chester, CT –
www.claudiapost.com

Peggy Davidson Post – Mt. Kisco, NY –
www.theartistsplace.net

Peter Seltzer – Woodbury, CT –
peterseltzerfineart.com

Jeanne Rosier Smith

www.jeannerosiersmith.com

Upcoming CPS Exhibits

Purely Pastel Online Members Exhibition

Show Dates: June 1 - June 30, 2018

Deadline for online entry: Midnight EST, May 6, 2018

Juror of Selection: Frank Federico

Awards Judge: Mike Beeman

This year we will offer over \$2,500 in cash awards. Members of the Connecticut Pastel Society whose dues are paid may submit up to three paintings. Accepted entries will be displayed on the website and available for viewing on June 1, 2018. Download the prospectus at <http://www.ctpastelsociety.org/exhibition/purely-pastel/>

- Stacy Mayou

Renaissance in Pastel 25th Annual National Juried Exhibition

UCONN Stamford Art Gallery in Stamford, CT,
October 18 – November 17, 2018.

Juror of Selection: Lyn Asselta, Aline Ordman and Christine Swann

Jury of Awards: Dave Francis, Jeri Greenberg

Entry dates: June 1-August 8, 2018

Entry Deadline: August 8, 2018

Karen Israel will give a gallery talk on Saturday
November 3, 2018, 1-2pm

-Vicki Rooney and Valerie Mandra, co-chairs

http://www.ctpastelsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CPS_Renaissance2018.pdf

Member News

Janet Schwartz, Dave Kaphammer, Diane Sawyer and Maryann Mullet will be featured in the exhibit

Making Our Mark,

Sprinkler Factory in Worcester MA

Opening reception on April 7, from 5 - 8 pm.

Live music!



Tips & Tricks

Question: How does your work in pastel differ from your work in other media, like acrylic?

Answer: If you are referring to the physical application of pastel as compared to that of other media, my method changes in keeping with various approaches. Emotionally I am very much an “alla prima” painter, although other ways of reflecting and executing a painting sometimes come into play. When I am en plein air, especially, my method is more “painterly,” with a gouache under-painting that would create a somewhat impressionistic look. I follow the under-painting by applying multiple layers and strokes of pastels. I use this method in my more “alla prima” approach to oil and acrylic, and even watercolor. A looser handling and application and more impasto application of pigment is a favorite way of working.

-Frank Frederico



Janet Schwartz, Diane Stone (CPS President), and Diana Rogers during the awards ceremony. Each received an award for paintings in the members show.

CPS – The Early Years

Sometime in the 1970s, four pastel artists met at the Howard Johnson’s in Plainville for three coffees and a tea. Three were students: Doe Bartlett, Ferne (Rusty) Waskowicz and Linda Balfour. The fourth was their teacher Roy Schmid. Their class met at Dick Blick’s. At the time, pastels were unappreciated and pastelists under-recognized. In competitions and exhibitions, pastels were grouped with watercolors in a category defined as “works under glass.” In 1972 Flora B. Giffuni formed the Pastel Society of America and established a dedication to standards of excellence that laid the foundation for a worldwide renaissance in pastel. Roy Schmid is credited with officially founding CPS in 1985.

If you were involved in the early years of CPS please contribute your stories to the CPS history project by email laurelbfriedmann@gmail.com. I am especially interested in learning how the first national show, now known as Renaissance in Pastel, happened, as well as how it was decided who to invite to exhibit and whether anyone has photos of the early exhibits at Choate - Rosemary in Wallingford.

-Laurel B Friedmann

CPS Scholarship

2018 Connecticut Pastel Society Scholarship

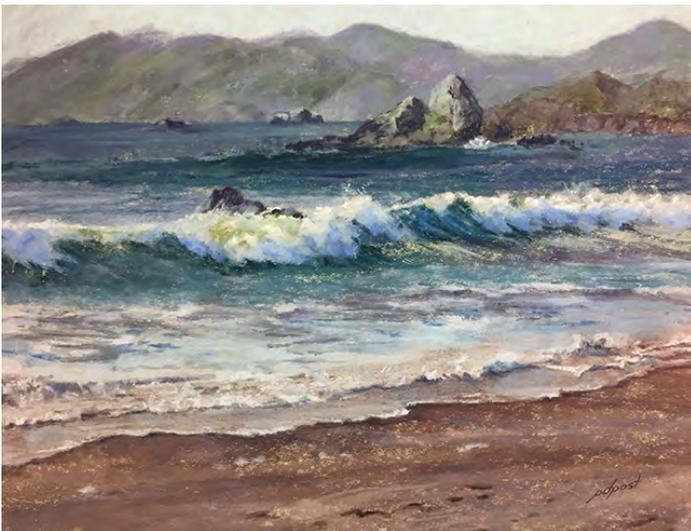
In support of our mission to educate the public and promote pastels as a medium, the Connecticut Pastel Society provides scholarships to aspiring pastel artists. One \$500 scholarship will be awarded in 2018. This program is open to all non-professional members of CPS, 16 years of age and older and working specifically in the soft pastel medium.

For more information please visit the CPS website.

-Steve Porter

IAPS 2019

At the 2019 Convention we will be adding some new instructors and will be promoting them soon. The convention will be held at the Hotel Albuquerque once again and we are purchasing or renting (don't know which yet) new display panels for the Pastel World show. It should make a big difference in the presentation of the incredible works of art that will be juried in to the show. With the help of my communications team we hope to get the word out to the media so that more collectors will visit the show hopefully resulting in more sales for the artists. I am currently putting together our e-Newsletter and you will be receiving that shortly to put out to your members. We have also been working on the problem that we encountered the last two registrations by exploring servers that can handle higher volume input. Under the new administration of Richard McKinley IAPS is being taking to the next level of organization through the establishment of working committees and subcommittees. With a working board to back this up we will be ready for the 2019 Convention. Stay tuned for my next report! - *Chris Ivers*



"Surf and Sea Stacks" by Peggy Post won the Jerry's Artarama award in the CPS Members Show

CPS Board of Directors 2018

President Diane Stone
Vice President Steve Brunetti
Treasurer Linda Madin
Secretary Lynda Regina
Membership Polly Castor
Hospitality Christina Vitarello
Renaissance in Pastel Co-Chairs Vicki Rooney and Valerie Mandra
Awards Co-Chairs Pat Boes and Mary Ann D'Ambruoso
Members Show Co-Chairs Diana Rogers and Phyllis Brown
Workshop Co-Chairs Debbie Temple and Elizabeth Ventura
Online Show Stacy Mayou
Plein Air liaison Stacy Mayou
Website liaison Linda Madin
Newsletter Editor Peggy Post

From the editor of *Purely Pastel*.

Are you interested in taking on a bigger role in the life of CPS? We are seeking a **new editor** to replace me starting with the next issue, which usually comes out in July. I've enjoyed getting to know my fellow pastelists at CPS, especially writing profiles of inspiring artists. I am happy to offer advice and guidance to the new editor, as Diana Rogers so graciously helped me.

The newsletter is published November, March, and July. Our exhibits are regularly featured, as well as member news & classes, CPS workshops, the President's message, and CPS history and "Tips and Tricks". One member is profiled in each issue, and upcoming CPS workshops are described.

-Peggy Davidson Post

www.ctpastelsociety.org

