

CAPE MAY COUNTY ART LEAGUE

EST. 1929

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

Featured Artist

Reta Sweeney



Reta Sweeney is a Past President of CMCAL (3 years). Her work can be seen at 22 Gallery, 124 S. 22nd St, Philadelphia; William Ris Gallery, Stone Harbor; and Isabel's Gallery, High St, Milville. Reta has also been a judge for South Jersey Artists, National Program for the Arts, and the Senior Citizen Art Show and My County Poster Contest, both of Cape May County.

CMCAL: At what age did you start "making art"?

Reta: Although I took an interest in drawing from a very young age, my career in oils began at the tender age of 5. It was during WWII, and the time of coupon rations. Our family raised chickens and sold the eggs. My brother and I each had an egg route. My route was close to home, but my brother's route was in the next town, and one of his customers was Calvin Diehl, an illustrator and friend of Andrew Wyeth. One day my brother came home with a metal box of oil paints and canvas. I wasn't about to let him get ahead of me, so I paid a call to Mr. Diehl and asked him for some paints too. He had a discussion with his wife about me being too young and painting on the walls, but his wife went to bat for me. He gave me oil paints and brushes and I discovered I liked it.

CMCAL: What is your favorite medium, and how did you come to choose it?

Reta: In addition to oils, I work in pastels. I took art as a major in high school (every day), had an introduction to pastels, and really liked them. There are lots of different styles, textures and outcomes with pastels. You can draw and paint at the same time, which makes portraits easy. I have done a lot of kids' portraits.

Pastels are a fast medium which makes them ideal when kids are the subject.

CMCAL: What are some of your other favorite pastimes?

Reta: Well, I'm an RN. Right now I'm doing quality assurance. There's a good balance between art and medicine. In medicine, you see a side of life that is birth, death and pain. Art is a good balance and complement to that. And I have a really big family that I'm crazy about. I used to do a lot of sewing. I even made my daughter-in-law's wedding dress. I don't have time for that anymore. One has to make choices in life. I would rather do art.

CMCAL: Have you always lived in New Jersey?

Reta: I grew up in Delaware County, PA, and graduated from Swarthmore High School. I lived in Philadelphia for awhile and attended the Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing. I raised my children in Pennsylvania. I moved to New Jersey in the 1980's. I attended Fleisher Art Memorial, Bucks County Community College, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Camden County College and Rowan. After many years, I received a Bachelor of Fine Art and I still take courses at the Academy.

CMCAL: What is the most interesting place you've been to in the last five years?

Reta: This past fall I went to Vieques, Puerto Rico – to paint on the walls of a guest house. Vieques is a small island off Puerto Rico where the navy used to practice bombing. On this remote and rustic place, there is a guest house owned by Glenn Curry, former editor of "Art Matters", and his wife Winne. Glenn accepted 10 of us to stay on the island and paint whatever we wanted on designated walls of his guest house. I painted 2 very large fish in water, and with added materials, camouflaged the windows in the wall. I received a prize for best use of space. The project really stretched my imagination and was a lot of fun.

CMCAL: What do you consider your best accomplishment?

Reta: Raising my four kids – on my own! Absolutely!

CMCAL: What are your goals for the future?

Reta: I'd like to live for awhile. I want to be able to "paint with paint". I can draw, but the challenge for me is the medium and color and capturing the light. I am engaged in how to put paint on when painting something you are looking at. For awhile, I painted abstract art and I was selling them. Now, however, I have moved away from abstract art, even though I was successful at it. And I don't paint from pictures anymore. I paint from life. I'm really enjoying plein-air, and am happy that spring is here so I can get outside.

A Message from the President



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Well I certainly do hope that by the time you read this the storms are a thing of the past and that sunshine, blue skies and warm breezes grace our days. And our CMCAL is all set to move into what we hope will be an exciting 2010 Art Season!

In addition to a bus trip in the Fall, paint outs and membership meetings, we are focusing our energies on three major events—a June Juried show, our “signature” Mall Show and a series of Long-Weekend Exhibition opportunities for members at the Pierson Gallery in Cape May. Read with care the information and registration items enclosed in the paper-mailing that should be in your hands by the time that you read this. And always know that our website at www.capemaycountyartleague.com can provide you with information and registration forms for events.

Our General Membership Meeting is set for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 at the Olde Court House (west side of Main street a few doors north of Mechanic St.) in CMCH. Our guest speaker is Gail Pierson who will be hosting our June Juried Show and Long-Weekend Exhibitions. Be sure to join us for what we know will be an enjoyable and informative evening.

The paper-mailing contains the 2010-2011 membership card. Please be sure to renew your membership promptly. And speaking of membership, we are now at 140+ members. Do you know artists or art lovers who are not members? Urge them to join the League. Membership forms are available on the website.

Best wishes from the Board of the League for a happy and successful 2010 Art Season!

Arthur

If you have a question or concern,

please use the Art League email address or phone:

capemaycountyartleague@comcast.net

609-884-8628



Welcome New Members: Diana Cutshall, The Gables of Cape May County, Lloyd Garrison, Lorraine King, Ramona Maziarz, Marilyn Pharo and Paul Waicus

New member, Paul Waicus, is offering to teach a class in woodcarving, probably in June. It would involve a three or four hour class on how to make a feather pin from start to finish. There would be a choice of five or six pins. Paul would supply all the necessary equipment including wood and paints.

General Meeting For All Members
7:00 p.m. - Thursday, April 22
The Olde Court House in CMCH

A great opportunity to talk with fellow artists and get charged-up to participate in the upcoming events this year that can showcase your art.

Member Happenings

Laurie Schiffelbein and Anna Marie Zabielski are having a show of New Works at the Mad Batter in Cape May from March 26th to April 28th with the reception on Sunday, March 28th to Meet the Artists from 3 to 4:30 PM. Laurie's watercolors will be at the Artist Cooperative (West End Garage) in June, with the reception on June 13th from 1 – 2:30.

Georgeanne Wayman currently teaches a class at the Riverview Art School in Island Heights NJ for kids and teens. Oil painting ages 8-17, Thursday nights, 4-6 pm.

Anita Roth will be featuring her photography at the "The Artst Cooperative of Cape May" located in the West End Garage, West Cape May, from April 10th to May 7th, with the artist reception on April 11th from 1 to 2:30.

Patricia Walkar is doing a demonstration/presentation of silk painting at the Burlington County Artists' Guild on April 15 from 7:30 to 9 at the Mt. Laurel Library. If people are interested in knowing more, they can e-mail her at patriciawalkar@aol.com

Dick Behr will be exhibiting a charcoal drawing in the Student Exhibition from my Life Drawing class at the Fleisher Art Memorial here in Philly from March 19 to April 17.

Karen Frattali is teaching a workshop in Lancaster PA April 22-23 on mixed water media on canvas. She is also taking two groups on a customized tour of Longwood Gardens May 11 and 15 for the purpose of taking reference photos and doing on-site sketching. Both groups are from Lancaster County Art Assoc. Karen is also teaching a two day workshop on using technology to enhance the painterly process on June 24-25 in Strasburg PA.

Janet Payne is teaching two kids classes at the Nature Center of Cape May this spring. Puppets For A Purpose (4/5 – 4/9) & Water Works – Exploring Water as an Art Medium (Thursdays, 4/29 – 6/3). Register at the Nature Center of Cape May, 1600 Delaware Ave. (609) 898-8848

Peg Dittmar - Ocean City Fine Arts League– oils & watercolor May thru Sept. 6th & Asbury Ave. Ocean City.

John Safrit's paintings will be featured at the "West Cape May Artist's Cooperative Gallery" during the month of May.

Anna Marie Zabielski won first place in the Watercolor Category at the Ocean City Fine Arts League for March's theme of "Spring". She will be teaching watercolor classes every Friday in May from 10 AM to 12 N at the CMCH Library and also a workshop on Florals at ACCC on Saturday, May 8th from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Award winning artists, **Tina Giaimo**, photographer, and **Janet Payne**, printmaker, will have an exhibition of their new work at the Nature Center of Cape May with a meet the artists reception on June 18th, time TBA.

I am delighted to inform you that our Cape May County Art League has entered into a collaboration with the Gail Pierson Gallery that will provide our members with opportunities to show their work on the last weekend of every month, year round. The Gail Pierson Gallery is located at 658 Washington Street in Cape May.

Details will be conveyed to you via a letter from Gail Pierson that will be included in our Spring mailing. Please give the letter a careful read so that you will understand the guidelines and procedures for participating in this wonderful opportunity.

We deeply appreciate the strong support that Gail Pierson brings to our Art League. As previously announced, Ms. Pierson will be hosting our June Juried Show. And this additional "every last weekend of the month" opportunity for our artists to display their work represents a welcome addition to our League events schedule.

Be sure to attend our upcoming General Meeting at 7:00 PM on April 22 at the Olde Court House located on the west side of Main street a few buildings north of Mechanic Street in Cape May Court House. Gail Pierson will be our guest speaker and this will give you a fine opportunity to meet and speak with her.

I wish to offer a special "thank you" to Laurie Schiffelbein and Anna Marie Zabielski for their very effective representation of the League in developing this program with Gail Pierson.

Arthur



P.O. Box 2195, Cape May, NJ 08204
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Sunday, January 31, 2010 - CMCAL Social at the Mad Batter

