

CAPE MAY COUNTY ART LEAGUE

EST. 1929

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2011

Featured Artist

John Safrit



John Safrit is a CMCAL member and was recently awarded first place in the Philadelphia Sketch Club's Art of the Flower exhibition for his painting entitled "Chanticleer Morning". I interviewed him at his studio in Cape May Point.

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

John: I was about five. As one of six children, and a middle child to boot, my art talent brought about much-desired attention from my parents. At six years old, I won a contest at school, illustrating the Three Little Bears in poster paint and cut paper. The work was displayed at a local bank and I remember being so excited to be in my first "Art Show". It took me another sixty years before I entered another show, though! At age 13, my father bought me the "Famous Artist Course". I attended the Baltimore City College Art Curriculum with art class twice a day, and the discipline combined with formal instruction provided a full scholarship to college. I graduated with a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art with a major in Graphic Design and a minor in Fine Art (painting).

CMCAL: How did you come to choose your favorite medium?

John: I studied watercolor painting with Joan Shih at the Mainline Art Center in Bryn Mawr. Joan shared with me her love of the medium and I grew to love the intrinsic challenge. Watercolor can be immediately rewarding, but also very unforgiving of mistakes; therefore I find it challenging. With watercolor, if the design isn't great from the beginning, there is no chance to save the work.

CMCAL: What are some of your other favorite pastimes?

John: Some of the things I've loved doing include horseback riding, sailing, motorcycle riding and cycling. Right now, I ride my bicycle and walk around the Point with my dog. I also am active in the YAP Program with CCA (Youth Art Program of Community Center for the Arts). I'm a volunteer with the Cape May Point Firehouse and I sing in the choir at the Cape May Lutheran Church. I will be teaching at the CCA summer camp for Lower Township as well.

CMCAL: Have you always lived in New Jersey?

John: I grew up in Baltimore (MD), on the outskirts of the city. All of my education was in Maryland, and the first ten years of my career in advertising as well. I moved to Philadelphia to join Lewis & Gilman Advertising Agency as an art director, which is where I won a Cleo for Best Special Effects for a T.V. Commercial.

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

John: Peru. I went to Lima, Cuzco, Machu Picchu and the rainforest. The integration of the ancient cultures with current society was a fascinating discovery. The pictures I brought home included beautiful landscapes and vistas, stunning use of color in indigenous clothing, nature (including the parrots, lizards, monkeys and llamas). It is a very spiritual environment.

CMCAL: What do you consider your best accomplishment?

John: Realizing that my work didn't necessarily define me. I was an art director, then I was no longer an art director. I realized the things that matter in my life are the people and the relationships with them. Trish has been the most important person in my life. She pushed me to do what I always said I wanted to do. Paint.

CMCAL: What are your goals for the future?

John: I feel incredibly lucky to be living in Cape May Point. It is a very laid-back, relaxed environment and the intrinsic beauty of the area is a great source of inspiration for my art. I'd like to continue to produce my art and hone my craft. Being an artist is a soulful endeavor and the rewards can be thrilling.



A Message from the President



As I write this the advent of spring is well in hand and we enter the heart of our 2011 League program. Be sure to check our events calendar and please be sure to hold to the detailed instructions for participation in those events that are of interest to you. Note that the calendar is available at www.capemaycountyartleague.com and it is included in the recent mailing to all members.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a group photo of your League Board of Directors. I want you to know that every member of the Board has one or more work-assignments and everyone is doing a superb job in addressing the specifics of their particular responsibilities. And we are always interested in considering new members for the Board who are anxious to assist with the work at hand. Interested? Just e-mail me at joblin@comcast.net and I'll get right back to you.

Our scholarship program has been enhanced for 2011. We are now poised to offer scholarships to as many as four graduating Cape May County seniors who have been accepted into art-related curricula for entry into college this coming fall. We always receive delightful "thank you" notes from the recipients and we should all feel good about this special effort made by the League to encourage local artistically talented youth.

On a cautionary note please be ever-alert to the scams that have been making their way through our art community. They are almost ever present!

Enjoy the upcoming warmer weather.

Arthur

Cape May County Art League

General Meeting

Thursday, April 28, 2011
7:00 p.m.

The Olde (Historic) Court House
West side of Rte. #9
North of Mechanic Street
Cape May Court House, NJ

Agenda: Light refreshments

Guest speaker – Mary Stewart,
Deputy Director of External Affairs
for
The Mid Atlantic Center for the Arts
and Humanities

Brief Update by Board Members
Open Forum

Don't miss it!



Your 2011 CMCAL Board seated, l-r: Jean Nazarow, President Art Joblin, Secretary Laurie Schiffelbein, Dani Barnsby. Standing, l-r: Christine Peck, Anne Gibboni, Anna Marie Zabielski, Patricia Neville. Not present: Muriel Iurato, Sue McIntyre, Tom Singleton

Welcome New Members!

Louis M. Riccio
Donna Scott
Jennifer Smith

Send in your CMCAL dues ! and be included in many members-only events, like:

Juried Fine Art Show @ Gail Pierson Gallery, May 28 - June 27, reception 5/28, 7 - 10 p

Member Happenings

John Reilly is looking to begin a Free Outdoors Photography Group! Just bring a camera and enjoy the Outdoors. Amateurs and Professionals - All Welcome ! contact jreilly0802@comcast.net

Carol Hiemenz won second place in the Ocean City Fine Arts League Still Life show in March.

Karen Frattali was recently awarded third place in in the Garden Show at the Lancaster County Art Association for the watercolor painting "Golden Glow". Her upcoming workshops: April 12- May 10...one afternoon/wk Exploring composition, color theory and value in watercolor. May 19-20 "Spring flowers and landscapes". Both of these workshops can be found on the Lancaster County Art Association website.

Victoria Papale will be instructing a Portraiture Workshop in the Four Earth Tones at Atlantic Cape Community College. For Beginner or Experienced artist ..Saturday April 16th, 10 am to 3 pm. at Cape May Court House Campus. For more information please call the college at 609-343-4829 or Victoria at 609-425-5430.

Peg Dittmar won "Best in Oil" at Ocean City Fine Arts Show and Second Prize in the "Red" Show at Ocean City Fine Art Center. Her work will be at the John Audubon Annual Juried Art Show at Mill Grove, Audubon, Pa.; reception on April 15.

Reta Sweeney and **Sue McIntyre**, joined by two other artists, will have an exhibition entitled "Captured Moments", from April 6 to May 4, reception on Sunday, April 10, 3 – 5 p.m. at the Mad Batter Restaurant.

Anna Marie Zabielski has been accepted into a Gallery in Chadds Ford, PA. Although many of the Delaware County area galleries have closed, Gallery One has been established and in business since 1988.

Victoria Papale and **Carol Hiemenz** are exhibiting at the Mad Batter Restaurant June 9 to July 6. Reception Sunday June 12, 3 to 5 pm.

Victoria also teaches Belly Dance at the Cygnus Creative Arts Center in Egg Harbour Township. If interested please call 609-272-1199. If anyone is interested in watching Victoria dance on Youtube. type in the search bar victoriaathene then click on the thumbnail image.

Margaret Heuges will have an invitational exhibition of her oil paintings at the home of Tammy Godley in Pasadena, CA over the weekend of June 19, 2011.

Many CMCAL Members will have their work on display at the following art shows. Please stop by and see latest works.

National Arts Program Contest and Exhibit, April 4 – May 4. Reception April 6, 7 – 9 pm, Performing Arts Center

Senior Art Show, June 8 beginning 11 am, Awards 2:30 pm; 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners on display until June 15. Cape May County Administration Bldg, 4 Moore Rd, Cape May Court House, Building #16 at the flagpole

We are currently looking for someone who can join the Board with a specific responsibility to manage the Art League's PR program. Please contact Arthur at joblin@comcast.net if you are interested.



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Winter Social at the Mad Batter, February 25, 2011

