



Community Arts Association Inc
P.O. Box 307
Allendale New Jersey 07401

Newsletter

February 2023

NEXT MEETING

Our next CAA meeting will take be a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:30 PM. You will receive an email from Dianne Ballesty with a link to the meeting. Hope you can join us.

Board of CAA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members:

Susan Lettieri

PROGRAM NEWS

Canadian artist Christi Belcourt's paintings are, in her own words, "about the interconnectedness of all living things to the spirit and power of Mother Earth, the medicines of the plant world and the life the waters hold on this earth for us all. We are indebted to all living things that sustain life on earth."

Renowned for her painting technique inspired by the beadwork of Metis and First Nation women, her large acrylic works can contain over 20,000 meticulously placed dots. The subject matter of her beautiful work is primarily floral patterns and insects, birds and other animals, water, and the cycle of nature and life.

Ms. Belcourt comes from the Metis community. The French word metis, spelled with a lower case m and pronounced may-TEE, is a racial designation meaning individuals or people with mixed-race ancestries, usually North American indigenous and European. The second meaning of being Metis refers to people with a distinct history in the specific region of Canada's western prairies. This is self-designated and embraced by the Metis Nation. Her father, Tony Belcourt, was an Indigenous rights leader who, in 1970, was elected as the founding president of the Native Council of Canada. Her sister Suzanne is a graphic designer and artist, and her brother Shane is a writer/director/musician/cinematographer known for a feature film depicting the life of First Nations people.

With this family background, it would seem unsurprising that Christi would become an activist, artist and environmentalist, but it took her a while to find her path. She quit high school after 11th grade, worked in a series of menial jobs, and entered what she calls "a dark period in my life." She was involved with drugs and alcohol, and had no direction for some time. Fortunately, a friend introduced her to an elder of the Odowa people, Wilfred Peltier, who took her under his wing. Along with his sister, Yvonne, they taught her to appreciate traditional teachings and gave her a new way to look at the world.

She had always painted as a hobby, but now she wanted to get back to her roots. She was inspired by floral beadwork, but soon realized she did not know enough about plants to paint them. She spent many years studying traditional plants.



Christis Belcourt’s artwork has since received a great deal of recognition as an artist, with work in the permanent collects of the National Gallery of Canada, the Parliament building in Ottawa, and the Canadian Museum of Civilization, among others. She is equally well-known for her advocacy work. She is the lead coordinator for Walking With our Sisters, a community-driven project that honors murdered or missing Indigenous women. She is a lead organizer for the Onaman Collective, which encourages young Indigenous people to learn the language and traditional skills (such as canoe building and snow-shoe making) of their ancestors.

Belcourt is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Ontario Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts, Artist Award (2016), the Governor General's Innovation Award (2016), Art Gallery of Ontario People's Choice Award for *The Wisdom of the Universe* (2015), Aboriginal Arts Award Laureate, Ontario Arts Council (2014), Influential Women of Northern Ontario, Aboriginal Leadership Award (2014).

Amazingly, this very busy and accomplished woman graciously and quickly agreed to be a guest speaker for our humble organization when asked. She will be our first international artist, and I hope you will all be in attendance on February 14th for this special presentation.

*Glenda Haas
Program Director*

WEBSITE NEWS

We are still looking for volunteers to help with various website and social media duties that take almost no time at all. Please contact Jenn Merz at the email address below if you can lend a hand. Please remember to email jpgs to Jenn at jjmerz@yahoo.com to update your Gallery page.

Jenn Merz

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Learn the rules like a pro so you can break them like an artist.” – Pablo Picasso

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Jennifer Merz our Artist of the Month!

Thank you for honoring me as CAA’s Artist of the Month! I am delighted to be selected among so many wonderfully-talented artists.

I’m a collage artist, painter, illustrator, and published writer/illustrator of picture books. I love to ‘build’ my handcrafted collages using cut or torn papers, and frequently incorporate my own photos as well as printed fabrics and trimmings into my pictures. My compositions are often graphic but I’m equally excited by surface pattern and texture, a nod to my former career in textiles.



I aim to create pictures that capture the imagination, marrying content with good design. It's in visual storytelling that I find the ultimate satisfaction.

I'm influenced by the cut-paper pictures of Henri Matisse, the innovative collages of Romare Bearden, the arresting compositions of Magritte, and the patterning of Faith Ringgold. I'm inspired by the natural beauty of the coast of Maine, and in people's personal stories.

Please visit www.jennifermerz for more information on my books and my art. Thank you so much!

MEMBER SHOW

Please make note of the following dates:

Show Dates: May 1 through May 26, 2023

Receiving: Saturday, April 29, from 10 AM to 12 noon

Reception and Awards Presentation: Saturday, May 13 from 1 pm to 4 pm

Pick Up: Saturday May 27 from 10 Am to 12 noon

Entries MUST be received by APRIL 12th, 2023.

A prospectus will be sent out shortly.

Members who are interested in volunteering, please call me:

Rose Scaglione

845-641-4720

rose.scaglione@yahoo.com

Rose Scaglione

MEMBER NEWS

Rose Scaglione has had two paintings ("Reading Love" and "Orchids and Ferns") accepted into the NorthEast Watercolor Society Annual Juried Members Exhibition. Exhibit dates are January 24 - March 17 Reception: Sun. February 26 1 -4 pm Demo at 2:30 pm by Maryann Burton. Also her painting: "His Guitar Speaks" has been accepted into the Ridgewood Arts Association Juried Show. Exhibit dates: January 8 to March 5; Reception: March 5, 2 - 4 pm



Linda Barboni – I'd like to mention I'm giving two separate "Pastel With A Punch!" 3-hour landscape workshops. They are February 18th at Garrison Art Center in Garrison NY and March 25th at Art Center of Northern New Jersey in New Milford NJ. Please check the websites for details.

Peggy Dressel – Peggy's painting "Happy Reunion" was accepted in the Ridgewood Art Institute's Open Juried Show. Closing reception March 5. Opening Feb 11. At the Belskie Museum of Art & Science, they are holding an exhibit "Hope Out of Darkness" with 50 Artists participating. Peggy has a painting in this exhibit also "I am Feeling Better Now." The exhibit runs till Feb 26.



ART CENTER
WORKSHOPS

At the Art Center of
Northern New Jersey
250 Center Street,
New Milford, NJ 07646
201-599-2992
www.artcenter-nj.org

ABSTRACT COLLAGE

With Herrat Sommerhoff

Bring an old frame (thrift store is perfect) for which you'll create an exciting artwork with papers, paint & markers.
Needed: YOU, smock, hair dryer & latex or vinyl gloves. We supply paint, brushes, papers, glue and MUSIC, critique and good vibes.

Saturday, February 11, 10:30AM-1:30PM \$50

LEARNING COLLAGRAPHY

With Herb Stern

Experience printmaking without acids, chemicals or oil-based inks. We'll use mat board to cut a design with an Xacto knife, and print with water based inks.

Needed: x-acto knife or other cutting tool, an idea of what design or art you intend to create with a 7 x 10 plate. All other materials provided.

Sunday, March 5, 11AM-2PM \$50

PASTELS WITH A PUNCH!

With Linda Barboni

Learn how to paint landscapes using vivid color and strong values to create a dreamy atmosphere. Choose one of two photos supplied by the teacher or use your own. Materials for this workshop will be supplied.

Saturday, March 25, 10:30AM-1:30PM \$50

MARCH NEWSLETTER

If you have any information you would like included in the February Newsletter, please send it to Marion Brown at mariontbrown@optonline.net no later than Monday, March 6, 2023

New Jersey Water Color Society

Prospectus for the 2023 Annual Online Associate Members' Show March 12, 2023 – April 30, 2023

All eligible entries will be accepted

Entry Fee: \$10

Deadline for Entries: March 12, 2023

Notification of Awards: Week of March 12, 2023

Zoom Reception/Awards Presentation: March 24, 2023 at 7PM Show/Award Winners: Posted on our NJWCS website through 2023.

The show is open to New Jersey residents 18 years of age or older with NJWCS Associate Membership 2023 dues paid. For new membership or renewal please go to <http://www.njwcs.org/Membership.htm>. If you are unsure if your dues are paid, please email virginia.may14@gmail.com for an update.

Eligible Works: Members may submit one painting via the online entry process. We accept paintings done in water media including acrylic and gouache. Collage elements must be made of paper and any image or color on collage papers must be the work of the artist. All work must be original and on paper, Yupo or watercolor board.

Non-Eligible Works:

Copies, prints, classwork/ workshop creations, computer art, oils, water-soluble oils, varnished, textural materials, canvas and nude paintings are not acceptable. Artwork previously shown in any NJWCS exhibition or show will not be accepted.

Please prepare your digital image first before proceeding to the entry form. Digital images must show the image only, no mats or frame and display the correct horizontal or vertical orientation. Entries must be in .jpg format, 1200 pixels on the longest side, and a resolution of 300 dpi.
File size not to exceed 3 MB.

Please include a sale price or mark NFS (not for sale).

Name your .jpg file: Last Name_First Name_Title_Size_Price.jpg. Entries will be accepted through our online entry process: <https://www.njwcs.org/2023AssociateProspectus.htm>