



Community Arts Association Inc

P.O. Box 307

Allendale, New Jersey 07401

Newsletter

December 2023

### **NEXT MEETING**

Hello Members,

The Next Meeting will take place on **TUESDAY, December 12, 2023 at 7:30pm** at Trinity Episcopal church in Allendale NJ. It will be the **COMMUNITY ARTS ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY PARTY**. Join your fellow members in celebrating the Holiday Season

This is a “POT-LUCK” reception. Please bring in your special side dishes ~ savory and sweet ~ to enhance our party table. Apple Cider, Coffee and Tea will be provided.

This meeting will feature our annual Member Artwork Critique conducted by renowned artist, **Philip Smallwood**. He is a critically acclaimed watercolorist who was named the first ever Artist-in-Residence at Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he conducted interactive workshops, discussions and critiques. We are thrilled that he will direct his wisdom and insight our way. It is sure to be a lively and informative evening.

Bring any art that you would like to have evaluated, but we especially encourage a work-in-progress that is giving you difficulty. Discussing how to solve problems can be an educational opportunity for all of the artists present.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**ARTIST OF THE MONTH CONTEST.**

**Be sure to bring a painting for the contest**

Since our January and February meetings are ZOOM meetings, the top three winning paintings will be the chosen at this meeting. The winning paintings will be featured on our website in December, January and February.



## **PROGRAM NEWS**

Philip Smallwood, who will critique CAA members work at our holiday party on December 12, is well-qualified for this task. As the first artist in residence at Fairleigh Dickinson University, he gave the next generation of artists the opportunity to witness his creative process firsthand and learn from a master. The residency featured interactive workshops, plus discussions and critiques of student work, where he emphasized both technical proficiency and creative expression.

In addition to the impressive residency position, he has added many more honors and accomplishments to his resume since he appeared as a CAA guest artist in 2021. These include 2023 Artist of Impact Award from Bergen County Commission for the Arts, a feature article in the June 2021 Issue of *Artists Magazine*, an event in Paramus Park this past summer to commemorate Juneteenth, and a September 2023 appearance of *Here and Now* television show on ABC7. Mr. Smallwood also inaugurated The Frederick Smallwood, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, a scholarship for FDU students, inspired by and named for his late brother and muse.



*All Inked Up*  
watercolor by Philip Smallwood

Mr. Smallwood has spoken openly about the challenges he has encountered as an Afro-American artist. US museums have not done a good job of fair and equal representation for many groups, including women. His paintings also call attention to the underrepresented. He is drawn to portrait subjects that he says, “don’t think they are important or worthy of attention.” He calls these paintings “Lifescapes,” a term coined by a writer for *Artists Magazine* which became his mantra. They depict ordinary people surrounded by their natural environments. Philip says he is attracted to his subjects by a variety of things, including color, mood, character and atmosphere. He says watercolor is his preferred medium, although he works in methodical layers similar to oil painting, because watercolor is quicker and “gets to the destination faster.” He hopes that through art, everyone can be seen.

We will all have an opportunity to benefit from Philip Smallwood’s expertise and wisdom, as well as be seen, at the December meeting/party/critique. I urge you all to participate by bringing a painting, drawing, collage, etc., especially one that is giving you trouble, since problematic paintings can lead to more instructive discussion than flawless works.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER**

Need an idea for a Holiday gift?

As you know, CAA hosts our Member show each May. The board seeks individual sponsors for prize awards at our annual member show.

You can also provide Art scholarships for local graduating High School seniors. Minimum Scholarship is \$1,000.00.

Prize donations and scholarships donations are recognized and presented in the name of the donor.

Make sure you check with your Tax Preparer for tax deductibility.

What a nice gift or honor it would be to recognize someone you know in this fashion!

## **ARTIST OF THE MONTH**

### **Congratulations to Jack O'Reilly, our Artist of the Month!**

I like to refer to my paintings as “Oodles of Doodles”. The majority of my paintings are abstract designs. I also do traditional watercolor and have recently experimented with Digital Art.

For my abstract paintings, I start by laying swaths of watercolor paint on paper in a haphazard way. I sit and look at the marks that I just put on the paper. I then try to envision shapes, faces and other designs that I try to bring to life. I use watercolor paint, Gouache, pen and ink mediums. I like to use vivid colors and whimsical designs that attract one's eye.

Most of all, I absolutely enjoy the creative process for the meditative and textural sensations that go on in my mind while I paint and listen to podcasts or songs on my playlists.

Another reward is when the CAA group of fellow artists votes for one of your paintings as “Artist of the Month”. Thank you.



*Crazy Eyes*  
watercolor, gouache, pen and ink  
by Jack O'Reilly

## **MEMBER NEWS**

**Peggy Dressel** - Peggy Dressel is exhibiting at the Alfa Art Gallery, 108 Church Street, New Brunswick, NJ. The exhibit is up till January 13. She has five of her watercolors in a juried group exhibition of Watercolors and Mixed Media.



*A Mother's Love*  
watercolor by Peggy Dressel



*Biker Dude*  
watercolor  
by Peggy Dressel

### **Susan Lais Hostetler -**

Susan Lais Hostetler has a painting at the unique and beautiful Garner Art Center gallery in the pre-civil war Industrial Arts Complex near Haverstraw (<https://garnerartcenter.org/>) where the annual Member Show is being shown from now through December. Check for gallery hours, (and have a bite to eat at the Hudson's Mill Restaurant that is within the complex along with dozens of artists studios.)



Susan also is in the curated member show at the Edward Hopper House and Museum in Nyack with her painting, *Ever Present*. Great show, come see, only in December. Check gallery for hours. (<https://www.edwardhopperhouse.org/>)



**Susan Jarecky** - I am very pleased that the following 2 paintings are accepted into the CLWAC 126th Juried Exhibition and Small Works Exhibition at Salmagundi Club, 47 5th Ave, NYC. It's an honor to be juried into this show and have my work hanging in such a historic gallery! The exhibit is on view November 27 - December 8, 2023.



*Winding River*  
22 x 28", oil on canvas  
by Susan Jarecky



*The Lookout*  
8x8", oil on panel  
by Susan Jarecky

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

*"Success is a worn down pencil." — Robert Rauschenberg*

If you would like to contribute your news to Member News in the January Newsletter, please email [mitchellsalercaa@gmail.com](mailto:mitchellsalercaa@gmail.com) by December 18.



COMMUNITY ARTS ASSOCIATION

# HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 12, 2023

7:30 P.M.

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