



Community Arts Association Inc

P.O. Box 307

Allendale, New Jersey 07401

Newsletter

February 2024

NEXT MEETING

PLEASE NOTE: The next meeting will be via ZOOM on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. A link will be sent via email to your email on record. If you have any questions please contact Dianne Ballesty: dballesty@gmail.com
You may share the link with any friends/family you wish.

PROGRAM NEWS

Canadian sculptor, jewelry maker, and blacksmith, Jeff De Boer, creates impressive metal armor for cats and mice. They are modeled after periods in history, requiring Mr. De Boer to research armament styles of the time, create many drawings, clay models, then exacting patterns for the numerous metal pieces the armor may require (roughly 30 to 50 parts for a mouse, but up to 500 for a cat). He also creates his own tiny tools and rivets. This intense focus on accuracy and detail means that each piece takes around 30 to 50 hours to complete.

Jeff says that the question he is asked most often, is how he came up with the animal armor concept. He says he always wanted to be an artist, and was interested in armor since childhood. His father was a metalsmith, so he had access to the materials at an early age. He admits that he was also something of an outsider as a boy, and grew up relating to the underdogs of the world. He wondered if we could all perform feats of heroism if we only had a protective shell. He wore a partial suit of armor he had constructed to his own high school graduation!



He attended the Alberta College of Art and Design (Now Alberta University of the Arts), starting as a sculpture student. He gravitated

Maratha Empire and Hussar Fusion Mouse armor and sculpture by Jeff de Bour

towards jewelry making because he preferred the skills, techniques, and scale of jewelry. But, ironically enough, he did not really like jewelry itself. He made his first mouse armor at college to fulfill jewelry class requirements with something that was NOT jewelry. But, ironically, he never got away from jewelry making, as he later was a jewelry and metals instructor at AUArts, and founded a company called Armet Canada that sells jewelry and other items online. It features unique, affordable pieces by himself and former students, among others.

But it is the animal armor that has given Mr. De Boer international recognition. He has created over 500 pieces. In an article in *National Geographic*, he is confirmed as the only artist in the world doing this type of work. He has delivered a TED Talk about innovation (and is wearing a chain-mail necktie in the video). A more dubious claim to fame is having his work appear in *Ripley's Believe It or Not! Encyclopedia of the Bizarre*. He has patrons and collectors, and sells his work worldwide. He is grateful for the development of the internet, because he says his work does not fit in neatly into any category in the art world, and without the internet, he does not think he would have found enough of a market to support himself as an artist.

Since it is also the internet that is allowing us to have the opportunity to meet this truly one-of-a-kind artist, I am grateful for it, as well. Please join the ZOOM meeting on February 13. It is sure to be fascinating.

Follow up News - You will remember our guest Artist in May 2023, James Sisti. He is a nature journalist and adventurer who spoke at our meeting, and also conducted a well-attended workshop for us at the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Headquarters. At that time, he had been working on a book, which he hoped to have ready for us, but getting married and other projects delayed its publication. It was just released in December. I bought one, and give it a thumbs up. It is small in size, so it can be carried while hiking. I would say that it is aimed towards those with little experience, and shows simple drawings that might inspire beginners. It is quite inexpensive and would make a good gift. Available through James' website, below, and Amazon. Good thing he finished it, because his other news for me is that he and his lovely wife are now expecting a baby! It could be years before he has time for such projects again! - G. Haas

<https://hikeanddraw.nyc/>

A Field Guide to Nature Journaling: Hike And Draw Guide Books Paperback

by **James Samuel Sisti**

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“One who knows how to appreciate color relationships, the influence of one color with another, their contrasts and dissonances, is promised an infinite variety of images.” – Sonia Delaunay

MEMBER SHOW UPDATE

The New Year is upon us. Time for all members to prepare for our Annual Member Show. The dates are as follows:

SHOW DATES: MAY 1 to JUNE 29, 2024
CLIFTON ART CENTER, Clifton NJ

Receiving: TUESDAY, APRIL 30 1 to 4 PM
Reception: SATURDAY, MAY 18 1 to 4 PM
Pick Up: SATURDAY, JUNE 29 1 to 4 PM

As always, volunteers are needed for the various jobs to make this one of our best shows ever.

Please contact me.

Thank you,

Rose Scaglione, Member Show Chairperson

845-641-4720

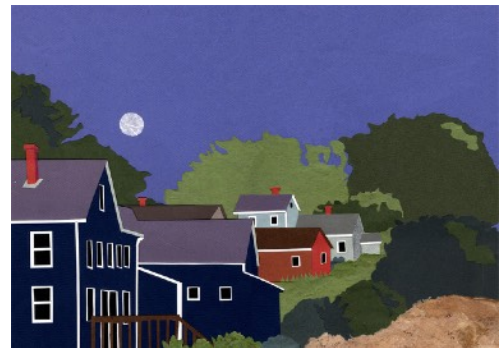
rose.scaglione@yahoo.com

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

**Congratulations to Jennifer Merz,
our Artist of the Month!**

I'm delighted to be CAA's Artist of the Month!

I'm a collage artist, 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.



The Maine Moon
cut-paper collage by Jennifer Merz


I aim to create pictures that capture the imagination, marrying narrative 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 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. I divide my time between NJ and Maine.


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

MEMBER NEWS


Jennifer Merz - Jennifer Merz is showing her collage art and illustrations in a solo show called *"Picture This!"* at the Glen Rock Library, 315 Rock Rd, Glen Rock, NJ throughout the month of February. Art Reception will be at the library Sunday, Feb. 11th from 2-4 p.m. Please stop by and say hi!




MacIntosh Light




Bonquet with Border




The Maine Moon




STEADFAST
FRANCES PERKINS
CHAMPION OF WORKERS RIGHTS
by Jennifer J. Merz



The Triangle Factory Fire Shirtwaist



Tammy's Chickens



Polynesian Mask

Picture This!
Collage Art and Illustrations by
Jennifer J. Merz
Glen Rock Public Library
315 Rock Rd, Glen Rock, NJ 07452
February 3rd - 28th, library hours only

Artist's Reception
Sunday, February 11, 2024
2 - 4 p.m.

Meet the artist • Art, Merch, Books for Sale • Book Signing
Light Refreshments • Parking on-site

For more info, please visit www.jennifermmerz.com - © Jennifer J. Merz

Linda Barboni and Rose Scaglione - Linda Barboni and Rose Scaglione each have two paintings accepted into the *NORTH EAST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERS EXHIBITION*, dates: January 18 - March 15, 2024. Reception: Sat., February 3 from 1-4pm, Orange Hall Gallery, Orange County Community College, Middletown, NY



StoneCrop Gardens, watercolor,
16 x 20", by Linda Barboni



A Tribute to my Grandmother, Rose
watercolor by Rose Scaglione



Bashakill Preserve, watercolor,
30 x 29", by Linda Barboni



California Sentinel
watercolor by Rose Scaglione

Rose Scaglione - Rose Scaglione has her painting *A Tribute To My Grandmother, Rose* in the *Women in Watercolor Member Online International Exhibition*. Here is a link to view the show: <https://womeninwatercolor.com/members-online-exhibition/>. It is arranged in First Name alphabetical order.

Adele Grodstein - Adele Grodstein's solo exhibit of oil paintings will be on view at the Piermont Fine Arts Gallery from February 29 through March 17. Adele will be present during gallery hours. (Th: 1-6, Fri: 12-8, Sat: 12-8, Sun: 1-6)



If you would like to contribute your news to Member News in the March Newsletter, please email mitchellsalercaa@gmail.com by February 26.