



Community Arts Association Inc

P.O. Box 307

Allendale, New Jersey 07401

Newsletter

January 2024

### **NEXT MEETING**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

PLEASE NOTE: The next meeting will be via ZOOM. On Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 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](mailto:dballesty@gmail.com)  
You may share the link with any friends/family you wish.

We look forward to the great programs that Glenda and Linda have lined up, starting with the very interesting one that Glenda describes below.

### **PROGRAM NEWS**

Powerhouse Arts opened in May, 2023. It is a nonprofit organization so unlike any I have encountered that I am having trouble coming up with a simple description or label. Basically it is an art factory.

The state-of-the-art facility is located in a huge industrial structure overlooking the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn. The building was once the central power station for the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company. Long abandoned after steam power became obsolete, the building was more recently host to squatters, underground rave parties, and graffiti artists. The derelict site was purchased for a reported 7 million dollars by philanthropist and art collector Joshua Rechnitz, who was the sole benefactor of the project. He then spent \$180 million through his foundations to renovate the space into fabrication shops available to artists at below market rates. These take up about half of the 170,000 square feet, while the remainder houses administrative offices and events spaces. After the renovation was completed, the mysteriously press-shy Rechnitz gave up his board position, leaving the organization to function independently, and began working on organic farm projects.

The original plan for the building was rental studios for individual artists. Consultations with an artists council helped determine that there was greater need in the city for fabrication services under one roof, as more and more of this work was moving to the Hudson Valley and farther afield.

Fabricators were working in inadequate spaces like warehouses with no running water, or basement studios with poor exhaust for ceramic kilns, and were eager for modern facilities.



The organization charges membership fees to artists using the facilities, and the fabrication services are fee-based. Powerhouse will earn additional operating costs through renting three grand halls of varying sizes that are available for large scale events, public programs and community gatherings.

Additional income, from public grants or private donations, will be necessary as well.

In addition to operating as a business, Powerhouse Arts hopes to be an advocate of the arts and a benefit to the community. They offer workshops and classes; are building relationships with local schools; and offer internships, fellowships, and apprenticeships. There is art exhibition space in the building, which has been used to display the work of Brooklyn College MFA students, among others. Displays of art in the lobby and other areas have included well-known artists such as el Anatsui. Graffiti from the building's derelict days has been preserved, as shown in the accompanying photo.

Fabrication services available at Powerhouse include the following:

Screen printing on paper, canvas, wood, metal and plastic, including large scale printing not readily available elsewhere. One press can print images up to 100 x 53 inches in a single pass.

**Ceramics:** This studio, much fancier than most ceramic studios, offers membership to ceramic artists for a monthly fee, as well as technical assistance and equipment that can allow manufacturing on a larger scale. They have something called a Potter Bot which does 3D printing with clay!

**Construction of Public Art:** This is a service that gives artist access to a team of professionals and equipment to bring large scale projects from idea to completed art. They can help with concept, design, fabrication, assembly, installation, maintenance, cleaning, and de-installation.

Jennifer Williams, the Community Engagement and Partnerships Director at Powerhouse Arts, Inc. will be guiding us through our ZOOM exploration of this multi-

faceted and compelling project. Jenn is an activist, educator and administrator who has developed interdisciplinary programs for over 100 schools and community-based organizations. Her primary focus has been training educators how to use the arts as a tool for understanding, development, and social change. She was selected as an Emerging Leader by the New York Foundation for the Arts.

The hope of the CAA Program Committee is that this program, an admitted departure from our usual single artist format, will be both interesting and informative. The building itself, renovated by two prestigious and award-winning architecture firms, should be great to see, and the range of things happening inside the building is certainly varied enough to offer something for everyone. The lofty goals of the organization in service to the arts deserve our attention and support. It is also worth noting that Powerhouse Arts is open to the public. Visits must be arranged, but if we are intrigued, perhaps a field trip may be in our future. Be sure to attend on January 9<sup>th</sup>!

### **SOLICITATION FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The CAA brings our members a diverse program to encourage and promote the Arts in our Community. There are a number of ways you can offer additional support to the organization. We are always seeking volunteer assistance to aid with our various functions. Some of these functions include meeting set up, our shows and workshops, publicity and website/social media site.

### **ARTIST OF THE MONTH**

**Congratulations to Glenda Haas,  
our Artist of the Month!**

Thank you for honoring me with your votes for Artist of the Month. It is most appreciated. I am drawn to a wide range of subject matter, so the art making process is always challenging and never boring to me. But it was a surprise to realize how many of my paintings depicted places or things that were past their prime; perhaps rusty, wilted, or otherwise shabby. (Yes, very introspective.) Although not necessarily intended to be a series, I am calling this collection my “Beautiful Wrecks.”



*Fort Adams Officer Quarters, #1,  
watercolor on paper by Glenda Haas*

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

*“In drawing, one must look for or suspect that there is more than is casually seen.”*

*– George Bridgman*



## **MEMBER NEWS**

**Linda Barboni and Rose Scaglione** - Linda Barboni and Rose Scaglione each have two paintings accepted into the *NORTH EAST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERS EXHIBITION*

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

If you would like to contribute your news to Member News in the February Newsletter, please email [mitchellsalercaa@gmail.com](mailto:mitchellsalercaa@gmail.com) by January 26.