

# Seacoast Artist

The official newsletter of the Seacoast Artists Association

March/April 2023

SAA Gallery Body of Work Artists:  
March 2023



"Still Searching," watercolor by RS Bense

SAA Gallery Body of Work Artists:  
April 2023



"Peggy's Cove," oil by Ellen Kingsbury



"Love Lock Fence," photograph, by Judy Arnold



"Rye Marsh," oil by Marcia Trahan

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**Seacoast Artists Association**  
**130 Water Street**  
**Exeter, NH 03833**

Call 603-778-8856 • For directions, visit [www.seacoastartist.org](http://www.seacoastartist.org)

**Please visit website for updates**  
**[www.seacoastartist.org](http://www.seacoastartist.org)**

Facebook link:

[www.facebook.com/pg/Seacoast-Artist-Association-458673557524972](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Seacoast-Artist-Association-458673557524972)

**The Gallery is Open:**

**Wednesday through Saturday 10 to 5,  
and Sunday 1 to 4.**

*Though masks are not required in the gallery they are requested. Please avoid entering the gallery if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19. Wearing a well-fitted mask along with vaccination, self-testing, and physical distancing, helps protect you and others by reducing the spread of COVID-19.*

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## SAA OFFICERS:

Gallery@SEACOASTARTIST.org

### Officers:

SAA President: Dave Turbide  
Vice President: Debra Woodward  
Treasurer: Andrea Hantz  
Secretary: Anita Freeman

### Board Members:

Doris Rice  
Carol Poitras  
Jane Copp

### Positions:

#### Exhibits:

Body of Work Coordinator:  
Debra Woodward

Gallery Coordinators  
Annick Bouvron-Gromek  
Jane Davis Copp

Theme Show Coordinator  
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Stephanie Williams, co-chair  
Deb McNelly  
Sarah Oppenheimer  
Carol Poitras  
Doris Rice  
Jean Swanson  
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## SAA MISSION STATEMENT

**The Mission of Seacoast Artist Association** is to enhance knowledge of, and stimulate interest and appreciation in, the variety of creative arts available throughout Seacoast New Hampshire, by hosting exhibits for established and emerging artists; providing a gallery to house works of art, collaborating with other arts organizations, and by providing art education, mentor and scholarship opportunities for students pursuing a degree in the arts.

## SAA WEBSITE

www.seacoastartist.org

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

SAA exists for one main reason – to promote visual art in the seacoast area. Of course, there are multiple means and methods for doing that, and multiple side benefits for the member artists, members who are supporters of the arts, and our young artist scholarship recipients. And let's not forget the seacoast community who benefit from access to the fine art and related activities like classes, receptions, and events.

The visible base of operations for SAA is our Water Street gallery. We also display member works at the Exeter Inn, at the old town hall on occasion, and we are working on identifying other venues to expand our presence and offer more opportunities to get art "out there" where people can see and enjoy our work.

All of these activities have costs – in money and especially in effort. As a non-profit, we only strive to bring in as much money as we need to carry out our activities. That allows us to keep our dues and fees low, much lower than most other galleries and art associations. We are an all-volunteer organization; while we have a core group of artists and members that generously donate the time and effort needed to make all this work, it can be a struggle to add activities like the new Spring Member Show scheduled for the month of May. Members may have noticed several emails from me over the last couple months seeking help with that May show. There will undoubtedly be more of the same as we continue to expand our reach across the seacoast area.

As SAA members or future members, please consider donating a bit of time to help SAA continue to promote art on the seacoast and expand the opportunities to reach out to the community. Most of our volunteers only dedicate a few hours now and then but their participation means the world to us. There are lots of things that our volunteers do that don't require artistic talent, technical skill, physical labor, or travel (some tasks can be completed remotely). If you feel you can spare a little time to help us out, email me at [president@seacoastartist.org](mailto:president@seacoastartist.org)

You will surely enjoy working with the wonderful artists and volunteers at SAA and you can feel good about contributing to the New Hampshire art community.

— Dave Turbide, President, SAA, [Dave@DaveTurbide.com](mailto:Dave@DaveTurbide.com)

## THEME SHOWS 2023:

**Theme shows** are open to members and non-members alike.

**To Participate:** Bring your work to the gallery on the drop off date for each exhibit with your completed entry form (located at the gallery and seacoastartist.com).

**Fee for SAA members:** \$10.00 per piece up to two pieces, **non-members:** \$20.00 per piece up to two pieces. Pieces OVER 16"x20" up to 22"x26" INCLUDING FRAME \$20.00/\$40.00. You may enter one oversize and one 16"x20" or smaller. SAA receives 25% commission on all sales.

**Presentation /Framing:** We ask that work fits the theme for the month and framed and/or presented in a professional manner complete with a wire hanger and properly labeled on the back with artist, title, medium, and price. For a consistent appearance on the wall, we recommend frames of brown, black, gold, or silver.

**Awards:** Many theme shows offer Best in Show and People's Choice Awards. Different factors are considered when awarding Best in Show such as originality, expertise in a specific medium, presentation, subject matter, design, relevance to the stated theme and whether the piece is an original work of art. Keep in mind that for non-photography entries, reproductions such as giclée prints, prints that are not numbered (and are not hand pulled) and other reproductions are not considered for Best in Show. However, all art hanging in the show is eligible for the People's Choice Award. The Best in Show winner will be awarded a free entry in the next Theme Show of the winner's choosing!

**Receptions will be held the second Fridays of the month from 5–7 pm.**

### March 2023: Shadows and Light

If it wasn't for the shadows we wouldn't have the light. Look around at the darkest darks and the lightest lights. The month of March offers gentle grey skies, shadows of the still bare tree branches, and dark earth emerging from a deep bright snow cover. The values of our vision live in every corner. What are your shadows, your light?

**Drop off Feb 25 before 3pm, Pick up Mar 25**

### April 2023: Pure Poetry

The late poet Mary Oliver painted exquisite beauty with her humble words. *From A Thousand Mornings:* "Sometimes I spend all day trying to count leaves on a single tree. To do this I have to climb branch by branch and write down the numbers in a little book. So I suppose, from their point of view, it's reasonable that my friends say: what foolishness! She's got her head in the clouds again!"

**Drop off Mar 25 before 3pm, Pick up Apr 29**

### May 2023: In Full Bloom

We are reborn each spring. Not just us, but all life around us. The perennials in our gardens; fuchsia peonies, fragrant lilacs and lily of the valley; and grass, lush and green under our bare feet, breathing life into our world. Where does your eye gaze, what do you see in this lovely month of May? We've waited all winter for gardens and fields in full bloom. And now it's here!

**Drop off Apr 29 before 3pm, Pick up May 27**

**Please visit the SAA gallery or seacoastartist.org for a full list of the 2023 Theme Shows.**

**Congratulations to our Recent Award Winners!**

**January: Winter Frost**

**Best in Show:** 'Winter Sunset,' Martin Lamont. **People's Choice:** 'New Snow in Vermont,' Mark Leavitt.

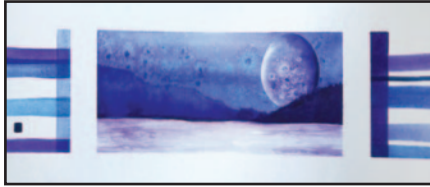
**February: Let Me Show You What I Love**

**Best in Show:** 'A Kiss for You,' Marlene Zychowski. **People's Choice:** 'My Gal,' Richard Page.

**SAA NEWSLETTER:** Submit stories & announcements to [denise@adceteragraphics.com](mailto:denise@adceteragraphics.com) by **April 15th**, prior to publication. Thank you!



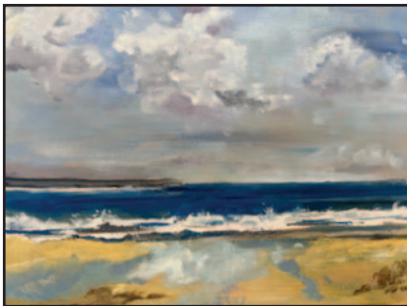
## BODY OF WORK SHOW MARCH/APRIL 2023:



"Is This the Earth?"  
watercolor by RS Bense



"Abandoned,"  
photograph, by Judy Arnold



"A Fine Beach Day,"  
oil by Ellen Kingsbury



"Backfield Spring,"  
oil by Marcia Trahan

### RS BENSE - MAR: "ISOLATION AND INSPIRATION"

These hauntingly familiar, otherworldly pieces were born out of the isolation experienced from the pandemic. The stay-at-home guidelines gave me lots of time to create. While I was cleaning and organizing my studio, I stumbled across some strangely sized ultra-high quality watercolor paper. In keeping with my New England roots, I just had to find a way to use it. Thus, this series of long and skinny landscapes was born. As usual, I am engaged in the process and not really doing any deep thinking. I am just playing around. I taped off a section of the paper for the "real" art and used the sides to test my colors. I was being particular about the testing, making deliberate areas of color. I was taking a class with Doris Rice, and she saw it and said, "Those look like remarques." I quipped "What is a remarque?" It turns out that artists will sometimes paint in the margins of the print, thereby creating a remarque. "Cool," I thought, and I kept doing my color studies on the sides of the pieces. I took the body of work to the framer, and I have to thank Rob at The Gilded Edge Frame Shop for telling me to keep these remarques in the framed piece. I am sure I would have covered them up!

### JUDY ARNOLD - MAR: "FOR GRANTED"

*You don't know what you've got till it's gone.* So Joni Mitchell told us, and as I age, those words ring even truer. Change is constant and inevitable. But what once progressed at a sluggish creep, now assaults us at an epic pace. The cost and availability of goods. The state of our union. Restaurant survival. Ease of travel. Sustainability of our planet. Shifting politics. The past few years have raised the curtain on so much that I once took for granted. It makes my head spin.

When a building and business that I loved and depended on was suddenly lost to fire, personal change was thrust upon me, leading to a new appreciation of the every day places in my world. I began to look at everything around me with fresh eyes, and questioned my assumptions that familiar sights would be everlasting. They won't. Basements of some Strawberry Banke Museum buildings are sustaining water damage from the rising sea and crumbling. Almost thirty 80-year old trees in a Portsmouth neighborhood are being removed to install new sidewalks. Large residential developments are rising like mushrooms all over Southern New Hampshire.

Each day I pass by pastoral scenes, antique barns, quirky shops and centuries old homes. I practice appreciation of those sights which bring me joy — and I take nothing for granted.

### ELLEN KINGSBURY - APR: "NOTHING BUT BLUE SKIES"

I am a life-long hiker, skier and tennis player who loves being outside in all kinds of weather. As I have learned and enjoyed making art, I have especially enjoyed painting and collaging skies, clouds and the light. This show highlights my recent Plein Air work as well as working with cut paper and collage.

I have been drawing and painting for 15 years and have studied with many teachers over the years. I don't make any one kind of art. I love drawing the figure and have been in figure drawing groups for 10+ years. I work in encaustic and once set up my garage with all the equipment needed to make encaustic paintings. I enjoy collage and have bags of printed papers in boxes with scissors and glue. Some times when I paint sharp edges with acrylics and other times when I use loose washes of watercolor for an abstract piece. I love printing with Gelli plates and creating funky designs for collage or a get-well card for a friend.

I'm not sure if the journey will end with expertise in representational art or whether I'll make a big name for myself in abstract expressionism, but I know that along the way I'm having a ball!

### MARCIA TRAHAN - APR: "TAKING THE LONG VIEW"

For as long as I have been painting, landscapes and big skies have drawn me in. I may set out to create a scene with a closer horizon, but inevitably the question of what's beyond that hill, field, or tree intrigues both me and my paint brush and off we go to find out.

As a native New Englander and recent transplant to New Hampshire my heart and mind are full of beautiful images and lovely palettes with which to experiment. Many of my paintings begin with a reference photo or sketch of a scene and then morph into something imagined or intuited. My preference is to work in oil as I love the richness, depth of color and versatility I find in this medium. I'm mostly self-taught, but have taken classes with Amy Brnager, Kathleen Robbins, and Erin Spencer. Having such an inspiring arts community on the Seacoast has brightened many a day and helped me meet the challenges the last several years with a sense of purpose and optimism.

Whether I'm painting in my home studio space or attempting to capture a moment in plein air, for me, the unique characteristics of each brush stroke and mix of color present both challenges and satisfactions in equal measure.

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The 2023 and 2024 Body of Work schedules are now full. There is a waiting list in the gallery. We appreciate it if you have entered our theme shows so we know your work. Please mail Debra Woodward at [woodwardda@aol.com](mailto:woodwardda@aol.com) with any questions.

## Theme Show Winners

### January Show "Winter Frost"



**Best in Show:**  
"Winter Sunset," by Martin Lamont



**People's Choice:**  
"New Snow in Vermont," by Mark Leavitt

### February Show "Let Me Show You What I Love"



**Best in Show:**  
"A Kiss for You," by Marlene Zychowski



**People's Choice:**  
"My Gal," by Richard Page

**Join the new  
SAA Community  
Involvement/Marketing  
Committee  
beginning this spring!**

The members will be looking for promotional and display opportunities in the Seacoast area, as well as taking advantage of working with other local organizations such as the Exeter Chamber. Interested? Email [gallery@seacoastartist.org](mailto:gallery@seacoastartist.org)

## SAA NEWS:

**Membership News** Thank you to all our members for being part of the SAA! As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization we rely on our members to make it one of New Hampshire's much-loved destinations for artists to display their work and art lovers to enjoy!

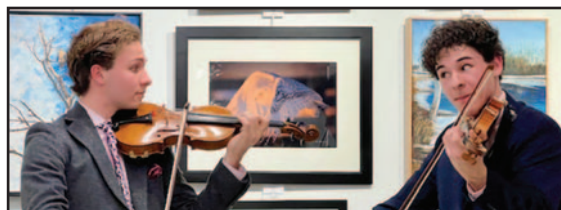
Whether you are an artist, art enthusiast, or a friend of the SAA, we would love to have you continue your membership or become a new member. Just visit our website [www.seacoastartist.org](http://www.seacoastartist.org) for more information. Questions? Give us a call or email [membership@seacoastartist.org](mailto:membership@seacoastartist.org). Thank you!

**Scholarship Fund Urgent need for Mystery Kit Items!** The Scholarship Committee is requesting sets of 50 identical small items for use in the Mystery Kits. We are putting them together in May. Items must be all the same and appropriate for use on the 12 x 12 canvas which will be provided. Kits will be available in June and due at the end of August for the September theme show. PLEASE look around your home or while out shopping for items we can include. This is one of our most popular fundraisers for scholarships which will be going to area high school students pursuing further education in the visual arts. Contact person is Carol Poitras at [spoitras2@comcast.net](mailto:spoitras2@comcast.net)

The SAA Scholarship Committee is working with 14 seacoast area high schools to support graduating seniors continuing their post-secondary education in the visual arts. Stay tuned for upcoming fundraising events. Donations are easy to make at [seacoastartist.org](http://seacoastartist.org) by clicking on **Scholarships** and tapping the **Donate** button. We thank you!

### SAA 2nd Friday Receptions:

Virtuoso violinists brothers  
Dacha and Sava Thurber  
from Exeter wow January's  
reception attendees.



SAA Artist Cheryl Sager  
and husband Neal Zweig  
play at Valentine show



Engaged crowds  
at our Second Friday receptions

## MEMBER WORKSHOPS

### Watercolor Plein Air April with Doris Rice, Sunny Calif.

4.5 to 5-day plein air/outdoor workshop, 4/13-17, in Coronado/San Diego! What a beautiful island to visit and paint, with endless flower gardens, fascinating water views, and architecture. And the annual Coronado Flower Show is on Saturday and Sunday! Each day we will meet at a different location for the day's painting session. We'll work with techniques, composition, and lighting. Advanced experience is not required -- we are all in the same creative boat! There is no time like the present to learn and expand your personal touch. And don't forget my ongoing Thursday evening classes at SAA gallery. To register, call Doris at 603-724-7779 or email her at [dorisrice@comcast.net](mailto:dorisrice@comcast.net) see more at [dorisrice.com](http://dorisrice.com)



"In the Park at the  
Coronado Flower Show,"  
watercolor by Doris Rice

### Oil Painting, July, Monhegan Island: Bob Richardson

It's never too early to start planning your Monhegan Island Plein Air Oil Painting Adventure in July! Arrive on Monhegan Island Sunday, 7/9 and depart Thurs, 7/13. Three full days of oil painting instruction for all levels. Call Bob at 978-792-5734(h) or 267-614-6333(c) or email [bbr4@comcast.net](mailto:bbr4@comcast.net) for more info and to reserve your spot.



"Fish Beach," Oil by  
Bob Richardson

### Pastel Drawing for Beginners Class: Revelle Taillon

Classes are held on Mondays 12:30-2:30 for 8 weeks at the SAA Gallery **starting April 24th**. Cost is \$170. Details about classes and what to bring are at [www.revelleimagemaker.blogspot.com](http://www.revelleimagemaker.blogspot.com). Classes are limited to 7 (min 3), so to hold your spot please mail a check directly to: Revelle Taillon, 26 West Pine Street, Plaistow, NH 03865. For more information, and to see if there is room left in this class, call 603-548-6694 or email [rtailon@comcast.net](mailto:rtailon@comcast.net). A percentage of each tuition is donated to the SAA.



Pastel by Revelle Taillon