

SPRING  
2007

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RIDGEFIELD

GUILD  
OF ARTISTS



## NOTICE OF JUNE ANNUAL MEETING

Come out and Elect  
New Officers

Vote on Amendment to By-laws allowing a Co-Presidency  
**Sunday, June 3 at 3:00pm**

Members will be asked to vote on the following motion:

**To amend the bylaws of the Ridgefield Guild of Artists that the officers of the Board of Directors of the Guild are President, Co-President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and immediate Past President.**

The President and Co-president and the Vice President shall be elected at the annual meeting. If the office of President or Co-President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall become President or Co-President for the unexpired term.

Nominations for President, co-president, and Vice President shall be presented by the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee at the Annual General meeting.

## Two New & Different Watercolor Shows At Guild April 28–May 20

APRIL SHOWERS ARE BRINGING WATERCOLOR ART to the Guild in two shows that will run concurrently from April 28 through May 20, 2007.

Author-illustrator Jamison Odone will celebrate "My First Book," showing the various stages of creating his children's book, Honey Badgers, being published this month. Viewers will see Odone's process, from rough sketches and notes through color page proofs.



"Anemone", Watercolor by Sally Aldrich.

Six longtime Guild artists will be featured in "Watermedia," a group show of their works on paper. *(continued on page 7)*

## SEEKING YOUR BEST SHOTS Camera Works 2007 June 2–July 8

IF YOU TOOK PART IN LAST YEAR'S 'CAMERA WORKS' SHOW, you already know it's not the Camera Works of yore. It is an exhibition that reflects the vast range of equipment and technique used in creating photographic and digital-image art.

We are most interested in work made with unusual cameras, printing techniques and image-capturing artistry, whether it's

from film or digital media. Images from pin-hole, camera obscura, toy and other cameras are encouraged! We are also accepting [for consideration] original moving pictures on DVD or VHS to screen in our RGA Theatre during the run of the show.

Members may bring: 1-2 pieces, ready for installation/playback, only new or NOT shown at Guild before. Receiving: Sunday, May 20, 4 -6 p.m.; Monday, May

21, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Please contact the Guild for other arrangements. Installation fee: \$5.00/piece.

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 2, 3-5 p.m. For more information call the Guild at 203-438-8863 or email to [rgoa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rgoa@sbcglobal.net).

**RGAR** REGULAR GALLERY HOURS  
Wed. – Sun. 12 noon to 4:00 pm

# President's Message

Dear Fellow Members:

It is hard to believe that spring will be here in a few weeks but visitors to the Guild's third annual Art in the Garden member show have been treated to a preview of what is to come. Once again we were very fortunate to be work with Garden of Ideas—Joe Keller and Ilsa Svendsen whom have generously donated their time and talent to our galleries. Combining artistic man-made elements with growing things, Joe and Ilsa installed several sculptural gardens throughout the galleries and created a special grotto in our front reception area.

In addition, our friends from Caudatowa and Redding Garden Club joined us by designing floral arrangements inspired by selected artwork. Viewers will be encouraged to vote for their favorite piece and cash awards will go to the top three choices. This show is always a popular and well-attended show. Plans are in the works for several outreach programs during the show which should help increase exposure to our artists showing here.

Change and growth continues here at the Guild Board of Directors and several committees that have started to form. We are proud to announce Pamela Stoddart has joined as our Special Event chair. Pam's stylish parties have always been the talk of the town, and she will generously work to transmit some of that glamorous glow to our own events. We also have been very fortunate to have Gracie Graves join us as committee chair of hospitality. Gracie brings her own professional cooking experience to the table in the most delicious and gracious way. Randy Carboni, a former board member, rejoins the team as Webmaster. Randy will lend his considerable skill to our efforts to polishing our website. Many thanks go out to Ramy Isaac who answered a SOS appeal and stepped forward to help us main-

tain the site while we went through this transition. We are also welcoming Maria Poosikian and Judy Rowley to the exhibit committee as they will help to install shows with the guidance of Debra Browne. Maria Beck has volunteered to become an outreach representative in the community. Volunteering efforts also will start to involve the outside community as board members Betsy Brand and Ellen Matthews spearheaded the approval process of the National Charity League whose mother/daughter teams will begin to volunteer during our openings. Once again we will welcome our new senior high school intern, Isabella Musacho in May.

People coming forward to help out and start committees or bringing their ideas and energy to the table is a large part of a major goal that we set for ourselves a few years ago. Two years ago the Branding committee's deemed the word "guild" as a very important part of our identity—it connotated to the group a vibrant artistic community full of creative people doing creative things. On the practical side, being involved also provides a conduit to the outside world and sometimes important contacts are made that all go towards making and marketing art.

June will soon be upon us and I will be asking for your vote towards making our president's role a co-presidency. In these modern times with everyone so busy, it seems to make a lot of sense to take a cue from the very successful PTA model and have an outgoing president and an incoming one which will help to maintain the continuity of our vision as we continue to steer the Guild ship.

Here's to positive energy, contagious enthusiasm and artistic growth!

Cheers,

Rachel Volpone

## Member News

Connie Freid's painting, "Waiting" was juried into "Discoveries" at Montclair State University. Two other pieces, "Lost" and "Nothing's Gonna Harm You" were juried into "Waterworks" at Iona College.

Paula Renee's woven paintings will be on exhibition at G.E. Cultural Fine Art Gallery in Fairfield from March 5 through April 30. Her dimensional paper con-

structions and mixed media collage will be at Stamford Center for the Arts during the same period. Paula Renee's woven painting and dimensional trees were accepted into the Easton Arts Council's Annual Members' Art Show which runs from January 10 through February 24 at the Easton Library. Please contact the library for hours.

Paula's woven photograph construction titled "Integration" was accepted

into the New Canaan Society for the arts Annual Photography Exhibit in the Carriage Barn at Waveny Park. The show runs from February 4 through March 4.

### REMINDER



*Guild's  
commission  
as of  
September 2006  
is 40%*

# Springfest

## ARTIST DISPLAY

MAY 5

**INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN AN OUTDOOR ART SHOW ON RIDGEFIELD'S MAIN STREET?** On Saturday, May 5 from 10am-5pm, Guild member artists will be able to set up a display area outside a participating storefront and sell their work—straight sales, no commission!

Artists work their own booth and bring their own displays. Please contact Katra Showah at Parker East Dry Goods, 420 Main Street—894-8433; email kparkereast@aol.com OR or Suzanne Brennan at Shoe La La 438-4491; email suebrennan@comcast.net.

Simple Guidelines: More art/sculpture vs. jewelry (limited spots); display areas cannot block business doorways or compromise walkways; set ups must be clean and well-organized. This is a family event so art should be appropriate for the audience. There will be NO rain date as interior retail space cannot accommodate displays. Set up takes place thirty minutes before the opening at 10am. Other events such as magician performances, strolling clowns, country band performance at Town Hall and trolley rides will be taking place as well.

## It Came from the Barn...



"Barn with Face" by Phil Demise Smith, left and right, "Lady in the Barn" by Karen Sorensen.

**CALLING ON THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BARN FUNDRAISER THIS DECEMBER.** Please let Rachel Volpone know if you plan to participate in the "It Came From the Barn" exhibit. This show will run from July 15-August 12 at the Guild. We are trying to get a handle on how many will be involved so we know how much work we can hang from each individual artist. Thanks. Please email rvolpone22@comcast.net or call Joan in the office at 438-8863. For more barn art see page 7.

## Looking for Committee Chairs

### *Outreach Committee Chair*

Someone to network within the community helping us to get out there—also to creatively collaborate with other groups in town.

### *Tri-centennial Celebration*

Looking for committee chair and additional members for Paint the Town—initial responsibilities brainstorming ideas on a week or day of painting scenes from Ridgefield—town celebrations will take place January 2008-September 2008. Our event can take place anytime within this time frame. This will be a great opportunity for publicity and exposure to all artists who participate. Several members have already come forward as committee members—if someone would like to chair this committee, please call the office at 438-8863.

## Live Model Drawing

THURSDAY EVENINGS

7:00pm-9:30pm

Vic DeMasi, monitor

Members \$10 a session;

Non-members \$12

\$8 Students to age 21

Do you want to rent the upstairs studios at our special member rate of \$15/hour? Please call Joan Isaac to inquire about availability. 438-8863

## In The Studio

# Q&A

With Wayne Chou  
The Creative Inventor



*Tell us about your interesting background.*

I was born in Hawaii and went to college at Yale where I graduated with an electrical engineering degree. My career in engineering includes grants of over thirty US and foreign patents that span a gamut of innovations from high-tech electronics to simple household helpers. One of my inventions went on a space probe to measure the temperature of Venus; another one was placed on a balloon telescope into the stratosphere to permit close-up pictures of the Sun. I also designed high-speed electronic circuitry that was the forerunner of today's computers. Other patents include circuits that prevent solid-state high-fidelity power amplifiers from burning out, an improved "smart" dog training collar and a product to manage the moisture content in the soil of the common household potted plant.

*Were you always interested in art as well as science?*

Yes. My interest in photography began early as a teenager and remained with me throughout my career in business. Now I am retired from corporate life and enjoy spending time making art, experimenting in my workshop and doing volunteer community service helping other artists. I also still try to come up with solutions to everyday problems.

*How do you define creativity? What or who inspires you?*

Believe it or not, I was just emailing my guitar teacher who expressed what it was to be creative. To be able to execute the performance of Segovia perfectly, should not be the goal of a classical guitarist. Perfection in itself gives no room for the guitarist to grow, nor to express himself. If one could do that perfectly, how boring that must be, and also why not just buy a recording of Segovia, and just enjoy that.

So many artists, whether photographers, or musicians—even engineers—try to copy a style or a painting techniques of another. When all is said

and done, as observers, we see the same postcard pictures - no matter how beautiful they may be. I know of photographers who have gone to great lengths and travel just to photograph images I could buy at the local drug store postcard rack. And for the guitarist who can execute one of Segovia's pieces perfectly, how boring it must be for the performer. By being a copy-cat, there cannot be any self or individual expression which makes it interesting for him/her and the audience.

As an engineer I can relate to this very well. Most of the general public thinks of electrical engineering as a precise science. In a way it is. But it is as much so as there are just so many notes on a piano, or what one can manipulate on a string of a guitar by pulling on it. In other words, there are limitations, and engineering is governed by the laws of physics. But for the same reason that there are many ways to compose an alternative to an arrangement of a piece of music, there are also a thousand ways



"Golfing at Redding", photograph by Wayne Chou.

to create a circuit that performs the same function. In its own right, there is a joy in the design of anything, as long as we understand how the pieces are being joined together and its purpose. And when one understands how the pieces relate to one another, and we can create something out of it, there is always the joy of accomplishment in the creation of it.

So who inspired me? So should I say Ansel Adams, or Tom Edison? Neither. To me they only demonstrated what could be done, if one chose to pursue their footsteps. But I have no desire to photograph landscapes that Ansel did, or to find a better material for a light bulb filament than Edison. What they did in their own way, you could say, was beautiful, but I have my own perception of what I want to do for my own joy. I guess in a way, it is the difference between a doer and that of an observer.

***For the past five years you have spearheaded and run the Satellite Gallery Program for the Guild. How did you come up with the initial idea for Satellite Gallery?***

The idea for the Satellite Gallery was really quite easy, when one recognizes the number of artist in the Guild, and the space we have to display their work. Couple that with having only eight shows a year, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that all artists who want to show their work cannot physically do so without more space. It seemed me a benefit to the citizens and town of Ridgefield as well the artists of the Guild, if we could somehow make their artwork more available. So that was how it was born. All it took was a little legwork, and a little chutzpa to get it going.

I also started this for the Rowayton Art Center. In the beginning, I was a little stumped by how it was possible for the

participating "galeries" to select all the artwork that was available all in one or two sittings. Trying to have all the artwork available at the Guild would have been a logistical nightmare. It dawned on me that if I could load the images onto a laptop computer, I could

bring the mountain to Mohammed. That solved the problem, and it has been done that way ever since.

***What do you take away from this experience?***

What I get out of it is the satisfaction of helping other artists get a helping hand to have their work at least viewed, even though some of them are already very well recognized in the community, and to have met so many wonderful people along the way, who share my interest in the creativity and the arts.

***Ok for the final question I'm going to ask you about your fondness for fast cars. What draws you to cars like Ferrari's and Lamborghini's—the speed or the design or both?***

As far as fast cars are concerned, I wouldn't say fast was necessarily the criteria for the fondness of a car. I don't have a solid recollection of the number of cars that I have owned in my lifetime, but I would say in excess of 50. The first car that I owned was a sports MG, then a Jaguar MC 340, Porsche 1600 Super, Mercedes 220 SL, Mercedes, 190d, and another for a short while a Mercedes 300 SL gull wing, another Porsche 911, a Mercedes 220 d, and then another one after that was totaled. And the list goes onto having the Mondial and the



"Hey, What Are You Looking At?", photograph by Wayne Chou.

Testarossa at the same time. Actually the Mondial was more fun to drive, though the Testarossa was faster. But in the end, I found the BMWs are a better all around car for both in town and on the race circuit.

*Thank you Wayne for many years of hard work with SGP and your continued support of our Guild! Please join all of us on the Board wishing Wayne the very best. He will be relocating right outside of the artistic community of Asheville, North Carolina this spring.*

**Consider Renting  
The Gallery Space  
For your Next Event!**

**RATES FOR PARTY RENTAL**

- \*\$300 non-member \$250 member for any evening Friday-Sunday
- \*\$150 non-member \$100 member for any evening Monday-Thursday
- \*Liability Insurance Required*

**RATES FOR LECTURES/  
MEETING RENTAL**

- \$40/hour non-member
- \$25/hour member –
- 2 hour minimum required

**STUDIO SPACE AVAILABLE TO RENT**  
(depending on availability)

- \$15/hour to members only.

**Call RGA Office for details  
438-8863**

# *List of Board Members/ Committees*

**PRESIDENT**—Rachel Volpone

**VICE PRESIDENT**—Laurie McGavin Bachmann

**TREASURER**—Joe Sladek

**SECRETARY**—Cindi Mullins

**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**—Kim Hanna

**EXHIBIT DIRECTOR**—Debra Browne

**COMMITTEE**—Judy Rowly, Maria Poosikian

**SPECIAL EVENTS**—Pamela Stoddart

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE**—Gracie Graves

**MEMBERSHIP**—Ellen Matthews

**MARKETING/PUBLICITY**—Betsy Brand

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**—Mary Jones

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**—Rita Blanton

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**—Barbara Dobbin

**CRAFT FAIR 2008**—Debbie Critchon

**WEBMASTER**—Randy Carboni

**NEWSLETTER GRAPHICS**—Amy Bock

**OUTREACH GRAPHICS**—Cynthia Digiacomo

**TRICENTINNIAL COMMITTEE 2008**

Robin Monterosso, Mary Louise O'Connell,

Rachel Volpone

**FESTIVE HOME 2007 COMMITTEE**

Amanda Dranow, Sue Ranney, Rita Blanton,

Cynthia Digiacomo, Rachel Volpone

**PROPOSED SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2007-2009**

**CO-PRESIDENTS:** Rachel Volpone/Laurie Bachmann

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Mary Jones

**TREASURER:** Joe Sladek

**SECRETARY:** Cindi Mullins

## Spotlight On...

*Joe Sladek—Treasurer Extraordinaire*

Sometimes the most valuable player on the team is someone who works completely behind the scenes using talents that are key but often not recognized by the general public. Giving back to the community, has been Guild Treasurer's Joe Sladek *raison d'être* over the past 17 years as he has served as our Treasurer keeping our all important non profit 501 (3) (c) status current by making sure the relevant documents are filed in a correct and prompt manner. As an added bonus to Joe's superpowers as a CPA, he also brings his trademark sense of humor, positive attitude, encouragement and cool under pressure—qualities that are deeply admired and heavily relied upon by all of us on the board. A GIANT thank you to our brilliant treasurer—Mr. Sladek!

## Guild Student Show



"Tree", oil by Bennett Reck.

Be sure to check out the Guild student show at the Ridgefield Public Library's Dayton Room. Showcasing both young and adult talent, pictured here Bennett Reck's oil painting "Tree".

Bennett is a student of Carole Miller and 13 years old.

The show runs until April 30.

**WATERCOLOR SHOW**

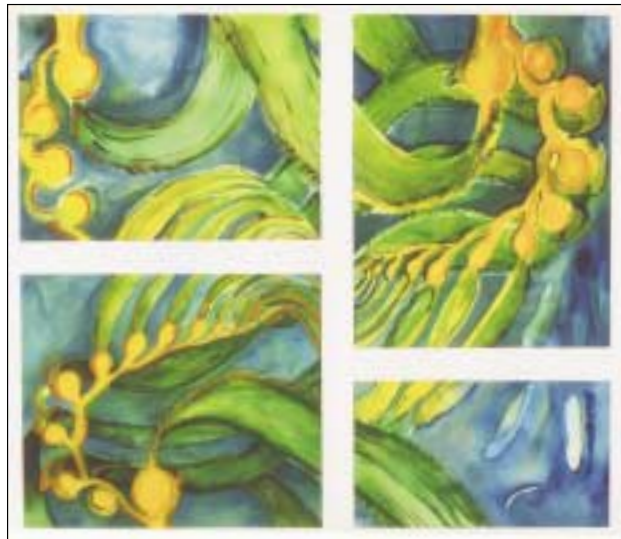
*(continued from page 1)*

They are: Sally Aldrich, Steffi K. Jones, Ann Kromer, Jock MacRae, Lynda Pattee and Jen Shelley.

The Guild will host a reception on Saturday, April 28 from 4 to 7 p.m. Jamison Odone will be signing copies of Honey Badgers between 4 and 6; the reception for "My First Book" and "Watermedia" will take place between 5 and 7.



Above, "Flowerseller", Watercolor by Lynda Pattee.



Left, "Plant Quartet", Watercolor by Sally Aldrich.

# More Art By Us!



Above, left to right, Barn paintings by; Rachel Volpone, Antoinette Vardamis and Rachel Volpone.

Below left, "Cartuchos", oil by Lucia Fleming; a student of Jock MacRae's.




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# C A L E N D A R

## WATER MEDIA AND MY FIRST SHOW

*April 29 – May 20, Opening reception—Saturday, April 28 from 5:00-7:00pm*

## CAMERAWORKS

*June 3 – July 8, Opening reception Saturday, June 2 from 3:00-5:00*

## IT CAME FROM THE BARN

*July 15 - August 12, Opening reception to be announced*

## JURIED SHOW

*September 23 - October 19,  
September 6 - 9 Receiving, September 14 - 15 Non-accepted work pick up,  
Opening reception: Sunday, September 23 from 3:00-5:00pm*

## RADIUS

*October 27 – November 18, Opening reception Saturday, October 27 from 4:00-7:00pm*

## FESTIVE HOME

*December 1 - December 16, Opening reception to be announced*

Ridgefield Guild of Artists  
PO Box 552  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**APRIL 29**

WATER MEDIA AND MY FIRST SHOW  
RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING

**JUNE 2**

CAMERAWORKS RECEPTION

**JUNE 3**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OFFICERS ELECTED

**INSIDE** In the Studio Q&A with Wayne Chou