

COAST GUARD ACCEPTS 2018 ART COLLECTION

Twenty eight works by 23 artists were accepted into the Coast Guard Art Program's (COGAP) permanent collection during the annual acceptance ceremony and opening reception July 12th at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Rear Admiral Melissa Bert, newly appointed director of Coast Guard Governmental and Public Affairs, accepted the new works on behalf of the service. Capt. Jason Tama, commanding officer of Sector New York, served as the evening's master of ceremonies.



Leendert van der Pool was the recipient of the George Gray Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement. His oil painting, "Partnership" shows U.S. and Canadian Coast Guard members cooperating in an oil remediation training exercise. The remarkably executed work reflects the artist's knowledge of the marine environment garnered from 14 years of service as a Dutch merchant marine. Self-taught, the artist has shown his work extensively in museums and galleries in the U.S. and abroad.

The 2018 collection vividly portrays the service in action. From its response to the devastation of Hurricane Harvey to illegal drug interdic-

dictions, Arctic exploration and exacting training exercises, the art of 2018 depicts a wide swath of Coast Guard work and missions.

On behalf of the Coast Guard, Admiral Bert expressed gratitude in accepting new work into the collection. She thanked Coast Guard artists, all of whom are volunteers, "for telling our story and educating the public" on all the service does for the nation. She also pointed out that the work of service members merited being captured in art because "it is nothing short of art." The admiral noted as well the enduring contributions of Thomas Picard and Ron Guthrie, both contributing Coast Guard artists who passed away in 2017.

COGAP artists attending the July 12th opening reception at the Salmagundi Club in New York were presented Public Service Commendation Awards. Front row from left are COGAP artists Chuck Van Horn, Susanne Corbelletta, Karen Loew, Amy Digi, Sherry Krivosheev, and Kathryn Cross. Back row from left are COGAP artists John Ward, James Consor, Coast Guard Rear Admiral Melissa Bert, MK2 Jasen Newman, Paul Smith, Tom Hedderich, and Gordon Kribs and Salmagundi President Robert Pillsbury.

Admiral Bert was joined in thanks by Salmagundi Club President Robert Pillsbury and Master of Ceremonies Capt. Jason Tama. Mr. Pillsbury remarked that the opening event's capacity crowd was "a testament to the importance of this endeavor." Capt. Tama, in thanking artists, described the specific contributions of each.

Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club COGAP committee chair and member artist said that COGAP artists drew motivation from many sources, including other artists and urged COGAP members to continue finding inspiration in the missions of the service.

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Coast Guard Auxiliarist Chaplain Donna Cole's Blessings

Invocation

Lord God of all creation, we ask your blessing on the artists and Coast Guard members we honor this day.

Together, in very different ways, they shine a light on the courage, compassion and commitment of our Coast Guard family.

We thank you for their gifts even as we acknowledge you as the source from which all human courage and creativity flows.

At our gathering this evening, we ask for your presence among us as we reflect on this art depicting the Coast Guard mission, and also as we share our joys and sorrows with one another.

In your mercy, call us to hold always in our hearts the memory of Thomas Picard, and Ron Guthrie, whose vision and artistry contributed so greatly to this Coast Guard Art Program. Though they have passed from our sight, may they continue to inspire us as they now stand the eternal watch.

We ask all of this through the God who calms the storms and shines light into every darkness.

Amen.

Benediction

Gracious God, send down your blessing on these artists and Coast Guard members that they may act with confidence in the use of their gifts.

Grant that in moments of isolation and loneliness, they may be given courage and consolation by your presence. In gratitude for these gifts of artistry and service, we ask also for your blessing on all those who keep the watch around the world this and every day. Increase in them the will to stand Semper Paratus, Always Ready, to serve others in need.

(And) May the Lord God bless each of us, inspire us, enlighten us and be a beacon to follow as we encounter each course change on the way ahead.

Amen.

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Leendert van der Pool, Coast Guard Artist

Leendert van Der Pool's oil painting "Partnership" won the 2018 George Gray Award. The artist, self-taught, has exhibited extensively in the U.S. and abroad. In recognition of his artistic achievements, he was knighted by the Dutch government in 2010. He has been a COGAP member for 10 years.

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President of the New York Council of the Navy League Col. Charles Blaich, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), in addressing those present at the opening, added his thanks to the COGAP's talented corps of artists and recounted his own family's contributions to marine service. The council hosted the reception, an act it has repeatedly performed over the years.

Contributors to this year's collection are Acacia Anglin, Port Angeles, Wash.; C. R. "Bob" Bryant, Gig Harbor, Wash.; James Consor, New York City; Susanne Corbellata, Glen Head, N.Y.; Kathryn Cross, Glastonbury, Conn.; Amy Digi., Yonkers, N.Y.; Frank Gaffney, Mountlake Terrace, Wash.; Tom Hedderich, Westtown, N.Y.; Gordon Kribs, Surprise, Ariz.; Sherry Krivosheev, Redmond, Wash.; Karen Loew, New York City; Dr. Mike Mazer, Mattapoisett, Mass.; PA2 Cory Mendenhall, Alameda, Calif.; Crissie Murphy, Lowell, Mass.; MK2 Jasen Newman, Port Angeles, Wash.; Charles Schaefer, Palm Coast, Fla.; Robert Semler, Bradenton, Fla.; Paul Smith, Philadelphia, Penn.;

Jim Stagner, Johnson City, Tenn.; Leendert van der Pool, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Chuck Van Horn, Glen Head, N.Y.; Frank Walsh, Santa Clara, Calif.; and John Ward, Saranac Lake, N.Y.

The 2018 collection is now on view at Federal Hall National Memorial through Sept. 27, 2018. The memorial, located just across from the New York Stock Exchange, draws a very large audience.

In addition to deceased Coast Guard artists Ron Guthrie (Solvang, Calif.) and Thomas Picard (Rego Park, Queens, N.Y.) artists with work from previous collections on view at the Salmagundi Club were Dennis Boom, Hillsboro, Ore.; Steve Lush, North Andover, Mass.; Ken Smith, Pulaski, Va.; Peter DeWeerd, Tucson, Ariz.; Kristin Hosbein, St. Joseph, Mich.; Robert Selby, Colton, N.Y.; Ron Weil, Tualatin, Ore.; James Wolford, Foxborough, Mass.; Louis Stephen Gadal, Los Angeles, Calif.; and Dino Sistilli, Woodbury, N.J. Artists of the 2018 collection with pieces from earlier years and on view were Karen Loew, Tom Hedderich, Chuck Van Horn, Bob Bryant, Robert Semler, Frank Gaffney, and Leendert van der Pool.

Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty: Leendert van der Pool Wins 2018 George Gray By Petty Officer Second Class Diana Sherbs

Each year a collection of artwork is submitted to the [U.S. Coast Guard Art Program](#) where a panel of judges selects a recipient for the George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence – in other words, they choose a “best in show.” This year’s award goes to [Leendert van der Pool](#) for his oil painting titled “Partnership.”

“Partnership” is a vibrantly colored moment in time – a figurative scene of the inner workings onboard the 225-foot oceangoing buoy tender, [Coast Guard Cutter SPAR](#), homeported out of Kodiak, Alaska. The crew of SPAR, an acronym for the Coast Guard’s motto “Semper Paratus – Always Ready,” is seen conducting a training exercise with a Canadian coast guard ship, Sir Wilfred Laurier. The view, a vantage point from the Canadian coast guard ship, is a realistic representation overlooking the SPAR’s worn decks that show a



Rear Adm. Melissa Bert and Salmagundi Club president Robert Pillsbury hold Leendert van der Pool’s George Gray Award plaque next to his winning artwork at the Salmagundi Club in New York, N.Y., July 12, 2018.

graceful maturation after 17 years of service. Also, incredible detailing captures the moment but the scene is not without a touch of humanism in the depiction of a crew member wearing his hard hat backwards.

Van der Pool, a former sailor for the Dutch merchant navy, worked on various ships including coasters, freighters and salvage ships for 14 years. His experiences in the maritime industry have given him an advantage in painting maritime subjects. While van der Pool has never served in the Coast Guard, he has submitted six paintings to the Coast Guard Art Program within the last 10 years and intends to continue to do so in years to come.

“I am honored to have been selected for the George Gray Award,” said van der Pool. “I would [also] like to mention that I was awarded a knighthood by the Dutch government in 2010 for my cultural contributions as an artist.”

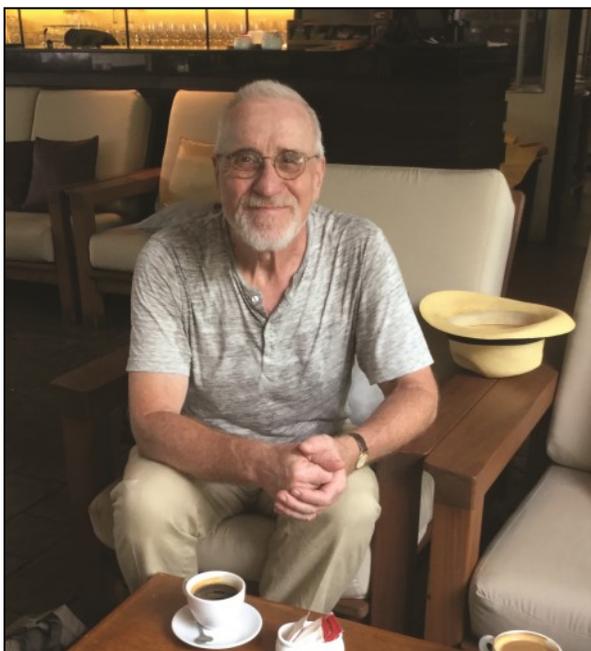
In a training exercise, the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter SPAR works in Port Clarence, Alaska, with the crew of the Canadian coast guard ship, Sir Wilfred Laurier. The crews transfer a U.S. Coast Guard Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) between the two ships. VOSS equipment is used to remediate oil spills. Such exercises foster cooperative relationships which are critical to safety of sea lanes and security on the world’s oceans.

Van der Pool’s submission was one of 28 works submitted by 23 artists of the Coast Guard Art Program. COGAP’s corps of volunteer artists is mostly comprised of professional artists as well as several veteran and active service members. All artwork submitted illustrates the myriad missions including rescue operations from last year’s hurricane season, Coast Guard patrols in treacherous waters, wildlife rescues and training operations.

While van der Pool was in Paris at the time of the ceremony on July 12, 2018, the Coast Guard Art Program presented the George Gray Award to him in absentia at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Upon receiving his plaque, van der Pool said he intends to display it prominently.

“Art speaks directly to the soul,” said Rear Adm. Melissa Bert, the director of Coast Guard Governmental and Public Affairs. “In their remarkable works, our members have captured in a way words cannot the vital contribution the Coast Guard makes to the nation and its people. At the same time, it lets our service members know that what they do every day merits being chronicled in works of art because what they do is nothing short of art.”

All of the Coast Guard artwork submitted in this year’s program is on display at [Federal Hall National Memorial](#) in New York City’s Lower Manhattan through Sept. 27, 2018.



Leendert van der Pool, COGAP’s 2018 George Gray Award Recipient

The July 12th Acceptance Ceremony and Reception in Pictures

The Salmagundi Club's upper gallery was filled to capacity during the 2018 acceptance ceremony the evening of July 12th. The club is located on Fifth Avenue in New York City in a century-old town house.



Members of the Coast Guard Color Guard arrived for the presentation of colors during the beginning of the official opening of the 2018 ceremony.



Two members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Band (Flotilla 22-7, First Southern District) performed during the reception. They were Musician Jeffrey Kazzaz (right) on clarinet and Musician Frances Piazza (left) on flute.

Distinguished guests welcome remarks during the July 12th ceremony at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. From left first row are Admirals Bert and Tiongson, Capt. Sean Carroll, Coast Guard Auxiliary Chaplain Donna Cole, Command Master Chief William Hollandsworth and retired Coast Guard Vice Commandant Sally Brice-O'Hara.



Speakers at the official opening reception



Master of ceremonies
Capt. Jason Tama welcomes guests.



Chaplain Donna Cole delivers the invocation.



New York Council of the Navy
League President
Col. Charles Blaich gives remarks.



Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club
COGAP committee chair and COGAP
artist talks about artistic inspiration.



Salmagundi Club President Robert
Pillsbury offers the 2018 collection to
the Coast Guard.



Rear Admiral Melissa Bert accepts the
works in the 2018 collection on behalf
of the Coast Guard.

Artists receiving Public Service Commendation Awards July 12th

Rear Admiral Melissa Bert, Director of Coast Guard Governmental and Public Affairs, presented COGAP artists attending the opening with a Public Service Commendation Award. Salmagundi Club President Robert Pillsbury joined her in the presentation. The award is given in recognition of personal and beneficial contributions to the Coast Guard's responsibilities. It can be signed only by a Flag officer and the civilian equivalent. Twelve of the 23 artists contributing to the 2018 collection were present at the opening. Public service awards for artists not attending were sent to C.R. "Bob" Bryant, Frank Gaffney, Dr. Mike Mazer, PA2 Cory Mendenhall, Crissie Murphy, Charles Schaefer, Bob Semler, Jim Stagner, Leendert van der Pool and Frank Walsh. Acacia Anglin's award was picked up by her husband MK2 Jasen Newman, a COGAP artist who also received a Public Service Award for his 2018 contribution.



COGAP Artist James Consor receives his award for his paintings "Aloft on the Eagle" and "The horn."

COGAP Artist Susanne Corbelletta receives her award for her painting "My hero."





COGAP artist Kathryn Corss receives her award for her painting “Protecting the vulnerable.”

COGAP artist Amy Digi receives her award for her paintings “Hoist training international” and “Coast Guard offloads cocaine.”





COGAP artist Tom Hedderich receives his award for his painting “Stronger together.”

COGAP artist Gordon Kribs receives his award for his painting “Surfing Coast Guard style.”





Coast Guard artist Sher-ry Krivosheev receives her award for her painting “In the graveyard of the Pacific.”

COGAP artist and Salmagundi Club art program committee chair Karen Loew receives her award for her painting “Rocky Rescue.”





COGAP artist and Coast Guard service member MK2 Jasen Newman receives his award for his painting “Law Enforcement: Board.”

COGAP artist Paul Smith receives his award for his painting “Hoist training in Alaska.”





COGAP artist Chuck van Horn receives his award for his painting “Compassion beyond measure.”

COGAP artist John Ward receives his award for his paintings “Courageous team” and “Frozen training.”





Jurors for the 2018 George Gray Award—the best in show award—were (from right) Rear Admiral Melissa Bert, Club President Robert Pillsbury and independent juror Nicholas Dawes. Mr. Dawes, a writer, lecturer, teacher and authority on Rene La-lique, is a vice president with Heritage Auctions in New York City and an expert appraiser for the PBS program “Antiques Road-show.”

Jurors of the 2018 George Gray Award relax after completing the daunting task of selecting an award recipient from the 28 outstanding works comprising the 2108 COGAP collection.

With opening night visitors gone, the Salmagundi Club’s upper gallery becomes again a premier art venue for displaying large and impressive collections such as the works from the Coast Guard’s permanent art collection. Here, just a few of these works are seen as they were elegantly hung, awaiting viewers.

