



Easel

Supporting and Informing Coast Guard Artists

Summer 2013

COAST GUARD ACCEPTS 2013 ART COLLECTION Works now on view at Federal Hall following Salmagundi Club show

Twenty-nine works by 23 artists were accepted into the Coast Guard Art Program's (COGAP) permanent collection June 6 at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Rear Admiral Steven Poulin, Coast Guard director of governmental and public affairs, accepted the new works on behalf of the Coast Guard.

Ken Smith of Pulaski, Va., won the annual George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. His painting, *Steady as she goes*, depicts a female service member steadying a hoist hook used in oil skimming operations (see photo on page 2). His painting, like five others in the collection, is the result of the artist being sent on assignment by the program. This year marks the third time Mr. Smith has won the George Gray Award.

The 2013 collection shows a wide range of missions including recreational boat inspections, buoy maintenance, domestic security patrols, life aboard the Cutter Stratton, the Cutter Healy escorting a Russian oil tanker and the service's response to flooding from Hurricane Sandy.

The works were on view for three weeks at the club. They are now on display for three months at Federal Hall National Memo-



A capacity crowd gathered for COGAP's 2013 biennial acceptance ceremony and opening reception at Salmagundi Club in New York City on June 7. Seated in the first section of the front row from left to right are Rear Adm. Steven Poulin, retired Vice Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara, Robert "Chip" O'Hara and Capt. Gregory Hitchen.

rial, which is located near the New York Stock Exchange and enjoys a large audience.

In thanking the artists for their outstanding contributions, Rear Adm. Poulin remarked that they "immortalized" service members as they "met both the dramatic challenges and everyday tasks that define the Coast Guard." He noted the art brought the Coast Guard's story to the American public and at the same time, it showed service members that

"what they do everyday is befitting subjects for works of art."

Salmagundi Club President Claudia Seymour opened the official program. She was joined by Charles Rowe of Sector New York Public Affairs who served as the evening's emcee. Of the evening, he stated, "We are pleased to have this chance to thank the artists publicly for their lasting contributions to the service and the country."

(continued page 2)

29 new pieces by 23 artists comprise 2013 collection



Ken Smith's George Gray Award winning painting, *Steady as she goes*. Award jurors were Rear Adm. Poulin, Claudia Seymour and art conservator Alexander Katlan.

Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club COGAP committee chair and contributing artist likened the art program to a "fan club" for the Coast Guard. At the same time she remarked, the ever increasing attendance at COGAP annual openings by the Coast Guard and its stakeholders constituted a fan club for the art program. "Tonight is the inaugural exhibition for COGAP. I've come to realize it is also the annual meeting of the COGAP fan club," she said.

The New York Council of the Navy League hosted the elegant reception, a kindness it has repeatedly performed over the years. Rear Adm. J. Robert Lunney, New York Naval Militia (ret.) and president of the New York Council observed that the Navy League and the art program had a common goal in educating the public about America's sea services. The council's executive secretary, George

Simpson was also present.

Other special guests included retired Coast Guard Vice Commandant Sally Brice-O'Hara, who is a member of the Coast Guard Foundation's Board of Directors and Sector New York Deputy Commander Capt. Gregory Hitchen, who retires the end of this month.

In addition to Ms. Loew and Mr. Smith, contributors to this year's collection are Daven Anderson, St. Louis, Mo.; Bob Blevins, Elizabethton, Tenn.; Don Borie, Ocala, Fla.; C. R. "Bob" Bryant, Gig Harbor, Wash.; James Consor, New York City; Chris Demarest, currently on artist tour in Amherst, Mass.; Peter DeWeerd, Tucson, Ariz.; Louis Stephen Gadal, Los Angeles, Calif.; Frank Gaffney, Mountlake, Wash.; Ron Guthrie, Solvang, Calif.; Tom Hedderich, Westtown, N.Y.; Lew Jackson, Riverview, Fla.; Steve Lush, North Andover, Mass.; Mike Mazer, Mattapoisett, Mass.; Alan Ryall, Livermore, Calif.; Mara Sfara, Farmington, Conn.; Robert Semler, Bradenton, Fla.; Jim Stagner, Johnson City, Tenn.; Leendert van der Pool, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Charles Van Horn, Glen Head, N.Y.; and Marty Walsh, Middle Village, N.Y.

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Coast Guard Auxiliary Chaplain Donna Cole's Blessings

Invocation

God of our hopes and dreams, you are strength for the weary and hope for the broken-hearted.

We ask your blessing on the artists and Coast Guardsmen we honor this day.

In very different ways, by their devotion to their craft, they inspire an understanding of the brave and triumphant spirit that empowers the Coast Guard.

Enlightened by their example, may all come to witness the honor, respect and devotion to duty that defines the United States Coast Guard.

In your mercy, call us to hold in our hearts always the memory of shipmate and artist Stephanie Fracasso, along with all of our shipmates who now stand the eternal watch.

Now as always, flood our course with light, tune our hearts to brave music and grant us comradeship with heroes of every age.

We ask all of this that we may encourage all who journey with us on the sea of life. Amen.

Benediction

God without beginning or end, your presence and action unfold in the graced moments we share with one another.

Bless all who create art that their hearts and hands may sing as their work honors others.

Grateful for the gifts of artistry, we ask also for your blessing on all those who wear the uniform of the United States Coast Guard this and every day.

Be for them always a source of strength and endurance.

Increase in them the will to stand Semper Paratus, Always Ready, in the face of every challenge and adversity.

May the God whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning, grant us good courage as shipmates and friends. Amen



Ken Smith at a COGAP event

About Ken Smith

Ken Smith is an assistant professor of graphic design at Radford University in Radford, Va. He is an experienced painter, designer, and art director, whose work has appeared in Print Regional Design Annual; the annuals of the New York Art Director's Club, Society of Illustrators and Society of Publication Designers; Graphics; Communication Arts; and Print magazine. Smith's publication and museum work includes depictions of the French and Indian War, the Civil War, World War II, and the world of Victorian actresses. The artist was formerly design director and vice president at Whittle Communication, and was the co-founder and creative director Media South in Knoxville, Tenn. He holds a bachelor's of fine arts from the University of Tennessee, a master's degree from Syracuse University and a master's of fine arts from the University of Hartford. In 2008, the Coast Guard deployed the artist to Kings Bay, Ga., to view Maritime Safety and Security Team exercises. Three years later, the service sent him to Sector Detroit to observe contingency planning exercises where he gathered source materials for his 2013 painting.

COGAP 2013 Acceptance Ceremony and Reception in pictures



COGAP artists. From left to right, Charles Van Horn, Glen Head, N.Y.; Tom Hedderich, Westtown, N.Y.; Steve Lush, North Andover, Mass.; Chris Demarest, on artistic tour from Amherst, Mass.; Karen Loew, New York, N.Y. and Lew Jackson, Riverview, Fla.



Rear Adm. J. Robert Lunney, president of the New York Council of the Navy League offers remarks during the official acceptance ceremony. Charles Rowe, the evening's emcee, is to the right.



Rear Adm. Steven Poulin, Coast Guard director of governmental and public affairs, stands with the George Gray Award plaque in front of Ken Smith's painting *Steady as she goes*. Mr. Smith's painting won the coveted award.



The Jeevan D'Souza Jazz trio performed during the reception. Jeevan is at the piano. Behind him is Keith Dorgan on drums and standing is Miguel Mateus on base. This year marked the third time the trio has performed during COGAP inaugural openings.

Special guests retired Vice Commandant Sally Brice-O'Hara (left), who is now a member of the Coast Guard Foundation Board of Directors, and Sector New York Deputy Commander Gregory Hitchen talk with Salmagundi Club President Claudia Seymour during the reception.



Artists receiving Public Service Awards at June 6 opening reception



Rear Adm. Steven Poulin, Coast Guard director for governmental and public affairs, presents COGAP artists with a Public Service Commendation Award. Outgoing Salmagundi Club president Claudia Seymour stands to the left of each artist. The award is given in recognition of personal and beneficial contributions to the Coast Guard's responsibilities. It can be signed only by Flag officers and their civilian equivalent.

Above: Chris Demarest receives his Public Service Award.



Right: Tom Hedderich receives his Public Service Award.

Below: Lew Jackson receives his Public Service Award.



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Above: Karen Loew receives her Public Service Award.



Left: Leendert van der Pool receives his Public Service Award.

Below: Charles Van Horn receives his Public Service Award.



All photos of COGAP's June 6th ceremony and reception courtesy of Paul Backalenick, New York, N.Y.

In memoriam

COGAP artist Stephanie Fracasso passed away earlier this year from an unexpected heart attack. She was a very gifted artist and contributed 10 outstanding works to COGAP. In recognition of her talents, she was the recipient of two George Gray Awards for Artistic Excellence. A graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, Stephanie pursued a career in commercial art before returning to fulltime painting as a professional artist. Her work was exhibited in numerous group and solo shows in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and it received many awards including several best in show awards. She was a member of the American Artists Professional League and the Salmagundi Club in New York, the Monroe Arts Council in Pennsylvania and the Hudson County Artists of New Jersey, from which she received an artist of the year award. She was member of COGAP for 22 years.

The photo shows Stephanie with the George Gray Award plaque she received in 2005 for her painting *Security Boarding*. A larger image appears below.



Selected works by Stephanie Fracasso



Above: *Security Boarding*, 2005



Right top: *Fast rope maneuver*, 2006



Right bottom: *Harbor security*, 2004