



# Art Notes

Central Mass. Women's Caucus for Art

Newsletter

August 2009  
Vol. 7 No. 5

## *Artist Trading Card Workshop Successful*

By Louise Parmenter Hammerman

On July 23, co-sponsored with The Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, we presented an introduction to Artist Trading Cards, a workshop at Rollstone Studios in Fitchburg. This was attended by CMWCA members and their guests. The participants had a wonderful time creating ATCs and had several to take home to later trade. This workshop focused on the use of recycled materials for the substrate, subject, and embellishment of each card. Only very basic art making tools were used: scissors, rulers, pencils, markers, glue sticks, school box watercolors, etc., emphasizing that anyone can be an ATC maker/trader without investing in expensive materials. It was great to have new people attend the workshop and discover the fun of creating ATCs.

This summer's *Burqa Blue* or *A Stitch in Time* theme revealed some very beautiful and wonderful cards with one trader, Barb Depalo creating two very innovative complete sets of six for the trade. Many thanks to those who rallied to save the trade.

Our next exchange will be on October 1, and is non-themed. Each year we have one trade that is a free choice, so send in six cards created on whatever you like. Our December 1 theme will be, *Family*.

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## *RUBIA TV program*

On June 24th, Rachel Lehr of Rubia, Inc. was our guest as well as the star of the TV channel show "Inside Fitchburg" with Bill Gates and Joanne Huse as co-hosts. Louise introduced "Rocky," who described her work with women in Afghanistan.

After the show Rocky displayed two bins of handmade items that she had brought back with her. The purses and various types of bags and pillow covers were examined, admired and purchased by the enthusiastic CMWCA members.

She related how her organization fosters groups of women who work in their homes, creating traditional patterns on items that are sold online and at craft shows in this country providing them with an income not usually available.

Regarding the traditional woman's garment, Rocky explained, that not all women wear blue burqas, in fact there are new colors being sold. A large number of women wear black, and in cities, some do not wear a burqa. However, in the Darrai Noor region, they do wear the garment when leaving their homes. Rocky said she wears the burqa at times during her travels for disguise and protection. For more information go to [www.rubiahandwork.org](http://www.rubiahandwork.org).



**Embroidery by Afghan women  
for sale by Rubia, Inc.**

**Artist Trading Card Alert** No theme—do what you please—due on Oct. 1st.



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### ***Editor's Note***

Please submit information in Microsoft Word. Only one space after periods. Keep sending me artful material.

## ***From the President***

**Louise Parmenter Hammerman**

### **President's Message: Making-Do**

Yesterday, just under the sales tax increase "wire" in an effort to save a few dollars, I ordered another flat-file cabinet for my porch studio. I've been putting this pricey purchase off for several years and have just been *making-do* with inadequate and damaging storage. This got me to thinking about making-do during my years in art classrooms. One janitor's sink with cold water in the corner of one room...was glad I had a classroom and a job! Inadequate ventilation in another...those pungent rubber cement and Sharpie fumes...was glad I had a supplies budget!

At present, CMWCA is without all its chairs of the Board of Directors filled. But, we the BOD are *making do*.... I'm glad we have our chapter. The BOD members are dividing the extra chores, temporarily, while seeking those willing women who would bring their talents to the table, to learn even more and grow with us. I personally have gained so much working with the women of the board in the few years of my membership, and of course the many wonderful new friendships, the connectedness, I am enjoying.

So, with experience and optimism, we will endure. The Board will continue to provide leadership until such time as others step forward to help make this Women's Caucus for Art chapter a strong presence in the Central Massachusetts art community and beyond. Our meetings are always open to anyone (member or non-member) interested in the WCA cause... and making new friends. Give us a call, e-mail, talk to us at an opening or any event, we'll listen!

Enjoy the rest of the summer, have a wonderful drier fall, and *do*, don't just make-do.

*Louise*

### ***A Big Thank You***

It is with regret that the Board of Directors accepted the resignations of Cindy Walter as Exhibitions Coordinator and Lynn Thibault, Exhibitions Assistant.

Cindy and Lynn stepped up to those spots in the CMWCA's time of need and did a terrific job. We thank both of you for your time, energies, and organizational expertise put into several very successful shows during your time on the board. We hope in the not too distant future you will be able to serve the chapter in another capacity. Thank you for being such an essential part of this organization. You will be missed!

## As promised.....

Cathy Rogers' second **Alcohol Ink/Metal Foil Embossing workshop** is scheduled for **Sat. August 22, at 1:00 p.m.** This will be held at Louise's house/yard, rain or shine.

Please bring scissors, X-acto knife, Bristol board and a wood item to cover in foil. Cathy has the 10" wood framed mirrors as in the last workshop and a few wood boxes for sale. If you would prefer to decorate another object, please bring with you. Cathy has the inks and embossing tools, Louise has the foil.....loads of it!

Since we are planning to be out-of-doors, bring insect repellent. If the weather is rainy, we'll be indoors in the dining room. 90 Turnpike Rd. Westminister, MA 01473. For driving direction email parmen-hammer @comcast.net.

## Artist Trading Card workshop... continued

Here's how. Make six cards, 2.5" x 3.5" in size in the theme of that exchange. On the reverse side, sign and date your card, state the theme and write any other contact information or addition you desire. If each card is identical, number them as you would a print edition, such as, 1/6, 2/6, 3/6, etc.

If part of a series, state that title as well. I also suggest that you put "not for sale" or "for trade only" since we adhere to the original concept of ATCs not being sold. Send the six cards to me with a SASE include sufficient postage to cover thicker envelopes.

I will return 5 five assorted cards to you reserving your sixth one for the CMWCA ATC Archives. Send to: L. Parmenter Hammerman, 90 Turnpike Rd., Westminister, MA 01473-1205.

WCA-NH also invites members and others to exchange with them. *Pets* is their September 1 theme and *Red*, for December 1.

Follow the same procedure as above but send these six cards to: Pat Davis, 514 Buck St., Pembroke, NH 03275-3054.



An enthusiastic group examined (and purchased) products of Rubia, Inc. brought by Rocky Lehr, in white.

L.-R. Susan Matusen, Helene Belliveau, Alice Struthers, Kate Dean, L. Parmenter Hammerman, Patsy Belt, C. M. Judge, guest.



Rubia shoulder bag modeled by Helene Belliveau

## Newsletter Deadline

Next newsletter will be out in October Send info by September 15, please.

# News & Notes

Next Board of Directors meeting TBA

**Aug. 22**

**Alcohol Ink on Embossed Metal Foil Workshop**, led by Cathy Rogers at L. Parmenter Hammerman's, 90 Turnpike Rd., Westminister, MA

**August 7**

**Boston's SOWA First Friday field trip.** Boston's South End monthly studio and gallery event. This is free and coincides with WCA-Boston's opening reception of "Heat Wave" at the Bromfield Gallery, at 450 Harrison Ave.

Louise says she will be driving into Boston to attend, anyone who would like to ride with her is welcome. She will be leaving her house about 4 p.m., otherwise people could meet up at about 5:30 at the Bromfield Gallery.

For directions: [www.bromfieldgallery.com/directions](http://www.bromfieldgallery.com/directions).

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Due to the resignations of Cindy Walter and Lynn Thibault, the Board of Directors will temporarily assume the duties of Exhibitions until such time as an Exhibitions Coordinator is found. Exhibitions information, leads etc. should be sent to any member of the board.

**August 11**

There will be an "exhibitions committee" meeting at the home of Joanne Boudreau at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. If you have any information, about possible venues, we would appreciate your sharing it. If you would like to be of help in this area, please contact one of the Board members.

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**From Louise:** New England has a great many art museums, all of which I have yet to visit, and some I would love to revisit. So if from time to time I send out an email suggesting that I'd love company on a visit to the \_\_\_\_\_ Museum of Art, feel free to call me and come along for the ride (or meet up) and view. By the same token, if you would like company on your museum trip, call me. If I'm not booked....I'd love to join you.

**Sept. 14**

**Grant Writing Workshop**, at C.M. Judge's home 32 Ashburnham St. Fitchburg, MA

**Sept. 19**

**Tower Hill Paint-Out** (not firm)

**Nov. 4**

**FATV exhibit opening** (not confirmed)

**Sat. Nov. 14th**

**Fall member meeting** at Museum of Russian Icons, 203 Union St., Clinton, MA. A short business meeting at noon will be followed by a docent tour of the museum at 1 p.m. Fee of \$5 for tour.



**By Alice Avery Struthers**

***A Stopover in Venice*** by Kathryn Walker

"An enchanting debut novel—a fairy tale of sorts," is the promise on the dust jacket of this book that no one could have pried from my hands had they tried.

This is the story of a woman who grabbed her bag and hopped off the train from Venice, leaving her famous musician husband behind. She returned to the waterbound city to be swept up in the excitement of an amazing art discovery, led to it all by a small dog that she rescued from torment by a group of boys.

Fantasy, indeed, with some romance accompanied by 16th century history of the region centering on the role played by the women who dwelt in the convents of the time.

## Positions to be filled:

Vice President

Exhibitions Coordinator

Membership/Treasurer 2010-12

If you would like to help the chapter by serving on the Board of Directors, call Cathy Rogers or Louise Parmenter Hammerman

# *From the ATC workshop*

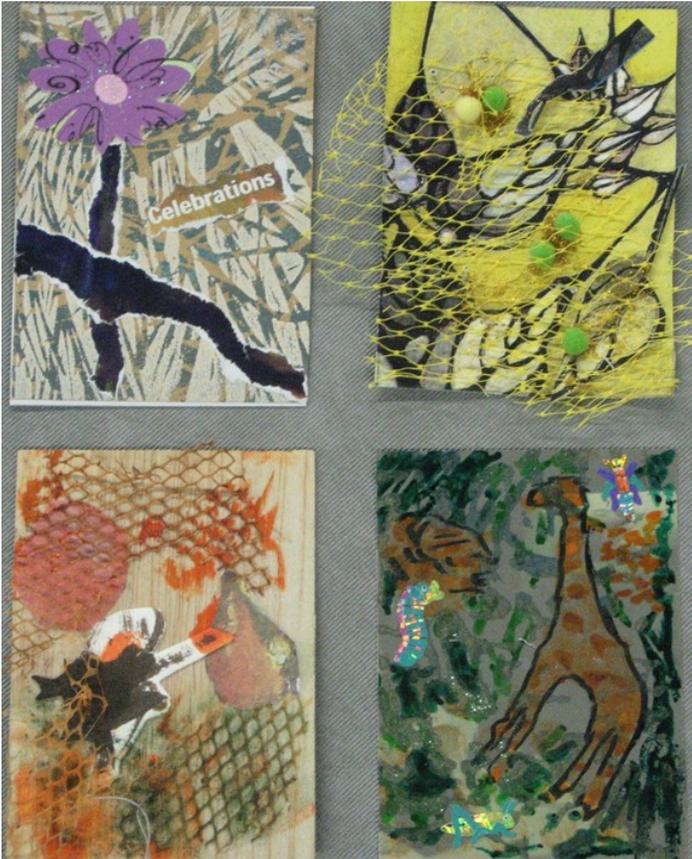


Artist Trading Cards by Grace Blaisdell and Carlotta Miller



Artist Trading Cards by Joan DeSantis

*Cards from ATC Workshop*



**Artist Trading Cards by Helene Belliveau**