



Art Notes

Central Mass. Chapter Women's Caucus for Art
NEWSLETTER

December 2009
Vol. 7 No. 7

Round Robin Salons

By Louise Parmenter Hammerman

At the recent Board of Directors meeting, the newest board member, Vice President Laura Cahalane, launched an idea that promises to be great fun, social, and a learning experience. "Art shares" are not new to us, but an activity we haven't had lately. Laura's idea of having us travel to different hosts homes (or places) each month was greeted with enthusiasm.

It is our intention at this time to have venues around Central Massachusetts. We are looking for hosts and venues. These salons will be open to members, guests, and interested persons as an opportunity to share their latest work with us, or where one is headed in her (or his) process. Critiques will be optional, because sometimes we're just not ready.

The first Round Robin Salon kicking-off the series will be Sunday afternoon, Feb. 7 at the Rollstone Studios, 633 Main St., Fitchburg. Future meetings are planned for March 6 at Cyndi Lavin's; April 11 at Rollstone Studios; May TBA; and June 6 at Rollstone Studios.

Color of the Season

By Alice Avery Struthers



The red bow that you attach to your holiday wreath carries the color of blood, fire, danger, power and pain. Through the centuries many cultures have learned its power. Catholic cardinals wear a red hat to symbolize their vow to defend their faith "unto the shedding of their own blood."

Red has the power to catch attention. It gleams from STOP signs. Every good art teacher has warned how it will draw the eye of the beholder and dominate surrounding colors. Creating a stable red pigment has been a continuing challenge through the years. In China vermilion was made by heating mercury and sulphur. The Egyptians ground the mineral cinnabar to make the first-known bright red.

Sometime in the mists of history it was observed that the small cochineal beetle, when crushed, exuded a bright red fluid. A second ingredient was needed to make the pigment permanent, rather than fugitive.

Today what was simply natural has been turned into an industry. In her book "Color" Victoria Finlay describes her visit to a Chilean plantation where acres of prickly pear cactus provide a home for millions of cochineal beetles. Teams of workers harvest the beetles by blowing them off with air compressors. Off they go to the grinders and ultimate mixing with stabilizers.

Recently I was struck with the desire for a red scarf.

I ponder red history as the scarf grows under my knitting needles.

Heavenly Bodies reception



November 4, 2009 marked our fourth annual fall show at FATV Studios. A record number of large pieces with a wide variety of interpretations of the theme make this exhibit very impressive. Many subjects from heavenly nebula to heavenly bodies of sheep grace the hall walls of the TV studios.

The evening began (as it has in the past), with a live broadcast of "Inside Fitchburg" with Joanne Huse. Bill Gates was unable to be with us this year. Joanne's inquiring questions about CMWCA, the variety of media in which the members work, and how we personally interpreted this theme, composed the panel discussion portion of the show. Joanne then interviewed some of the exhibiting artists. Loretta Hubley, Elsa Voelker, Laura Cahalane, Louise Parmenter Hammerman, Mary Dunn, Mariana Furtney Fyfe, Cyndi Lavin and C.M. Judge closed the interviews.

A great big **thank you** to all of you who made the *Heavenly Bodies* show and the reception at FATV a success. It was a great evening and the show looks terrific.

To Cathy Rogers who against all odds of being out of town, received and organized the submissions, a huge thank you. To C.M. Judge for her beautiful e-card design and pre and post work with FATV for the DVDs. Patsy McCowan...thank you for photographically documenting this affair, we'll be looking forward to seeing your pictures on the website.

Thanks to the hanging crew, (in no particular order) Cyndi Lavin, Mary Dunn, Joan DeSantis, Susan Matusen, Alicia Drakiotes, C.M. Judge, Joanne Boudreau, Helene and Ron Belliveau, Loretta Hubley, Mariana Furtney Fyfe, and her friends "the Jans" (without whom the annual FATV hanging would not be complete).

To all exhibiting artists and members who donated food and drink for the table....mmmmm, so good! Thanks to Jan Queijo for the loan of the table cloth and to Joan DeSantis for the table runner. Thanks Patsy Belt and Elsa Voelcker for the set-up and Patsy and C.M.Judge for clean-up.

And of course, a huge thank you to the great FATV staff and crew of "Inside Fitchburg", especially the crew who put us live on TV: Dave Svens, Joanne Huse, Darin Dame, Bob McDermott, Kathy Richard, Steve Marceau, Ken Jones, and Yvette Tolson.

Heavenly Bodies can be seen through January 4, 2010 at FATV, 175 Kimball St., Fitchburg during their normal business hours. For further information go to www.fatv.org

You all are fabulous! My sincere thanks,

Louise

CMWCA annual meeting....cont'd

During the tour we were delighted to have the opportunity of meeting and speaking with its founder, Gordon Lankton, who entertained us with his anecdotes of his icon purchases in Russia. This gracious and remarkable man is "giving back" to his community, Clinton, which has been so good to him. We are all thankful for his generosity as this museum of more than 300 Russian Icons will continue to be a marvelous resource. Not having enough time to fully absorb all that was on display, we each will return.

CMWCA thanks the museum and its staff for allowing us to use their facility and enjoy this collection, the largest of its kind in North America. For more info go to: www.themuseumofrussianicons.org



Artist Trading Card News

Upcoming trade themes and deadlines



CMWCA trades

Feb. 6, *Secret Desire*

Apr. 1, *April Fools*

WCA-NH trades:

Jan. 1, *Things That Are Funny*

Mar. 1, *Causes* (Going Green, PETA, Equality, your favorite, etc.)

To participate... make six 2.5" x 3.5" cards in any medium or mixed media. This is a great place to experiment or use altered and recycled materials. The six cards may be all different, all the same, or a combination. If identical, please number as you would an edition, i.e., 1/6, 2/6, etc. Sign, date, and write the theme on the reverse side.

Also if you choose, you may write "for trade only" or "not for sale" since these cards are only for trading, never for sale! You may add additional information such as your contact info. After "shuffling" your cards with the other participants' cards, you will receive five by return mail. One each of your cards will have been reserved for that chapter's ATC archives.

Send the six finished cards with a SASE (include sufficient postage for thicker envelopes) by the deadline date to:

for CMWCA:

L. Parmenter Hammerman
90 Turnpike Rd.
Westminster, MA 01473-1205

for WCA-NH:

Pat Davis
514 Buck St.
Pembroke, NH 03275-3054

If you have any questions please feel free to contact : parmen-hammer@comcast.net.



And the Newsletter...

will not appear again until Spring. Travel plans will take the editor to exotic places in warmer climes.

Next deadline: March 15, 2010



Time to renew!!!

(Memberships cannot be prorated)

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW RENEWAL Change of name/address or other information

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Professional Area: Artist CAA Member

Art Educator

Art Admin. Other _____

**CENTRAL MASS CHAPTER plus NATIONAL DUES
ARE \$55.00**

(You must pay WCA National Dues in order to belong to the Central Mass chapter)

Additional Chapter Memberships Available with CMWCA Membership

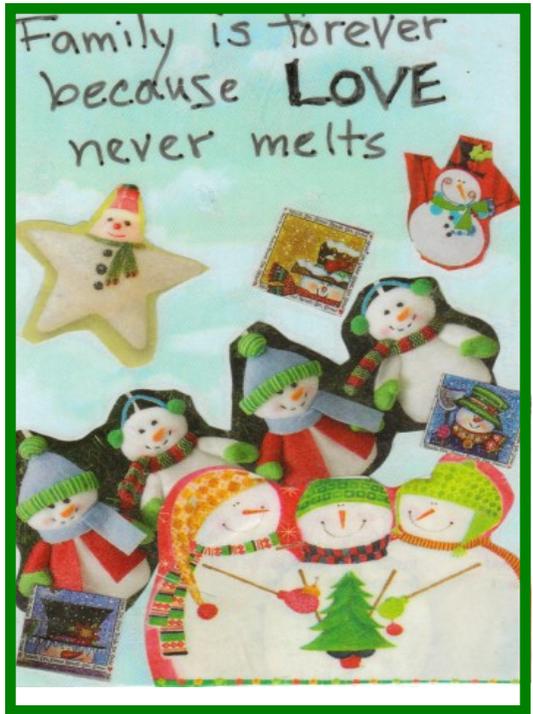
NH \$15.00 _____

Boston \$20.00 _____

National \$40.00 _____

Mail completed form along with your check for \$55.00 to:

Catherine Rogers,
Membership Director
88A Townsend Rd.,
Shirley, MA 01473



Artist Trading Card by
Kathy Freeburn



Artist Trading Card by
Susan Lirakis