



## Maryland Pastel Society Fall Newsletter

October 2017

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### MPS Board & Volunteers

**President:** Mary Boeh

**Vice President:** Kim  
Stone

**Treasurer:** Mary Anne  
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**Recording Secretary:** Lyn  
Laviana

**Corresponding  
Secretary:** Joyce Turk

#### Membership

**Chair:** Kathleen Risk

**Workshop Chair:** Joyce  
Lister

**Exhibition Chair:** Susan  
Gleason

**Web:** Kathleen Risk

### Planning Calendar

**Nov 4:** Fall Meeting at Gary  
J. Arthur Community Center  
at Glenwood

**Nov 12:** SOP Gallery Tour,  
Paint Out Sunday afternoon  
at Glenview Mansion

**Nov 17:** SOP National Show  
Closes, Glenview Mansion,  
Rockville, MD

### From the President's Easel

It's been a busy but very exciting fall! So much has been happening. First, due to circumstances beyond our control, our Fall meeting was delayed a week and will be **Saturday, November 4th**. Former MPS president, Chris Powell, is our guest artist and will demonstrate how to revise a painting that didn't quite work right. She will show us some terrific techniques that can be used to evaluate the painting and test options for revisions.

Did you make it to the *Shades of Pastel 2017* Exhibition? It is an incredible show, and if you still have until November 17th to see it. I hope you can join us on Sunday afternoon, November 12th, at Glenview Mansion for gallery tours and, weather permitting, a paint out on the front lawn of Glenview Mansion. Bring your plein air kit and paint the beautiful property from 1:30 - 3:30. This activity coincides with a craft jewelry show, so you will have the opportunity to mingle with other artists and artisans and share your love of pastel painting with them.

Looking forward, your board is busy organizing activities for 2018 and 2019. There will be a Members Only Show in the spring and more workshops coming. We should have more details at the next general meeting.

There are also many exciting opportunities for you to get involved and stretch yourself as an artist. Maryland Pastel Society can help you learn new skills that will help you, whether you are an emerging artist or a seasoned artist. You can learn about how to exhibit your artwork - how to hang a show, how to collaborate with other artists and gallery managers, what it takes to organize a workshop or a paint-out, and many more ways that you can get involved! Just contact us!

I am looking forward to seeing you on November 4th! Don't forget to bring some goodies for the refreshments table!

Happy Painting,  
Mary

**Dec 9:** Board Meeting at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood  
**Jan 21, 2018:** Winter Meeting at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood

### Directions to Glenwood

[Directions to our meetings at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood](#)

## Next Meeting

As noted above, our Fall General Meeting is Saturday, November 4th, from noon to 4 pm at the Gary J Arthur Community Center in Glenwood, Maryland.

Chris Powell will demonstrate how to review and instill fresh life into a pastel painting that isn't working. She will share strategies to evaluate your painting and techniques you can use to help you explore options to modify the original painting.

Chris is a graduate of the Schuler School of Fine Art. She has been an art instructor for thirty-nine years and is a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America. She has been an active member of the Maryland Pastel Society, having served as President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Juror for Signature Member status. American Women Artists awarded her the honor of being an Associate of Distinction. To learn more about Chris, visit her web page, [www.powellfineart.com](http://www.powellfineart.com).

As usual, don't forget to bring:

- lunch for yourself.
- food to share so you can put your name in the box and perhaps win a prize.
- samples of your recent work.

See you on Saturday, November 4th at Glenwood! ([Click here for directions to the Gary J. Arthur Community Center](#))

## Shades of Pastel 2017

### SOP 2017 Biennial National Show Opens

The Shades of Pastel 2017 Exhibition opened on October 15th at the Glenview Mansion in Rockville, Maryland. This is a fantastic exhibition and includes some of the top pastel artists from across the country. The competition was stiff. Over 230 paintings were entered by artists from 19 states and DC. Our juror, Desmond O'Hagan had the incredibly challenging job of selecting only 75 pieces for the exhibition. He was very impressed by the quality of work entered, and noted that the Glenview Mansion gallery space was beautiful.



**Best in Show:** *Rocky #2* by Z.L. Feng



**First Place:** *Florida's Forgotten Post* by Nancie King Mertz



**Second Place:** *Madison Late Afternoon*  
by Jeri Greenburg



**Third Place:** *Hunting Island Late Day*  
by Eve Miller



**Judy Pardue Memorial Award for Best Landscape:** *Red Emerging No. 2*  
by Jean Hirons



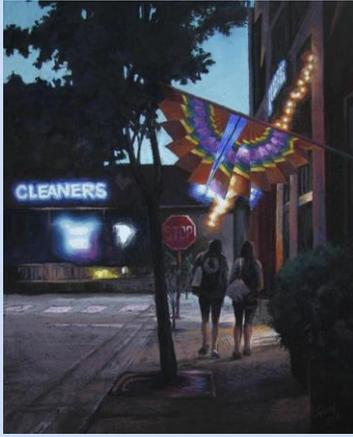
**Polly Mitchell Memorial Award for Best Portrait:** *Self Portrait (In the Man Cave)*  
by Frank Kaifer



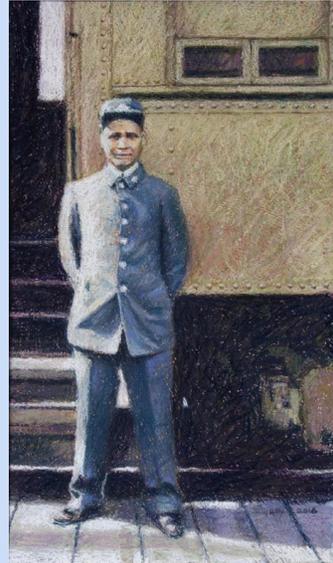
**Betty Knight Memorial Award for Best Still Life:**  
*Wedding Saree* by Bhavana Vijay



**Merit Award:**  
*Mandella* by William Schneider



**Merit Award:**  
*Fan Fare Stroll* by Christine Ivers



**Merit Award:** *Proud Porter*  
by Elroy Williams



**Merit Award:**  
*Upon Further Reflection* by  
Mike Barret Kolasinski



**Merit Award:**  
*Pond Reflections* by JoEllen Murphy



**Maryland Pastel Society Board of  
Directors Award:**  
*Morning at the Lodge* by Laura Pollak



**Pastel Society of America Award:**  
*Sweet Slumber* by Joyce Lister

The Glenview Mansion is open to the public on weekdays, but you can also visit the show on Sunday, November 12th. We hope you will join us! The show runs through November 17, 2017.

The [Glenview Mansion](#) is an elegant 1926 home included on the National Register of Historic Places. Located in the 153-acre Rockville Civic Center Park, it is a lovely location for our exhibition.



**Connecticut Pastel Society  
Award: *West Jefferson* by  
Michael McGurk**

### Opening Day Demo and Reception



SOP juror Desmond O'Hagan demonstration at the Glenview Mansion on opening day.



### Thank You SOP Business Sponsors!

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors who donated merchandise, services, and money to the SOP exhibition. If you are not familiar with their products, please visit their web sites to learn more.



[Web site.](#)



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We'd also like to thank La Maison du Pastel for customizing sets of Henri Roche pastel sets for us to purchase for our Best Portrait, Landscape, and Still Life awards.

## Thank you MPS Member Sponsors!

This year, we have many members to thank for supporting the exhibition and publication of a color-filled exhibition program. Thank you all for your support!

### Member Award Sponsors

Barbara Hails, MPS Signature Member.

Robert Slaterback, MPS Artist Member.

A special thank you to Barbara and Bob for their generous contributions to SOP2017.

### Member Sponsors

Mary Boeh

Maureen Herbert

Kathleen Risk

Dawn Capron

Jean Hirons

Bob Russin

Carol Tours

Thomas Mammen

Kimberly Stone

Andi Curran

Michael McGurk

Mary Anne Warner

Joyce Lister

Daniel Peck

Helen Wood

We also thank Elroy Williams and Kim Stone for the design of the SOP2017 post card and exhibition program! Be sure to pick one of each at our November 4th meeting!

## Featured Artist: Denise Vitollo



*Exploring* by Denise Vitollo

"I am all about water," says Denise Vitollo, "and I can feel just at home under it as I can on land. The happiest moments of my childhood happened at our family cottage on the Susquehanna River in Northeastern Pennsylvania where I spent my summers exploring streams, catching crayfish, swimming, fishing, and rowing boats."

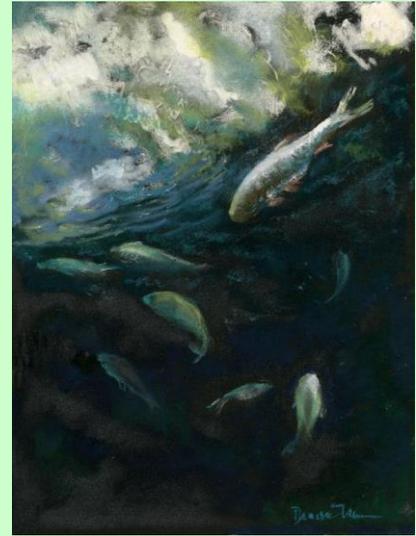
Denise Vitollo's most recent pastel works explore underwater worlds of fresh and salt water, and the peaceful, meditative, and graceful movements of creatures that are found there. An avid snorkeler, boater, paddle boarder, and rower, she is obsessed with water and the active world beneath its surface. Her recent travels to Bonaire, Bermuda, California, Italy, France, and the Caribbean greatly inspired her work and have assisted her in realizing her goal of conveying the intense pulsations and energy she feels in her world. She has great concern about the health and preservation of our oceans, the coral reefs, the Chesapeake Bay, and their inhabitants. Denise has a summer retreat in Rock Hall, MD where she can paint, sail, boat, and bird watch.

Denise is a juried Associate Member of the Pastel Society of America, a Signature Member of both The Maryland Pastel Society and The Degas Pastel Society, and a member of the Connecticut Pastel Society and the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod. In the past year, she has been accepted to national and international juried shows at the Pastel Society of America (45<sup>th</sup> *Enduring Brilliance* Exhibition), The Maryland Pastel Society's *Shades of Pastel* biennial national show, Degas Pastel Society in New Orleans Members Show, The Connecticut Pastel Society's Members Show and *Renaissance in Pastel*, The Pastel

Society of North Carolina's *Pure Color* Online Exhibition, and the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod national juried exhibit *For Pastels Only* and their *Online Members Show*. A participant in hundreds of group exhibits, she has had eighteen one-woman shows.



The Dream by Denise Vitollo



Hidden by Denise Vitollo

The *Pastel Journal* has notified Denise that her painting *Hidden* has been awarded Fifth Place in the Pastel 100 Competition's Animal and Wildlife Category. The April 2018 issue will feature an image of the painting with a short article about her. *Hidden* was also chosen as the Jurors' Fav 15% in the October 2016 Bold Brush Competition, and it can be seen in The Degas Pastel Society's current Members Show.

In Chester County, PA, Denise participates in the annual Studio Tour as a host studio. She also is an artist with the Historic Yellow Springs Art Show and Plein Air Brandywine Valley, and she paints with a plein air group in Stone Harbor, NJ. She is a member of the Chester County Art Association and Wayne Art Center. Recently, she completed a residency at Vermont Studio Center, where she has a studio in the Wolf Kahn building.

Ms. Vitollo's professional degrees include a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Printmaking, a Master of Art Education Degree, and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Illustration. Always eager to learn and discover, Denise has taken workshops with outstanding pastel painters. She has taught all ages of students, including the university graduate school level. Presently, she teaches at Padua Academy in Wilmington, DE.

Denise Vitollo's work can be seen at [www.denisevitollo.com](http://www.denisevitollo.com).



Toward the Light by Denise Vitollo



Exploring by Denise Vitollo



The Reef by Denise Vitollo

Signature Members may sign up to be a Featured Artist by sending an email to [mdpastels@gmail.com](mailto:mdpastels@gmail.com). You will need to provide a write-up and images upon acceptance.

Also, Signature members, if you would like to update your images on the MPS web page gallery, please contact Joyce Lister by email [listerstudio@comcast.net](mailto:listerstudio@comcast.net).

## Member News

In addition to her award-winning painting in "Shades of Pastel 2017", **Eve Miller's** works have been juried into the following venues:

- Pastel Society of the West Coast "Pastels USA 2017" Chart Pak Award for *Salt Marsh*
- Pastel Society of Connecticut 24th Annual "Renaissance in Pastel"
- Pastel Society of North Carolina "Pure Color"
- Pastel Society of South Carolina-Second Place for *Local Color*



*Local Color* by Eve Miller

**Jean Hirons'** painting *Blue Green Alley* was accepted to the Pastel Society of America's Enduring Brilliance show in NYC. She also has two paintings in the curated "Wet" show at Strathmore Mansion in N. Bethesda. Jean will be teaching fall classes at Artists and Makers in Rockville from Oct. through mid-December. For more information, contact her at: [jeanhirons48@gmail.com](mailto:jeanhirons48@gmail.com)



*Blue Green Alley* by Jean Hirons

**JoEllen Murphy** will have a joint exhibit with artist Mary Pritchard at [McGuire Fine Arts Gallery](#) in downtown Frederick, MD in October. JoEllen will have more than 15 landscape paintings on display. The show runs until October 30th. In November, she will have two paintings at [The Athenaeum](#) in Alexandria, VA in a group show with the Washington Society of Landscape Painters. The show is entitled "The Artist's Process" with many of the works being painted en plein air. The opening reception is Sunday, November 5th at 4pm.

Lastly, she was honored to have two paintings accepted into this year's Shades of Pastel exhibit at the Glenview Mansion in Rockville, MD.



*Morning Light* by JoEllen Murphy

"High Intensity Color" is a collection of 25 new paintings in Oil and Pastel by **Carol Iglesias**. View the influences that this past year has had on her work. The show continues through October 31 at the [Backdoor Gallery](#), 819 Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

Gayle Kassals was recently featured in the news with students who designed a mural. Check it out the articles!

- [Students Raise Environmental Awareness With Collaborative Mural](#)
- [Around Broadneck: Cape St. Claire Elementary unveils new mural](#)

## Membership Update

Maryland Pastel Society currently has 224 members. We are happy to welcome four new members this quarter:

Elaine Demars  
Arlene Crafton  
Kathryn Tillman  
Constance Garrett

We are also delighted to congratulate a new Signature member who submitted her work to our jury committee:  
Denise Vitollo

Also, congratulations to four new Signature members that have had their work accepted into three MPS juried shows:

Barbara Berry  
Joanne Lamm  
Jo Ann Marion  
Joanne Turner

## Past Events - Summer Meeting

### Summer Meeting: 100-Stroke Exercise

Photos by Cathy Nickle



Mary Boeh's 100-Stroke Demo

At our summer meeting members had fun attempting to do a pastel painting with no more than 100 strokes. This is a great exercise to practice stroke technique. It is also a good practice for doing focused quick studies. Mary did a demo, then attendees pulled out their reference photos and gave it a try. After completing the exercise, most decided to continue working on their paintings.

Below is a sample of paintings done at the summer meetings.



## Richard McKinley Workshop at Bombay Hook, DE

By Mary Boeh



The bird-watchers at Bombay Hook Park were surprised to find a large group of artists out in the wetlands the first week of October. But, soon their surprise turned to wonder as they enjoyed watching MPS artists at work at their easels. Up at dawn, we ate a hearty breakfast and headed out to paint. The weather was perfect. Some left early to catch the sunrise and early amber gold light. The four-day workshop was intense, but fulfilling. We often didn't get back from painting until dinner time, tired, but energized.

Richard proved to be a generous instructor. He did a demo each day, and then walked miles to spend time with each student. On most days, we gathered at the end of the day for critiques, questions, and discussions about pastels and painting. We were rather awestruck that the newest President of the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS) still had time to teach workshops and pass on his wealth of knowledge.

Many of the techniques Richard revealed during the workshop can be found in his book, [Pastel Pointers - top 100 secrets for a beautiful pastel painting](#). Even more advice can be found on [The Pastel Painter's Blog, featuring years of Richard's articles](#).

Below are some images from the MPS workshop. Visit [Richard's web page](#) to see more of his artwork.



Dry underpainting demo.



Note the thumbnails: the line drawing, a 4-level value study and a notan.



Wet underpainting using pastels - blocking in the colors.



Using isopropyl alcohol to set the underpainting.



Watercolor underpainting demo.



Finished painting,



## Past Events - Desmond O'Hagan Workshop

### Desmond O'Hagan Workshop in Rockville, MD

By Mary Boeh



Our workshop chair, Joyce Lister, was extremely busy this fall. How often do we have two workshops in one month? Well, Joyce did a terrific job and organized a second October workshop with our SOP2017 judge and juror, Desmond O'Hagan. Desmond's workshop

was held at [Artist & Makers Studio 2](#) in Rockville, Maryland and focused on urban scenes.

Desmond is a master at city scenes. While he works on multiple surfaces, he often uses Canson Mi Tlenes pastel paper. He uses the smooth side of the paper. After Desmond chooses his composition, he blocks it out on the paper with lines. There are two basic rules he follows for composition: "don't put the focal point in the center, and don't cut the paper in half."

As he works, he explains that there are "three contrasts" that he works in. They are:

Color - Intense versus muted

Value - light versus dark, and

Temperature - warm versus cool.

After Desmond is satisfied with his composition, he begins to lay in the darks, often starting with a harder black pastel. Then he overlays cool darks followed by warm darks. The variance in temperature adds interest and depth.



Blocking in the darks.



Adding mid-tones. Desmond notes that paintings should have rhythm and movement: "Painting is a lot like music. You have your slow spots [and fast spots]."



Mid-tones to lights...Note the marks to the left where Desmond tests colors before applying them to the painting.



Almost finished.

"Work in shapes and masses," he emphasizes. He reminds us to save the details for last. As he works, he continues to think about the contrasts. Once Desmond establishes the darkest darks, he adds the mid-tones. Regarding value, he emphasizes the importance of value, "to me, that's 65 percent of the painting."

To help students appreciate the importance of value, for one painting, Desmond had each person do a 3-value study, then use that study as a guide - a map - for developing the painting.

Desmond always has a sample of the paper he's using on hand to test the colors he uses before applying them to the painting. He also has a paper towel ready to keep his pastels clean so he can easily see the color he chooses. These simple pointers help one to avoid color choice mistakes, and will help you avoid muddy spots in your paintings.

It was only a 2-day workshop, but it was jam-packed with great information. For one student in the workshop, it was her first ever experience with soft pastels. What a perfect introduction to this medium we all love! Desmond was an excellent instructor for artists at all levels of experience.

Be sure to visit [Desmond's web page](#) to see more paintings and learn more about Desmond.



### **Get Involved!**

Are you interested in serving on the board? Please contact a board member if you are interested in volunteering.

### **Parting Thought:**

"Let the underpainting be a dream, and build the reality on top of it."

-- Richard McKinley

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