

Our History

The West Hartford Art League is an independent 501 (c) 3 non-profit arts organization that was started by two women in 1934. We are governed by volunteers who sit on our Board of Directors.

We offer four sessions of art classes throughout the year, monthly exhibitions in our two galleries, and produce events and public art projects that take art out of our galleries and bring it into the community.

Based in three buildings in the Buena Vista neighborhood, our campus consists of The Saltbox Gallery, circa 1753, which is on the National Historic Register, The Schoolhouse; the only remaining one room schoolhouse in West Hartford, which is on the State Historic Register, and the Clubhouse, originally used by the Buena Vista Golf Course and renovated by our organization in the seventies to contain a classroom and gallery space.



We owe our creation and the vision to form an arts organization to Rebecca Field Jones, a sculptor and painter, and Gertrude Hough Patterson, a portrait painter and art teacher. Originally started as a volunteer based organization in the Schoolhouse on Mountain Road in 1934, the Art League hired its first Executive Director in 1997. We now employ a staff that includes a Registrar, Gallery assistant and Book-keeper. We are supported by the work of many volunteers who help hang our exhibits, staff our fundraising events, and help keep our galleries open.

We are pleased to be celebrating our 90th anniversary in 2024.



Community

We had a good year!

I'm happy to report that class registrations are up, thanks to our amazing array of instructors and our wonderful membership that continues to grow and support our organization. We added 29 new artist members to our organization last year as well as new classes in printmaking, mosaics, and stained glass..

We were pleased to be one of five non-profits in CT awarded a "**Community First**" award from **Westfarms**, for our community programs and outreach, which we consider an important part of our mission.

We couldn't accomplish all we do without the help of our many members, volunteers, and instructors and we'd like to acknowledge three who have helped make us who we are due to their long term involvement with our organization.

Sandy Chase: Sandy has served on many committees during her long tenure on our Board, from Board Secretary to Nominating Chair, and being part of our Fundraising committee. Her significant donations, made with her husband Arnold, have made a difference in every part of our organization including scholarship funds, maintenance of our buildings and sidewalks, sponsoring annual fundraisers and our Fine Art Festival. A long time member and prolific artist, you can also see Sandys' work regularly in our juried exhibits.

Neal Freuden: A long time member, supporter, student and Board Member, Neal has taken on many roles in our organization over the last decade and more. Board President, Chair of the Buildings committee, Treasurer, and Chair of the Finance committee. Known for his "never give up" style, Neal 's tenacity has kept us going on projects that many others would have given up on. We are pleased to report that we now have lighting in the Schoolhouse parking lot, thanks to his prolonged efforts.

Beth Reynolds: Beth has single handedly run the children's pottery program at the Art League since its inception and grown it into the success it is today. Known for *always* going the extra mile, we have been very fortunate to have an instructor who cares about her classes and students as much as Beth does. She does this quietly, without seeking any accolades. Her goals is always is make the program the best it can be and we are very thankful for all her efforts.



2023 - 2024 In our Galleries



Zbigniew Grzyb



Artist and Art League instructor Zbigniew Grzyb had an exhibit of work in our Saltbox Gallery of landscapes



A Regional Exhibit

April 11 - May 19, 2024
Saltbox and Clubhouse Galleries

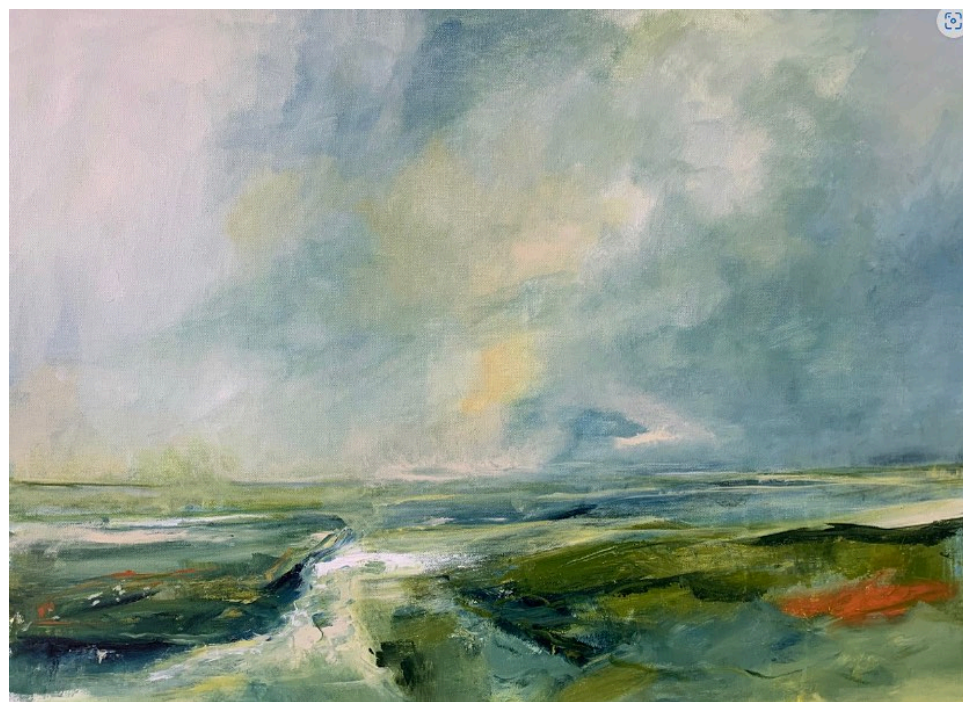
Jurors:
Eric Aho, artist &
Brian Galloway, Owner/Director of the William Scott Gallery,
Provincetown, MA

This years CT+6 exhibit was our most successful in terms of entries in our 16 years of existence. The 2024 CT+6 Best of Show awarded was given to Karen Israel, left. This years exhibit was juried by artist Eric Aho and Gallery owner / Director Brian Galloway

New Members, Land, Sea and Sky, Celebrating Diversity & Small Works

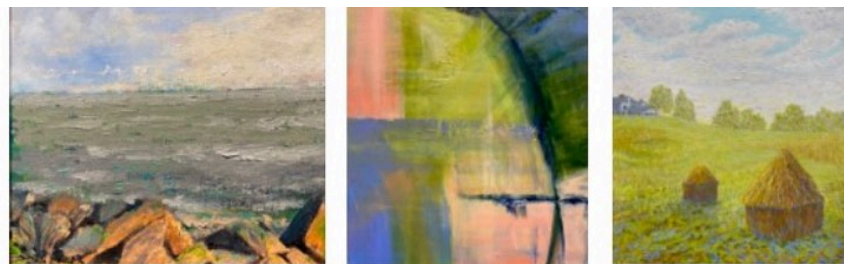


New Members Show in October featured work by 29 new artist members, some of whom are shown above.

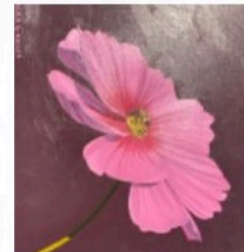
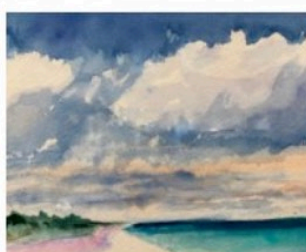


Land Sea and Sky : juried by Paul Batch. Best of show awarded to Sandra Daignault., for her piece titled "Flooded Plain"

Artist Cynthia Cooper, above, was awarded Best in Show in our 2023 Members Juried Exhibit juried by artist Peter Seltzer, , and artist Suzanne Kirshner, at top right, was awarded Best of Show by juror EdJohnetta Miller, in our 2nd Annual "Celebrating Diversity" exhibit.



SMALL WORKS



Affordably priced for the holiday gifting!

SALTBOX GALLERY
through Dec. 17th!

Gallery hours: 1-4 pm
Thursday - Sunday

Classes, summer camp, & workshops



We were pleased to get our printmaking making program off the ground with a series of classes in 2023 and 2024 in partnership with the Hartford Press Group. We were able to use our *Charles Brand* Press, that was donated to us by artist Melissa Meredith.

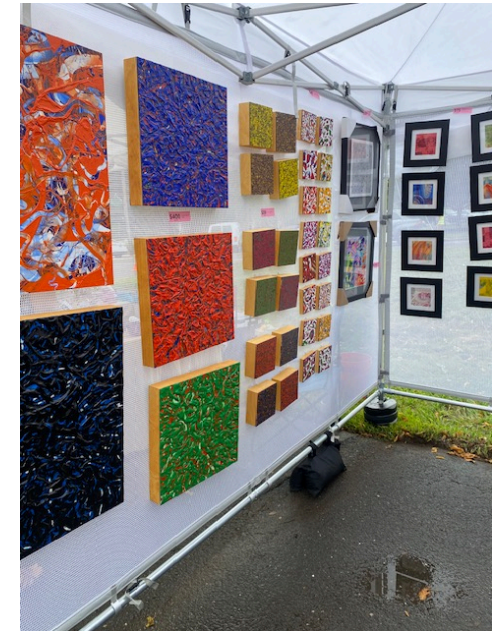
We offered new workshops this year with artist Jenny Grant, far left, an artist who traveled from Sweden. to visit us in the fall for a very successful two day collage workshop, and David Lussier, of Maine who held a two day chromatic color workshop.

Our Summer Art Camp is celebrating its 22nd year and continues to teach art to over 200 kids each summer.

3rd annual Fine Art Festival 2023

This years festival will take place outside on our grounds Saturday, Sept. 28th & Sunday Sept. 29th

Here's some photos from from our 2023 Festival.



FINE
ARTS
FEST-
IVAL!



Our Mission:

“To educate, inspire and make art education accessible for all through classes, exhibits, & community outreach.”

Instructors:

Brandon Brownlee
Brian Colbath
Sam Fieri
Carol Ganick
Elana Gibson
Zbigniew Grzyb
Karen Israel
Deanna Johnson
Kelly Kelly
Rebecca Looney
Melissa Meredith
Mo Myra
Heather Neilson
Joe Nicorici
Bob Noreika
Beth Reynolds
Mary Bramble Scott
Shauna Shane
William Simpson
Amanda Surveski
Anthony Zito
Dianne Zweig

Staff:

Executive Director: Roxanne Stachelek
Registrar: Christine Diaz Ocasio
Gallery Assistant: Tina Boyson
Bookkeeper: Stephanie Kudler

Board of Directors:

Board President: Rob Loebell
Vice-President: Barbara Lerner
Treasurer: Neal Freuden
Secretary: William Prenskey

Board:Members

Sandra Chase
Cynthia Cooper
Alexandra Whatton

