

Saco Bay Artists

September 2023 Newsletter



PLEASE NOTE, OUR NEXT MEETING IS AT 10:30 AM OCTOBER 16 GIVEN THE HOLIDAY ON THE 2ND MONDAY. Our meetings are usually held monthly from March-December on the second Monday of the month from 10:30 am -12:30 pm. The meeting location is the Saco Parks & Rec Center at 75 Franklin Street in Saco. ALL ARE WELCOME. Masks are currently optional, so do whatever makes you comfortable.

With the exception of Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day, we normally host a "drop in" at the Rec Center on the non-meeting Mondays from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm for those who would like to get together to paint, create, chat, etc. Please let Ellen (pastelpainter84@gmail.com) know if you might like to join on those Mondays; she has been trying to email around on Sundays to see who plans to attend, which helps us in planning.

September Meeting Minutes:

- Ellen called the meeting to order and reviewed the treasurer's report.
- On the membership front, Heather noted that there were no new additions since the last report.
- Kathy gave an update on the success of the September show in Ocean Park, which was very well attended. The show was sold out and the three shows generated nearly \$7000 in income with only \$3000 in expenses. Kathryn Terwilliger-Smith was the judge and the winners were as follows (with comments):
 - **Best in Show - Chad Creighton, overall collection of works**
The collection is joyful! I like the unique mix of warm wood and stained tones of the palettes with the graphic black and white nature of the animals on top.
 - **First, Fine Art - Margaret Ford, Overall works**
Beautifully constructed pieces with a graphic nature I am drawn to. The specs of vibrant colors popping thru and solid lights and darks make for a strong body of work.
 - **Second, Fine Art - Kathy Angel Lee for Embrace the Joy**
Gorgeous still life with great contrast. Almost impressionistic. Reads well from a distance and is full of surprises upon close inspection.
 - **Honorable Mention, Fine Art - Fred Mafigiri for The Arrival**
I enjoy seeing the mix of realism and abstraction. The colors are joyful!
 - **First Prize, Fine Craft - Heather Fountain for Amethyst Woven Bowl**
This piece is created with a unique technique I haven't seen before. It glows in the light and draws me in to explore its texture.
 - **Second Prize, Fine Craft - Anne Alexander for Lobster Claws**
Beautifully sculpted pieces with fascinating glaze results.
 - **Honorable Mention - Mark Wheeler for overall display of items**
The works draw you in with the texture and shape. Pieces are very touchable, beautiful and functional.

- **Bill Edmunds Award - Joe Rokowski for The Guardian**
I like the mirroring in this photograph. The variation of textures draws the eye around the image and the title seems fitting and gives a sense of comfort.
- Kathy offered a number of suggestions and recommendations for shows in 2024 and beyond:
 - SBA member tent should be done at both the Aug & Sept shows (July show tends to be a little crazy)
 - Heather and Nancy will be working on an SBA banner that can be used for that tent and other events
 - The Elizabeth Horton Shore award for oil pastels was not given this year because there were no oil pastel entrants; the suggestion is to broaden this category to include either oil pastel and oils or all pastels (oil & soft). Kathy is going to contact Sylvia and Robert Dunn who were originally involved in the oil pastel group to get their input.
 - Another recommendation is to postpone raising of show fees until at least 2025. Currently they are \$35 for SBA members attending 3 meetings per year, \$65 for other members, and \$100 for non members. Following a member vote, the proposed increase to \$35/\$75/\$110 will be put on hold for at least another year.
 - The proposed increase to the judge fee from \$125 to \$150 will also be postponed for another year.
 - A further recommendation, which was approved by a vote, was to require at least 2-3 artists showing in a category for an award to be presented. This will address the issue we have been experiencing with the photography award where recently there has only been one exhibitor.
 - It was further agreed that show coordinators should be SBA members and that their show fees should be waived.
- Kathy also discussed the transition to a new show coordinator as she has previously expressed her interest in stepping down. She has been serving in this role successfully and tirelessly for many years and has graciously offered to stay on in 2024 to mentor a newly appointed coordinator in the role.
 - She has a month by month “to-do” list from Jan-Sept and has good records back through the years.
 - Most of the work before show day is done on her computer via email, corresponding with and tracking registrants. She estimates that even in the thick of show season, she probably doesn’t spend more than 5 hours/month (except the day of the show).
 - We do need a member to volunteer to be show coordinator and the coordinator needs to be present for every show. It was suggested that perhaps there could be co-coordinators for the shows, which might help reduce the show-day burden, particularly if a coordinator might not be able to attend on one of the show dates. Kathy is going to be following up with a couple of prospects but any members willing to help should contact her at kathyangellee@gmail.com.
- We also need to find successors for two other important SBA roles, which will all be voted on at year end:
 - Ellen has served as an effective and dedicated Chairman for a number of years and had indicated that she would like to transition out of the role. Heather has volunteered to become the next SBA Chair and the two will co-chair together in 2024 to ensure a smooth transition.
 - A new person will be needed to take over for Heather as Membership Chair and she’s heard from two people that might be interested in helping. Heather said that responsibilities include keeping an updated spreadsheet of members, sending out information to prospective and new members, and tracking dues payments. She estimates she spends a couple of hours per month.
 - Importantly, we really need to identify a new treasurer— the group can’t legally operate without one. Saco & Biddeford Savings is the bank, with branches throughout the area for deposits. Cathy Turpin said she may consider it once she has her new laptop.
- Ellen and others helped organize and hang the SBA member show now being exhibited at the Libby Library in Saco through the end of September. The show can be viewed during library hours. 21 artists participated with 2-3 works each. Pick up will occur Tuesday, October 3 between 6-7 pm. There was

discussion about incorporating an artists' opening reception another year, which has been done at the Dyer and Kennebunk libraries.

Carry over from prior meetings:

- SBA will have a tent with information at the OOB Fall Fest on Saturday, September 30, from 10 am – 2 pm at Veterans Memorial Park. The aim of the event is to promote local crafts and businesses to the residents of OOB.
- Monthly portrait sketching is being offered at Libby Library and is taking place indoors. Participants can sketch or paint and the library pays to have a live model for each session (models needed!). The dates are the second Thursday of the month from 1:30-4:30. SBA member Al Pelletier will be the model for the Sept 14 session and the final session of the season will take place Oct 12. Sylvia (sgorch6648@gmail.com) can add people to the call list each month if they'd like a reminder.
- For new or current members who have an online presence for their art—either a dedicated website, Instagram feed or Facebook page—you have the option to have the SBA website link to that page (see the Artists tab at the top here: <https://www.sacobayartists.org/>). If you'd like to have your page added, please let Christine (art@christinelabaree.com) know and she will put you in touch with Stephen who maintains our website.

September Demo

Dwayne Turpin, woodcarver, spoke at the September meeting. He brought tools and carvings to show and demonstrated carving techniques. Dwayne started carving when he received his first knife in Boy Scouts but didn't get serious about it until he graduated from college. His early tools were a knife and sandpaper and he started relief carvings when he was on cruises in the U.S. Navy. In California he joined a woodcarver's group and there discovered the different blades available for carving. He has done numerous hiking sticks and recently started wood blocks for printing. Photos are included below.





Upcoming Demos

During the October meeting, Pamela Browne will be doing a presentation on methods used with encaustic, where pigmented wax is painted on a panel and fused or burned in with a heat source. She is a member of Maine Women in the Arts. In November, SBA member Nancy Kenney will be doing a demo on batik, an Indonesian technique of wax-resist dyeing applied to the whole cloth.

We are seeking volunteers to host demos during our monthly SBA meetings throughout the year...and you get paid for it too! You are encouraged to show us how you make your art, but if you prefer not to “perform,” a demo related to your art/technique, tips of the trade, history/influencers, etc. would be just as valuable. Feel free to get creative!

DUES REMINDER

If you haven't yet paid, 2023 dues are \$45. Please bring your check made out to Saco Bay Artists to the next meeting or mail it to Heather Fountain at 2 Pavia Ave, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064.

A note for SBA members who participate in the summer shows, if you attend 3 business/program meetings during the year, your show fee will be \$35 instead of \$55/show. This is a nice benefit for attending meetings. Plus you get to meet other artists and enjoy excellent demonstrations.

SBA Chairs/Committees

Chair

Ellen Pelletier – Prepare agendas, run meetings, schedule demos

Committee chairs

*OPEN – Facility, Finance

*Lettie Lemay – Treasurer

Christine Labaree – Meeting Scribe & Newsletter Editor

*Kathy Angel Lee – Summer Show Coordinator

*Heather Fountain - Membership Coordinator

Sylvia Orchard - Events

Stephen Beckett – Webmaster

Kailleigh Archibald – Facebook Coordinator

** Seeking successors – for more information, see meeting notes above or contact Ellen/Kathy.*