What's Happening at the Ontario County Arts Council?
Spring 2023

Mission Statement: "Ontario County Arts Council will promote and strengthen the creative capacity of our community by providing diverse opportunities for arts participation, understanding, and appreciation."

Joyce Kowba, OCAC Board President

Spring has sprung these last few days and I am looking forward to all our upcoming Spring and Summer events. As I type this, two of our fabulous Meet the Media sessions have already passed: Howard Van Buren's **Drawing** class and Neal Allen's **Pastel** class. The turnout has been fantastic and there have been so many positive comments on each workshop. A **HUGE Thank-You** to our instructors, Howard, Neal, Judi Cermak (**Watercolo**r) and Peggi Heissenberger (**Acrylics**) for volunteering their time and talents to these workshops. I am so grateful to them for their efforts on behalf of the Arts Council.

Mary Padgett, an internationally known Pastel Artist will be our next big workshop presenter in June. Spread the word as this is a fantastic opportunity to learn from the best!

Another opportunity for members is on May 28 as the Ontario County Historical Society hosts an Antique Car show at Star Cider. OCAC members can use this opportunity to paint, draw, sketch or photograph the cars.

Please stop by at the OCHS if you haven't seen our ***For the Birds*** exhibit. On April 29 there will be an opening for a carved bird display by Carol Henshaw's father, Ross Brown in the Gift Shop area at the Historical Society. His work is truly remarkable and it is well worth a visit. Our Bird House silent auction will end that day also.

Finally, I hope to see many of you at our Spring Membership get-together on May 12 (4-7) at Brewery Ardennes in Geneva. It is a gorgeous venue with great food, drinks and beer!

Happy Spring!

PS Just a reminder that the OCAC "snail mail" address is now :
55 N. Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Be sure to stop by the Ontario County Historical Society, 55 N. Main St. Canandaigua, and enjoy the latest OCAC art exhibit in the North gallery!

Paintings, ceramic, carvings, fiber art, tinsmithing, up-cycled china creations!

While there, check out and bid on the unique birdhouses created/embellished by OCAC members.

AND

Check out the recently displayed exhibit of carved birds (3 cases worth!!) carved by OCAC member, Carol Henshaw's father, Ross Brown (1932 - 2016). They are located in the northwest gallery of the museum.

A reception will be held for "Brown's Birds" on Saturday April 29th 1;00 - 3:00pm

AND

Check out the museum exhibit of **Fibers of Our Lives: From Practical Craft to Decorative Art** before it changes to the new exhibit in May!

Fort Hill Performing Arts Center OCAC Art in the Lobby

April 20 - May 22 Victoria Brzustowicz

May 31 - July 4 Brenda & Al Cretney

FHPAC Box Office opened Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am – 4:00pm

20 Fort Hill Avenue – Canandaigua, NY 14424

Calling all OCAC Members!!
Let's Get Together - Just For Fun!!

Invitation to all OCAC members!

Friday, May 12th 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Ardennes Brewery, 70 Snell Rd, Geneva, NY

This is a great opportunity to meet other OCAC members (name tags will be available) and enjoy the country setting! In addition to their Belgian-style beers, Ardennes serves New York State wines and ciders by the glass. Several non-alcoholic seltzers, sodas and juices also available. If you're interested in dining there you can find their menu at - https://www.breweryardennes.com/food (Menus change weekly depending on what's fresh and seasonal.)

We Love Our Volunteers!!!

1. The OCAC Board of Directors is a working board - and they are all volunteers!!
2. Priscilla Ortlip - Coordinator of Rotating Artists
3. Peggi Heissenberger - Coordinator of Gift Shop at Ontario County Historical Society
4. Kathy Connor - OCAC Social Events Coordinator
5. All member volunteers who contribute to and help with events and exhibits!!

Please consider the following areas of volunteer need and contact us at ocartsny@gmail.com for more information about volunteering!

- **volunteers coordinator** -Duties include creating a volunteer database and maintaining accurate volunteer records, contacting membership and recruiting volunteers for various activities. We are also looking for people to volunteer to be on the committee to **help** the Volunteer Coordinator.
- **grant seekers** - search for available grants and research their requirements to find opportunities that align with the OCAC mission and help with completing the grant application

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Artist Happenings & Opportunities!!

Meet the Media Workshop Openings

Watercolor Session - 2 openings **4/20/23 Water Colors: Judi Cermak**
Experiment with a variety of techniques, and create textures
Acrylic Session - 5 openings **4/27/23 Acrylic: Peggi Heissenberger**
Learn basic tools of painting with user-friendly, versatile & affordable acrylics
Each Session $25 - register at ocarts.org 2 hours each session, all materials included, create a finished piece in each workshop

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Knitting With Beads Workshop

- Learn how to add beads to your knitting and make an amulet too! A 2-part workshop, with instructor Eugenia McLouth, will be held **June 3 and June 17, 2023 from 1:00-3:30 pm,** lower-level meeting room of the Ontario County Historical Society, 55 North Main St., Canandaiguia.
- Learn to make a small, beaded amulet necklace. The instructor provides: beads, thread, decorated knitting needles, pattern and handouts. Students to bring embellishments. Class cost for both sessions is $50, plus $20 materials fee payable to instructor at first class.
- Limited seating for adults; register at ocarts.org.
  Participation requires that students know how to knit, preferably regular, not continental, including casting on and off and the knit stitch.

Opportunity for OCAC Plein Air Painters!

Upcoming Classic American Car Show

in Canandaigua at Star Cider
Sunday, May 28th 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

OCAC members who enjoy plein air painting can use this opportunity to paint classic cars and profit as they see fit, and make connections for possible consignments. Be sure to get approval from the car owner before starting your art.
All we ask is that you post a sign showing you are an OCAC member.
Let us know at: **ocarstny@gmail.com** and we will provide our logo and sign for you.

The Ontario County Historical Society is proud to host its 2nd annual classic car show. This year showcases American automobiles of all eras up to 1975 in recognition of the 240th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War's conclusion and the Colonies' triumphant victory. This only seems fitting after last year's British Car Show. A special award to be given to the best pre-war/willys/people's choice.
Register your car: **https://www.ticketsignup.io/TicketEvent/OCHSClassicCarShow**

"The 3rd Annual Paint Palmyra"

A Plein Air Painting Event and Fundraiser for the Palmyra Fire Co.
sponsored by OCAC artist member, Elaine Liberio of Liberio Art
208 E. Main St., Palmyra, NY
Monday September 4th - Sunday September 10th, 2023
For more information and to register go to - **liberioart.com.**
The Registration Fees collected will be donated to the Palmyra Fire Company.

Singin' in the Rain

Sunday, April 30th 1-3:30pm $30
offered by OCAC member Lesley Shakespeare
acrylic on canvas – no experience necessary, all materials provided
Perinton Community Center 55+ Classes
to **register call 585 223-5050** Maggie or Anke

For all levels - with Mary Padgett, PSA!

Where? West Lake Road School House on beautiful Canandaigua Lake in the Finger Lakes region of New York State.
When? Friday, June 2nd from 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 3rd from 10 to 5 p.m.
Cost? The cost of the workshop is $250 for Ontario County Arts Council members and $300 for non-members, refundable up to ten days prior to the event.
Registration? Online on the Ontario County Arts Council's website: www.ocarts.org.
More information and a materials list are available through the arts council website, or by contacting workshop chairman Neal H. Allen at nallenfap@gmail.com. Mary's artist statement and bio are available on her website: https://www.marypadgett.com/.

Drop-in & Draw

Whether mastering or still developing your skills, come draw a historical artifact from the Ontario County Historical Society's collection in the company of others and guided by member artists at the Ontario County Historical Society
11:30-2:30pm on the following Saturdays April 22, May 6, May 20

"How I See It: The Artist's Eye"

OCAC member, Nancy Yacci's art exhibit at the Canandaigua Wood Library,

The exhibit of her oil, watercolor, pastel, and photography works of art will be displayed until June 2nd.

Meet the Artist!

Interview with OCAC member
Karen Carlton

Tell something about where you grew up, went to school, etc.:
I grew up in Western New York (Buffalo area, specifically) with my parents and two brothers.
My parents fell in love with the Buffalo area once my dad (Wray Carlton) retired from the Buffalo Bills in 1968. Obviously, we are life-long Bills fans!

Did you go to college? Where?
I went to Denison University and received my BA in 1985, and worked in New York City and Connecticut for a few years. I never gave up my passion for art, however. So I went back to art school and graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1995 with a BFA.

Which artists have most influenced you?
#1 is Monet, especially his later work. Cezanne, Van Gogh

What type of art do you create? Has your style changed over time?
I paint with oils. Over time, my style has gotten looser and more expressive. I enjoy the process of painting and using color and brushstrokes to evoke a feeling. I don't have an interest in doing an exact replication of a scene. I may start with a photo or subject matter; however, as I proceed, the painting sometimes takes on a life of its own. I welcome that and enjoy that a painting may become something that I had not intended. For me, it's about personal expression and painting is a personal experience.

What inspires you to create art? Are there real-life situations that inspire you?
I love landscapes and any subject matter in the natural world. I like the randomness and ever-changing fluidity that nature brings. Nature is serene, energizing, and calm, simultaneously. The four seasons are beautiful. I am inspired from all of what nature offers especially the beach, wooded pathways and trees, water scenes and clouds.

What is your most favorite artist tool?
When I want to soften or blur, I use a rag.

What are the hardest and best parts of creating art?
The best part is touching someone else with my art. There is nothing better than having someone personally relate to one of my paintings, and then we can forge that bond and communicate in a special way (whether it's about a feeling, a place or a memory for them). Another best part for me is the sheer joy I get in painting. I love to paint and am never not motivated! I don't do prints of my paintings simply because I have so many originals that I still want to paint. I find inspiration from everywhere. The hardest part is knowing when a painting is "done". I always want to go back in and rework! When a piece is "done", I will put it down for a few days or weeks, and then look at it later with fresh eyes to see if it is indeed done.

Do you listen to music or podcasts when you create? What type and is it inspiring?
I definitely listen to music! Music is very inspiring to me. I'm old fashioned and have a CD player. I listen to everything from Josh Groban to Harry Styles to Classical. I have hundreds of CD's.

Do you have a website for your work? www.karen-carlton.com, Instagram is: karencarltonart

Do you accept commissions?
Yes. I also do pen and ink house commissions.

Do you have a piece of artwork that you're most proud of? Why?
Not really. Each piece has a part of me in them, so they all feel special to me. And what may be special to me, may not be to someone else so I try not to judge a painting like that. I love that art is subjective, so I try to keep objectivity and judgment out of it.

Do you have a dream project that you'd like to create?
My family is sending me to Provence on an art retreat in May, so that really is like a dream come true!

Visit - **ocarts.org/post/karen-carlton**

Art in the Libraries

The libraries would very much appreciate it if you would contact them to exhibit your art in their libraries!! (There is no commission fee on art sold thru these library shows.)
Victor/Farmington Library Greta Selin-Love www.victorfarmingtonlibrary.org or 585-924-2637
Bloomfield Library BloomfieldLibraryDirector@owwl.org or 585-657-6264
Naples Library Kendyl Litwiller naplesdirector@owwl.org or 585-374-2757
Bristol Library bristollibrarydirector@owwl.org
Canandaigua Wood Library Peter Blackwood peter@blackwoodphoto.com

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OCAC Rotating Art Exhibits

Go to www.ocarts.org/rotating-exhibits for details where the artwork can be viewed. When visiting local businesses in Canandaigua, Victor, Geneva, and Bloomfield that participate in Rotating Artist Exhibits please let them know how much you enjoy the art!

On Facebook and Instagram, please LIKE and SHARE OCAC posts.

ONTARIO COUNTY A•R•T•S COUNCIL

"All Things Art For All People"

Shout out to all of our Existing OCAC Members!!

Thank you so much for your continuing support of the arts in our community!
Please consider sponsoring a new member for their first year. It's only $20.00!
Membership registration can be completed on line at
https://www.ocarts.org/membership-form