



Easel

Supporting and Informing Coast Guard Artists

Summer 2016

COAST GUARD ACCEPTS 2016 ART COLLECTION

Works now on view at Federal Hall following Salmagundi Club show

Twenty-six works by 24 artists were accepted into the Coast Guard Art Program's (COGAP) permanent collection during the annual acceptance ceremony and opening reception July 5 at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Admiral Charles Michel, vice commandant of the Coast Guard, accepted the new works on behalf of the service.

Robert C. Semler of Bradenton, Fla., was the recipient of the George Gray Award for outstanding artistic achievement. His painting, "Guardians of the Sea," shows service members executing a rescue at sea.

The 2016 collection vividly portrays the service in action: from rigorous training exercises and daring search and rescue cases to drug interdictions in the Western Hemisphere and Fleet Week in New York City.

On behalf of the Coast Guard, Admiral Michel said, "I am truly honored to accept these artworks into the collection. They are striking contributions to our visual narration." He noted that in addition to being an invaluable educational tool, "art is on view throughout the Coast Guard where service members—from the highest leadership to the most newly enlisted—see what they do everyday immortalized and recorded for history."

In welcoming guests, Salmagundi Club President Robert Pillsbury



COGAP artists attending the July 5 opening reception at the Salmagundi Club in New York were presented Public Service Commendation Awards by Admiral Charles Michel, vice commandant of the Coast Guard. From left to right are COGAP artists John Ward and MK3 Jasen Newman; Salmagundi President Robert Pillsbury; COGAP artists Crissie Murphy, Chuck Van Horn and Susanne Corbelletta; Vice Commandant Admiral Charles Michel; Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club COGAP chair and artist; and COGAP artists Amy DiGi, Dino Sistilli, James Consor and behind

said the Coast Guard Art Program was "deeply indebted to its member artists who provide the Coast Guard with outstanding art." He noted the opening reception was a way to "publicly acknowledge" these "lasting contributions to the Coast Guard and the country." He was joined by Emcee Capt. Sean Carroll, Coast Guard Chief of External Outreach and Heritage, who added, "We honor the 24 artists' whose works so stunningly depict our myriad missions."

Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club

COGAP committee chair and artist recounted a COGAP show in which a particular painting captured a young viewer's attention. She asked those attending the opening to choose for themselves the work that would leave a lasting impression. She noted: "Each painting is an original work of art, well researched by the artist for a faithful depiction, not a piece of fiction or from imagination. We are showing you the work of the Coast Guard. This is what they do. It is reality infused with courage. This IS a one-of-a-kind show!"

(Continued page two., col. one)

26 pieces by 24 artists comprise 2016 collection



Adm. Charles Michel, Coast Guard Vice Commandant, holds the George Gray Award by Robert Semler's award winning painting "Guardians of the Sea." He is joined by Robert Pillsbury, Salmagundi Club president and Mary Ann Bader, COGAP coordinator.

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The New York Council of the Navy League hosted the reception, a kindness it has repeatedly performed over the years. Among Council members attending were Council President Ted Mason, former president retired Rear Adm. Bob Lunney and Tom Williams, executive secretary. Mason said the Council welcomed hosting the opening reception. Depending upon the work, he stated that each offers the potential to "educate, communicate, inspire, and record, the memorable, often heroic, accomplishments of the men and women of the U.S.'s oldest sea service."

For its contributions to Sector New York and COGAP, Adm. Michel presented the New York Council a Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest public service award given by the service. (Story follows on page 3).

The contributions of Marty Walsh, a COGAP artist who died earlier this year, were also acknowledged. His wife, son and other family members were in attendance.

Contributors to this year's collection are Bob Bryant, Gig Harbor, Wash.; James Consor,

New York, N.Y.; Susanne Corbelleta, Glen Head, N.Y.; Chris Demarest, on national tour; Peter DeWeerd, Tucson, Ariz.; Amy DiGi, Yonkers, N.Y.; Louis Stephen Gadal, Los Angeles, Calif.; Frank Gaffney, Mountlake Terrace, Wash.; Tom Hedderich, Westtown, N.Y.; Anne Kullaf, Lebanon, N.J.; Karen Loew, New York, N.Y.; Steve Lush, N. Andover, Mass.; Terrence Maley, Burke, Va.; Cris-sie Murphy, Lowell, Mass.; MK3 Jasen Newman, Port Angeles, Wash.; Hugh O'Connor, Grosse Pointe, Mich.; Robert Semler, Bradenton, Fla.; Mara Sfara, Farmington, Conn.; Dino Sistilli, Woodbury, N.J.; Robert Tandecki, Sumner, Wash.; Leendert van der Pool, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Chuck Van Horn, Glen Head, N.Y.; John Ward, Saranac Lake, N.Y.; and Ron Weil, Tualatin, Ore.

The 2016 collection is now on view at Federal Hall National Memorial through Sept. 7, 2016. The memorial is located just across from the New York Stock Exchange and draws a very large audience. It is on the site where Alexander Hamilton had an office when he was Secretary of the Treasury. The Revenue Cutter Service, created under his leadership, is considered the forerunner of today's Coast Guard.

Coast Guard Auxiliarist Chaplain Donna Cole's Blessings

Invocation

Lord God of all creation, we invoke your blessing on the artists and Coast Guard members we honor this day.

May they continue to offer to others, the talent and skill which your grace first supplied to them.

In very different ways, you are for them a vision that inspires, a breeze that strengthens and refreshes, a fire that sears their hearts in service to others.

By their craft may all come to witness the honor, respect and devotion to duty that form the core values of the United States Coast Guard.

May we, gathered here, celebrate their accomplishments and take pride in their achievement.

We ask all of this through the God whose light is the eternal beacon.

Benediction

Eternal God, although the fullness of your glory lays beyond our sight your light is revealed as a blessing on those who create art and on those who offer their lives in the service of others.

Grateful for these gifts of artistry and service, we ask now for your blessing on all those who keep the watch this and every day.

Be for them always a source of strength and endurance.

Increase in them the will to stand Semper Paratus, Always Ready, in carrying out your high purpose in the mission of the Coast Guard.

May the Lord God bless us, and grant us good courage as we encounter each new course on the way ahead.

Amen.

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Robert C. Semler Wins 2016 George Gray Award

Written by Petty Officer 2nd Class Diana Honings

When asked how long it took Robert Semler to complete his award-winning painting “Guardians of the Sea,” he says his stock answer is “74 years plus six weeks.” In all seriousness, the painting may not have actually taken his entire life span to complete, but his 50-some-odd years of artistry certainly speaks for itself as this is Semler’s fourth George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. “Anytime I win is a thrill,” said Semler. “All of the awards make a difference – they all mean something – and this time I was shocked; tickled pink.”

Semler’s interest in maritime started early. He grew up in New Jersey where his father worked for New York shipbuilding, and his in-laws were Navy and Merchant Marine. “I grew up in a maritime environment, and it’s always fascinated me,” he said. “I have some salt water in my veins.”

His Coast Guard artwork often gets painted by photos he’s taken during his time in New Jersey. “Guardians of the Sea” was painted from a photo he took while spending time at Coast Guard Station Cape May when an air station was located there in the late 90s.

Nowadays, Semler can be found in Florida where his artwork is often viewable at a local gallery or on his website. The Coast Guard Art Program, home to nearly 2,000 works of art also houses about 15 of Semler’s paintings. “There was a lot of nice artwork in the catalogue this year,” he said of his competition. “This was a surprise and I’m thrilled the Coast Guard is happy with my work.”



Robert Semler stands by one of his paintings in his studio in Bradenton, Fla. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Admiral Michel presents New York Council of the Navy League Coast Guard’s highest public service award

Vice Commandant Admiral Charles Michel presented the New York Council, Navy League of the United States the Distinguished Public Service Award during the July 5 ceremony. The New York Council was cited for its support and contributions to the Coast Guard in Metropolitan New York. These include robust public education programs that inform diverse audiences about the service and its contributions to the nation. Its support has enhanced Small Boat Station New York’s annual Sailor of the Year Award, Sector New York’s Fleet Week celebrations and Sector Change of Command ceremonies. For well over a decade, the council has graciously funded COGAP’s opening receptions. Current Council President Ted Mason, Capt., U.S. Navy, (ret.), and former Council President Robert Lunney, Rear Adm., New York Militia (ret.), accepted on the Council’s behalf.



Pictured from left to right are Vice Commandant Admiral Charles Michel, New York Council President Ted Mason and former Council President Robert Lunney holding the Distinguished Public Service Award folder at the July 5 ceremony.

The July 5 Acceptance Ceremony and Reception in Pictures

The Salmagundi Club's Upper Gallery is filled to capacity during the acceptance ceremony.



Guests mingle during the 2016 inaugural opening and acceptance ceremony.

Life imitates art as two members of the Coast Guard Band's Woodwind Quintet perform during the reception in front of Chris Demarest's painting, *The Music Lesson*, in which they are both featured. At left is Musician First Class Laurie Baynard (flute) and at right, Musician Chief Barrett Seals (oboe). The painting depicts a visit by the Quintet to a local Washington, D.C., public school.



Distinguished guests stand at attention as the Sector New York Honor Guard presents colors. From right to left are Coast Guard Foundation board member and former Vice Commandant Sally Brice-O'Hara; Mrs. Mary Vogt; Rear Adm. Anthony "Jack" Vogt; director of Coast Guard Governmental and Public Affairs; Rear Adm. Steven Poulin, Coast Guard District 1 Commander and Vice Commandant Adm. Charles Michel.



Master of ceremonies Capt. Sean Carroll welcomes guests.



Chaplain Donna Cole delivers the innovation.



New York Council President Ted Mason gives remarks.



Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club CO-GAP committee chair and COGAP artist talks about the lasting impression art can have.



Salmagundi Club President Robert Pillsbury offers 2016 collection to the Coast Guard.



Vice Commandant Adm. Charles Michel accepts the works in the 2016 collection on behalf of the Coast Guard.

Artists receiving Public Service Commendation Awards July 5

Admiral Charles Michel, vice commandant of the Coast Guard, presented COGAP artists attending the opening with a Public Service Commendation Award. Salmagundi Club President Robert Pillsbury joined him in the presentation. The award is given in recognition of personal and beneficial contributions to the Coast Guard's responsibilities. It can be signed only by Flag officers and their civilian equivalent. Ten of the 24 artists contributing to the 2016 collection were present at the opening. Public service awards were mailed to artists not in attendance.



COGAP Artist James Consor receives his award for his paintings “Fleet Week, New York City, 2015” and “High Speed Turn.”

COGAP Artist Susanne Corbelletta receives her award for her painting “Man Overboard Drill.”





COGAP artist Amy Digi receives her award for her painting “Inspection Team.”

COGAP artist Tom Hederich receives his award for his painting “Buoy Drop.”





COGAP artist and Salmagundi Club COGAP chair Karen Loew receives her award for her painting “Spinning Up.”

COGAP artist Crissie Murphy receives her award for her painting “Ready!”





COGAP artist MK3 Jasen Newman (above) receives his award for his painting “Hoist Training.”

Below, COGAP artist Dino Sistilli receives his award for his painting “Baja California Intercept.”





COGAP artist Chuck Van Horn receives his award for his painting “Interdiction.”



COGAP artist John Ward receives his award for his painting “Rescue in Humboldt Bay.”