



Easel

Supporting and Informing Coast Guard Artists

Summer 2019

COAST GUARD ACCEPTS 2019 ART COLLECTION

Forty works by 30 artists were accepted into the Coast Guard Art Program's (COGAP) permanent collection during the annual acceptance ceremony and opening reception June 26 at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Coast Guard Commandant, accepted the new works on behalf of the service. Capt. Jason Tama, commanding officer of Sector New York, served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

Robert Selby was the recipient of the George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. His oil triptych "Guardians of the Puerto Rican Coast" shows crew in a small boat from the Cutter Tezanos on mission and flanked by two officers, each reflecting Coast Guard diversity. The remarkably executed work reflects Selby's long career as an artist and teacher. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Fulbright grant.

The 2019 collection vividly portrays the service in action. Among missions depicted are the Coast Guard's response to the devastation of Hurricanes Florence and Maria, illegal drug and migrant interdictions, the protection of the marine environment and animals to often daunting patrols and responses to emergencies.



COGAP artists attending the June 26th opening reception at the Salmagundi Club in New York were presented Public Service Commendation Awards. Front row from left are COGAP artists C.R. "Bob" Bryant, Del-Bourree Bach, Kirk Larsen, Acacia Anglin, Susanne Corbelletta, Salmagundi Club President Elizabeth Spencer, COGAP artists Robert Selby, Karen Loew, Amy DiGi and James Dyekman. Back row from left are COGAP artists MK2 Jasen Newman, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz, COGAP artists Tom Hedderich, Leendert van der Pool, James Consor, Kathleen Denis and Chuck Van Horn.

On behalf of the Coast Guard, Admiral Schultz expressed gratitude in accepting new works. He noted that 2019 marked the 38th anniversary of the Coast Guard Art Program. "Since the program's inception," he said, "artists have volunteered their time and talent to capture the vital contributions the U.S. Coast Guard makes to our nation in their wonderful artworks."

Admiral Schultz was joined in thanks by Salmagundi Club President Elizabeth Spencer and Master of Ceremonies Capt. Jason Tama. Ms. Spencer recounted how Coast Guard art had

moved a young boy previously uninterested in art, to intense contemplation. Capt. Tama, in thanking artists, described the specific contributions of each. He also regaled the audience with incidents in Coast Guard history.

Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club COGAP committee chair and member artist, said that despite the government shutdown earlier this year, service members continued to work for the nation. The art of the 2019 collection, she affirmed, "is all about Coast Guard missions and service members standing the watch every
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**Coast Guard Auxiliari
Chaplain Donna Cole's Blessings**

Invocation

Creator God,

Be with us this evening as we explore and reflect on this art depicting the many dimensions of the Coast Guard mission.

We ask your blessing on the artists and Coast Guard members we honor this day.

As one, they demonstrate to all the courage, compassion and commitment to justice of the women and men of our Coast Guard Forces.

In your mercy, call us to hold always in our hearts the memory of shipmates who have passed from our sight; may they continue to encourage us as they stand the eternal watch.

We ask all of this through the God whose light inspires our creativity and impassions us to serve others.

Amen.

Benediction

God of all time, send down the power of your blessing on these artists and Coast Guard members that they may use their talents and gifts with confidence and strength.

Grant that in times of trial and difficulty they may find the fortitude to persevere.

In these troubled times, we ask also for your blessing on all those who keep the watch around the world this and every day.

Increase in them, and in us, the will to stand Semper Paratus, Always Ready, to serve others in need.

May the Lord God who shines as a light in our every darkness, bless and remain with each of us, as we navigate the course ahead.

Amen.

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Robert Selby's oil triptych won the 2019 George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. In 2014, Selby won the same award for his painting depicting scientists travelling to the Arctic on the Coast Guard Cutter Healy and researching the Arctic's ecosystem. Selby deployed to both areas and in each case, also created an artist's sketchbook depicting life and missions aboard the cutters.

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day." She thanked Admiral Schultz for his participation, noting he was the first commandant in over two decades to attend the COGAP opening.

President of the New York Council of the Navy League Col. Charles Blaich, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.), added his thanks to the COGAP's talented corps of artists and recounted his own family's contributions to the military. The council hosted this year's reception, an act it has repeatedly performed over the years.

Contributors to this year's collection are Daven Anderson of St. Louis, Mo.; Acacia Anglin, Port Angeles, Wash.; Del-Bourree Bach, Mystic, Conn., Dennis Boom, Hillsboro, Ore.; C. R. "Bob" Bryant, Cape Neddick, Maine; James Consor, New York City; Susanne Corbelletta, Glen Head, N.Y.; Kathleen Denis, Tavernier, Fla.; Amy DiGi., Yonkers, N.Y.; James Dyekman, Chesapeake City, Md.; Louis Stephen Gadal, Los Angeles, Calif.; Frank Gaffney, Mountlake Terrace, Wash.; Tom Hedderich, Westtown, N.Y.; Dick Kramer, Leesburg, Va.; Kirk Larsen, Hicksville, N.Y.; Karen Loew, New York City; Mike

Mazer, Mattapoissett, Mass.; MK2 Jasen Newman, Port Angeles, Wash.; Lieut. Rebecca Rebar, Kodiak, Alaska; Robert Selby, Colton, N.Y.; Dino Sistilli, West Deptford, N.J.; Jim Stagner, Johnson City, Tenn.; Robert Tandeki, Sumner, Wash.; MST3 Thomas Unger, Morehead City, N.C.; Leendert van der Pool, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Chuck Van Horn, Glen Head, N.Y.; Emily Waldman, Pittsford, N.Y.; James Wall, Bloomington, Ill.; John Ward, Saranac Lake, N.Y.; and Ron Weil, Oregon City, Ore.

The 2019 collection is now on view at Federal Hall National Memorial through Sept. 19, 2019. The memorial, located just across from the New York Stock Exchange, draws a very large audience.

In addition 16 artists had work from previous collections on view at the Salmagundi Club. Eleven were winners of the George Gray Award: Karen Loew (2001), Del-Bourree Bach (2003), Stefanie Fracasso (2005), John Ward (2006), Dino Sistilli (2008), Robert Semler (2011), Louis Stephen Gadal (2012), Robert Selby (2014), Tyson Snow (2015), Ken Smith (2017) and Leendert van der Pool (2018). Also shown were works from James Consor, Chris Demarest, Frank Gaffney, Tom Hedderich, and Chuck Van Horn.

Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty: Robert Selby Wins 2019 George Gray Award Story by COGAP Artist Robert Selby

Each year a panel of judges selects a recipient for the George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence from a collection of artwork submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard Art Program. No stranger to the program or this award, Robert Selby won the 2019 award for his artwork depicting his deployment aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Tezanos in the Caribbean last year. He won the same award in 2014 based on his deployment then to the Cutter Healy in the Arctic. We asked Selby to give us a first-person perspective on his artwork and his inspiration.



Artist Robert Selby, holding the coveted award plaque, and Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz stand to the right of the artist's award winning triptych, "Guardians of the Puerto Rican Coast." On the left are Elizabeth Spencer, newly elected Salmagundi Club president, and Capt. Jason Tama, Commanding Officer Sector New York and COGAP opening ceremony emcee.

I executed a number of assignments involving the U.S. Coast Guard as a newspaper illustrator in Providence, Rhode Island and found that the more I researched this remarkable service, the more my admiration grew. I was particularly moved by the motto of the U.S. Life Saving Service: "You have to go out, but you don't have to come back." Thus I was moved to "go out" when I received my first Coast Guard assignment in 2000.

Spurred by the millennium, the Department of Transportation commissioned paintings to illustrate a campaign for a state-of-the-art Coast Guard fleet. I was to ship out on an older deep-water asset to underscore the cutter's age. With nearly 50 years of service, the Coast Guard Cutter Reliance was selected.

However, my task proved impossible. While I was aboard, the "perfect storm" rescue of a Gloucester fishing boat off George's Bank highlighted the great work of the cutter and its crew, not inadequacy, so I had to search for a different solution. Ultimately, I juxtaposed the present and the future by painting the Reliance sailing from calm seas into a gathering storm. I was literally adding the final brush strokes when I heard the news on Sept. 11, 2001. The new Department of Homeland Security kept the painting but abandoned the campaign.

The painting of the Reliance did bring an exciting new assignment, however. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the famous rescue of the S.S. Pendleton, Coast Guard First District commissioned a painting and prints to present to Bernie Webber and his crew at a Boston ceremony. Preparation for the painting included the construction of a scale model of the scene in my studio. Despite careful measurements and consultation with the coxswain himself, I still found it difficult to make that tiny craft believable on 60-foot waves. I shall be eternally grateful for the opportunity to work with the epitome of those that "have to go out," Bernie Webber.

My deployment to the Arctic in 2014 was certainly a bucket list check when COGAP secured a berth aboard the icebreaker Coast Guard Cutter Healy. To find the defining moment for that mission I fell back on my skills as a newspaper sketch artist. The technology staff helped me transmit two drawings daily – with notes. It seemed the perfect way to highlight the Coast Guard's most valuable asset, its people. As it happened, luck was with me on the final painting, too. I requested a second boat when the scientists asked to be taken off to collect samples from an iceberg. Scientists were reaching into the Arctic Sea with the Healy's red hull as a backdrop captured the Coast Guard's support for science perfectly.

COGAP's interest in Sector San Juan found me aboard the Sentinel Class Fast Response Cutter Tezanos in May 2018. At 30 knots, sketching from life became a sporting event that tested all of my skills including working from memory. It was the Spanish culture that inspired me to paint a traditional triptych for this project. Side panels allowed me to highlight Coast Guard diversity with "iconic" full-length portraits – with the 15th century "El Moro" castle in the background. When the panels swing open, they mimic the hull of an FRC which is just where I painted the cutter's small boat.

Narrative is a rich thread running through the history of art, and it is narrative – the story – of the extraordinary women and men that "have to go out" that I pursue as an artist painting for the U.S. Coast Guard.

The June 26th Acceptance Ceremony and Reception in Pictures



The Salmagundi Club's upper gallery was filled to capacity during the 2019 acceptance ceremony the evening of June 26th. The club is located on Fifth Avenue in New York City in a century-old town house.

Members of the Coast Guard Color Guard arrived for the presentation of colors during the beginning of the official opening of the 2019 ceremony.



Two members of the Coast Guard Band from New London, Conn., performed during the reception. They were Musician Chief Megan Sesma (left) on harp and Musician First Class Meera Gudipati (right) on flute.

Guests listen to welcoming remarks during the June 26th ceremony at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. From left first row are New York Council of the Navy League President Col. Charles Blaich, Capt. Peter Niles, deputy of Sector New York, Salmagundi Club President Elizabeth Spencer, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz, District One Commander Rear Admiral Andrew Tiongson, Headquarters Director of Public Affairs Capt. Anthony Russell and District One Command Master Chief William Hollandsworth.



Speakers at the official opening reception



Master of ceremonies
Capt. Jason Tama welcomes



Chaplain Donna Cole delivers the invocation.



New York Council
of the Navy League President



Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club
COGAP committee chair and
COGAP artist talks about the service and the artists who also serve.



Salmagundi Club President Elizabeth Spencer offers the works of the 2019 collection to the Coast Guard.



Admiral Karl Schultz accepts the works in the 2019 collection on behalf of the Coast Guard.

Artists receive the Public Service Commendation Award on June 26th

Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Commandant of the Coast Guard, presented COGAP artists attending the opening with a Public Service Commendation Award. Salmagundi Club President Elizabeth Spencer 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 a Flag officer or the civilian equivalent. Fifteen of the 30 artists contributing to the 2019 collection were present at the opening. Public service awards for artists not attending were sent to Daven Anderson, Dennis Boom, Louis Steven Galal, Frank Gaffney, Dick Kramer, Mike Mazer, Lieut. Rebecca Rebar, Dino Sistilli, Jim Stagner, Robert Tandecki, MST3 Thomas Unger, Emily Waldman, James Wall, John Ward and Ron Weil.



COGAP artist Acacia Anglin receives her award for her two works, "*Service member Blasjo*" and "*Returning home.*"

COGAP artist Del-Bourree Bach receives his award for his painting "*Going home.*"





COGAP artist C. R. “Bob” Bryant receives his award for his painting *“Icebreaking on the Kennebec River.”*



COGAP artist James Consor receives his award for his paintings *“The dirty chain”* and *“Fixin’ the chain.”*



COGAP artist Susanne Corbelletta receives her award for her painting “*Christening at Air Station Kodiak.*”

COGAP artist Kathleen Denis receives her award for her painting “*Setting markers.*”





COGAP artist Amy DiGi receives her award for her paintings “Coast Guard Cutter Penobscot Bay assists” and “Ice rescue.”

COGAP artist James Dyekman receives his award for his painting “Coast Guard musicians.”





COGAP artist Tom Hedderich receives his award for his painting "*Perfect trust.*"

COGAP artist Kirk Larsen receives his award for his painting "*The rescue of the Michael and Kristen.*"





COGAP artist and Salmagundi Club COGAP Committee Chair Karen Loew receives her award for her painting “Drop launch ready.”

COGAP artist and Coast Guard active duty service member MK2 Jasen Newman receives his award for his painting “Readying for patrol.”





COGAP artist Robert Selby receives his public service award for his painting “*Guardians of the Puerto Rican Coast.*” This work also won the George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. (See story on pages 1 and 3.)

COGAP artist Leendert van der Pool receives his award for his painting “*Bertholf on drug patrol.*”





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

With opening night visitors gone, the Salmagundi Club’s upper gallery becomes again a prestigious venue for displaying impressive art collections such as the one by the Coast Guard’s artists. Here, some of the 2019 works are seen, elegantly hung and awaiting viewers.

