



# Easel

Supporting and Informing Coast Guard Artists

Summer 2009

## COAST GUARD 2009 COLLECTION ACCEPTED WITH KUDOS

Thirty four works by 19 artists were officially accepted by the Coast Guard on June 25 at a gala ceremony in New York City at the Salmagundi Club. Club President Claudia Seymour called the collection one of the program's best ever. It looks at alien migrant and drug interdictions, Maritime Safety and Security Teams on patrol, national security patrols in the Northern Arabian Gulf and myriad other Coast Guard activities.

Ken Smith of Radford, Va., won the annual George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. Smith's piece, *Air Station Savannah*, (see photo, back page) is a dramatic portrait of an avionics electrical technician standing on a HH-65 Dolphin helicopter. This painting, like 19 others from five additional artists, was the result of the artist being sent on assignment by the program.

Rear Admiral Charles Michel, Coast Guard director of governmental and public affairs, accepted the new works on behalf of the Coast Guard. "I am impressed by the talent, dedication and enthusiasm of the artists," he said, adding "and I am very moved by how the artists transform what our service and members do every day into works of art."



COGAP artists from around the country attend the 2009 Acceptance Ceremony and meet Rear Admiral Charles Michel (center), director of public and governmental affairs for the Coast Guard. From left to right: James Consor (New York, N.Y.), Jim Semler (Bradenton, Fla.), Phyllis Solcyk (Chatsworth, Calif.), Tom Picard, COGAP membership chair (Rego Park, N.Y.), RDML Michel, Sandra Hart (Arlington Heights, Ill.), Karen Loew, COGAP committee chair (New York, N.Y.) and Del-Bourree Bach, Mystic, Conn.

Coast Guard Community Relations Co-chief Angela Hirsch, co-head of the division responsible for COGAP, said the evening allowed the service to "publicly thank the artists for their lasting contributions to the Coast Guard and the American public."

Salmagundi Club President Claudia Seymour opened the official program. Karen Loew, COGAP committee chair, a contributor to this year's collection as well as several in the past, observed that recording what the Coast Guard does "for posterity is the duty and honor of each art-

ist. Our works are visual, emotional thank yous to the ever-inspirational Coast Guard."

As in the past, there was an elegant reception graciously sponsored the New York Council of the Navy League. Several members of the league participated, including its president, Dr. Daniel Thys, and executive director Rick Kenney.

The evening's success was also due in part to the enthusiastic support of Sector New York.

The show was on view for three weeks at the club. Thirteen (see back page)

## 34 new pieces by 19 artists accepted for 2009 collection

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Jurors stand by Ken Smith's George Gray Award winning painting, *Air Station Savannah*. They are (from left): Rear Admiral Charles Michel, Claudia Seymour, Salmagundi Club president and Nancy Little, director of the National Academy School of Fine Arts.

pieces from it, along with others from the program, will be on view for three months this fall at the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago.

Contributors to the 2009 collection are Del-Bourree Bach, Mystic, Conn.; Bob Blevins, Elizabethton, Tenn; Jim Brooksher, Grayslake, Ill.; James Consor, New York, N.Y.; who contributed 12 paintings—one of the largest contributions by an artist in a single year; Chris Demarest, Meriden, N.H., who had two works in the collection; Louis Gadal, Los Angeles, Calif., who gave four works; Ron Guthrie, Slovang, Calif.; Sandra Hart, Arlington Heights, Ill.; Karen Loew, New York, N.Y.; Priscilla Messner-Patterson, Sequim, Wash.; Thomas Picard, Rego Park, N.Y.; Dorothy Joan Riley, Braden, Fla.; Bob Semler, Bradenton, Fla.; Ken Smith, Radford, Va., and George Gray award recipient for outstanding artistic merit; Phyllis Solcyk, Chatsworth, Calif.; Jim Stagner, Johnson City, Tenn.; Jeanne Tubman, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.; Marty Walsh, Middle Village, N.Y. and John Ward, Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Please view the show's catalogue at [http://www.uscg.mil/community/Art\\_Program.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/community/Art_Program.asp).



New York Council for the Navy League President Dr. Daniel Thys (left) enjoys the festivities with New York Sector Commander Capt. Robert O'Brien and Mrs. Martha O'Brien. Both the Council and the Sector provide outstanding support to the art program.

### Briefly noted

#### Coast Guard Public Exhibits

**Tunica River Park Museum**, Tunica Park, Miss., April-October 2009. 11 works by 10 artists including Tom Picard, Bob Semler and Ed Dyson.

**Museum of the Albemarle**, Elizabeth City, N.C., May-October 2009. 25 works including ones by Chris Demarest, Nina Buxton and John MacDermaid.

**Peninsula Fine Arts Center**, Newport News, Va., July-November 2009. Works by Karen Loew among others are featured in this show on combat art from the five armed services.

**Pritzker Military Library**, Chicago, Ill., October 2009-January 2010. 26 works will be displayed at this major venue and will include art by Tom Austin, Del-Bourree Bach, Jim Brooksher, James Consor, Chris Demarest, Louis Stephen Gadal, Sandra Hart, Karen Loew, Mike Mazer, Priscilla Messner-Patterson, Ken Smith, Jim Stagner, David Sturdevant, Jeanne Tubman and Ron Weil.

Art will be on view at Clearwater, Florida's main library for five months.

#### Welcome New Members

Mary Demroske, Brimley, Mich., Frank Gaffney, Kirkland, Wash., Christine Murphy, Haverhill, Mass., Jeanne Tubman, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., C.R. (Bob) Bryant, Gig Harbor, Wash., Doug Smith, Santa Fe, N.M., Dick Kramer, Leesburg, Va., Hugh O'Conner, St. Clair Shores, Mich. and Alan Rydall, Livermore, Calif.

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Photos courtesy of Paul Backalenick, New York, N.Y.