



# Easel

Supporting and Informing Coast Guard Artists

Summer 2012

## COAST GUARD 2012 ART COLLECTION ON EXHIBIT

Works to go on view at Federal Hall following Salmagundi Club show



A capacity crowd gathered for COGAP's 2012 opening reception at the Salmagundi Club in New York City on June 7. The special guest was Rear Admiral Linda Fagan, outgoing commanding officer of Sector New York, shown above seated at the beginning of the right aisle.

The Salmagundi Club in New York City is hosting the two-week inaugural exhibit of the 21 works comprising the 2012 Coast Guard Art Collection. These works by 18 artists will be on view through June 15. Also on display are 19 works from earlier collection years.

The show's opening reception was held at the club on June 7. In welcoming guests, Salmagundi Club President Claudia Seymour said: "We are delighted to see the artistic quality of COGAP's an-

nual collections improve steadily and to have the opportunity to present the art to the public."

The 2012 collection shows a wide range of missions: from environmental protection, to law enforcement and search and rescue to name a few. The collection and the additional 19 works will go on an eight-week display at Federal Hall National Memorial beginning June 19. The memorial is located just across from the New York Stock Exchange and enjoys a large audience.

Louis Stephen Gadal of Los Angeles, Calif., was the 2012 recipient of the George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. His painting, *Bringing her home*, depicts crew aboard a small inflatable boat returning to the Cutter Swordfish after a mission.

Rear Admiral Linda Fagan, outgoing commanding officer of Sector New York, was the honored guest at the reception. She noted that the art was very inspiring. She added: "It provides compelling visual testimony to the unique contribution the Coast Guard makes to the nation in its multifaceted roles as a military, humanitarian and law enforcement organization."

The admiral was recognized at the reception for her tremendous support of the program during her assignment to Sector New York. Later this month, she will transfer to the Northern Command in Colorado Springs and serve as Deputy Director of Operations.

Karen Loew, COGAP committee chair and contributing artist recounted how George Gray—COGAP's co-founder—often said at the opening reception that the evening was about the artists. But, she noted, "the evening is also about the art."

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## 21 new pieces by 18 artists comprise 2012 collection



Pictured here is the 2012 George Gray Award winning painting *Bringing her home* by Louis Stephen Gadal. Rear Admiral Linda Fagan, Sector New York commanding officer, Salmagundi Club President Claudia Seymour and *Fine Art Connoisseur* editor Peter Trippi served as jurors for the award.

“I recall being so happy to have my paintings accepted in the collections that I did not think about where they went after the inaugural exhibitions.” She observed that Coast Guard art over the years had been exhibited in many locations across the country and even in countries overseas.

“I am very proud of the work of COGAP artists, she added. “As one former Coastie recently wrote to me: ‘Thank you again for portraying the Coast Guard in a very positive and remarkable way.’”

The New York Council of the Navy League sponsored the opening’s elegant reception, a courtesy it has performed repeatedly over the years. J. Robert Lunney, Rear Admiral, US Navy (ret.) and president of the New York Council observed that the Navy League and the art program shared the goal of educating the public about America’s seas services.

Sector New York and Public Affairs Officer Charles Rowe’s support of the opening also contributed to its success.

**Contributors to this year’s collection** are Bob Blevins, Elizabethton, Tenn.; James Consor, New York,

N.Y.; Peter de Weerd, Tuscon, Az.; Coast Guard YN2 Jared Dunn, Alexandria, Va.; Louis Stephen Gadal, Los Angeles, Calif.; Frank Gaffney, Mountlake Terrace, Wash.; Ron Guthrie, Solvang, Calif.; Tom Hedderich, Westtown, N.Y.; **Karen Loew, New York, N.Y.**; Pete Michels, Stevenson Ranch, Calif.; Alan Ryall, Livermore, Calif.; Mara Sfara, Farmington, Conn.; Dino Sisti, Woodbury, N.J.; Robert Tandeki, Albuquerque, N.M.; Odie Tucker, Jr., Destrehan, La.; Charles Van Horn, Glen Head, N.Y.; Frank Walsh, Santa Clara, Calif.; and Marty Walsh, Middle Village, N.Y.

**The 19 additional works that are now on display and will also go to Federal Hall** are by Del-Bourre Bach, Mystic, Conn.; Bob Blevins, Don Borie, Ocala, Fla.; James Brooksher, Grayslake, Ill.; Nina Buxton, Palm Coast, Fla.; James Consor, Chris Demarest, Washington, D.C.; Stephanie Fracasso, Fort Lee, N.J.; Louis Stephen Gadal, Sandra Hart, Arlington Heights, Ill.; **Karen Loew**, Tom Picard, Rego Park, N.Y.; Robert C. Semler, Bradenton, Fla.; and Sharon Way-Howard, Sayville, N.Y.

## About COGAP Artist Louis Stephen Gadal

A California native, Louis Stephen Gadal received a scholarship to Los Angeles’s Chouinard Art Institute while he was still in high school. For four years while under scholarship, he studied drawing and water color.

Following graduation, he spent the next 15 years developing his drawing skills and exhibited nationally. He also returned to Chouinard to study printmaking.

For many years he maintained his own architectural illustration firm where he worked on projects for among others the Corning Museum and the Rockwell Museum, both in Corning, N.Y.

A widely exhibited and collected painter, Louis has taught at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia and at Parson Art Institute in Los Angeles. His work has garnered numerous awards. He is a signature member of many art societies including the American Watercolor Society and National Watercolor Society and is a member of the American Society of Marine Artists.

Upon learning of his being named the George Gray Award winner he said: “I am honored and also pleased to have the opportunity to visually recount the contributions the men and women of the Coast Guard make to our nation.”

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**Photo page one courtesy of Mitch Kahn, Editor, The Salmagundian**