



# Easel

Supporting and Informing Coast Guard Artists

Autumn 2015

## Letter from COGAP Chair Karen Loew

*The Call for Entries for COGAP Collection 2016 is in your hands. It is unlike any other show prospectus you are likely to receive, because COGAP is a truly unique show opportunity! This past year's Inaugural Exhibition Acceptance Ceremony at the prestigious Samagundi Club in New York was a standing-room only event. It was a spectacular show of remarkable talent and great generosity on the part of every artist represented on those gallery walls.*

*Each year we start over, building the collection, hopeful the entries will come in. Hopeful the art will be an equivalent to the high standards of the Coast Guard service members themselves. Can we do it again?*

*I know it is a lot to ask; a lot to give away a really special painting. It is important you know each work accepted is indeed a gift that keeps on giving. Our paintings are sent to various museums and venues across the country and give visual testimony to the outstanding non-stop work and dedication of the USCG. We especially have an appreciative audience in all ranks of the Coast Guard for our patriotism as volunteerism.*

*Your contribution to the COGAP Collection is building a lasting legacy to be proud of. I am very thankful for you!*

*Happy Thanksgiving,  
Karen*

## COGAP PAINTING SELECTED BY U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ART IN EMBASSIES PROGRAM

Coast Guard Art Program (COGAP) artist Robert Selby's painting "Chukchi Reach" has been chosen for display by the U.S. State Department's prestigious Art in Embassies program (AIE). The painting will be on view at the residence of Charles Adams, the American Ambassador to Finland, where it will be used for public diplomacy programs. Both the U.S. and Finland have strategic interests in the Arctic. The two countries, along with six other Arctic nations are members of



Artist Bob Selby is shown with his 2014 George Gray Award winning painting Chukchi Reach.

Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum for Arctic nations.

AIE plays an important role in U.S. public diplomacy through the visual arts and artist exchanges. The Museum of Modern Art in New York first envisioned this global visual arts program in 1953 and President John F. Kennedy formalized it at the State Department in 1963. Today it involves 20,000 participants globally including artists, museums and galleries and encompasses over 200 venues in 189 countries.

The Cutter Healy, the largest cutter in the service, is the country's premiere high latitude research vessel. It is an icebreaker that provides presence and access throughout the Arctic for all of the Coast Guard's statutory missions as well as scientific research. Annually in the summer it brings scientists to the Arctic.

Long interested in Coast Guard missions in the Arctic, Selby deployed in 2013 aboard the Healy. His painting captures scientists researching the area's ecosystem. As the artist explains he was in a unique vantage point from which he viewed "the very moment that a scientist thrust himself across the gunwale and literally reached into the sea." He added: "I was beyond great ships and cranes; close enough to see humans cooperating with humans in the pursuit of knowledge." He returned to his studio a few weeks later "determined to capture that scene and the important work that it reflected." A year later, "Chukchi Reach" received COGAP's George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. Upon learning that the painting had been selected by AIE, the artist said: "I was surprised and delighted because I feel that it validates my effort to leverage the power of fine art to highlight the work of the U.S. Coast Guard in the Arctic region."

## *Mission Mosaic on view at Newburyport, Mass. Show celebrates Coast Guard's 225th Anniversary*

Twenty eight works by 20 COGAP artists are on view at the Custom House Maritime Museum in Newburyport, Mass. The four month long exhibition, entitled Mission Mosaic, chronicles events of historical significance as well as Coast Guard activities in Coast Guard District One which includes all of New England.

This year marks the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Coast Guard. The show opened on August 4—the very date in 1790 that President George Washington signed a law authorizing construction of ten revenue cutters. Under the leadership of Alexander Hamilton this fleet became the Revenue Cutter Service, the precursor of today's Coast Guard. The show will close the end of this month.



Photos show COGAP works on display at Customs House Maritime Museum in Newburyport, Mass.

Beginning next March, the exhibition will go on view for three months at the Hull Lifesaving Museum in Hull, Mass. The city was recently designated an official Coast Guard City.

### **Useful Internet sites for visual references for creation of 2016 collection works**

To develop ideas for paintings and drawings for the 2016 collection, we encourage you to take advantage of the photos and photo albums on Coast Guard social media sites. While the sites have plenty of photos featuring assets, they also have dramatic images of our service members performing the Coast Guard's missions—the type of action shots of which we are particularly fond.

The Facebook sites do not have a specific search term function. However, it is easy to browse photo streams and albums.

#### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/UScoastguard>

[https://www.facebook.com/UScoastguard/photos\\_stream](https://www.facebook.com/UScoastguard/photos_stream)

[https://www.facebook.com/UScoastguard/photos\\_stream?tab=photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/UScoastguard/photos_stream?tab=photos_albums) Note: On the Facebook Album link, you need to click on the Album icon on the right on the opening page. Click on the desired album, then click on the selected image and the caption will appear on the right. Useful albums include: America's Coast Guard in Action, Shutter Shootouts and a Week in the Life. Several Coast Guard units have their own Facebook sites. If you are interested in a specific unit or locale, you might Google using the following search terms: Facebook followed by Coast Guard and location or unit name. Example: "Facebook Coast Guard Cape May."

#### **Flickr**

[https://www.flickr.com/photos/coast\\_guard/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/coast_guard/). Click on image of interest and then scroll down to read the complete caption. You can use the search tool on Flickr to find photos on topics in which you are interested. Be sure to include the words Coast Guard with the topic to insure you get only Coast Guard images.

#### **DVIDS**

DVIDS—Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System—is the site where the Coast Guard posts the most images. The Coast Guard catalog of imagery is at <http://www.dvidshub.net/branch/Coast+Guard>. You can download high resolution files for free by registering for an account at <http://www.dvidshub.net/member/registration>. You will notice on this site that in addition to a search bar, you can also search by pre-defined categories listed on the left of the screen and further customize by date. When you find an image, be sure it is one of the Coast Guard. Unfortunately, on this site it is easy to move from Coast Guard images to those of other services. While typing "Coast Guard" into your search cuts down on images from other services, it does not totally filter them out.

### **Joshua Buck appointed new chief of Community Relations**

Joshua Buck has been named the new Community Relations chief, succeeding Angela Hirsch who is now a communications strategist with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Before coming to the Coast Guard Joshua served as a public affairs officer at NASA Headquarters in Washington for six years, where he supported the agency's human spaceflight programs. Prior to that, he was a legislative affairs specialist, also at NASA Headquarters, and supported the office's Congressional outreach, exhibits, special events and guest operations efforts.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a master's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

The *Easel* is an unofficial newsletter edited and produced by the Community Relations Branch (CG-09223), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE, Stop 7103 Washington, DC 20593-7103, (202) 372-4643. Views and opinions expressed in the *Easel* are not necessarily those of the Department of Homeland Security or the U.S. Coast Guard. Material is for information only and no authority for action.

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