



CENTRAL MASS PASTEL SOCIETY

CMPS Newsletter December 2023

President's Message

Dear Artists and Friends:

As another year comes to a close, and we look forward to a new one, I invite you to view the [recording of our Annual Meeting](#) on the CMPS YouTube channel for a review of 2023; a summary of our member survey results; and a peek at our plans for 2024 that are in large part based on these survey results. It's important for everyone to stay abreast of both the successes and challenges facing our society, so please take some time to view this video.

It's hard to believe that since our last newsletter we've had another terrific national show (including a public gallery tour with Board members) which you can view [here](#); a great portrait workshop from Jeanne Tangney; an exciting demo on painting birds with Mike Beeman; an artist talk with Pastels Plus juror Pirkko Makela Haapalinna; and—going on now—our biannual Signature Members Show and Sale, with representation from nine of our Signature Artists. **The public reception for this show is Sunday, December 3, 1-3 pm.** I'll be there and am looking forward to seeing many of you at this show that will offer, in addition to larger work, smaller pieces priced for holiday giving. The show is open through December 17 at Groton Public Library, 99 Main St., Groton, MA. And see the next section for an announcement of our new Signature Members!

On December 10 we have our final event of the year, an [Artist's Talk with Loriann Signori](#), one of our Marks of Distinction Selection Jurors. After that we will all take an ostensible break for the holidays, but in the pastel society

unthinkable break for the holidays, but in the pastel society that never sleeps, we are working away toward 2024.

First up: our **Second Annual Pastels Plus International Online Show**. We had a great response to our call for artists to mix pastel with a required 30-50% other medium(s) in 2023, so we are doing it again next year. The prospectus should be available in a few weeks (we'll let you know when), and **submissions will open on January 5 on Show Submit**. So perhaps you will use some of your holiday downtime to experiment with your mixed-media ideas.

On January 13, we will have our first free [demo with Javad Soleimanpour](#), our other 2023 Marks of Distinction juror, who will do a portrait demo for us. Note that you must have renewed your membership for 2024 in order to see this demo for free. You should have received your first renewal reminder by now, and we appreciate your timely renewal as it greatly helps us in our ability to meet our obligations, which includes serving you in the way you have come to expect. Many have already renewed, and we thank you. A reminder out there to all of you who are friends of CMPS, if you are not an artist you can still join as a Supporting Member and enjoy our free demos and artist talks.

You should also have received our **invitation to support our show awards**, in *any* amount or, for \$100 or more, a named award. In particular, we are looking to increase awards for Pastels Plus and our Members Show as well as for our national show. Our shows are growing in popularity with both artists and the public, and we know that cash awards are an important part of shows as well as one of the biggest demands on CMPS finances. When you donate, you can specify if you want the donation to go toward a particular show; if you want to do a named award, contact president@cmpastels.org. Thank you so much for your support! We have already received \$295 in donations toward our \$500 goal, including from nonmembers! We're so grateful.

It's been a satisfying year and we look forward to serving and seeing you, either in person or virtually, in 2024. We wish all our members and friends a holiday season of well-earned relaxation and enjoyment, and renewed inspiration for all your winter-time painting for next year's shows.

Jane Robbins

President

When you go out to paint, try to forget what objects you have before you, a tree, a house, a field, or whatever. Merely think, here is a little square of blue, here an oblong of pink, here a streak of yellow.—Claude Monet

[Renew your Membership or Join Now](#)

[Donate to the Awards Fund](#)

Congratulations to Our New Signatures Members

Signature Membership is a special membership category that recognizes consistent achievement in pastel. We congratulate everyone who applied. CMPS is happy to welcome the following new Signature Members:

Susan Aitcheson

Dave Francis

Mena Levit

Laurinda O'Connor

Jane Robbins

Cheryl Wildermuth

Upcoming CMPS Events

Here are the shows, workshops, demos, and artist talks, with registration links, coming up over the next quarter.



CENTRAL MASS PASTEL SOCIETY

SIGNATURE ARTIST SHOW

Participating artists are:

Eileen Casey
Keith Demanche
Joelle Feldman
Jeff Fioravanti
Ann Gillespie
Lyn Horsky
Karen Israel
Shuk Susan Lee
Maryann Mullett

Groton Public Library
99 Main St., Groton, MA

Nov 7th - Dec 17th
Reception: Sunday, Dec 3rd, 1-3pm
Vote for People's Choice Award!

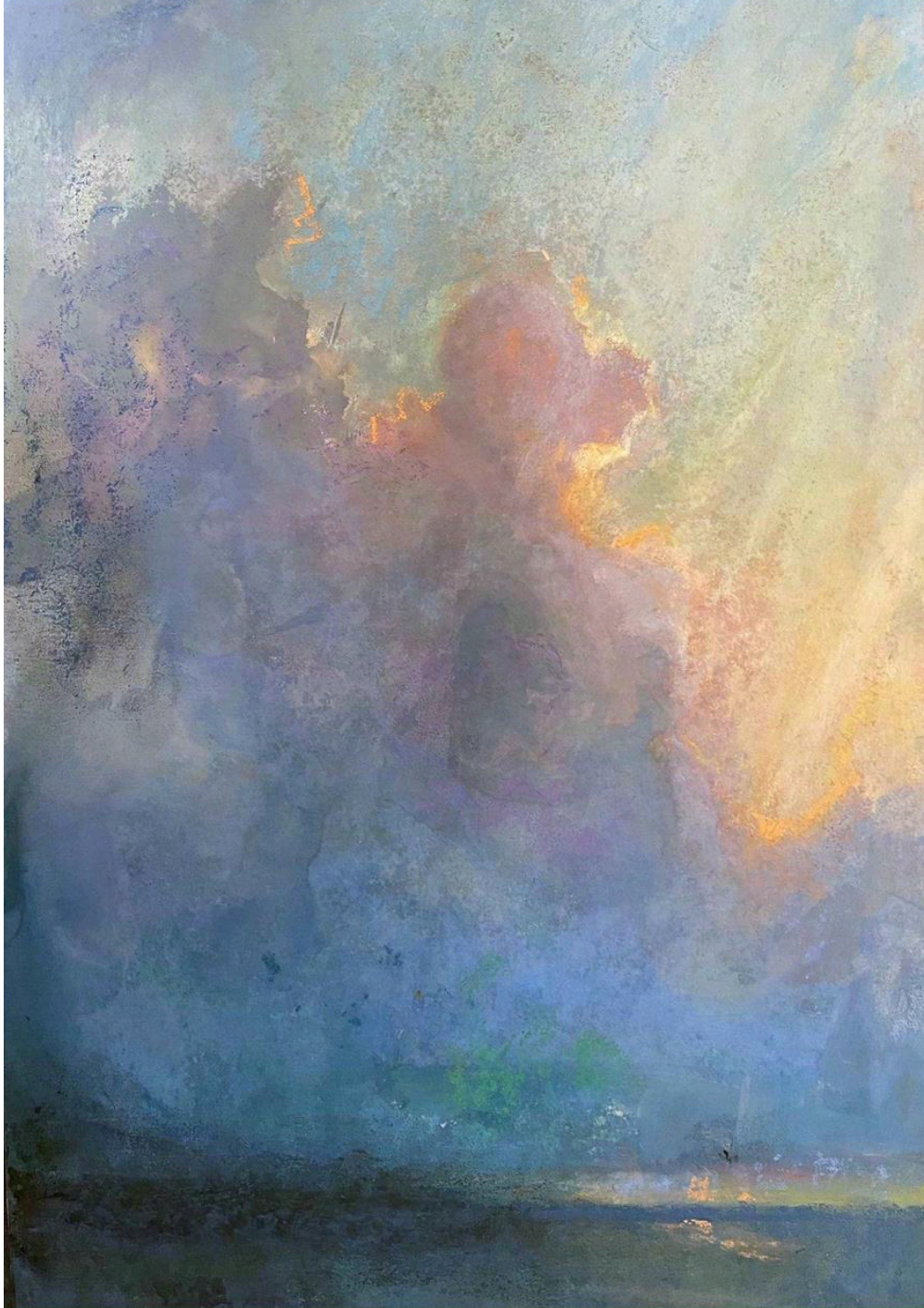
www.cmpastels.org

[Artist Talk with Loriann Signori](#)

One of our Marks of Distinction Selection Jurors, master pastelist Loriann Signori, will talk about her work and unique iterative process.

Sunday, December 10, 2023
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Zoom





"Storm Breaking", Loriann Signori

[Demonstration with Javad Soleimanpour](#)

Marks of Distinction Selection Juror Javad Soleimanpour will give a live demo from Turkey.

Sat, January 13, 2024

11:00 am



[Book Talk: Color and Light: A Guide for the Realist Painter by James Gurney](#)

Fri, February 09, 2024
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Zoom

Join us for a members-only discussion of James Gurney's book, *Color and Light: A Guide for the Realist Painter*, led by Alexia Rosoff Wilber. It's not necessary to have read the book, but if your own copy, or want to get it out of the library before the event, all the better. There will be time for attendees to share their suggestions for other book discussions at the end.



Member News

Phyllis Willey is excited to have her painting, "*Rushing In*", juried into the [Vermont Pastel Society's 2023 Juried Show](#). This was her first time ever having a painting accepted into a juried show! In addition to that honor, she was awarded the First Prize for the show! Phyllis is beyond excited for this honor. It's a piece she painted during a Plein Air weekend in New Hampshire in June.



"Rushing In", Phyllis Willey

Keith Demanche's painting "*Peaceful Morning*" will be in the [FiveSparks Gallery "Destination Nature"](#) show, opening Nov 8th. Public Reception: Saturday, November 18, 3-6pm.

Keith's painting "*Judy's House*" is included in the upcoming [Pastel Society of New Hampshire 15th Annual Juried Exhibition, "It's Pastel"](#), October 22-Nov. 27th at the Portsmouth Discovery Center. Opening reception Saturday, October 22 from 5-7pm.

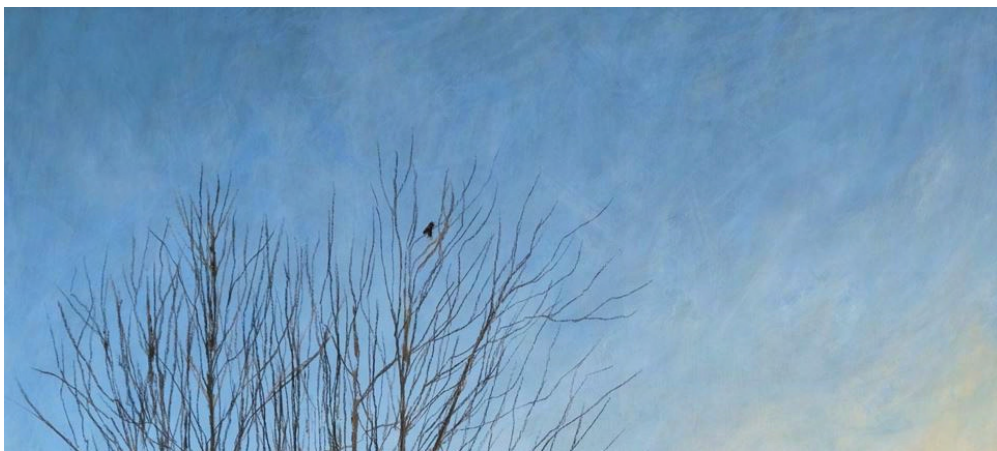
Keith will have a number of paintings in the [CMPS Signature Member show](#), including "*The First Blackbird's Call*", on view from November 7th to Dec. 17th at the Groton Public Library. Reception Dec 3rd from 1-3 pm.



"Peaceful Morning", Keith Demanche



"Judy's House", Keith Demanche





"The First Blackbirds Call", Keith Demanche

Karen Israel's painting, "*One Door Opens*", was accepted into the Pastel Society of America's [51st Annual Exhibition Enduring Brilliance Exhibit!](#)

Karen Israel's painting, "*Fast Friends*", won the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club Award at the [Connecticut Pastel Society 30th Annual National Juried Exhibition, "Renaissance in Pastel"](#).

Karen's painting, "*Summer Lovers*", won Second Place at the [Pastel Society of New Hampshire 15th Annual Juried Exhibition, "It's Pastel"](#).



"One Door Opens", Karen Israel



"Fast Friends", Karen Israel



"Summer Lovers", Karen Israel

Jeanne Rosier Smith's "To the Brink", 12x36, won the Salmagundi Club Award at this year's PSA's Enduring Brilliance show. With this award, Jeanne achieved Master Pastelist status with the PSA.



"To the Brink", Jeanne Rosier Smith

Jane Robbins had the opportunity to share her work through acceptances to the following juried pastel and all-media shows during the past quarter, and is happy to have received two awards:

- [Central Massachusetts Pastel Society - Marks of Distinction 2023](#), Fivesparks, Harvard, MA, with "*Serenity*".
- [7th Annual PURE COLOR: Online International Juried Exhibition of Pastel Paintings 2023](#), Pastel Society of North Carolina, online, with "*The Glint*". Thank you to juror Kathleen Newman for a Merit Award for this painting.
- [The Connecticut Pastel Society's 30th Annual Exhibition: Renaissance in Pastel](#), at Arts Center East in Vernon, with "*Just Peachy*" (below).
- [Breaking Boundaries: Excellence in Pastel 2023 International Online Exhibition](#), Appalachian Pastel Society, with "*The Approach*".
- [Pastel Society of New Hampshire 15th Annual Juried Exhibition, "It's Pastel!"](#), Discover Portsmouth Center, Portsmouth, NH, with "*Compliments of Canada*", (below).
- [A Small Point of Land, Juried Regional Exhibition](#), Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, RI, with "*Calm*" and "*Winter Comes to the Island*".
- [2023 Signature Strokes, Signature Member Exhibition, Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod](#), South Shore Art Center, Cohasset, MA, with "*Obstacles*," "*Spring's Promise*" (which sold!), and "*Biscuits Today*."
- [Southeastern Pastel Society's 2023 Fall 'Luminosity' Open Online Exhibition](#), with "*I Can See For Miles*", (below).
- [126th Annual Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club Open Juried Exhibition](#), Salmagundi Club. NY. NY. with "*The Midas Touch*". Thank you to awards jurors Caroline Elenowitz-Hess, John Varriano, and Elizabeth Allison for awarding this painting the UArt Award.





"Just Peachy", Jane Robbins



"Compliments of Canada", Jane Robbins





"I Can See for Miles", Jane Robbins

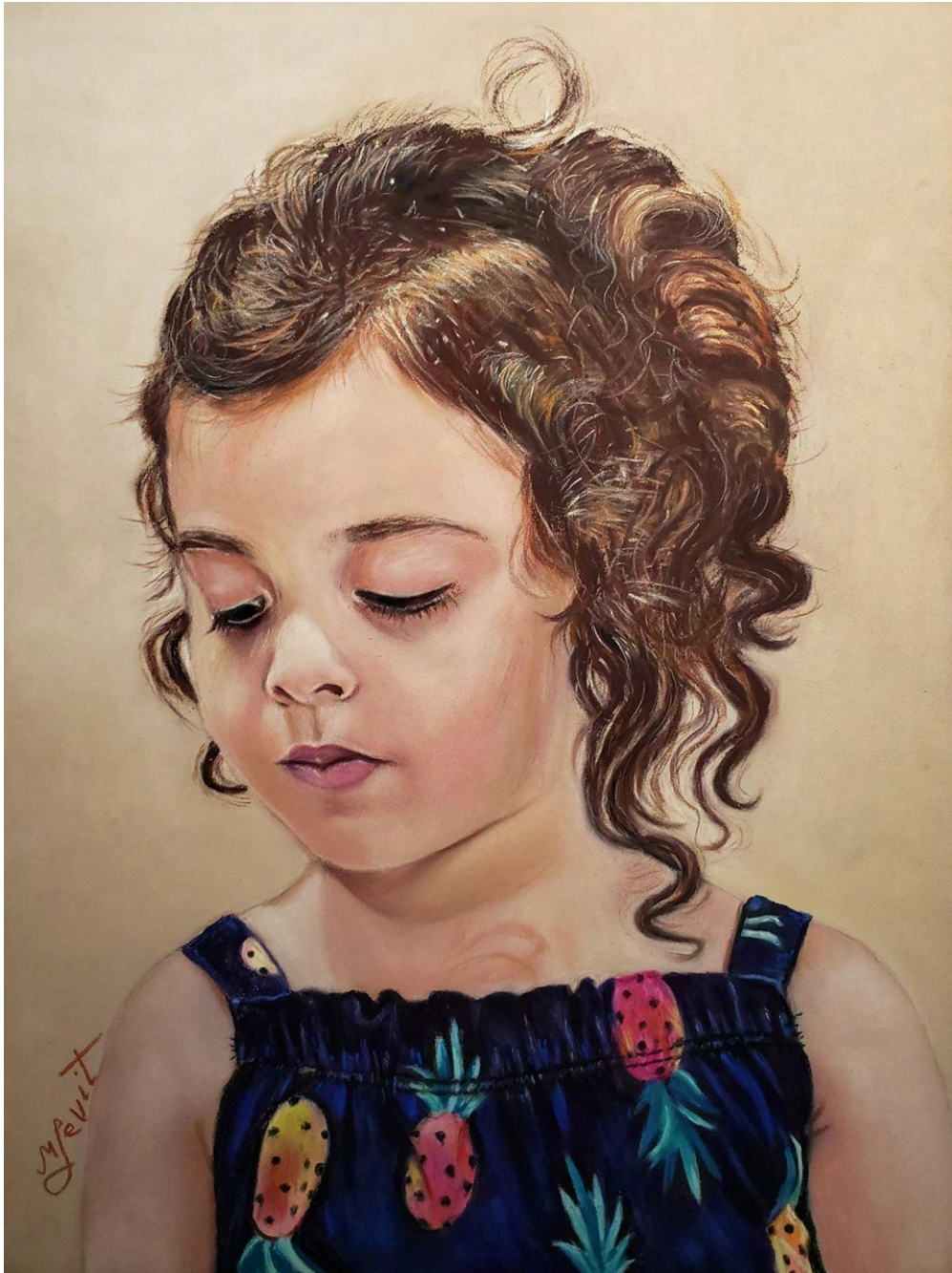
Mena Levit is happy to share her last quarter's accomplishments.

- [Pastel Society of New Hampshire 15th Annual Juried Exhibition, "It's Pastel"](#) with "*White Profusion*" (below), receiving the Robert McCown Award.
- [Iowa Pastel Society National Exhibition "Glorious Pastels! 23"](#) with two paintings accepted, "*White Profusion*" and "*Pick One*".
- [Southeastern Pastel Society's 2023 Fall 'Luminosity' Open Online Exhibition](#) with "*Pick One*".
- [Needham Art Association 2023 Fall Judged Exhibit](#) with "*In Her Own Thoughts*" (below) being awarded Second Place. The exhibit is running now at Needham Free Library through December 30.
- [2023 Southwest Florida Pastel Society Juried Online Show Exhibit](#) with "*Elegantly Wrapped*".
- [Sidoti Gallery](#) in Rockport, MA with "*Listen to the Ocean*" , on view through December.

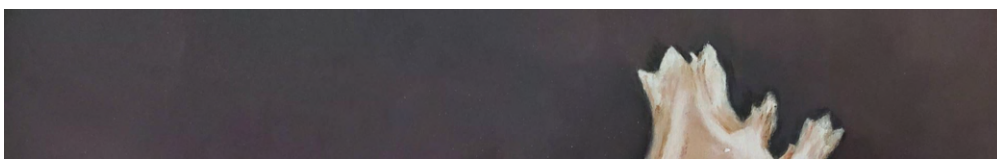




"White Profusion", Mena Levit



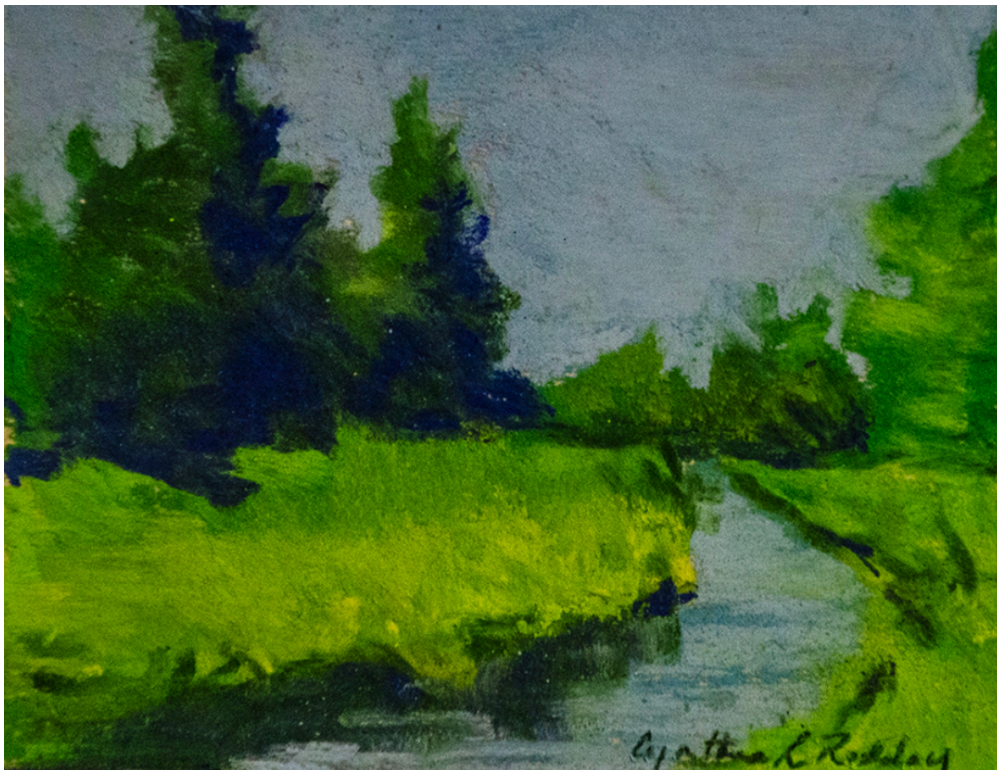
"In Her Own Thoughts", Mena Levit





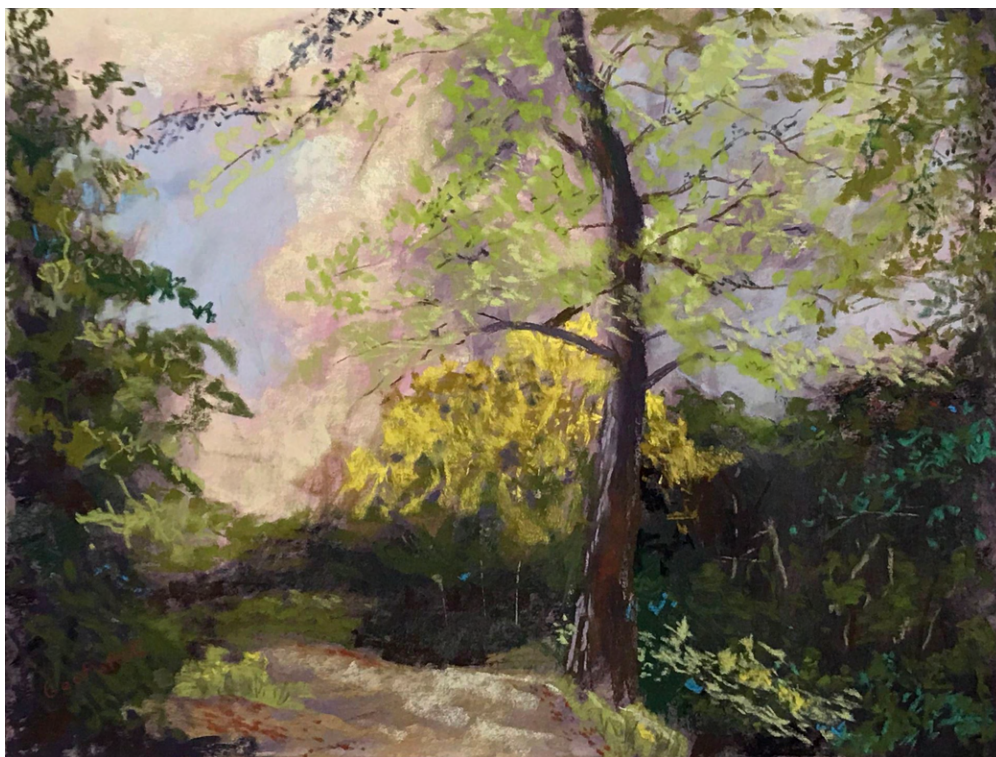
"Listen to the Ocean", Mena Levit

Cindy Rodday's pastel, "Newfoundland", was accepted into the [24th Annual Frances N. Roddy Open Competition](#) as part of the Juried Show Series at Concord Art in Concord, MA. The exhibit juror was Lauren Szumita and the show ran from Sept 14–Oct 22, 2023. Cindy likes to tell people it was her "Sweet Sixteenth" as it was the 16th time entering this exhibit and first acceptance.



"Newfoundland", Cindy Rodday

Geoffry Staniford had the pleasure of being accepted into the [Pastel Society of Oregon's 2023 Membership Online Exhibition](#) (MOX 2023) as an emerging artist and being recognized with an Honorable Mention winning the Central Art Supply Gift Card with "Path to Rydal Water".



"Path to Rydal Water", Geoffry Staniford

In October, **Dina Gardner** was featured with [Turning Art](#). View her [studio interview](#) here.



Joanne Willoughby recently was accepted into the [American Impressionist Society All Member Online Exhibition 2023](#) with her pastel "*Early Summer*" 6x8(sold). 2053 images were juried and only 269 images accepted into the show, judged by Peggy Kroll Roberts.



"Early Summer", Joanne Willoughby

Donna Rossetti-Bailey's pastel painting "*The Long View*" won the PanPastels/Golden Award in the Pastel [Society of New Hampshire 15th Annual Juried Exhibition, "It's Pastel"](#). This show was on exhibit at the Discover Portsmouth Center, Portsmouth, NH through November 18, 2023.

Donna also has four paintings included in the [South Shore Art Center Small Works Show](#). This is an "off the wall" exhibit on display through December 16, 2023 in Cohasset at the [South Shore Art Center](#).

In addition Donna has two pastels in the [Second Annual Holiday Small Works Show at the Frame Center Gallery](#), Hanover, MA, November 17, 2023- January 5, 2024.



"The Long View", Donna Rossetti-Bailey

Chris Reid's *"Before The Summer Storm"* won the Jack Richeson 1 Award at the Connecticut Pastel Society 30th Annual National Juried Exhibition Renaissance in Pastel! The show was held at the Arts Center East in Vernon, CT from September 28 to October 28, 2023.

Chris' painting, *"Dublin Wetlands"*, is at the [New Hampshire Art Association Member Holiday Exhibition](#), "Frost & Frame" - Levy Gallery, Portsmouth, NH.



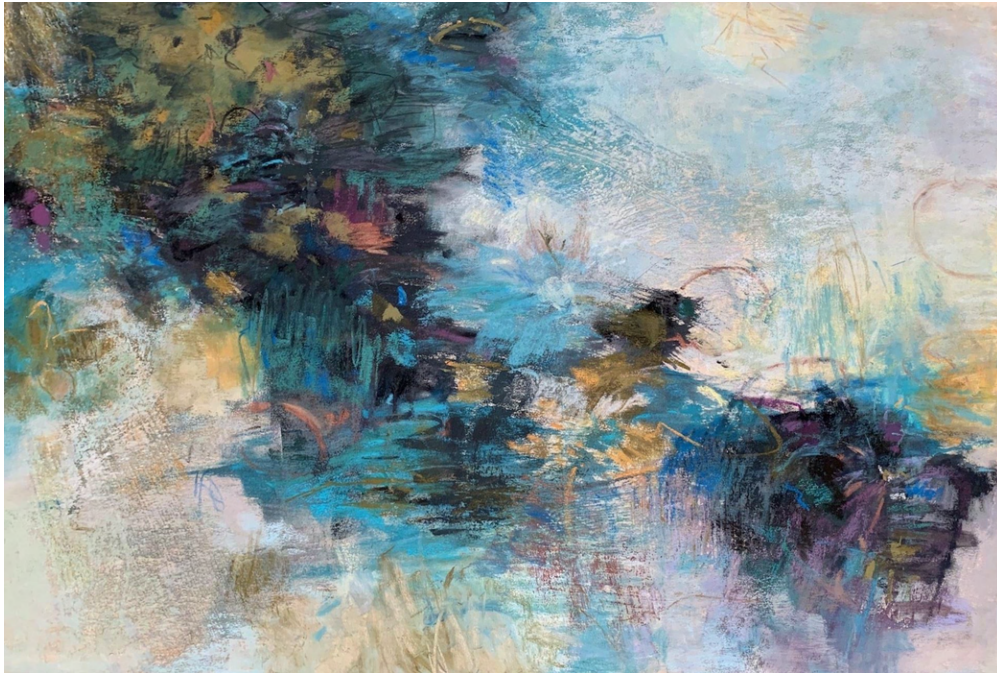
"Before the Summer Storm", Chris Reid



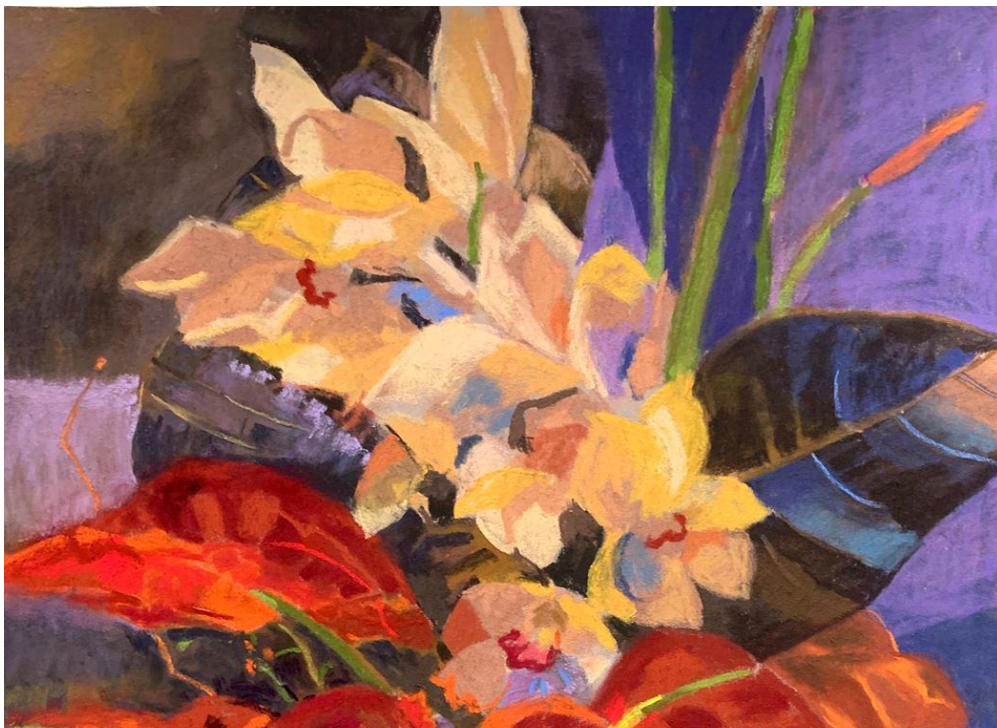
"Dublin Wetlands", Chris Reid

Ronnie Gold is happy to share the following acceptances including an award for "Most Innovative" and also obtaining Signature Member status in Connecticut Pastel Society.

- [Central Massachusetts Pastel Society - Marks of Distinction 2023](#), Fivesparks, Harvard, MA, with "*Tumbling Down*", (see below) awarded for "Most Innovative".
- [Connecticut Pastel Society 30th Annual National Juried Exhibition](#), "*Renaissance in Pastel*" with her painting "*Mademoiselle*" (see below).
- [Rowayton Art Center Autumn Juried Show 2023](#) with her painting, "*Madame*".
- [International Association of Pastel Societies 43rd Open Division 2023 Juried Fall Webshow](#) with her painting "*Beaucoup des Fleurs*" (see below).
- [Carriage Barn Juried Members Show September 2023](#) for her painting "*Autumn Sky*".
- Obtained [Connecticut Pastel Society](#) Signature Membership as of November 2023.



"Tumbling Down", Ronnie Gold





"Mademoiselle", Ronnie Gold



"Beaucoup Des Fleurs", Ronnie Gold

Upcoming Events From Our Members

Lisa Regopoulos and **Keith Demanche** will have a two person show showcasing all Plein Air work at the [Creative Connections Gallery](#) in Ashburnham, MA from December 2 through Jan 27th. The opening is Saturday December 2 from 12-2.

Lisa and Keith will also jointly demo making a painting on November 11th from 1-3 pm - "Two painters, One Painting!" Should be a fun event for sure!

Join **Jeanne Rosier Smith** in a live demo Wednesday Jan 17, "*Painting Icy Streams*".

Learn to create the chill. Paint the downstream movement of icy water and snowy banks. Jeanne will explore composing the winter landscape, choosing a color palette, underpainting strategies, and snow textures in this two hour live demo. Hosted by [Epiphany Fine Art](#). Registrants get 4 week access to the recorded demo, and Epiphany subscribers get 50% off and unlimited access to all recorded demos. Register at [EpiphanyFineArt.com](#).



Reference Photo, Jeanne Rosier Smith

Join **Jane Robbins** in Florida for a 3-day workshop, "[Capturing Light and Movement With Pastel: Waves and Beaches](#)" at Vero Beach Museum of Art, Friday-Sunday, March 8-10. All levels are welcome. View the full description and register at [VBMA](#). Contact jane@janeerobbins.com with any questions.





"Obstacles", Jane Robbins

Solo Exhibit: Artist **Susan Adele Edwards**

"Loving a Leek and the Soil It Grows In"

Using pastel painting, drawing, and poster illustrations, Edwards explores the world of root vegetables and their microbiome.

Opening Reception, Saturday, January 6, 2024, 11AM - 1PM

[Pepperell's Lawrence Library](#), Art Gallery, 15 Main Street, Pepperell MA 01463 with special guest, singer/songwriter PJ Rogue performing "roots music" at noon.

Exhibit runs through January 2024





Carrot Character Study #5, Susan Adele Edwards

The [NH Art Association presents Capturing the Moment](#) featuring work from artist **Chris Reid** on view at the Concord Chamber of Commerce." "*Summer Breeze II*" is one of the eighteen pieces shown now through January 12 2024.



"Summer Breeze II", Chris Reid

Notices from Sponsors or Other Pastel Societies

Dakota Art Pastels 2024 print catalog is now available for CMPS members!

By default, a free catalog is included with every new order, and soon there will be a special request button online for those who can't wait or would like multiple. Teachers can reach out any time to request multiple catalogs to info@dakotapastels.com or by phone 888-345-0067.