



Easel

Supporting and Informing Coast Guard Artists

Summer 2011

COAST GUARD ACCEPTS 2011 ART COLLECTION Works now on view at Federal Hall following Salmagundi Club show

Thirty-one works of art by 26 artists were accepted into the Coast Guard's permanent collection by Vice Commandant Sally Brice-O'Hara July 7 at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. This year marks the Coast Guard Art Program's (COGAP) 30th anniversary so the event was particularly auspicious. As continuing testimony to the high quality of the art, it was displayed in the upper gallery, the



A capacity crowd gathered for COGAP's 2011 opening reception at Salmagundi Club in New York City on July 7. Vice Commandant Sally Brice O'Hara, front row center right, attended to officially accept the art.

club's most prestigious exhibit area.

Robert C. Semler of Bradenton, Fla., won the annual George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence. Semler's painting, *Law enforcement training, Station Cortez*, (photo and item follow) captures service members in training under the hot Florida sun.

Vice Adm. Brice-O'Hara, the Coast Guard's second in command, accepted the new works. "On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard and our nation, it is an honor for me to stand here tonight and accept these remarkable paintings," she said, describing the body of works as a "treasure." She noted that the service didn't like to put itself in the spotlight. So seeing the artists "take what we do and transcribe it" into art was moving.

The admiral stated that her support for the program went back to 1984 when she helped an artist gain access to a Coast Guard unit. She conveyed her continuing strong support, including funding artist deployments and thanked all who had helped bring the program to "the level of excellence we celebrate today."

Salmagundi Club President Claudia Seymour noted the large number of service members present "to admire such marvelous art." The 2011 Collection shows a range of Coast Guard activities: from responses to last year's earthquake in Haiti and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to living marine resources protection and national security.

artist observed:

"To be an artist for the military is a unique way of giving back with the God-given talent we have. We honor those who protect us doing what many service men and women consider all in a day's work. We give a painting, but they may ultimately give their life."

The New York Council of the Navy League sponsored the evening's elegant reception, a kindness it has extended repeatedly over the years. Robert Lunney, 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 sea services. He added that the Navy League was "proud to be part of this most distin-

Capt. Ronald LaBrec, chief of Coast Guard Headquarters Public Affairs and the evening's emcee, said the service was grateful to the artists for their volunteering their time and talent to tell its story. "We are pleased to have this chance to thank them publicly for their lasting contributions to the service and the country," he said.

Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club COGAP committee chair and contributing

36 new pieces by 26 artists comprise 2011 collection



Vice Adm. Brice-O'Hara and Claudia Seymour, both jurors for the George Gray Award, stand in front of Bob Semler's award winning painting. Right is Carol Kino, contributor to *The New York Times*, who also served as a juror.

guished program." Also attending was the council's executive secretary, George Simpson.

Sector New York's enthusiastic support of the evening played an important role in its success as well.

In addition to presenting Public Service Commendations to the eight artists attending the reception, Vice Adm. Brice-O'Hara presented the Distinguished Public Service Award—the highest public service award offered by the Coast Guard—to the Salmagundi Club for its sponsorship of COGAP since the program's inception, to COGAP chair Karen Loew for her outstanding leadership and contributions as an artist and to COGAP Vice and Membership Chair Thomas Picard for his nearly three decades of continuous service and contributions as an artist (photos follow).

Contributors to this year's collection are Bob Blevins, Elizabethton, Tenn.; Dennis D. Boom, Hillsboro, Ore.; James Consor, New York, N.Y.; Chris Demarest, Washington, D.C.; Peter DeWeerd, Tucson, Ariz.; Amy Digi, The Bronx, N.Y.; Louis Stephen Gadal, Los Angeles, Calif.; Frank Gaffney, Mountlake Terrace, Wash.; Anne Brodie Hill, Gainesville, Ga.; Kristin Hosbein, St. Augustine, Fla.; Dick Kramer, Purcellville, Va.; Karen Loew, New York, N.Y.; Terrence Maley, Burke, Va.; Kevin McCaffery,

Weehawken, N.J.; Priscilla Messner-Patterson, Sequim, Wash.; Hugh O'Connor, St. Clair Shores, Mich.; Dorothy Joan Riley, Brandon, Fla.; Robert Semler, Bradenton, Fla.; Doug Smith, Santa Fe, N.M.; Ken Smith, Pulaski, Va.; Jim Stagner, Johnson City, Tenn.; David Sturdevant, Belfast, Maine; Marty Walsh, Middle Village, N.Y.; John Ward, Saranac Lake, N.Y.; Ron Weil, Tualatin, Ore.; and Richard Eaves Woods, Sparks, Nev.

The collection was on view at the club for two weeks. It is now on a three-week display at Federal Hall National Memorial. The memorial is located just across from the New York Stock Exchange and enjoys a large audience—with as many as 1,500 visitors daily.



President of the New York Council of the Navy League Robert Lunney making remarks during July 7 program.

Coast Guard Auxiliarist Chaplain Donna Cole's Blessings

Coast Guard Invocation

Lord God of every moment, we invoke your blessing on the artists and Coast Guard members we honor this day. May they in turn offer back to you, the talent and skill which your grace first supplied to them. By their craft may all come to witness the honor, respect and devotion to duty that form the core values of the United States Coast Guard. May we, gathered here, rejoice in their accomplishments and take pride in their achievement. We ask all of this through the God who watches over every coast, and whose light is the eternal beacon.

Benediction

Eternal God,
Your presence and action are revealed in the graced moments shared among us this evening. Grateful for the gifts of artistry and service, we ask now for your blessing on all those who keep the watch this and every day. Be for them always a source of strength and endurance and increase in them the will to stand Semper Paratus, Always Ready in the face of every challenge and adversity. May the Lord God, who calls each of us as servants grant us good courage as shipmates and friends as we encounter each new course on the way ahead.

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Photos courtesy of PA1 Thomas McKenzie, Public Affairs, Detachment, New York City
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Robert Semler works on a painting of the Coast Guard Cutter Thetis in his studio in Bradenton, Fla. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Robert Semler wins 2011 George Gray Award

Bradenton-based artist Robert C. Semler won the 2011 George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence for his depiction of law enforcement training at Coast Guard Station Cortez, Fla. “Wow! With all of the good submissions, I’m very honored and pleased that everyone liked the painting so well,” said Semler. “As much as it is an honor to be recognized, I am truly humbled to have the opportunity to represent the brave men and women of the Coast Guard and their devotion to duty in my work.”

Bob studied at Philadelphia’s Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. He spent the majority of his career in the publishing and illustration fields. In 1992, he began focusing on fine art, specializing in maritime and portrait subjects. He is a Signature Member of the American Society of Marine Artists, New York Society of Illustrators and the Portrait Society of America. He has been a COGAP member for nearly three decades. This is the second time he has won the George Gray Award for Artistic Excellence.

Vice Commandant Brice-O’Hara presents Distinguished Public Service Awards

Vice Commandant Sally Brice-O’Hara, on behalf of Commandant Bob Papp, presented three Distinguished Public Service Awards—the highest public service award offered by the Coast Guard—during the July 7 ceremony.

At right, she is pictured with Claudia Seymour, Salmagundi Club president, who accepted on behalf of the club and with chairman of the club’s board, Tim Newton.

Below left, Karen Loew, Salmagundi Club COGAP chair is receiving her award for leadership and contributions as an artist.

Below right, COGAP Vice and Membership Chair Thomas Picard receives his award for nearly three decades of outstanding service and contributions as an artist.



Please note that this will be the last edition of the Easel to be sent by surface mail. Henceforward, all newsletters or news items will be sent by email. As necessary, we will continue to send official communications such as membership acceptances by surface mail. We thank you for your understanding. If we do not already have an email address for you, please contact maryann.bader@uscg.mil

Artists receiving Public Service Commendation Awards July 7



In all photos, Vice Commandant Sally Brice-O'Hara and Claudia Seymour, Salmagundi Club president are shown with artists receiving Public Service Awards during the ceremony.

Pictured left is Dennis Boom, Hillsboro, Ore., and at right, Hugh O'Connor, St. Clair Shores, Mich.



Left, James Consor of New York City and right is Ken Smith of Pulaski, Va.



Left, Ami Digi of The Bronx, N.Y., and on right, David Sturdevant of Belfast, Maine.



Left, Karen Loew of New York City and right, Coast Guard Auxiliarist Marty Walsh of Middle Vil-

