



The ACGOW Gallery News

ACGOW Founded 1992

April 2018

For more ACGOW news, visit the ACGOW website
<http://www.westerlyarts.com/>

ACGOW Board of Directors

President: Arlene Piacquadio
Vice President: Carol Schmedinghoff
Treasurer: Ardie Harrison
Recording Secretary: Nancy Gardner
Corresponding Secretary: Lynn Anderson

ACGOW Committees

Artists, Affiliates, Snowbirds Membership: Donna Mazzone
Associate Membership: Carey Williams
Annual Appeal: Nancy Nielsen, Patty Nunes, Jane Rollins, Lisle Ann Jackson, Sandy Webb
BRAG: Kristie Foss
DBA: Carey Williams
Fund Raising/Art Heist: Lora Cobden, Kathleen Hemenway, Nancy Gardner, Gary Fuller, Nancy Virbila, Judith Kaplan
Training: Patty Nunes, Kristie Foss
Curating Committee: Laurie Gavitt, Anna Shaw, Kay Pere
Lighting and Maintenance: Charlie Liguori, Fordan Bonardi, Robert Wilkinson, John Mcguire, Clarence Spangler, James Pepitone
Newsletter with Photography: Dave Brierley
Posters: Greg Eident
PR/Advertising/Facebook/MailChimp: Madeline Beaudry, Lois Lawrence, Jane Perkins, Jane Rollins, Rose Mary Gates, Rick Petrocelli
Regional Show: Gail Giancaspro
Show Themes, Scheduling, and Assignments: Gail Giancaspro, Patty Nunes, Lynn Anderson, Madeline Beaudry, Jane Rollins
Supply Purchases: Roberta MacGregor
Visiting Artists: Open
Website: Rose Mary Gates, Lisle Ann Jackson
Westerly Arts Café/Events/Gallery Space Design: Francesca Fay, Carol Schmedinghoff, Mimi Huszer Fagnant, Arlene Piacquadio, Betsie Withey, Lynn Anderson
WRAP: Arlene Piacquadio (on WRAP board), Robin Halpren Ruder

Help needed: **Visiting Artists** chair needed
Posters to help Greg Eident

Please contact a relevant committee or board member if you have questions or concerns

President's Message – April is Hope

April is Hope

During April, buds come into full bloom brightening our days which lends to lifting our spirits. Bringing hope to someone can take many forms. Being a positive role model in the life of someone, growing a community, or lifting the spirits of a friend suffering from a medical issue. We are each able to bring a ray of hope in our own ways by contributing wisdom, time, kindness, and creating art.

“Art is the highest form of hope,” is a line first expressed by the German painter Gerhard Richter.

Hope is central to our lives.

Arlene Piacquadio
Artists' Cooperative Gallery of Westerly
President

Highlights in April and May

April 15: All members' brunch; 10:30 – 12:30 p.m.

May 4 – 27: Regional Show

May 17: A Taste of Westerly at the Elms; 5 – 7 p.m.

Artists' Cooperative Gallery of Westerly

ACGOW
7 Canal Street
Westerly, RI 02891
401-596-2221
Open Wed-Sat 11-7; Sun 1-5
acgow2015@gmail.com
Look for us on Facebook, too

ACGOW Calendar of Events

Sunday, Apr. 1 – Last day of March show

Monday, Apr. 2 – Members' meeting 6 p.m. bring in artwork for the April show
"Rhythm & Movement" - Visual Inspiration Featured wall artist is **Arlene**

Piacquadio and the featured window artists are **Lisle Ann Jackson** and **Sandy Chucnin Webb**

Monday, April 2 – Install BRAG show **Caitlyn Olsen** and **Saint Michael School**

Tuesday, Apr. 3 – Hang April show

Friday, Apr. 6 – April show reception 5 – 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 15 – Members' spring brunch at the gallery; 10:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, Apr. 28 – Last day of April show

Sunday, Apr. 29 - Regional Show calendar begins; **see sidebar and article below**

Friday, May 4 – Regional Show reception 5 – 8 p.m. award presentations @7 p.m.

Thursday, May 17 – **A TASTE OF WESTERLY AT THE ELMS - AN EVENING OF ART, FOOD, AND WINE** at The Elms Retirement Residence in Westerly; 5 – 7 p.m.; ACGOW members are encouraged to attend; see separate article below.

Sunday, May 27 – Last day of Regional Show

Back Room Art Gallery (BRAG)

April will have a BRAG show featuring artwork by students who attend Saint Michael's School. It will be coordinated by **Caitlyn Olsen**. Other community exhibits may occur during 2018, depending on scheduling due to the United Theater development plans.

New London Day – Best of Reader's Choice Awards

ACGOW was nominated as one of five candidates in the Arts category. Voting began February 12 and ended Monday, March 12. Click on [New London Day Best of](#) after April 22 to view the results in our category and in the others. An insert will be published as well. It is an honor for ACGOW and all the members to have been nominated for recognition of the quality of artwork and the vitality of ACGOW.

Thanks to all who voted and who encouraged others to vote.

2018 ACGOW Show News

The Show Themes and Schedule Committee chaired by **Gail Giancaspro** determined the annual show theme and organizing the monthly show themes and show hanging committees. The 2018 theme is **"Transition by Design."**

Click on [2018 ACGOW Show Calendar](#) to view all the 2018 monthly show themes

Regional Show May 4 – 27, 2018

ACGOW will stage the annual **Regional Show** during May 2018. Click on [Regional Show prospectus for details](#).

The juror will be Michael Peery, who is an art professor and renowned painter.

Artwork will be accepted for the jury process on Sunday, April 29, from 12 – 5 p.m. and Monday, April 30, from 12 – 5 p.m. Mr. Peery will jury the artwork on Tuesday, May 1, from 9 – 5 p.m. The show committee, chaired by **Gail Giancaspro**, will hang the show on Wednesday, May 2. The show reception will be held on Friday, May 4, from 5 – 8 p.m. Entries not accepted must be picked up Saturday, May 5, 11-7 and Sunday, May 6, 1-5 p.m.

The cash awards (see separate listing) will be announced at @7 p.m. during the reception.

A TASTE OF WESTERLY AT THE ELMS - AN EVENING OF ART, FOOD, AND WINE

Mark your calendars to attend a festive event on Thursday, May 17, 5 – 7 p.m. The Elms Retirement Residence is located at 22 Elm Street, although parking and the main entrance to the Elms are located at 29 Chestnut Street. All ACGOW members, the public, and invited guests are cordially invited to the Elms mansion for an evening of art, food, and wine to celebrate the renovation of their foyer, great room, and pub. It's a free event.

Six artists of The Artist's Cooperative of Westerly will display their fine art and fine crafts for viewing and sale. Appetizers will be donated by Mia's at Wilcox Tavern and Capizanos. The vintners of the Tapped Apple will pour wine. Live music will be played by **Peter Piacquadio** and the Jazz Gallery. There will be a raffle of a basket of art, food, and wine. Bring your checkbook for the raffle and artwork on sale.

We are all looking forward to a delightful evening and hope you will join us. Lynn Anderson is coordinating the committee that will provide ACGOW's support for the event.

General News about ACGOW Members and Activities

- The **April 2018 show committee** is Kristie Foss Co-chair, Donna Mazzone - Co-chair; Lora Cobden, Clarence Spangler, Greg Eident, Rick Petrocelli
- The **April featured artists** will be: wall – Arlene Piacquadio window - Lisle Ann Jackson and Sandy Chucnin Webb
- The **May 2018 Regional Show committee** is: Gail Giancaspro – Co-chair, Nancy Gardner, Lisle Jackson, Dan Marantz, Betsie Withey, Nancy Virbila, Jane Perkins
No featured artists due to Regional Show
- A helpful way for ACGOW artists to market his or her artwork is to have a webpage listed under Members on the home page of the ACGOW website. Artist webpages are indicated by the underlined names. To investigate creating a webpage contact the website committee members **Rose Mary Gates and Lisle Ann Jackson** for details.

ACGOW All-Members' Spring Brunch – Sunday, April 15, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The all-members' spring brunch at the gallery promises to be a fun ACGOW members' event to socialize and enjoy fine food. Artists, associates, adjuncts, and their guests are cordially invited to attend. **Mimi Huszer Fagnant** is coordinating the brunch and asks that members contact her to state what food item you will offer to bring and tell her how many people will come with you. She is compiling a list to make sure that all the food bases are covered and we have a fine variety. Response has been great and the list is growing. Please contact Mimi by email at lilacwind@cox.net or call her at 401-323-4548 to sign up.

May 2018 Regional Show

The annual Regional Show will be held at the gallery during May 2018. As always, it promises to be an amazing show of artists' talents and creativity. The 2017 Regional Show had nearly 300 entrants. Click on [Regional Show Prospectus](#) to view the 2018 prospectus details. View the sidebar information on the previous page, too.

The cash prizes are listed below. The results will be announced at 7 p.m. at the May 4 reception.

Louise Pittaway Award \$500

(Fine Art Painting Oil or Acrylic)

ACGOW Award \$100 (Fine Art)

Katherine Forest Foundation (5 awards) \$200 each

Washington Trust Company Award \$ 250 (Fine Art)

Professional Planning Award \$200 (Fine Art)

Blick Art Supply \$100 gift card

Jerry's Artarama Award \$100 gift card

Watch Hill Oysters Award \$200 (Fine Art Watercolor)

Gallery Space Design News

The Gallery Space Design Committee (GSDC) is compiling a list of requirements and ideas from members for the new ACGOW space being designed by the architects of the United Theater renovation project. Please consider everything – wall space, hanging system, lighting, pedestals, and other 3D display systems, sound systems, storage space, front desk and reception area. This committee is also planning for our interim quarters when construction is underway. Email your thoughts and concerns to **Lynn Anderson** at Lynn@NoankArt.com to be added to our list.

Meetings and communications are taking place with the United Theater and Land Trust to further establish the plans and time table for the development of the United Theater and a temporary location for our gallery.

The Art Life Panel Discussion Program – Sunday, April 8, 1 p.m.

The Art Life is a three-part program sponsored by Hoparts on the many dimensions of a career path in art. Session 2 for the mid-stage artist will be held on Sunday, April 8, at 1 p.m. The panel will focus on sales/marketing exhibition gallery representation; self-education and teaching challenges in working with technology and issues of orientation in being self-employed; plus gaining acceptance to a gallery. The session is free and open to the public.

The panel will be Hoparts Directors Christine Anderson, nonprofits administrator and Barbara Murphy, textile artist. Panel participants are Beth Drainville, painter/illustrator; Leah Grear, educator/painter; Joyce Hoffman, weaver; **Arlene Piacquadio**, painter/sculptor and president of the Artists' Cooperative Gallery of Westerly; Susan Shaw, potter/ painter; and Joe Soares - sculptor/painter/photographer.

Learn more by clicking on <http://www.hoparts.org/category/news/>

This Month's "Through the Lens" artist – Lois Lawrence

When did you join ACGOW as an artist member? I joined ACGOW in April 2015, so I'm coming up on my third anniversary.



Why did you join ACGOW? I had visited the gallery a few times and was impressed by the quality and diversity of the work. Although I have painted most of my adult life, I had only in the preceding few years begun marketing and selling my work and I thought the time had come to join a group with whom I could share my passion and from whom I could learn.

How did you become an artist and when? I hardly remember a time when I did not draw, paint or make crafts. I come from a family where arts were taken as a given. My father was a musician, as is my brother and another sister who is a talented pastel artist.

Describe your formal or self-taught education Other than several classes in portraiture with the late artist Deane Keller at the Lyme Academy of Art, I have no formal training. My paintings are the result of years of trial and error. The whole process for me is working through the errors.

Lois Lawrence at work in her kitchen studio

What medium(s) do you prefer and why? In my younger years I painted primarily in oils and I still love everything about oil paint. The smells bring me back to happy childhood days of working on the paint-by-number kits I always received at Christmas. Now, however, I work exclusively in acrylics for a number of reasons. First, I have been a practicing lawyer for over 30 years and find I must often fit my painting sessions into small blocks of time. Second, I do not have a studio and have limited space in which to preserve working palettes, store drying work, or process lengthy cleanups. Acrylics dry quickly and cleanup is quick and easy. I find that by using various media I can slow drying time sufficiently to allow me to create many of the glazing and blending techniques common to oil painting while still having the convenience of working with a water-based medium.



Please explain your concept of white Any home re-modeler who has ever perused a tri-fold paint chip brochure featuring a few dozen "white" paints already knows white can be interpreted in a myriad of ways. For an artist, the variations go far beyond colors that would be perceived as white on a wall or in the fabric of a wedding gown. One need only look at a few paintings by John Singer Sargent or Winslow Homer to see how deftly they represented white clothing using strong colors including deep browns, grays, purples and even reds. While I do not pretend to have mastered the art of painting white, myself, there is almost no color that I consider off-limits when working on a painting of snow or clouds. While I do not ascribe to the taboo of ever using white paint straight from the tube, I agree that using white paint for anything but occasional highlights can destroy the illusion of reality.

Travel seems to be a key part of your painting subjects; what destination do you want to visit (and paint) the most in the future? I paint landscapes more than anything else and would have a life-time supply of subjects taking an afternoon walk from my home, but painting memories from my travel is a passion of mine. This is more because making these paintings brings back fond memories of places and experiences I have enjoyed over the years. France is probably my favorite destination and, as of yet, I have never visited the west coast so a trip to Burgundy and the Ile de Réare in France is high on my bucket list.

What has been your most favorite travel destination to paint to date? Judging only from my inventory records, I'd say I have painted Martinique more than any other travel destination. We first visited that island which is technically part of France, several times starting in 1990. For reasons I cannot explain, I am also more likely to have my camera handy on trips there than in Europe or Canada.

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What is your use of epoxy? I paint on wood panels. When the panel is flat, I do not coat the finished painting at all and normally frame it in a plain gold plien aire frame. The medium I use to slow drying as I work gives my paintings a subtle sheen. However, I also paint on panels that have a deep cradle similar to what one sees in so-called "gallery wrapped" canvases. I use all four sides of these cradles to continue the image of my paintings, then when they are completed, I coat them with a glassy finish using a two-part reactive polymer resin. This is a product often used in furniture-making. I pour the resin on the top surface of my painting and then tease it gently into full coverage using ordinary playing cards. I also use the playing cards as a squeegee to coat the sides of the cradle. Mixing this two part coating creates thousands of bubbles which I remove using a propane torch. I always have a few toothpicks at the ready in the event of a stray piece of dust or a floating cat hair. The end result is a coating that gives the impression of a flawlessness yet true flawlessness is an ideal I may never achieve with resin. That is the difference between handmade and manufactured art.

Please describe your workspace and how you manage using it along with other daily uses I do not have a dedicated studio for my art. Instead I have a storage room for all of my supplies and I make my paintings in the brightest space of my house which happens to be the kitchen island. Since my husband and I must share this space - he cooks, I paint- I have developed habits that make it quick-and-easy to clear out when the time comes for meal preparation. My paints are all kept in a small Rubbermaid tub. I have two containers for brushes - one for small brushes and another for large. Aside from those, all I need to complete a painting session is a small plastic bowl which serves as my palette and a bottle of medium. I never mix more paint than I need for a single session. When time comes to clear my space, I need only spend a minute or two to wash my brushes and bowl, and to put away my paint and brush containers. Now, if I could only find the will to keep my storage room tidy, things would be perfect.

To learn more about Lois Lawrence's artwork, click on [Lois Lawrence](#) on the ACGOW website.

ACGOW April Show Reception - Friday, April 6, 5-8 p.m.

"Rhythm & Movement – Visual Inspiration Featured wall artist is **Arlene Piacquadio**. The featured window artists are **Lisle Ann Jackson** and **Sandy Chucnin Webb**