

February 2025 Newsletter

Dear HAL Members and Friends,



"For Keeps"

The Hamden Art League (HAL) will host **Brian McClear** on **March 11th** at **7PM** as he presents "**Painting a Still Life in Oil**". We return to in-person demonstrations and lectures at the Miller Senior Center.

Brian McClear is a representational artist who loves the process of painting.

Working mostly in oil, he explores portraiture or everyday objects with a passion for form and texture. His paintings present the insightful (and sometimes quirky) connections he forms from his subjects to capture a mood or tell a story, express an opinion or comment on a trend, or . . . simply observe something funny.

Website: www.mcclearart.com

The remaining monthly meetings this year are on **April 8th**, **Mark Grindell** demonstrating Tetra-pak printmaking, and showing some of his work; and on **May 13th**, **Fritz Horstman** will give a presentation that covers both his new book "Interacting with Color: A Practical Guide to Josef Albers's Color Experiments" and his own artwork.

The "**Critique with Jeanne Ciravolo**" is now scheduled for **Saturday, March 8th** from **1-3:30PM** at Miller Library in Hamden, Friend's Room (upstairs). Attendees will be able to bring 3 pieces of artwork. Jeanne will be gentle but very professional, helpful and encouraging. Cost is \$21, through PayPal on the website. Only 20 people can participate. Registration and payment is through the website. Registration is a 2 step process; click <https://forms.gle/fBbhFjnVE9xiGGFr6> to begin the process.

Returning artist and teacher **Eric March** will conduct "**Figure Drawing from Composition Toward Completion**". Scheduled for **Sunday, March 30th** from **noon to 4:00 pm** at the Eli Whitney Museum's Carter Workshop. Space is limited to 20. Priority will be given to Hamden Art League members. Eric has been a favorite instructor of HAL members. This workshop will walk through how to conceptualize and plan a figure drawing as well as the key steps to take in the beginning of the drawing process to end up with a piece that hits the marks of your composition-while creating good proportions and accurate form modeling. Students will practice this process with several quick "starts" and then move on to develop one drawing to a more completed state. Students are encouraged to work in charcoal on tone paper but pencil is fine too. The class will consist of demonstrations in charcoal, short lectures and individual coaching. We will work from a live clothed model.

The cost is \$48.50 via PayPal for members and \$58.50 via PayPal for non-members. Registration and payment is through the website. Registration is a 2 step process; click on <https://forms.gle/rdXzTfn5SqWzqD6z6> to begin the process.

Our final spring workshop will be “**From Realism to Abstraction**” with **Stephen Henderson**, at Quinnipiac University on **Sunday, April 13th** from **10:00 am to 2:00 pm**. Stephen Henderson recently spoke to HAL about "Abstracting Your Art", and this is an excellent chance to loosen up and experiment with various media and materials.

We are also opening up this workshop to Quin students and faculty, 16 people max., so register early. The cost is \$26.50 via PayPal. Registration and payment is through the website. Registration is a 2-step process. Click on <https://forms.gle/dmSg6NrGDDgNvFvR6> to begin the process.

Free Open Studio Sessions started. Every Thursday from **10:00 am to 1:00pm** at **Hamden's Miller Library** in the first floor **Program Room**. Arrive any time after 9:30 to get set up. The sessions at the library will be more for independent projects, a time to finish up paintings, do some sketching and to enjoy each other's company. We have reserved the space through the end of April (April 24th), as long as interest and participation continues. It is a relatively small space, but it is well lit and has access to water and bathrooms. No registration required. Try it out!

At the end of May, we will hold the four-day **Eli Whitney Barn Show**. This show was a smashing success last year. If you attended, you know that there is a lot of space for large paintings and sculptures. Members and non-members will be able to enter two pieces of art per person as before (however only one quilt). This show will be juried for prizes, and again will include a student exhibition that will also be juried for prizes. **Receiving will be Wednesday, May 28th**, the show will be Thursday, May 29th through Sunday, June 1st. Pickup will be at the end of the day on Sunday. Both the reception and awards will be Saturday, May 31st. **Start planning now. USE THE UPCOMING CRITIQUE TO PERFECT YOUR WORK!!!!**

Local Happenings



Our friends at the **Eli Whitney Museum & Workshop** host an art auction and celebration to raise funds for k-12 students in the Greater New Haven community during their Leonardo Challenge. This year is the 29th **Leonardo Challenge**, and the theme is “**Leonardo’s Landscape**”. Could the theme be any more up our alley? The Challenge will take place on Thursday, **May 15th**. They seek donations of artwork for the auction. All art mediums will be accepted. Historically the donation deadline is one week prior to the event.

HAL artists participated last year. Look through your completed works. Do you have pieces to donate?



Remember the **Great Give**, May 7 and 8. Donating to HAL at that time gives us a chance to win one of the random gifts (funds!) that are distributed over the two days. We won two in the short time that we have been part of the Great Give, thus giving our budget a boost. <https://www.thegreatgive.org/organizations/hamden-art-league>

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Hamden Art League Board

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