

Creative Arts Workshop



A MESSAGE from the President of the Board

Creative Arts Workshop –December 2001 to December 2002 – typically a time for us to reflect over the past year, to summarize, report and congratulate each other for another successful year.

Together, we have, over the years, reflected on certain themes that have risen in importance to our organization – volunteerism, fundraising, and capital improvements. We have benefited from prosperous economic times and been challenged by downturns.

Our organization has, primarily, taken a reactive position to these issues – we ask ourselves – “How can we adapt our organization, CAW, to best work through these issues that we find ourselves faced with?” Hence, the strength and make-up of the Board and our volunteer family has been to value and reinforce skills and behaviors that have been best suited to “reacting”, in how we “deal with”, in how we “adapt”, in how we “ride out” those environmental forces that effect our leadership of CAW.

We have been rewarded by this philosophy of governance with a stable organization on a strong foundation. Insulated against jarring changes, comfortable with our past that provided us with an expectation of the future similar in many ways. This may be what we strive for in our personal lives, but in the life of a non-profit organization, strength, endurance, growth and diversification come through the self-induced stress of change. With the assistance of **National Arts Stabilization (NAS)**, in the past year we have started the structured and organized process of change. We have started to look inward, using a mirror to see our history and ourselves as a new pathway into the future. This is new for us and will feel uncomfortable at first, but that is the paradox of change.

I am becoming more aware of the true effects that NAS brings to an organization. In the last year, under the inspired leadership of Board member Liz O'Connor, Liz and her committee have initiated the first steps in the process of change – by taking an inventory of all the aspects of CAW toward the goal of long-term planning. Her committee will oversee our participation in this process. Not only have we as a Board started looking at our internal structure, committees and vision, but to get a true picture of the organization, we've asked our many constituents for their feedback and comments. Surveys were sent to volunteers, members of the community, faculty, staff and the Board.

We have, of our own accord, started to take ourselves out of our “comfort zone”. We now have the challenge of taking all this information and building a better CAW. Is this easy? No – those who care about CAW have many different suggestions and can be very emotional about their ideas. Is this expected? Yes. But easy? No.

In order for a group of dedicated and caring people to “agree to disagree”, we must focus on the future and not the past. The past has owners – the future is up for grabs – we can all participate.

On the surface, NAS will help us with tangible outcomes – better reporting, a long-range plan, better financial accountability. But underneath, the change is more subtle – priorities shift, visions appear, passion ignites. The challenge will be to, first, accept that we are all good people –working or volunteering for the betterment of our community through our involvement with CAW and second, by respecting that – and by challenging each others' ideas – if we find ourselves in a different position than we expected, asking ourselves where that takes us.

Within a year, this process will strengthen, enliven and focus the organization – which takes the commitment of many and benefits our community. So, I embrace this change of looking forward, but also recognize the hard work and dedicated efforts of the high quality Faculty, Board, Staff, our dedicated Volunteers, members and students, all of whom keep this organization strong. Please keep posted for updates as we continue with this process.

Tom Griggs

Take 5 GALA: \$20,000 Raised for CAW's Information Technology Needs

On the evening of June 8th, CAW held a gala event to kick off its 5th decade, appropriately titled, “Take 5.” Guests filled an elegantly decorated CAW to participate in the silent auction, and reconvened under lights in the “Park of the Arts” for dinner and live auction. The highlight of the many items auctioned was a portrait of the high bidder's choice, to be painted by Steven DiGiovanni.

The Workshop is grateful to everyone who made this event possible, including the Gala Committee and especially Committee Chair, Georgia Newcomb.

NAS & CAW: Planning for the future

On April 24th, 2001, the **Greater New Haven Arts Stabilization Project** was launched. Over the next 5 to 7 years, NAS will work with 8 independent arts organizations in the Greater New Haven area, assigning each organization a single consultant with 100 hours per year to help the organization through the process and the money to create a working capital fund.

Five years ago the Arts Council and the Arts Industry Coalition commissioned the Regional Cultural Plan (RCP), setting in motion a series of studies that would lay the foundation for the current relationship between **National Arts Stabilization (NAS)** and the Greater New Haven Area. Financial stability of arts organizations emerged as a need.

NAS is a consulting group based in Baltimore that is well known for its work around the nation. The initial NAS study determined the need for working capital in area arts organizations, and estimated that it would take \$5 million to implement the program. The state provided \$2 million, and the remainder was raised within a year from local businesses, foundations and individuals, with donors serving on the NAS oversight committee.

The \$5 million will cover the cost of the consultants and of a pool for capital reserves, which will be distributed over four years to organizations that meet certain criteria. The criteria? CAW must demonstrate consistent financial reporting (it must be operating in the black) and complete a strategic long-range plan.

Photograph by Harold Shapiro



Tom Griggs and Bob Arnstein

Special thanks to all of the faculty members who donated artwork for the auction in addition to their daily commitment to CAW.

The \$20,000 raised was earmarked for CAW's information technology needs, and went towards a new inventory system for the **Celebration of American Crafts**. Stop by and see the wonderful efficiency of these new computers as you check out your purchases at the end of shopping at the Celebration.

The Workshop's NAS Committee, a subcommittee of the Board, was formed and is chaired by Liz O'Conner. With the help of NAS consultant Larry Alan Smith, the NAS Committee has begun writing the Strategic Plan which will include the following ten sections: development, facilities, finance, fund raising, governance, information technology, marketing, planning, the program and staffing. They are using information drawn from a work plan, a Board retreat, a faculty forum, and survey results. Thank you to the many individuals who answered CAW surveys this summer!

Although CAW may not yet have a completed Strategic Plan, we are already benefiting from the NAS process. CAW has received invaluable assessments from NAS consultants, including an information technology assessment. The process has caused CAW to take a critical look at its operations, future needs, and organizational goals.

Improvements and changes are coming: CAW is an ever-growing organization as dynamic as the community of artists and students it serves, and we look forward to what the future has in store!

2002 GALLERY NEWS...

We've completed another successful gallery year! Thanks to everyone on the Gallery Committee and especially to the ceaseless efforts of Chair, **Diane Svigals**.

The year began with the January **Student Show**, one of CAW's most popular gallery events. This exhibition, as always, showed the Workshop at its best. Beautiful work in all media was on display through February 8th.

Artists **Julie Cornick** of Chicago, IL and **Kathy Desmond** of Cambridge, MA, winners of the 2001 national juried exhibition *Narration: Emblem and Sequence in Contemporary Art* returned to the Workshop in February for a joint exhibition.

34th YEAR! The Celebration of American Crafts



The **34th Annual Celebration runs through December 24th**, and is the perfect place to find unique gifts for everyone on your holiday list. Among the excellent artists featured in the Celebration this year, we are happy to say that four artists join us from the Yale Art Gallery show *Woodturning in North America Since 1930*: Betty J. Scarpino, Derek A. Bencomo, Christian Burchard and Max Krimmel.

We have some changes this year: a new computerized inventory system and trained clerks to smooth the purchasing process. Many thanks to Tom Horton for installing the system. The **Celebration** remains the best collection of American craftsmanship around. This is the Workshop's largest annual fundraiser and is volunteer run! We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who makes this event possible with special thanks to Chair **Meryl Drabkin** for the tremendous amount of time she has already dedicated. For information on becoming a volunteer please call us at 562.4927

In March, the work of painter **Paula Gabriel** and sculptor and CAW faculty member **Connie Pfeiffer** was featured in *Inventing Nature*. Both artists alter surfaces, creating ambiguity while exploring our connectedness to nature and the organic form.

Matter as Protagonist, a national exhibition with juror **Jessica Stockholder** was very well received. The exhibition, open to all media, explored the concept of matter as central to the human experience and how our interaction with matter creates fictions and illusions and is an inescapable part of our lives. Work by 28 artists from 15 different states were on view from mid-May to the end of June. The show was part of **Art On the Edge**, part of the **Festival of Arts and Ideas**, and had special hours and a reception.

Our second **Student Show** of the year opened July 14th along with the annual and highly anticipated, **Art Materials Tag Sale**. Our thanks to the many individuals and businesses donating a door prize or items to this event, making it the success that it was!

The August installation, **Regeneration**, by **Joseph Smolinski**, used 250 pounds of sprouting potatoes wired to power lights in order to explore the connections between technology and biology, and ideas of mortality, entropy, and renewable resources. This unique exhibition opened August 1 and closed September 6.

Where Earth Meets Sky: Architecture in Fabric, an invitational exhibition conceptualized by **Joy Wolke**, opened September 13th and ran through October 18th in the Hilles Gallery. 20 artists and architects working



throughout New England participated in this well-received show that explored the properties unique to fabric in creating architectural spaces both real and conceptual.

We took advantage of the smaller **Creative Works** gallery and has a series of group shows highlighting the quality of work done by advanced students at CAW.

Don't miss the upcoming January **Student Show!**

In Loving Memory of Nancy Farnam

We mourn the passing of **Nancy Farnam**: friend, student and benefactor. Nancy was involved in the Workshop from its beginning. She was one of CAW's original students, enrolling in painting classes from the days when CAW was just a twinkle in the eyes of a group of women and located in the basement of the John Slade Ely House. She was one of the first people to establish a charitable lead annuity trust for CAW, which has proved to be a great benefit to the Workshop.

Nancy liked to be around other artists, and CAW provided that forum. She particularly enjoyed taking Cynthia Bloom's critique classes, and continued to take drawing courses at CAW over the last five years until the age of 84. In the summer of 2001 she had a retrospective show at Ashlar Village in Wallingford.

Photograph courtesy of Ashlar Village



Nancy with one of her paintings

We thank the following individuals, local businesses, and foundations for the contributions they have made in 2001-2002:

Willa D Abelson	Deena Capozzo	Jody Ellant & Howard Rieter	Jan Hebel	Elizabeth Lender	New Haven Savings Bank	Marie C Ruiz-Martinez	Teresa Snyder	Grace Vanakin
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Frank Caparulo								

Inner Circle Members Enjoy Special Events!

Did you know that a membership donation of \$250 (\$300 as of January 1st) or more entitles you to Inner Circle privileges? As a member at this level you will receive annual invitations to three tours/lectures and receptions in keeping with the group's theme *Living with Art*.

In April, Inner Circle members were invited to a special tour of the 18th century farmhouse home of David and Ellie Apter, as well as of their extensive collection, followed by a reception at their historic home. In May the Inner Circle was treated to a bus tour of local historic districts of New Haven, led by Ed Bottomley, recent past president of the New Haven Preservation Community. The tour ended with a reception at the home of Tom Griggs and Ed Bottomley.

Just this October, after brunch at the home of Betsy and Harry Welch, Inner Circle members traveled to Cheshire for a tour of Edward Tufte's studio. During the one-hour studio visit, Mr. Tufte treated members to a rare inside look at his work including award-winning books on the visual display of information, followed by an outdoor walking tour to view some examples of his recent large-scale sculptures.

Many thanks to Betsy Welch for all the time and effort she puts into organizing these wonderful events!

If you would like more information on how to become a member of the Inner Circle and take advantage of fabulous events like these please call us at 562.4927.

FACULTY HAPPENINGS...

Judy Atlas: Showed in juried exhibitions including *Connecticut Watercolor Society*, *New Haven Paint & Clay Club*, and *Art of the Northeast* at Silvermine Arts Guild in New Canaan. Solo shows at Crest Auto Mall and Whitney Center. Up-coming solo shows at The Hospital of St. Raphael's, Café Atlantique, and Orange Public Library.

Coleen Coleman: Selected for AIM Artists in the Market Place program at the Bronx Museum, summer 2003. Solo show at New Space Gallery, Manchester Community College, April 2003. Fellowship Exhibit at CT Commission of the Arts, May 2003.

Phyllis Crowley: Solo exhibition *Earthly & Heavenly Bodies*, in Norwalk Community College Gallery. Showed in *8 Reflections on Time* at John Slade Ely House.

Anne Culver: Exhibition of *New Encaustic Paintings* at Alexey Von Schlippe Gallery of Art runs through December 22nd. Recently completed mural for Pediatric Oncology Associates, where her paintings are on long-term exhibition. Benefit exhibition at The Burnished Chariot Gallery. Fall faculty exhibition at Gallery 53 in Meriden. Worked as arts volunteer for Connecticut Hospice and as arts mentor for Guilford Public Schools over past year.

William P. Katz: Showed in exhibition commemorating 9/11 at The Fitchburg Art Museum in conjunction with the American Culture Arts Festival.

Ann P. Lehman: Participated in City-Wide Open Studios. Showed horse sculptures and horseshow furniture at *The Equine Affaire* in Springfield, MA.

Corinne McManemin: Participated in City-Wide Open Studios; *Painters X 3* at Women & Their Work Gallery of Austin, TX; and *New Directions '02* at the Barrett Art Center of Poughkeepsie, NY, curated by Joan Young of the Guggenheim Museum.

Jane Miller: Solo installation *Time + Line* at the Texas A & M University in December. Group exhibitions include *Soft* at Untitled(space) in New Haven, *Reactions* at Exit Art in New York, NY which traveled to Williamson Gallery at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA; *The Flag Project* which traveled from Peekskill, NY to the Henry Street Settlement—Abrons Art Center in NYC; and *Southern New England Printmakers* at the John Slade Ely House.

Elizabeth Steele Kirby: *New Work* at the Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library in Stony Creek in November.



The three visible faces of the CAW block were painted by Steve DiGiovanni (left front), Anne Culver (right front), and Ruth Sack (top).

500 FACES: A Community Construction

Four faculty members, **Ruth Sack, Anne Culver, Steven DiGiovanni** and **Fethi Meghelli**, joined forces to create a CAW block for a community construction project, **500 Faces: A Community Construction**, part of the 2002 Festival of Arts & Ideas. The CAW faculty painted scenes inspired by the life of Joseph Cinque, leader of the revolt aboard the slave ship Amistad in 1839.

Lora Lee Bell's Last Semester at CAW

After over 22 years, this is **Lora Lee Bell's** last semester teaching at CAW. She made the difficult decision to put teaching aside to focus her efforts on her own work and to pursue other interests. "I love to teach," Lora Lee says, "and my students are some



Lora Lee Bell and her husband Wendell
Photograph by Harold Shapiro

of the most keen and creative people. It's been so much fun to work with them, and to try to keep them challenged."

While she may not be teaching, she does intend to "keep her foot in," continuing to volunteer with the Celebration and by enjoying some classes at CAW. Her last class is doing a group project with support from Crest Auto Mall exploring the subject of the jaguar, from flowers to cars, and is giving all her students an invaluable experience in how to put a show together, from producing the work to professional mounting, framing, and hanging.

While we will all miss her teaching at CAW, we wish her all the best in her future activities!

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CAW Wins Second Place in Sculpture Race

The CAW team won second place in the 2002 Great Kinetic-cut Sculpture Race! And first-place for sound! Head of the Young People's program, **Eva Scopino**, once again led a team of talented faculty, students and artists to create this year's entry: **Kooky Kabuki** (at right), a big green head that reigned supreme as it (almost) made its way all the way down the course to the New Haven Green without falling apart. Special thanks to **Ron Hedberg** for his structural work (and for his amazing noisemaker contribution, an enormous French cowbell).

