



# The Palette

The Journal of the Contemporary Art Society

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

Our **next exhibition** is planned for **Bedford Place Mall, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> - Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>**. (See page 5 for details).

**Next meeting** will be on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Door prize will be donated by Joanne Muise. Guest speaker will be Dennis Curran.

**December** door prize will be donated by Eleanor Surette-MacDonald.

**January** door prize will be donated by Kathy Richards.

A REMINDER that our annual " dues payable date" is September. Our dues are \$30 and may be paid to our Treasurer, Lucille Robinson, when you come to the meeting, or if you are unable to attend, a cheque may be mailed to her at:

27 Stoneybrook Crt., Apt. 315, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3M 3K5.

## WORD FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Hello CAS Members,

Welcome back from summer break! JoAnne and I hope you all had a fantastic, fun time and are feeling refreshed, inspired and ready for another year of enjoyable artistic endeavors! We'd also like to extend a warm welcome to any new members of CAS as we look forward to another positive and successful year of creating and enjoying art.

Thank you so much for the support and dedication of our many members who are always willing to step up and offer their time or help when needed. It is a vital part of the running of a society such as ours. Our appreciation goes out to all who have kindly helped with the many tasks - big and small! It is only through the contribution of the many active members that we can continue to thrive.

We'd like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to members of the Executive and Committees for all their hard work and efforts on behalf of CAS. Welcome to our new Vice-President, Barbara Delory and to our new Palette Editor, Eleanor Surette-MacDonald. Thank you for offering your services and time to take on new positions and we look forward to working with you during the up-coming year.

The 38th Annual Juried Show in May was a great success and not only did we manage to reach our goal of keeping the costs down while still holding an enjoyable and prestigious event (Thank you to all those who helped with this!) but CAS also had the best sales in years - 16 paintings sold in total! That says a great deal about the quality of the work from our members. Congratulations to all those who entered - you should all be very proud!

A very special thank you to Dorothy Reznik for once again graciously agreeing to be our Auctioneer in June and making our Annual Auction such an amazing and enjoyable event which raised a total of \$184.00 to contribute to the society's funds. Thank you so much to all those members who contributed and helped out to make the year such a positive experience for us! We could never do it without all of you!!

This coming year promises to bring with it new opportunities and inspiration. To start off right, CAS members had a chance to exhibit in the MicMac Mall Annual Group Show that was held Sept. 18th - Sept. 25th with a total of 16 paintings sold at this show as well. Thank you to Eleanor Vandergrift and Pat Stewart for all their work in looking after the exhibit.

Happy painting! Hope to see you soon at a meeting and feel free to bring a friend. Guests and new members are always welcome!

**Kathy Richards and JoAnne Muise**  
**(Co-Presidents)**

## JILL FIELD ALEXANDER



The late Jill Field Alexander, shown here with Mayor Peter Kelly in 2010

On a very sad note, the last of our founding members, Jill Field Alexander, passed away on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Jill was an exceptional lady with a generous heart and inspiring spirit who was always willing to share her talent, knowledge and time with her fellow artists. Over the last few years, Jill has graciously presented "The Pauline Manning Award", when she was able to come to our Annual Juried Show, and her presence always added prestige to the event.

A number of years ago, I had the honor of chatting with Jill at her home a couple of times, as I had interviewed her for an article for the VANS magazine about the Contemporary Art Society's 30th Anniversary. Jill recalled when she had applied to join the Nova Scotia Society of Artists, back in the early 70's, and to her great disappointment, the group suddenly decided to disband. That was when Pauline Manning and Jill got the idea to start their own group. Ernest Smith of the Dalhousie Arts Centre agreed to let them hold their meetings there, but insisted they use the name "Contemporary Art Society". They then publicized through ads in the paper, posters and so on. Pauline was the first president and Jill was the first treasurer; and Tom Bauld drew up by-laws for the group, thus began the history of our society.

Jill spent her childhood in Bermuda and remembered always having a desire to sketch and paint. She learned to carefully observe at a very early age, finding a particular fascination with the people and their expressions. She started training in school and continued on through 6 levels of the Royal Society of Drawing Examinations in London, England. She studied at Heatherly School of Fine Art in London for two years, then received a four month teaching grant to study portraiture with Leonard Bowden, Ruskin Spears, and Angela Stones. This was a very exciting time for her.

Jill had studied over the years with many well known Canadian artists as well; studying oil painting with Fred Ross, Norman Yates, Allan Franck, Anthony Law, and John Cook, whom she credited as being one of her best teachers. She also studied watercolour with Mabel Rainsford, Ruth Wainwright, Jane Shaw, Roger Savage, and Tom Forrestall, among others.

After Jill married, she put aside her paintings for many years to raise her family of seven sons, and it was evident that her family was of great importance to her by the photographs and portraits proudly displayed in her home. She had one portrait in particular, of her great-grandmother, which dated back to the 1800's. Also evident, was

her love of great art, as her walls were adorned with many beautiful paintings, some which were her work and others by artists she admired.

Jill took up painting once again in 1961 and originally painted mostly in oils and acrylic, but in recent years she had focused more on ink and watercolour. Her earlier paintings were greatly influenced by the colours she grew up with; the soft pastel buildings, turquoise ocean, and bright coloured flowers of Bermuda. Back then she painted under the name, "Jill Field", until 1983 when she married once again.

She taught painting for 12 years with the Halifax Recreation Department, but gave it up after she remarried, passing the responsibility on to Bev Hubley after an extensive search to find someone who could "fill her shoes".

Her first love was in painting portraits but later on, she found inspiration in painting old buildings and churches; paying particular attention to detail to catch the image of the day so as to preserve it for all time. She had painted many different landscapes, seascapes, and still life paintings over the years. Her paintings can be found in Australia, England, Scotland, Bermuda, the United States and in Canada.

Jill had solo exhibits at Zwicker's Gallery and Dartmouth Heritage Gallery and as well exhibited in many group exhibitions across the country. She was a member of The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Visual Arts Nova Scotia, Painter's Palette, and an Acknowledged Member of our society.

She continued teaching privately over the years. She said she was fortunate to always have good teachers, and I could see that anyone who had been lucky enough to have had her for a teacher would be fortunate indeed. It was apparent in the way she spoke of her work and others; the great amount of knowledge and respect that she had for the arts.

She had many good words of advice that she was always glad to share with fellow artists: such as stressing the importance of "on the spot" sketches and keeping a journal. She felt it took a lot of energy, but that one must focus, be observant and find their own unique way of expression and style.

Jill had certainly found her niche and created many wonderful paintings along with warm memories to cherish and inspire her family, friends and fellow artists for years to come. I will always be most grateful to Jill for sharing her story and for giving us such a great "forum" and legacy in "The Contemporary Art Society".

-- by Kathy Richards

## UPCOMING SHOWS

The Contemporary Art Society is having an art show at The Bedford Place Mall on the following dates - November 21<sup>st</sup> to November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Set up will be Sunday, November 20th at 5 p.m.

Take down is Saturday, November 26th at 9 p.m. The mall has extended hours on Saturdays starting November 12 so please note the take down time is 9 p.m.

There is an Entry fee of \$5.00 per stand.

There will be room for approximately 30 stands, therefore, the number of stands permitted per artist is dependent on the number of artists who wish to enter their work.

There will be a **5% charge on all sales**. This 5% will be paid to the Bedford Place Mall at the end of the show, so please take this into consideration when you are pricing your artwork and add the 5% to your price, if you wish. This 5% will be deducted from the amount paid to the artist for each sale by our Treasurer after the show closes.

Anyone who is interested in participating in this show is asked to contact **Pat Stewart** at 865-0134 or [p.stewart@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:p.stewart@ns.sympatico.ca).

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Plans are in the works for **an art exhibit** in March 2012 at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic - a meet-and-greet evening to talk about Maritime-themed work by our members.

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## SUGGESTED PRICES FOR SALE OF PAINTINGS

PLEASE NOTE: These are unframed prices and the cost of framing should be added on. Your prices may be higher, but ideally, should not be lower than those suggested.

2 X 2	25.	14 X 20	270.
2 X 3	30.	18 X 18	290.
3 X 3	30.	16 X 20	290.
2 X 4	30.	20 X 20	320.
3 X 5	45.	18 X 24	340.
4 X 4	50.	20 X 24	395.
4 X 6	60.	24 X 24	430.
5 X 7	70.	12 X 36	430.
6 X 6	70.	22 X 30	470.
5 X 10	75.	24 X 30	490.
7 X 9	95.	24 X 36	540.
8 X 8	95.	10 X 10	120.
8 X 10	125.	10 X 20	180.
6 X 12	125.	12 X 24	215.
8 X 12	140.	8 X 30	225.
9 X 12	145.	6 X 36	250.
10 X 12	155.	15 X 30	270.
8 X 16	165.	12 X 36	285.
12 X 12	165.		
11 X 14	175.		
12 X 16	210.		
12 X 18	240.		
14 X 18	250.		
16 X 16	250.		

## ART QUOTES

"There is a wonderful feeling when you walk into your own exhibition. You see the work as a true extension of yourself. Win or lose, your interests have led you to an accumulation of your personal expression, signed lower right, mounted to best advantage." (Robert Genn)

"The artist himself is often surprised at the finished work of art. He cannot tell 'how it happened', nor could he repeat the feat at someone's bidding." (John F. Carlson)