



# MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART

News & Views | Spring/Summer 2018

THE ESSENCE OF WHAT I SEE:  
THE PAINTINGS OF SUNIL HOWLADER

News 2  
Exhibitions 3  
Events 5  
Education 9

## IN MEMORIAM

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### MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART

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### HARVEY FULLER REMEMBERED

#### HARVEY K. FULLER 1908-2017

*In late November 2017, Mystic Museum of Art, and our extended community, lost a valued, longtime friend. Harvey Fuller was an accomplished artist and teacher, and an important member and benefactor of the Museum. Former Executive Director Karen Barthelson, who knew Harvey well, has agreed to share her thoughts and memories of the artist and his art.*

One of my favorite memories of Harvey is when I first started at the Museum, which was then called the Mystic Art Association. It was during the children's *Young at Art* opening and the galleries were packed with young artists and their parents. Harvey was playing the accordion, delighting in the children's enthusiasm, and enjoying every minute. It never occurred to me that he would later become the organization's largest single donor.

Harvey K. Fuller passed away this past November at the age of 99, having lived a long and full life. He was an Elected Artist Member of the Museum since 1949, and probably the longest living member of the organization. In 2012, Harvey generously donated his house to the museum with the idea that someday the house and grounds would become part of an artist's residency program.

That was Harvey, generous in spirit, passionate about the arts, and something of a Renaissance man. In addition to being a talented painter, illustrator, sign painter, and printmaker, Harvey taught himself to play the piano and accordion. He also enjoyed writing, and wrote and illustrated several books. *The Journey*, Harvey's last book, recounted one of my favorite Harvey stories, where, in 1938, at the age of 19, he rode his one-speed bicycle from New York City to Provincetown, Massachusetts, along Boston Post Road, to study under the artists living on Cape Cod. Remarkably, he made it to Branford, Connecticut, by the end of the first day!

Harvey continued to write and paint until just a few years before his passing. A dear, sweet man, intelligent and well-read, with an ironic sense of humor, he was also quite shy and never liked being the center of attention, even when we wanted to honor him for his donation.

Thank you, Harvey for your kindness, dedication, and generosity to this organization and the community you loved. We will be forever grateful.

**Karen Barthelson**  
*MMoA Executive Director 2006-2016*



#### MMoA NEWS & VIEWS

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Spring / Summer 2018

Bill Furgueson  
*Editor*

James Kaczman  
*Graphic Designer*

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Cover: Sunil Howlader  
*Seasons Changing* (detail),  
2017  
Acrylic on canvas, 12 x 12 in.

Above: Harvey Fuller  
*Self Portrait*, 1942  
Oil on board, 20 x 16 in.  
Mystic Museum of Art  
Permanent Collection

## BILL FURGUESON JOINS MMOA AS DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



Mystic Museum of Art would like to introduce our new Director of External Affairs, Bill Furgueson. After working twenty-four years at The Williams School in New London, Connecticut, as a teacher, advisor, coach, mentor, event planner, and fundraiser, we are excited to have Bill join our staff. He will be overseeing the marketing, fundraising, and external communications of the Museum.

Born and raised on the south shore of Long Island, Bill is a closet artist and published author, and a sailor to his core. He is a competitive sailor and has taught sailing in many area yacht clubs.

Bill is also a founding member of the Stonington Harbor Yacht Club Sailing Foundation (now known as NESS) and former board chair of the Mystic & Noank Library. Bill brings enthusiasm, expertise, and energy to our Museum. He and his wife of twenty-two years, Alicia, live in Mystic with their two children, Emma and Quinn. It is with pleasure that we welcome Bill to our organization.

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## ANNUAL SUMMER GALA TO HONOR LOIS H. CONSTANTINE



Mystic Museum of Art will hold its annual gala fundraiser, A Night at The Museum, on June 9. This year the event will honor a very special MMoA friend and supporter—Lois H. Constantine.

Lois is an Elected Artist Member of MMoA and a long-time volunteer. Not only has Lois served on the Museum's Board of Directors, she has also managed the institutional archives. Through her work in archives, Lois was able to preserve the early history of the Museum, as well as information about important local artists associated with the organization.

Additionally, Lois was instrumental in growing and preserving the permanent collection—a task she started during the 1980s. Thanks to her hard work and dedication, Lois has ensured that future generations will have access to the wonderful works of art now entrusted to the Museum.

As an artist, Lois studied for many years with the well-known painter Robert Brackman. Lois authored *Robert Brackman Remembered*, a tribute to her mentor that was published in 2017 in conjunction with the MMoA exhibition *Robert Brackman: Thinking in Color*.

Inspired by Brackman's example, Lois started teaching painting in the early 1980s. She continues to teach and finds great satisfaction in passing on the joy and fulfillment found in the art of painting.

Lois is an artist member of the Salmagundi Club of New York and a member of several other art organizations. Her work is represented in national and international collections.

We hope you will join us in honoring Lois and her many contributions to MMoA on June 9th.

## SUNIL HOWLADER: THE ESSENCE OF WHAT I SEE

BY ERIKA NEENAN

Sunil Howlader's work combines realism with abstraction. Bold lines and movement are punctuated with expressive colorful imagery. Howlader is an Elected Artist Member of Mystic Museum of Art and regularly participates in its juried shows. His work, *Crossing the Shadows*, was named the first prize winner during the 61st Regional Exhibition by the juror Nancy Grinnell. As the first prizewinner, he was awarded a solo show at the Museum, which will be on view August 3 - September 22, 2018.

When asked to talk about his background in art, Howlader begins by describing his early childhood in Bangladesh. He explained that when he was about five or six years old, the Bangladesh Liberation War broke out, which prevented him from attending school. Once the war had ended, and the schools re-opened, he was given a textbook that was provided to all students by the government. Howlader then described the front piece of the textbook: a photograph of Bangladeshi Prime Minister, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, with the Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. Howlader noted that a photograph that showed the Prime Minister with Gandhi was included in the textbook because India had supported Bangladesh during the Liberation War. He described his fascination with the photo at the time and made sure to point out that it was not the politics that drew him in—he was too young to understand the political implications of the photo—rather, he was fascinated with the photo itself and became determined to reproduce it.

One matter was to draw the image on paper. Once the image was copied a new task emerged—finding the color to bring life to the drawing. Howlader described how, at this time, shops were still not open from the war. He could not simply buy colored pencils or crayons—he had to make the colors himself. He noticed that when his mother cooked with turmeric, her hands would be colored a golden yellow. He also knew that his older sister used aalta to color the soles of her feet red. He knew that the leaves of green beans would give off a deep green color. Howlader gathered these materials, and mixed them with water to create his colors. He then applied the colors to his drawing with a paintbrush he fashioned out of cotton. He had figured out how to reproduce the image that had fascinated him.

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Above, right: Sunil Howlader  
*Flowers in Bloom*, 2018  
Acrylic on canvas, 21 x 15 in.



From his initial fascination with this photograph as a child, Howlader continued to hone his skills as an artist. After completing secondary school, he obtained a Masters of Fine Art from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. He found himself in the Mystic area in the year 2000 when he was the International Artist in Residence at the Griffis Art Center in New London. Since that time, Howlader has firmly established himself within the regional art community.

When you consider Howlader's search for color when he was young, and compare that to his current, expressive, colorful works, it is easy to wonder what importance the artist places in color itself. He does attribute symbolism to color in his art—white symbolizes the future, blue symbolizes dreaming—but he notes that color is only one important part of creating a beautiful painting—line, light, and shade are equally as important to him as color when he composes a canvas. Howlader says when asked to describe his method further, "I can't paint what I see. I paint the essence of what I see."

## EXHIBITION CALENDAR

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JUNE 15 - JULY 28

**Elected Artists / Members Exhibition**

Receiving: Sunday, June 10 & Monday, June 11, 11am - 5pm

Annual Meeting / Opening Reception:

Thursday, June 21, 5:30 - 7:30pm



AUGUST 3 - SEPTEMBER 22

**62nd Regional Exhibition**

Receiving: Sunday, July 29 & Monday, July 30, 11am - 5pm

**Sunil Howlader Solo Show - Winner, 61st Regional Exhibition**

Opening reception: Thursday, August 9, 5:30pm - 7:30 pm



JUNE 15 - JULY 28

**Great Yachts: The Marine Paintings of Russ Kramer**

Annual Meeting / Opening Reception:

Thursday, June 21, 5:30 - 7:30pm

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To view prospectuses and submission guidelines for specific exhibitions visit [MysticMuseumofArt.org](http://MysticMuseumofArt.org).



SEPTEMBER 28 - NOVEMBER 10

**Photo Show 40**

Receiving: Sunday, September 23 & Monday, September 24, 11am - 5pm

**Bryan Gorneau Solo Show**

Opening reception: Thursday, October 4, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

## EVENTS

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### Liquid Canvas

Come celebrate your creativity and expose your inner artist. Enjoy a complimentary libation as you turn a blank canvas into a modern masterpiece. Whether you are a novice painter or an experienced student of art, our instructors will guide you step-by-step as you sip and paint yourself to success.

**Saturdays, June 23, July 21, August 18**

**6:30pm - 8:30pm**

Members \$40 / Public \$50

All materials and a glass of wine included in fee

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### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting, which all members are encouraged to attend, will be immediately followed by the opening reception for the Annual Members / Elected Artists Show at 6:30pm.

The agenda will include:

Board officer reports (Secretary, Treasurer, President)

Night at the Museum Gala report

Executive Director search committee status report (executive search firm: Museum Search & Reference)

Election/re-election of MMoA Board Members

Announcement of new MMoA Elected Artist Members

Announcement of MMoA volunteer of the year

Adjournment to Annual Members Show Opening Reception

**Thursday, June 21, 5:30pm**

Free



### Art After Dark

MMoA's family-friendly Tuesday night concert series is back for its 7th season with live music and live art on our riverfront patio.

Members \$12, Public \$15, Children 4 - 12 \$3, Children 3 and under are free. Season passes are also available: \$60 MMoA members; \$75 non-members. Parking validations provided with admission.

**Tuesday, July 17, 6pm - 8:30pm**

Live music by The Carleans, live art by Lief Nilsson, and balloon art by April Brunelle

**Tuesday, August 14, 6pm - 8:30pm**

Live music by Green Tea, live art by Russ Kramer, and balloon art by April Brunelle

**Tuesday, September 18, 6pm - 8:30pm**

Live music by Darrin Keech, live art by Katherine Gates, and balloon art by April Brunelle

**Tuesday, October 16, 6pm - 8:30pm**

Live music by The Fake Experience, live art by Bonnie Sullivan, and balloon art by April Brunelle

Season Sponsors: Mystic River Press, Universal Package Store & The Resident Newspaper

Sponsors: ABC PhotoLab, Captain Daniel Packer Inne, CMB Creative Group, Coca-Cola, Cottrell Brewing, H&H Distributing, Hosmer Mountain Beverages, Mallove's Jewelers, Mighty Swell Beverages, Mystic Shipyard, Mystic River Mudhead Sailing Association, Mystic River Press, Noank Village Boatyard, Pizzetta, Sails Up 4 Cancer, The Real McCoy

## SPECIAL EVENTS RENTAL

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### MMOA NAMES FOUR EXCLUSIVE CATERERS FOR 2018

A Thyme To Cook, of North Stonington, Coastal Gourmet, of Stonington, Gourmet Galley, of North Stonington, and Ivy's Simply Homemade, of Waterford, have been named as the caterers of choice for the Mystic Museum of Art. Only these four caterers are allowed to provide food service for most events held here at the Museum. These caterers were selected based on their reputation for exceptional service, as well as the unique and memorable events that they create.

The Museum also thanks these four caterers, with their talented chefs and exceptional staff, for donating their services at the Museum's opening receptions and other fundraising events throughout the year. Their delectable fare, professional manner, and passion for the arts allows MMoA to be one of the premier special event venues in the area.

#### **A Thyme to Cook**

A Thyme to Cook is a small, dedicated catering company of culinary and design creatives. They provide clients with celebrations that reflect their personal tastes, cultures, aesthetics, and wishes. A Thyme to Cook is small and proud of it. "We do not strive to be the biggest—we strive to be the best— allowing us to focus on each and every client. We believe in relationships over convenience and deliver quality in all that we do and focus on regional resources. Our style is clean, fluid, and unexpected with a contemporary, organic twist. It gives the feel of a pop-up restaurant. We prepare everything on site—delivering fresh, hot, personalized menus straight from our field kitchen to the guests' table."

#### **Coastal Gourmet**

Whether you are planning the most intimate of weddings, a gathering of friends and family, a fundraiser, or corporate event, Coastal Gourmet Catering seeks to be a caterer that is as unique as you are. "Creative presentation is our signature, with a reputation for beautiful and inventive combinations of colors, textures, aromas and moods that set the tone for all of our events. Our commitment to you runs deep and we promise no matter the size, style, or budget for your event, we will create something memorable and, as always, distinctly yours." Coastal Gourmet Catering has been providing fine food and service for over twenty-five years and has been named Caterer of the Year by the Connecticut Restaurant Association.



#### **Gourmet Galley**

Gourmet Galley loves helping people celebrate everything—weddings, family reunions, birthdays, bridal and baby showers, anniversaries, retirement parties, or just plain parties. Whether the whole clan is getting together for a long weekend or you are having a sit down dinner for twenty just to honor some long and beautiful friendships, they will make the party that suits you. "Big business or small, your business matters to us. Picnics to celebrate, retreats to refuel, dinners to reward. From an all-American barbecue to a black tie dinner, there's nothing we won't do to make your business better....and delicious."

#### **Ivy's Simply Homemade**

Ivy's is an off-site, full-service catering company with an experienced, knowledgeable, and professional team that will guide you through every aspect of planning and bring a very intimate approach to each client's celebration. "Our team is creative and passionate about delicious food. We customize each menu. Menu choices are limited only by your imagination. We will work together with you to provide a catering experience that is all about you: your vision, tastes and style, while being respectful of your budget. From riverfront ceremonies that begin your magical celebration, cocktail style rehearsal dinners on the terrace, or surprise birthday parties that highlight the beauty of the museum's galleries; Ivy's Simply Homemade would love to begin planning your special occasion, whatever it may be."




A NIGHT  
AT  
THE MUSEUM

MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART'S  
GALA FUNDRAISER  
HONORING LOIS CONSTANTINE

JUNE 9, 2018 6:00PM  
9 WATER STREET  
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT





ENJOY A DELICIOUS DINNER  
PROVIDED BY GOURMET GALLEY  
AND DANCING TO ROCK AND SOUL REVUE  
UNDER THE TENT  
WITH THE MYSTIC RIVER AS A BACKDROP.

THE MISSION OF MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART  
IS TO INSPIRE CREATIVITY  
AND CRITICAL DIALOGUE  
BY ENGAGING THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY  
IN THE UNDERSTANDING, APPRECIATION  
AND PRACTICE OF VISUAL ART.

FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE GALA,  
PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.MYSTICMUSEUMOFART.ORG/GALA2018](http://WWW.MYSTICMUSEUMOFART.ORG/GALA2018)

## EDUCATION

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# ART IS MORE THAN A TOOL FOR IMPROVING TEST SCORES

BY MARY ADDISON

As the Education Coordinator at Mystic Museum of Art, one of the most gratifying joys is bringing art programming into our local schools. There is much evidence proving that children who are immersed in the arts excel academically as a result. However, a provocative question is raised when examining art's relationship to a school's core curriculum: when focusing so intensely on the academic benefits, are we losing sight of art's inherent value?

While racing through the grocery store one day, I rounded the corner and found myself face to face with Max and his mom. Max was a new third grade student. For 45 minutes every week, Max would quietly take his seat, complete the project according to the directions, and then leave. Based on his expressionless face, and lack of enthusiasm, I assumed art just wasn't his thing. That was ok. No matter how passionately a teacher tries to instill the joy of their subject matter, there are always a few students who don't feel the same spark. I thought Max was one of these students. He didn't cause trouble, kept to himself, and completed the work assigned.

Standing in the grocery store with tears streaming down her cheeks, Max's mom thanked me profusely for all I was doing to help Max get through this difficult time in his life. Taken completely by surprise, I asked her what she meant.

What I learned was that Max had recently been evaluated for depression and diagnosed with learning disabilities. He was struggling academically, socially, and emotionally. Max's mom went on to share the agonizing divorce their family was going through and the impact it was having on Max. Apparently, art was his favorite part of the week and the time spent in art class was helping him cope. She found him drawing alone in his room one night—a picture of what could only be analyzed as a broken family. It was a visual display of pain, sadness, turmoil, and heartache. She said that in drawing that image he was able to communicate more than he was able to verbalize all year.

Here was a student whose relationship with art had nothing to do with test scores or academics. His introverted personality combined with the weight of sadness did not allow him to express his true feelings regarding the importance of art in his life.

Educators justify art by showing the statistics of improved test scores. However, Max reminds us of something very important... art holds worth all on its own. It doesn't always have to "improve" something. There is an intrinsic value in art that has the power to delve deeper than what we see on a piece of paper. Be mindful of the deep impact art has on the individual. Through art, we are encouraged to grow, reflect, and evolve in our understanding of ourselves, each other, and the world we live in.

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"THIS IS EXACTLY WHERE I WANT TO BE, DOING EXACTLY WHAT I LOVE TO DO."

Meet Liz Lomax, a brand new addition to our team of talented faculty members here at Mystic Museum of Art. Riding the waves of circumstance, Liz recently dropped anchor and settled in Mystic. She is a professional artist who incorporates sculpture, design, painting, and photography in her work.



Liz earned a BFA in Illustration from Parsons School of Design, where she later became an instructor. She taught at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and currently teaches at Rhode Island School of Design. She has chaired and juried illustration competitions and lectured worldwide. She lives in Mystic with her five-year-old daughter, Olivia.

Her unique, hand-sculpted illustration style grew from a love of creating shoebox dioramas as a kid. Liz is known for her sculpted caricatures and surreal depictions of everyday life. Her creations have appeared in advertising campaigns, magazines, newspapers, books, album covers, and on television.

One of the most exciting projects of Liz's career was creating a life-size cow for the public art series "Cow Parade," which was purchased by Ringo Starr. Another favorite commission of hers was building giant celebrity chef heads for the Barneys NY holiday windows display.

She is thrilled to be sharing her love of art with students at MMoA. When asked about joining the staff, Liz said, "I am absolutely over the moon! This is exactly where I want to be, doing exactly what I love to do."



# SUMMER ART CAMPS

## Unleash Your Child's Imagination

Week-long  
Adventures in Art

June 25 - August 24

To Register:  
Call 860.536.7601 x213

Online:  
[MysticMuseumofArt.org](http://MysticMuseumofArt.org)



## MAKE YOUR EVENT A MASTERPIECE AT MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART

### MAIN GALLERIES & PATIO RENTAL

Located on the banks of the Mystic River, Mystic Museum of Art is in the heart of historic Downtown Mystic. Unique and beautiful, MMoA's exhibitions and galleries provide the ideal backdrop for weddings, cocktail parties, dinners, fundraisers, and more.

### 15 WATER STREET GALLERY

The former landmark Emporium building, recently renovated as an art gallery, makes an exquisite location for your event. The gallery can easily accommodate 50 guests for a seated dinner or 60 for a cocktail reception and is ideal for more intimate affairs as rehearsal dinners, holiday parties, or corporate dinners.



# MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART

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AUGUST 3 - SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

62ND REGIONAL EXHIBITION

SPONSORED BY CHELSEA GROTON BANK