VISION 2020: MMOA WILL DELIVER TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES WITH ART TO A BROADER COMMUNITY. WE VALUE COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND CREATIVITY.
A friend lent me an exhibition booklet from 1976 entitled “A Time to Remember,” published in conjunction with the Bicentennial Art Exhibition at the Mystic Art Association, now the Mystic Museum of Art (MMoA). The Bicentennial Art Exhibition was curated by a member of the Association, the artist Harve Stein. The booklet is fascinating, offering an overview of the arts that have flourished in Mystic throughout its history: indigenous wares, agricultural and domestic arts, and arts associated with shipping and foreign ports. Turning to the years of the Mystic art colony, it asks, “How did it happen that so many talented artists should be attracted to a quiet, unassuming part of New England?”

The setting was one of many moods, demanding attention from artists of tremendous background and reputation, inspiring unknowns, and creating a feverish kind of enthusiasm that gave the small, coastal village a rare and enviable prominence in the art world... By the time the name had changed to Mystic [originally Portersville], an art colony had been established that was to make Mystic a name known to thousands—particularly those in the art world hierarchy.

Now it’s our turn. It’s up to us to embrace new challenges and expand the scope of our exhibitions and programs—without surrendering the standard of quality that captivated the art world and invigorated generations of artists to follow.

V. Susan Fisher
Executive Director
FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On January 2, 2016, Mystic Art Center changed its name to Mystic Museum of Art (MMoA). The Board felt this new designation better suited the organization’s community-minded spirit, broad educational focus, and standard of excellence. At the same time, MMoA commenced a three-year strategic plan (2016-2018) funded by a generous grant from the Connecticut Humanities Council. Key elements of the plan served as guideposts as MMoA forged ahead:

• Connect with audiences through the experience of visual art.
• Enhance the exhibition program with curated and scholarly exhibitions in collaboration with other museums.
• Exhibit and build the permanent collection.
• Support and acknowledge the creative work of Mystic artists.
• Develop a master plan for the facilities.
• Establish and uphold standards of museum quality.
• Foster a secure financial future.

The plan defined a course of action based on our distinguished past, which builds toward a sustainable future.

Now in 2019, MMoA has arrived at another milestone in its planning. What does it mean to be a 21st-century museum? There is no single model. Every museum must develop programs and exhibitions relevant to its own distinct communities. At a vibrant daylong retreat in October, MMoA’s Board of Directions faced the challenge of defining the unique quality of experience that is the Mystic Museum of Art. We arrived at a vision statement that lays the groundwork for the next phase of our strategic planning:

MMoA will deliver transformative experiences with art to a broader community. We value community, culture, and creativity.

As one of the organization’s founders, Charles Davis would be proud to see how the Mystic Art Association has grown into the Mystic Museum of Art, serving our extended community as a hub for arts and culture. We look forward to sharing our journey with you.

MMoA 2020 VISION STATEMENT:

MMoA will deliver transformative experiences with art to a broader community. We value community, culture, and creativity.
The Mystic Museum of Art (MMoA) is fortunate to have significant holdings in its permanent collection. The collection includes artwork by the institution’s founding members and by artists that also played a role in MMoA’s development from art association to art center. Works by Charles Davis, Ward Ranger, Harve Stein, and Yngve Soderberg constitute the core of the collection. Local contemporary artists like Dan Truth, Charles Chu, and Sarah Stifler Lucas are also represented.

For MMoA to complete its transition to museum status as an anchor institution in this region, it must further diversify and expand its permanent collection. Recent art donations from MMoA community members bring us thrillingly closer to this goal. MMoA will be honored to feature important gifts from 2019 in a special exhibition in 2020.

Last August, Jim Quinn and Chris Zhang made a major gift of artwork in a variety of styles including Pop Art and Abstract Expressionism. While the museum’s collection has focused on the Mystic Art Colony artists who were so influential in this region, this collection comprises works by artists whose influence around the world is indisputable: Claes Oldenburg, David Row, Bryan Hunt, Todd Norsten, Manolo Valdes, Jose Maria Sicilia, Manolo Valdes, Robert Motherwell, Suzanne Caporael, Wayne Thiebaud, and Sean Scully.

Bertrand (Tim) Bell of Stonington donated a Charles Davis painting on behalf of the Streeter family in memory of Ed Clarke and Alice Chase Streeter. This painting, a landscape entitled *The Shadow* has been exquisitely maintained in pristine condition and was recently on display in MMoA’s *Oil and Water* exhibition.

Christopher Bates, grandson of MMoA founding members Kenneth and Gladys Bates, donated artwork by his grandparents and their contemporaries, including Harve Stein and YE Soderberg.

Most recently, Virginia Wydler, who grew up in Mystic, donated two paintings by local artist Stephen Jerome Hoxie. Wydler’s mother worked as a caretaker for Hoxie’s widow, and received the paintings as a gift.

Art is the core of what MMoA is and what MMoA does. Donations of art enhance the Museum’s permanent collection and expand its capacity to educate and inspire visitors. The Museum’s Board and staff could not be more grateful for the generosity of collectors and heirs who enrich the permanent collection and preserve Mystic’s heritage. For more information about giving the gift of art, please contact Bill Furgueson at 860.536.7601 ext. 209.
CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET

ANNUAL MEMBERS SHOW

JANUARY 30—FEBRUARY 29, 2020

Elected Artists and Members Exhibition - Davis, Halsey Galleries

MMoA’s first exhibition in the renovated Davis and Halsey Galleries.

Receiving: Sunday & Monday, January 26 & 27; Noon — 4 PM
Pick-Up: Sunday & Monday, March 1 & 2; Noon — 4 PM
Opening Reception: Thursday, January 30; 5:30 — 7 PM

NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 22

Holiday Gift Market throughout the entire museum

The tradition returns! Journey off the beaten path of holiday gift shopping with our inspiring and unforgettable selection of fine art, crafts, jewelry, and accessories.

SUPPORT LOCAL ARTISANS AND GIVE SOMETHING SPECIAL TO YOUR LOVED ONES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Make outstanding holiday shopping choices from a list of handcrafted holiday ornaments, quilted throw pillows, comics and children’s books, cat toys, dog accessories, functional and decorative pottery and ceramics, artisanal soaps, creams, and lotions, decorative wine glasses and bottles, artisanal sea salts and syrups, jewelry items, scarves and hats, gift cards, cheeseboards, candles, and more!

Charles H. Davis (1856-1933) The Shadow, date unknown, oil on canvas, Donated by Bertram Bell

JANUARY 24—APRIL 4, 2020

Recent Gifts of Art to the Mystic Museum of Art - Leibig Gallery

Please see “Gifts of Art” article on page three.
The Mystic Museum of Art is pleased to announce the long-awaited renovation of its Davis and Halsey Galleries. Consonant with previous improvements to the Leibig Gallery, the upgrades to Davis and Halsey will include cleaning and restoration of the walls to restore the historic building’s former beauty. The Museum will be closed for several weeks during the month of January to accommodate this work. The Museum will reopen with the *Elected Artist and Members Exhibition* in the refurbished Davis and Halsey Galleries. MMoA invites you to enjoy the restoration of the elegance of the galleries as they first appeared in 1913.
Get a start on your shopping and enjoy a fun, social evening at the opening of MMOA’s Holiday Gift Market on Thursday evening, November 21, from 6 to 9 PM. Browse original artwork, crafts, jewelry, pottery, cards, AND accessories for sale by local and regional artists. Shop local and give something special to your loved ones this holiday. Enjoy festive food by Breakwater Restaurant, cocktails, and good cheer. All purchases are tax-free during the Preview Party!

Admission:
- Members: $30
- Public: $40

To purchase tickets in advance, please call: 860-536-7601. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.
Sarah Stifler Lucas has taught at MMoA for over 30 years. Many know Sarah as an artist; others know her as an educator. Sarah’s students cherish her thoughtful, sensitive, and attentive approach to each of them, and her calming nature is a refuge from the stress of the day. In her teaching, she addresses much more than the processes of paint application. She takes her students on a journey of discovery as they challenge their abilities and question preconceived notions.

SIMPLY PUT, SARAH NOT ONLY DEVELOPS A STUDENT’S ARTISTIC SKILLS, BUT ALSO DEVELOPS HIS OR HER UNIQUE “VOICE.”

This past spring, the fourth graders at Nathan Hale School in New London along with MMoA teaching artists Mary Addison, Lisa Adams, Kristen Thornton, and Liz Lomax, began the process of building “Metropolis-City of Tomorrow.” Their creations and those of three dozen other artists comprised this year’s Wee Faerie Village at the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme. The Wee Faerie Village is an annual event that features elaborate, faerie-scaled creations by students from throughout the region. This year’s theme, based on a phenomenon of popular culture, was “superheroes.” Education Manager Mary Addison summed up the experience:

“Creating art with children is always a priceless experience, but this particular project takes the experience to a higher level. Participating students see their finished installation in a museum setting enjoyed by thousands of visitors during the month of October. The Wee Faerie Village project is one of the highlights of the year for me. Each child creates a piece of sculpture over the course of three weeks in the spring. Children work collaboratively, each piece being an important part of the whole. Through the process of making art, they learn life skills such as planning and collaboration.

When the children have completed their individual pieces, MMoA teaching artists assemble them into a single, cohesive sculpture that is visually appealing and structurally sound. The sculpture must endure the elements for an entire month on the grounds of the Florence Griswold Museum. It’s a lot of hard work over many hours but absolutely worth it. There is no greater joy than seeing the Wee Faerie Village unfold each year.”

MMoA REACHES OUT
ART EXPERIENCES FOR EVERYONE

A museum visitor recently shared the story of how she used to spend countless hours painting lighthouses as a child. She would set up her tabletop easel in her grandmother’s studio and the two would paint together. While her grandmother was an accomplished artist, she herself simply enjoyed making art. She never lost her love of art or the memories of those precious afternoons with her grandmother. No matter how much or how little previous experience you have in art, MMoA has transformative experiences for you.

About half of MMoA’s classes are suited to beginning-to-intermediate art students. Classes such as Explorations in Drawing, Watercolor Basics, Introduction to Oils and Acrylics, and Nuts and Bolts of Drawing, are a few examples. MMoA also offers other opportunities for artists who don’t want formal instruction, but seek studio space and casual contact with other artists.

- The “monitored studio” offers artists of all levels the opportunity to draw from a live model. The monitor is supportive and encouraging of newcomers, happy to offer guidance and support.
- Everyone is welcome to attend MMoA’s open studio on Mondays. Whether you draw, paint, sculpt, or craft, MMoA’s studio space is available to you.
- “Artini” is a series of casual workshops that encourages individuals, couples, and groups of friends to try their hand at a craft project and enjoy a signature beverage. A diverse selection of art projects that you can bring home is offered. The evening is as much social as educational.
- Private lessons with MMoA faculty are also available. If a particular class time doesn’t work for your schedule, or if you feel you would benefit from individual instruction, this could be an option for you.
- Family Days are scheduled once a month. Children and their caregivers are invited to drop into the studios for free, hands-on art making, a light snack, informal tours of the galleries, and a glimpse of what the museum is all about.

Whether you’re a seasoned artist, someone who took an art class many years ago, someone who has never touched a brush, or the parent of a child who likes getting messy, there is something for you.

Please contact the museum’s Education Manager Mary Addison at 860.536.7601 ext. 211 or maddison@mysticmuseumofart.org, to start a conversation about how to participate at MMoA.
One hundred years ago, artists moved away from urban centers of culture and patronage to settle in beautiful, unspoiled places that nourished their art. In Mystic, these artists founded a colony that was rich in creativity, open to new ideas, and dedicated to artistic quality.

Now it’s our turn. How can we enrich Mystic’s art colony heritage and keep moving forward? How can we apply the creativity of our past to the challenges of the present? By supporting the Mystic Museum of Art as a 21st-century museum grounded in our own, local history.

By supporting innovations in exhibition and education programs, every dollar returns Mystic’s artistic heritage to the individuals, children, and families who live and visit here. What’s more, your gift serves as an endorsement of MMoA, encouraging others to support the museum as well.

MMoA was founded by artists: creativity is at the center of all we do. Please join MMoA’s Board, staff, volunteers, friends, and visitors by growing a 21st-century Museum out of a deeply distinguished past.
Annual Fund Dollars At Work

$25
One day’s summer camp supplies

$50
One month’s office supplies

$100
- Installation of one exhibition in the Leibig Gallery
- Replacement of the lightbulbs in the Education studios

$250
Wall panels and labels for one exhibition in the Davis Gallery

$500
- Hospitality costs associated with one exhibition opening
- Summer art camp instructor fees for one week

$1,000
- Electricity costs for one month
- Three months’ Internet access

$2,500
- Transportation, insurance, and activity costs for one field trip to the Museum
- One year of lawn care and snow removal

$5,000
- Costs for one year-long speaker series
- Curatorial research and planning costs for one exhibition in the Davis Gallery
THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

HOLIDAY GIFT MARKET

MYSTIC MUSEUM OF ART

NOVEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 22, 2019