



JANUARY 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sat, Dec. 31 - Mon, Jan. 2: New Year's Eve/Day**  
CLUB CLOSED

**Sat, Jan. 7: Saturday Night Dinner** 6pm

**Sun, Jan. 8: New Shows Open, Reception** 2-4pm  
Maxwell Mays Gallery: **Class & Instructors Show**  
Dodge House Gallery: **New Year, New Members**

**Thu, Jan. 12: Featherston's Instagram for Artists**  
**Gallery Program** 5pm

**Mon, Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Day**  
CLUB CLOSED

**Wed, Jan. 18: BOM Meeting** 5:30pm

**Fri, Jan. 20: Friday Night Dinner** 6pm

**Sun, Jan. 22: New Shows Open, Reception** 2-4pm  
Maxwell Mays Gallery: **Givan, MacDonald, & Poulton: Not Your Average Comfort Zone**  
Mary Castelnovo Gallery: **Shaw: Right Before Your Eyes**  
Dodge House Gallery: **Handy & Kattman: Suggestions**

**Mon, Jan. 23: Winter Classes Begin** 9am

**Thu, Jan. 26: Thirsty Thursday** 4pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! As we raise our glasses to ring in 2023, let's also toast a THANK YOU to all of the PAC house elves – staff, volunteers, artists and patrons alike – for our most successful Little Pictures show to date! Over 700 individual works of art found their way into new homes, with sales totaling around \$176,600 for this year's show.

Huzzah to all involved: to our amazing gallery crew for running a seamless (and seemingly effortless) show while welcoming thousands of visitors into the galleries; to the 100+ artists who participated in the show for keeping the walls full and our social media feeds fresh; to the House committee for giving the Club a Dickensian (or Hogwartsian, if you will) glow that never fails to charm our guests, and to our amazing hospitality team (both front & back of house) for providing top-notch, round-the-clock delights for diners and parties alike - including our newest Holiday tradition, the PAC food truck "parked" in our Founder's Room for our Holiday Block Party! If the hectic holidays caught you off guard, there's still time to show your appreciation for Seb and his staff - please reach out to Brenda if you wish to make a contribution to the employee fund - and THANK YOU to the many members for their continued generosity.

We're entering the new year in strong financial health, welcoming not only over 50 new members but some new programs as well - starting with a winter education lineup with the most classroom offerings to date! We're continually looking for ways to support both tradition and growth - ways to connect with your fellow members - including nights and weekends. If you missed (or enjoyed!) the camaraderie of our three festive Thirsty Thursdays during Little Pictures, you'll be delighted to hear that we're continuing these monthly. With our second PAC travel program an instant sell-out, future excursions with fellow members are already being proposed. As always, we welcome your suggestions & feedback on the membership experience - please feel free to reach out to president@providenceartclub.org.

While we are being mindful of creating day-to-day opportunities for members to engage and connect, we're also looking ahead - the Board of Managers met for a strategic planning retreat this past fall. Our productive discussions resulted in alignment not only on areas for focus and development, but with the agreement to engage a professional facilitator to work with our BOM, members, and staff to give shape to our future.

So, here's to 2023 - Thank you all for your continued support - through your gifts of committee time and financial donations, taking classes, supporting both our Café and galleries, and introducing new members.

As our good friend Tom Sgouros would've said, "For God's sake, take care of yourselves!"

Shawn Kenney  
President, Providence Art Club



LET'S HEAR IT FOR BRI!

Brianna Joy Turner was born in Los Angeles, California. Bri spent much of her childhood in and around LA, but also lived in Hawaii for five years, and visited family in Kentucky during her summers. After attending **North Coast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy**, Bri earned her B.A. in Classical Studies from the **University of California at Santa Cruz** with a concentration in 'Fifth Century Greek Vase Paintings' and the 'Eleusinian Mysteries'. She studied the works of Aristophanes, Euripides, Herodotus, Homer, and Plato in the original ancient Greek. Bri relocated to the East Coast in 2014, initially living in New Haven, Connecticut prior to coming to Providence in 2015, where she quickly joined the staff of the Art Club as Gallery Assistant.

Prior to joining the Art Club, Bri was a transcriptionist for the Smithsonian Institution and a decorative arts conservation pre-program intern at **Yale University Art Gallery**. In addition to being a valued member of the Art Club's gallery staff, Bri is concurrently a Conservation Assistant at the **RISD Museum**, where she works on objects ranging from sculpture and lacquerware to jewelry and wallpaper. She holds memberships in the **American Institute of Conservation**, the **New England Conservation Association**, and the **Association of Grave Studies**.

Bri resides in North Providence with her partner Dr. Tanner Walker, their cat Nebuchadnezzar II, and their dog Şagula. In her spare time she enjoys crafting via Zoom with her two young siblings in California. Always brightening our days with her smile, you can visit Bri down at the Dodge House Gallery Desk on Friday afternoons.

# JANUARY HAPPENINGS & MORE AT THE PROVIDENCE ART CLUB



Jan. 07,  
2023  
6pm-9pm

## SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

Join us for our first members' dinner of the new year on **Saturday, January 7th**. To welcome you back to our Club, Chef Scott will be preparing a menu full of your favorite winter comfort foods! Starting with a choice of **Italian Wedding Soup** or a **Waldorf Salad**, members will then have the option to choose between three entrées. Among these options are a hearty **Classic Beef Bourguignon** (priced at \$46++), a **Roasted Codfish & Shrimp** dish (priced at \$44++), or a **Vegan Shepherd's Pie** (priced at \$38++). Finishing up the night will be a **Warm Raspberry Chocolate Bread Pudding** to cleanse and delight your palette. Being that this dinner has a prix fixe menu, the appetizer and dessert will be included in the price of your entrée. This event is open to members and their guests only. More information about this event can be found on the website's event calendar.



Jan. 20,  
2023  
6pm-9pm

## FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

Towards the end of the month, we will be hosting another members' dinner for you to come enjoy with us! This menu will feature a richer selection of dishes. To start, members will be served a **Winter Baby Kale Caesar Salad** finished with yummy Sweet Potatoes, Pecans, and Pomegranate Seeds. Following this will be an **Old Fashioned Prime Rib Dinner**, topped with Au Jus and served alongside a Horseradish Cream Sauce. To finish will be a **Chocolate Chip Lava Cookie** served with a creamy Espresso Chocolate Marscapone Gelato. **Priced at \$55++**, this dinner will be open to members and their guests only. More information can be found on the event calendar on the website, and reservations may be made with Alda via email or phone. Hope to see you there!



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2022

**Ruth Davis**, Transfer to Arts Professional  
**Sarah Verardo**, Transfer to Exhibiting Artist  
**Kim Barry**, Exhibiting Artist  
**Lisa Dworkin**, Patron Member  
**Phyllis Pesaturo**, Exhibiting Artist  
**Wells M. Pile**, Patron Member

### ANNOUNCEMENT: YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION

It's coming up to be that time of year, folks! The **Providence Art Club 2022 Yearbook** is already underway, and this year marks the beginning of a new tradition. Starting this year (2022), the contents of the annual Yearbook will correspond to the calendar year, so as to keep a more accurate and precise account of each year in review. **Yearbooks will be available to the membership at our Founders Day gathering, this year occurring on February 17th, 2023, and will automatically be charged to your membership account.** Any members that are not in attendance of this event will receive their copy via mail, with their membership account charged accordingly.



## FIRESIDE HISTORY WITH DAN MECHNIC

This month, past-president Dan Mechnig shared with us the history behind our beloved Providence Art Club Seal. Designed by John Howard Benson, the seal we know and love connects back to the initial heraldic concept that was once used for the seal for the Town (now city) of Providence. Consisting of six six-pointed stars surrounding a star with twelve points, that seal has since been abandoned by the city, with traces of it only remaining on the flag of Providence's City Council. While the confirmed origin story has been lost to the sands of time, it has been speculated that the design for the seal of Providence was based off of the heavens themselves; with the central star or sun passing its power and light to the lesser bodies that orbit it.

This story, when applied to the same figure as art, resonated greatly with John Howard Benson and his hopes for the future that our Club would bring. In his version, Benson saw the central, flaming star as the creative inspiration and spirit that burns inside the soul of artists everywhere. Combining this with the surrounding stars intended to symbolize the central star shedding its life force on the arts, with the encircling stars drawing their strength and being from the energies of that central power source. Thinking in terms of the arts and creativity, Benson felt that no symbol would be more appropriate than the expression of a life force that stimulates and inspires its surroundings, just as the Providence Art Club was founded to do in our beloved Renaissance City.



## A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

In September 2022, the Board of Managers of the Providence Art Club unanimously voted to seek professional assistance to guide in strategic planning for the future. This strategic plan will establish priorities and identify key initiatives while providing framework for making future decisions efficiently. The Board looks forward to engaging the membership in the process, so that a solid model will reflect the wishes and aspirations of the Art Club as a whole.



## In the Galleries...

### *A Review of the 18th Annual Little Pictures Show & Sale*

Being a new member of the gallery staff at PAC, I was a little anxious when Michael described Little Pictures to us...but experiencing the nation's oldest and largest Little Pictures Show was a new and extraordinary experience. As a new gallery assistant, Little Pictures also gave me the chance to discover all kinds of art created by our members and get to know many artists whom I had not yet had the chance to meet. Another bonus of this show was the opportunity to share my own work, enabling me to take part in such a special production, as well as seeing my fellow peers and staff's own works of art. It gave us all an opportunity to share our talents and love for art with so many people.

Seeing artists share their work and collectors purchase it is such a special transaction and being part of all the excitement and activities of Little Pictures was a great way for me to get to know the members of PAC and the surrounding community even better. Through the Holiday Block Party and the introduction of our Thirsty Thursday events, I saw many interactions with art and artists in a supportive way, too.



There is such a wide selection of pieces to choose from with there being so many talented and skillful artists. Some of my favorite pieces were works by **Phil Gruppuso**, **Dan Read**, and **Lori Labrie**. I loved the functionality within all their works. Dr. Gruppuso working primarily with wood in an innovative and unique way, creating clocks, boxes, and other functional furniture. Mr. Read's glass pieces truly stood out with his creative use of color and shape. Mrs. Labrie's one-of-a-kind jewelry incorporated such timeless and unique qualities that drew out our emotions. I also really enjoyed 2D works by **Sam Green** and **Karole Nicholson**. The use of Mr. Green's hues and shapes, and his unconventional way of painting landscapes is truly like no other. While Ms. Nicholson's collage and mixed media work crosses a path between abstract and contemporary landscape.

Although this was my first Little Pictures, it was truly an experience to remember. A moment where we all came together to create something big; a time of giving back and creating. Until next year!

Signed,  
Aja Delgado  
Gallery Assistant



### **Behind the Brush:**

#### *Kirsten Sorensen on Arts Education*

For this month's "Behind the Brush", Education Coordinator, Maya Stern, sat down with instructor Kirsten Sorensen to discuss her extensive background in education. Kirsten is an advocate of self-expression through arts-based research and experimentation.

Kirsten's career in education began the summer before she went to college, working as a teacher's assistant to an elementary art teacher. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Arts Education and Painting from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. Upon graduating, she moved to Chicago, Illinois, where she accepted a position at the Winnetka Community House as an Early Childhood Supervisor before being promoted to the Director in 1977.

After moving to Rhode Island, Kirsten became a long-term substitute teacher of Art at the Veterans School in Central Falls, where she created programming that visually communicated lessons to students who could not speak English. This sparked a passion which Kirsten describes as "trying to understand how everyone learns". She made it a goal to reach the needs of every student, despite their learning styles or ... challenges.

She was awarded a position of Secondary Art Teacher at Cranston High School East in 1995. She stressed the significance of teaching proper technique to students, stating "it is hard enough to create art when you don't know how to create it". She encouraged her students to learn how to observe and appreciate the world around them.

Kirsten began experimenting with printmaking as a method of replicating painting. Soon after joining the Providence Art Club, she was recommended to teach a course on Monotype. She enjoys employing technique while allowing room for experimentation.

Kirsten will be teaching Mixed Media Printmaking, Beginner and Beyond on Wednesdays from 9:30am – 12:30pm, from January 25 – March 29 in the Garden Level Printmaking Studio.



### **Searching for a venue for your next event?**

*We are now booking private events for the 2023 calendar year. Please contact Membership Services Coordinator, Julia Hubbard, for more information at [julia@providenceartclub.org](mailto:julia@providenceartclub.org).*

## NEW YEAR, NEW COURSE CATALOG

Read about some of the newest course offerings for the Winter 2023 class term. Maybe you'll find something new!

### **Adding Detail to Your Paintings with Watercolor with Gina Croce**

**Mar. 6 - Apr. 10 | Mondays, 1-4pm**

In this class, you will learn how to add detail to your watercolor paintings while adding color harmony - creating interesting compositions and dynamics to your work. We will focus on clean lines, interesting shadows, and clean colors. This class is suitable for beginners to advanced watercolorists who want to learn techniques to bring their watercolor skill to the next level.

### **Photography for Painters with Gershon Stark**

**Feb. 28 - Mar. 28 | Tuesdays, 9am-12pm**

This course aims to teach students an approach to photography that will enable them to create better reference shots for their paintings. The photographic tools of framing, depth of field, perspective, and juxtaposition will be used to help students view subjects more creatively. Students will practice ways of looking, moving, and framing that even without a reference photo will create the potential for a better painting, in studio or plein air.

### **Group Portraiture with Agustín Patiño**

**Jan. 29 - Apr. 2 | Sundays, 12-2pm**

In this course, students will learn new techniques for creating advanced portraiture and contemporary figurative art with several subjects; such as how to create a dynamic composition, and how to use perspective to showcase harmony among the group while also showcasing every individual. Students will work with a variety of models in varying quantities throughout the course.



On Thursday, December 15th, Charles Wharton led his pop-up workshop, "The Art of Entertainment". Participants were introduced to methods of hosting parties and events before tasting an array of appetizer samples and cocktail specials. In his table settings, which included elaborate displays of delicately placed citrus fruits, utensils, and pans, prove that we come across still lives in our everyday!

# IN CASE YOU MISSED OUT...HOLIDAYS AT PAC



# February



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
[Artwork]			[Artwork]			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
[Artwork]			[Artwork]			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>New Shows Open:</b> Reception 2-4pm <b>All Galleries:</b> <i>Winter Members' Exhibition</i>		<b>Valentine's Day Dinner</b> 6pm 	<b>Board of Managers Meeting</b> 5pm 	<b>Founders Day Program &amp; Dinner</b> 6pm 		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>President's Day</b> CLUB CLOSED		<b>Thirsty Thursday</b> 4pm 		<b>Saturday Night Dinner</b> 6pm 		
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
[Artwork]			[Artwork]			