



FEBRUARY 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sun, Feb. 12: New Shows Open, Reception** 2-4pm  
All Galleries: **2023 Winter Members' Exhibition**
- Tue, Feb. 14: Valentine's Day Dinner** 6pm
- Wed, Feb. 15: BOM Meeting** 5:30pm
- Fri, Feb. 17: Founders Day Program & Dinner** 6pm
- Mon, Feb. 20: Presidents' Day** CLUB CLOSED
- Thu, Feb. 23: Thirsty Thursday** 4pm
- Sat, Feb. 25: Saturday Night Dinner** 6pm

- Sun, Mar. 5: New Shows Open, Reception** 2-4pm  
Maxwell Mays Gallery: **Driggs, Mac, & Toney-Leeming: Explorations**  
Mary Castelnovo Gallery: **Rich: Travels in Color**  
Dodge House Gallery: **Tirrell & Weems: Small Moments**

- Sat, Mar. 11: Saturday Night Dinner** 6pm
- Wed, Mar. 15: BOM Meeting** 5:30pm
- Thu, Mar. 16: Thirsty Thursday** 4pm
- Fri, Mar. 17: St. Patrick's Day Dinner** 6pm

- Sun, Mar. 26: New Shows Open, Reception** 2-4pm  
Maxwell Mays Gallery: **Forster, Glaser, & Rotblat-Walker: Two Eyes and a Band-aid**  
Mary Castelnovo Gallery: **Arts Professional Members Showcase**  
Dodge House Gallery: **Ferreira: Into the Wild**

- Fri, Mar. 31: Pub Night Dinner** 6pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each February, we honor the founding of the Providence Art Club – February 19, 1880, to be exact. Many of you would be surprised to know that we started out, in today's parlance, as a pop-up – It took us 5 years to find our current clubhouse, and after renovations, we officially moved into our beloved Thomas Street home in January of 1887. This year, we'll celebrate with a very special evening program on Christiana Cardeaux Bannister, written and directed by PAC member Pamela Lambert. Details inside, along with a bit of Club history on our back page -

Our members have long known – in a city and state known for an outstanding culinary scene – what a hidden gem our Café is - yet Chef Scott and his crew somehow continually find ways to up their game (have you tried that amazing Poke bowl special at lunch recently!?) This month's Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras dinners are sure to be popular - so make your reservations early!

A last note, in this month of our Founders and St. Valentine – you can now share & show your love of our Club with PAC mugs, YETI tumblers, and tote bags. This initial offering was produced in limited quantities, working in conjunction with local vendors (including the folks at **Riverzedge Arts** [www.riverzedgearts.org](http://www.riverzedgearts.org)) – as we look to expand our offerings, we welcome your ideas (and thoughts in general) – please feel free to reach out to me via email at [president@providenceartclub.org](mailto:president@providenceartclub.org).

Cheers to warmer & brighter days ahead, and as our good friend Tom Sgouros would've said, "For God's sake, take care of yourselves!"

Shawn Kenney  
President, Providence Art Club



IZZY IS OFF THE HIZZY!

Izzy Marie Holiday is a transplant from Tallahassee, Florida. From a large family of artists, they were given the opportunity to explore many things; from fine arts to fiber arts, jewelry making, dance, and music. They enjoy all forms of artistic expression, but food and cooking will *forever* be their favorite. Izzy believes in nothing more than the healing power of the right food, the joy you can bring with just the right ingredients, and loves the challenge of finding *just* the right dish for every occasion. Before joining us at the Art Club, Izzy held a variety of jobs, from food, childcare, and, business management, to more out-of-the-box occupations such as yarn production, theatre costume design, as a princess, and even with a clown. Izzy currently lives in Providence with their husband Adonis, and their two cats, Astra and Iris. On any given day you can find Izzy in the PAC kitchen, singing and dancing their way through lunch service. Thanks, Izzy!

# FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS & MORE AT THE PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

Feb. 14,  
2023  
6pm - 9pm



## VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

Bring your honey to the Art Club for dinner on **Tuesday, February 14th** and be treated to a spread worthy of St. Valentine himself. Executive Chef Scott will be preparing a special menu for the romantic holiday. Starting with a cocktail hour at 6 pm, members will have the opportunity to snack on an array of hors d'oeuvres, such as **Oysters on the Half Shell with a Passion Fruit Mignonette**, and **Baked Brie and Pear Hearts**. Dinner will commence at 7 pm, beginning with a **Heirloom Citrus Burrata Salad** for an appetizer. Following the salad will be a delicious **Land & Sea entrée** featuring **Pan-Roasted Petite Filet Mignon** and **Lobster Ravioli**. Finishing up the night will be a **Warm Chocolate Raspberry Bread Pudding** to cleanse and delight your palette. **This event is open to members and their guests only, priced at \$85++ per person.** More information about this event can be found on the website's event calendar.

Feb. 24,  
2023  
6pm - 9pm



## SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER: MARDI-GRAS STYLE

Break out your festival beads, and join us for a NOLA-themed Mardi Gras Dinner on **Saturday, February 24 from 6-9 pm**. Featuring a fun, eclectic menu of southern flavors, you won't want to miss these special dishes! From **Gumbo & Hush Puppies**, to **Oyster Po'Boys** and good old-fashioned **Cajun Chicken**, to a **Mardi Gras King Cake** fit for royalty, this lineup of Louisiana classics will transport you straight to the French Quarter for the evening — parade not included. More information on this dinner, along with the full menu, can be found on the website.

Feb. 17,  
2023  
6pm - 9pm



## FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION: DINNER & PROGRAM

For Founder's Day 2023, the Providence Art Club invites you to attend an evening with **Madame Christiana Bannister, Hair Doctress**. Madame Bannister was also the wife of one of our esteemed founders, Edward Bannister. Find out why he frequently said, "I'd be nothing without her". The personal story of Christiana Carteaux Bannister, titled "**Never Enough Time: Christiana's Story**" will be portrayed by actors from **Brown University's Rites & Reason Theatre**, written and directed by Art Club member, Pamela Lambert. **The evening will begin with a cocktail hour and yearbook distribution at 6pm, followed by a seated dinner at 7pm, and finish with the evening's program at 8pm. This event is open to members and their guests, priced at \$38++ per person.** You can find the menu of the evening below, and reservations can be made by calling Dining Room Manager, Alda Borges, at **401.331.1114 x.3** or via email at [reservations@providenceartclub.org](mailto:reservations@providenceartclub.org).

### MENU

#### SOUP

Creamy Roasted Parsnip Bisque

#### ENTRÉE

Oven Roasted Cod Fish

Served with Creamed Spinach, Smokey Tomato Coulis, Wild Rice Pilaf, and Green Beans Almondine

#### DESSERT

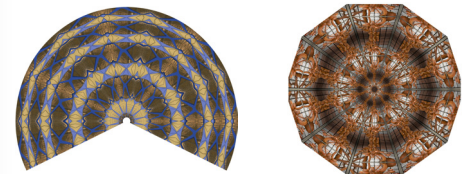
Warm Caramel Apple Blossom

\$38++

## REMINDER: YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION

Just in case you missed the memo; it was announced in last month's newsletter that PAC is beginning a new tradition with the annual Yearbooks that are distributed to the membership. Contrary to previous years, the books will from now on follow a calendar year of February to January, so as to keep a more accurate and precise account of each year in review. We would also like to remind all members that these books will be **available and handed out during the Founders Day event set for February 17, 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.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Howard Rotblat-Walker

*Howard Rotblat-Walker is one of the newest photographers to join the Art Club in the last year. Howard has been making photographs since the 1960s and drew inspiration early on from abstract photographers. He channeled his interest in architecture into shooting architectural abstractions while living in Iran from 1968-70 and accumulated an archive of over 100,000 images by the time he retired in 2014. He now makes art full time.*

*An autodidact when it comes to photography, Howard has an undergraduate degree from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a PhD in Sociology from The University of Chicago. In addition to the Art Club, Howard is an artist member of the Imago Gallery in Warren. He has exhibited in many of the art venues in our area winning numerous awards.*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

JANUARY 2023

Rebecca Mayer, Patron

Jonathan McPhillips, Exhibiting Artist

Mark Rabinowitz, Arts Professional

Jane Robbins, Exhibiting Artist

Lyn Hayden, Exhibiting Artist\*

\*REINSTATED\*



## In the Galleries...

### *A Review of the 2023 Class & Instructors' Exhibition*

From figures to flowers and lemons to landscapes, the **Class and Instructors' Show** regularly starts off the new year, but this year's show is a first for me! January marks the start of a new year, but also the half-way point since the start of my time as a gallery assistant at the Providence Art Club. Since then, I've met many of the artist members, and I've become acquainted with their unique bodies of work. The hanging process provides us gallery assistants a unique ability to spend close time with each piece before the incoming show openings. During that time, I quickly develop personal favorites.

For the Class and Instructors' Show, I felt drawn to a few classes and their students' works. In particular, **Kate Huntington and Craig Masten's figure class**, a traditional staple in developing an artist's ability to render a figure, Ms. Huntington and Mr. Masten's students interpreted the classic figure in an array of mediums. **Jana Matusz incorporates her use of sumi ink and acrylic wash to highlight the movement and warmth of the body**, while **Mahendar Paul creates close ups of overlapping bodies in oil**. I was drawn to each student's unique take on the moving figure, but even more impressed by the way all the pieces came together to create one cohesive representation of the class.

I also enjoyed the works of **Nancy Gaucher-Thomas' Painting with the Masters class**. Students from the class showcased some familiar artworks, but with a personal twist! **Andrew Wyeth's Wind from the Sea Afar (originally done in tempera) breathes new life in Aileen Monahan Quinn's adaptation done in watercolor and gouache** while **Liz Glatzer's reproduction of Alice Pike Barney's Self Portrait (originally done in oil) has been reworked in pastel**. These works were already familiar to me, but seeing each of them skillfully reimagined sparked new joy!

The Class and Instructors' show truly set the tone for the new year. There were so many astounding artworks, that if I included every one, this newsletter would be fifty pages! Seeing the show come together and enjoying the excitement of the Sunday opening makes me look forward to what the rest of this gallery season has to offer! See you at the Dodge House desk!

Sincerely,

Shannon Ferrari,  
Gallery Assistant



## Behind the Brush:

*Gershon Stark on Education & Mentorship*

For this month's **Behind the Brush** feature, Education Coordinator, Maya Stern, had a conversation with **Jonathan "Gershon" Stark** on his **philosophy of education**, which is rooted in **mentorship** and **accessibility to others**.

Gershon has always had an interest in teaching others what he knows. He was presented the opportunity to mentor fellow employees within his career of corporate and commercial film. This sparked an interest in mentorship, which stuck with him upon his move from Boston to Providence. His move provoked two goals: to make art while connecting with artists in the city, and to teach. He obtained a studio at **AS/220** and began teaching photography to after school students at **Hope High School**.

Gershon's goal as an instructor is to help students see what they need to discover for themselves in their artistic journey. He encourages students to consider how their work can be accessible to others - urging them to view their subject matter from a variety of perspectives and lenses. He often asks the question "how is your art being of service to anyone but yourself". Ultimately, Gershon teaches his students the potential in allowing personal places the visibility they deserve.

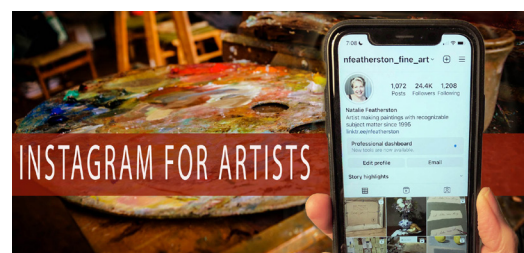
In recent news, Gershon has recently accepted a position at **Johnson and Wales University** teaching Photography to undergraduate candidates. In addition, he will be teaching 'Photography for Painters' at the **Providence Art Club** on Tuesdays, from 9am - 12pm, February 28 - March 28.



## FIRESIDE HISTORY WITH DAN MECHNIG

Year after year at the Annual Meeting, the prestigious Art Club Medal is presented to a person (or persons) of the President and the Board's choosing that they have deemed worthy of recognition for their actions; either for the Club or the arts as a whole. Since its origin, the Art Club Medal has been presented to individuals and/or members who demonstrate exceptional service to the Club's establishment, outstanding accomplishment in the arts, or remarkable service to the cause of art in the community. This tradition began with the presentation of the medal to two revered members of the Art Club, George L. Miner and Helen M. Danforth, in 1961. Fourteen years later, in 1975, the medal (pictured above) would be presented to Mr. Maxwell Mays, a cherished and notable member of the Providence Art Club.

When prompted about the Art Club Medal, past-President Dan Mechnig had *quite* a story to tell from his term as President, involving this very medal pictured above. In 2004, the Art Club medal was presented to Alice Miles, who had been the first woman President of the Providence Art Club. While presenting this medal to the former-President, Maxwell Mays, who was in the audience during the ceremony, stood up to draw the attention of the crowd. Mr. Mays bestowed his own sterling silver medal onto then-President Dan Mechnig, deeming Mr. Mechnig worthy of the medal himself! This specific medal is a physical manifestation of the camaraderie of our beloved Club, and will be a future addition to the Providence Art Club Collection as a piece of Art Club history.



On Thursday, January 12th, members and friends eagerly awaited instruction from **Natalie Featherston** (a self-taught guru at navigating Instagram) on how to make the best use of the ever-increasingly technological world we live in to market and sell their artworks! Natalie covered the basics of editing photos, managing #hashtags, how to create newly popular "reels", and worked one-on-one with attendees to troubleshoot those pesky issues we all experience. Are you often stumped by social media apps that are constantly evolving? Don't fret, Natalie will be hosting a second session sometime soon!

## Have an idea for a class?

Course Proposals for the upcoming Spring Term are due by **Wednesday, Feb. 15!**

*Proposals should be sent to Ed. Coordinator, Maya Stern at*  
**maya@providenceartclub.org**

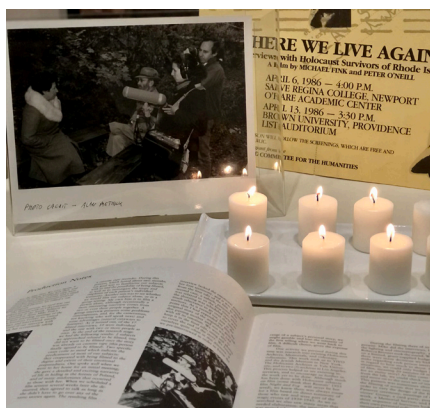
# IN CASE YOU MISSED OUT... *Founders & Friends Edition*



As of November 2022, the wax-interpreted centerpiece sculpture of our highly esteemed Bannister Community Art Project was sent off to the foundry for casting. The project's Steering Committee aims to unveil this bronze statue to the public in **September of 2023**. Updates and more can be found at [bannisterproject.org](http://bannisterproject.org).



Did you know that out of the **16 founders** of our beloved Club, that **a little under half of them were women**? Back in 1880, it was seen as **revolutionary** to have **women, BIPOC, and white men** all under the same roof, **sharing equal partnership (and ownership) of this establishment**. The camaraderie of our founders shows us that the love for the arts shows no bounds. Learn more about the history of our Club in the **Providence Art Club History Book**.



On January 27, **PAC Instructor Mike Fink & Education Coordinator Maya Stern** hosted a film screening of **'Here We Live Again: Interviews with Holocaust Survivors of Rhode Island'** in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day.



On January 26, **past-President Dan Mechnig** met with **RI PBS** for a grand tour of the Art Club, and an exclusive interview. Focusing on the Club's history, its founders, and stories from the inside, keep an eye out for the announcement of the airing of this segment.

# March



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
<i>ALL GALLERIES : 2023 Winter Members' Exhibition</i>						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>MAXWELL MAYS GALLERY - Driggs, Mac, &amp; Toney-Leeming: Explorations</i>						
<b>New Shows Open:</b> Reception 2-4pm MM: <i>Driggs, Mac, &amp; Toney-Leeming</i> MC: <i>Rich</i> DH: <i>Tirrell &amp; Weems</i>						<b>Saturday Night Dinner</b> 6pm 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>MARY CASTELNOVO GALLERY - Michael Rich: Travels in Color</i>						
			<b>Board of Managers Meeting</b> 5:30pm 		<b>St. Patrick's Day Dinner</b> 6pm 	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<i>DODGE HOUSE GALLERY - Tirrell &amp; Weems: Small Moments</i>						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<i>MAXWELL MAYS GALLERY - Forster, Glaser, &amp; Rotblat-Walker: Two Eyes and a Band-aid</i>						
<b>New Shows Open:</b> Reception 2-4pm MM: <i>Forster, Glaser, &amp; Rotblat-Walker</i> MC: <i>Arts Professional</i> DH: <i>Ferreira</i>				<b>Thirsty Thursday</b> 4pm 	<b>Friday Night Pub Dinner</b> 6pm 	