

APRIL 2023



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun, Apr. 9: Easter Holiday Club Closed

Wed, Apr. 12: 'Into the Wild' Artists Talk 2pm

Sat, Apr. 15: Workshop 9am - 4pm

Rich: A Way In - Ideas & Explorations to Fuel Your Creative Process

Sat, Apr. 15: New Shows Open, Reception 4-6pm

Maxwell Mays Gallery: **Aitcheson, Vilmain, & Weingard: People, Places, & Things**

Mary Castelnovo Gallery: **Kenney: Marionnettes by PK**

Dodge House Gallery: **Sam Allerton Green & Bill Lane**

Sat, Apr. 15: Saturday Night Dinner 6pm

Mon, Apr. 17: Spring Classes Begin 9am

Thu, Apr. 20 - Fri, Apr. 21: Board Retreat 9am

Fri, Apr. 21: Members Night 6pm

Sat, Apr. 22: Workshop 9am - 3pm

MacDonald: Who Can Resist Nests (Especially On Earth Day)?!

Sun, Apr. 23: Membership Committee's 'Paint Your Cake' Patron Program 1pm

Thu, Apr. 27: Thirsty Thursday 4pm

Sat, Apr. 28: Membership Committee Dance Party 6pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Art Club is in full bloom this month - with opportunities to enjoy a cocktail during Thirsty Thursday, see a ghostly founder, attend a Saturday evening gallery opening (and stay for a terrific dinner), or to have your cake (and paint it too!)

Our spring classes are filling up, and we'll be announcing a packed summer workshop schedule shortly - a THANK YOU to the many people (members and staff alike) who keep this ship running - but a special note of gratitude to Carol Beagan, who is stepping down from the Education Committee. She was integral to bringing both our beloved PAC Atelier (Open Studios) to life and for the roster of (inter)national talent in our summer classrooms. Cheers!

We're proud to announce two major contributions to our shared legacy of stewardship - this caretaking of, in the words of Charles Walter Stetson (the aforementioned founder making an appearance on April 21st) "a Club...composed not only of artists and amateurs, but art-lovers...to interest people not only in our own work, but more fully in art itself." First, we honor one of our founders with this year's annual open juried show (much like our successful **'Making Your Mark'** celebrated both the achievements of contemporary female artists and the women so integral to our history) - **the Edward Mitchell Bannister National Exhibition**, celebrating BIPOC Artists with juror Krista Scenna. PAC is delighted to welcome a gallerist and curator of her caliber to select works for this important show.

Finally, on April 19th, we're commencing work on our Strategic Plan with David Mallette of Management Consultants for the Arts (MCA). (Thank you to Lorraine Hynes and her team of Susan Aitcheson, Michael Manni, and Caroline Reed for their thorough work on vetting and identifying our partner!) Our collective goal is to honor the Art Club's history, and be responsive to the preferences of both its long-term and newer members - while enabling it to become more inclusive and reflective of the diverse community around us. We'll be soliciting your opinion as we start the process of information gathering, self-assessment, visioning and mission development, goal setting, and consensus formation on objectives that will provide the framework for a 3-5 year plan.

Looking to get more involved? Have an idea for programming or our newsletter? Feel free to send suggestions by emailing me directly at president@providenceartclub.org.

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

Shawn Kenney
President, Providence Art Club



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: CINDY MARTINEZ, WAIT STAFF

Cindy Martinez is a first-generation ocean state native, born and raised in Providence, RI after her parents migrated to the US in the 80's from Guatemala. Putting down their roots in Rhode Island, Cindy's parents began building this new life right away, and with that came starting their family. The youngest of four siblings, she has two sisters and one brother, all of whom are very family-oriented and have stuck close to Rhode Island. As for her own little family, Cindy has a nine-year old son, Julian, with her fiancé, Eric, and is expecting an addition of a baby girl at the end of April. She also has a seven-year-old rescue dog, a Yorkie named Theodore (Theo), that they welcomed into their family five years ago. Motivated by her loved ones and a sense of community, the Martinez household is quickly becoming a full house! Outside of work, she loves taking them to the museum, zoo, parks, and the movies...but her favorite destination? Disney World! As often as they can, Cindy and her family take trips to the most Magical Place on Earth to enrich their imagination and inspiration. Being so family-centric, Cindy found herself drawn to the customer service industry and the idea of helping people. Before the Art Club, she spent seven years working at 'DeWolf Tavern' in Bristol; first as an event coordinator for two years, and then as a waitress to spend her time around a wider range of personalities and people. Then, a month before the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, Cindy found herself yearning for a better, more fulfilling opportunity for not only her family, but herself. It was then that she found the Art Club, unbeknownst to her that it would quickly become her home-away-from-home for the next three years (and hopefully, many more). Thank you, Cindy!

APRIL HAPPENINGS & MORE AT THE PROVIDENCE ART CLUB

Apr. 15,
2023
6pm-9pm



SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

Our first dinner of the month begins with a **Saturday Night Dinner** on **Saturday, April 15th from 6-9pm** that will showcase a menu of fresh, bright flavors to celebrate the spring season. Beginning with the standard cocktail hour at 6pm, members will then gather for a seated dinner at 7pm. This dinner will be served à la carte style, with a variety of options for all three courses. To start, members may choose an option of **Thai Coconut Curry Steamed Mussels, a Carrot Ginger Bisque, or a Spring Salad** (or all three!) Then, members will have the following entrées to choose from: **Roasted Coriander Boneless Chicken Thighs, Baked Stuffed Sole, Pistachio Crusted Lamb Rack, or a Vegetarian Ramen Bowl.** To finish up, Chef Scott will be preparing two desserts for this evening: **a Poppyseed Rosemary Orange Cake, and a Malted Chocolate Hazelnut Crème Puff.** The full menu with all ingredients and prices may be found on the website. For members and their guests only, reservations can be made with Dining Room Manager Alda Borges via email at reservations@providenceartclub.org or by calling 401.331.1114 ext. 3.

Apr. 23,
2023
6pm-9pm



Bring a friend, and join the Membership Committee for an afternoon of cake, cocktails, and fun on **Sunday, April 23rd, 2023 from 1-4pm.** Strictly for **non-artist members**, this FREE program led by PAC artist Kathy Tirrell allows patron members to learn and create in a laid-back, low-stress setting. All materials will be provided, as well as templates and THREE instructors to assist as needed. Angell's Lane will be open and flowing for all of your cocktail cravings at cost. Paint your cake, and eat it too at this fun, patron-only membership event.

You can register for this event with Membership Services Coordinator Julia Hubbard, by calling **401.331.1114 ext. 16**, or emailing julia@providenceartclub.org.

Member's Night:
Apr. 21, 2023, 6pm-9pm

BROKEN:



THE LIFE AND ART OF CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN AND CHARLES WALTER STETSON

As part of our continuing series of plays on the fascinating lives of our Club's early members, we'll focus on two people who gained international acclaim in art and literature. It begins in January 1882 when young Charlotte and Walter first met. Their captivating stories will be revealed in their own words, drawn from their diaries. Our play is a window into an era when a woman's traditional role in marriage, motherhood and society was challenged by Charlotte's fierce independence and brilliance. However tragic their relationship was, both achieved individual fame. Charlotte became a prominent feminist and novelist. Author of "The Yellow Wallpaper", she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Walter's works are exhibited in the galleries of the Smithsonian and other major museums. Join us when Chris and Mindy Ratcliffe bring this compelling story to life on what is sure to be a memorable evening at our Club. Reservations can be made with Dining Room Manager Alda Borges by calling **401.331.1114 ext. 3** or via email at reservations@providenceartclub.org.

MENU

ENTRÉE

Casino Baked Stuffed Shrimp

Jumbo Shrimp with a Casino Bread Stuffing and Wrapped in Bacon, Topped with a Lemon Tabasco Butter and Served with Julienne Vegetables and Rice Pilaf

DESSERT

Mini Key West Lime Cake

Sponge Cake Topped with Key Lime Mousse and a Cream Cheese Filling

\$35++

Join us for a...

MEMBERSHIP DANCE PARTY



"Dancing Through the Decades"

Sat. April 29, 2023 | 6-9 pm

Members: \$25 | Guests: \$20

Snacks and treats included in price
See website for more details

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Ruth A.B. Clegg, Arts Professional

Ruth A B Clegg joined Providence Art Club in 1991 as an exhibiting artist. Ruth has fond memories of serving on the Gallery Committee at that time and pouring tea at the long table formerly in Angell's Lane. It was a vibrant group of committee members and for a new young member, it was quite fun. This activity led Ruth to volunteer on many more PAC committees to include the Board of Managers.

As a professional photographer since 1981, Ruth has continued to tell generations of family and business stories with portraits and video. There are quite a few PAC members that have had their stories told by Ruth with video. You will also find Ruth's artwork, photography, print making and painting, on display at many Rhode Island institutions and in numerous collections.

As a "professional" volunteer, Ruth has served on numerous boards which has recently led to a new profession, Life and Leadership Coaching, focused on using the creative process for growth. Currently, Ruth is President of the Board of Art League RI and oversees the gallery and community collaborations and projects.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MARCH 2023

Penny Carrier, Patron

Peter Carson, Patron

Wayne Jacques, Arts Professional

Suzanne O'Shea, Patron

Susan Sward, Exhibiting Artist

ARCHIVED ARTIFACTS WITH NANCY WHIPPLE GRINNELL

In the process of cataloguing the Providence Art Club's fine art collection, many interesting stories emerge, both about the subjects and artists of the approximately 500 works of art. This month I am highlighting an oil portrait that once hung in the Founders Room. The artist is William Cushing Loring (1879-1959), an instructor at RISD from 1906 to 1919, and a club member for half a century. The subject is Charles E. Harry (1859-1940), the club's steward from 1910 until 1934. In Angell's Lane, Charlie Harry is mentioned as Brooke Sanderson's "kindly successor." Harry was African American and first appears in the Providence City Directory in the 1880s, listed first as a "clerk," then as a waiter, then from 1911-1934 as steward of the Providence Art Club. Harry was born in Warren, Rhode Island, married Wilhelmina Pinder, from Maryland, in 1886 and had four children. Wilhelmina was listed in the Federal Census as a "cook in a club house," and indeed was appointed Charlie's assistant. After Wilhelmina's death in 1913, Charlie married Josephine J----, from Georgia, who outlived him.

The painting was a gift from the artist, who likely painted it around the time he had an exhibition at the club in 1917. Loring was from Newton, Massachusetts and had attended the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Chase School in New York, and the Academy Colarossi in Paris. He painted other Rhode Island notables including Eliza Radeke, the president of RISD. In this expressive portrayal, a distinguished Charlie Harry looks directly at the viewer, his left hand resting on a cane. However, Loring turned the portrait into a political statement, portraying Abraham Lincoln in the upper right.

The portrait was removed from the gallery because of the deteriorating condition of the frame, which is now being restored by member Alice Tingley. Soon Charlie Harry will regain his rightful place on the walls of the Art Club, and again be recognized for his role in the institution's history.



Charles E. Harry by William Cushing Loring (1879-1959)

BE INSPIRED TO TRY SOMETHING NEW!

Spring is all about new growth and fresh perspectives...try your hand at something different with these new course offerings for Spring!



Kiln Formed Fused Glass: A Dish A Week with Alice Benvie-Gebhart

Apr. 19 - May 17 | Wednesdays, 1-4pm
Garden Level Print Studio | Beginner Level

In this five-week class, you will learn the basics and be introduced to many fundamental concepts related to kiln formed fusible glass. You will use various forms of glass such as sheet glass, frit and glass stringer. Each week you will explore a new method and implement that method into form and function in glass.

Introduction to Weaving with Elizabeth Springett

Apr. 21 - Jun. 9 | Fridays, 9:30-11:30am
Maxwell Mays Gallery | Beginner Level

Weaving is the interlacement of vertical and horizontal yarns to create cloth. It is a thoughtful, meditative, and creative art form that provides an outlet for artistic expression and a way to practice our ability to focus. In this course, students will learn many of the necessary, beginner processes for weaving including how to read a draft, make a warp, the process of dressing a loom in order to prepare to weave, beginner treadling patterns and other starter techniques. Students will either make a twill sampler or two small hand towels. Knowledge from this course will enable students to continue their study of weaving.



Behind the Brush:

Elena Obelenus on Evolution as an Artist

For this month's Behind the Brush feature, Education Coordinator, Maya Stern, had a conversation with Elena Obelenus on her evolution as an artist and instructor. From surface design to ceramics, Elena has established herself as a well-rounded master of craft. Elena began her career in the textile and surface design industry upon graduating from the Fashion Institute of Technology. While a student, Elena received rigorous training in every form of fiber composition and design. She studied various aspects of textile design and as part of her education, had to pick apart fabric samples to determine its woven composition and thread count. With the highly popular floral textile patterns, she took two years of Nature Studies courses, learning how to draw virtually every flower. This taught her how to reference imagery, a skill which she adopted into her printmaking matrix preparation.

Elena credits her teaching and knowledge of printmaking to Carol FitzSimonds, though much of her background in the textile industry has prepared her as a printmaker. She finds a direct connection between composing a draft for a pattern and producing stencils or polymer plates for a printmaking project. Prior to meeting Carol at the Club, Elena had never worked in printmaking. Despite that, she states, "I feel that Intaglio is particularly technical and the steps to produce a good image are very precise. However, I was eventually able to grasp the process under Carol's guidance." Given the small class sizes in printmaking, Elena began troubleshooting where needed. Eventually, she was asked by Carol to co-teach Solar Printmaking. They have been teaching together ever since. Elena Obelenus and Carol FitzSimonds will be teaching **Solar Printmaking** this Spring on Tuesdays from 10am - 4pm, April 18 - May 16.

Let's Recap: PAC's Cocktail Club

Shake it, stir it, pour it, sip it! Members and guests joined 5 PAC Celebrities in our newest Angell's Lane Bar event where they learned tricks of the trade from our cocktail & mocktail professionals. Artist Members Charlie Wharton and Anthony Tomaselli brought us a taste of their favorite libations, inspired by visits to some of the greatest bars and restaurants around the world. Plus, Alda showed everyone a delicious non-alcoholic option that is enjoyable for all ages! Alex kept it classic with a PAC Espresso Martini and Julia puts a twist on a dirty martini with the Teeny Pickle - the perfect accompaniment to the evening's charcuterie offerings! **Keep an eye out for an announcement of our April Cocktail Club dates & guests.**

IN CASE YOU MISSED OUT... *Spring Has Sprung at PAC!*



Featured artists Linnea Toney Leeming, and Michael Rich pose with their works during their opening reception on March 5th. We're right there with you, Linnea...what a fantastic exhibition this was!



Exhibiting Artists Lindsey Mac, Nancy Driggs, Linnea Toney Leeming, and Michael Rich gave an Artists Talk on March 21st in the Maxwell Mays Gallery.



We had some visitors from Waterfire's Accelerate program on March 20th... here they are with Michael, "drinking tea" in Angell's Lane!



We hosted a pop-up cocktail class, courtesy of PAC's Cocktail Club, on March 16th! Pictured is our resident Bartender Alex Borges teaching some "students" how to make a proper espresso martini...



...and Exhibiting Artist Member Charlie Wharton showed us how to make his famous 'Spring Break' with fresh pineapple and lime.



Anthony Tomaselli's 'Grey Goose Martini' was a smash hit with our guests, at the Cocktail Class, both new and returning! A few fresh faces turned up that night to learn some new mixology skills.



But, rest assured...it wasn't all work and no play! Anthony Tomaselli and fellow Exhibiting Artist member Kelly McCullough are pictured here having some fun and goofing around in Angell's Lane on a small break from teaching and mixing drinks.



And of course, it wouldn't be a party without Mr. President himself, Shawn Kenney. Pictured alongside fellow members Joe Tamburini and Anthony, he popped in to say a few words and have some fun, (and most importantly... try some great cocktails!)