



Artist members gather at the 2022 annual Members Show, titled "Made in Maine." Photo: Elizabeth Campbell

**What a year this has been! Along with a schedule of five fully booked classes, six exhibitions, and a plein-air event, we made significant improvements to our beautiful historic building. All of this could not have been accomplished without the support of our amazing volunteers, staff, and financial donors. We offer special thanks to them and to the extraordinary leadership and dedication of our outgoing president Wendy Ross, and outgoing treasurer Tom Eichler.**



## New Lease with Town

After nearly a year of negotiations, the Wiscasset Select Board approved our request for a longer lease of the Old Academy Building, where the Maine Art Gallery has resided since 1958. While earlier leases came up for renewal every five years, the new lease now assures the gallery a 20-year residency. This will allow us to maintain our early 19th century schoolhouse as a 21st century venue for artistic expression and education. The new lease also strengthens our position to be awarded grants toward maintaining this historic gem.

## Major Building Improvements

We validated our intention to cooperate with the Town on renovations and improvements to the 1807 structure with major excavation work that included installation of a perimeter drain to save the foundation from water damage. We also installed a dehumidifier in the basement to help lower moisture levels.

The gallery is now cool and comfortable on hot days with an air purifier and air conditioner on each floor. All of this was accomplished with a \$15,000 grant from the Davis Foundation along with your donations to last year's annual appeal and a significant contribution from the Gallery's own savings account.

Much more still needs to be done to maintain this beautiful and historic building. This year we hope to raise a grant match for restoration of the eaves and exterior paint.



Before and after of restoration work at the gallery.



Students learn about plein air painting in Wiscasset.

## Completely Filled!

All five of our art classes were fully booked this year. Celia Ludwig facilitated our educational programming, which was carried out by our excellent artist teachers: Diane Dubreuil, Deborah Chapin, Deena Ball, Karen Jelenfy, and Olga Merrill. Support for the classes came from Cromwell Coastal Properties, and the Maine Arts Commission.



Celeste June Henriquez discusses her work during talk.

## 2022 Season Wrap up

We held two successful member shows (one juried), a colorful opening exhibit by Spindleworks artists, and our extremely popular annual plein-air event. "Surroundings," a curated show of art inspired by Maine, and a show of abstract work by SEVEN, an artists collective from Portland, rounded out a quality season.

Exhibits Coordinator Mark Coates is scheduling exhibitions that promote Maine art, both visual and applied. A highlight of the 2023 season will be a celebration of our 65th anniversary with a retrospective of art by our founding artists juxtaposed with a juried sampling of current member artists' work. The season will also include an exhibit of art by local youth, a plein-air event, a juried show "Working Maine," a non-juried members show, and an end-of-season show, "The Artful Interior" featuring fine crafts.

## Follow the Footsteps

How do you get people to walk three blocks from the monthly Artwalk activities on Main Street? In past years, few made their way to the gallery during Wiscasset's Artwalk. This year, however, Board member Christine Hopf-Lovette took on that challenge with a big hat, a smile, chalk footprints, and a sign. As a result, as many as 40 people visited the gallery on Artwalk evenings.



Christine Hopf-Lovette holds a sign directing visitors during Wiscasset Artwalk.

## Significant Reviews by Art Critics

Reviews of our exhibitions this summer have elevated our presence in the world of art buyers and our local communities. "Today the esteemed venue is showing new energy as it broadens its base and outreach – a very welcome state of affairs," noted Carl Little in Art New England. Lisa Kristoff of the Wiscasset Newspaper and Boothbay Register writes: "... the shows [at the Maine Art Gallery] always stir both the imagination and intellect of every viewer." And Jorge Arango of the Portland Press Herald included the gallery's recent exhibit, "Collective Imagination," in a review of four Maine galleries that highlight the "incredibly diverse aspects of our state's contemporary art scene at this moment."

## 2022 Board of Directors & Staff

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Gallery Consultant: Kerry Hadley

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## Thank You

We are grateful to our volunteers, members, supporters, and artists. We also want to thank our sponsors: Maine Arts Commission, Sherri Dunbar of Tim Dunham Realty, Les Fossel Restoration Resources, Cromwell Coastal Properties, First National Bank, Red's Eats, and Big Barn Coffee for their support of our mission to advance the visual arts through exhibitions, demonstrations, and educational programs. Also, special thanks to Ames Supply, and Bob Bond for their in-kind contributions.