

# Manasquan River Group of Artists

Established 1938

## Newsletter



M. R. G. A., P. O. Box 614, Manasquan,

[www.mrga38.org](http://www.mrga38.org)

New Jersey 08736

February 2022

### President's Message

Presidents Message February 2022

This year will mark 84 years since the founding of MRGA, and after experiencing two years of turmoil caused by the pandemic, the organization moves forward, but not without decreasing numbers in our membership. We currently have 63 members and over the past 2 years our membership has dropped. We need to strengthen our numbers so MRGA can extend well into the future and continue to contribute to the local art culture and community. We can do that by our members enlisting their fellow artists who are not familiar with MRGA to visit one of our general meetings this year and attend our exhibits. Let's each try to enlist an artist you know, seen their work exhibited, or met at a class or workshop, to apply to MRGA. There is a blank application in this issue as a convenience to hand to your fellow artist or they can go to our website. Also don't forget to suggest they visit our current show at the Point Pleasant Library which runs through March 2022. See you, and hopefully some new faces at our next meeting.

Bob Stetz  
President



Please visit the website for MRGA [www.mrga38.org](http://www.mrga38.org) Our website is being updated regularly by Sheila Soyster. Please contact Sheila with any information: [sheila624@comcast.net](mailto:sheila624@comcast.net) or 732-892-7692. Thank you Sheila.

Nobody tells you these things.....  
Nobody tells you these things.....

### **Precious Artwork – What’s it Worth?**

If you have a painting, that is considered a precious piece of art, you get it insured. There are art experts that examine it, appraise it, establish the value, and an insurance company will send you the amount of the premium required to replace it if damaged or lost. Simple enough. But suppose you have many pieces in your collection that date back to the 16 and 1700’s, by Jouvenet and Nicens to name a few. Don’t call Jake from State Farm. He, nor anyone else, will be able to help you.

The fire that destroyed a large portion of the cathedral of Notre Dame contained a collection of paintings, sculptures, statuary, and artifacts deemed to be priceless. This poses some interesting insurance related issues. What was the availability of insurance to cover the damage sustained by the fire? How can one accurately determine the value of replacement of the damage to this 850-year-old historical monument, and determine the value of artwork and historical relics inside the building?

Experts estimate the rebuilding of the structure will cost north of \$10 billion. Unfortunately, there was no direct insurance covering the cathedral. The church is owned and self-insured by the French Government, which allocates approximately \$470 million each year towards the upkeep and repair of state-owned monuments including Notre Dame. This is not close to the amount needed for repairs. Apart from that, the holy relics and artworks that reside inside the cathedral are particularly challenging to value. Notre Dame houses some of the rarest artifacts in the world, including the stained glass rose windows, which were spared, but require some repair, the crown of thorns, nails from the cross, and many paintings that received smoke damage and need restoration, and some century old paintings and statuary that were lost. It is reported there is insurance covering some artwork within the church, but few of the vast 60,000 pieces are insured. Insurance uses “property of like kind and quality” to determine replacement value, but where does one get “like kind and quality” to compare to paintings by Cheron (1687), Elyas (1702), Testelin (1655)? Who will determine the “market value” of these iconic pieces? French President Macron has received commitments from around the world amounting to more than a billion dollars to date, and his pledge to rebuild the cathedral in time for the 2024 Olympics is laudatory. However, the question remains, how do you fund this effort? The demand for policies insuring risks of the nature of Notre Dame and its artifacts will be explored, but the exposure will likely make prices for insuring such national treasures prohibitive. The cost of restoring these buildings, art, and objects, to their original condition will most likely fall to their owners and donations from benefactors, corporations, and the public, not insurance claims. The contribution these pieces of art make to the historical fabric of our lives cannot be valued by any actuary or entity. They are truly “priceless”.

#### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION-**

All submissions for the newsletter and changes to your address, phone or email should be sent by email to MaryAnn Goodwin at [maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com](mailto:maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com) by the 20th of the month for the next newsletter. Newsletters are prepared the prior month for September, October, November, December, January/February (Single issue in Feb.), March, April, May, and June. When announcing an award please give the title of your work. Photographs should include the names of the persons in them except for a large group. “Classifieds” will run only once unless you request a repeat.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Please continue to send any member news, artwork and opportunities to MaryAnn Goodwin at [maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com](mailto:maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Education:

Art Related Activities:

Briefly describe the medium/media in which you are currently working and also the subject matter:

Members must comply with the following:

- Must reside in the area 5 months of the year
- Required to attend at least two monthly meetings per year.
- Must participate in at least one MRGA art show per year.
- Pay Annual dues.
- Must volunteer to participate on a committee.

Please select one or more of the following:

- Committee Work     Hospitality     Publicity  
 Art Shows/Programs

Please attach (5) jpegs, including dimensions and medium of your most recent work completed within the last three years, and email completed application and jpegs to [mrga38.org](http://mrga38.org),  
Attn: Ms. Mona Kirk, Membership Chair.

*The Manasquan River Group of Artists is a culturally based organization dedicated to the promotion and encouragement of the visual arts in our local communities.*

## Member News

Lavallette Library is showing **Linda Hedjuk's** artwork for the month of February, 1st - 28th and Linda is also showing her work with **Janice Collinson** at the Presbyterian church gallery in Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ for the month of March

**Susanna Anastasia** was awarded "Best in the category of Portraits" for her watercolor portrait entitled "Jake" at the Ocean County Artists' Guild Members Exhibition - February 6 thru the month. You can also view the show online. Several members of the MRGA also participated in this Members Show.

The following MRGA Members were inducted as Elected Members into Audubon Artists, Inc. **Bob Stetz** (Aquamedia), (Oils & Acrylics), **Paula Shipman** (Oils & Acrylics), & **Tamara Woronczuk** (Collage & Mixed Media).



## Art Opportunities

### ART WALK 2022

The Woman's Club of Manasquan is organizing an Art Walk to take place on Saturday, June 18th, 2022, on Main Street in Manasquan. If you are interested in participating in the Art Walk, the application can be found at:

<https://www.womansclubofmanasquan.org/events>

## Member Showcase



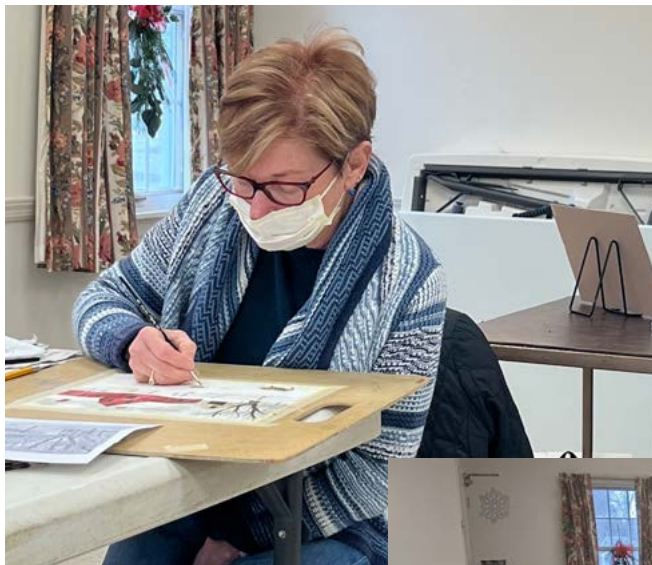
**Laura Lutz** submitted "Tiger" a charcoal drawing

MRGA members may submit jpeg images for inclusion in the newsletter. Send to [maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com](mailto:maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com)



# Watercolor Workshop

Member MaryAnn Goodwin led a watercolor workshop at the Curtis House on January 15th. The workshop was a lesson in using only the three primary colors and creating snowfall by splattering opaque white paint over the finished piece.



**Louis Riccio** is featured in an article in the February issue of Edge magazine. It is a magazine with over 500,000 subscribers in the New Jersey metro area and is distributed to many health facilities. You can visit the magazine on the web [www.edgemagonline.com](http://www.edgemagonline.com)  
Congratulations Lou!

EDGE 51

local talent | edge

# Roadside Picture *Perfect*

**P**ope Julius II and Renaissance sculptor Michelangelo were at odds, but the Pope insisted he paint the Sistine Chapel ceiling. *No painter, I*, the artist balked. Nonetheless, it took him four years, mostly lying supine on scaffolding.

Under the auspices of the O'Mealia Outdoor Advertising Company, Jersey City-born artist **Louis N. Riccio** eagerly agreed to paint a 15' by 25' billboard in Secaucus to laud the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibition in 1963. It took him four days, eight hours per day, to paint an incredible likeness of da Vinci's most celebrated work. At the time, Riccio was 29. His career continued to make history.



Photo by Vincent Nardone



Mona Lisa's  
Hands • Feb. 1963

VISIT US ON THE WEB [www.edgemagonline.com](http://www.edgemagonline.com)

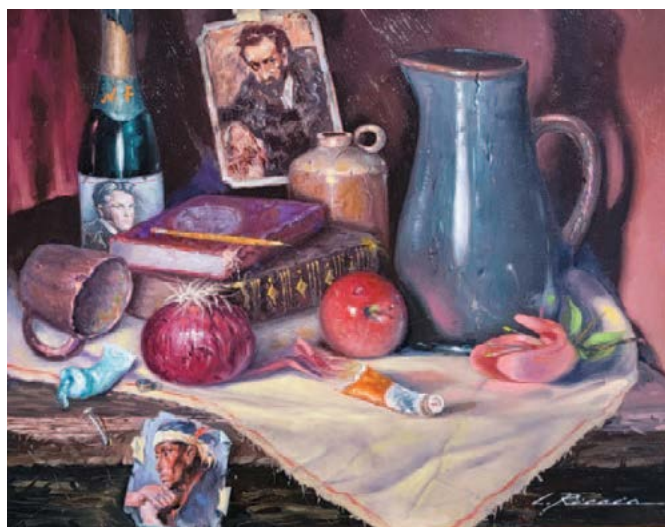




*Beaton Boat Basin* • Diptych watercolor • 4" x 6" • 2008



*Local Lobster Shanty* • watercolor • 9" x 13" • 2008



*A Tribute To Nicolai* • oil • 2021  
Pena Memorial Award, Audubon Artists NYC

About the Artist



See the billboards along the roads? Art? Not like the ones by representational artist **Louis Riccio** of Brick Township. He spent 20 years on scaffolding as he hand-painted huge billboards. Working in tempera and other media, he maximized all he learned from legendary New Jersey artist John Grabach—in addition to three years of art school in New York City and six years at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts. He painted da Vinci's *The Last Supper* in two and a half months. "I follow the traditions and work ethics of the old masters," says Riccio, 90, who served in the Korean War as a medic. A long career as a painter and teacher has featured numerous awards for his landscapes, portraits, and still lifes.

—Tova Navarra



Metropolitan Museum billboard • 1963



*Nine Eleven Responders* • oil • 2013



Riccio painting *The Last Supper*  
billboard mural • 1967





Good Housekeeping billboard mural • 1967



W&S Motors billboard • 1950



Detail of billboard for Opici Wine • 1960