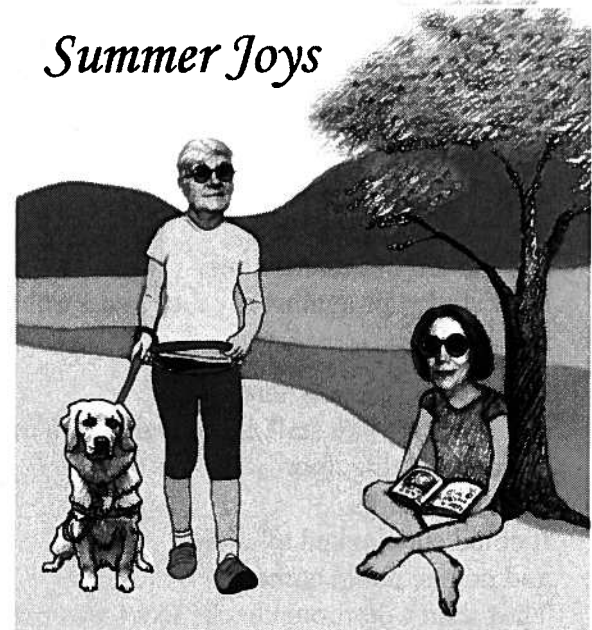




The Artistic License

presents **Satire, Humor, Information, & Truth**

Thunder&Light (Marcy B. Freedman and Carla Rae Johnson) proudly shares our July/August (summertime) issue with themes of independence (national and personal), outdoor fun in summer months, and whatever-will-we-do-on-our-summer- vacation ideas. As always, we bring you words and images from our Poet-in-Residence, Art Reporter-in-Residence, Feline Advisor, and Photographer-in-Residence contributors. We are also excited to introduce you to Peekskill Arts Alliance artist/member, Sherry Mayo and her art. Finally, we proudly feature an informative essay on the Venice Biennale by artist/art historian Marcy B.Freedman, as well as a cartoon, a report, and some satire from Carla Rae Johnson.



More Good Trouble . . . by Carla Rae Johnson

On Friday, June 30, community members from the Peekskill and Croton area met to brainstorm creative and positive ideas for actions to raise awareness, celebrate our diverse communities, and generate positive public discourse.

The impetus for this gathering was our recent experience of seeing some posts on local social media sites, sidewalk graffiti, and discriminatory signage and behaviors in public places expressed at the expense of immigrants, LGBTQ+ individuals, and POC . We felt that provocateurs were testing the water to determine how far they could redefine the boundaries of what was acceptable by community standards. This signaled a renewed need to generate discourse, actions, and events that can affirm and embrace everyone. It has become clear in recent years that remaining silent and passive when such language and behaviors occur leaves room for new voices of hate to flourish.

A few of the many ideas and proposals put forward included:

- Initiating a local Human Rights Day.
- Hanging banners with thought-provoking quotes from leaders, past and present, who are not identified with a particular party or political faction.
- Creating celebratory flash-mob events.
- Designing a flag to symbolize inclusiveness.
- Organizing “invisible theater” actions.
- Writing a song or songs that combat hate.
- Uniting with nearby river towns like Ossining and Croton-on-Hudson in some of these initiatives.

If you are interested in joining with us in this quest, or want to join us at our next meeting in late July, please email me at: carlarae.johnson21@gmail.com

The TAL Showcase for PAA Artists: We are pleased to continue our series of articles dedicated to the members of the Peekskill Arts Alliance. This month’s honoree is Sherry Mayo.



An Artist Statement by Sherry Mayo

I work from reality and from memory to create magical, otherworldly paintings. I am invested in the natural world and observation -- as well as imagined experiences -- and I derive my symbols from both sources. Ultimately, these symbolist art works utilize a private cosmology to provide a space of transcendence for the viewer.

My process often starts with a list of words or thoughts that form short phrases that become ideas for paintings. Each body of work starts off with these threads that I write in my sketchbook. Then, the process of making the art is a form of meditation, and it is continuous, without an end point. This experience is transcendental in itself: there exists a heightened consciousness that supports the vision.

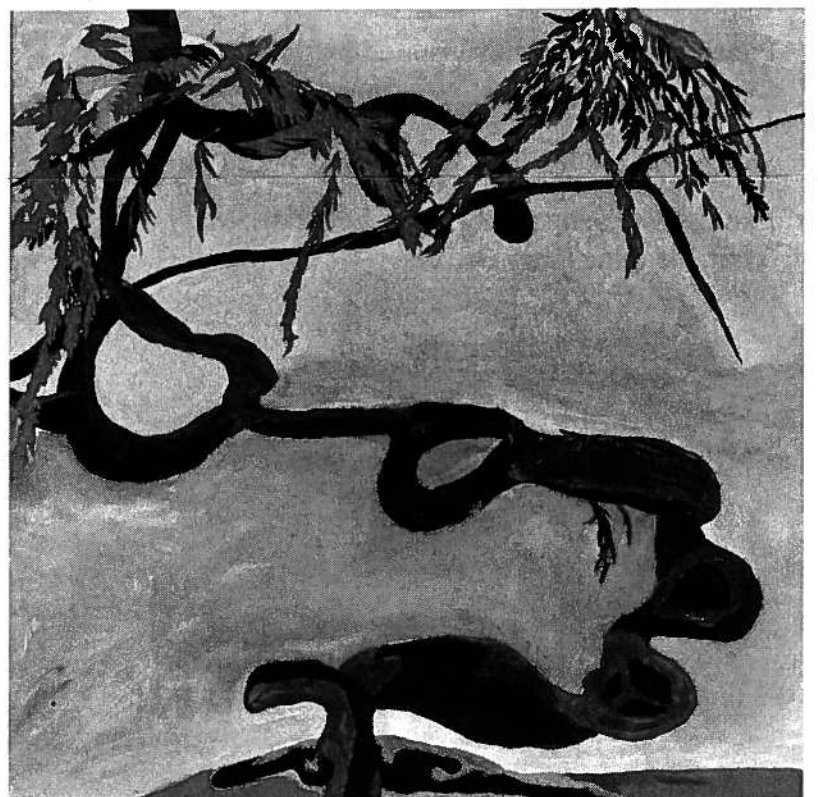
The research for my work is also very important, as it helps develop my symbology, in which the sky, cosmos, and the landscape are critical. I paint with a view to the future. Land isn’t static; it won’t look the same in the future. Thus, I work with a sense of pressure, knowing that the moment is transient and must be captured quickly.

The rich symbology of my work is enhanced by an imaginative palette that brings magical realism to the work. The shimmering glowing patches and rays of light permeate the surfaces of the paintings. My oil paintings are multi-layered: lush, and thick in some areas and thin in others. This is how I shape space.

And yet, the handling of the paint does not fully explain the often-unusual otherworldly aspect of my art!

A short biography of the artist:

I am a Hudson Valley artist, born in Queens, NY. Before moving to Peekskill, I lived and worked in the East Village. I showed both digital and traditional media in the New York City area and internationally. I moved to Peekskill in order to assume the position of Director of the SUNY Westchester/ Peekskill Center for the Digital Arts. Our mission is to bring the resources of SUNY Westchester to Northern Westchester and Putnam Counties. Specifically, we promote access to education in arts technology. For more information about my work you may visit www.sherrymayo.com.



LOVE IS AROUND THE CORNER by Sherry Mayo



PEACE by Sherry Mayo