



Rochester Art Club President's Annual Report 2025-26

The 2025-26 program year was a year full of growth, inclusion, and creative activity. Our new club headquarters at 3 Railroad Street in Fairport proved to be sufficient to meet our club's needs for meetings, programs, workshops, our Spring Signature Members' exhibit and storage of our club's studio equipment. Board resignations this program year included Christine Norris, Exhibitions Chair and Rosemary Pergolizzi, Vice President. We welcomed new board members Galen Silver as Public Relations Chair and Marleen Van Aardt, and Rebecca Hatch as Legal and Business Consultant. Meetings of the Board of Trustees were held monthly from September to June. The board continues to uphold our club's mission to support the artistic growth of our members, and to increase and extend educational opportunities throughout the broader Rochester community. Below is a list of programs, events and other notable activities that occurred throughout the program year.

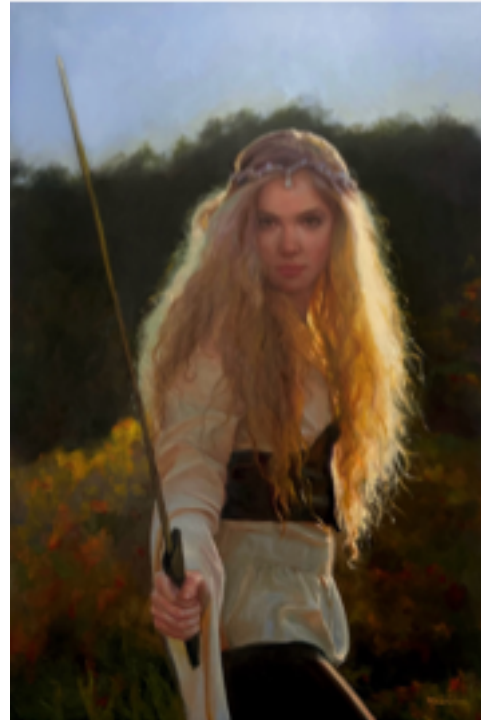
Current Rochester Art Club Officers and Board Members:

Melanie Rinn Martinek, President
Kathleen Hess, Recording Secretary
Kelly White, Treasurer
Mary F. Stid, Membership Chair
Victoria Brzustowicz, Web Site
Lori Capron Galan, Newsletter Editor
Galen Silver, Public Relations
Jeff Tokarz, Studio Manager
Carlos Perez, Historian
Rebecca Hatch, Legal and Business Consultant
Marleen VanAardt
Cris Metcalf
Kathy Bolin

2025-26 Programs and Events:

June-August

Our Signature Members' Spring Exhibit continued at RIT's Bevier Gallery. Feedback on the venue was very positive. Shane Durgee did a great job with curating the show for us. Our Longtime Honoree and new Signature Member walls were appreciated by all. Laurie Maddalina won Best of Show with her painting "Lately I've Been Dressing for Revenge".





September

On September 13, RAC members and guests enjoyed **Tom Kegler's landscape workshop** at our Railroad Street Artworks studio. Tom shared his unique process for transferring images to canvas and demonstrated various oil painting techniques including scumbling and glazing.



October

Members were treated to a **studio visit and gouache demonstration by Professor Bill White** at his Caledonia studio on October 19. Bill shared art history books from his extensive collection to reference gouache painters such as Turner and others. He then proceeded to demonstrate the use of gouache painting on paper techniques.



November

November **Jury Selection** was held on November 7 organized by Membership Chair Mary Stid in the Railroad Street Artworks classroom. New members juried in were Yuliia Poraiko and Nancy Laemlein. Rebecca Hatch earned Signature status with acceptance into the Fall All Members' Exhibit.

Our **All Members Fall Exhibit** was held at Barnes & Noble in Pittsford in November with Juror, Thomas Kegler. **Best of Show** was awarded to Laurie Maddalina for her painting "*What Becomes of Curious Minds.*"



RAC Signature Member and instructor, Laurie Maddalina, taught a highly successful workshop on **pan pastel portrait painting** at the Railroad Street Artworks studio. Participants were very pleased with the results of their efforts.





December

Our festive holiday party was held on December 3 featuring entertainment by a Jazz Trio of Nazareth University music students, catering from Wegmans and our traditional members' painting exchange.



January

Our Winter White Challenge was held on January 31st. Participants shared their art inspired by the word "white". A gift certificate was raffled off for Rochester Art Supply.

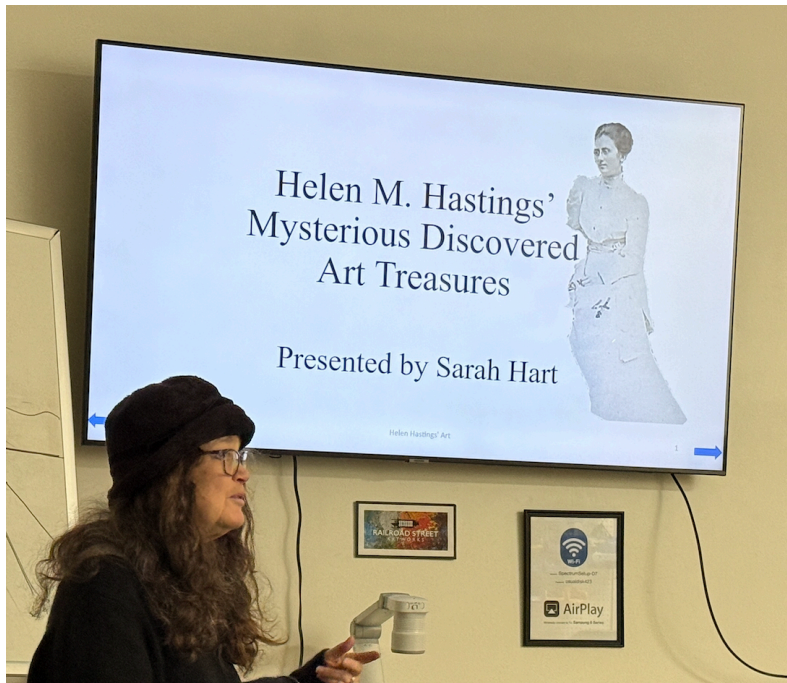


February

An art supply collection was held in January for the young artists of the Rochester City School District. Members generously donated a large van full of art supplies to donate to our young RCSD artists. Much appreciation was expressed by the RCSD Art department administration.



In February we hosted a fascinating lecture by club member Sarah Hart in the classroom at Railroad Street Artworks. Sarah shared a rich discussion about the treasure trove of paintings and records discovered in Brockport created by **Helen Hastings**.



March

Our Signature Members' Spring Exhibit was held at Railroad Street Artworks this year. Our juror was Brooklyn based artist Diana Buitrago. Best of Show was awarded to Tim Winter for his painting, "Warming Up the Kitchen".



We began holding Signature Artists' talks on March 19 by Barbara Jablonski, Nancy Lane and Karlene Van Deusen which were highly engaging and very well received.



Nationally recognized artist from the Ithaca area, **Trish Coonrod**, presented a two-day workshop at our RSAW studio on March 21-22. She demonstrated her techniques of image transfer and unique blending techniques in oil paint. Participants chose a wind-up toy from Trish's personal collection to use as a reference. Trish created light boxes for everyone with our studio lights and donated boxes. Participants were thrilled with their results!



April

On April 7, RAC Signature Member Ron Haas presented a slide show and lecture to share his inspirations, scientific methods, and colored pencil drawing techniques for his large-scale art works.



May

Our May Jury selection was held at Railroad Street Artworks on May 1. Two Signature Members were accepted, Elizabeth Berry and Jacqueline Fegan.

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Within the past year, our club has grown in scope with the participation of many new members. We welcomed new Signature Members and Associate Members. *Please see the Membership Chair's report for details.* Member participation in The Rochester Art Club continues to be strong with an optimistic look toward the future. We look forward to our new board members taking the lead!

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie Rinn Martinek

Rochester Art Club President 2023-2026