

Plein Air at the *Gomez Mill House*

For centuries, artists have used natural light as an element of their paintings. By the mid-19th century, artists in France were intentionally experimenting with *en plein air* technique that incorporated natural light and surrounding atmosphere. Most notable among these were members of the Barbizon School including Camille Corot, Theodore Rousseau, Charles-François Daubigny, and Jean-François Millet. The movement spread quickly engaging artists throughout Europe and the United States, as reflected in the works of John Singer Sargent and Winslow Homer.

Locally, Hudson Valley artists practicing *Plein Air* have been drawn for many years to the storybook bucolic setting of the Gomez Mill House and Historic Site. There the Mill House, the Dard Hunter Mill, and the undulating stone walls and Jews Creek, surrounded by a lush landscape, offer a panoply of textural and structural variations to inspire those who come each year to paint.

This show includes eight award-winning artists. Their works convey unique expressions of inspiration resulting in beautiful interpretations of this remarkable historic site.

This exhibit is made possible by the generous support of the Gomez Foundation for Mill House.



Mickie MacMillan

Pine Bush, NY

Mickie is a member of the Middletown Art Group, Northeast Watercolor Society, and the Wallkill River School in Montgomery, and is the recipient of several Awards of Excellence and Honorable Mentions for her work with the Middletown Art Group.

For the second year in a row, Mickie's work has been accepted into this year's International Juried Watercolor Show of the Northeast Watercolor Society in Kent, CT. She has had three solo shows at the Pine Bush Government Center. Favorite subjects depicted in her works include farms and older homes of the Hudson Valley, many of the vacation sites she visits, and flowers.

Since retiring in 1997, she has resided in Pine Bush with her husband.



Stephen Blumenthal

Newburgh, NY

No photo at request of the artist

Steve is mostly self taught and creates his art in various media, including watercolor, oils, and pastel. He lives in Newburgh and offers lessons at his own studio. Steve allows the scene and the atmosphere to determine his choice of media and believes that an artist, no matter how strongly influenced by another, should always seek their own voice.



Ardis Ketterer

Milton, NY

Ardis graduated from Ithaca College with a degree in music, and received her Masters of Arts from SUNY-New Paltz.

"I always wanted to paint, and started after I retired. I first studied with Pat Morgan and then with Steve Blumenthal. I enjoy painting local scenes and hope to blend my musical and artistic talents in my work."



Mona Birmingham

Washingtonville, NY

For the past three years Mona has painted full-time doing portraits, still life's, animals, figures and *plein air* landscapes. As a represented artist with Wallkill River School and Gallery and member with the Lower Hudson Valley Plein Air group, Millstreet Loft, Garrison Art Center and Artist in the Park, she strives simply to paint what she sees, which is sometimes right in front of her eyes, and to represent what she sees at that very moment. She challenges herself, always searching for the best way to express what she sees.

"My impressionistic approach to painting is not defined 'til I take that step back and look at the painting for the first time. That first glance really tells me how I should use my color and brushwork and how the light should be projected in the painting."

She continues to paint with a band of four women who have their own unique styles and different views known as *The Divine Miss M's*: Marge Morales, Marylyn Vanderpool, Mary Mugele Sealfon, and Mona Birmingham.



William Noonan

Newburgh, NY

After a career in graphics and publishing at *The Village Voice* in New York City, William Noonan, originally from Monroe, NY, returned full-time to his first love, fine art and to the Hudson Valley where he now resides in Newburgh, NY. He has a BFA from SUNY-Purchase and has since studied at the New York Academy of Art, the Woodstock School of Art, The International School of Art-Umbria Italy, and the Art Students League of New York.

Deeply involved in the Hudson Valley's local art scene, Noonan teaches at the Wallkill River School of Art, The Baret Art Center, The Millstreet Loft, and from his home studio. His work is figurative with a broad range that includes plein air landscape, still life, figures, portraits, and animal paintings in includes oils, watercolor, drawing, and printmaking. He has exhibited locally, on Cape Cod, on various Internet venues, and in numerous private collections. Several pieces are in the corporate collection on Nielsen and Bainbridge, who offer his work nationally in print form.

A penchant for the figure, a deep love of Italian art, and an investigation of his own Italian heritage through travel and study, inform Noonan's work. While drawing on European traditions, his work is clearly part of the continuum of American Realism, from Homer to Hopper to Hockney.



Mary Evelyn Whitehill

1920-2012
Newburgh, NY

“**M**y Great Grandfather was a Hudson River Artist, Thomas B. Pope. I knew at an early age that I was born to be an artist. I received a degree in Art and Art History from Wells College, where my German professor was also a watercolorist. His enthusiasm for the medium created my dream to paint with watercolors. That dream was placed on hold during the war years, and then because of the demands of four children, and then again in the 1960s when I took advantage of New York State’s Title II program to receive an MS in Library Science from SUNY Albany. After 20 years as a Librarian I retired in order to paint full time. My dream had come true at last. I found many opportunities to study watercolors with the masters. My first instructor was Carol St. John, followed by Edgar Whitney, Frank Webb, Carlton Plummer, Janet Walsh, Ruth Baderian, Tony Van Hasselt, Charles Sovek, and others. I recommend workshops as a means to explore the many styles and methods of watercolors and to interact with other artists.”

Mary Evelyn Whitehill was a member of numerous arts associations including Lower Hudson Valley Pleine Air Painters, Catskill Art Association, Ridgefield Art Association of Connecticut, and Ringwood Art Association. She was a Signature member of PA Watercolor Society, North East Watercolor Society, and Salmagundi Club of NY. Among her many distinguished honors were *Lifetime Achievement Award*, Orange County Arts Council 2010, *First in Watercolor*, Mt. St. Mary College “Artists on Campus” 2009, *Award of Excellence*, Middletown Art Group 2008,2009, *Artist of the Year*, Wallkill Art School 2008, *Award of Excellence*, Barrett Art Center 2008, *Samuel Leitman Award*, Salmagundi Club 2007, Best in Show, Hudson Valley Artisans Guild 2007, *Best in Show*, Middletown Art Group 2006, and *Miniature Award*, Cider Painters of America 2003.



Daisy de Puthod

Hopewell Junction, NY

Born in Paris, France, to an artistic family, Daisy de Puthod moved to the U.S. via Colorado. In 1975, after graduating from the Colorado Institute of Art, she became a successful commercial artist, illustrating in pen and ink or watercolor for ad agencies and publishing houses.

In 1988, she relocated to the Hudson Valley, where she studied portraiture in pastels and oils with renowned artists Aaron Shikler, Daniel Greene and Burt Silverman. Since working in oils, Daisy de Puthod's work has evolved into a more contemporary bold and colorful style, "leaning a bit towards Fauvism" as described in a recent New York Times review of her solo show at the Garrison Art Center, NY.

De Puthod is a Signature member of the American Impressionist Society and the New York Plein Air Painters and a member of the Oil Painters of America, the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters and the Artists in the Parks. Whether painting her plein-air landscapes or her studio figures and portraits, Daisy prefers to paint from life.



Naomi Genen

Monroe, NY

For the past six years, Naomi has been inspired to paint the beauty of the Hudson Valley region of New York and the Inter-costal region of Miami, Florida where she is surrounded by marvelous landscapes, wildlife, fauna and flora. She received her degree in fine arts from Brooklyn College with a minor in education and taught junior high school art for twelve years in Brooklyn, and ten years at Round Hill Elementary School in Washingtonville, New York.

Now retired, she spends time painting, an activity she greatly enjoys. Most of her paintings are in acrylic, with a few in oils. She especially enjoys using the vibrancy found in the acrylics. This medium accommodates her temperament in that it is fast drying and intense. She recently joined the Wallkill River School Plein Air Painters, and enjoys capturing the essence of a landscape in a limited amount of time.

Naomi says, *“Painting in New York and Miami has shown me, that even though there are vast differences in topography, each area has its unique beauty.”*