



105th ELECTED ARTISTS EXHIBITION

Expanding Visions

New Haven Paint & Clay Club Selected Members Exhibition

Concurrent Exhibitions: July 24 -Sept. 11, 2026

Opening Reception, Saturday, August 1, 5 - 7 pm

Chelsea Groton
SUPPORTING SPONSOR

Barbara Lussier, *Luminous Sky*, oil

From the Executive Director

As summer unfolds, Lyme Art Association is buzzing with activity. Our galleries are filled with inspiring exhibitions, artists are gathering to paint outdoors, families are discovering the joy of creating together, and friends old and new continue to find their way through our doors. Every day reminds me why this remarkable organization has remained such an important part of our community for more than a century.

This year, we've embraced the theme **Discover • Connect • Collect**, three simple words that capture what makes Lyme Art Association so special. Visitors discover exceptional art and the rich artistic heritage of Old Lyme. Artists connect with one another, with collectors, and with a community that celebrates creativity. Collectors find works that bring beauty into their homes while directly supporting living artists and the continued vitality of the arts.

Underlying all of this is something equally important: the generosity of volunteers. While our dedicated staff works each day to welcome visitors, organize exhibitions, support artists, and ensure the smooth operation of the gallery, volunteers remain the heart of Lyme Art Association. They serve on committees, help plan events, care for our gardens and historic building, assist with special projects, and introduce new artists, members, and visitors to our community. Their enthusiasm, expertise, and generosity extend our reach in countless ways.



From the Executive Director - Continued on page 2 →

Upcoming Calendar

105th Elected Artist Exhibition

July 24 – Sept. 11

Reception: Sat., Aug. 1, 5-7 pm

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Old Lyme Arts District's

Midsummer Festival

July 25

Paint the Town

Plein Air Day and Reception

Sat., August 29 Reception 5-7 pm

Rain Date: Sun., August 30

New England Landscape

Digital Entry Deadline: August 21

Sept. 18 – Nov. 6

Reception: Sun., Sept. 20, 2-4 pm

Bon Appetit

Digital Entry Deadline: August 21

Sept. 18 – Nov. 6

Reception: Sun., Sept. 20, 2-4 pm

Plein Air Group Show

October 15 - November 13

Palate to Palette

A Delicious and Art-Filled

Fundraiser and Party

Thursday, Oct 15, 6-9 pm

Lyme Art Association Annual

Membership Meeting

Wed, Oct 21, 5:30 pm

Pumpkin Day at LAA

Saturday, Oct 24, 1-4 pm

Deck the Walls

Digital Entry Deadline: Oct. 9

Nov. 13, 2026 – January 1, 2027

Reception: Sun., Nov. 22, 2-4 pm

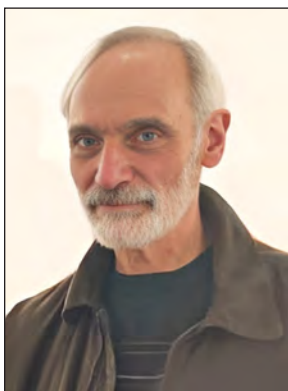
Connecticut Pastel Society

Renaissance in Pastel

Nov. 13, 2026 – January 1, 2027

Reception: Sun., Nov. 22, 2-4 pm

Visit www.LymeArtAssociation.org
for details on exhibitions and
events.



Greetings –LAA members and friends.

We are more than halfway through another year of inspiring exhibitions, active studio classes, and engaging events at LAA. Our galleries have featured remarkable work by member, associate, and elected artists across many themes, styles, and genres. We have also welcomed outside art clubs, promising future artists, and friends who share our commitment to LAA's work and goals. And there is still much more to come this year.

LAA remains committed to you and to providing a place where you are proud to show your work to friends, collectors, and the wider art community. Visitors come from near and far to experience historic art in historic Old Lyme and to discover and acquire contemporary work by artists like you. Work arrives locally at LAA and often leaves quickly for new homes, both nearby and far away.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the LAA newsletter. It includes highlights from recent months, news about what is happening now, and a look ahead at events and opportunities still to come. Everyone at LAA—our expert staff, dedicated board of directors, and loyal family of supporters and friends—wants you to visit often and feel that this is a place where you belong. We also want to hear what you think. Your feedback helps us serve you well, improve where needed, and continue earning your next visit.

Thank you for helping make my sixteen years with LAA—my six years on its board of directors and my two years as president—such a meaningful experience. The time has passed quickly, and I remain deeply committed to LAA and to the LAA family. I look forward to seeing you on the walls, at our shows, and at events as often as possible for many years to come.

Best wishes from Michael Centrella, LAA Board President

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Old Lyme Arts District **MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL**

July 25, 2026 Art • Music • Food • Family Fun

Kickoff Concert at the Florence Griswold Museum on Friday, July 24th

Lyme's Youth Service Bureau 5K Road Race, Saturday morning, July 25th

*All Day Festivities at Lyme Art Association, Florence Griswold Museum,
 Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center, Old Lyme Inn, and more!*



From the Executive Director - Continued from Page 1

Lyme Art Association itself was founded by artists working together in service of a shared vision. More than a century later, that same spirit of volunteerism continues to shape everything we do. Whether someone gives an afternoon helping with an exhibition, shares professional expertise, serves on a committee, or simply welcomes a friend to the gallery, each contribution strengthens our organization and helps ensure that art remains accessible and thriving for future generations.

Thank you for being part of this community. Whether you discover a new favorite artist, reconnect with familiar friends, add a beautiful work to your collection, volunteer your time, or simply stop by to enjoy the galleries, you are helping to write the next chapter in Lyme Art Association's story. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Warmest regards, Elsbeth Dowd, Ph.D., Executive Director

SUMMER CHALLENGE 2026: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE FUTURE FUND

For more than 100 years, the Lyme Art Association has inspired artists, connected our community, and preserved an extraordinary artistic legacy. To continue that work, we are investing today to support every exhibition, every class, every educational program, and every visitor experience. Your gift today will help us make strategic investments that strengthen the Lyme Art Association today while preparing us for tomorrow. Our Summer Challenge goals translate into three focused funding priorities.

STRENGTHEN OUR ORGANIZATION:

- Development Office and Donor Meeting Space: Create a dedicated space for donor conversations and the fundraising work that advances the Lyme Art Association mission.
- Technology enhancements: Replace aging computers with reliable tools that help staff manage exhibitions, classes, communications, and daily operations efficiently.
- Annual Care for Our Historic Building: Provide professional care to preserve the beauty of our historic building while ensuring a welcoming experience for every visitor.

PRESERVE OUR HISTORY:

- Archival storage materials: Protect records, photographs, and other historic materials so they remain safe and accessible for future generations.
- High-quality scanner: Digitize records and photographs so LAA can preserve its history and share stories from the past with the public today.
- Temperature and humidity monitoring equipment: Your gift will help safeguard LAA's artwork, archives, and historic materials by monitoring the conditions that protect them for future generations.

ENHANCE LEARNING & PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

- Model stand equipment: Provide safe, appropriate support for art models during figure drawing and painting sessions.
- Easels for studio, gallery, and plein air use: Provide flexible equipment for artists to create, learn, and engage with LAA programs.
- Demonstration screen and monitor cart: Help instructors share techniques clearly during classes, demonstrations, and public programs.
- Folding chairs and storage dolly: Increase comfortable seating for art talks, lectures, and community programs.

Each priority is practical, achievable, and directly connected to LAA's ability to fulfill its mission. Together, they will help us care for our historic home, preserve our story, and create stronger experiences for the community.

DONATE TO THE SUMMER CHALLENGE 2026



The Lyme Art Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
All donations are tax deductible.





PALATE TO PALETTE

Thursday, October 15, 2026, 6 to 9 p.m.

A delicious and art-filled fundraiser featuring sumptuous fine food from top regional restaurants and caterers, live music, and a silent auction of new artwork specially created by our member artists.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Your sponsorship will keep our historic gallery thriving with free exhibitions, vibrant educational programming, and a welcoming space for artists at every stage of their journey! As a sponsor, you'll enjoy:

Complimentary event tickets | Early access to tickets
Reserved parking for major sponsors | Name recognition in print and online promotions

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

Premiere: \$5,000 (includes eight reservations, reserved parking for all guests, and the highest levels of recognition)

Four Color: \$2,500 (includes four reservations, two reserved parking spaces, and top levels of recognition)

Three Color: \$1,500 (includes two reservations, one reserved parking space, and high levels of recognition)

Two Color: \$750 (includes two reservations and high levels of recognition)

Patron: \$350 (includes two reservations and online recognition)

REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE



Or Mail your Sponsorship Form & check to Lyme Art Association, 90 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 06371
Request an invoice by emailing Elsbeth Dowd, Executive Director

Thank you! Your gift helps LAA continue to provide art and art opportunities for artists, art lovers, the Old Lyme community and beyond. The Lyme Art Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, EIN 06-0932073.

PAINTING WITH COURAGE: PLEIN AIR PAINTING AT LAA

– Paul Michael, Gallery Director & Curator



To paint outdoors is to accept uncertainty. A passing cloud might soften the shadows, a breeze could ripple the water, or the brilliant colors of a summer morning might fade almost as quickly as they appeared. For a plein air painter, these fleeting changes are not interruptions but the very reason to paint outdoors. Every brushstroke becomes a response to a world that refuses to stand still.

On Monday mornings during the warmer months, members of the Lyme Art Association's Plein Air Group embrace that challenge, traveling to locations throughout Connecticut to paint directly from observation. Their weekly practice continues a tradition deeply woven into the history of Old Lyme. More than a century ago, artists including Childe Hassam, Willard Metcalf, and Henry Ward Ranger found inspiration in these same rolling fields and coastal vistas. Today's painters follow in their footsteps, not by recreating the past, but by engaging with the landscape in the same spirit of direct observation.

Painting outdoors demands both skill and courage. Light changes by the minute, weather rarely cooperates, and every painting unfolds in full view of curious passersby. There is no guarantee of success, only the opportunity to look more closely, trust one's instincts, and accept that every finished work is the result of responding honestly to a singular moment in time.

That spirit reaches its fullest expression during **PAINT THE TOWN**, the Lyme Art Association's annual plein air celebration. On **Saturday August 29**, artists will paint throughout Old Lyme and the surrounding communities before returning to the Lyme Art Association from 5:00 to 7:00 pm for a pop up exhibition and sale of their freshly completed works, awards, hors d'oeuvres, and live jazz by the John Brown Back Porch Trio. More than an event, Paint the Town is a celebration of a living tradition, one that continues to connect artists with the landscape and with one another, just as it has for generations.

REGISTER FOR PAINT THE TOWN

Participating Artist (must be an LAA member, price includes 2 reception tickets for the artist and his/her guest) - **\$30**

Award Ceremony & Reception only - **\$10**



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

– Julia Braatz, Business Manager

At Lyme Art Association, volunteering is more than lending a hand; it is a way of keeping art, creativity, and community connected. From welcoming visitors at exhibition receptions to supporting fundraisers and sharing behind-the-scenes talents, our volunteers help make LAA a vibrant place where artists and art lovers feel at home. The stories below offer a glimpse into why Debbi Goodman, Lori Neumann, and Lisa Miceli choose to give their time, energy, and hearts to LAA.

Volunteer **Debbi Goodman** serves on several committees and even cares for the plants at our main entrance. She says she volunteers because “LAA is more than just a bright and cheerful art gallery exhibiting hundreds of juried art pieces per show. LAA is also a top-notch teaching facility offering workshops and weekly classes taught by experienced instructors in a friendly atmosphere. I’m inspired by LAA’s mission of promoting and supporting representational art and am happy to put my time and financial resources into ensuring it continues.”

Like Debbie, **Lori Neumann** has been an invaluable volunteer and has a deep personal connection to the Lyme Art Association that spans decades. She says, “I grew up in the Lyme art community, attending the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts when it was located in the Lyme Art Association building in the late 1970s and early 1980s, so being a volunteer here now makes sense! I have participated in many Midsummer Art Festivals on the lawn at LAA and used to bring my farm animals for people to paint plein air when that was the norm. I love the history of the Impressionist group that thrived here in Old Lyme, knowing we paint today in some of the very same spots. The LAA brings a wonderful art experience to so many, and I am honored to be a part of it. I enjoy working with the dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and artists at LAA to help make events successful.”

Lisa Miceli, an amazing instructor and volunteer at LAA, says, “I believe the best way to give is to share what each of us has to offer with the LAA community. Doing watercolor demos at LAA events, participating in Sea and Sky Soirée, and donating paintings to Palate to Palette are ways I give back through my art and teaching. Along with other volunteers, I also enjoy helping at opening receptions in any way I can, such as with food service and cleanup. This team effort allows LAA staff to keep events running smoothly. Volunteers are essential to LAA, and I will continue to help in whatever way I can in collaboration with the wonderful staff who bring joy, creativity, and a cheerful welcome to all of us.”

While each volunteer has a different story, they all share a commitment to supporting the arts and strengthening the Lyme Art Association community. Whether lending a hand at receptions, sharing artistic expertise, helping with fundraising events, or simply welcoming visitors with a smile, our volunteers make a lasting impact every day.

If you have a love for the arts and want to contribute your talents to the place where art lives, we invite you to become part of this generous community and volunteer with LAA.

Call (860) 434-7802 or email Paul Michael: paul@lymeartassociation.org for more information.



YOUNG ARTISTS SHARE THEIR VIEW OF HOME

– Elsbeth Dowd, Executive Director

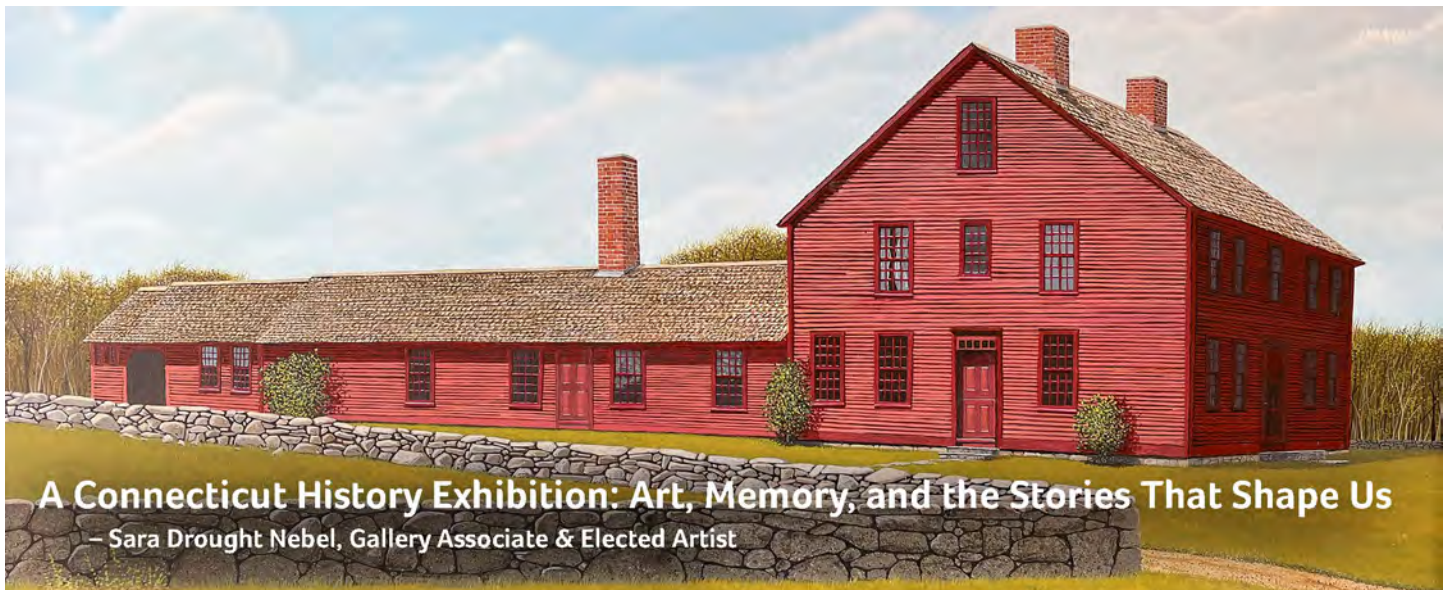


This summer, the Lyme Art Association was delighted to present our annual Young Artists Exhibition, My Town, celebrating the creativity, imagination, and talent of young artists from across our region. Through paintings, drawings, and mixed media, students shared their own unique perspectives on the places they call home, reminding visitors that even familiar scenes can be seen in fresh and inspiring ways.

The exhibition featured work by independent young artists as well as students from the LiZhai Art School and the Barn for Artistic Youth. We are proud to provide an opportunity for these emerging artists to exhibit their work in a professional gallery, helping to encourage confidence, creativity, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

We're already looking ahead to next year's exhibition, which will become part of LAA's annual Five Acts series. Titled Every Living Thing, the 2027 exhibition will celebrate the beauty and diversity of the animal world and will be on view from February 26 through April 9, 2027. By moving the exhibition to late winter and early spring, we hope to give young artists a creative project to enjoy during the winter months while welcoming visitors to a joyful celebration of art as spring begins. Family Day, one of our favorite annual traditions, will also move to March, bringing families together to celebrate our young artists and their accomplishments.





From the Frog Bridge to the Nathan Hale Homestead, the show reminded visitors that Connecticut history is full of vivid stories—and that art can make those stories feel immediate.

I handed a young boy a scavenger hunt sheet today, and as soon as he looked down, he smiled. “Dad, look! The Frog Bridge!” Off he went to find Elected Artist Liane Philpotts’ painting Willimantic Frog Bridge. His dad smiled, too, and told me the story behind it.

Liane’s painting depicts one of the four bronze frogs on Willimantic’s Frog Bridge. The legend dates to 1754, when residents heard strange noises and feared a British attack; instead, it was a massive frog fight during a drought. In 2000, the town commemorated the “Windham Frog Fight” with four frogs—Manny, Willy, Windy and Swifty—seated on thread spools honoring Willimantic’s textile industry.

First Place Award winner Scott Rhoades stopped by on Members Day to share stories about his painting Nathan Hale Homestead II. Hale was born in the Coventry house in 1755, joined the Continental Army, and was hanged by the British as a spy at age 21 in 1776—before seeing the remodeled home his father completed that year. Scott also shared that the house, originally white, was painted red around 1960 when Sears offered a free paint job for a television ad. It remains red today.

Brechin Morgan’s historic sailing ships, Nina Ritson’s haunting schoolhouse etching, Robert DeMatteo’s The Death of Mary Stanford 1662 Hartford CT, and Cathy Puccio’s magical Circus Train! (Essex Steam Train) all invite viewers into Connecticut stories. I also cannot neglect Suzanne Starr’s two award-winning Newsies charcoal drawings on newspaper, one of which appeared on our building banner for the show; both pieces sold.

Together, the art in the exhibition felt less like a history lesson and more like a shared discovery.



Art: Scott Rhoades, *Nathan Hale Homestead II*, acrylic; Brechin Morgan, *Oyster Boats Returning to Bridgeport Harbor*, acrylic; Suzanne Starr, *Getting Out The News*, mixed media, charcoal & newspaper; Liane Philpotts, *Frog Bridge*, Willimantic, oil.

SPRING SOIREE CELEBRATES ART, FRIENDS & FUN

– Julia Braatz, Business Manager



On May 16, the Lyme Art Association celebrated the season with its Spring Soiree, a festive evening of art, music, and community in support of Lyme Art Association, one of the nation's oldest arts organizations.

The gallery came alive at this year's Spring Soiree, where guests were welcomed by the upbeat sounds of the Steve Donovan Trio and the chance to enjoy artwork from Ship to Shore, A Closer Look, and Jacqueline Stella's solo show, There Is Power.

With delicious bites from Gourmet Galley, blackberry purée cocktails and spritzers, and lively conversation throughout the evening, the event celebrated what makes the Lyme Art Association so special: a warm community of artists, members, and guests gathering together in appreciation of art.

The evening ended on a high note with a curated raffle featuring art-inspired experience packages, including cultural destinations, hotel stays, and memorable dining. Guests gathered eagerly to hear the winners, including the lucky recipient of the New York City Art Insider Experience, who later shared how much she enjoyed her trip.

We are deeply grateful to the sponsors, donors, and volunteers who made this year's Spring Soiree possible. Their generosity supported the event and the raffle experiences, while our volunteers kept the evening running smoothly, from preparing specialty cocktails, mocktails, and refreshments to helping with food service and the raffle drawing.

We hope every guest left with the same joy we felt throughout the evening. Thank you for celebrating with us and for helping sustain the Lyme Art Association's exhibitions, educational programs, historic building, and artistic legacy.

Your participation helps ensure that art continues to thrive here for generations to come!



From the Archives: LYME ART ASSOCIATION IN 1926 – Katherine Simmons, Elected Artist

By 1926, the Lyme Art Association was newly settled in its Charles Platt-designed gallery on Lyme Street, having moved into the building in 1921. It stood at a moment of growth, building on roots that reached back to the Lyme Art Colony's first annual exhibition at the Phoebe Noyes Library in 1901 and its formal incorporation in 1914.

The 1926 exhibition season opened with the Association's Second Annual Exhibition of Watercolors, Etchings, Lithographs, and Drawings. Among the works on view were Japanese woodblock prints loaned by George Page Ely, a local businessman whose contribution likely reflected both family connections and Old Lyme's close-knit art network.

Ely's wife, artist **Caroline (Caro) Weir Ely (1884–1973)**, linked the family to several generations of American art. She was the niece of John Ferguson Weir, granddaughter of Robert Walter Weir, and daughter of J. Alden Weir. An accomplished bookbinder, printmaker, etcher, and painter, she was educated in New York and Paris and maintained a studio after marriage and motherhood, a rare achievement in the early 1900s. Caro became an LAA Elected Artist member and exhibited with the Association from 1926 until her death.

The exhibition also featured etchings by **Platt Hubbard (1889–1946)**, a painter, etcher, and architect. Hubbard studied at the Columbus Art School and in New York with Robert Henri, later expanding his training through independent travel abroad. He settled on Sill Lane in Old Lyme and served as the Association's Board Treasurer in 1926. His copper plate etchings gained recognition from the Smithsonian and the Society of American Etchers.

In July, the Association held its 26th Annual Exhibition, displaying more than 85 works of art in the North and South Galleries, now the Cooper Ferry and Foster Cadell Galleries. The West Gallery, now the Cole Gallery, was reserved for a display of sketches. The 1926 exhibition featured 169 sketches, 19 of which sold for \$656, roughly \$12,000 today. Five of the works sold were by Artist Member Wilson Irvine, then serving as the Association's Board Secretary.

Wilson Irvine (1869–1936) was a largely self-taught painter who was very active in Chicago art circles, serving as president of both the Palette and Chisel Club and the Chicago Society of Artists. Irvine first came to Lyme in 1914, settling in the Hamburg section. He experimented with "aqua-prints" in the 1920s and developed "prismatic paintings," viewing subjects through a crystal to create jewel-like effects. In 1926, he served as the Association's Board Treas-



Art: Caro Weir Ely, *Untitled*, etching. Ivan Olinsky, *Tosca In Spring*, oil, Cooley Gallery Collection.

surer and was elected an associate of the National Academy of Design. He exhibited regularly with the Lyme Art Association until his death.

The prestigious W. S. Eaton Purchase Prize was awarded to **Ivan G. Olinsky (1878–1962)** for *Tosca in White*, one of his many portraits of his daughter. She later became an accomplished artist in her own right and exhibited with the Association periodically from 1928 to 1980.

Ivan Olinsky was a Russian-born painter and teacher who came to the United States at thirteen and settled in New York City, studying at the National Academy of Design with J. Alden Weir, George W. Maynard, and Robert Vonnoh. Known for impressionistic figure paintings, he became a successful portraitist, especially admired for idealized images of women.

In 1926, the ranks of Artist Members, known today as Elected Artists, grew to 36 with the election of Charles Vezin and Louis Paul Dessar.

Charles Vezin (1858–1942) was a late-blooming artist who first established himself as a dry goods salesman. At 41, he studied at the Art Students League with leading American painters. By 1919, he had devoted himself full-time to painting and became known for impressionistic views of New York's skyline, harbors, landscapes, and industry. A respected figure in New York art circles, he served as president of several art organizations and exhibited widely. He began showing with the Lyme Art Colony in 1905 and continued with the Lyme Art Association until 1942.

Louis Paul Dessar (1867–1952) was an American painter known for Tonalist landscapes and rural genre scenes that brought poetic attention to country life. He studied at the National Academy of Design and in Paris at the Académie Julian and the École des Beaux-Arts, absorbing the Barbizon painters' expressive treatment of landscape. One of the early artists drawn to Old Lyme, Dessar followed Henry Ward Ranger to the area. His 600-acre farm on Becket Hill in Lyme became both home and subject, with working animals, open fields, and rural labor shaping his American pastoral vision. He began showing with the Lyme Art Colony in 1902 and continued with the Lyme Art Association until 1949.

Artists closed the 1926 season with a festive Frolic that brought the galleries to life. Board President William Goodman donated \$500 for the ball, and Artist Member Frank Bicknell joined an Entertainment Committee with Platt Hubbard, Bruce Crane, and Harry Hoffman. Guests were asked to "come in fancy dress," and *The Day* described costumes representing Chinese, East Indian, and Egyptian themes, along with other imaginative creations. With French posters donated by Robert Vonnoh, blue and yellow streamers, and the glow of Chinese lanterns, the gallery became a lively setting for celebration.

Taken together, the exhibitions, new artist members, supporters, and year-end Frolic in 1926 reveal the Lyme Art Association deeply woven into the fabric of the community.

Sources: AmericanArt.SI.org; Ancestry.com; FindAGrave.com; Archive.org; Collection.TerraAmericanArt.org; ConnecticutHistory.org; CooleyGallery.com; FloGris.org; Ques-RoyalFineArt.com; Wikipedia.org.

Art: Wilson Irvine, *Winter In The Connecticut Hills*, oil. Charles Vezin, *Gray Twilight*, oil; Louis Paul Dessar, *Return To The Fold*, oil. Frolic Photo: Florence Griswold as a Syrian princess, Frank Bicknell as Zouave, and Mrs. A. K. Atkins as a palm tree (Mrs Atkins was Frances (Terry) Atkins, granddaughter of Richard Sill Griswold (1809-1849) of Old Lyme.





90 Lyme Street
Old Lyme CT 06371
www.LymeArtAssociation.org

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