



Newsletter

February 2025

President's Message

Winter Salutations!

While I'm not a fan of the long cold winters we "enjoy" here in New England, via social media posts, I see that there are many of you that absolutely relish plein air painting to capture the magic of winter's fleeting light. And how perfect is this play of light reflecting off the crystals of snow conveyed via the way light bounces off the raw crushed pigments in pastel! Bravo!

Looking ahead ... at least two of these intrepid cold weather painters are the very same that will be leading demos during this year's PSNH member retreat in Jackson, NH. The dates to save are June 25-26. All of the details are loaded up on the Enrichment Retreat page ([Retreat | Psnh](#)). We've secured an event space, so whether the weather we've got you covered! Hope you can join us!

As some of you may know, in addition to being a pastel artist, I am also a ten-year docent/art educator at the Currier Museum of Art. I am thrilled to share some inside scoop on an upcoming exhibition that will be featuring world renowned pastel artist, Nicolas Party! The Exhibition is scheduled for April 10-September 1, 2025. Stay tuned for an exclusive event for pastel artists to both see the exhibition and meet & greet the artist!

That said, would you like to see more events like the member retreat, museum outings, and/or paint-outs? We are currently looking to fill our member enrichment board chair. Whether it's scheduling a Zoom demo with one of your pastel icons or arranging to paint flowers coordinating with a local garden club, if planning & logistics are some of your strengths, we'd love to have your contributions add color to our society. We are also still looking for a Workshop board chair. We've been fortunate to garner some new members, and if you're one of them, we invite you to get involved! Our meetings are held via Zoom on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00pm. Our meetings are always open to our general membership. In fact our first meeting of the year will be Monday 2/10. If you'd like to join us, email me for the link! (selarkham@msn.com).

Have you applied to be a Signature Artist Member? We recently revamped the requirements, so would love to have more applications! Need even more inspiration? Coming up in late 2025, we will be holding an exclusive Signature Artist Exhibition at the Jaffery Civic Center! Once the annual home for our member's exhibition, they have undertaken a significant remodel. Will be nice to see it all come back together!

Are you following us on the socials? We'd love to feature more work by our members, so be sure to tag us #pastelnh or send the work you'd like to highlight directly to @pastelsocietynh or to Terri Brooks. This concludes your winter announcements. You may now return to your regularly scheduled hectic life. Just be sure to carve out time at the Easel--indoors or out! Brrrr....

Susanne Larkham

Time to Renew your Membership for 2025!

SEE FORM ON PAGE XX

SEND, WITH CHECK, TO MAGGIE SMITH (ADDRESS ON FORM), OR
GO TO WWW.PASTELSOCIETYNH.COM AND PAY VIA PAYPAL



PSNH is on Instagram!

Follow us and post your
paintings to:
#pastelsocietynh

Plein Air Groups & Events

**Plein Air Painters of Maine
(PAPME)** Welcomes all artists. Contact
cmcintyrepaintings@gmail.com

NH Plein Air

In NH Plein Air Artists we have members
that work at all levels and in all mediums,
including pastels. Membership in the
group is absolutely FREE. Find us at
Yahoo! Groups listed as "NH Plein Air".

WANTED by the web administrator

- 1) Would love to have people submit 1-2 new works of art for our member gallery.
- 2) Would love to see more Signature Circle Members activate their pages.
- 3) Submit to be one of our featured artists on our website and social media... 3 categories, New Members (3 years or less), Members, and Signature Members.

PSNH Board Members

Susanne Larkham - *President*
selarkham@msn.com

Susanne Larkham - *Web
Administer*
selarkham@msn.com

Annie Halvorsen - *Vice
President*
anniehalvorsen@gmail.com

Maryann Mullett - *Secretary*
maryann.mullett97@gmail.com

Jan Rodgers - *Treasurer*
jannrpalmer@gmail.com

Maggie Smith - *Membership*
mffsmith@gmail.com

Terri Brooks - *Retreat Chair*
Terri.g.brooks@gmail.com

Terri Brooks - *Publicity and
Social Media*
Terri.g.brooks@gmail.com

Thomas W. Bradley - *Member
at Large*

Shuk Susan Lee - *National Show*
Sue1404@gmail.com

Peggy Van Valkenburgh -
Members' Exhibition
Peggyvan101@gmail.com

Robin Hebert - *Newsletter*
ArtRaindrop@gmail.com

Workshops- Open

Member Activities - Open

Terri Brooks



My painting **“March Morning”** (above) is included in Pastel Society of Eastern Canada’s Pixel Pastel international juried show, Susan Story juror



My painting **“Artist in Studio with Sock Monkey Hat”** (left) was recently accepted into Degas Pastel Society online juried show. Lyn Asselta juror

Sasha Wolfe



“Willow” above

“Peek-A-Boo No. 1” left

“In Wait Mode” below



A Detour from Painting Landscapes

By Sasha Wolfe

I enjoy painting landscapes. The goal is to make the scene as realistic as I can. Yet, it's kind of funny, while I am always taking photos of the kitties, I've only ever done two kitty paintings.

Then came the holidays. I am not much into them... sad times for me. But I wanted to do something really special for my best friend.

Hey, could I possibly do a painting of her beloved pup Willow? And could I pull it off in a couple of days to give it to her before Christmas? (It usually takes me weeks to do a painting.) But how do I get a photo of Willow without asking my friend? I wanted this to be a total surprise. So, I asked her sister and was sent a lovely photo.

With landscapes, I do the initial sketching freehand, but I couldn't trust myself to capture Willow's essence freehand. It was important to get the dog's exact expressive facial features. I chose a sheet of textured paper that was given to me years ago (so I don't know what kind it was). A piece of graphite paper was used to get the general outline and the position of facial features. Pan pastel in dark green and black was applied to the background using cotton balls.

Next, I began laying in initial colors in shades of black, tan/beige and a little white. I use various types of pastels. I have many brands including pencils, and soft and hard sticks. (I seldom use the hard sticks unless I'm trying to get sharp lines – like the outline of eyes and some of the fur.

I so surprised myself that I was able to pull it off. The Wednesday before Christmas, Nan and I had our usual Waffle Wednesday breakfast, then came back here for more chat. I told her to go in the studio and check my latest work and seconds later, I heard squeals, “Oh, my baby, my baby!”

I apologized for not getting the bow straight. How could I trace and get that off? But she laughed and said Willow's bow often is off kilter.

Because this was such a success, I decided to try painting the kitties. I did five tracings. The first one I tackled was one of Mika. She came here on Aug. 29, 2024, to be a sister for my Tuli – and she hid for three months, coming out only at night. Finally, she started roaming during the day and evening. (As of this writing on Jan 13, 2025, I still have not been able to touch her, but we're making progress. She plays with Tuli and enjoys wand and laser play.)

“Peek-A-Boo No. 1” was again completed in a couple days. I did this on black BFK Rives paper. Because she has so much black, it was hard to show nuances. Of course, I always question myself and play the “Is it finished?” question. Ugh, I could keep working and working.

Next, I tackled painting neighbor-kitty Leo. I'd done one of him a couple years ago which is one of my favorite paintings ever. Could I pull off another? This was a challenge from the get-go. I again used a sheet of textured colored paper and had trouble getting his eyes to look right. I also struggled with other shapes and textures and color layering.

“In Wait Mode” was finally finished in January using a variety of pastel pencils and soft pastels. Funny, I always make notes after taking progress photos, but the next time I go in the studio, I just dive into the painting and seldom check the notes.

With all paintings, I finally have to call it finished and move on to the next.

Lisa Regopoulos

Lisa Regopoulos will be teaching a workshop *Finding Beauty in the Stillness: Snow Covered Evergreens* at the Thornhill Art Gallery located on 250 State Street, Portsmouth, NH on Saturday, March 1st, 2025.

The workshop will begin with a demo on Uart black paper (Caked in Snow image on Uart dark paper). Lisa will share her thought process and tips about working on dark paper.

The focus will be on building luminosity on snow covered branches and adding warmth to your winter scene. You'll learn the pros of using a limited palette and incorporating neutral colors.

There will be plenty of instruction at your easel. This workshop is for all levels. For more information and to register: <https://www.thornhillartgallery.com>



Lisa will also be the demonstrating artist for the Pastel Society of Maine Winter at their Wine and Watch on Wednesday, March 5th from 6-8 pm via Zoom.

Her demonstration will feature how she incorporates ink and PanPastel for her Birds of Prey series.

Lisa was notified that her plein air finished on site at the American Impressionist Society paint out on St. Simon's Island Georgia last year was a Top 100 Finalist in the Plein Air Salon Art competition.

Winners to be announced on January 30th.



DECEMBER 2024
TOP 100 FINALIST
— PleinAir™ Magazine's —
14TH ANNUAL **\$50,000**
PleinAir Salon
ART COMPETITION

Peggy Van Valkenburgh



“Casalis” above 9" x 6”

I have recently rededicated myself to the studio and painting. It is a pleasure to be in a quiet space with my choice of auditory stimulations; I seem to love to paint with Art Simon and Rod Stewart (Alexa radio stations) the most these days.

And in the middle of trying something new today, how about abstraction! My sister made me do it! It was great fun to try some new techniques out. This is larger (8.5" x 11") and unfinished but getting close!

Yes to working on it!

Karen Israel

Signature/Distinguished Pastelist Awards



Karen Israel's painting, "**The Home Stretch**", received Best in Show in the 2025 MOOS PSWC online Exhibit Signature Division.

The Show can be seen at <https://pswc.ws>



iPastel
www.pswc.ws

Congratulations MOOS 2025 Award Winners!

Richard McKinley / Juror and Judge

Paula Fraser

A special thanks to my group of artist friends (lead by Cindy Crimmin) with whom I paint once a week. Their critiques and encouragement have been invaluable, pushing me to refine my work continually.

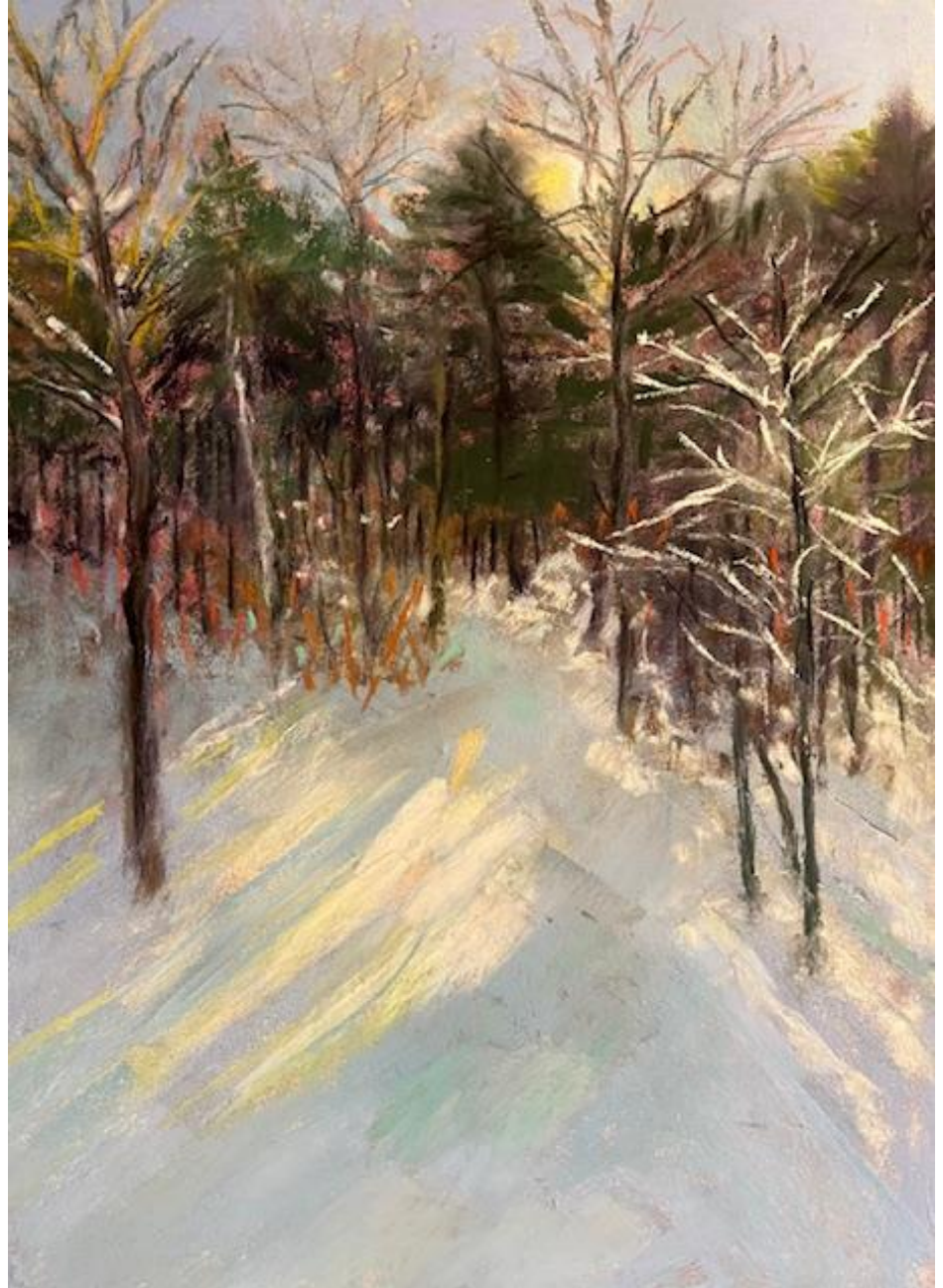
I'm currently preparing for a Spring show at my local library and will share more details as the event approaches.

The past few months have been particularly busy as we've been building a new house. I'm grateful for my creative background, as it has allowed me to think in terms of shapes, colors, and light throughout this process. The skills I've developed as an artist have fueled my imagination in designing our new home, which, in turn, has inspired me to explore new avenues in my art.

I'm also looking forward to collaborating with Peggy Van Valkenburg on the New Hampshire Members Show in June in Peterborough, NH. IT's an exciting opportunity, and I can't wait to see what we create together. Peggy's an experienced artist and is taking over chairing this annual event.

As Valentine's Day approaches, I wish for the feeling of love to touch each and every one of you.

Keep those dusty fingers creating.



Cristine Kossow

"Smitten" 22 x 18 has won first place at the *Color Dance* Exhibition at the Edgewater Gallery in Middlebury, Vermont. The gallery has also purchased the painting and given a gift certificate as part of the award.

The *Color Dance* exhibition is Edgewater's second juried art competition and features the work of a small group of artists carefully chosen by Terry Norton-Wright from a large group of artists throughout the US who have submitted entries in both 2-D and 3-D.



"The Twelve Days of Christmas"

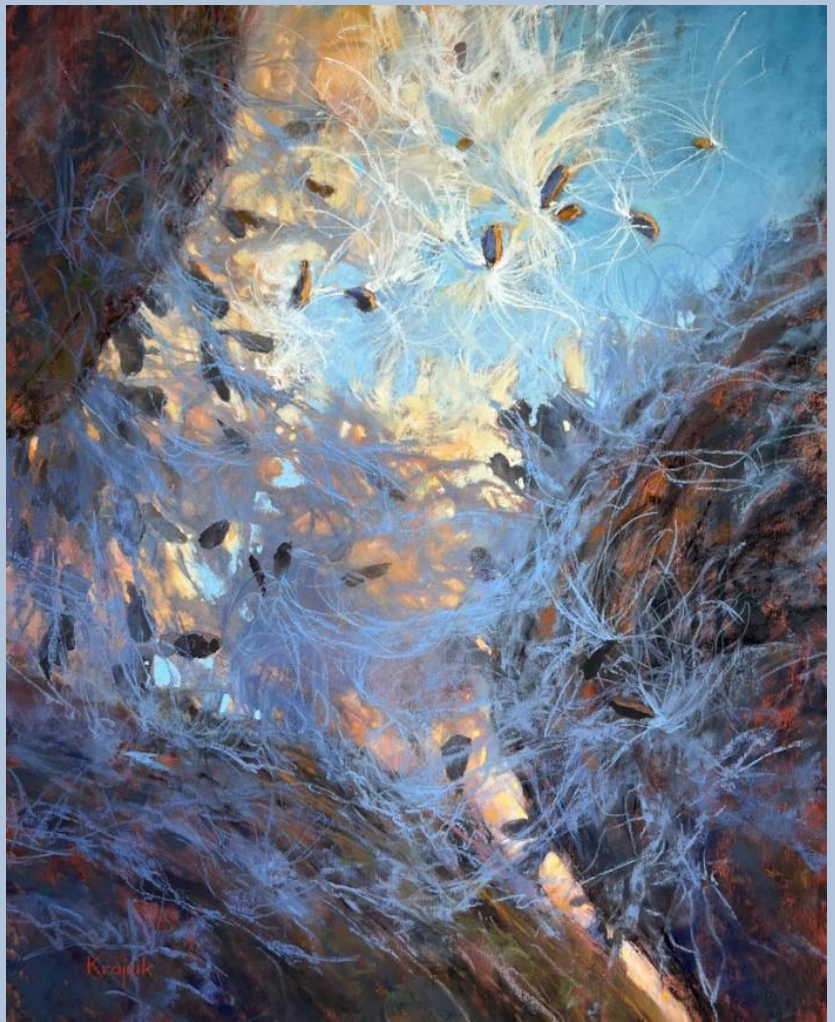
was a self-imposed challenge for the month of December.

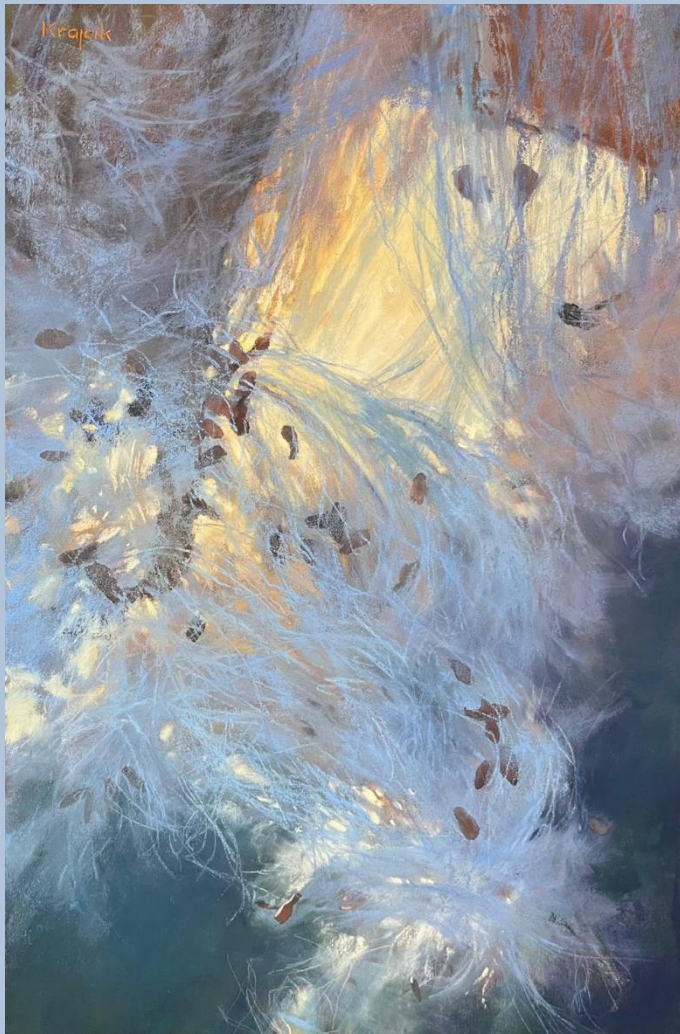
CRISTINE KOSSOW PASTEL PAINTINGS

Allison Krajcik

“Hope Floats” (right) was awarded the Pastel Award in the Fall Members Show “Abundance” with the Copley Society of Boston.

“Summer Flourish” (below) was accepted into the American Impressionist Society’s 5th Annual *All Member Online Exhibition*.





“Through Strands of Silk” (left) was awarded 1st place in the 4th Quarter of Dakota Pastels 2024 Competition and was one of 3, 5th place awards for the year end awards.

“The Offering” (right) was selected as one of 25 paintings from the PSA’s Enduring Brilliance Exhibition to be exhibited at the Butler Institute in Youngstown Ohio January 12th through March 9th 2025.



“Veiled” (left) was accepted into the American Impressionist Society’s 9th Annual Impressions Small Works Showcase at the Fallbrook Art Center, Fallbrook California, February 14th through March 29th 2025.

“Suncatcher” (right) has won 1st Place in the Drawing and Pastel Category at the Duxbury Art Association’s Winter Juried Show, at the Duxbury Art Complex, February 2nd through April 19th 2025.



Susanne Larkham

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions:

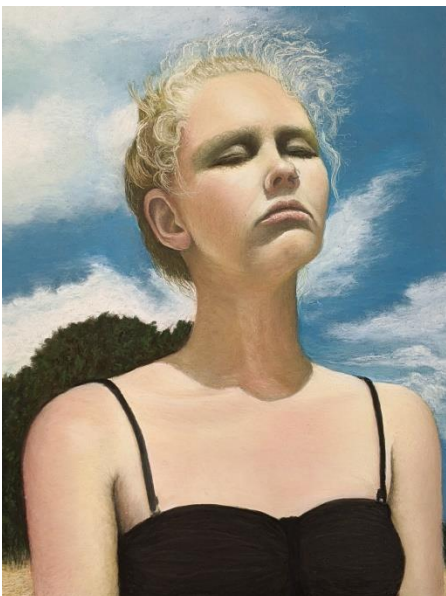
blue, Juried Exhibition at Alchemy + Art in Amesbury, MA: *When Dreams Come Blue & Blutiny on the Bounty*



Element, Juried Exhibition at Newburyport Art Association, Newburyport, MA: *Trip the Light Fantastic*



Grounded, Juried Exhibition at Aplomb Contemporary Portrait Gallery in Dover, NH: *A Song Yet to be Sun.*



85 Collection, NHAA/Robert Lincoln Levy Gallery, Portsmouth, NH: *I flit, I float, I fleetly flee, I (Butter)fly!*



Recent Work: *Marginal Mainstay* & *At the Currier with Nicolas Party!*





*Fresh Off The
Easel...*

I've been participating in the January Strada Easel Challenge where you have to draw something from life every day for the month of January. Here is a small pastel I did called "Bath Time".

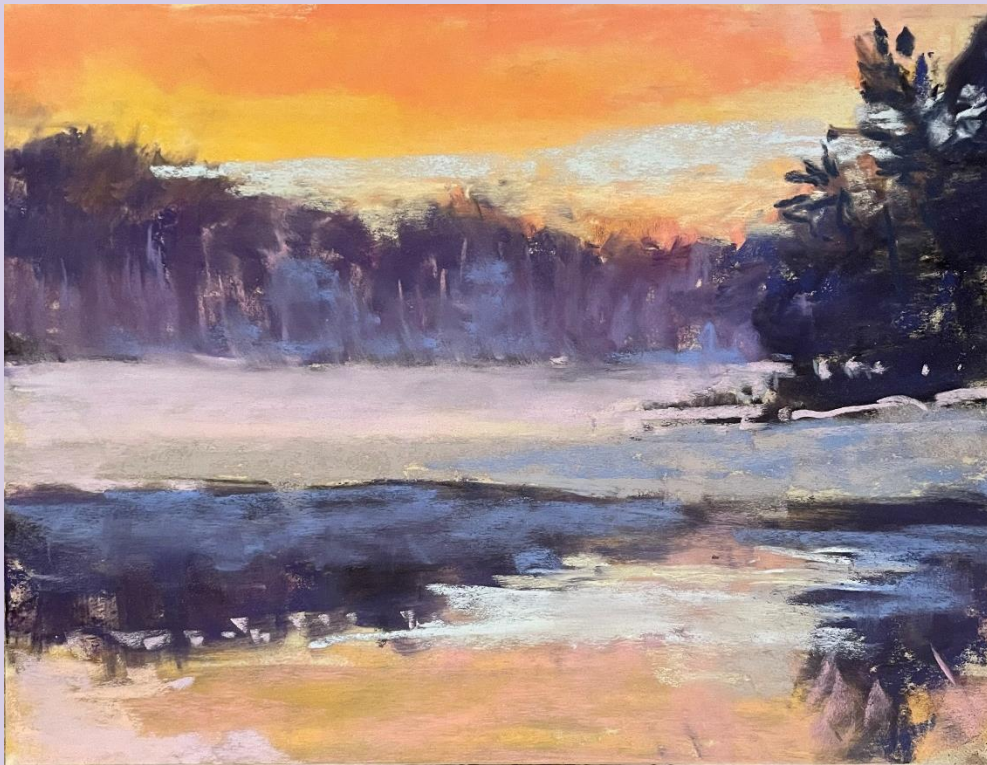
-- Debra Accardi



I have done a few very quick pastel paintings, giving myself only 30 minutes the done. So fun. First one is "Lavender Fields" and second one is "Winter Sky".

This is definitely a good exercise in not over thinking things or over working.

- Deb Samia





We have a new set of PSNH Unison 30 Half Piece Set Pastel:

"Summer Summits Views"

Special pricing for PSNH members!

For more information regarding ordering and shipping please visit the PSNH website: <https://www.pastelsocietynh.com/product-page/unison-set-of-30-half-sticks-summer-summit-views>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bernadette Quirk at: BLQuirk.art@gmail.com

LAST CHANCE! - There are there are 2 sets of Autumn left!



Membership Application 2025

Memberships are for one year and run from January 1 – December 31. Memberships received after November 1 will include the following calendar year.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

_____	Individual	\$ 40
_____	Sponsor	\$ 50
_____	Patron	\$ 100
_____	Benefactor	\$ 500
_____	Saint (Benefits for Saints include all the above and an award in their name presented at our annual Juried Exhibition.)	\$1,000

The Pastel Society of New Hampshire is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Date _____ Renewal _____ New Member _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State + Zip _____

Personal Art Website _____

1. PAY ONLINE on the [website](#) . If your information needs to be updated, please send the information to mffsmith@gmail.com.

2. PAY BY CHECK. Send this form and a check made out to Pastel Society of New Hampshire (PSNH) to Maggie Smith, 658 Greenbush Rd, Charlotte, VT 05445.

Note: If you do not wish to have your name appear on the website, please check here. _____

If you are interested in helping out PSNH in any way, please contact the Vice President of the Board, Annie Halvorsen, anniehalvorsen@gmail.com

Interested in becoming a Signature Member of PSNH?

Signature Membership: a member in good standing may apply to become a Signature Member after earning 10 points from the following categories:

Best of (PSNH Juried) Show (includes jury into show pt.)	5 points
Second place (PSNH Juried) Show (includes jury into show pt.) . . .	4 points
Third place (PSNH Juried) Show (includes jury into show pt.) . . .	3 points
Any Award (PSNH Juried) Show (includes jury into show pt.) . . .	2 points
Juried into Annual PSNH Juried Show	1 point
Best in PSNH Members Show	1 point
Juried into another National Pastel Show	1 point
(includes Pastel Journal top 100)	

Signature Member applicants must apply for Signature Membership. The applicant must keep records and send copies of all documentation of all earned points to the Vice President who will be responsible for Pastel Society of NH Signature Member record keeping.

The applicants must be members of the Pastel Society of NH while earning all points and must have served on a board position for 2 years.

Once approved, they must remain members in good standing to maintain Signature Memberships.

Benefits of Signature Members:

- May use the initials "NHPSA" (NH Pastel Society Artist) on their art work, publications, and biographies as long as they remain a member in good standing.
- May organize and participate in show only for Signature Members.
- May display additional artwork on the Pastel Society of NH's website in the "Signature Circle Members" section.
- May receive a discount for application fees for all PSNH shows.

Responsibilities of Signature Members:

- Promote pastel painting, mentor and assist newer members
- Participate in a demo or presentation for a members' meeting.
- Offer critique at paint-outs or PSNH functions
- Organize and participate in Signature Members Show

The earning of points is retroactive to 2009.

PSNH Signature Members

Linee Baird, Kate Bergquist, Laetitia Borden, Roxane Chardon, Carol Corliss, Suzanne DeLesseps, Keith Demanche, Linda Dessaint, Shelly Eager, |Mary Ann Eldred, Wolfgang Ertl, Joelle Feldman, Jeff Fioravanti, Paula Fraser, Robin Frisella, Sandra Kavanaugh, Randy Knowles, Christine Kossow, Susanne Larkham, Shuk Susan Lee, Deb Luoma, Sandra Machell, Judith McKenna, Maryann Mullett, Gary Ozias, Ellen Pelletier, Lisa Regopoulos, Barbara Scott and Gill Truslow.