



# PSC PORTFOLIO

The Philadelphia Sketch Club ~ Founded in 1860

october 2001

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## PORTFOLIO

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*"Now, more than ever, is the time to create..."*

Profound words from our resident Curmudgeon. Our nation has been attacked but our spirit soars high. In the weeks following the World Trade Center and the Pentagon attacks and the plane crash in Western Pennsylvania – artists and non-artists alike have been painting flags, waving flags and creating memorials for our lost citizens. In New York city, galleries were reported to be opening their doors as refuge and there have been many proposals for a memorial park to honor those we have lost. Keep on creating everyone – our country, our world needs us!

In a return to normalcy, our monthly dinner meeting is back. Come and see the new ceiling in the gallery and all the renovations that have been made. Our menu for the evening is: a salad, baked ziti and dessert. Our speakers will be Doris Brandes, founder of *Art Matters* and Glenn Curry, Editor for *Art Matters*.

## Announcements

Remember to save those special small works for our Second Annual Holiday Season Legacy Show coming up in December to benefit our on-going restoration. Details later, or call **Donald Meyer (610-525-4856)**.

## Celebration on Camac Street!

**Sunday October 21st – Noon til 5PM**

After 99 years as Philly's "Little Street of Art Clubs," City Council officially makes Camac Street the "Avenue of the Artists!" Join us for receptions & refreshments celebrating opening exhibits along Camac Street at:

- **Philadelphia Sketch Club:** "Thomas Eakins & His Fellow Artists at PSC" – 2pm - 5pm; featuring a full length portrait Eakins thought one of his best, first showing in almost 100 years!
- **Franklin Inn:** Philly's authors' & journalists' club opens its doors in celebration!
- **Inn Philadelphia:** "Avenue of the Artists"; reception 12pm - 2pm; a kickoff event at the Inn hosts Club and City officials.
- **Plastic Club:** "Old City Comes to Camac Street" – 2pm - 5pm; 25 Old City artists visit friends at one of the oldest city artists' club.

## Art Natters

**Howard Alber** has a Retrospective Exhibition of works at the Tyme Gallery, 17 W. Eagle Road, Havertown, PA. The exhibition will run from September 14 through October 10, 2001. For information call (610) 853-1215.

**Marta Bartolozzi** has been invited to exhibit at the Salon des Amis Outdoor Show on Sunday, October 14th.

**Richard S. Chew, Jr.**, won the 60th Anniversary Celebration Award for Excellence in all mediums at the Greater Norristown Art League on Sunday, September 23, 2001, for his oil painting "Late Afternoon, Manayunk." The award included a cash prize as well as a commemorative clock. This summer at the Main Line Arts Center, Richard also won the Lalli Award in oils for his paintings "Antique Parlor" and "Victorian Survivor."

At the Phillips' Mill 72nd Annual Fall Exhibition, Sketch Club member **Jim Freeman** was awarded The Solebury School Award for Oil Painting in Memory of the Founders for his oil "Crown of Firs on Shore." Other members in the exhibition includes **Ranulph Bye, Vincent Cegli, Marge Chavooshian, Harriet Ermentrout, Bob Grooms** and **Morris Shatzkin**. Among the jurors for paintings and graphics was **Michael Kunceвич**. The exhibition runs from September 22 through October 28, 2001. Phillips Mill is located near New Hope, PA. For information call (215) 862-0582.

**George Douris** recently won the Acrylic award for a painting of the "Greek Fishing Boat" at the Third Annual Juried Show at the Louisa Melrose Gallery in Frenchtown, NJ.

**Carole Felix** has work in three art shows in New Jersey: The Markeim Gallery, Haddonfield; The Hopkins House Gallery, Camden; and The Smithville Mansion Annex Gallery, Burlington County.

**Jack Gerber** was awarded the Franklin Ross Drake Memorial Award of Excellence at the Fellowship of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts' 104th Annual Membership Exhibition at Historic Yellow Springs in September. Jack became the first recipient of this new annual award. Jack was also honored as the Featured Artist and has a room devoted exclusively

**Welcom**

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to our new member:

# Calendar of Events

## October

12

October Dinner Meeting

21

Opening Reception for "Thomas Eakins and His Fellow Artists at The Philadelphia Sketch Club" 2 to 5 PM

22

October Board Meeting

## November

9

November Dinner Meeting

19

November Board Meeting

## December

9

Opening of Photography Show along with Legacy Show in the Rathskeller

14

December Dinner Meeting

15

Christmas Party

## To Be Announced

December Board Meeting

*Note: For the information of new members, monthly dinner meetings include a social hour at 6 PM, dinner at 7 PM and an after dinner speaker. Reservations for the dinner meeting can be made by calling the Sketch Club, (215) 545-9298, by the Wednesday before the meeting and leaving a message under the appropriate code.*

to his works. At the same exhibition, **Michael Kuncevic** was awarded the Berthe M. Goldberg Award for his monotype "Medusa." Other Sketch Club members in the exhibition include **Hilarie Hawley**, **Elizabeth H. MacDonald** (who received Honorable Mention at the Chester County Art Association Members Exhibit in September) and **Mary Beaumont**. The exhibition will run through October 7, 2001.

**Barbara Keogh** will be part of a two-artist exhibition at the Artists' Gallery, 32 Coryell Street, Lambertville, NJ. The exhibition entitled "Urban Scenes" will feature some of her recent oil paintings. The show will run from October 5 to November 5, 2001. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, October 6th, from 6pm - 9pm. For information call (609) 397-4588.

**Ed Letven** has an exhibition of watercolors and digital variations at the Arronson Gallery of The University of the Arts, 320 South Broad Street, Philadelphia. The exhibition will run from September 3 through October 3, 2001. For information call (215) 717-6000.

**Donald Meyer** is proving that he does not rest. This month he will be exhibiting in a variety of locales. First, there will be pieces on display at Inn Philadelphia from September 1st through October 31, 2001. Second, there is a show entitled "Radnor Paradigm," which will feature 13 works. (All Opening Receptions are being held on Sunday, October 21st "Radnor Paradigm" from 12pm - 2pm; Eakins Show and the Plastic Clubs' "Old City Comes to Camac Street" from 2pm - 5pm; three receptions - one parking fee!) Third, he will have four paintings in the MCGOPA Exhibition & Sale at the SPP Galleries of the Philadelphia Inquirer Building, 800 River Road, West Conshohocken, October 1st - November 11, 2001. Opening Reception Saturday, October 6th from 3pm - 7pm.

**Arthur Ostroff** has had a busy summer. His latest CityScene color print, a winter view of Boathouse Row, has been selling very well. In addition, a large watercolor was sold through the Hahn Gallery. He recently had a piece accepted for the Works on Paper show at the Perkins Art Center, and two original works have just been commissioned by the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority for first use as holiday cards.

**Peter Petraglia** has an exhibition of Paintings and Photographs at the Medical Healing Arts Center, 52 East Oakland Avenue, Doylestown, PA. The exhibition will run from September 15th through October 15, 2001. For information call (215) 348-4002.

**John Sears** is exhibiting recent drawings and paintings in a one-man show in the new exhibition space at St. Mary Medical Center on Route 413 between Langhorne and Newtown. The show continues through October 31st. Four of John's works have also been selected for the Art Ability, an international exhibit of work created by artists with disabilities. Sponsored by Bryn Mawr Rehab, the exhibit will be held at Bryn Mawr Rehab in Malvern and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art during November and December.

## Exhibitions

"Thomas Eakins and His Fellow Artists at The Philadelphia Sketch Club" will be the most interesting exhibition held at the Club since Tom caused all that commotion back in 1886. The exhibition may only be outdone by its catalogue. Sketch Club member **David Sellin**, a noted Eakins scholar, has produced an extensive article for the catalogue. David rejoined the PSC in the late 1990s after originally being a member as a young lad in the 1950s. His meager credentials include being a curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, running the schools at the Pennsylvania Academy, and being a curator at the White House. **Stephen Iwanczuk** has accepted the challenge of having the catalogue's graphics as good as its written word. A Friend of the Club, **Professor Mark Sullivan** of Villanova, has also produced an article concerning an Eakins painting in the show that hasn't been on public display for almost 100 years. **Donald Meyer** was instrumental in getting this item loaned to us from his saintly friends at the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova. **Dick Cohen** has framed up dozens of items found deep in the Club's collection that will add uniqueness to the show. In total there will be over 140 works from 60 artists (mostly PSC members) from the Eakins Era. Don't miss this exhibition! The Opening Reception will be on Sunday, October 21, 2001, from 2pm - 5pm. Due to the costs involved, we will be charging a \$5 admission fee for this event.

## Still Seeking Volunteers!

With the show almost upon us, I must renew my call for volunteers to staff the PSC building. This exhibition will open with a reception on October 21st and run until November 25, 2001. It will include over 140 paintings, prints, photographs and sculpture created by Thomas Eakins and his fellow artists at the Sketch Club. By creating an exhibition of this caliber, we are not only showing great art, but showcasing the Sketch club as a significant and vibrant venue in the Philadelphia art community. In order to ensure the security of the exhibited images and create a comfortable environment for our guests, I am seeking a few enthusiastic volunteers. The PSC building will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 5 pm. I really need folks to help me on Fridays and Saturdays, and most importantly through the Thanksgiving Day weekend! If you have the time and the energy for one of the most significant events in the history of this organization... **join us** in recreating the **Eakins era** at the club. - **Steve Iwanczuk**, *Chairman, Exhibitions Committee* - 215-545-7823 or e-mail: iwanczuk@home.com

## Help Wanted

It is with regret that I announce that **Marta Bartolozzi** has resigned from the position of Secretary of the Philadelphia Sketch Club. Conflicts in her personal schedule prevent her from attending regular Board Meetings. I thank Marta for her past efforts and her willingness to work with us on future projects.

Anyone interested in the position of Secretary should contact **Bill Patterson** at (610) 705-8506 during the workday or in the evening at (215) 723-6800.

Duties of the Secretary include maintaining minutes from the Board Meetings as well as the general direction of the Club as a member of the Board of Directors.

# Grant Committee Report

On September 3, 2001 we submitted a grant request to the Helen D. Groome Beatty Trust seeking more funds for our renovation work. Our request for general operating funds to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) for the 2001/2002 funding year was submitted on August 25, 2001. Due to PCA's two-year cycle, our award for this period is already set at \$1,916. Application to the PCA for the 2002/2003 funding year must be submitted by November 1, 2001. Our request for general operating funds to the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, which gave us \$5,778 last year, is in process and will be submitted by October 2, 2001.

# Archives/Eakins Report

Archives activities have been dormant for the last several months and many members who have donated their time and efforts to archives and other important club activities have been helping prepare for our coming Eakins Exhibition. We have recently completed the framing of 70 pieces of art from the PSC Art collection. Those members who attended one or more of the work sessions are, **Barbara Keogh, Jack Lucy, Charles Reeder, Alan Klawans, Bob Jackson, Pete Petraglia, and Steve Iwanczuk.** **Thelma Cohen** catered the lunches. – Dick Cohen

## How A Dinner Reservation Is Made

Call the club phone number (215.545.9298) and follow the instructions. The information must be put on the answering system. Reservations can be made ANY DAY after 3pm except Wednesday on which you may call any time during the day up to 6pm. These hours have been established to avoid disturbing the workshops in progress. Reservation and cancellations cutoff is 6pm on the Wednesday prior to the meeting night.

**Sunday – Tuesday**  
call after 3pm

**Wednesday**  
anytime until 6pm\*  
*\*cutoff time for calling is 6pm prior to the meeting night*

**Thursday – Saturday**  
call after 3pm

**Registered Attendees:**  
You need only to call if you are cancelling or bringing guest/s. We must know how many guests. If you fail to show, you will be billed for the cost of the dinner/s at \$13.00 each.

**Unregistered Attendees:**  
You must make a reservation each time you come to dinner stating the number of guests you are bringing. If you fail to show, you will be billed for the cost of the dinner/s at \$13.00 each.

**Note:** *If you wish to be registered as a regular attendee, you must do so with the Treasurer.*

Please do not let this deter you from attending the meeting. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

## Who's That? Thomas Cowperthwaite Eakins

Painter – 1844 - 1916

Born in Philadelphia, July 25, 1844, Eakins' was fortunate to be born to parents who were both supportive of his interest in art. He attended Central High School (1857-1861) which sparked his lifelong interest in the sciences and his professional art career. Starting from books as a self-taught artist, he ventured off to draw and paint the countryside during the Civil War with artist friends. In 1862 he entered the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) and registered to observe demonstrations in anatomy and surgery at Jefferson Medical College. He lived in Philadelphia most of his life – he died here on June 25, 1916.

At the age of 22, Eakins sailed for Paris to continue his education in art. He studied at the studio of Jean-Léon Gérôme at L'Ecole des Beaux-Arts, learning to paint from life and to capture an uncompromising realism of his subjects. He focused more on his studies than with exhibiting at the Salons unlike his Philadelphia contemporaries, Howard Roberts and Mary Cassatt. He also worked with the sculptor Augustin-Alexandre Dumont and the painter Léon Bonnat before leaving three years later for Spain to study the works of Diego Velazquez and Josepe de Ribera. He returned to Philadelphia by July 4, 1870.

For a brief period, he lived in New York City, but soon returned to the comfortable middle-class life of his family in Philadelphia. In 1874 he began his association with the Philadelphia Sketch Club, which invited him to teach an evening life class. He gained the reputation of being an inspiring teacher and eventually our Club made him an Honorary member.

With Howard Roberts, Eakins was an advisor on the design of the classrooms in the new Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts building. It was 1876 and he joined the faculty, first as an unpaid assistant to Christian Schessele, then, at Schessele's death in August of 1879, Eakins was named professor of drawing and painting to the Academy.

Eakins teaching at the Academy was considered radical. He played down the importance of drawing from casts and sculptures to focus on painting from nude models, as was done in Paris, and to study dissection. Studying the naked body was not unusual, but Eakins' insistence that women follow an identical course of life-study classes was too much for prudish Philadelphia.

In 1882 Eakins was appointed director of the Academy. That same year a mother wrote to the Academy's president James Claghorn, "...that daughter at home

had been shielded from every thought that might lead her young mind from the most rigid chastity. [I] had never allowed her to see her young naked brothers, hardly her sisters after their babyhood & yet at the age of 18 or 19, for the culture of high Art, she had entered a class where both male & female figures stood before her in their horrid nakedness."

In February 1886, the Academy couldn't tolerate it any longer. Eakins had removed the loincloth from a male model in a women's life-class to demonstrate the muscle function of the pelvis. The Academy gave him an ultimatum and forced him to resign. His resignation received considerable attention from the press of the time and he was championed by appreciative students who signed a petition in his behalf. When Eakins left, 38 students quit and formed the Art Students' League in Philadelphia, where Eakins taught without pay. Unfortunately, depression kept him from painting for more than a year, until a trip to the Dakota Bad Lands in the summer of 1887 restored him.

By other accounts, there was more to it than Eakins just being ahead of his time. There were charges about his relations with his female students. In fact, Eakins married one of his students in 1884, Susan Hannah Macdowell. His sister, Frances, held her brother responsible for her own daughter's suicide. It is said he shocked his wife's friends by appearing indecently dressed, and he insisted the women who sat for him that they pose nude.

Our Club was not too kind either and also tried to dispose of him. Since there was no established procedure to concluding an Honorary membership, Eakins was never really thrown out of the Club – although Thomas Anshutz tried. The Club has made a special point of confirming and securing his membership posthumously.

Before his death, Eakins went on to lecture and teach at the Brooklyn Art Guild, the Arts Student League, the Cooper Union, the National Academy of Design, and he also gave anatomy lectures at Drexel Institute – until he was dismissed for using a nude model in a mixed class.

One of his greatest masterpieces, *The Gross Clinic*, hangs at Thomas Jefferson University a few blocks from the Club. The painting has been moved recently to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for "Thomas Eakins: American Realist"; October 4, 2001 - January 6, 2002. Support this show. At this stressful time in our Nation there will be fewer folks travelling from afar to come see it.

**Compiled from the PSC Archives by Bruce H. Bentzman**



NEXT DINNER MEETING: OCTOBER 12TH

## News for the Newsletter?

To submit information or announcements for *The Portfolio*, please use the following as a guide.

Via e-mail:  
sketchnews@hotmail.com

Via regular mail:  
Editor, The Portfolio  
235 South Camac Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5608  
or

Susan Hutton DeAngelus  
950 North Fifth Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

For all other information, contact the appropriate committee chairperson and they will submit the item with their reports.

Copy deadline  
for the November  
issue: October 25th

## Renovation Project Report

Over the last couple of months, significant renovation work has been underway at the Sketch Club. It is probably the most significant construction project undertaken since the three row houses were joined together in 1915. Most of the work has dealt with the reinforcement of the roof rafters and framing as spelled out in our architect's Preservation Plan. The gallery lights and the ceiling plaster above the cornice line have been removed. The six principal rafters on each side of the roof have been sandwiched between two steel "C" beams that are bolted together through the rafters and connected by welded plates at top and bottom. The roof framing at the lower skylight level has been reinforced with large wooden beams. Insulation has been added below the roof. The ceiling will be covered with plasterboard and painted. The white walls will also be painted. We will not address repainting the woodwork and lockers at this time as we do not have the funds or time. Although we did not plan on replacing the lighting systems in the gallery, it became apparent when we took them down that reinstallation of the old lighting systems would not be practical. A new lighting system is being installed to include halogen heads for the exhibition track lighting and new suspended fluorescent pendants for use during workshops and meetings. To make the Club more presentable during the upcoming exhibition "Thomas Eakins and His Fellow Artists at the Philadelphia Sketch Club," we are also having the poolroom painted.

## Art Collection

As previously reported, the painting "In the Studio" by **Hugh Henry Breckenridge** (1870-1937) was donated to the Sketch Club by Breckenridge's granddaughter and great-granddaughters. **Terry Newman** has generously offered to have it restored by Newman Galleries. Due to the painting's size (5' x 6') and its poor condition, restoration will take considerable time. Progress on this work is continuing. Newman Galleries will also be restoring two of the **William Thomson** portraits in the foyer that have some chipped paint. One of these, a portrait of **Earl Milliette**, is completed and will be hung before the October dinner meeting.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is currently displaying: Thomas Eakins: American Realist; October 4, 2001 - January 6, 2002. For more information: <http://www.philamuseum.org/>