



## Coming Events

All Events Subject to Covid-19 Rules:  
Masks No Longer Required Inside  
Clubhouse

### All-Member Critique

Tuesday, January 3,  
7 - 9:30 PM

### Sketch Group

Mondays: 1 - 4:30 PM  
Thursdays: 7 - 9:30 PM

### Board of Trustees

Wednesday, January 11,  
4:30 - 6:30 PM

### Mt. Adams and Beyond Exhibition

Show Opening: January 13, 6 - 9 PM  
Exhibition Run: January 14 & 15, 1 - 4 PM

### Monthly Member Program

Saturday, January 21, 10 AM  
Bailey Menke, "Writing with Fire"

### DAWG

Last Thursday of the Month,  
January 26

### Abstractionists

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 PM  
Email: [abstractionists@cincinnatiartclub.com](mailto:abstractionists@cincinnatiartclub.com) for invite

### Continuing Education

Techniques of Cincinnati Art Club  
Masters with Marlene Steele

### Figure Drawing with Carin Hebenstreit

For more information, please visit  
[www.cincinnatiartclub.org/continuing-ed](http://www.cincinnatiartclub.org/continuing-ed)

### Exhibitions

[Non-Figurative Associates](#)  
[High School Plein Air](#)  
[ViewPoint](#)  
[Fall Signature](#)  
and [More](#)

### Publications

[Imagine](#)  
CAC [YouTube](#) Channel

### February

All Member Meeting  
Clubhouse Exterior Refresh  
Saturday, February 18, 12:30 PM

## The Need for a Refresh of our Clubhouse Exterior Your Voice is Needed at All-Member Meeting, February 18

Several years ago, a Strategic Planning session was held to develop guidelines for CAC's future. One of the main conclusions was the need to improve our Club's visibility across Greater Cincinnati. Since then, your leadership has taken on the challenge of repositioning the Cincinnati Art Club. A few of the most notable actions taken so far:

- Extensive outreach to diverse artists, as well as to art lovers and potential art buyers
- Updated brand to better reflect that we are talented VISUAL ARTISTS
- New contemporary and easy-to-navigate website, with copy that reinforces the brand
- New exhibition themes to attract attention and encourage the public to join us in our celebration of locally produced art
- Imagine – the only magazine promoting local visual artists, free to everyone in digital format
- Low-cost continuing education programs open to the public



### Now a New Clubhouses Exterior to clarify we are VISUAL ARTISTS.

Our building is in a prime location on one of the entries to both Mt. Adams and Eden Park. Our building should

reflect our brand to those who pass by. We need to look like who we are ... a leading visual arts organization of Greater Cincinnati. We want our building to be a source of great pride for all members of the Club.

### Progress to Date

Two consecutive Boards have been working with a sub-committee under the leadership of **Joe Stewart**, Chair of House & Property, to define this project. It was decided to limit the scope to only upgraded exterior and grounds, to keep needed fundraising within manageable levels. The sub-committee engaged the services of Mt. Adams architect Greg Tilsley to design the new appearance and produce construction documents. These were taken to Trade 31, the small projects division of HGC Contractors, to put together a preliminary estimate of the costs.

### Funding

Board Member **Christine Kuhr**, Development Committee Chair, has recently formed another sub-committee to explore how to raise the necessary funds. Some of these plans will be presented at an All-Member Meeting. **All-Member Meeting, Saturday, February 18, 12:30 PM**

We are in the planning stages for holding an All-Member Meeting following the February Brunch. You will learn all the details that have been developed since last summer. You will also hear possible plans for funding the upgrades. Our Constitution requires any project of this magnitude to be approved by a majority of Members attending an All-Member Meeting. Since we are all owners of our Club, the Board urges every Member to attend on February 18, 2023, 12:30 PM, immediately after our monthly brunch.

## Ring in the New Year! Ring in Visual Art!

It is time to celebrate the importance of visual art in Greater Cincinnati. Let's put an end to the isolation of the pandemic and come together to make 2023 a turning point for visual art. We urge you to read Don's message on page 2. He has challenged us to reflect on how we can get everyone excited about visual art. Get involved and let's go!

# Dragonfly Member Newsletter



CINCINNATI ART CLUB  
Cultivating Creativity

The Dragonfly is published for and by  
members of the Cincinnati Art Club

## Cincinnati Art Club

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## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ..... Don Schuster  
VICE PRESIDENT ..... Michael Paolercio  
SECRETARY ..... Louann Elliott  
TREASURER ..... Steve Hart

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Donald A Schuster, Joe Stewart, Dale Wolf

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Abstractionists ..... Martha Howard  
Club Historian ..... Dave Klocke  
Communications ..... Dale Wolf  
Critique ..... Ray Hassard  
Tom Post  
Curator ..... Don Schuster  
DAWG ..... Lisa Koepke  
Development ..... Christine Kuhr  
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[dragonfly@cincinnatiartclub.com](mailto:dragonfly@cincinnatiartclub.com)

by the first of the month prior to publication. Photographs submitted must be at high resolution (300 pixels per inch).

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## President's Message from Don Schuster



### New Year, New Start

The Cincinnati Art Club is a unique organization among the arts community of our region.

There are lots of community and neighborhood “arts centers” that offer educational programming on a pay for attendance model. Their emphasis is on providing an art instruction experience in an educational space. But that’s not the Cincinnati Art Club.

CAC is a social organization with visual art as its centerpiece. Since our founding, the Cincinnati Art Club has been a group of artists, enthusiasts, and supporters of the artistic life. People who think that visual art should be central to ourselves and our community. We want to educate ourselves and others, not as just as students taking a class, but to experience the world through an art centric lens. We have banded together to support each other in this common purpose.

Since we held a Strategic Planning Session some three years ago, our Club’s management team has been striving to reposition CAC internally and externally. Not to change our core, but we want our Club to be a center for vibrant visual art, artists and inviting to those who share our love. The energy generated from the Club comes from all of us.

We seem to be coming out of the recent pandemic period, attendance is picking up at all our functions. If you haven’t been lately, we invite you to renew your acquaintance and **add your spark!**

Yours in artistic pursuit,

Don

## A Terrific Way to Launch Your 2023

### “Techniques of Cincinnati Art Club Masters”

**Taught by Marlene Steele,**  
February 16 – April 10, 2023

We’re launching our second course in our new Continuing Education Program. Now to compliment Carin Hebenstreit’s Figurative Drawing Course, Marlene Steele will teach a 10-week session on master art techniques from the pieces in our Permanent Art Collection. Two excellent art courses, taught by artists who themselves are “masters” — at exceptionally low tuition fees.

**Marlene Steele**, a 30-year+ experienced, working artist and student of Aileen McCarthy, who was a student of Frank Duveneck, has agreed to teach in the Cincinnati Art Club’s (CAC’s) Continuing Education program. Marlene is a member of various art associations with an established network of contacts across the region and country. She is an alumna of the Cincinnati Art Academy, former Board Member and Vice President of the Cincinnati Art Club, and owner of Steele Studios, a continuously operating fine art studio. Steele’s works are exhibited widely throughout the region and the U.S. Among her many awards and recognitions, Steele was the recent recipient of the “Individual Excellence Award” from the Ohio Arts Council. The CAC is honored to present this Continuing Education Course.



Techniques of Cincinnati Art Club Masters will provide the artist/student with insights on the various styles and techniques of the Cincinnati Art Club Masters. Learn from the Masters as they did, by copying works and applying what you learn to your current work. This special course series will draw on works in the Permanent Collection of the Cincinnati Art Club, chosen by the instructor to reinforce techniques used even to this day. Students will use multiple media and each “topic” will involve copying a piece and then applying the experience to a real still life, portrait or full figure, live model.

## A Few Details about the Class

- This is a single 10-week class
- Classes meet on Thursdays from Feb. 16 to Apr. 13, 3 pm to 5:30 PM
- Member Students are invited to attend Thursday night Sketch Group at 7 PM to reinforce the learning process. Non-member Students can also up to 3 Sketch Group sessions with the sponsorship of a Member.
- Class size is limited to 20 students, register early to guarantee your place.
- Students will use their own materials from a furnished list of supplies.

**\$250 for CAC Members and \$350 for Non-Members**

**Registration Deadline: February 6**

- Registration/payment conducted through Eventbrite, an online reservation service ([Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com))
- Refund policy: no refund for individual classes or after one week prior to class start
- For additional information on the CAC Continuing Education Program and this class please see our website: [cincinnatiartclub.org/continuing-ed](https://cincinnatiartclub.org/continuing-ed)

## What I Learned at My First CAC's Critique

By Johanna Kremer

I am a relatively new member of CAC and I recently took a leap of faith. I attended my first Critique Session. Why in the world would I do this? Was it fear? I must admit I was worried about my work compared with the work of our Signature Members. I would like one day to be one of those Signature Members. But for now, I still have a lot of work to do. I finally said to myself, "Johanna, don't let fear win."

It took a bit of courage and once I got there, I began to see how it worked. I sat down with about 20 other Club members, all seated and looking forward at Tom and Ray begin the critique.

### Not the Same Old Humiliating Critique I Once Had



Ray Hassard showing an area of potential improvement

For those artists brave enough to accept this challenge, CAC offers an **All-Member Critique**, led by

**Ray Hassard** and **Tom Post** on the first Tuesday of each month. If you don't know of Tom and Ray, they are two of the Club's many talented artists, but with special talents. They know how to evaluate art and identify the things done well and things that could use improvement. Not once did any artist in the room feel they were being humiliated. Tom and Ray



Tom Post

took each artist's work in its own accomplishments and never compared to another piece or artist. I was wishing I had the experience in art school of being evaluated by Tom and Ray instead of a few instructors who mainly taught me to never go to a critique session again.

Tom remembered back when he and Ray began leading the critiques in October of 2019, "We followed our mentor **Mike McGuire**, who passed away not long ago. He's the one who had the vision to start critique in the first place and lead it for decades. We're walking in his footsteps."

### How Can This Critique Burst the Artist Bubbles?

"The art critique group is a way to get out of the bubble," Tom says, "In one way, it's like being a fly on the wall listening to an audience react to your art. Some comments resonate with you, and you incorporate them where they improve your art; other comments you let go by because they do not fit what you are trying to do."

He continues, "Another way to look at it is this: you may be struggling with something in your art and now you have a bunch of artists to bounce ideas off of... It's like having a fresh set of eyes on your art — you may pick up something you're not aware of yet."



Those attending also offer their thoughts on the work being evaluated.

**Carol Holland**, a member sitting near me explained it this way: "I've attended (Critique) off and on for the past several years. I was intimidated at first and nervous about showing my work, remembering my art school days and the fearsome critiques from some of the teachers. We artists spend so much time making art alone in our studio. We can

become nearsighted about our work. Critique provides an objective eye when we need perspective."

Tom adds, "In essence, it is like an art community where everyone is trying to help each other dig deeper and grow further on this art journey. I don't consider myself as someone with all the answers, but what I do know, I'll share during the sessions. I love it when I see other artists grow, and we can make each other better artists."

A key element of the Critique is its leaders. Ray and Tom are professionals and are there to help if one is willing to learn. They are incredibly insightful as to what makes a painting, drawing, etc., work as a whole and what the artist can do to improve. Tom and Ray are also kind, and I soon lost my fear of the critique group. According to both Tom and Carol, the Critique offers more than just feedback. "I think it's one of the best activities at the Club," Tom says, "It's about friendships and art talk. Just from this art group alone, I have friendships and art mentors who have taught me countless things. I've been given a lot, so it's a way to give back." Carol adds, "Actually, the Critique group is quite fun! We are a pretty lively bunch!"

We hope to see you on the first Tuesday of the month, for the rest of the year.



Here's a turn of the play — Jerry Saylor steps from the "audience" to offer advice to Tom Post who brought his own painting in for critique. Tom, like everyone else in the room, is just looking for ways to make his art better. If Tom can do it, why not you?

# Holiday Party Photo Review



## Member News

### Abstractionists Meet at Gallery Veronique



The Abstractionists are a special interest subgroup of our Club, and the first local group to encourage and educate the region about this exciting form of visual art. They meet in the afternoon of the third Thursday every month. The Abstractionists have become quite a social bunch with meetings in studios and galleries, followed by lunch. They ended 2022 with a visit to Gallery Veronique where owner, Veronique Hammons-Leemans, explained the gallery business. Asked how she selects artists: "First, they have to WOW me. If I am going to sell their work, I have to be excited and feel it inside." She then walked the group through her gallery and explained every painting in great detail. It was clear that she knew her artists and her customers. She recognized how local studios often compete directly with her and that's a major reason she has only a few artists from Cincinnati. After the Gallery visit, many went on to the Silver Spring House for social time. Their next two social gatherings will be February 16 and March 16, 2023.

### Edith Susarret Marrero Exhibit at The Barn

Edith joined the Cincinnati Art Club in October 2006. A reprise of her work was recently on display at The Barn. She was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in "El Barrio" (Spanish Harlem), New York City during the Great Depression. She was a self-taught artist, earning admission and scholarship to Pratt Institute where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and graduated with Honors. Edith raised a



Edith Susarret Marrero at CAC Sketch Group

family, earned a Master of Science degree in Education (Special Education), taught for 20 years, and retired from the New York City Public School system. She studied art at New York's Art Students League. After moving to Cincinnati in 2005, she exhibited her work with Art Beyond Boundaries and the Clifton Cultural Arts Center, attended workshops at the Art Academy, painted at Essex Studios with Carin Hebenstreit, and practiced her craft by participating in weekly sketch group sessions at Cincinnati Art Club. She passed away last year but our memories of her are still alive.

### Writing With Fire



as "woodburning," however, woodburning is technically done on wood, whereas pyrography can be done on any receptive surface (including wood). Much of her work includes fine detail that creates sublimely beautiful paintings with "fire" as her brush. Register now at [dinner@CincinnatiArtClub.com](mailto:dinner@CincinnatiArtClub.com).

### Monthly Member Brunch, Saturday, January 21, 10:00 AM

Bailey Menke, a 2007 graduate of NKU, will explain and demonstrate her unique art form. Many people

### Featured in the Masthead



The Masthead this month features Marlene Steele. She is working on a copy of Duveneck's *Florentine Flower Girl* at the Cincinnati Art Museum. You too can paint like the masters by enrolling in her class!