

5th Annual Marble Summer Arts Festival
June 13 – 18, 2021

Visual Artists bios

Diane M. Aramony - painter



Diane is a self-taught painter and photographer. The visual effects of her work are suffused with brilliant, often startling hues, with strokes of colors that unfold slowly to reveal bits and pieces of what is recognizable but at the same time mysterious and spiritual. Like her painting, her photography is a celebration of life in all its complex beauty.

After her mother passed away in 2014, Diane began experimenting with mixed media painting, using dried flowers as her brushes. Her three-dimensional mixed media images are deeply personal. Through her use of paint with flowers and leaves, she creates a unique textured language, drawing inspiration from the colors and shapes of the flowers.

Diane's work has also been shown in art shows at Worcester State University. She lives in New York City.

“A Promise of Paradise” 22.5 x 15 acrylic and mixed media

Ron Becker - painter



Ron's usual work, as a realist of landscapes and nature, uses color and variety of tones to create drama, inviting the viewer into his paintings. Ron focuses on environments that elicit a feeling of calm, serenity, beauty or the divine. He has exhibited in a variety of Long Island galleries, the RIVAA Gallery in NYC and a solo exhibition at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River NY. He has won several awards in juried shows and his work is in private collections around the country.

“For me, ‘Rejoice’ reflects the joy and gifts of Easter and spring...renewal and hope...reaching towards and soaking in the light. As I stroll the gardens and parks during spring, enjoying nature's beauty and fragrances, I am reminded of Christ's light and the divine gifts present in those around us. New buds and blossoms appearing after the cold, dark and barren winter, transform the sterile landscape, reminding us of God's gifts present everywhere, if we stop and pause – to see, feel and rejoice.

P.O.R.

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'Creation II' reflects God's presence in and around us. Surrendering ourselves to God's light, let us be swept up in the energy of light, hope and renewal.

The "Christ the Pantocrator" icon is based on an 18th-century fresco in the outer narthex of the Holy Monastery of Karakalloy, Mount Athos, Greece. Jesus Christ is presented as a classical philosopher, holding a golden gospel book symbolic of his teaching. The starry sky background shows his cosmic status - and the eight-pointed star surrounding him implies that he is the brightest star of all.

Christ is surrounded by four archangels and by four 6-winged seraphs. The words in the margin come from a medieval hymn." The medium is egg tempera and gold leaf.

"Creation II" 16" x 20" "Rejoice – oil on canvas 36 x 48 "Christ the Pantocrator" 15' x 15"

www.rbeckerart.com

Chris Chalfant



Chris Chalfant is a composer, pianist, vocalist, poet, and visual artist. Studies include a BA in Music with a focus in piano at Kent State with Margaret Baxtresser, Eurhythmics at Longy School of Music with Anne Farber, Jazz with Connie Crothers and an MM from New England Conservatory, with a focus on jazz, composition, non-western and aleatoric music. Her mentor was George Russell.

Recordings as producer, composer and pianist include "Book of Unstandards," "Love and Light," "Convergence" with Noah Howard Quartet, "New'd Music" with Dennis Warren and, "All in Good Time" with the Chris Chalfant Trio. The multimedia piece "Looking Through Trees" was premiered at Irondale Theatre in Brooklyn, NY in 2010. Prior incarnations of LTT included a painted paper sculpture, a trio improvisation at Chelsea Museum and a film with live improvisation ensemble at University of Denver. Chalfant co-led the Dojo Band and Lifetime Visions Orchestra with Joseph Jarman which featured her works frequently.

Chris Chalfant's work has been featured in Nancy Jazz Pulsations and Vision Festivals, Prague Jazzového Mezinárodní Piana, on Czech National Radio, at International Society of Improvised Music (ISIM) Conferences, the Leukerbad (Switzerland) International Composers Conference and in residencies at Atlantic Center with Joan LaBarbara and Morton Subotnick, Bard College of Music Jazz program, and Music Omi International. Collections of original compositions include *Book of Unstandards* and *First Performances*. Other works may be found in *Notations 21* by Theresa Sauer, *Silent Solos Improvisers Speak*, (Buddy's Knife,) "Encyclopedia of the 21st Century," (Maximilien de Lafayette, editor) and *Jazz Improv Magazine*.

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Chalfant studied art and music in Akron, Ohio where she was presented in a city-wide art show at age 14 and where she co-curated an interactive art exhibit at age 16 with the Akron Art Institute (now Museum.) Chalfant won second place for two compositions in a city-wide competition. After moving to the East Coast, Chris Chalfant delved into multi-genre collaborations with artists, dancers and poets. In 1990 Chris Chalfant was the merit finalist for “A Portrait of Three Portraits” in a national competition out of Louisville, Kentucky. While her visual art took a back seat to music for years, Chris Chalfant got back into visual art through photography. Her most recent nature photography has been the result of the need to connect to the ongoing unfolding of life during the time of Covid. Chalfant’s work has been shown numerous times at Marble Collegiate Church and at Blue Door Art Center where she won Best of Show for “Red Rose.”

Photographs: “Angel Spreads Her Wings” “Purple Iris” “White Iris”

Karen Harris



Karen Harris is a semi-realist and abstract visual artist who feels that more than almost anything painting fulfills her; it's her nature to paint. She continues to be a regular contributor to Marble Collegiate Church Arts group exhibitions since 2017.

Karen's current bold abstract work conveys God as source of a continuum of light, hope, inspiration (and endless love). She named her acrylic abstract "God's Wave of Love" (20"H x 24"W) as the wave radiates light, inspiration and healing love; it nourishes humanity with every fiber of its being.

Most of Karen's work stimulates long moments of conversation as well as long moments of silent meditation. Her color choices inspire. Her imagination causes us to pause and feel. Her viewers will sense and absorb Karen's love of God; she speaks from her heart saying "I created "God's Wave of Love" painting to awaken people from their sleep - to wake them up and be inspired, delighted and healed. All who see and feel this will understand my process. I see my work as a symphonic rainbow composition having multiple dimensions - a continuum pointing to a grand splash. The splash is the awakening."

She continues: "God's love arises out of my love excitedly delivering a vital message for us to 'wake up' and face all obstacles in these challenging times. More people can heal if they can feel God's presence daily."

This painting gives one an opportunity to be revived. The great wave splashes, bursts outward to capture your attention and the attention of our suffering world (globally).

God's healing powers soothe, reassure and yet excite the viewers' own imagination. This wave (God) reaches out to all of you - everyone - to arouse you from your unconscious sleep. No one is left out from receiving God's healing energy and love. All puzzles get solved. All becomes crystal clear.

Contact Karen at <karenharris998@gmail.com> for any inquiries for prints and original paintings.

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Gina Santucci - Artist



Originally from Rochester, New York but now a Midwesterner based in Manhattan. My work is inspired by the love of color and landscape, and the possibilities inherent in watercolor, mixed media, and photography. Through color, I am focused on exploring feeling and memory. I have shown my work primarily in the Lower East Side, but you can find me on Instagram @santucci610 and Pinterest as Snowwavepine.

“8 Gramercy Park” 11 x 14 Watercolor

Joan Silinsh - Photographer



Joan did not actively pursue photography until her retirement. By contrast, in her childhood in Mexico, her father, an educator, was an independent film producer documenting the country's culture and screening his films in the United States for ten years.

In her 35-year career with McGraw-Hill (now S&P Global), Joan held various management positions. Her last post was as Director of Advertising and Promotion for two magazines in the construction field - ENR (Engineering News-Record) and Design-Build.

As an avid traveler, photography has enabled Joan to capture memories of the countries she has visited. Besides travel photos, she uses her camera to showcase the variety and beauty of flowers.

Joan studied photography in courses offered by Greenwich House and the Senior Center at St. Peter's Church. She has exhibited her photographs at several Greenwich House art competitions, Su Casa Creative Center and Marble Collegiate. For a number of years she volunteered at Greenwich House's Center on the Square taking photos of events and outings.

Joan has produced numerous photo books documenting her travels, and she also uses her photos to design her own greeting cards.

Joan recently relocated to Sarasota, Florida, and is setting her sights on new photo opportunities. She recently exhibited her photographs at Bay Village's Inspirational Art gallery.

Photographs: “Lilies – Messengers of Emotions”

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Margery Westin – Photographer



As a teenager it was fun to experiment with an old camera of my Dad's, creating double-exposure photos. Serving as the candid photographer for the yearbook in high school was also enjoyable.

Photography remained just a hobby until the age of thirty-seven, when I found out I had a 25% chance of losing my remaining 50% of hearing due to Meniere's syndrome. With that scary possibility, I became intent on building my photography skills. During work vacations, I would take week-long classes with established professional photographers all over the country, creating images of pets, people or locations and studying composition, lighting, posing and marketing.

When my full-time merchandising position was moved to South Carolina in the late 1990's, an SBA sponsored class on starting a small business was helpful. I joined the PPA (Professional Photographers of America) and attended monthly meetings of the WPPA (Westchester PPA). Marketing myself for 5 years as a portrait photographer, I specialized in Pets, Children and Families.

Now retired, my iPhone is my camera of choice, and my subject is whatever captures my eye. However, four-legged subjects will always be my favorite. mwestinpix@aol.com

Photographs: "Chelsea Parks" "Midtown NoGo" "Sew Soho"

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