

Arts Ministry Lent Exhibit
“Light and Hope - The Journey of Lent”
February 17 – April 2, 2021

Artist Bios

Diane M. Aramony - Painter

Diane M. Aramony is a self-taught artist with a love of flowers. After her mother passed away in 2014, she began experimenting with dried flowers. Her deeply personal mixed media images are three-dimensional. Through her use of paint with flowers and leaves, she creates a unique textured language. The visual effects of her work are suffused with brilliant, often startling hues, with strokes of colors and flowers that unfold slowly to reveal bits and pieces of what is recognizable, but at the same time mysterious and spiritual.

Diane’s paintings have been included in gallery shows in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Marble Summer Arts Festival is the first showing of her work in New York City. She has attended Marble Collegiate Church for 17 years and lives in New York City.

“Bright Sadness” – acrylic and mixed media

Ron Becker



rbeckerart.com

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.

As Lent is a time for reflection and renewal, I offer “Into The Light”.

"Standing in shadow, darkness surrounds me but does not overtake, for the light beyond beckons me, calling and filling me with hope and peace."

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Hellen Cha-Kim - Painter



Figure, Portrait and landscape painter; studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and also received M.Div (Master in Divinity) in Princeton Theological Seminary.

Her works have been exhibited in museums and galleries, including the Harrisburg State Museum, Woodmere Museum, and the Artist house, PA.

She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Irma H. Cook Prize for excellence in drawing, Thouron Prize for excellence in composition, Earl T. Donelson Figure Painting Award, the Charles J. Frith, Jr., Landscape Purchase Prize at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

She has been on the faculty at Alvernia University from 2007 to 2016 and an art director at Albert Conservatory from 1994 to 2015.

Artist statement: The best reward for being an artist is living an exciting life by seeing the world around me more attentively and analytically. As nature reveals to me, a little bit at a time, the interesting relation between form, color, tone and energy, I am amazed and become more thankful for the world we have been given.

With a classical art education background, I have focused on oil painting figures including self-portraits. Also I gradually broadened my interest to landscape, to still life, and to water colors. I am a student of the nature and from it I am able to learn “how I should paint” rather than “what I should paint.”

I am currently a full time working artist in Jersey City, NJ. I look forward continuing to serve my community through visual art.

Chris Chalfant



Chris Chalfant is a composer, musician and multi-genre artist living in New York. She was encouraged by art teachers early in life, winning an honorable mention for a line drawing at age 13. Her art teacher would say that 80% of learning to do art is learning how to see.

Chalfant’s studies in learning how to “see” and her connection to nature are the driving force behind her creative work. Most of Chalfant’s professional work has been as a composer, improviser and music educator. You can find her artwork on the original recording “New’d Music” and on the cover of “Books of Unstandards,” a collection of original compositions by Chalfant.

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Karen Harris - Semi-Realist Visual Artist



Karen was a participating painter and decorative ceramist at the Upper West Side 96th street Community Mall for almost 10 years. She has exhibited in shows at the renowned Art Student's League in midtown Manhattan and at Marble Collegiate Church, where her work has been seen via live streaming throughout the United States and abroad.

Karen likes quiet hours to paint and private time; riding her bike by the river inspires her even more toward painting nature and the river. Most of her ideas arise spontaneously although she plans and creates a structure for diversity in her scenes much like actors preparing for their part in a play or when singers write their own songs; there are varied tonalities, color and textures in each creation that stir the emotions and inspire the viewer in a unique way.

Karen's subject matter is heartfelt and in the moment. She feels very connected to divine sources trusting God's presence through her process. Painting when directly in nature's embrace most inspires her poetic sensibilities.

"Starry Night" - acrylic on canvas

"River Pathway" - acrylic on canvas

Feel free to contact Karen at the following email address: Karenharris998@gmail.com

Leon Nicholas Kalas – Curator, Artist

Studio ONE49, Brooklyn, New York



Painting to me is a life force not a career. My work consist mostly of figurative and portrait paintings, however, I do experiment in various art movements; pure abstract, abstract expressionism, minimalism, symbolism, and conceptualism. All art movements interest me. I have studied portraiture and human anatomy at the New York academy of Art, the Art Students League of New York, and FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology). My work has been exhibited extensively in New York , Maryland galleries, Rabat, Morocco, Aiud, Rumania, Trinidad, Cuba, Port Au Prince, Haiti and the Rep. of Georgia. In June of 2005 one of my paintings was exhibited at the

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Metropolitan museum of Art in New York. On May of 2011 I was exhibited in Cuba at the invitation of the Ministry of culture. My work is collected throughout the United States, Europe, Morocco, Canada, and the Caribbean. My work is also in the library of Congress, the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, AK, the Ministry of Culture in Bucharest, Romania, the Museul de Art in Cluz-Napoca, Romania, Royal Collection of Morocco, the royal collection of HRH King of Greece, The Historical Society of Hartford County, MD, and Musio National, Los Santos, Panama . I have been published in NYArt magazine, Boheme magazine, Paris, France, Brooklyn Fine Art magazine, A book on CONTEMPORARY PAINTINGS www.blurb.com/b/8452825-contemporary-paintings, JOURNAL OF THE ARTIST www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/2427685: MODERN PAINTINGS www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/2153386, and various newspapers such as Caribbean News, The Brooklyn Eagle and the Brooklyn Currier. I have participated in art Symposiums for cultural exchanges in Morocco, Romania, Cuba, Haiti, and the Rep. of Georgia, formerly the USSR. Important portraits that I have painted are for actors Sidney Poitier and Tony Curtis, fashion designer Valentino Garavani, US Senator Roland Borris, His Majesty, Mohammed VI King of Morocco, HRH King Constantine of Greece, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Harry Belafonte, Ultra Violet (Andy Warhol’s Superstar.) the Minister of Culture, in Port Au Prince, Haiti. Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush.

Websites: www.leonkalas.com | www.leonkalas.com/video

Victoria Pepe (PEPE LuminSonics)



Victoria Pepe is a life long multimedia artist, composer and creator of artistic video and VR presentations. As a self taught artist, with a wide range of skills and talents, she creates fine line complex, harmonious, geometric drawings, paintings, sculptures, photography; her videos often include her music. She works in both analogue and digital media. As a fine artist, Pepe's foundation for her images is her free hand unique style sacred geometric drawings and paintings. She is also adept using computer art programs. She lives and creates in Manhattan and is founder of LuminSonics Inc. Her music (known as Pepe LuminSonics) is in world wide distribution.

Pepe's drawings, paintings, photos, animations and multimedia productions have been exhibited nationally, including shows in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and California. Victoria has exhibited in venues and galleries such as The Ballet Shop and Gallery Lincoln Center; Metropolitan Opera Gift Shop ; Long Island Arts Festival;The Audio-Video and Film Festival Gallery X; Gallery 49; Digital Bridges at the Westbeth Gallery Digital Arts Video Show; The Godseye Exhibit; Artexpo at the Javits Center; The

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Visionary Arts Festival at The Palace of Fine Arts San Francisco; The Arts Renewal Program and The Film/Video Showcase at the Marble Collegiate Arts Showcases. She also exhibited at The Atlantic City Art Center, New Jersey; The LGTripp Gallery, Philadelphia, Pa.; The Marble Summer arts festival; The Marble Pop Up Art Exhibit and the Advent – the art of waiting” Marble Art Exhibit; exhibits on the Marble Wall of Healing; solo exhibit The Living Room Gallery with Midtown Arts Common and St. Peter's Church. She recently created the video presentation for Advent, and the very new VR "Christmas Spirit" and "We've Come this Far By Faith" art shows online for the Marble Arts Ministry. As an accomplished composer, she creates the music that accompanies many of her art/music videos. She also composed music for educational and documentary videos: The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The University of the Arts, Pa The Philadelphia School ,The McKinney Gallery, Pa. Victoria has professional experience in design, theater and media for: Vivian Beaumont Theater, Lincoln Center, scenic design; Metropolitan Opera Gift Shop, designed gifts at Lincoln Center; Westbury Music Fair, Long Island, props and properties; AIS (J. Walter Thompson) TV quality and content control.

As a photographer she has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, Life of the City; Our Flag, Grace Gallery; and the Ritz Broadway Window Photo Exhibit, NYC.

Her sculptures have been shown at Roger LaPelle Galleries, Philadelphia. Pepe's art is also in and private studios and showcases.

Considered a truly multidisciplinary visionary artist, Pepe's life long spiritual quest forms a foundation for her artistic expressions and concepts. Concerning her art and music she states, “Creating connects me to something beyond myself. It is a meditation and a timeless place of profound peace and transcendence. I connect to a higher Source which creates through me. It is hoped that this transcendent transformative energy is conveyed to those who view and hear my work.” In the Philadelphia City Paper art review of Pepe's virtual video painting on exhibit at the LG Tripp Gallery, Robin Rice writes that her video art is "a truly artful night light". Victoria hopes her creative expressions help spread the Light.

For the Marble Art presentation "Light and Hope - the Journey of Lent" Victoria created the VR with images from various artists from the Arts Ministry. Victoria expresses principles of faith through her poem and art/music video "Journey". The video is an animated 3d cube with a flowers framing 9 words representing these concepts during this journey of faith. Her music accompanying this video is an excerpt from "Journey of a Rose Petal on a Stream" from her music album "Reflections: Pepe Piano # 1-11".(found on Amazon, Apple Music, YouTube Music, Spotify)

Contact Victoria and visit her website www.LuminSonics.com

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Douglas Powers - photographer

I see evocative scenes whenever I travel across landscapes and encounter people interacting with nature. Pope Francis recently described artists as “Apostles of beauty.” That phrase resonates deeply within me. That is my goal with this photograph.

“The Winter Family” 16” x 20” printed on canvas

Joan Silinsh - Photographer



Joan did not actively pursue photography until her retirement. By contrast, in her childhood her father, an educator, was an independent film producer documenting the culture of Mexico 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 & Promotion for two magazines in construction - 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 recently completed a photography course at Greenwich House and is currently participating in another photo course at the Senior Center at St. Peter’s Church. She has exhibited her photographs at two Greenwich House art competitions, and she volunteers 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.

“Sculpture of Jesus on the Cross” 8” x 10” photograph

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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

“Look Up... See the Light” - Photograph

“Reflection” - Photograph