

ISLIP ART MUSEUM ARTS COUNCIL

at historic Brookwood Hall

ART AT 50 PLUS - NEW BEGINNINGS

PRESS KIT

To arrange an interview with Curator Holly Gordon, please contact her at:
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CONTENTS

1. Press Release
2. Production Team
3. Selections from the Exhibition - Woodin and McArdle
4. Selections from the Exhibition - Campbell, Sabatte and Guarino

Watch the Virtual Exhibition, http://www.islipartmuseum.org/2020_Vshow_50.html

View Exhibition Gallery, http://www.islipartmuseum.org/2020_Vshow_50_a-c.html



<https://www.facebook.com/IslipArtMuseum>



<https://www.instagram.com/isliparts>



<https://www.youtube.com/c/IslipArtsLive>

September 15, 2020



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PRESS RELEASE



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ART AT 50 PLUS: NEW BEGINNINGS
Announces the Opening of its 2020 Virtual Exhibition
September 15th through November 7th

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – New York, NY, September 15, 2020, The Islip Arts Council (IAC) and the Islip Art Museum (IAM), sponsored by AARP Long Island, are pleased to announce the opening of *Art at 50 Plus - NEW BEGINNINGS, a Virtual Exhibition* presented online at http://www.islipartmuseum.org/2020_Vshow_50.html, September 15th through November 7th.

Bernard Macias, AARP Associate State Director for Long Island requested IAC to stage the 2020 virtual exhibit and activities, after its successful show in 2019. "It is times like these that organizations can help members of the public cope with social isolation and loneliness," said Mr. Macias. "Art and creativity can help improve or maintain our emotional wellness, while dealing with constant change."

Holly Gordon, Islip Arts Curator, has taken this exhibition to new heights to achieve an intimacy beyond expectation. She masterfully wove a cohesive visual story that includes the art and narrations of 100 juried works, selected from nearly 600 submissions, to create a moving exhibition that awes and inspires the viewers with discovery and renewed hope and a sense of unity for new beginnings. Ms. Gordon declares, "They really do occur on a daily basis. Art is a wonder drug and seniors are our country's greatest asset."

As Holly planned the virtual exhibition, within her own COVID-19 isolation, nearly 600 artists were experiencing similar challenges learning to adapt to new technologies. "All are to be commended. By doing so, a community of artists connected. The experience turned this virtual exhibit into an intimate and personal experience," said Holly. You may find the video, produced by superb videographer, Waldo Cabrera, an extraordinary production of inspirational art.

The subject NEW BEGINNINGS took on a new meaning for the artists, creating during the COVID-19 lockdown. This virtual exhibition is limited to 100 works, selected from 600 submissions. The work selected was required to encompass New York State, people age 50 - 90+, and all levels of artistry from beginners to life-long artists. IAC, IAM and AARP hope you enjoy the art, musical soundtrack and personal narrations of the artists.

Medium: Animation, pencil drawing, painting, pastel, watercolor, mixed media – assemblage and collage, fabric and felt, photography, digital painting, gouache on paper

Overall, the exhibition represents positivity through self-challenge, transformation and renewal. Many topics are covered by the artists, including:

- Achievement, the gift of time and awareness, optimism, Inspiration, keeping the creative process alive, art as a second act, enduring the pandemic and coming out with renewed vigor and determination
- Collaboration, staying connected amid prolonged isolation
- Symbolism, emotion, imagination, therapy, meditation and healing
- Fear, financial insecurity
- Faith, hope, gratitude
- Political subject matter, George Floyd - portrait and breath, Judaism, religion, equality, fellowship and social change for racial justice, humanity
- Earth, nature, seasons of change - Spring and Autumn Landscapes, weather, trees, plants, flowers, pollination, wind, water, fire, sand, tide, light, sun and moon
- Humor, happiness, joy, love, rhythm, dancing
- Beauty, youth, age, wisdom, birth and rebirth, reproduction of species, ascension
- Family, friends, future generations, and the dawn of a new day after lockdown

Click here to experience Art at 50 Plus - NEW BEGINNINGS Exhibition 2020 https://islipartmuseum.org/2020_Vshow_50.html, be prepared to be wowed by this "fireside" experience, while listening to the artists narrate their work.

EVENTS: All of the following events will be presented on ZOOM, for up-to-date information go to https://islipartmuseum.org/2020_Vshow_50.html

Opening Reception: Oct 4, 2-4pm / CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE ZOOM RECEPTION
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4654432677?pwd=M2c0Uk1INEx1OWQweGpnODk1Z0tMdz09>

Meeting ID: 465 443 2677
Password: 122583

Closing Reception & Book Talk: Nov 7, 2-4pm
Meet the authors of: "Parallel Perspectives: Art of Collaboration"
<http://www.hollygordonphotographer.com/parallel-perspectives-book/>

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ART AT 50 PLUS - NEW BEGINNINGS PRODUCTION TEAM



Curator: Holly Gordon selected 100 works and statements from nearly 600 artists to weave into a cohesive exhibition.

https://isliparts.org/artist_gordon.html

holly@hollygordonphotographer.com

<http://www.hollygordonphotographer.com>

<http://www.hollygordonphotographer.com/parallel-perspectives-book/>



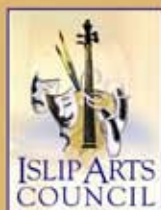
Videographer: Waldo Cabrera set the works of art to music to turn the virtual exhibit into something extraordinary.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/waldocabrera>

mylitv@gmail.com

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SELECTIONS FROM THE EXHIBITION - WOODIN AND MCARDLE



Karen Woodin, 62
OUTREACH OVER TROUBLED WATERS/Oil Painting
Waterford, NY / kwoodin@nycap.rr.com

This painting portrays our strength with the extended branch as the focal point. The wear and tear markings on the bark signify courage to find new ways. The branch also symbolizes signs of new growth while the water's ebb and flow symbolize the many changes that are ahead. The tranquil background color assures that we will get through this together. This new beginnings painting symbolizes the importance to prevail branch out, and stay connected as we go forward.

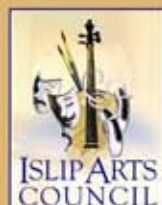
Kathleen McArdle, 80
ROUGH SEAS/Acrylic
Sound Beach, NY / kmcardle40@hotmail.com

My work embodies my belief that we will rise out of the chaos, fear and despair of this trying time, and that our children especially will regain a future of hope, happiness and achievement.



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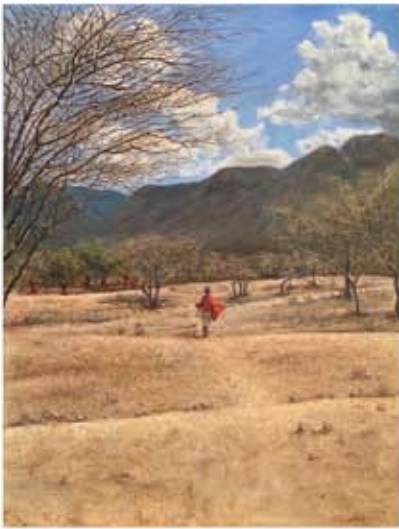
Hi-Res images available on request. Contact Holly Gordon 631.666.8841 holly.isliparts@gmail.com



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ART AT 50 PLUS - NEW BEGINNINGS SELECTIONS FROM THE EXHIBITION - CAMPBELL, SABATTE AND GUARINO



Jennifer Campbell, 64
MEMORY OF A KENYAN WOMAN/Oil Paint
New York, NY / jencbell@aol.com

Soon after I started this piece I came down with Covid. As I lay on the sofa gazing at my partially completed painting (the figure of a young black woman just lightly sketched in) a wave of racial justice protests swept our nation. When I was well and picked up my brushes again, I was inspired to paint her walking her path with strength and independence. And just as she wouldn't break her stride, I would not let nature defeat me. I would start my life again, with renewed vigor and determination.



Frank Sabatte, 69
ASCARED IN A BOAT / Embroidery, applique
New York, NY / fpsabatte@gmail.com

This work is based on a photograph taken of my father, age 6, on a boat in the year 1918, the year of the Spanish flu. At the top of the photo my father wrote (in a child's handwriting) "Ascarded in a Boat". This work is significant in these times when we are all ascared in a boat. We will never return to normal but we will, if we can see in this our connection to all people, enter a new beginning ...like a growing boy



Jan Guarino, 64
I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER FOR YOU
Watercolor
East Nortport, NY / jan@janguarinofineart.com

In a tiny church in Tuscany I saw this image as a potential subject for a new painting. I just loved the lighting of the flicker of the candles and the hand reaching out to light a candle. When everything happened to us in March and people were suffering, it just took on an entirely different meaning. When we light a candle and say a prayer we are looking for something to transition into a better understanding and new beginning.

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