The year 2020 will be forever etched in our minds as a year of unfathomable, unexpected change in every area of our lives. Our thoughts remain with the individuals and communities most deeply affected by the COVID-19 crisis. However, some things in life don’t change. Our love and appreciation of the Arts are among them.

Looking back to last summer, we began FY20 on a high note having closed the previous fiscal year with a $327,687 result after depreciation. That was our 3rd consecutive year of positive results, helping to rebuild our reserves and create financial sustainability.

In the Fall, we opened HeART & Mind; a major exhibition that explored the healing power of art and brought together works by an exceptional array of artists who explored mental health issues and celebrated the resilience of the human spirit. Uplifting programs accompanying the exhibition engaged the community in conversations, performances, and presentations led by experts in visual thinking as well as art, music, and dance therapy. Special thanks goes to The New Canaan Community Foundation for generously supporting the exhibition and programming.

On the Outreach front, we amplified our fundraising efforts to further our mission and expand community programming to greater numbers of underserved youth. Silvermine was awarded a $25,000 grant from the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation to expand our Art Partners programs into the Bridgeport Public Schools (BPS). Alicia Robinson, Director of Performing and Visual Arts says of our collaboration, “The Silvermine Arts Center and BPS partnership is an exciting opportunity and I look forward to realizing organizational goals by helping Bridgeport Public School students excel academically through collaboration, arts integrated teaching and multi-modal learning experiences.” Our studio art programs will fully engage students and advance critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration, supporting better academic achievement and life skills.

With the year nearing an end, we were confident that FY20 would have a positive result. Then COVID-19 struck and forced our closure. While we could have remained shut down, we felt strongly about connecting and accessible to our community. Art sparks creativity, heals the spirit, and brings us together.

So during the time we were temporarily closed, we went to work utilizing every resource to reconnect with our community. We pivoted the Gallery to Virtual Exhibitions – offering multidisciplinary courses and workshops via Zoom. Students of all ages and skill levels enjoyed classes taught by our esteemed instructors from the comfort and safety of their homes. Our success with the classes has led to their becoming an integral part of the curriculum.

And we proudly announced representation of Guild Artists on artnet, the online leader in global art and gallery representation. Silvermine now joins major NYC, London and Hong Kong Galleries in worldwide prestige. These were just some of our extraordinary accomplishments before we safely and successfully reopened in July. I am deeply grateful and proud of our staff and instructors for their dedication and perseverance. They work diligently and creatively to accomplish our mission, even though we are critically under resourced. And yet they make it happen and are deserving of much applause.

I also want to thank our Board of Trustees for the exceptional leadership they have shown under the most difficult circumstances, and express my appreciation to all our generous supporters. Together, we look to the future knowing that Silvermine will be a constant in our community.

With sincere gratitude,

Barbara Linarducci
Chief Executive Officer
of individuals, many of whom are pottery students.

Our excitement came to a halt in mid-March with the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Although the school closed to the public, the staff worked remotely to transition course offerings to an online learning platform. Instructors taught a wide variety of classes and workshops including painting, drawing, printmaking, puppetry, photography, animation, and more. Participation from students came locally, nationally and even internationally.

We took advantage of the empty campus to “spruce up” the studios with fresh paint and a deep cleaning. Moreover, our print studio now has new windows made possible by generous donations at last year’s Gala Awards Benefit and the efforts of our Board member, Joe Kais.

At the end of June, we happily and safely welcomed back our students for in-person Summer Art Studios and Summer Adult courses. Even with capacity restrictions, over 500 students of all ages attended classes, wearing masks, socially distancing and following prescribed CDC and State Guidelines.

Many normally in-studio classes and activities moved outdoors. We added additional plein-air painting classes taking advantage of our pastoral campus during the warm weather.

While today’s world might look and feel different from last year, Silvermine has been successful in remaining a constant in people’s lives by keeping our students inspired and motivated through their passion for visual art.

The School of Art continues its legacy of award-winning art education with over 5,000 annual enrollments (ages 4 to 94) in all levels of art proficiency from beginner to advanced. With over 1,100 courses, workshops and youth programs held throughout the year it provides a nurturing environment – unstructured enough to encourage creativity, yet disciplined enough to provide a solid foundation.

Renowned plein-air artist and lecturer Jill Steenhuis from Aix-en-Provence, France, offered a special two-day color workshop and lecture about Van Gogh at the School. Jill has exhibited in solo shows in major American cities, as well as in Aix-en-Provence and Paris. Her work is part of the permanent collections of several museums and private collections in America and in France. Jill served as the Cézanne specialist for the Smithsonian Institute for the 100th anniversary of the painter’s death and has served as a Cézanne and Van Gogh specialist for several institutions including the Oakland Museum (California), the Clarke Art Institute, the High Museum of Atlanta, and the Harvard University Museum.

We celebrated the inaugural firing of our new custom-built Soda Kiln. (Soda firing has a unique and beautiful finish that can’t be imitated.) The event was the culmination of a 5-year project made possible by funding from Silvermine and generous donations.

Guidelines.

Make cultural connections.
Make geographic leaps. And while you’re at it, make art.
The Soda kiln was constructed by internationally known ceramicist, author, and teacher, Bruce Denhear. The first firing was conducted by Bruce along with our pottery instructors. “The Soda kiln at Silvermine elevates our pottery program greatly. The unique rich surfaces and glaze effects provided by the kiln are unparalleled. With only a few similar kilns in the Tristate area, Silvermine Arts Center will capture clay artists’ attention from a wider radius ensuring the continued success of our long renowned pottery department,” said Studio Manager Jon Puzzuoli.
Outreach Education

Silvermine

original art works through video conferencing with poise and respect for each other. The exchange opened their world to making new friends in places that are not as foreign as we may have originally thought.

We are grateful for the continued support of our Corporate and Foundation sponsors: Hearst Foundation, Colgate-Palmolive Company, Newman’s Own Foundation, Bedford Social Responsibility Fund, George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation, and Bankwell as well as the generous support of individuals who enable us to continue these important programs.

“Breathe With Me” line paintings with emphasis on the air we breathe and how it connects each of us to a larger world. “Breathe with Me” is an ongoing, multifaceted global art project by Jeppe Hein and ART 2030 to bring the entire world together with one simple, universal action: breathing. It inspires engagement that is impactful in a multitude of ways to see how the world can breathe together for a better future. The project gave each person the opportunity to become more aware of their surroundings while having a deeper understanding of how we are all interconnected.

Art Academy

In partnership with STAR, Inc., Silvermine continues its “ArtAcademy” Program to benefit people with disabilities. ArtAcademy taps into the transformative power of art for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by engaging them in a variety of art classes in an inclusive setting on Silvermine’s campus as well as through remote “Zoom” lessons. This program was made possible by generous contributions from the Horizon Foundation and the Sidney Weiner Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Creative Connections

To Russia With Love… With funding provided by Colgate, the students at Nathan Hale Middle School participated in a Creative Connections cultural exchange program with students from Ryazan, Russia. Exploring the intricacies of the topic “Our Environment, Our Culture” both sides of the ocean shared.

With paint, clay, paper, and willing hands, we’re building bridges one step at a time.

Art Partners

Art Partners programs strive to close Connecticut’s educational achievement gap – one of the largest in the nation – by providing access to the arts through uniquely designed programs that target critical student needs. We work with community partners to bring curriculum-based enrichment to over 1,100 students annually in under-resourced schools throughout Fairfield County. Building on the concept that art transcends race, language, and socio-economic status; our programs create a level playing field leading a pathway to success.

Highlights of this year:

* With a grant from the Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, Art Partners expanded its reach into Bridgeport, connecting with four public schools to offer much-needed programming.
* Silvermine Elementary, a Dual Language Magnet School and a lead SEL (social-emotional learning) school, reached a milestone this year with the 20th anniversary of their 5th grade mural project. The mural is a parting gift to the school and a legacy that remains as the students move on.
* Norwalk Housing Authority youth went a step further this year with their Poetry & Visual Arts Program by connecting to the UN initiative ART 2030. Participants created meditative original art works through video conferencing with poise and respect for each other. The exchange opened their world to making new friends in places that are not as foreign as we may have originally thought.

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Walk your way through a goldmine of artistic expression. And feel free to talk about it.

The Gallerie present relevant, visually compelling art exhibitions, accompanied by programs and events, to heighten appreciation and understanding of art and its role in society. Our inclusive approach encompasses programming tailored to make our exhibitions meaningful and accessible to diverse audiences of every age and background. Distinguished guest curators jury many of our landmark exhibitions. All of our installations use art to create opportunities for learning and provide a venue for broadening participation across media, disciplines, cultures and contexts.

On the following pages, we proudly display selected highlights from each of these exhibitions. We invite you to walk through and enjoy this wide array of talent!

The Show Must Go On… When the Stay at Home order was signed by the Governor, the galleries were just closing one exhibition and in the midst of receiving artwork for the national FIBER 2020 show.

Wanting to remain engaged with our audience during this period of isolation, we knew we had to open the exhibition online and immediately went to work redesigning our website to accommodate the new “virtual” experience. We expanded the gallery pages to include images of all artwork as well as audio clips from the curator and interviews with the exhibiting artists. We honed our skills and thought of new ways to share the exhibition on social media platforms. The behind the scenes work of unpacking and installing almost 80 pieces of artwork was shared on our Instagram and Facebook pages, keeping our followers engaged during installation. We also launched a video series called Virtual PechaKucha’s on our new YouTube channel, where each artist tells a visually compelling story about their creative process.

These past several months have highlighted Silvermine’s resilience and perseverance in a trying time for our community. We have and will continue to work towards the larger goal of supporting and cultivating a passionate and talented community of artists while keeping everyone in that community, and beyond, connected with one another and safe and healthy.

Highlights of this year:

‘Summer Salon’ Guild Exhibition
July 6 – August 21, 2019

69th AONE
September 7 – October 18, 2019

HeART & Mind
October 31, 2019 – January 12, 2020

New Members Exhibition
January 19 – February 15, 2020

Fiber 2020
April 4 – July 8

View the exhibitions on our website: www.silvermineart.org/galleries/
'Summer Salon' Guild Exhibition
July 6 – August 21, 2019
This prestigious exhibition, juried by Paul Efstathiou, Director of Contemporary Art, Hollis Taggart, NY, celebrated once again, an accomplished group of more than 130 painters, sculptors, printmakers, collage and mixed media artists from our national roster of Guild Artist members.

View the exhibition on our website: silvermineart.org/exhibition/silvermine-guild-summer-salon/
69th AONE

September 7 – October 18, 2019

This exhibition is an annual, national competition highlighting the diversity of work that is currently being made by established and emerging artists. AONE spotlights contemporary trends and new explorations across various media. Curated by Bill Carroll, Director of the Studio Program, The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts.

View the exhibition on our website: silvermineart.org/exhibition/69th-aone/
HeART & Mind
October 31, 2019 – January 12, 2020
This exhibition and accompanying programs engaged our community in conversations about mental health and the healing power of art. It opened a window to creativity and well-being by bringing together works by an exceptional array of artists who are exploring mental health issues—intimacy and inwardness, inclusion and exclusion, anxiety and serenity, love and loss, addiction and recovery, and the yearning to understand and accept ourselves and to connect in an authentic way to those around us.

View the exhibition on our website: silvermineart.org/exhibition/heart-mind/
Fiber 2020
April 4 – July 8, 2020
This exhibition showcased the best of contemporary fiber art and reflected a breadth of functional and non-functional works that use natural fiber and/or high tech materials in traditional or innovative ways. Curated by Beth C. McLaughlin, Chief Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, MA.

View the exhibition on our website silvermineart.org/online-exhibition/fiber-2020/
Sadly, each year we lose some of our cherished artists. This year, we honor six distinguished members who made a lasting impression in and to our community. Their work, shown below, highlights the many talents of our Guild Artists.

We continue to honor our heritage by expanding the borders of our contemporary exhibitions to include recognized emerging artists from across the United States to exhibit at Silvermine. These exhibitions highlight current art trends and broaden the community’s understanding and appreciation of art by bringing some of the most influential pundits in contemporary art to Fairfield County.

New Members
Each year the Guild is honored to welcome into its ranks a competitively selected group of new artist members. Since its inception, Guild membership has been a juried process based on the quality of the artists’ submitted works and professional achievements. Our Guild members have attained a superior level of technical and creative accomplishment as demonstrated by numerous group and solo exhibitions, awards, publications, commercial gallery representation and inclusion in museum and corporate collections. This year 56 new members were selected in a wide range of artistic media. “This exhibition showcases Silvermine’s newest members’ exploration of materials, arresting captures of nature’s forms and patterns, vibrant use of color and light, and singular re-imaginings of the figure in sculptural and painted form,” said Roger Mudre, Gallery Director at Silvermine. “We’re delighted to welcome such a strong new group to the Guild.”

Since 1906 when visionary sculptor Solon Borglum moved to Silvermine and held annual exhibitions in his studio and weekly critiques called the Knockers Club, Silvermine has been a place for artists to gather.

In 1922 The Silvermine Guild of Artists was formed and later incorporated as a not-for-profit to provide a permanency to the community of artists. Silvermine has a 98-year reputation of exhibiting and involving art luminaries such as Joseph Albers, Gabor Peterdi, Milton Avery, Elaine deKooning, Clement Greenberg, Louise Nevelson, Larry Rivers, Jeanne-Claude and Christo, James Rosenquist, Chuck Close, Philip Johnson—and the list goes on.

Today, the Guild is comprised of over 300 professional artists who enhance and change the way we experience art. Widely respected and highly collectible, their multi-disciplined work can often be viewed in Gallery exhibitions.

In Memoriam
Hans Fischer
Sergio Gonzales-Tornero
Jak Kovatch
Enid Monroe
Dale Reinker
Louise Stern

It’s still a place where artists’ imaginations and visions rule.
New Members Exhibition
January 19 – February 15, 2020
This exhibition highlights the work of 56 new members who have recently been juried into this dynamic artistic community of over 300 professional artists. Many of its members have work represented in permanent collections of some of the world’s most prestigious museums, as well as prominent, private and corporate collections.

View the exhibition on our website: silvermineart.org/exhibition/new-members-show
Annual Gifts

Christian Griles
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$10,000 - $19,999

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Paul Gala

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Florence Zolan

“Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine, and at last, you create what you will.”

George Bernard Shaw

Thank you for being an important part of Silvermine and sharing in our vision for the future.

Our Donors are vital to our success and we greatly appreciate your continued support.

Silvermine
Financial Summary

Silvermine entered FY20 in a strong position. Carrying the momentum of FY19’s record setting net income of $327,687, we projected a fourth consecutive year of positive results enabling us to build back needed reserves. However, our progress was abruptly derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the crisis, Silvermine closed to the public in mid-March resulting in a 100% shutdown of all revenues. Our annual Gala, which is crucial in raising funds, was also cancelled. Last year’s FY19 Gala netted over $170k. This year $0. We finished the year with an operating deficit of ($101,519) after depreciation directly due to the shutdown.

Despite the uncertainty, the Board and management agreed to reopen our campus to in-person classes strictly following Covid-19 guidelines. However, this called for significant expenditures for air filtration and cleaning while operating at less than 50% capacity.

We would not have been able to weather the crisis this far had we not been building back our reserves over the last three fiscal years. We are doing everything possible to sustain daily operations and provide services to our community. We sincerely hope that FY21 will represent a much brighter future for us all.

Silvermine Arts Center received an unqualified opinion of its financial statements by its independent auditor, Berkow, Schechter & Company LLP. Full audited financial statements are available at the Silvermine Administrative Offices.

Functional Expense Distribution

Silvermine is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

Silvermine is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization
Grounded in the belief that art is vital to the spirit, creativity, and wholeness of human beings, the mission of Silvermine Arts Center is to cultivate and encourage growth through the arts; to promote and showcase artists; and to provide arts education opportunities for the greater community.