

Fiscal Year July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023

Silvermine

Annual Report

Silvermine Arts Center





# Silvermine

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Board of Trustees  
Institutional Partners

### *On our cover:*

Susan Clinard, *The Weight We Carry*  
(detail), from the Narrations Exhibition

### *This page:*

Mary Tooley Parker

### *Page 3:*

*Guthrie's Pond on our back campus*

## Letter from CEO



The Silvermine Arts Center has long been considered the fabric of the community it serves, weaving together creativity, education, and cultural enrichment. Our renowned arts center has been a catalyst for artistic expression, community engagement, and artistic growth for over a century.

Since its founding in 1922, Silvermine has continuously evolved to meet the changing needs of its community. From its humble beginnings as a small group of artists gathering to exhibit their works, it has grown into a multidimensional arts organization that offers a diverse range of programs and services.

One of the key aspects that makes Silvermine so integral to the community is its commitment to arts education. The center offers an extensive array of classes, workshops, and lectures for people of all ages and skill levels. From children to adults, beginners to experienced artists, the center provides a supportive and nurturing environment for individuals to explore their artistic talents and develop new skills. And, through our educational outreach programs, Silvermine fosters creativity, critical thinking, and self-expression,

empowering individuals to find their voice and contribute to the cultural fabric of the community.

In addition to its educational initiatives, Silvermine plays a vital role in promoting cultural diversity and artistic excellence. The center hosts a wide range of exhibitions, showcasing the works of local, national, and internationally acclaimed artists. These exhibitions not only provide a platform for artists to share their creations with the public but also expose the community to a variety of artistic styles, techniques, and perspectives. By celebrating diversity and fostering a dialogue between artists and the audience, Silvermine cultivates a vibrant and inclusive arts community that reflects the rich tapestry of the region.

Silvermine also serves as a hub for artistic collaboration and community engagement. It regularly organizes events and programs that bring artists, community members, and art enthusiasts together. Whether it's artist talks, open studios, or community outreach initiatives, the center creates opportunities for meaningful interactions and connections.

These events not only promote the appreciation of art but also strengthen the social fabric of the community by fostering a sense of belonging, shared experiences, and collective pride.

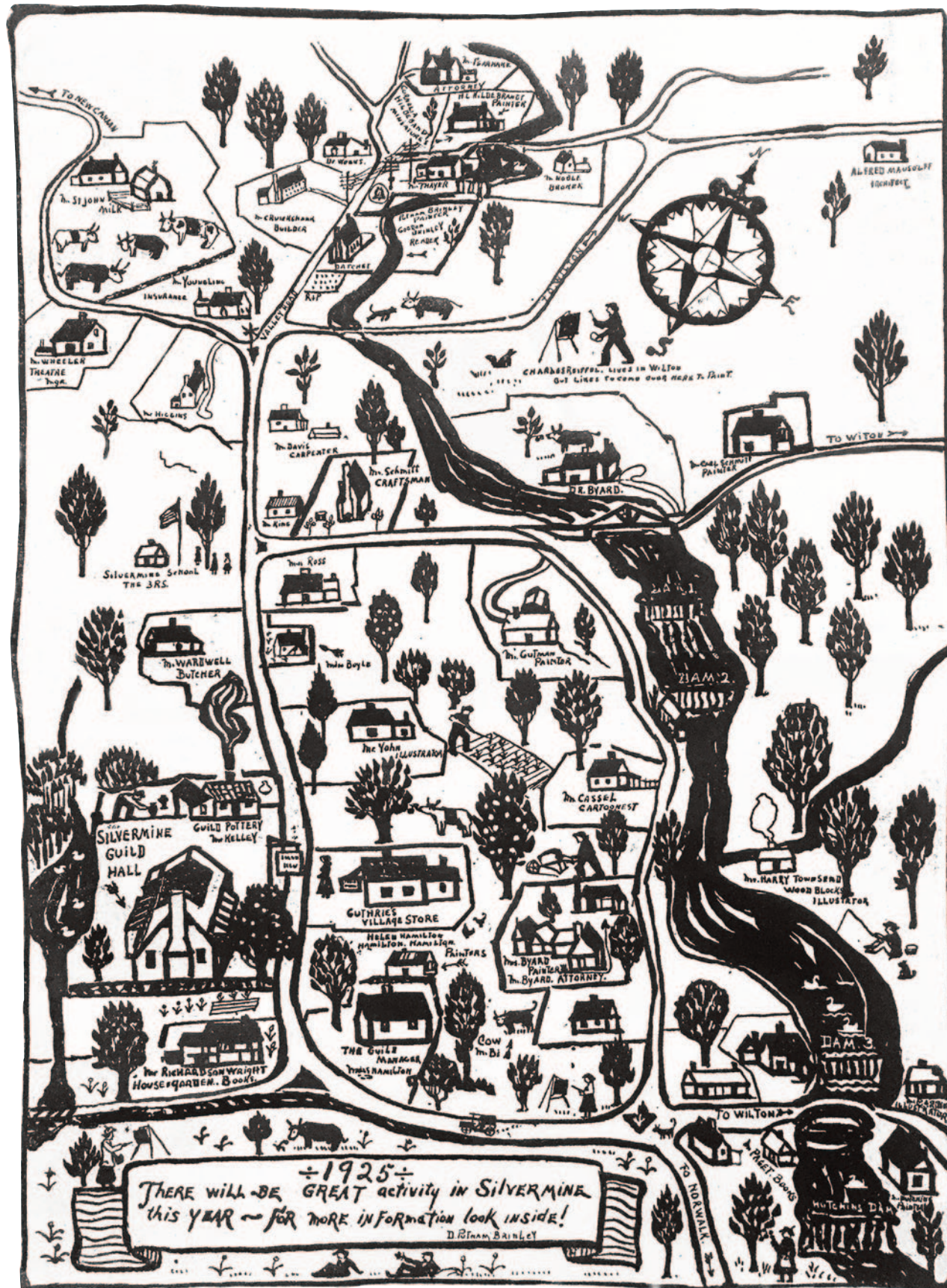
The Silvermine Arts Center is undeniably the fabric of the community it serves. Its commitment to art education, cultural diversity, artistic excellence, and community engagement has made it an invaluable resource for the region. Silvermine nurtures the artistic spirit, fosters social connections, and enriches the lives of individuals, making it an indispensable part of the community's cultural landscape.

On behalf of the entire Silvermine Arts Center community, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and belief in our mission. Together, we have built a legacy that will continue to shape the cultural landscape for generations to come. Let us move forward with optimism and excitement as we embrace the limitless possibilities that lie ahead.

With deepest appreciation,

Barbara Linarducci  
Chief Executive Officer  
Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees





# guild of artists

**The founding Guild members formed a close-knit community helping to make the Silvermine Guild a major center for American art.**

At the turn of the 20th century, it was an era of change and New York was the capital of the "new", drawing the latest movements in politics, social reform, progressive thought, developments in communication, and modern architecture. The Woolworth Building opened in 1913 as the tallest skyscraper in the world. The new Grand Central Terminal, an important symbol of transcontinental travel, was completed in 1913. Women marched in the streets for suffrage and workers went on strike for safer labor conditions and equitable wages. Greenwich Village became identified with the new "Bohemians" and was a fertile breeding ground for radical ideas.

And in the rural countryside of Silvermine, CT an important arts



community was forming around famed sculptor Solon Borglum (1868-1922). The nucleus of this collection of professional artists was quite impressive and many of them knew each other from showing at the 1913 Armory Show, a landmark event in the history of American Art.

Officially known as the International Exhibition of Modern Art, the 1913 Armory Show was the first major exhibition of modern art in the United States, and it introduced American audiences to a wide range of European avant-garde movements, including Fauvism, Cubism, and Expressionism. Works by Picasso, Matisse, Duchamp, Gauguin, Cézanne, and Van Gogh, were shown all together for the very first time. The show

was controversial, and it was met with both praise and criticism. However, there is no doubt that it had a profound impact on American art. The exhibition helped to introduce new ideas and new ways of seeing to the American public, and it paved the way for the development of modernism in the United States.

An important connection between the 1913 Armory Show and the Silvermine Guild was the involvement of D. Putnam Brinley. Brinley was a charter member of the guild, and a founding member of the Association of American Painters and Sculptors, the group that put together the exhibition. Brinley's own work was exhibited at the Armory Show, and he was one of the few American artists whose work was praised by the critics.

In addition to Brinley, there were several other Silvermine Guild of Artists members who showed at the 1913 Armory Show. These included Solon Borglum, Edmund Marion Ashe, and Bernhard Gutmann. These artists were all founding members of the guild, and they formed a close-knit community helping to make the Silvermine Guild a major center for American art.



## Guild of Artists

The 1913 Armory Show attracted 87,000 visitors in New York City before it traveled to Chicago, where critic Harriet Monroe saw it. She wrote in the Sunday Tribune, "These radical artists are right. They represent a search for new beauty" and "a longing for new versions of truth observed."

The show was a major turning point in the history of American art, and it continues to be studied and celebrated by art historians and enthusiasts alike.

The Silvermine Guild of Artists occupies a significant place in the history of American art and to this day, continues to be a major center for artistic experimentation.



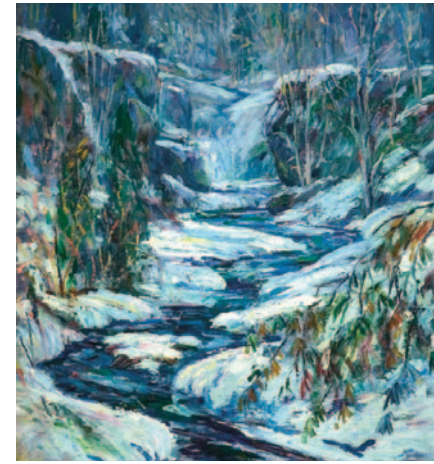
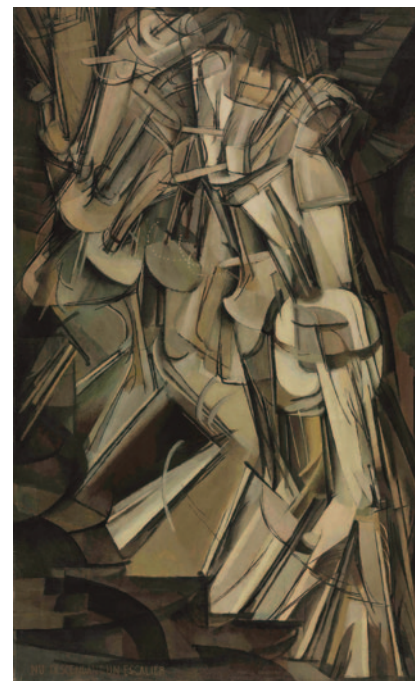
"Spirit of the Pool", by Guild member Edmund Marion Ashe, was shown at the 1913 Armory Show. The painting depicts a pool of water in a forest setting. The water is rendered in a realistic style, but the trees and plants are more stylized. The painting is characterized by its use of bold colors and its atmospheric effects. circa 1912-13. Private collection, courtesy of the Thompson family.

### By the Numbers

- ~Guild established in 1922 with 32 Artist Members
- ~300+ Professional Guild Artist Members Today
- ~18 states and 3 countries represented

Above: An installation view of Gallery A at the Armory Show, 1913. Walt Kubn Family papers and Armory Show records, 1859-1984. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution

Marcel Duchamp's "Nude Descending a Staircase" was one of the most controversial works in the show. It was a Cubist painting that depicted a nude figure in a series of fragmented planes. The painting was met with derision by some critics, but it also inspired a new generation of American artists.



Brinley's painting, "The Emerald Pool", was one of the most popular works at the Armory Show. A large, abstract landscape it is characterized by its flattened forms and vibrant colors. The painting was inspired by Brinley's travels in Europe, and it reflects his interest in the modernist movement.



Henri Matisse's "The Dance" was another major work in the show. It was a Fauvist painting that depicted a group of dancers in vibrant colors. The painting was praised by many critics, and it helped to introduce American audiences to the Fauvist movement.

Matisse's "Red Studio", also shown, was shocking and reviled. Today it is considered one of his masterpieces. A testament to how tastes change and how paintings can withstand the test of time.



Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger" was a Cubist painting that depicted five prostitutes in a brothel. The painting was met with shock and outrage by some critics, but it also helped to introduce American audiences to the Cubist movement.



Gutmann's "In the Garden" featured his baby daughter Elizabeth seated at a round table which comprises half of the picture plane. The attention to the play of light illustrates his application of Impressionist techniques, and the vibrant color theories reflect later Post-Impressionists like Gauguin and Van Gogh. He was a long-time resident in Silvermine and a Guild member.



Right: The Metropolitan Museum of Art purchased Cézanne's "View of the Domaine Saint-Joseph", its first painting by the French Post-Impressionist master Paul Cézanne, at the Armory Show.

Exterior of the 69th Regiment Armory during the Armory Show (International Exhibition of Modern Art), 1913. Walt Kubn Family papers and Armory Show records, 1859-1984. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.





## galleries

**Our Galleries provide a platform for artistic expression, dialogue, and engagement with the community.**



The Silvermine Galleries showcase contemporary art exhibitions featuring the work of local, national, and international artists. These exhibitions span various art forms, including painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, and mixed media. For over a century, our galleries have provided a platform for artists to exhibit their work and engage with the community.

Our approach is all encompassing, tailored to ensure that our exhibitions resonate and are accessible to diverse audiences of various ages and backgrounds. Distinguished guest curators often assess and curate many of our significant exhibitions. Each of our installations employs art as a

means to facilitate learning, providing a platform for fostering engagement across different mediums, disciplines, cultures, and contexts.

The Gallery complex has expanded from the original barn to five exhibition galleries, a sculpture walk and an arts and craft shop. It directs its services for the benefit of its three constituencies, the community of artists, the community of art enthusiasts and collectors, and the broader community, which stands to benefit by an increasing exposure to the enriching influence of the arts. All of its efforts reflect Silvermine's primary concern with 21st Century Art, artists and the interaction of the artist and the general public. It is this dimension that makes Silvermine unique and dis-

tinguishes it from other organizations, for artists are present and part of every activity. As a result, there is creative energy present, a sense of participation, of watching the creative process unfold.

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

#### *By the Numbers*

*~15+ Exhibitions held annually  
~10,000 Visitors a year  
~5 Galleries and an outdoor Sculpture Walk  
~An extensive permanent print collection including prints by Picasso, Matisse, Dali, Peterdi, and Calder, among others*

#### **Artists clockwise from left:**

##### *This page:*

*Narrations - Scott Bricher, Laura Dunne, Janice Mauro, Butch Quick, Alanna Fagan, Helen Cantrell and Camille Eskell, (foreground)*

##### *Right page top:*

*Opening Day of the Annual Silvermine Summer Exhibition, 1909. New Canaan Museum & Historical Society.*



## Galleries



### Highlights of this year:

#### Summer Salon Guild Exhibition

June 25 – August 18, 2022

#### 72st AoNE

September 3 – October 20, 2022

#### New Members' Exhibition

January 12 – February 16, 2023

#### Instructors Exhibition

February 25 – March 23, 2023

#### Tom Matt - Timescapes

#### & Leslie Giuliani – Strangelands

#### Solo Exhibitions

February 25 – March 23, 2023

#### Abstract Visions

April 1 – April 20, 2023

#### Narrations

#### & Gregg Welz - Paper Cuts

April 29 – May 18, 2023

#### QUEERwerks

June 1 – July 13, 2023

View past exhibitions on  
our Gallery page at:

[www.silvermineart.org/galleries/](http://www.silvermineart.org/galleries/)

#### Summer Salon Guild Exhibition

June 25 – August 18, 2022

Featuring an impressive group of more than 100 members of the Silvermine Guild of Artists working in a broad range of styles and mediums. This annual summer exhibition celebrates our extraordinarily accomplished painters, sculptors, printmakers, mixed media and fiber artists. Curated by Roger Mudre, Silvermine Gallery Director.

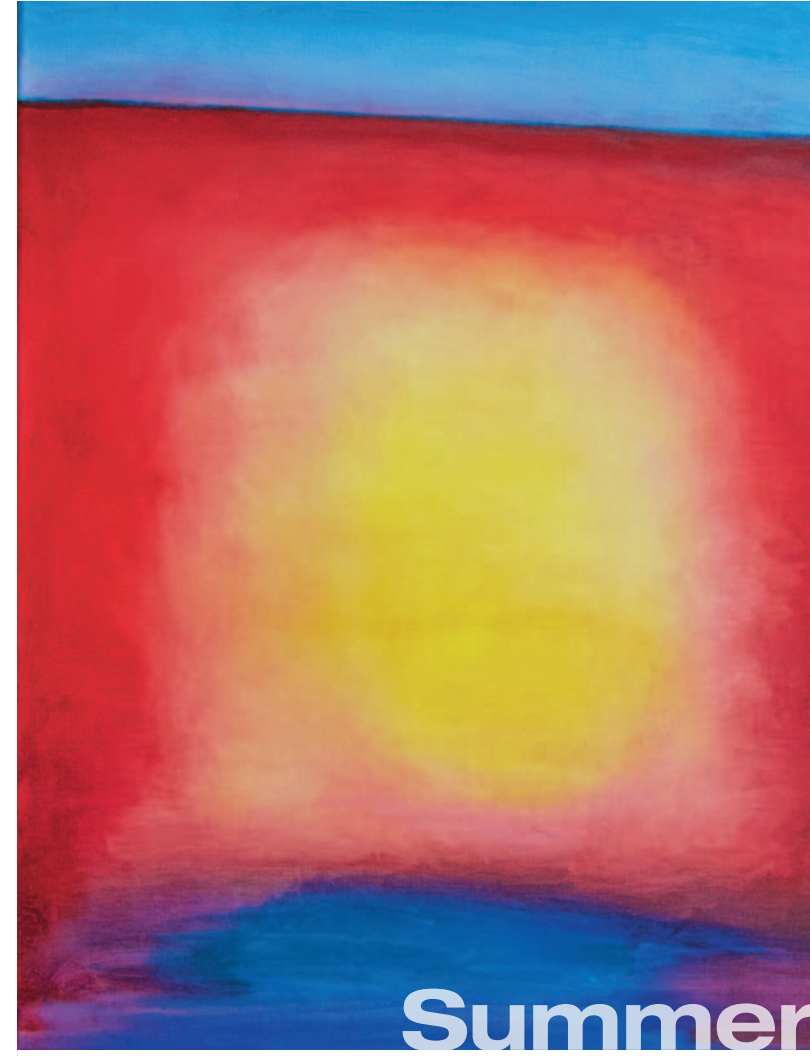
#### Artists clockwise from left:

*This page:*

Rosalind Shaffer

*Right page:*

Suzanne Benton, Jon Puzzuoli,  
Carole Eisner and Donna Namnoum  
(sculptures), Marilyn Clements

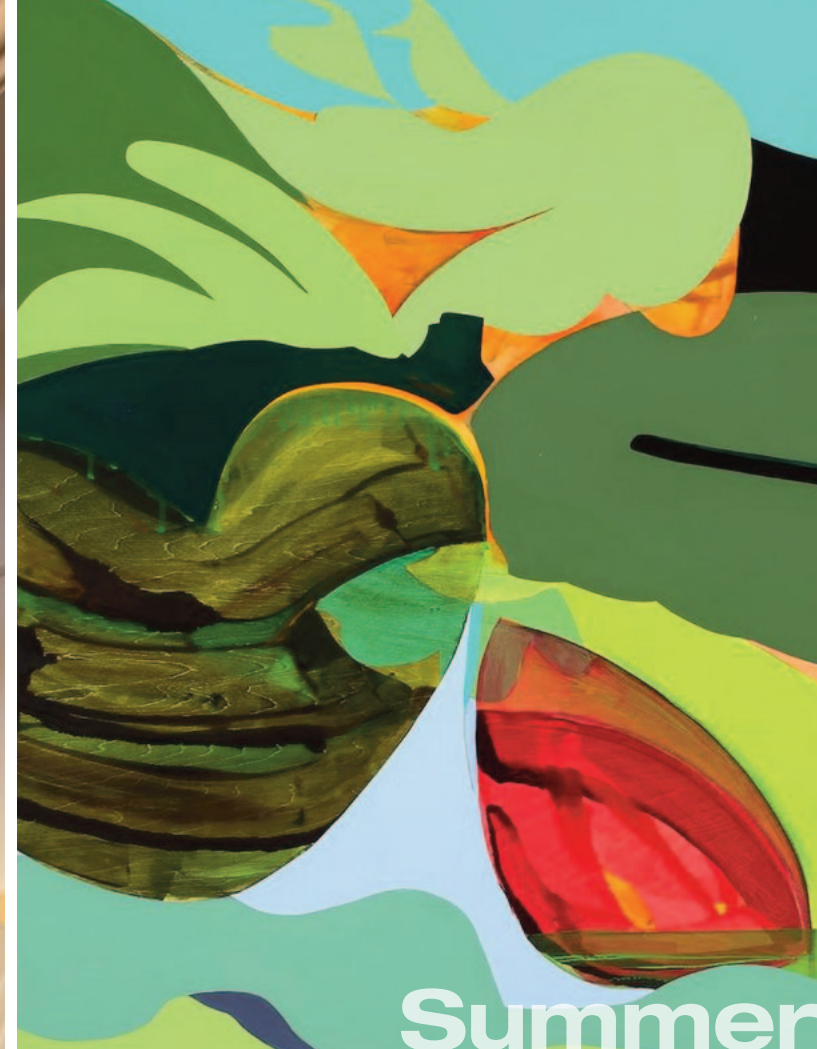




Galleries



Artists clockwise from left:  
*This page foreground:*  
Carla Goldberg  
*Right page:*  
Connie Brown, Suzanne Levy,  
Joan Wheeler, Barry Katz (sculpture),  
Jay Petrow



Summer Salon





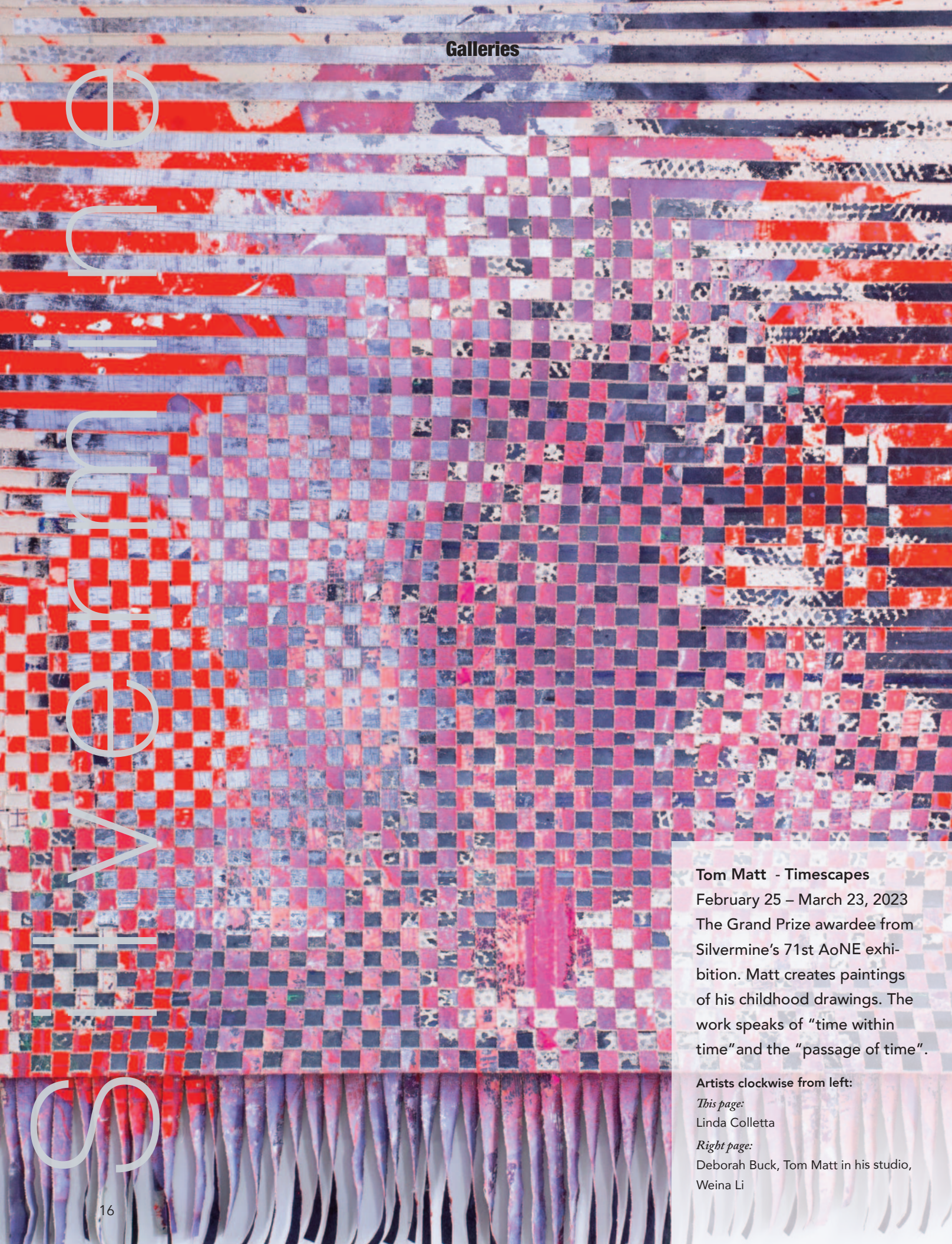


**72nd AoNE**  
September 3 – October 20, 2022  
One of the oldest and most prestigious juried competitions, AoNE highlights the diversity of work that is currently being made by both established and emerging artists. AoNE spotlights contemporary trends and new explorations across various media. Curated by Sharon Butler – Painter, Art Writer, and Founder of “Two Coats of Paint”.

[www.silvermineart.org/online-exhibition/72nd-a-one-exhibition/](http://www.silvermineart.org/online-exhibition/72nd-a-one-exhibition/)

**72nd AoNE**





**Tom Matt - Timescapes**  
 February 25 – March 23, 2023  
 The Grand Prize awardee from Silvermine's 71st AoNE exhibition. Matt creates paintings of his childhood drawings. The work speaks of "time within time" and the "passage of time".

Artists clockwise from left:

*This page:*  
 Linda Colletta

*Right page:*  
 Deborah Buck, Tom Matt in his studio,  
 Weina Li







### New Members' Exhibition

January 12 – February 16, 2023  
 Highlighting the work of 26 new members recently juried into our dynamic artistic community of over 300 professional artists. Many of our members have work represented in permanent collections of some of the world's most prestigious museums, as well as prominent, private and corporate collections. Curated by Roger Mudre, Silvermine Galley Director

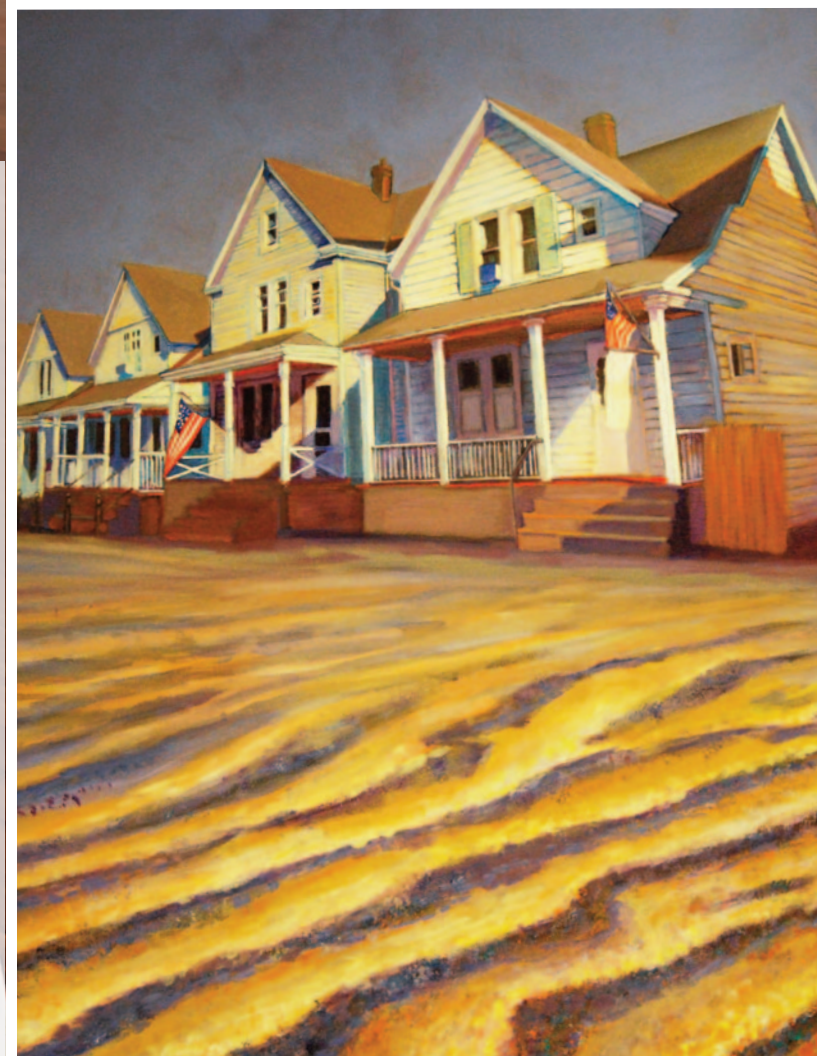
Artists clockwise from left:

*This page:*  
 Carol Paik (on wall), Robert Oehl

*Right page:*  
 Leslie Alexander, Todd Arsenault, Christopher Brown, Susan Barrett



## New Members' Exhibition







Galleries

OPEN HOUSE

**Instructors' Exhibition**  
 February 25 – March 23, 2023  
 The Silvermine School of Art  
 instructors are distinguished art  
 ist educators offering courses  
 for students of all ages and  
 levels of experience in a wide  
 range of disciplines.

**Artists clockwise from left:**  
*This page:*  
 Dmitri Wright  
*Right page:*  
 Wendy MacCordy, Maureen  
 Henriques, Justin Wiest, Zach Dunn



# Instructors' Exhibition







Galleries



## Abstract Visions

**Abstract Visions**  
 April 1 – April 20, 2023  
 A dynamic exploration of abstract art, offering a glimpse into the rich and diversified work by 52 of the Guild's professional artists.

Artists clockwise from left:

*This page:*

Marc Zaref (sculpture)

*Right page:*

Jan Dilenschneider, Carla Goldberg,

Jill Parry, Lisa Scroggins







#### Narrations

April 29 – May 18, 2023

Exploring new directions of figurative and narrative themes in drawing, fiber art, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture featuring selected work by 49 of the Guild's professional artists. Curated by Roger Mudre, Silvermine Galley Director.

#### Paper Cuts

As a conceptual artist, Gregg Welz is influenced by the geometry of the environment, both natural and man-made. Paper Cuts explores the grid by moving the medium into repetitive configurations of shape, color and cast shadows.

Artists clockwise from left:

*This page:*

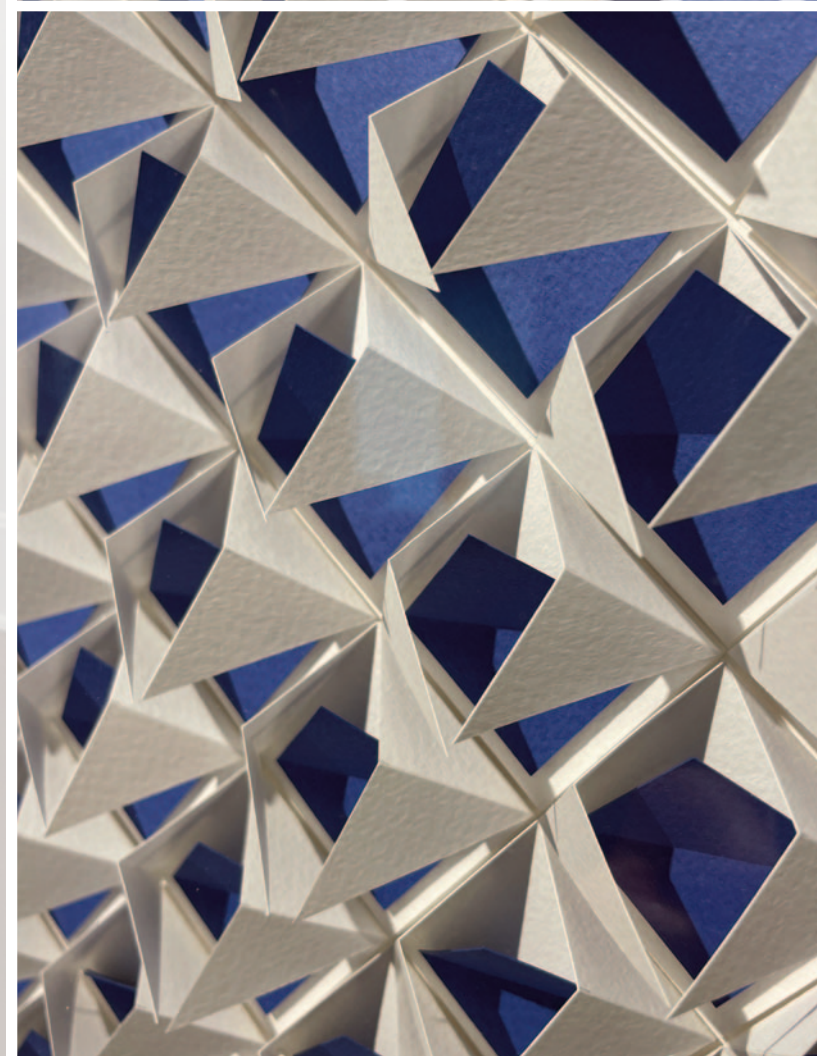
Michael Manning,  
Susan Clinard (Sculpture)

*Right page:*

Edward Zerdy, Scott Bricher (painting in background), Donna Forma (Sculpture),  
Sharon Cavagnolo, Gregg Welz



## Narrations & Paper Cuts







# QUEERwerks

June 1 – July 13, 2023

In celebration of Pride month, Silvermine proudly presented QUEERwerks, an exhibition that showcased the dynamic artistic spirit of the LGBTQIA+ community. Curated by Stamatina Gregory, curator and art historian, who stated “What makes a work of art queer?” then declares “I prefer to ask ‘What can queer art do?’” suggesting that queer art can create sites of recognition, affirm ways of being and belonging and imagine new relationships to the world.

Artists clockwise from left:

*This page:*

Jasmin Risk (installation), Ron Geibel

*Right page:*

Juls Gabs, Winston Lee Mascarenhas, Gary Cruz







Artists clockwise from left:  
*This page:*  
 Srishti Dass, Libby Paloma, Michael Perry,  
 Jack Rosenberg  
*Right page:*  
 Tamsen Williams (sculpture),  
 Daniel Ashley, Gary Cruz, Joan Cox

QUEERwerks





#### Sculpture Walk

Silvermine offers visitors an engaging outdoor sculpture walk that blends art and nature. The collection boasts a diverse array of sculptures, including artworks by acclaimed artists such as Reuben Nakian, John Marshall, Harvey Weiss and David Burt, which invite contemplation and connection with both the artistry of the human hand and the beauty of the natural environment.

Artists clockwise from left:

*This page:*

David Burt

*Right page:*

Justin Perlman, David Burt,  
Artist, Unknown, Judith Steinberg,  
Reuben Nakian



#### Sculpture Walk





# school of art



**From the beginning, Education was always an important part of Guild activity. Throughout its history, the creative spirit of the artist members has been a strong influence in making Silvermine a respected presence in the art community.**



Education has played an essential role in the history of Silvermine since its inception in 1922. Both the Guild and the School of Art have shared a rich history and tradition, which sustain their reputation for educational integrity and quality. Their primary objectives have always revolved around nurturing, promoting, and inspiring artistic endeavors and the pursuit of art education.

Today, the award-winning School of Art stands as the foremost educational institution for visual arts in Fairfield County. Catering to a diverse range of students spanning from ages 4 to 94, it attracts over 4,000 enrollments each year. Offering an extensive selection of more than 1,000+ courses, workshops, and



youth programs, the School provides a supportive environment that balances freedom for creative exploration with the necessary structure to establish a solid artistic foundation.

What sets Silvermine apart and captivates its students is the caliber of devoted instructors and the unparalleled array of disciplines available. There simply is no equivalent elsewhere.



## *By the Numbers*

*~Educating since 1924*

*~4,000+ enrollments annually*

*~1,000+ courses, workshops, and youth programs, offered each year*

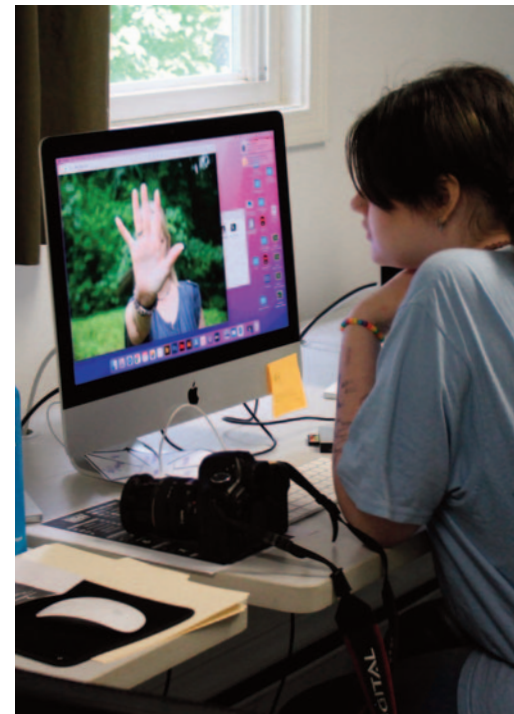
*~14 dedicated studios for ceramics, printmaking, photography, welding, bronze pouring, drawing & painting, jewelry, and digital art.*





School of Art

# summer camps



**Since 1994, Summer Art Camps have introduced the next generation to the world of art through experimentation, creative thinking, and social engagement.**



The campus at Silvermine transformed in June as we welcomed children over a period of 10 weeks for our Summer Art Studio programs. The celebratory spirit of spring, shifted to the bustling energy of summer camps, as children of all ages joined us for a creative experience, enjoying a wide variety of high quality arts education throughout the summer.

Summer Art Studios encourage experimentation, creative thinking and skill development in a safe, fun, supportive and socially engaging environment with other creative youth. Age-specific programs are led by our professional Teaching Artists with classes



specifically designed to ensure personalized attention.

A wide variety of disciplines are available, including, painting & drawing, ceramics, sculpture, woodworking, digital arts, mixed media and specials topics such as puppetry, and calligraphy.

Silvermine campers had the opportunity to attend either morning or afternoon camps and



those who choose to spend the entire day at Silvermine enjoyed a free and supervised lunch period known as, "Lunch Bunch", in which students participated in unstructured art making and engaged in games.

#### *By the Numbers*

*~928 children, ages 3-17 attended Summer Art Studios*

*~100+ programs offered*

*~20+ professional teaching artists*





School of Art

summer camps





Fulbright

In May 2023, we welcomed our third Fulbright Artist-in-Residence – a program initiated and funded by artist and philanthropist Janet Dilenschneider and Robert Dilenschneider. Razel Mari, from the Philippines, joined us from the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon where he is pursuing his MFA in Applied Craft + Design. Previously a product designer for Community Crafts Association of the Philippines, he earned his BS in Industrial Design from De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde in Manila.

During his residency, Raz engaged in diverse experiences, including stone carving, ceramics, and ikebana guided by Silvermine instructors. Independently, he sketched campus wildlife, particularly a Bobcat near his studio. This inspired a large sculpture named Sita, constructed from sticks, twine, and coconut fibers. Through his creation, Raz explored art's impermanence, life's fragility, and an artist's enduring impact. Sita, meaning "visitor" in Tagalog, encapsulated his fascination.

In his final week of residency, Raz conducted an artist talk sharing his experiences and processes then guided the audience in a hands-on workshop using wool roving to create their own small bird sculptures. It was a formative experience, allowing Raz to connect with the natural world and the materials found around him. Raz left his sculpture at Silvermine and over time, it will disintegrate back to nature.



Fulbright

Artist-in-Residence







## We're building bridges one step at a time with paint, clay, paper, and willing hands.

Through engagement with the arts, students develop important skills, expand their horizons, and gain a sense of empowerment, ultimately contributing to their overall educational success!



### 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. 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.

We returned to our partner schools offering arts enrichment opportunities to over 2000 first through eighth grade youth in Bridgeport, Norwalk and Stamford. Collaborating directly with classroom teachers, our professional Teaching Artists led students through sequential lesson plans giving them the opportunity to more fully understand important

# outreach



curricula and experience the meditative qualities of art. As each project was completed, the sense of pride among the students was palpable.

Second-grade students from elementary schools in Bridgeport participated in the "Bee-Me" program. Collaborating with a local nature center, these students were immersed in a learning experience that introduced them to new vocabulary and engaged them in visual studies exploring various techniques to render specific pollinators. Meanwhile, second graders in both Norwalk and Bridgeport delved into the



realms of architecture, engineering, and design by constructing "Magic Tree-houses." Through this imaginative project, second graders gained a hands-on understanding of these concepts and were given a chance to imagine and dream.

### By the Numbers

- ~Providing 32 years of service
- ~2000+ children served in 3 Fairfield County towns
- ~65+ programs ran in 13 schools and service agencies
- ~40 scholarships given to local area youth



## Outreach Education

Additionally, third graders embarked on a creative journey where they painted expressive self-portraits and composed "I am" poems, underscoring the connection between writing and visual art as parallel forms of self-expression.

Art Partners "Water, Water, Everywhere" STEAM programming was further developed to allow fourth graders a chance to learn more about nature, the environment and the water cycle. Studying the journey of a droplet, mixed media landscapes were created to illustrate Seaside Park and the crescent shaped beach that is close to many of the students' homes.

In its 24th year, our flagship mural program engaged 80 fifth graders from Silvermine Elementary. Collaborating, they turned a 9 by 20-foot wall into a sunflower meadow, inspired by Connecticut's landscape. Exploring native plants from their own backyards, they documented scientific names and researched facts to create visual paragraphs.

Norwalk Housing Authority youth showcased their aspirations through paintings and haiku in their book titled "Up, Up and Away." This publication has become a permanent addition to the Norwalk Public Library. To honor their thoughtful expressions, we had an exhibition on our campus which displayed their stunning visual studies and poetry, highlighting their confidence and optimism.

Fodor Farm Garden People once again graced the Norwalk historic landmark with nine larger than life sculptures illustrating fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of pollinators. Each year, Silvermine Art Partners, the City of Norwalk and CMS first graders look to this collaborative effort to celebrate all that has been learned in the classroom regarding the plant cycle and bringing goods from farm to market. Colorful banners displayed the poetry written by students and adorned the surrounding fences of these public gardens for all to see.

It was another dynamic year of amazing art enrichment and celebration!

## ArtAcademy

In partnership with STAR, Inc., Silvermine continued 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. The Zoom platform has proven particularly successful because of how many students can be reached. The weekly class is streamed into STAR headquarters, as well as other STAR living facilities and private homes.

## Creative Connections

Silvermine Arts Center and Creative Connections Inc. partnered with the Classical Studies Magnet Academy in Bridgeport to expand the cultural and creative experiences of third grade students. The students created and exchanged art with peers in Guatemala, using art to communicate about their lives and learn about their peers' lives around the world. This promoted understanding and appreciation of different customs and traditions. The program culminated in a video conference with the students' new art friends. Through this face-to-face engagement, the students discovered that they are more alike than they are different, despite their differences and distance.

## Scholarships

Inclusion is of utmost importance at Silvermine. This year, we granted 40 scholarships to underserved youth, ensuring that learning and creativity thrive here.

We are grateful for the continued support of our Corporate and Foundation sponsor: the Hearst Foundation, Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, Horizon Foundation, The Pitney Bowes Foundation, Inc., as well the generous support of individuals who enable us to continue these important programs.





1900

**1906**  
Sculptor Solom Borglum purchased a farm in Silvermine. In 1908, Borglum invited artists to join him at his barn to socialize, exhibit, and critique or “knock” one another’s work on Sundays. The gathering became known as the Knockers Club, and members began to share their work with the community. The exhibition became a yearly event in the late summer and grew in popularity.



**1910**  
A pair of American icons, Raggedy Ann and Andy, were created by guild member Johnny Gruelle. And another Guild member, Clifton Meek, who drew cute little mice, inspired Walt Disney to create Mickey Mouse.

A Squeak From Johnny Mouse.



1910



**1913**  
Silvermine artists Daniel Putnam Brinley, Mahroni Mackintosh Young, and Solon Borglum all participated in the organization of the groundbreaking 1913 Armory Show in New York. It became a legendary watershed event in the history of American art. Exhibited there was Matisse’s painting, *Red Room*.



**1913-22**  
The Silvermine Group of Artists was formed, purchasing a barn on Silvermine Road which served as an exhibition gallery and home to the annual exhibition—the biggest social event in Silvermine. In 1924, the Silvermine Guild of Artists was incorporated. The guild included not only painters, sculptors, and illustrators, but musical, literary, and dramatic artists as well.

1920

**1924**  
The Barn, now called Hays Gallery, originally served as both classroom and exhibition space. From the beginning, education was an important part of Guild activity. The first painting class was taught in 1924 by Robert Schmidt. Sculpture and classes for children soon followed. For 35 cents, students could sketch from a live model and enjoy discussion and refreshments.



**1925-1939**  
The Silvermine Sillies were established. While the visual arts were paramount in Silvermine, music, theater, film, and other arts were well represented as well. These hilarious, bawdy musicals were presented outdoors on summer evenings. The Sillies were the primary fundraiser for the Guild through the mid 40’s.



1930



**1935**  
During the depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA), created the conditions for wide-spread socially minded art productions throughout the nation. Social commentary and cultural forums also flourished at Silvermine. Several Guild members completed major projects for the WPA.



**1938**  
This proved to be a watershed year for the Guild in terms of artistic creativity and crossover collaboration. In that year, the Silvermine Music Festival melded the visual arts with live classical music concerts performed by the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Eugene Ormandy, José Iturbi, and Quinto Maganini. The event attracted over 30,000 attendees, and all of the proceeds went toward building a new annex to the barn, which allowed for new

1940

classes in drama, dance, music, and experimental film.

**1938**  
Every painter in the Guild was invited to paint a contemporary social statement – they could register any protest or make any comment on canvas, depicting the unusual world at the time. When the exhibition closed, it travelled the country where it was shown in various museums and exhibition halls.



**1938 - 1945**  
During WWII, most of the Guild’s facilities were turned over to the local Red Cross and Civilian Defense. Barn activities were limited to returning veterans. In 1943, the First Annual War Bond exhibition was established, which paid artists in war bonds. The show was so successful, it was held annually until the end of the war.



John Vassos was the President of the guild for 10 terms, in 1936, 1940, 1941, 1949-1955 and raised significant funds for the center using his considerable influence with RCA, where he worked as a consultant designer for almost four decades. He was highly regarded as an artist, industrial designer, illustrator, inventor, interior designer, architect and social commentator. John was a pioneer in the field of Industrial Design along with Norman Bel Geddes, Raymond Lowey and Eliot Noyes among others.



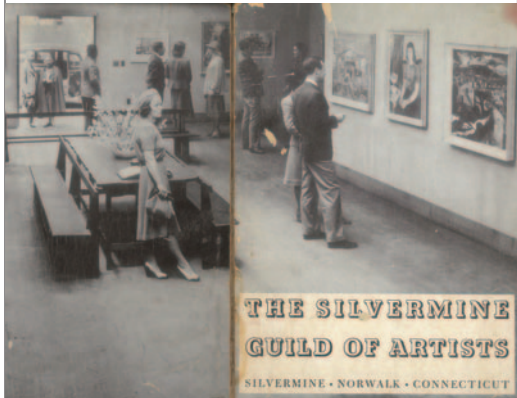
When he died, an exhibition “A Tribute to John Vassos, 1898-1985” was held for him in the galleries, which examined his leadership of the organization and his role as a driving force behind the development of the Silvermine Guild of Artists.

**1945**  
The original sketches for the Silvermine Map along with more work by Vassos can be viewed in the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art. Map shown on p.3.



1940

**1949**  
The Guild established the first New England Exhibition in 1949, a Silvermine tradition to this day and one of the area's oldest and most prestigious juried competitions.  
Originally open to artists in the New England states, the expanded exhibition now includes artists nationally. Currently known as AoNE, the exhibition is in its 72nd year.



AoNE has introduced emerging artists to critical exposure for decades with the help of many distinguished critics, dealers, artists, and museum professionals who have served as jurors over the years.  
Louise Nevelson, Elaine de Kooning and Richard Anuskievicz are among the artists whose early recognition in the annual competition contributed to outstanding careers.

**1949**  
A meeting of the board of directors in the gallery garden patio.



1950



**1950**  
Space for classes was extremely limited and the buildings had no heat. When Guild president, John Vassos, an award winning industrial designer and book illustrator returned from war, he dedicated himself to moving forward Silvermine's expansion plans which had been halted during the war.

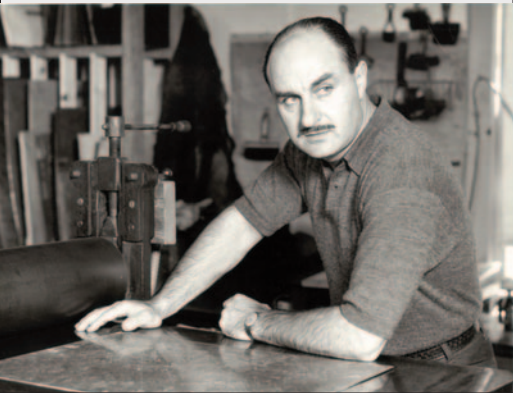


Begun in the mid-40's, the expansion was completed in 1950 and dedicated in 1951. The new school building included a large auditorium, a painting studio, a mirrored dance studio and a children's workshop.

**1952**  
In 1952, the Leonardo da Vinci Exhibition, celebrating his Quincentenary, attracted hundreds of people from all over the state, to see the fascinating work of the master of all artistic trades.  
Displayed were models, sketches and reproductions from the Burndy Corporation Library and from IBM.



**1952**  
Having already achieved international renown as both a painter and printmaker, Gabor Peterdi joined the Silvermine Guild. In 1959, he launched the National Print Biennial exhibition and established a permanent print collection for exhibition and study by students and Guild members.  
Peterdi established the printmaking department at Yale University, and as a professor there, he guided many budding talents such as Chuck Close into the individual expression that later resulted in major recognition. His two books on printmaking are considered definitive works.



**1956**  
Interest in sculpture was also burgeoning at Silvermine in the 50's. A large new sculpture studio was dedicated in 1956 with a ceremony featuring a speech by Jacques Lipchitz and an exhibition of the medium interpreted by world class artists - including Calder, Moore, and Giacometti - on loan from museums and collectors.

Pablo Picasso, *The Owl* -  
Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bareiss



**1958**  
Jean Woodham (r) is shown with her guest Louise Nevelson and the latter's sculpture "Portrait", at the opening of Silvermine's "Be My Guest" show.

1960

Woodham worked and studied at the Clay Club alongside Louise Nevelson. In a short time Woodham was exhibiting her sculpture in group shows with David Smith, Alexander Calder, Isamu Noguchi, and Nevelson.  
In 1955, the family moved to CT where Woodham became head of the sculpture program at Silvermine. She showed her work in galleries and museum exhibitions and won many prestigious prizes.  
In 1959, Louise Nevelson sponsored her for membership in the Sculptors Guild.  
In 2021, Silvermine hosted a memorial service for Woodham in the Silvermine Galleries to honor her lifelong commitment to Silvermine and its educational mission and her prestigious career.



**1960**  
An affiliation with the University of Bridgeport led to the establishment of the Silvermine College of Art in 1960.  
Accredited by the state of CT, the school offered a two-year Associate in Fine Arts degree and remained open until 1969 when demands of accrediting and lack of funds prompted its closing.

**1961**  
Continuing a focus on contemporary design, an exhibition in 1961, *Architectural Directions*, celebrated local architects who were making their mark.  
Internationally known contemporary architects such as Marcel Breuer, John Johansen, Philip Johnson and Elliot Noyes were featured.



**1966**  
The summer music series was flourishing and in 1966 the Silvermine Chamber Orchestra was established. Distinguished soloists and the Silvermine String Quartet performed concerts each summer.





1970

**1972**  
The Guild held a 50th Anniversary Ball at Waveny House, a Tudor Mansion in New Canaan, to the beat of Lester Lanin's music.  
In celebration of Silvermines' 50 years, Outdoor Jazz Concerts featured renowned artists such as Dave Brubeck.



**1974**  
Dance was taught in four week master classes by the Alvin Ailey Dancers.



1980



Reuben Nakian with Alice Neel

**1979**  
A retrospective of portraits and drawings by Alice Neel took place at Silvermine in 1979.  
Fifty-two paintings, many of them never before exhibited, were on display. A second group of fifty works by the artist was exhibited at the University of Bridgeport.



**1983**  
Beginning in 1983, annual fundraisers called "Silvermine Collections" created an interaction with the corporate world.  
Public spaces such as Perkin-Elmer, Pitney Bowes, and Richardson-Vicks were transformed into art galleries for a weekend offering Guild art for sale.

**1984**  
In 1984, the Institute for Visual Artists was established to function as an educational resource for professional artists. The IVA hosted monthly lectures and forums for both artists and art lovers.  
The IVA ran programming for 17 years.

**ART MATERIALS FAIR**  
Saturday, September 9, 2000 / 10AM-4PM / \$20.00  
Proceeds to benefit  
**THE INSTITUTE FOR VISUAL ARTISTS' PROGRAMS**  
Silvermine Guild Art Center  
1037 Silvermine Avenue, New Canaan, CT / 203-966-5617  
★ DEMONSTRATIONS / FREE SAMPLES ★  
GOLDEN PAINTS WORKSHOP -- 11AM & 2PM  
WINSOR & NEWTON PRESENTATION -- 12:30PM  
DOOR PRIZE  
DRAWING AT 3:30PM  
Do not need to be present to win!  
PARTICIPATING MANUFACTURERS: WINSOR & NEWTON\*, LIQUITEX\*, Canson\*, ROWNEY\*, SAKURA\*, STEADTLER, LOGAN, GOLDEN, HOLBER, AMPERSAND, C-TRU RULER, DAVINCI\*, GENERAL PENCIL, SILVER BRUSH, SPEEDBALL\*, ART SUPPLY WAREHOUSE\*, STRUCTURAL GENESIS\*, PRATT\*, AMACO, BEE PAPER, BORDEN RILEY, POLYFORM, RICHESON, WEBER, SANFORD -- \*Have donated door prizes.

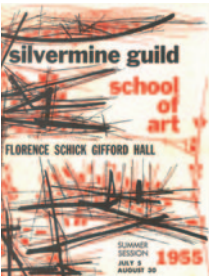
**1987**  
The Silvermine Guild branched out in 1987 to have a temporary exhibition space at the Stamford Metro Center. In 1988, the Stamford Gallery exhibited a retrospective of work by Jimmy Ernst, Guild artist and son of celebrated artist Max Ernst.  
The below group photo of Guild artists from the 1950s went out to the press to promote the Jimmy Ernst retrospective.  
Jimmy Ernst taught at the Silvermine School of Art, and he designed the cover for the 1955 summer session catalogue seen



From left to right, are artists Jimmy Ernst, Revington Arthur, George Constant, John Vassos, Gabor Peterdi, Albert Jacobson, and William Baziotes.  
Image source: Francis X. Fay Jr., "Ernst's acclaim grows four years after death," *The Hour*, Saturday, April 23, 1988, pg. 8.

1990

here and his bio listed in this catalogue demonstrated the range of his career. He had twelve one-man shows in New York City and was an instructor at the Pratt Institute and the Brooklyn College Department of Design.  
His artwork is represented in the Metropolitan Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum, Brooklyn Museum, Guggenheim Museum, Chicago Art Institute, Toledo Museum, Toronto Art Gallery, Wadsworth Atheneum, and many more institutions and private collections.



**1992**  
Community Outreach became a major goal of the expanding arts center. In 1992 an Art Partners program was launched in Stamford elementary schools in which Silvermine provided Teaching Artists to work directly with classroom teachers to develop art projects related to curriculum.  
Students from underserved schools discovered new self-confidence through creating art.  
Today the program extends to Norwalk, Stamford and Bridgeport children.

**1993**  
Construction began for a major renovation and expansion of the Sculpture and Ceramics Studios. The ground-breaking ceremony was a symbolic culmination of the efforts of hundreds who contributed time, talent and money to the capital campaign which topped \$1 million.



**1994**  
The first Summer Art Camps were offered in 1994, and ran for one week sessions in July and August. An instant success, they have continued to this day, remaining an integral part of introducing the next generation to the world of art through encouraging experimentation, creative thinking, and skill development in a safe, fun, supportive and socially engaging environment with other creative youth.



Two national juried competitions were launched in the 1990's. The first competition, *Craft USA Today* was held in 1993 and *Spectra*, the national photography competition established in 1997, showcased the rising significance of photography as an artistic medium.



As the Silvermine Guild celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1997, the galleries began *Spectra*, a national juried photography exhibition. The exhibition continued for many years. Peter MacGill of Pace/MacGill Galleries juried *Spectra* in 2007 and gave a lecture. This exhibition also featured a lecture by Jane Jackson, the director of Sir Elton John's photography collection.



2000

**2001**  
Renowned painter and printmaker Michael Mazur, a star pupil of Gabor Peterdi, began an international career with his first exhibition at Silvermine. A 2001 exhibition of etchings inspired by *The Inferno of Dante* served as homecoming for the artist, whose



monotypes accompanying the Robert Pinsky translation garnered international acclaim. Mazur had a lifelong fascination with the poem. In the early 1990s, Mazur and longtime friend poet Robert Pinsky (U.S. Poet Laureate 1997-2000) collaborated on the production of a new illustrated translation of *The Inferno* pairing Mazur's monotypes with Pinsky's translations. This initial project was later expanded into a portfolio of 41 etchings.

Right: Michael Mazur, Canto VIII: The Tower, 1997-2000, Etching on paper. Collection of the Springfield Art Museum. © The Estate of Michael Mazur.



Jean-Claude, Burt Chernow, and Christo

**2002**  
In the spring of 2002, the galleries hosted two simultaneous exhibitions of internationally renowned artists – Paul Cadmus, as well as Christo and Jean-Claude. The illustrious showing of two 20th century modernists inspired panel discussions, slide presentations and the signing of a biography, *Christo and Jean-Claude*, written by guild member Burt Chernow.



The Gates, Project for Central Park, 2002 Anita Soos

The exhibition of world-famous environmental artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude featured sketches of works in progress for *"The Gates, Project for Central Park, New York City"*, and *"Over The River, Project for The Arkansas River, Colorado"*. Two Works in Progress. Often requiring decades of planning, sketching, surveying and engaging the public about their projects, admirers of this illustrious duo had the chance to experience and discuss their process and projects.

2010

**2016**  
The Governors Island exhibition, entitled "The Tide is High," brought together the work of 23 contemporary artists including members of Silvermine's Guild of Artists, along with other invited artists from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island. The goal of the exhibition



was twofold, to create a greater dialog between the Connecticut region and the larger contemporary art world; and begin to create a new context for art outside of the gallery/museum structure. As the show's co-curator Christopher Joy said, "The contemporary art world permeates everywhere."

**2017**  
CT Contemporary Art Fair - offering a look into what is happening NOW in Connecticut's major contemporary art galleries. The first-of-its-kind event brought together galleries from all over the state to give a broader understanding of Connecticut's gallery landscape and provided an opportunity for people to encounter galleries they might not usually have the chance to see. CT contemporary was the culmination of the three-part Cultivating Collectors series organized by the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County and Silvermine.



**2017**  
Silvermine curated a unique benefit exhibition in honor of Frank Lloyd Wright's 150-year anniversary. The pop-up exhibition of contemporary art took place in two Wrightian structures—one designed and built by Wright during his lifetime and the other inspired by his design. The event brought artists and art lovers to Petra Island in Mahopac, New York to view a vibrant mix of contemporary artists whose works echo the aesthetic sensibilities of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture.

**2019**  
In partnership with STAR, Inc., Silvermine launched the "ArtAcademy" program to benefit adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, engaging them in a variety of art classes in an inclusive setting on Silvermine's campus.



Professional art instruction encourages curiosity and builds skills and self-esteem. The program fosters not only artistic and social development—but also joy through art.

**2019**  
Silvermine established an International Artist-in-Residency Program, initiated and funded by artist and philanthropist Janet Hennessey Dilenschneider and Robert Dilenschneider, and managed by the International Institute of Education (IIE).



The Fulbright residency was created to foster creative, intellectual and professional growth for emerging or established visual artists who have access to Silvermine faculty as well as a private workspace and generous studio time. The inaugural artist in residence, Ivana Radovanovich, from Centinje, Montenegro earned a PhD at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, and is pursuing post-doctoral research at St. John's University in New York as a Fulbright Scholar.

2020

**2019**  
Silvermine announced representation of Guild Artists on artnet, the online leader in global art and gallery representation, increasing our exposure internationally. Silvermine now joins major NYC, London and Hong Kong Galleries in worldwide prestige.

**2020**  
Silvermine's outreach education program, Art Partners, and the Silvermine Elementary School in Norwalk (a Dual Language Magnet School) were able to reach a milestone this year with the 20th anniversary of the fifth-grade mural project. Just weeks before the pandemic closed all public schools throughout the state, the fifth graders at Silvermine Elementary completed their parting gift of a collaborative mural gracing the school's main hallway. Every year the fifth graders create a 9' x 20' mural, a legacy that remains as they move on to middle school. Past subjects have included "The Rainforest," "A Multicultural Feast," and "Birds and Insects of New England." This year's theme was "Hoyt Island: Nature and Environmental Awareness."





LIFETIME GIVING

\$500,000+

Connecticut Office of the Arts

\$200,000 - \$499,999

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Hilda Kraus  
Jeniam Foundation  
Barbara & William Hilson  
Daniel Edward Offutt, III Private  
Foundation Trust  
Emily Daggy Vogel  
Hearst Media / Hearst Foundation

\$100,000 - \$199,999

Connecticut Humanities  
Diana Wege Sherogan  
New Canaan Community Foundation  
Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation  
The Daphne Seybolt Culpeper  
Foundation  
Jan & Robert Dilenschneider  
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\$50,000 - \$99,999

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Colgate-Palmolive Company  
Estate of Gail Symon Hicks  
Diana & Lyman Delano  
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Foundation  
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Richard Bieder  
Warren Hicks  
The Annenberg Foundation  
Estate of Louise Gaudet  
Town of New Canaan  
Frances Makara

Annual Gifts

\$50,000+

Town of New Canaan  
Connecticut Humanities\*

\$20,000 - \$49,999

Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation\*  
Jan & Robert Dilenschneider\*  
Barbara & William Hilson\*

\$10,000 - \$19,999

Rose-Marie Fox & Bill Shanahan\*  
Fridolin Charitable Trust  
Barbara Benton Davis Fund\*

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Marilyn Clements\*  
Connecticut Humanities\*  
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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Circle Care Center  
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\$100 - \$499

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\*3 Years Continual Giving

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The Centennial marked a significant milestone in our history, commemorating a century of artistic excellence, cultural enrichment, and the nurturing of creative minds. It served as a reminder of our enduring commitment to the arts and the transformative power it holds. And now, as we reflect upon this momentous occasion, we can proudly say that our passion and dedication have not wavered.

None of this would be possible without the support and generosity of our dedicated donors, members, and volunteers. Your commitment to the Silvermine Arts Center allows us to continue our mission of fostering artistic growth, cultural enrichment, and community engagement.

Your contributions, whether financial, in-kind, or through your time and talent, have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals who have benefited from our programs and exhibitions.

We thank you!



Silvermine concludes its fiscal year 2023 with a robust financial performance. The organization achieved a net result after depreciation of \$101,556, reflecting sound fiscal management and operational efficiency.

The School of Art experienced notable growth, with revenues increasing by 16% compared to the previous fiscal year. This uptick suggests a strong demand for educational services, showcasing Silvermine’s success in attracting students and delivering value. Gallery art sales witnessed remarkable success, posting a substantial 43% increase over the preceding fiscal year, underscoring the appeal of Silvermine’s art offerings.

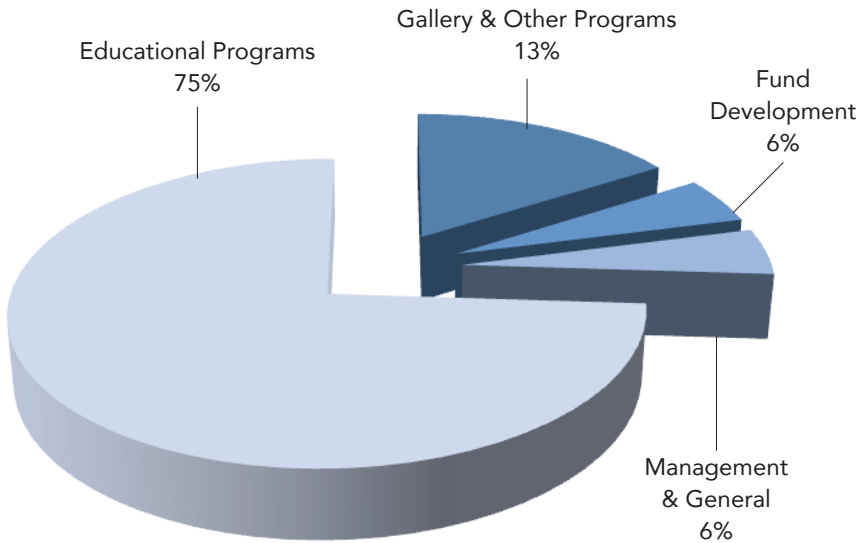
The organization’s ability to balance educational excellence with commercial success showcases a holistic approach to its mission, fostering both artistic development and financial sustainability.

### Financial Summary

#### Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

##### Operating Information

<b>REVENUE:</b>	
Tuition	\$1,752,673
Special Events Net Income	38,218
Other Earned Income	159,722
Contributions & Membership	448,172
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,398,785</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Compensation & Commissions	\$1,406,642
Scholarships & Outreach	117,335
Programming & Supporting Services	720,665
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,244,642</b>
Depreciation Expense	52,587
<b>RESULT AFTER DEPRECIATION</b>	<b>\$101,556</b>



Silvermine Arts Center received an unqualified opinion of its financial statements by its independent auditor, Eck Tax & Accounting. Full audited financial statements are available at the Silvermine Administrative Offices.

#### Functional Expense Distribution

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

#### Staff

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As we mark our Centennial, we remain steadfast in our vision  
to be a beacon of artistic inspiration,  
a sanctuary for creativity, and a catalyst for positive change.



Together, we will continue to create an environment where artists thrive,  
where arts education is accessible to all,  
and where the transformative power of art transcends boundaries.

# Silvermine

**Silvermine Arts Center** 1037 Silvermine Road New Canaan, CT 06840