It’s a wrap!

The gala PSA Annual Exhibition Awards Weekend seems to get better and better every year. This year was no exception. The PSA weekend (September 15-17, 2017) was about all things pastel—artists side by side with fellow artists, admiring beautiful paintings, discussing our cherished medium, exchanging ideas, catching up with old friends, meeting new ones, connecting names to faces. It was an exceptionally fun and enriching time for all.

Special Gallery Tour and Reception

Panoramic view of the Gallery Tour with Richard McKinley.

The fervor was unmistakable in the Grand Gallery at the National Arts Club as an overflow crowd of spectators awaited the Gallery Tour & Reception on Friday evening, September 15. Richard McKinley PSA-MP, HFH, captivated us with his expert and insightful interpretation on the diversity of painting styles and subjects in this year’s exhibition. McKinley is a popular workshop instructor, award-winning painter, author, member of the PSA board of governors, and president of IAPS.
It just keeps getting bigger and better! Our annual materials fair filled the Grand Gallery of the National Arts Club in New York City all day Saturday. With special offers and materials to drool over from so many of your favorite pastel suppliers, and with hundreds of eager customers, the Gallery rang with excitement and buzz. While buying, many attendees had the opportunity to enjoy the exhibition hung on the walls of the Gallery. We heard lots of enthusiastic comments about the fair itself and about the exhibition, and many artists looked forward to acceptance in next year’s show. Adding to the glamour of the event were the extraordinarily impressive and instructive demonstrations executed by Jacob Aguiar PSA, Nancie King Mertz PSA-MP, and Richard McKinley. They painted with their characteristic virtuosity and chatted with attendees about the techniques and methods that helped them become the successful pastel artists they are today. This year again saw an added and exciting feature—door prizes! Several vendors donated significant giveaways to the event; we had many happy customers walking out with unexpected pastel valuables, as well as with PSA-themed hats and totes. If you weren’t there, we missed you! So do try to make it next year. We promise you’ll have a great time!
Concurrent with the Materials Fair, the Portfolio Review was well-received and well-attended. Participants brought images of their work for Master Pastelists Sandra Burshell, Bill Creevy, and Terri Ford to critique. It was held in the sumptuous Salon at the National Arts Club. Next year, it will again be opened to Associates and non-members. The critique is free to Associates and costs $20 for non-members. It’s worth planning for.

The awards ceremony on Sunday was packed—standing room only. Mark Moss, photographer husband of office administrator Cindy Harisch, streamed the entire event on Facebook. It was a first for PSA, and we really appreciate his work. Four excellent artists joined the ranks of Master Pastelist.

The two top cash awards were received by Tim Gaydos PSA-MP, who received the $5,000 PSA Founders Award given by the Flora B. Giffuni Foundation, and Brian Bailey PSA-MP, who received the $3,000 Art Spirit Foundation Dianne B. Bernhard Gold Medal. Daniel Greene PSA-MP,HFH, received the Lila Gold Memorial Award donated by Duane Wakeham PSA-MP & Richard Sutherland for $2,000, and Susan Story PSA was awarded the Herman Margulies Award for Excellence donated by Dianne B. Bernhard PSA for $1,500.
Rainie Crawford’s still life pastel paintings illuminate quietness, domestic calm, and visual pleasure. The items portrayed are selected for their shapes, textures, and colors rather than any symbolic meaning. Instantly recognizable for their subdued palette set off by an orchestrated range of incredible color and tones, the paintings have established the artist’s reputation as a master of la nature morte. Rainie began her art education by studying with Robert Brackman in 1962. She became a PSA Signature artist in 1995 and obtained Master Pastelist status the following year. The recipient of numerous national awards, her work is included in many private collections and the permanent collections of the New Britain Museum of Art (CT), Butler Institute of American Art (OH), Ackland Art Museum (NC), and New Haven Print and Clay Club (CT).

Suzanne Young, who has been a member of PSA since its founding in 1972, officially received Signature status in 1976. She generously donated many years of service as a governor of the board in the 1980s and as portrait and figure instructor in the PSA School of Pastels for more than 17 years. Known for her generosity, she never collected a salary but donated her teaching services to PSA gratis in return for a modest fee for travel expenses. Students who had the good fortune of studying with her attest to her humility and dedication to assisting each student in finding and nurturing her/his own talent.

For eight years, Jamie Markle served as vice-president and group publisher for the Fine Art Community of F+W Media, Inc., in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he oversaw the creative and financial wellbeing of the company’s magazines, books, videos, and online sites. As a publishing executive, Jamie has continued to champion pastel as a major art medium through his oversight of Pastel Journal and The Artist’s Magazine. He was able to successfully manage the transition from traditional print to digital media, launching such sites as artistnetwork, artistdaily, and wetcanvas. As publisher, editorial director, and editor of North Light Books, Jamie has been a tireless supporter and promoter of PSA’s exceptional artists and pastel instructors. He has been a loyal friend and steadfast booster for both the Pastel Society of America and the International Association of Pastel Societies.
Master Pastelist Class of 2017

Congratulations to the five members of the Master Pastelist Class of 2017. By winning their third award in a PSA annual, these talented artists achieved the distinction of Master Pastelist.

They are pictured above (L-R) Cindy House, Jacqueline Meyerson, Susan M. Story, and Pirkko Haapalinna and Otto G. Stürcke, not present.

The Legacy Collection

The board of governors of PSA established the Pastel Society of America Legacy Collection to honor our late founder Flora Giffuni. Held in the permanent collection of the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio, it comprises works gifted by PSA Hall of Fame artists who have been invited by Dr. Louis Zona and his curatorial staff at the Butler to submit work. Our mutual goal is to create a legacy of excellence in a premier collection of pastels to be shown at this extraordinary venue. Hall of Fame honoree Rainie Crawford’s painting Porcelain Bowl with Pears been accessioned into the Butler’s Legacy Collection.
The Annual Dinner and Raffle Paintings

The Grand Gallery was festooned later in the evening and became a lovely and lively venue for the Annual Dinner. An overflow crowd packed it to capacity. In between dinner and dessert, the highly anticipated drawing of the winners in the annual painting raffle occurred. The winners: The anticipated drawing of winners in the annual painting raffle occurred between dinner and dessert. Maria Marino (Sykesville, MD) won Rainie Crawford’s still life; Barbara Genco (Brooklyn, NY) won Lyn Asselta’s landscape; Charles Pate, Jr. (Greenville, SC) won Mike Beeman’s bird portrait; Sherry Rhyno (S. Dennis, MA) won Casey Klahn’s abstract, and Barbara Denomme (Birmingham, MI) won Susan Story’s tree rendering.

Some Interesting Statistics on the 45th Annual

Five hundred seventy-five artists submitted a total of 1,297 images. Of those artists, 452 were PSA members and 123 were non-members. Of the 178 paintings juried into the exhibition, 23 were by non-members; 27 were by Associate member; 69 were by Signature members, and 59 were Master Pastelists. Among the award winners, 24 were existing Master Pastelists, 20 were Signature Members (5 of whom became MPs), 4 were Associate Members and 5 were non-members.
Thank you ever so much!

We wish to thank all those volunteers and artists who worked so hard to produce an outstanding and memorable exhibition—the 45th Annual Exhibition: *Enduring Brilliance*!

Thank you Nancie King Mertz, Jacob Aguiar, and Richard McKinley for your artistry.

We salute Lyn Asselta, Mike Beeman, Rainie Crawford, Casey Klahn, Susan Story, the five artists who donated original paintings to our raffle, the proceeds of which will benefit the PSA School for Pastels. We especially thank those of you who purchased tickets to support this worthy cause.

We are grateful to Alexandra Moss for her photos of the Awards Ceremony and Annual Dinner and to Mark Moss for streaming the Awards Ceremony live on Facebook.


Last but far from least, PSA wishes to thank Pierre-Yann Guidetti, chief executive officer of Savoir-Faire, for his generous sponsorship of the catalog for the 45th Annual Exhibition: *Enduring Brilliance*!

“I remember in the summer of 1981, meeting Flora Giffuni as an envoy of the Sennelier family. Those 36 years ago we made a commitment to each other to promote pastels in America. Since that day, supporting the pastel medium and the Pastel Society of America has been of utmost importance to me and to my company Savoir-Faire!”

*Pierre-Yann Guidetti*

*Chief Executive Officer*

*Savoir-Faire*

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![Savoir Faire](https://www.savoirfaire.com)
We hope you enjoyed this photographic review of the events surrounding the PSA 45th Annual Exhibition: *Enduring Brilliance!*

That’s all folks!

It’s a wrap!