

CLIFTON ARTS CENTER NEWSLETTER



Director's Message

A healthy new year to you all! It is no coincidence that 2021 will better align with the 21st century as we transition to new methods and different processes to better communicate and experience our human existence with each other.

Due to the ongoing concerns about novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Clifton Arts Center is closed to the public and will remain closed as we continue to assess and monitor developments. This decision is being made out of an abundance of caution and based upon the guidance of the CDC regarding social distancing and the elimination of large gatherings.

A 4-phase plan was developed for the building's reopening to the public at large. The simple overview is to keep staff and visitors to the building as safe and healthy as possible with proper protocols put in place so we can still enjoy art and the environment safely and comfortably. We are in phase 1 which is preparing necessary supplies along with building smart assistance features. Phase 2 is final installation of detailed building hygiene maintenance and other safety infrastructure implementation. Phase 3 is open to the public only on a limited basis with restrictions coinciding with health and safety protocols. Phase 4 is business in a new, innovative, healthy, and safe way. Keep in mind that a phase is not a day and phases can go back and forth depending on variables.

TeleArt is going to be part of the 21st century of innovation and creativity.

If we look at the telegraph, it was the first electrical telecommunications system devised to send messages more rapidly than written messages could be sent. This system allowed for communication to occur without the necessity of physical transportation. We too, are now in a new decade, and we will look at TelaArt as the distribution of art related services and information via electronic information and telecommunication. It allows long-distance and short distance visitors, patrons, guests and art administration to provide virtual contact, advice, education and remote admission via virtual platforms. Of course, there is no comparison to real presence and vis-à-vis meetings but as we transition, we will begin to have different technological innovations in our lives that will be as simple as when we had flipped the switch to lights instead of candles.

We live through history and it is up to us as to proactively work together – expanding our consciousness, embracing diversity, understanding different perspectives and instilling hope, strength, positive and uplifting high vibrational energy that fuels innovation and personal growth. Words do not teach us; it is our collective life experiences that provide the valuable lessons as we look to a better future. Have an amazing, new and beautiful year!

Take good care,

Roxanne Cammilleri

Director, Clifton Arts Center & Sculpture Park

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Who We Are

The Clifton Arts Center and Sculpture Park is a branch of the City of Clifton Health/Human Services Department designated to serve the well-being of the citizen through various cultural arts and educational programs to the local community. Our events are supported in part by our operating budget combined with the financial and in-kind donations from the nonprofit board, Clifton Arts Center, Inc.

Our Global Greetings

WRITTEN BY LIANA VAZQUEZ

Recently, we completed a virtual greeting card to coincide with our extended exhibit "World Travel in Art" from the Clifton Association of Artists. Influences from travel, heritage, and new cultural experiences can make art universal. Our holiday greeting celebrates winter holidays from around the world, such as Diwali in India, Lunar New Year in China, Christmas and many more! Together these holidays and special occasions bring attention to cultural traditions, family, and new beginnings to inspire us all.

We also want to remind our members and visitors what is important as we celebrated the holiday season in 2020 where countries around the globe have been affected by the same affliction. Yet, things will turn around as most special occasions are filled with hope. The Clifton Arts Center is looking forward to the future. Happy New Year!

If you happen to have missed our greeting card it can be viewed on the Clifton Arts Center website:
www.cliftonartscenter.org.



"World Travel in Art"

WRITTEN BY LIANA VAZQUEZ

This exhibit was provided by the Clifton Association of Artists. The exhibit has been extended into the year 2021 until further notice and has even turned virtual! The CAA originally came together in 1963 with the mission "to promote the advancement of art and culture in Clifton by creating an environment for the expression of the visual arts." This collection of paintings, photographs, and collages in particular displays a respect for global cultures by bringing examples of a life beyond Clifton into the spotlight. Specifically, the current members decided to look at past trips through an artistic lens, which led to many different styles and perspectives. One of the artists has seen Polish Mountains in large brushstrokes, another wanted to capture a Turkish site through photography, and another combined all the

symbols of a country into one piece. Clearly a country is more than a picturesque location, but also embraces people and a culture. The artworks and the message of unity and perception can still be enjoyed. It may be needed now more than ever, since there are very few places left to experience firsthand.

Items are still available to purchase. Sales are conducted through the Clifton Arts Center office. E-mail: rcammilleri@cliftonnj.org or call: 973-472-5499 if interested in purchasing art. The virtual exhibit itself can be found on the Clifton Arts Center website: www.cliftonartscenter.org. There is also a Q/A template for this exhibit was created for the virtual classroom.

Health & Well-Being:

WRITTEN BY ROXANNE CAMMILLERI

There are many silent heroes on the front lines and behind the scenes in helping with this global pandemic. Right here in Clifton, NJ are even more people from various departments such as: Police, Fire, DPW, and so many more citizens on a local level that are leading the community at large for health and safety especially in mitigating COVID-19. One person who is the major rock and foundation with health and safety as main goals for the community is:

John E. Biegel III, Director of Health and Human Services.

I am honored to contribute to the Clifton Health Department helping with case investigations and the vaccine clinic. Under the direction of Mr. Biegel's leadership, due diligence and the Clifton Health Department, their mission continues to help the community at large.

Clifton Health Department's Mission:

In partnership with the community, work to prevent disease, promote and protect health and well-being, and enrich quality of life for those who live and work in our community.

For more information about the Clifton Health Department and COVID-19 go to: www.cliftonnj.org

Like Clifton Health Department on Facebook: www.facebook.com/cliftonhealth

Follow Clifton Health Department on Instagram: @cliftonhealth



Virtual Sculpture Park

WRITTEN BY SABRIA SMITH

Clifton's Sculpture Park is an outdoor gallery which can be seen when you pass the city's municipal center. Clifton is proud to own one of the few municipal art parks in the entire country. It was Clifton's Beautification Committee that decided to create this cultural environment throughout the 26-acre municipal park to encourage growth and further bring the community together. The area is dedicated to Clifton residents as well as all visitors who may be simply looking for peace of mind. Let your creative juices flow as you decipher the meaning behind the artists' unique work. Some sculptures include oversized bugs,

busts, tributes, and abstract bronzes. These beautiful sculptures have been photographed and gathered into a virtual exhibit just for you! The Clifton Arts Center wanted to bring some joy through art.

If you are missing the outdoors do not hesitate to visit. In addition, the virtual exhibit can be found on the Clifton Arts Center website: www.cliftonartscenter.org. There is also a Q/A template for this exhibit was created for the virtual classroom.



Donations to Clifton Arts Center, Inc.

Clifton Arts Center, Inc is a 501(c) 3 organization. Monetary donations are tax-deductible for donors. Monetary donations of any size amount are acknowledged. Monetary donations given in the past have been spent towards exhibits, programs, events, and some minor building improvements. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can mail a check payable to Clifton Arts Center, Inc. 900 Clifton Ave Clifton, NJ 07013.

Upcoming Virtual Exhibit:

The Clifton Arts Center opened to public on January 6, 2000. We would like to honor and acknowledge the 20 years by presenting a virtual online exhibit that is currently in the making and date to be announced.

20 Year Retrospective: Postcards from Clifton Arts Center Gallery Exhibits

Virtual Programs:

We are presenting virtual programs to help expand our audience and develop new communicative and interactive methods for the 21st century. Here are some programs that may be of interest to you. The programs are free, but you will need to register ahead of time. We will communicate specific developments with you as the dates draw near. If you have specific questions, you can e-mail: rcammilleri@cliftonnj.org. Please note that these virtual programs are specifically for the Clifton Arts Center  Please be aware that due to the ongoing COVID-19 situations, programs may be subject to change or reschedule.

Communicating & Connecting: This is a program method of keeping up with the 21st century to reach out using technology to help us interact better in a different way. Invited guest speakers are community leaders, professionals, scholars and hobbyists.

Presenter: George Scarfo, "A Rocketry Model Garden"
Monday, June 7th 7pm-8pm Space Craft Hobbyist,
George Scarfo explores space exploration and Rocketry and Space Modeling.

Presenter: NASA Speaker: "An Astronaut Appearance"
Date and Time to Be Announced. A NASA team astronaut explores "Down to Earth" and explains to us an astronaut's perspective of what it is like in Space.

Artist Talk & Demo Virtually: This is a program method of engaging artists and the community via virtual platform talking about and/or demonstrating their creative art projects. Artists are from various backgrounds with exemplary skills, techniques and craftsmanship.

Presenter: Herrat Sommerhoff "Recycled into Art"
Monday, May 3rd 6pm-7pm Sculpture artist, Herrat Sommerhoff explores how to create a beautiful sculptural artwork with discarded paper and cardboard pieces, using paint and glue.

Presenter: Mariel Vazquez "Crochet as Art"
Monday, May 24th 4pm-5pm Fiber artist,
Mariel Vazquez explores acrylic yarn to detail how to crochet colorful blankets, which are both beautiful and meaningful.

Art Nook: This is a program method of engaging authors and the community via virtual platform talking about a written or published book relating to art, culture, or local history. Authors are from various backgrounds.

Presenter: Sandra Giordano "A Walk-Through Clifton"
Monday, April 26th 7pm-8pm Author, Sandra Giordano revisits her hometown and takes readers on a walk-through Clifton's paths, showcasing a City that generations of families continue to call home.
Book by Sandra Giordano: Clifton: Then & Now

Presenter: Gary Erbe "The Magic of Gary Erbe"
Thursday, May 24th 6pm-7pm Author and visual artist, Gary Erbe explores the technique and concept of the art of trompe l'oeil, along with his daughter Chantell Van Erbe discussing her mystical paintings.
Book by Gary Erbe: Footprints: The Art & Life of Gary Erbe

Community Connections: This is a program method that helps to inspire but also collaborate with the community digitally. Speakers will be from various backgrounds and share information about art, history, or culture to help connect community.

"Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms"
Monday, June 14th 7pm-8pm

Presenters: Robin Hoffman and Jodi Stiffelm from ArtScapades in Connecticut will explore closely the Four Freedoms paintings by legendary artist, Norman Rockwell based on the speech given in 1941 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Also, Anne Oppermann from Massachusetts, Norman Rockwell's former secretary and historian will share personal stories and letters about Norman Rockwell.

The community of any age is invited to illustrate their own ideas of freedom, mimicking the classic covers of *The Saturday Evening Post*. Drawings or paintings can be made and then e-mail a jpeg to rcammilleri@cliftonnj.org. Subject memo on e-mail should state "Freedom Collection".

Please note that drawings or paintings are subject to edit and City of Clifton Arts Center has the right to reserve if artwork is suitable for project collection. The collection will then be made into a PowerPoint or video and displayed on the website: www.cliftonartscenter.org as a collective community creation.

TelaArt Office Meetings: This is one new, additional way of having a live virtual office hour meeting visit with the Arts Center staff. A meeting can be scheduled for a specific purpose with the director. Keep in mind, meetings may take up to two weeks to schedule depending on the availability of the director. E-mail the director at rcammilleri@cliftonnj.org with specific information request regarding the scope of your meeting. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, we ask that you be mindful of time and limit your request to no more than one hour or less. Once scheduled, a virtual link will be e-mailed to you for the specific date and time of the meeting.



Thank You!

VISIT US @

