



The Crossroads of
Art and Community

STAY IN TOUCH/ CONTACT US

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The Atelier
ART SCHOOL & GALLERY

Honoring 10 Years of
Creativity at The Atelier

2016-2026
June 27, 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to inspire and deepen appreciation for the arts across Long Island and the greater New York metropolitan area. We are committed to preserving artistic tradition through the study, creation, and enjoyment of art in all its forms.

We provide inclusive, high-quality arts education for students of all ages, backgrounds, and skill levels within a supportive and engaging learning environment. In addition to instruction, we guide students in building portfolios and advancing their artistic careers.

Our vision is to connect artists, encourage creativity, support student achievement, enrich cultural life, and actively engage with the communities we serve.





LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Ten years ago, in a former helicopter factory in Flowerfield, St. James, New York, our small atelier was born. The conditions were far from ideal. There was very little heat, no air conditioning, poor lighting, inadequate drainage, little insulation, and a roof that leaked constantly. Yet none of that deterred us. We had a vision, determination, and affordable rent. We believed we could create something truly different for our artistic community: an atelier inspired by the great traditions of the early Florentine masters, where students could draw and paint, alongside their teachers in an environment devoted to artistic excellence.

Today, we are proud to say that vision has become a reality. Despite the inevitable challenges of building an institution from the ground up, and the disruptions of the COVID pandemic, The Atelier has not only endured but flourished. Today, we serve more than 100 students of diverse backgrounds, talents, and abilities through studio instruction, online classes, and plein air programs.

Over the years, we transformed the space into a modern, welcoming, and inspiring atelier. We have cultivated a dedicated Board of Trustees, assembled an exceptional faculty with wide-ranging accomplishments, and built a talented staff committed to our mission. Our instructors continue to uphold classical atelier traditions through rigorous training and direct observation from life. We have also created a fine art library of more than 6,000 volumes and established a gallery that regularly exhibits the work of faculty, students, and regional artists.

In addition, we offer free lectures and demonstrations, support fellowship and scholarship programs, and have remained open nearly every day since our founding. We achieved this vision through hard work, perseverance, and above all, a shared love of art.

Most importantly, none of this would have been possible without the generosity of our donors and the unwavering support of our board, faculty, staff, students, and community. To all, we extend our deepest gratitude. Congratulations on ten remarkable years.

Paul L. Lamb, Barbara Beltrami, and Dr. Stephen Vlay
Founders, The Atelier at Flowerfield, Inc.



To the next decade
of creativity
and community



THE ATELIER

The Atelier Art School and Gallery is a place where art and community meet.

Students enter to study the timeless disciplines of drawing and painting, guided by careful observation and disciplined practice. Light falls across still lifes, figures, and plaster casts, as each artist works to understand form, proportion, and beauty.

Instructors mentor and teach methods refined over centuries. Beyond the studio, the gallery offers a space where this dedication comes to life, connecting artists with the public.

It is a place where artistic education and community come together—grounded in craftsmanship, patience, and the enduring pursuit of excellence in the arts.

FROM FACTORY FLOOR TO FINE ARTS

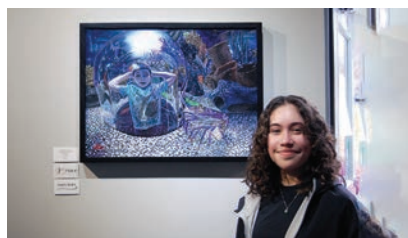


Founded in 1946 by Peter J. Papadakos, the Gyrodyne Company of America began

as an aerospace engineering firm specializing in helicopter design and manufacturing until the 1970s. Specifically, the company specialized in building helicopters—*where The Atelier currently resides*—famously creating the QH-50 DASH drone (drone anti-submarine helicopter) for the U.S. Navy in the 1960s.

In 1975, Gyrodyne began converting its helicopter manufacturing facilities into rental space suitable for light industry. Since then, the company has concentrated its efforts on the management and development of real estate. Today the company's headquarters remain in St. James, New York, while organizations such as the Gyrodyne Helicopter Historical Foundation preserve and promote the company's pioneering aerospace legacy.





WHAT WE OFFER

We offer excellence in art education alongside lectures, workshops, exhibition openings, and special events that celebrate and support the arts in our local community. With offerings spanning traditional fine arts, expanded media, and children's classes—paired with a vibrant exhibition program—there is something for everyone! We also maintain a Fine Arts Reference Library and offer annual memberships with special perks.

To get involved, call us at (631) 250-9009 or stop by to visit. The office, library and gallery are open from Monday through Saturday, 10am-4pm.

a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit

FACILITIES

The Atelier Gallery

Renovated in 2025, The Atelier Gallery is a 2,000-square-foot space that serves as the welcoming entryway to The Atelier. Hosting eight exhibitions each year, the gallery features a dynamic range of programming—from curated shows and work by Atelier instructors to annual juried exhibitions for high school students.

More than an exhibition venue, the gallery is a vibrant meeting place where art and community come together. At its core, The Atelier Gallery is committed to supporting artists by providing a platform to share their vision while actively promoting their work to a broader audience.



FINE ARTS LIBRARY

The Atelier Fine Arts Reference Library houses a remarkable collection of over 6,000 scholarly, rare, and out-of-print books and catalogs. Spanning from the early Middle Ages through the mid-nineteenth century, the collection represents artistic traditions from across continents and in multiple languages. Its extensive catalog holdings document historic exhibitions in a wide range of mediums, including painting, printmaking, engraving, sculpture, and conceptual art.

Designed as a resource for the public, the Fine Art Reference Library provides a welcoming space where students and visitors of The Atelier can gather, study, and engage with its collections. Equipped with work tables and a coffee nook, the library also serves as an intimate exhibition space, showcasing recent work and commissions by Atelier instructors and students. Visitors are invited to visit during Gallery Hours, Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM.

The bulk of the collection was generously donated to The Atelier by Andrew Washton of Washton Books in Port Chester, NY., alongside donations made by others.





THE STUDIOS

Studio 12 and 18

The Atelier studios are working environments rooted in the traditions of classical art training, where careful observation, discipline, and craftsmanship guide the practice. The space is typically quiet and focused, filled with easels arranged to capture consistent natural or controlled light—often from large north-facing windows or carefully positioned studio lamps. Walls may be lined with casts, master copies, and reference materials, reinforcing a lineage of study that connects students to centuries of artistic practice.

Painters work methodically, building images in stages—from drawing and underpainting to fully realized compositions—often guided by an instructor who offers individual critiques. The atmosphere is one of concentration and shared purpose, where students and artists of varying levels work side by side, learning through both direct instruction and observation. Materials such as charcoal, oil paints, brushes, and palettes are integral to the space, contributing to its tactile, hands-on character.

More than just a studio, an atelier fosters a sense of community grounded in a commitment to developing technical skill and a deeper understanding of the arts.

CAST ROOM

The cast room at The Atelier art school is a quiet, focused space dedicated to studying form through classical plaster casts.

Controlled lighting creates strong shadows, helping students observe planes and proportions. Working at easels, they carefully render each cast over many hours. The atmosphere is calm and disciplined, emphasizing close observation, accuracy, and a deep understanding of classical ideals.



THE COURTYARD

The Atelier courtyard at Flowerfield was conceived through the leadership of Atelier Board Member Barbara Beltrami in 2020, working in partnership with a dedicated staff committee and a team of skilled consultants. Designed as a welcoming outdoor gathering space, the courtyard provides an inviting environment for students, artists, and visitors while encouraging a stronger sense of community between the Atelier and its neighboring pottery studio, The Brick.

Design & Planning: Architect Matt Barkus developed the scaled site plan, while horticultural and landscape design guidance was provided by Natalia Lamb, Marilyn Light, and Joan Bloom.

Implementation: Construction, electrical work, and landscape installation was overseen by Jorge Bethancourt of Bethancourt Constructions Corp., serving as the project's lead contractor.

Plantings & Garden Features: Olde Towne Gardens provided the plant materials, garden ornaments, and decorative fountain, helping to create a welcoming and vibrant outdoor space for The Atelier community.



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Fellowship Program is a rigorous, immersive apprenticeship designed for emerging artists committed to developing professional-level skills. Fellows engage full-time in the disciplined study and practice of drawing and painting within a focused studio environment.

Over the course of two years, The Atelier Fellow students refine their abilities through a structured sequence of projects, including still life, self-portraiture, figure painting, and master copies. In addition to their studio work, fellows contribute to The Atelier community by volunteering at events, assisting instructors as teaching aides, and helping to oversee studio spaces as needed.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Atelier's Internship Program, launched in 2026, serves students and emerging artists by providing hands-on experience in arts administration, gallery operations, and educational programming. Interns gain valuable professional skills while contributing to the daily activities and special events at The Atelier. Through mentorship and practical training, the program helps prepare participants for future careers in the arts.



INSTRUCTORS



William Graf

- Drawing & Painting
- Portrait Drawing & Painting
- Mastering Watercolor
- Online Still Life Drawing & Painting



James Beihl

- Graphic Novel & Genre Illustration



Tyler Hughes

- Oil Painting: Light, Color & Composition
- Portrait Drawing & Painting



Linda Ann Catucci

- Art & Art History for Kids



Jane McGraw-Teubner

- Painting with Pastels



Anthony Davis

- Plein Air Painting
- Landscape & Seascape Painting



Frederic Mendelsohn

- Still Life & Landscape Painting



Randall DiGiuseppe

- Fundamentals of Drawing
- Life Drawing



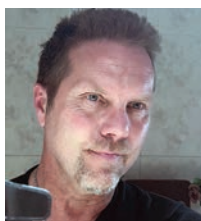
Marlena Urban

- Intro to Oil Painting



Elizabeth Fusco

- Basic Watercolor



Jonathan Van Brunt

- Acrylic Landscape Painting

BENEFACTORS

Charles C. Mihalek
Christine & Richard Stone
Howind Charitable Trust
Natalia & Paul Lamb
Marcia & Mario Montoya

Malcolm Smith
Christopher C. Gates
Sharon Cowles
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