



March 4, 2023

## Letter From the President

**Dear Friends** – This year we celebrate 50 years as the Deer Isle Artists Association.

Begun in 1973 as a small group of mostly summer folk who gathered in the second-floor room of the library in Stonington, the DIAA has become a highly valued art organization of around 100 artists supporting educational outreach, fostering community dialogue and exhibiting tremendous art to the peninsula and beyond.

To celebrate this milestone we will have a special exhibit the first week in August and are reaching out to members – current, former and to the families of those who have passed. We are finetuning the requirements for size restrictions and so forth. Please email me with any questions ([dmcbethme@gmail.com](mailto:dmcbethme@gmail.com)) and help us reach out to former members you may know. I am incredibly excited by the potential of this exhibit and the gathering of DIAA's artwork created over a fifty-year span.

Our gallery is a shining place within the Deer Isle village, bringing art to the community year-round. Winter Residencies offer members studio space for a month to work, explore new ideas and interact with the community through conversations and workshops, furthering our outreach and adding to the visual arts dialogue. Our Winter Windows "exhibit" keeps bright,

artistic creativity before the public through what can be gray, dreary days.

I strongly encourage you to continue the fantastic support you have offered to the DIAA whether through participating in exhibits, helping with exhibit installation, extending your financial backing or sharing our posts through your social media.

You might be interested in serving on the Board. More information about that will be coming out soon. As I have said many times over the years, I have been honored to serve the DIAA as president since 2009 and will gladly continue. However, there may be some one of you who might ready for the task.

At the 2009 annual meeting, as incoming president, I said I have a deep passion for the visual arts and for evangelizing the arts to the masses. That is still true today. I also said, "The NPR slogan is - A Great Nation Deserves Great Art." I further commented, "The DIAA slogan should be – "Even Beautiful Places Deserve Great Art."

So sign-up for exhibits, offer to help in the gallery, think about your role in board work and support the DIAA financially.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again this summer!

**David McBeth**, DIAA President, 2023

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## The Membership Renewal Package

In addition to the Membership and Exhibition Sign-Up forms, the package includes two other items: (1) the Member Information Brochure describing DIAA operations and procedures you agree to as a member, and (2) an information sheet outlining the purpose and goals of the 12x12(x12).

**Membership Form** – Send the form and check to the PO box. If your mailing address, phone or email address have changed in the last year, please flag that. Send membership questions to [sfinsendiaamembership@gmail.com](mailto:sfinsendiaamembership@gmail.com).

**Exhibition Form** – Send the form to Cindy Simonds by **April 15** to improve chances of getting into your exhibition choices. The assignment process will begin right after that. She can also answer your exhibitions questions ([cbsimonds@gmail.com](mailto:cbsimonds@gmail.com)).

**DIAA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – As noted by David above, we have added a one-week special exhibit to celebrate DIAA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. All current and former members are invited to participate; David McBeth will be providing details later in the Spring.

**Member Information Brochure** – Last year we drafted this brochure and finalized it after member input. You will find answers to many questions here, and it is important that you understand what you are agreeing to as an exhibiting member. If you have any questions or suggestions send them to [sfinsendiaamembership@gmail.com](mailto:sfinsendiaamembership@gmail.com).

**12x12(x12)** – This annual special event will run for **one week** (6 days) again. Please help us communicate to gallery visitors and your own clients and followers the nature of this special event. We all need to underscore that the \$144 price does not represent the true value of artists' work and talent, but the event has other benefits.

**Susan Finsen**, Membership Chair, 2023