



## **GROTON NEW LONDON AIRPORT -- ART AT THE AIRPORT PROGRAM**

The Connecticut Airport Authority which manages and operates **Groton – New London Airport**, collaborated with the **Cultural Coalition**, a partner with the Connecticut Office of the Arts, to establish and present Art At the Airport. The program's purpose is to showcase the southeastern CT region's uniqueness, history, industry, culture and geography through visual arts in the airport's main terminal located at 155 Tower Avenue in Groton. A recently added partner, the **Groton Public Library**, provides companion programs to the exhibits on view at the airport gallery. The dedicated webpage <http://culturesect.org/art-at-the-airport/> is generously hosted by the Cultural Coalition.

### Art Exhibits and Lending Organizations/Artists

A series of diverse quarterly exhibits has been successfully displayed since the program start in 2017.

**100-year Anniversary of Subbase New London/U.S. Dept of the Navy Submarine Force Museum** – painting reproductions and history panel set from the CTSUBCEN Navy Art Show. The panel set was initially displayed in Summer 2017. Now, it is intermittently on view between new exhibits.

**'Common Thread'/Reliance Health, United Community Family Services, The Light House and Horses Healing Humans** – fabric art project representing the creative work of the four local social service organizations and their clients [Fall 2017]

**'The Costen Cultural Exhibition'/Bill Costen** – selected works from an eclectic collection depicting rare photographs and memorabilia including recognition of the curator's experience as a hot air balloon pilot and business owner in Connecticut. [Winter 2017-2018]

**'John Meyer of Norwich: An American Original'/Slater Memorial Museum** – tells the story of this mid-20<sup>th</sup> century fashion designer who, born and raised in Norwich CT, went on to establish his iconic women's garment manufacturing and retail businesses there. [Spring 2018]

**'Life Without Limits'/United Cerebral Palsy of Eastern Connecticut** – a collection of mixed media art created by individuals in the UCP art program along with staff members. [Summer 2018]

**'Bela Lyon Pratt: Sculptor of Monument'/Slater Memorial Museum** – historical depiction of the life and contributions of this teacher and sculptor who was born in 1867 and educated in Norwich CT. He was eventually commissioned to create urban public works throughout New England, Washington, D.C. and beyond. They include monuments on view in Connecticut at the State Capitol in Hartford, Yale University in New Haven, City of New London and Avery Memorial Park in Groton. [Fall 2018]

**'Community Faces, Humanizing the Immigrant Experience'/Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication of New London** – an award-winning class project by 94 sixth-grade students presented an interactive photo portrait gallery with personal stories of sixteen local immigrants. [Winter 2018-2019 with artists reception in February 2019]

**'Brought to Light: Ellis Ruley in Norwich'/Slater Memorial Museum** – Ellis Walter Ruley, born 1882 in Norwich, CT into modest circumstances, became a self-taught artist who worked with materials available to him. The exhibition explored Ruley's paintings and other artwork while examining the story of his life including his untimely, unresolved death. [Spring 2019]

**'Love & Pop Designs'/Rita Rivera** – Local graphic artist, writer and illustrator Rita Rivera was Best of Readers' Choice awardee for graphic design and recipient of the Southeastern CT 40 under 40 Award. The exhibit featured her logos, posters and other artwork highlighting past community events as well as cities and towns in the region including Mystic, New London and Niantic. Rita chatted with airport visitors at the Meet the Artist booth during the Airport Open House and Walking Tour. [Summer 2019]

**'Open Spaces' featured the paintings of 4 local artists Susan MacKay, Liz McGee, Mark Patnode and Susan Stafford.** The exhibition was an effort to bring greater awareness of individuals and conservancies who have worked to preserve the open spaces along the southeastern CT coastline. These consummate artists brought the outdoors to canvas with their depictions in oil, watercolor and acrylic paints. [Fall 2019 with Opening Reception Oct 10th]

**'New London, New Colors' Latin American Artists Adrian Meyer, Ivan Huerto and Maria Columbo/Expresiones Cultural Center.** Works by the artists from Uruguay, Peru and Argentina respectively showed paintings using various media. Other works were 3-D and created with New London public school students. All three artists participated in Expresiones' artist-in-residency and the ArtVenture programs to increase cultural competency as well as provide relevant and unique experiences, bilingual arts and educational programming for youth. [Winter 2019-2020]

**Spotlight on United States Coast Guard International Ice Patrol (IIP)/Ops Center – New London.** This one-of-a-kind exhibit featured reproductions of oil paintings and graphic illustrations depicting the mission of the IIP. Its Operations Center (OPCEN) is the hub for iceberg information processing and dissemination to mariners. Fixed wing USCG aircraft fly primary reconnaissance for the Ice Patrol which routinely departed Groton New London Airport during the ice season Feb to July for 25+ years. [January-March & Virtual Live Tour April 2021]

**'Take Flight!'/Lilywork Artisan Tile.** The inaugural showing of Take Flight! featured aviation-inspired, colorful mosaic tiles handcrafted in clay by local artisans in Stonington. Each mosaic was individually designed and then created with a block of clay and a hand-carved mold. The unique display explored the pioneering people, their breakthroughs and the inspiration that led to the world of flight known today. It depicted specific moments in modern aviation history. [Spring & Summer 2021]

**'Peace in Nature'/Artreach, Inc.** A mixed media gallery offering of artwork created by Artreach program members. Master teaching artist Faith Satterfield guided the artists in exploring natural elements, focusing on Earth, Sky and Water. Each week the group traveled to a different outdoor location to work 'en plain air' using watercolor, pencil, or medium of the artists' choice. The exhibit also shows original artwork published in a new zine formatted print volume entitled "Creativity Heals: Art & Poetry by Artreach". It is the first display of that 2020 project after the pandemic postponement. [Fall 2021]

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