

**WESTPORT ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**  
**12 noon, Town of Westport recorded Zoom Call**

**Present:** Nancy Diamond, Kathie Bennewitz, Frederic Chiu, John Dodig, Richard Epstein, Lee Goldstein, Jerri Graham, Diane Lowman, Charles Rosoff, Elizabeth Strick, Doug Tirola, Kimberly Wilson,

**Guest:** Harris Falk

Kathie called the meeting to order at 12:05pm as chair, Nancy Diamond was delayed.

**1. Art subcommittee & accessions update: Kathie**

Kathie shared images with the committee which had been reviewed by the Diversity sub-committee for inclusion in the Town Collection.

*Charles Joyner "Village @ Ntonso" 2021*

The artist has gifted the work to the collection. An exhibit of Joyner's work is planned at the Library in 2022. He was with a number of kids who came north to High Schools in CT in the 1960's and will be featured in a documentary film about their experience by film maker Bonnie Clair Smith who also was one of those students. Smith attended Norwalk High School. The documentary will be screened at the Library in conjunction with the Joyner exhibit.

*Christa Forrest "Don't Judge me"*

This work will be purchased by Friends of WestPAC for the collection, but currently is in San Diego. Kathie will arrange shipping with Christa

*Larry Silver "Yangzhou" 1990, silver print.*

Yangzhou is Westport's sister city in China. The print is a gift to the Town collection from the artist.

*Leonard Everett Fisher*

"Netters" 1949, A transfer sketch. India ink and graphite on tracing paper. A gift from the artist to the Town collection.

*Victor Vasserey*

"Jugglers" 1977, signed silk screen, a gift of Al Aroxco to the collection.

*Eliot Porter, 1901 – 1990*

“Intimate Landscapes” 1979 Three dye transfer prints from a portfolio. Donated by Larry Silver to the Town collection.

“Rock ended StreamBed”

“Foxtail Grass” 1971

“Shadbush”

*Lindsey Addario* “On the Wire; Veiled Rebellion” 2010

A series of 34 prints will be donated by the photographer. [25 prints: 40”x28’, 1 print: 60”x40’, 8 prints: 12”x8’ ] Storage has yet to be arranged.

It was suggested that the Library may be interested in taking some of the photographs. Kathie is to have a discussion with Library; John and Elizabeth offered to help.

A vote was taken after reviewing the seven artists’ work. The committee was unanimous in accepting all the work into the Town Collection. Kathie will arrange to present before the Selectmen for approval

Lee brought up the issue of storage of the collection. Kathie said it is ok for now. She also reported that Charles and Liz Archibald, a possible new committee member, have been reviewing the collection and identifying work that could be deaccessioned.

## **2. Lawn sign project: Steve**

Nancy reported for Steve who was on vacation. The lawn signs, incorporating written word and art, were created by students and placed on the Elementary School properties. Pictures of the signs have been posted on local media and the Westport School website. Steve and Diane were congratulated for their work on the project. At the close of the exhibit, John will pick up the signs and distribute them around Town.

## **3. Poet Laureate update: Diane**

April is Poetry month and Diane reported she has received requests from organizations to contribute a Haiku for their websites. The culture column in the WestportlocalPress will feature Art and food in May; June will celebrate Fathers-Day. Diane would like to feature a work from the Town collection, a Father and son. Kathie said she would research. Diane also asked for suggestions from the committee for other father/son artists by May 1.

#### **4.DPIC, Priorities: Kimberly**

Kimberly met with Jim Marpe and Randy Herbertson and was invited to be on the Downtown Planning Implementation (DPIC) committee, served with implementing improvements to the downtown area. Technology upgrades could be an opportunity for Otocast. Kimberly will introduce Otocast to DPIC and report back.

It was suggested that Kimberley speak with Neil Cohen who is on the WestPAC Committee as well as P&Z for thoughts on another platform for Otocast. Richard offered to help.

#### **5. Nancy (Chair) report:**

Planning and Zoning is looking to install bus shelters with a clause that would allow art and sculpture. Nancy proposed that WAAC put together a subcommittee to come up with a plan if/when approved.

David Waldman offered WAAC an opportunity to paint art on unutilized flood gates on the alley off Main street at Bedford Square. This is near the area where a sign in recognition of the black community that once lived there is being placed. Since the flood gates are close to the ground, David suggested perhaps the art could be for children. It was suggested that the Museum of History and Culture might participate . Nancy will reach out to Ramin. Kimberley would like to be involved.

Nancy thanked Kathie for organizing the wonderful talk on the work of Tracy Sugarman with Dr Redell Hearn from the Mississippi Museum.

Lee suggested that we have a committee member on the TEAM Westport Committee, as much of TEAM's projects would be of interest WAAC.

**The next meeting of the Arts Advisory Committee is Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 12 noon on Zoom.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:08pm

Elizabeth Strick, Secretary, Westport Arts Advisory Committee