



Coast Guard Art Program award recipients pose with Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry at an art acceptance ceremony at the Salmagundi Art Club in Manhattan, N.Y. June 25, 2008. Left to right: Thomas E. Picard, Karen Loew, Chris Demarest, Landry, Sharon Way-Howard and Stephanie Fracasso. Not pictured: Dino Sistilli.

U.S. Coast Guard Photo by PA3 Barbara L. Patton

New Artwork Accepted by Coast Guard Art Program

Story and photos by PA3 Barbara L. Patton

U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs Detachment New York

Scenes of daring rescues, tender moments and random patrols hang on the walls in a historical brownstone in Manhattan's east side. Patrons of art gather around them, murmuring appreciation or standing in quiet contemplation.

Coast Guard officials accepted these new works of art into the Coast Guard Art Program (COGAP) in a ceremony at the Salmagundi Art Club Wednesday, June 25, 2008.

Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry, assistant commandant for Public and Governmental Affairs at Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and Karen Loew, chair of the Coast Guard Committee of the New York-based Salmagundi Club acknowledged the talents of the many artists who submitted artwork.

"If you ask artists why they paint, it's usually for personal pleasure, a commission, a juried competition," Loew said, addressing a mixed crowd of military members and art patrons during the ceremony.

"Why does a COGAP artist paint?" she asked, and followed with an answer. "Admiration of the subject; appreciation and respect for the Coast Guard and as a tribute for all they do for all of us."

Loew also recognized the people in the various paintings, pencil sketches and other mixed-medium pieces as a valuable asset to the American people while acknowledging the talent of the artists.

“Coast Guard members are humble and quiet about their often heroic work and do not seek attention. With the art in the COGAP collection, we pull you into the spotlight as we stand in awe in your shadow,” Loew said.

The art program serves to educate the public, who may not know all of the different facets of the Coast Guard’s missions, said Mary-Ann Bader, the COGAP project coordinator.

“The artists, through their work, show the Coast Guard story in a compelling and immediate visual way,” Bader said. “They illuminate what our service is about and tell it in a way that mere words can’t. Through the art program, we help show to the American people, as well as other leaders in government and military, the significant contributions the Coast Guard makes daily to the United States.”



Dino Sistilli received the George Gray award for his piece entitled *Homeland Security*, depicting a 25-foot response boat patrolling a harbor.
U.S. Coast Guard Photo by PA3 Barbara L. Patton

Dino Sistilli’s painting *Homeland Security* received best-in-show. Sistilli was presented with the George Gray Award and his painting, as well as five others, will be displayed at the Salmagundi Club until July 11. Afterward, they will be on display in the Customs House Maritime Museum in Newburyport, Mass.

“I am really touched by how it’s just their job,” said Loew, remarking on the myriad of Coast Guardsmen and various missions depicted in the art work. “What we admire them for is just their day’s work. I think it’s so much more than that.”

COGAP was co-founded in the early 1980’s by George Gray, a former active-duty Coast Guardsman who championed the program until his death in 2004 at the age of 94. The George Gray award is given to COGAP members based on the work they submit and the efforts they have made on behalf of the United States Coast Guard to enhance public awareness.