

The Nest, oil on linen, by Cora Ogen



Meeting the artists and seeing them at work is a special feature of the art trail.

"You can meet the artists, and for those people who are not seasoned art collectors, which is most of us, there's something very ephemeral about the feeling you get when you love a painting or a piece of art," Nair states. "Many people are nervous about writing a check to that, but on the trail, you can see the process they are involved in at the studio and learn about the art, the artist, and the development."

Several trail artists will give demonstrations, including Catherine Elliott, who will discuss her painting process at The Mill House Gallery; and Janet Colandrea, a silversmith will complete a beaded, silver necklace using the cold-connection technique of jewelry-making, also at the gallery.

"Also, three artists, Jennifer Holmes, Ken Shuey, and Catherine Elliott, all elected members of The Connecticut Plein Air Painters Society, are painting en plein air—a favorite of the shoreline area—throughout Chester, and that's sure to be a highlight," Nair notes.

Nair believes not only does the trail provide a great event

for art lovers, but it benefits artists and ACK.

"It works many ways—the artists want a creative way to get their art out there, and the Art Center gets a program without the specific space for it."

Nair says the Autumn Art Trail adds an exciting event to the shoreline art calendar.

"New Haven has a really big art trail, and we wanted one in our own backyard. It brings new ideas and an idea that can grow," she adds.

The idea for the Autumn Art Trail developed from house and garden tours in the community—with the inspiration and support of Killingworth's artistic community.

"Two years ago we thought we could do that for studios, that's the concept that started it. Killingworth has several well known artists who sell their work nationally. We spoke to many of them and they liked the idea," Nair says. "The artists in Killingworth have been very supportive and helpful to us and we're [ACK] a burgeoning group."

Nair invites the shoreline community to enjoy all of the events on the art trail.

"We want people to be part of the program—it's an adventure to take the map and the program and find the studios and talk to the people. Everybody should have a good time, and I know, I have to hold myself back from buying too many works," she says with a laugh.

The Autumn Art Trail is on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and children age 12 and under are free. For advance tickets, call 860-663-5593 or visit The Mill House Gallery, open Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. During the trail weekend, tickets can be purchased at The Copper Skillet, 184 Route 81, Killingworth, or at The Arts Center, 276 N. Parker Hill Road, Killingworth. For more information, visit www.artscenter-killingworth.org.

This Fall, Take to the Art Trail

By Susan Talpey
Living Editor

The Arts Center at Killingworth (ACK) doesn't have its own gallery space, but that hasn't stopped it from developing a lively, interesting artistic show. It just took to the streets.

The annual Autumn Art Trail, presented by ACK, is a collaboration of artists who will open their studios, display works, and give artistic demonstrations in Killingworth, North Madison, and Chester.

The trail will run on Saturday, Oct. 14, and Sunday, Oct. 15, and Barbara Nair, executive and artistic director of the Art Center, says this year's trail is bigger and better.

"We have really great artists, including many that have been elected to the Lyme Art Association or the Plein Art Society," she says. "The quality of work is wonderful, and there is more variety—more sculptures and more

paintings. We have more studios that are open longer and the artists are more into it."

Nair says supporters of last year's trail will be pleased to see the return of painter Bill Hosking; watercolorist Irene Laime; oil painter Amy White; and New York City-based environmental artist Patti Pippin, whose hand-built robots are a big hit.

"We have many of the same artists of last year, so people can see how their work has changed—their new mediums, ideas, and concepts," she states.

In Killingworth, the paintings of Diane Aeschliman, Cora Ogen, and Gloria Nilsson will be on display in their studios, and although they have "only a small building," the ACK will host the studios of painter Margaret Dean, who will work on location, and sculptor Rosemary Gurpide, who will demonstrate portrait sculpting with a live model.

North Madison will host the trail at the studio of nationally-recognized wildlife painter Michael DiGiorgio, and in Chester, the studios of photographer Caryn B. Davis, painter Leif Nilsson, and sculptor Helene M. Johnson are open.

The trail's group exhibition at The Mill House Gallery in Chester features the work of 22 artists, including sculptor Judy Holder, stained glass artist Jean Waters, modern painter Jean-Marie Conlon, and Asian pen and ink artist Mark Mimberg.

"We are fortunate to have great, cooperative artists, who understand the program and what we're trying to do. They have given us lots of support," Nair says.



American Girls, oil on linen, by Diane Aeschliman