

## December Schedule

Wednesday, December 3  
Drop off painting at the Studio for Loop Night

Thursday, December 4  
Hang for Loop Night and Clean for Open House

Friday, December 5  
Loop Night Holiday Exhibit

Thursday, December 11  
Holiday Card Workshop with Carolyn Anderson  
Monitor: Marjean Willett

**NOTE:**  
There will be no Cookie Exchange

Saturday, December 13  
Delaware Art Museum Holiday Tour of the Howard Pyle Studio  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 14  
Last day to submit a sealed bid for the MacLellan Auction.

Monday, December 15  
Wining Bidders of the MacLellan Auction will be notified.

Wednesday, December 17  
Pick up work from the Wilmington University Exhibition,  
10:00 - 12:00 Noon

Thursday, December 18  
Still Life Painting

Thursday, December 25  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

## January Schedule

Monday, January 12  
Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, January 15  
General Meeting

Thursday, January 22 - half day  
Marjean Willett presents  
"Looking Back, A Retrospective of 40 Years of Painting"

Thursday, January 29  
Snow Day - Paint together

## Delaware Art Museum Holiday Tour

The event takes place on Saturday, December 13th from 10 AM to 4 PM. Please mark your calendars and encourage your friends to sign up for the tour by contacting the Delaware Art Museum. Because of this additional exposure, make sure to bring your BEST work for December Loop Night. (This is not a miniature show.)

In preparation for your hostess duties during the tour, please read the articles below, highlighting the histories of Howard Pyle and the Studio Group.

## Howard Pyle's Franklin Street Studios

By Pat Zolper

In 1883, Howard Pyle, one of the outstanding illustrators of the Golden Age of Illustration and the father of the Brandywine tradition of art, built his own studio at 1305 North Franklin Street. Pyle was a painter, writer, illustrator and teacher, and the first to teach the art of illustration.

In the style of Georgian Revival, the studio was a free adaptation of a Tudor cottage, sparked by Pyle's interest in English history of the 16th and 17th centuries. He asked that the interior be the "color of telegraph poles," conducive to the dark interior of the Victorian age. A porch was in the rear and there were skylights both north and south. (Only the northern skylights remain, the most constant light desired by artists.) A small area south of the main room probably served as a washroom and office. Later this area would be used for his secretary; today a kitchen. A storage room was above. Later Pyle built an addition for his sister Katherine to use as a studio. Katherine was also both an artist and writer. Initially there was no electricity. Fireplaces provided heat. Note the wrought iron hinges, bulls-eye windows, Dutch doors and other details of late 19th century architecture.

By 1900, Pyle built two adjoining studios for students coming to join the Howard Pyle School of Art. There was no tuition; students paid for rent and art materials which their teacher sold at cost. 12 out of

500 applications were accepted the first year. Outstanding among his students were Frank Schoonover and N.C. Wyeth, father of Andrew, grandfather of Jamie.

After Pyle's death in 1911, the three studios were sold to Pyle students Stanley Arthurs and Clifford Ashley. New flooring was laid in the Master's studio, including the section of buttonwood tree which is where Pyle had stood as he was teaching. The Moroccan chest fronts seen at ceiling level were also added then.

## The Studio Group, Inc.

By Pat Zolper

The Studio Group, first organized in 1935 as a small group of women painting together, purchased the Franklin Street property in 1964. Studio One is named in honor of one of the founders, Eugenia Rhoads. Today one of Eugenia's paintings hangs in the entry of Studio Two, now named for its benefactor and former member Helen Farr Sloan. Helen was the wife of John Sloan, who was part of an artists' group known internationally as The Eight. In 1978, the three studios were accepted for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Members hold weekly gatherings to paint on their own or with visiting instructors. The group is involved in community art efforts, fund raisers and scholarships. Special shows are held throughout the year and the studios are open the first Friday of the month, with the exception of January, July and August, as part of "Loop Night". Tours can be arranged. In 2008, the Howard Pyle Studio celebrates 125 years of continuous use as a working studio. The Studio Group, Inc., which owns and maintains the studios, is dedicated to ensuring the buildings' future as a resource for artists and the community.

## IN MEMORIAM

Bernard Felch died the first week of November in Unionville, PA. A well known artist, he taught several workshops for The Studio Group. He was the father of Lindsey Felch, who rented Studio One for an art gallery business in the early '80's.

## Charles MacLellan Exhibit

Four works by MacLellan have been restored and are offered for sale at a Sealed Bid Auction. The work is currently on display in Studio Three and will be featured for the December Art Loop.

Bidding will continue through December 14. Minimum bids are posted. Winning Bid Holders will be notified on Monday, December 15.

For more information, please contact Audrey Van Dyk.



## Charles Archibald MacLellan Part Two of Story in Two Parts

By Audrey Van Dyk

*Continued from November issue)*

Those next assigned were the already established Helen Farr Sloan committee, which consisted of Norma Day, Barbara Selby, Audrey Van Dyk and, ex-officio, the presiding President of Studio Group. In February, 2002, the inventory of twenty-one paintings were all re-photographed and the committee contacted Joyce Hill Stoner, Conservator and Professor at Winterthur and the University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation and her student, Tatiana Boreis.



Joyce and Tatiana spent an afternoon viewing and evaluating the work. Joyce sent us a detailed report, categorizing the works in four groups of conservation priority. She also studied the paintings that had been restored, and sadly for us, reported that "Girl With Apple Blossoms", that had been restored by the Illustration House, "appears to have been glue-lined and cut down from the original format. It has been permissively over-painted and has disguised the artist's real technique and brush stroke on the face. Unacceptable treatment in any professional conservator's book." She advised that it should never be sold.

The other paintings in the Studio collection were very well restored by Twistback, in Oxford, PA. Joyce selected three

paintings that she offered to include in her future classes at Winterthur as student restoration projects. We were waiting to hear from her, but years quickly rolled by. When we contacted her in January 2007, she said that maybe something could be done in the fall of 2008.

The committee decided a renewed effort to sell was in order, and, in view of many new Studio Group members, invited Studio members and Associates and their friends before advertising the sealed bid auction sale to the public. In view of the continuing deterioration, the committee reevaluated the works and set minimum bids. Letters were mailed and the sale took place on March 23rd and 24th, 2007. Much to our surprise all the paintings were sold and we were able to hand a check for \$9,064.00 to our treasurer. It is a story of mystery and treasure given to us in a very strange way by a very talented friend of Studio Group – Charles Archibald MacLellan.

## Holiday Card Workshop

**Carolyn Anderson** will give a workshop in the design and production of hand-crafted Holiday Cards on December 11.

This will be a mixed media workshop and all are encouraged to bring whatever you enjoy to paint with, stamp with, glue on, or whatever else fun stuff you can think of. Carolyn will provide cards for everyone.

## PWCS Exhibition

The Philadelphia Water Color Society Anniversary Exhibition, currently at Mitchell Hall at West Chester University, will close on December 19. Pay a visit to see work by **Anna Bellenger**, **Lori Hollenbeck** and **Siv Spurgeon**. Mitchell Hall is located on Church Street near the intersection with Sharpless Street. Metered street parking is available, but scarce. There is also a parking garage on Sharpless Street near the Church Street intersection.



*Siv Spurgeon's "Spring Sparkle" was this year's winner of the Helen Farr Sloan Award given by the Studio Group, Inc.*



*Carol Kardon during her fascinating pastel demonstration. She also offered a workshop in oils this fall.*

## Member News

**Ollie Crossan** is not able to come to the Studio due to health problems. We miss her, and I'm sure she would love to hear from her fellow artists. Please send her a note or give her a call at 610-345-1508.

**Shirley Rigby** will be teaching a poetry/art workshop in January for 4th graders at Christ Church Preschool. She also had a show at Wilmington Drama League and at Stonegates this past month, and will exhibit in the Spread Eagle Show in March.

**Anna Bellenger** is having an opening reception at the Talleyville Gallery on December 5. The show will feature her paintings of dogs.



*Janet Hammond discusses one of her paintings following her critique of members' work.*

## SketchPad Submissions

Publicity date is the 1st of each month.  
Submission deadline is one week prior.  
**(High resolution images only)**

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(email submissions preferred)