



AROUND CAPE ANN: Art association launches national, experimental shows

By Gail McCarthy
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The Rockport Art Association & Museum, 12 Main St. in Rockport has launched its national juried show, showcasing artists from across the country as well as local artists.

The exhibition features drawing, mixed media, collage, photography, painting, digital art and sculpture. The exhibition may be viewed online at <https://www.rockportartassn.org/raam-national>. The show runs through Dec. 31.

Jurors Teresa Oaxaca and Mark Boedges chose the works from nearly 1,000 entries from artists throughout the United States. The art association organizers also view this exhibition as a cultural exchange opportunity, which introduces new artistic influences from beyond Cape Ann as it showcases regional talent.

The association's Experimental Group opens its 16th exhibition, "Unexpected No. Sixteen" at the museum this Saturday. The exhibition also can be viewed online at www.rockportartassn.org. Works on view are all under the size of 20 by 20 inches and feature paintings, mixed-media, graphics, sculpture, digital art and photography.

The exhibition runs through Dec. 31. The group was founded to present a creative forum with a mission to increase public awareness and to foster self-expression. For more information, visit <https://experimentalartgroup.com>.

Although there is much to celebrate artistically, the historic art association is mourning the recent death of one of its long-time members, past president and well-respected teacher David Curtis of Gloucester, an award-winning artist.

"Words cannot capture the true scope of David Curtis's life and its positive influence on others," said Heidi Caswell Zander, acting director and president of the Board of Governors. "He was a beloved leader of the Cape Ann art community. He embodied art, visibly enjoyed living it and sharing it."

She recalled how Curtis could be found at the Cox Reservation in Essex on Saturdays, surrounded by artists eager to learn from him and receive

critiques in an atmosphere of camaraderie within the group he established.

“I, as many, many others, was a beneficiary of David’s generous inclusivity and his artistic intelligence, his kindness, and perceptiveness,” said Zander. “I will ever be grateful treasuring the exchanges with him, and knowing of the many he encouraged, taught, and gave a lift forward to, accepting everybody as he found them. His wealth of knowledge flowed from him with ease.”