

## UPCOMING GROUP SHOW

Up to 60 works

February 1-28, 2011

Addison Art Gallery

43 Route 28

Orleans, MA 02653

(508) 255-6200

• SHOW LOCATION ORLEANS, MA

# P-town convergence

By Paul Schulenburg

In 1916 the *Boston Globe* declared that “the biggest art colony in the world is at Provincetown.” Some of us frequently spend time in that little fishing village at the end of Cape Cod. After traveling to Port Clyde and Monhegan, Maine, and then the following year to San Miguel, Mexico, we decided to host a painting trip on our home turf. Because of Provincetown’s rich history of art and creativity, we wanted to share that with our friends from out West who had never been here.

Artists who participated in this year’s trip along with myself included: **Ignat Ignatov**, **Jerome Greene**, **Stapleton Kearns**, **Jeremy Lipking**, **Frank Gardner**, **Dan Corey**, **Rick Casali**, **Eric Merrell**, **Ian Factor**, **Ernesto Nemesio**, **Jeff Bonasia**, **Logan Hagege** and **James Coe**.

There aren’t many houses in Provincetown that can accommodate up to 18 artists. After doing some research and talking to friends in town we found a great solution—a modern-style house overlooking the harbor for half of the group and an antique house across the street for the other half. We didn’t want to break up the group, but it worked out fine as we tended to congregate together at the end of each day either in town or at one of the houses.

New England weather can be fickle and we had several days of rain to deal with. Fortunately, we had connections to people in town who own a former restaurant that was large and empty. The building is on pilings and sits out over the water at high tide, over the beach when the tide is low and has windows on all sides and a bar shaped like a dory.

On rainy days, I arranged with the girls who model for my painting classes to come in and pose for us. We had a great time listening to the wind and the waves outside while inside we

Colin Page was one of 18 artists from around the country who participated in this year’s *Creative Convergence* in Provincetown, Massachusetts on Cape Cod.



Back row from left: Ignat Ignatov, Jerome Greene, Stapleton Kearns, Jeremy Lipking, Frank Gardner, Dan Corey, Rick Casali, Paul Schulenburg, Eric Merrell. Front row: Ian Factor, Ernesto Nemesio, Jeff Bonasia, Logan Hagege, James Coe.





STAPLETON KEARNS, DARBY SQUARE, PROVINCETOWN, OIL ON CANVAS, 26 X 29"



were hunkered down working on figure paintings. I knew the guys were serious plein air painters when the sun came out and we had a beautiful girl scheduled to model but they chose to run out to paint the landscape around town.

We also had access to the barn that once belonged to Charles Hawthorne, who started the Cape Cod School of Art in 1899. In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, Hans Hofmann used the same barn to teach his painting classes. The barn is still there and the current owner allowed us inside to paint. The barn is mostly empty now, a cavernous space with a large north light window. It was a special experience painting in the quiet of that historic space where so many artists had gone before.

We were off and running to the beaches or the dunes or the pier to paint when the weather

MARC HANSON, LAST DAY, LAST LIGHT,  
OIL ON CANVAS, 18 X 24"



IGNAT IGNATOV, WELFLEET HARBOR, OIL ON CANVAS, 11 X 14"



LOGAN HAGEGE, SHIMMER, OIL ON CANVAS, 6 X 8"



cooperated. Some groups of two or three painting together. Some preferred to paint alone. Guys with backpacks, paintboxes and easels scattered at first light of day and could turn up almost anywhere around town. We had a special meeting place where we could hang out any time of day. In the evening, we would

have a fire in the fireplace and take turns making dinner. There is a tradition in Provincetown that goes way back—fishermen considered it good luck to give a fish to a hungry artist down on the pier. A few times we had surprise donations of fish and a lobster to help sustain the starving artists. We also had connections to a couple of

oyster farmers, so we had dozens of oysters on hand. While we cooked up the evening meal, we had our cocktail hour(s) with music from several talented musicians in our group.

After dinner, the music continued and one person would usually get out his paintbox. Then another, and another, and before you



FRANK GARDNER, THE RICHARD AND ARNOLD, OIL ON CANVAS, 11 X 14"

knew it we had encircled someone who had been coerced into sitting for a portrait. Due to the ambience of the rustic shack on the waterfront in the old fishing village, we called these events "painting pirates." Many times late at night, just when you thought it was time to go home to bed, someone (usually Iggy) would

yell out, "LET'S PAINT SOME PIRATES!!" That sometimes went on until 2 or 3 a.m.

I heard several people say those were their favorite times. It was great painting on the beach, out on the pier and around town, but at night it was really painting just for fun—for each other and with each other. Some of us

were old friends and some had just met, but for that short time we were a brotherhood of painting pirates. ●

*For a direct link to the  
exhibiting gallery go to*   
[www.americanartcollector.com](http://www.americanartcollector.com)