

The Dianne B. Bernhard and LongHouse Reserve Scholarship for Excellence in Pastels

Award winning artist and philanthropist, Dianne B. Bernhard, is launching an international quest to find the next generation of talent within the medium of pastel work. The art lover, who has been called the 'Patron of Pastels,' will fund a series of awards, both in the United States and abroad, to identify and develop artists who work with pastels and maintain and advance the medium and its impact in the art world.

Dianne has long admired pastels and championed their value pointing to artists including Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, and Eugène Delacroix, whose pastel work is much revered. Dianne and Art Spirit Foundation - an institution she founded that is committed to the work of living artists, currently funds awards for pastel artists with The American Artists Professional League, The Salmagundi Club, Audubon Artists, Connecticut Pastel Society, and The Pastel Society of America, and will donate bursaries to select international organizations in 2018.

Dianne's background is in art education and it was this background that enabled her to develop a deep understanding of the needs of pastel artists and inspired her to establish the Art Spirit Foundation. Through its programs, monetary awards, medals, publishing, and films, Dianne continues to advocate the arts, nurture the renaissance of the pastel medium, and create awareness of the idea that the rewards of great art should be attained during the life of the artist.

Dianne recently served as President of The National Arts Club, and its Director of Fine Arts. The club's critically acclaimed programming has boosted membership and currently serves as the First Vice President of The Pastel Society of America. Dianne received formal training in art history and business at University of Houston and Yale University, in addition to Interior Design from the New York School of Interior Design. She currently resides in Connecticut and New York, where she continues her commitment to promote the arts and create platforms for art and artists of all mediums.

Dianne B. Bernhard is the owner of the Bernhard Gallery in Southport, Connecticut, and Honorary Vice President of the Pastel Society of America. She is the Former President of the National Arts Club and the Connecticut Classic Arts Association; former board member of the National Academy of Design; member of The Salmagundi Club; member of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and a devoted grandmother and mother.

Dianne lives art in the tradition of Robert Henri, an American painter with a philosophy that art can be a powerful voice for impacting anything. Art is life, and life is art: they can be one in the same providing a joyous experience of the universe.

Dianne lives with her husband Van Bernhard and they split their time between their residences in Westport, Connecticut, Gramercy Park, New York City and the Bahamas.

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