

Local artists chosen for regional juried exhibition

By Deborah Minsky

BANNER CORRESPONDENT

Artists Fay Shutzer and Lisa Egeli have not met, but they share an important honor: inclusion in the 2011 Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition, to be hosted by the Addison Art Gallery in Orleans. Sponsored by Oil Painters of America (OPA), an organization dedicated to promoting excellence in representational art, this prestigious exhibition is the result of a highly competitive selection process juried by five distinguished members of a professional artist organization.

According to gallery owner Helen Addison, acceptance in juried shows has become increasingly difficult; the OPA alone represents more than 3,400 artists throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Only 76 paintings were selected out of a field of approximately 800 entries.

"When you are drawing from artists across the eastern seaboard and beyond," adds John Michael Carter, chair of the selection committee, "the quality of work is going to be exceptional."

And it is no mean achievement to host the annual exhibition. "[We] are very excited to be coming to Orleans for the first time. We know the Addison Gallery has an exceptional reputation and we couldn't be more excited to have them host this year's regional exhibition," says OPA president Neil Patterson.

Fay Shutzer, who divides her time between New York and Truro, is a compelling study in contrasts. Encouraged as a child



PHOTO JACKIE SAVITZ

Lisa Egeli, whose painting "Evening Shade" is part of the upcoming Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition

and on through high school to explore her artistic talent, she nonetheless majored in psychology in college and trained for a profession in that field. "Though captivated by studio art classes, I majored in psychology. I saw myself as 'artistic' but not as an artist," she says. "After college, demands of family, marriage and a career in psychology took precedence. Yet the desire to paint grew as I spent summers on Cape Cod beginning in the mid-1980s. I wanted to attempt to capture the beauty of the light as well as the evocative aspects of the New England landscape that had been so much a part of my youth."

Shutzer considers painter Ann Packard her mentor and credits her for "[seeing] the artist in me that I had failed to take seriously, and for challenging me to go further." Her Cape studio, an airy corner of her house perched atop a hill overlooking a pond, offers the perfect place to explore her interest in natural settings and the interplay of light on face and form, even as she brings a certain psychological depth to her subjects.

Shutzer has achieved a balance between her career demands and her creative needs. Recently interviewed "on the fly" as she prepared to leave her Shearwater haven for a stint car-



PHOTO DEBORAH MINSKY

Fay Shutzer in her Truro studio

ing for one of her grandchildren, she says she's "thrilled" to be included in the Addison exhibition. Ironically, a coastal Maine farmhouse, not a wind-swept dune, is the subject of her entry in this show. The image she presents, a sturdy, sun-washed home, evokes a sense of quiet endurance, even as it celebrates rural life.

Lisa Egeli's selected painting, "Evening Stage," is a deeply contemplative view of a marshy expanse in Maryland, not unlike certain views of the Pamet area that she also holds dear. Although she "claims" both Maryland and Florida as home, she maintains an affinity with the Outer Cape, reinforced by last year's two-week artist residency in a dune shack. Reached by phone, Egeli says, "I'm honored to be selected to show among such quality artists. As you know, part of my family has a decades-long tradition painting on Cape Cod. In recent years I've discovered for myself the magical pull and artistic

bounty of the dunes, marshes and shoreline of Cape Cod. I've spent many long days painting here en plein air and I'm looking forward to deepening my relationship with Cape Cod in coming years.

Egeli is also a world traveler, a seeker of just the right combination of awe and intimacy in nature. Trained at the American Academy of Art in Chicago, she is part of the third generation of a family of artists, including her father, Peter Egeli, and more locally, her cousin, painter-gallery owner Arthur Egeli.

The 2011 Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition runs from Sept. 16 to Oct. 15, at the Addison Art Gallery, 43 Route 28, Orleans. The exhibition will be previewed in the gallery Sept. 16-17, followed by an opening reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, with the awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m. For further details call (508) 255-6200 or visit www.addisonart.com.