

R.H. Ballard Shop & Gallery
2022 Rappahannock Art Tour
Artist Biographies

Meg Walsh:

"Painting full-time since 2004, Walsh has honed her craft over the last eighteen years and earned several accolades and awards for her work. A member of the American Impressionist Society, her paintings are masterful examples of impressionist and post-impressionist color schemes. Walsh's command of these techniques elevates her work into dreamy renditions evoking the nostalgia of a life lived with rose-colored lenses. Dripping with dimension and life, Walsh welcomes viewers into a moment and invites them to share in mindful appreciation of the space around them.

R.H. Ballard Gallery has been proud to continue hosting Walsh's artwork for more than a decade. Her work is also featured in museums and private collections, showcasing her plein-air landscapes, animals, and still life paintings.

Walsh earned a place in the book *100 Plein Air Painters of the Mid-Atlantic*, as well as awards from juried plein-air competitions, cementing her prowess amongst great artists in the region."

Bridgette Guerzon Mills:

"Bridgette Guerzon Mills is a mixed media artist whose work incorporates a variety of materials including photography, paint, encaustic, as well as fiber, textiles, and other reclaimed materials. Her artwork and journals have been published in magazines and books and her work has been collected in the United States and internationally. She currently resides in Towson, MD with her family.

As a mixed media artist, encaustic is a versatile medium that allows her to create depth in layers and serves as a means for further exploration in both form and meaning. She combines her photography with encaustics to create a bridge between two worlds, the real and the reconstructed. The canvas becomes a multilayered surface that speaks to both the visual and tactile senses.

Her outdoor installations, often created using foraged or recycled materials, focus on environmental issues and seek to engage and educate the public about these concerns."

Tom Tartaglino:

"Tom Tartaglino is a Virginia-based artist who received his BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1994. He is a Plein-air artist, painting on the spot —

whatever he sees is what he paints. Tartaglino is passionate about his work and will go at great lengths to arrive at a location that pleases him and allows for the creative expression that most satisfies his passion. He states:

'Although I am an art school graduate, my training and experience come from a lifetime love of painting. Art school gave me helpful hints. My inspiration for a work of art usually happens while observing a scene many times. The scene will draw me in and I start to see what it is I am attracted to. I will try to capture a psychological truth about my subject, which I see in plein-air impressionism, but I will be looking for subtleties that an impressionistic handling would miss. Through close observation, I concentrate on the details that make it realistic and truthful. When complete, it will be about something beyond the scene. It will have a depiction of a physical person or place, but carry a mood we all identify with.'

Giselle Gautreau:

"Giselle Gautreau is an artist who creates landscape and nature-inspired paintings in oil and encaustic.

She has received awards and recognition for her work, including a Professional Artist Fellowship from the Virginia Museum of Fine Art and was a Fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She received her MFA in Painting from Virginia Commonwealth University and a BFA in Painting from Maine College of Art and Design. She has exhibited her work widely and her work is in public, private and corporate collections. Giselle is currently a resident artist at the McGuffey Art Center in Charlottesville, Virginia where she keeps her studio."

Robert Ballard:

"Robert H. Ballard is currently an artist & an art dealer for he and his wife Joanie's business R.H. Ballard Shop & Gallery, located in Washington, VA. His paintings can be found in many public & corporate collections including the Sunrise Museum, WV, and the San Francisco State University collections. His experience in the art world is far-reaching and includes 30 years as gallery director for several art galleries in San Francisco, CA, 3 years as Curator of Exhibitions at the California College of Arts & Crafts, 4 Years as Director of the Govett-Brewster Museum in New Plymouth, New Zealand, among other institutions. Robert also directed several Art Centers and Art Organizations over the past several years in the mid-Atlantic region. He has been a lecturer and taught painting in many colleges and universities across the United States, such as the Corcoran School of Art, Washington, DC, West Virginia State University, and Montgomery College in Maryland. He founded his current business in 1997, and with his wife, Joanie Ballard, created a unique shop and gallery that displays both local and international artists year-round, with several one-person exhibitions each year."