



# Cape Experience

Arts&Entertainment • Outdoors • Indoors



Paul Schulenburg's studio is filled with camaraderie as artists share ideas and techniques while painting, sketching or sculpting their interpretations of a model. PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE FOSTER

## Creative process: Artists gather at Eastham atelier

By Stephanie Foster

Artists are more like athletes than people think. To stay in peak form, they practice constantly. Painting involves work and concentration, not dreamy meditation. Ballplayers participate in spring training, football players scrimmage together. And artists paint by themselves.

"It's lonely being a painter," says Paul Schulenburg, an acclaimed artist represented by the Addison Art Gallery in Orleans. That's why 15 years ago he started inviting other artists to join him in his studio to paint a live model, sometimes clothed and sometimes in classic nude poses.

"It's good practice. It's how I learned to paint in college. I learned anatomy and bone structure. It's very challenging to capture a personality with a gesture or capture an emotion or feeling. It's easy to do a painting that looks like someone. But it's not easy to capture the person," he says from his atelier in Eastham,

### If you go

**What:** 'Figurative Artists at Schulenburg Studio'

**Where:** Cape Cod Museum of Art, 60 Hope Lane, Dennis

**When:** Oct. 22 to Jan. 10

**Bonus:** Gallery talk led by Paul Schulenburg, 4 p.m., reception 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 22.

**Info:** 508-255-6200 or email [helen@addisonart.com](mailto:helen@addisonart.com).

where 15 artists gather to paint on Wednesdays nights.

These spots are highly prized in the local arts community and those who have them appreciate their value. The artists split the model's fee for the three-hour session and bring enough food and wine to create a festive atmosphere.

Their mission is to learn technique and sharpen skills, not paint to sell, but recent works produced were inspiring enough to warrant an exhibit at the Cape Cod Museum of Art that opens on Thursday, Oct. 22, and continues to Sunday, Jan. 10.

The lucky 15 (with others waiting to step in if there is an opening) are a mix of male and female, some older, some

younger, all with a passion for art. They range from professional artists to beginners and some are in related fields such as sculpture or framing. Although they all view the same model, their styles and interpretations are different.

On one recent gathering, soft jazz creates a cafe atmosphere and the model, Joanna Reddy, takes on the appearance of a cabaret singer in a glittering sheath. She is still as a statue. During a break, she says, "I know how important it is to maintain a pose."

During the day she is a loan processor and says she finds modeling therapeutic. "I meditate. I model in other venues and they don't talk or play music. This is my favorite group! It's an honor to



Here's one artist's study.

model for them." Sometimes she is gifted with one of the portraits and has started a collection.

Some bantering goes on, relaxing the atmosphere. But in truth, the artists are focused on what they are creating. At break time, they sip wine, nibble snacks, talk and check each other's work. The spirit is one of generosity and sharing.

The artists discuss techniques, paints and mediums,



This artist sculpts the model's form.

and talk shop about value, temperature and line. Many of them have shared shows together at Addison Art Gallery.

Schulenburg, wearing a "Paints well with others" T-shirt, loves the freedom. "It's my space. We can talk, play music, enjoy food and wine. It's a party with like-minded folks sharing ideas. I also like painting human

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# ARTISTS

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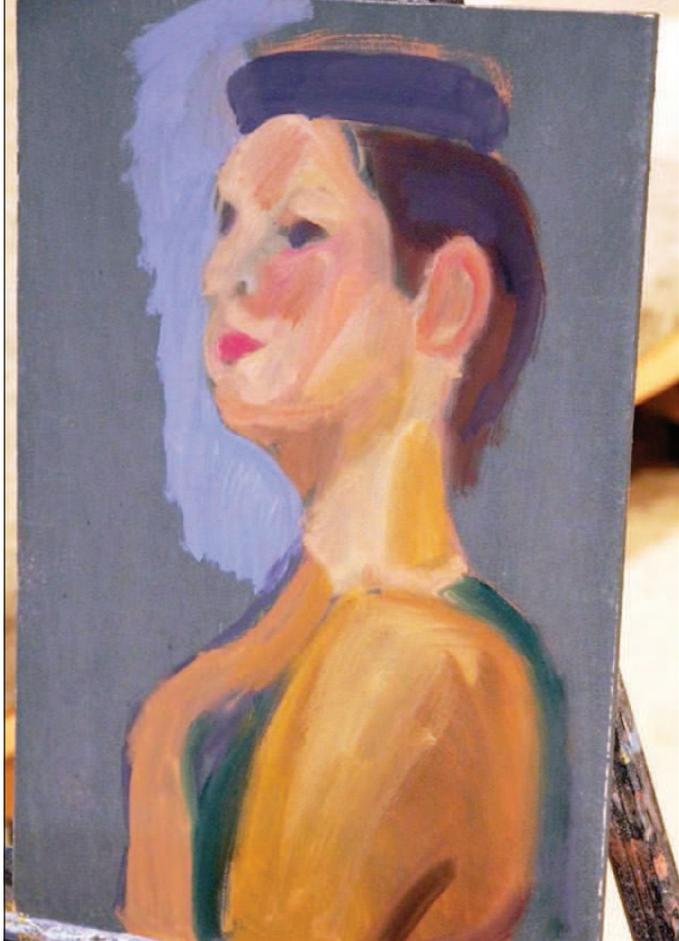
beings.”

Artist Susan Overstreet smiles, “You can always tell when you are not doing it right.”

For Rosie Nadeau, the evening is pure meditation. “We’re not in it to sell. We’re in it to paint because we like to paint,” she says.

Schulenburg adds, “Since the days of cave paintings, the human form has played an important role in painting, sculpture and dance. It’s one of biggest challenges an artist can face.”

Artist Maryalice Eizenberg sums it up nicely: “Painting from life is a lot livelier than using a photo. This (upcoming) exhibit is a rare glimpse into the creative process of some of Cape Cod’s most accomplished painters. A chance like this does not come around often.”



**The artists gather each Wednesday at Paul Schulenburg’s studio in Eastham and split the cost of the model.** PHOTO

BY STEPHANIE FOSTER