

The American Society of Marine Artists 15th National Exhibition

January 20 – April 8, 2012

While images of the sea and ships are nearly as old as history itself, the prominence of maritime art in Europe rose with the economic importance of shipping. In the Netherlands of the 17th Century, the tremendous economic growth of the Dutch Republic was almost entirely dependent on the success of its trading and fishing fleets. While there was a long tradition in these coastal countries of depicting the watery landscape, Dutch maritime painting of the time reached a level of great sophistication. Similarly, the other great maritime powers such as England, Portugal and Spain celebrated the successes of their naval fleets in battle as well as the tranquility of coastal scenes in their paintings.

The American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA) is dedicated to continuing this rich history of maritime art by promoting its member artists' highly anticipated national juried exhibitions. ASMA's artists draw upon centuries of tradition of marine art, which may range from a focus on the character of the light reflected on water, the bustle of a busy harbor or careful observation of a ship on the high seas.

In this, ASMA's 15th National Juried Exhibition, paintings, sculpture, scrimshaw and wood carving depict, in almost every imaginable style and media, coastal scenery with its infinite variety in the qualities of light and atmosphere, as well as the animals and people populating these watery environments. The scenes illustrated range from the solitude of a lone polar bear afloat on arctic ice to a fly fisherman on Montauk Point to ships at harbor in Peru, Australia and Seattle. In a painting by Don McMichael, a humpback whale and her calf fill three-quarters of the canvas, while a sloop at sail is seen proportionately miniscule, above and behind them. Some of the paintings evoke 19th Century folk illustrations, such as Ed Parker's *In God We Trust* of a fisherman holding up a "sacred cod," while Mike Mazer's

composition in watercolor of a moored dory is nearly abstract, with sharp contrasts blocking out simple forms, though the coiled lines and oars in the craft are entirely realistic.

Though this exceptional show has tremendous variety, each of the works shares a common artistic vision and feeling.

The American Society of Marine Artists 15th National Exhibition is organized by the American Society of Marine Artists and accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog. Additional support provided by The C. D., Helen and Jeff Glaze Foundation.

ARTISTS' RETREAT

Marine Inspirations
at 5 Rivers Delta
Resource Center
Saturday, March 24
10 a.m.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

Hodges Soilleau (American, Contemporary),
The Working Lady, oil on linen.



Guy Morrow (American, Contemporary),
Surfer's Delight, tempera.



Mike Mazer (American, Contemporary),
Tied Up, watercolor.

WATERBURY