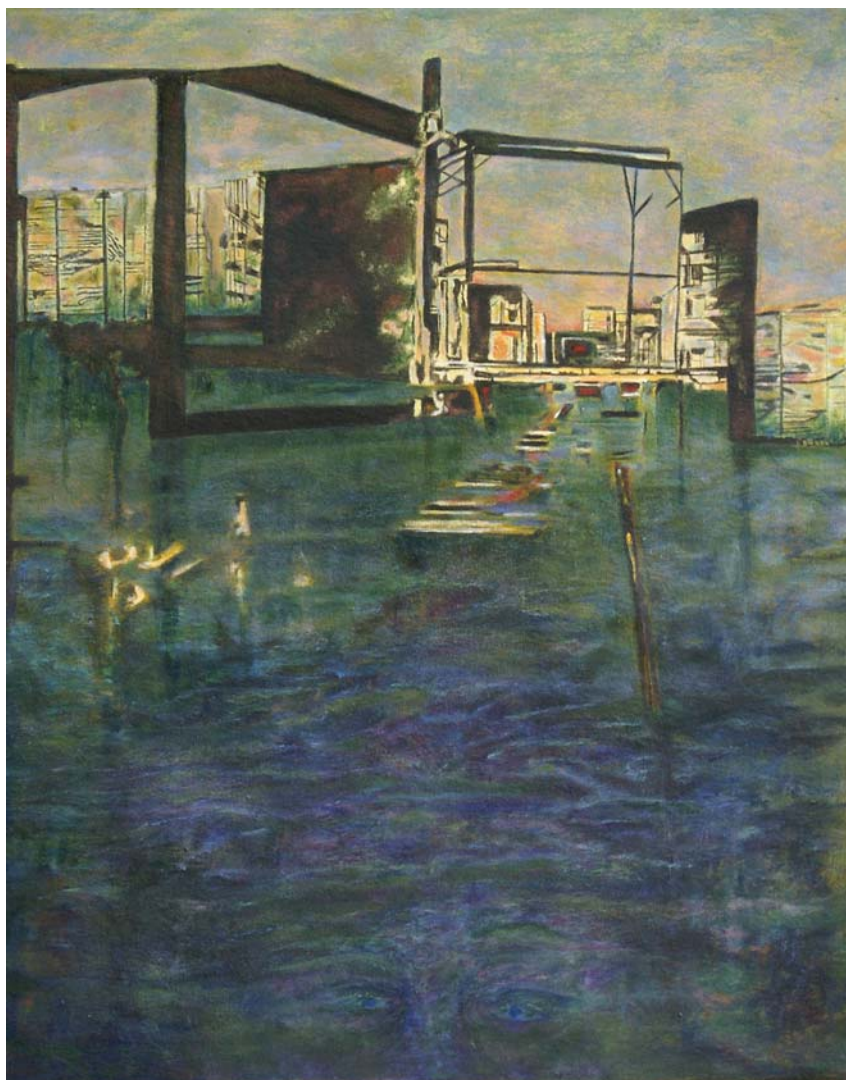




As I drove to Cindy Dill's studio where Long Reach Arts was to begin its first collaborative creation under its new name. I felt both excitement and trepidation. The thought of creating a 6' x 10' painting was thrilling, but the fact that there was no design for it, no image we had all agreed on, much less a preliminary cartoon on the canvas, was a bit daunting. When I arrived at Cindy's, the group, under Trina Greene's guidance, was just beginning to pour paint on to the canvas, activating its surface. With that exhilarating sight, trepidation disappeared and excitement took over as we all reached for our brushes and began to apply colors to the small shapes enclosed by the lines of poured paint. During the weeks of working on this piece the excitement never left me. I felt as if I were a part of a jazz combo, each of us improvising off what someone else was doing. At times I felt frustrated by the lack of structure in the piece and feared that if structure wasn't introduced soon the painting would collapse into nothing more than a chaos of disparate beautiful parts rather than a unified composition. I had to trust that we would pull it all together which, in the end, I think we did.

- Carol Pepper-Cooper



(above) High Tide at Newburgh /Acrylic/30" x24"; (top) Newburgh Riverfront/ Acrylic on wood panel/ 9 1/4"x 34 1/4"





Early Spring: Birches and River /Incised Painting on Wood Panel /8"x10"; (below) River in All Seasons /Incised Painting on Wood Panel /12" x16"

Cooperation and collaboration are words that reflect the coming together of people to accomplish a common goal. The words achieve a special resonance when the goal is creating a work of art. We came together to do a painting commemorating the 400th anniversary of the exploration of the Hudson River. The result of that cooperation/collaboration was the completion of a 6' x 10' painting on canvas-and more! It was an exhilarating bonding of people, each of whom normally work in different mediums and styles, in a joyful experience based on mutual respect and admiration.

- Elayne Seaman







(left) River I /Watercolor /18"x24";
(below) Lake George Afternoon
/Oil /48"x24"

While reflecting upon my experience for this statement about "our river," I realized that my approach to this work was suspiciously, very similar to how I approach the wider community and life itself! I want so much to contribute yet I question my value; I wonder if there is even "room." My remaining concern is whether my contribution to life will benefit those I truly care about? As a mother, sister, once-daughter, once-wife, friend, co-worker and artist, will I hurt or help? I pray I will, in my life - do more of the latter. It was great to spend some shared time "on the river" where all of our individual contributions were "moored" thusly together, as one.

- Michelle Squires







Downriver from Potown / Pastel / 19.5"x25"; (*below*) Hudson at Highland Landing /Pastel / 20"x27"

Painting has always been solitary for me, and I had my concerns about the mural project. In reality though, most of us work alone. I decided to work alone together. So in the comfort of Cindy's studio and with the playful spirits of my peers, we created more than a mural. And I am very grateful for the experience.



- Marlene Wiedenbaum, PSA



The photos in this catalogue are credited to Susan Fowler-Gallagher and Claudia Gorman, members of Long Reach Arts.

Dick Crenson, friend and colleague of Long Reach Arts members, was invited to document this project over time as a videographer. The resulting video accompanies the exhibition, including individual interviews conducted by Crenson, all of which record the history of the actual process of mural making, and is a powerful addition to the work.



Recording a project with so many artists could have been difficult, but it's like seasoning a tasty salad... a little salt... a pinch of dill... a dash of pepper and... Voilà!

- Dick Crenson