



The founding Petticoat Painters Elsinore Budd, Judy Axe, Margaret Stugis, Helen Protas, Stella Coler, Bebe Harnel, Marty Hartman and Jane Ziegler in 1958. Today, the Petticoat Painters holds the distinction of being the longest continuously exhibiting women's artist group in the country. COURTESY PHOTO

Petticoat Painters 1958 The Founding Painters

The Petticoat Painters is one of the oldest continuously exhibiting women's art groups in the U.S. This group was formed in 1953 to showcase the talents of female artists at a time when women had difficulty in finding venues to show their work.

Seven women participated in the first show held at a local Sarasota Florida gallery. These original members selected the name "Petticoat Painters" thinking it would be a one-time show of their work. The name continues to be used both in honor of the founders and to retain its historical signature.

Membership is limited to 20 women.

While we revere our history, each generation of members evolves its own identity framed by contemporary thinking.

The Petticoat Painters are motivated by their individual process of making art. Each artist has a firm commitment to moving beyond the boundaries of materials, of techniques, of standard images and preconceived notions.

All the members of the group are inspired by the camaraderie and vibrant association with each other. Each person is encouraged to continue her journey of exploration and the development of artistic endeavors.

Membership with the Petticoat Painters is by invitation only and the group does not accept solicitations or applications.

These are the guest artists for the Arts Advocates "Art Talk with the Petticoat Painters"



Lucy Barber

I've been an artist for my whole life, *making art* for 50 years and exhibiting and selling my work since the 1970s. A very important piece of this story is how I guide artists and students to learn how to see the way an artist sees and how to practice as an artist. I love passing on my knowledge, experience, and expertise, and engaging in the exploration and exchange of ideas. I am privileged to have taught students at esteemed art colleges and liberal art colleges; to teach adults at all age levels in private studio workshops, classes and in college programs; and now to teach online.



Susan J. Klein

Susan J. Klein was born in Dayton, Ohio, and now lives in Sarasota, Florida. She has been painting and exhibiting for over 40 years, consistently winning awards and recognition. After receiving her M.F.A. from Kent State University, she taught classes at Youngstown State University and the University of Akron while continuing her painting career. Moving to Florida, in 1990, she rejoiced in her adopted state and devoted herself to painting and discovered the wonders of the Florida landscape in the imagery at Myakka River State Park and the beaches of the "Suncoast." Trips to Europe and the American Southwest, along with national park artist-in-residencies, have enriched and expanded her oeuvre. Klein participated in the Grand Canyon's third, seventh and eighth Celebrations of Art, a *plein air* competition and fundraiser. Her painting, "Clay Gully Creek," was selected to be exhibited at the American Embassy in Rome,

Italy, and the painting "Resurrection Fern" was displayed in Sofia, Bulgaria, both as part of the United States Department of State Art-in-Embassies program. Other fine paintings are included in prestigious public and private collections, nationally and internationally.



Jana Millstone

Jana Millstone's dream-like imagery propels you into worlds that can sometimes be funny, calming or disquieting, but are always thought provoking. She believes art making is a weird mix of play, alchemy, terror, and transcendence. Jana holds a B.F.A. from Pratt Institute, with additional studies at Parsons School of Design, The Art Students League, and F.I.T. She has exhibited in NYC at Brooks Jackson Iolas Gallery, Porter Contemporary, Site-Brooklyn, as well as Susquehanna Museum of Art, PA. Her work can be seen at Art Uptown Gallery in Sarasota. Winner of the Society of Illustrators' scholarship, she has since won numerous awards including the statewide Florida's Finest first prize. Associations: FLAG, WCA, NLAPW, and Petticoat Painters.



Diane Schmidt

Diane Schmidt, who paints both abstract and realistic watercolors, is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, Watercolor Honor Society, and 13 additional watercolor societies. Her father's love of archaeology influenced her quest for seeking what lies beneath the surface at a very early age. Each of her abstract watercolors is an exploration of just how many different layers of design and complexity can be exposed successfully. Raised in Arizona and educated at schools including the University of Arizona and Ringling School of Art, she now makes her permanent home in Sarasota.



Judy Lyons Schneider

Judy Lyons Schneider, a printmaker and mixed media artist, was born in NYC and studied at the Art Students League and New York University, as well as with many noted artists. After living in New Jersey for many years, she moved to Lakewood Ranch over 15 years ago and has never looked back. A past Area III chairperson of Florida Artist Group, a past president and current board member of Women Contemporary Artists, and a Petticoat Painter, Judy is an advocate for the visual arts in her community. She has been actively involved in making art for over 60 years. Her work has appeared in museums, galleries and universities throughout this country and in Russia and she's had over 25 solo shows. In addition to a Geraldine Dodge Foundation Grant and a Soaring Gardens Artist Retreat Residency Grant, her art has won many prizes. She recently received a Signature Award from ISEA (International Society of Experimental Artists).