

Founder's vision celebrated at gala event



Studio Incamminati's signature support event, "*Nelson Shanks: His Vision in Our Hands*," brought hundreds to the iconic Ballroom at the Ben for a celebration of the school's accomplishments and glimpse of things to come. Event co-chairs Barbara M. Donnelly Bentivoglio, Dottie Giordano and Deborah Webster created an evening filled with fun and emotion.

A film premiere showcased Nelson's educational legacy, most notably the school he founded, including highlights of its successful graduates, vibrant programming and a strengthening commitment to meaningful art. Adding a personal touch, Master of Ceremonies Christopher Apostle, Head of Department, Old Master Paintings at Sotheby's, brought smiles and tears with his intimate stories of Nelson.

U.S. Representative Michael Fitzpatrick presented his Congressional Record Statement honoring Nelson and his commitment to art and art education. A touching speech by Estefany Rodriguez, a teen in the Emerging Artists program for high schoolers, moved guests to donate thousands for the program's scholarship fund.

Above all, the night was dedicated to showing the strength of Nelson's legacy—Studio Incamminati—and how it is living up to its name and "moving forward." ♦



(Above, l. to r.) Robert Cavalier, Bonnie Cavalier; Donald and Judith Rosato, Steve Darlington, Gala Co-chair Barbara Donnelly Bentivoglio and husband Dr. Lamberto Bentivoglio; The elegant Ballroom at the Ben, in Philadelphia; (At left) Board Chairman Frank Giordano and school co-founder Leona Shanks with U.S. Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick; (Below, l. to r.) Mindy Holman and Estefany Rodriguez; Gala Master of Ceremonies Christopher Apostle

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An exciting new vision is shared with old friends

A few hundred supporters gathered on April 28 at the Ballroom at the Ben to celebrate the life of Nelson Shanks and the future of Studio Incamminati. Appropriately entitled, "*Nelson Shanks: His Vision in Our Hands*," friends of Nelson, Leona, and Studio Incamminati witnessed Nelson's greatest legacy and celebrated through beautiful art and the passion and dedication of the students and faculty.

Part of the celebration was the premiere of a new film showcasing Nelson's impact in the art world and the influence of Studio

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Studio Incamminati welcomes your support. For information, please call Jay Pennie at 215.592.1918.

Alumni news

Portrait Society of America recognized two Studio Instructors in its 2016 International Portrait Competition. Instructor **Dan Thompson's** drawing "Ace" was named a Finalist while Instructor and Artistic Advisor **Kerry Dunn** received a Certificate of Excellence for his painting "Sakiko." ♦

Mitsuno Reedy's retrospective "Dances With Brushes" was exhibited at The Depot art gallery, Norman, OK. As part of the exhibition she will perform a painting demonstration and a "Painting the Portrait" workshop. ♦

Studio Incamminati instructor **Katya Held's** commissioned painting of Michael M. Baylson, Senior United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania was unveiled. The event was attended by a host of luminaries including Sara Aronchick Solow, domestic policy advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and John Bidwell, curator at The Morgan Library and Museum. ♦

Diane Rappisi, owner/operator of The Atelier at Castle Rock (CO), was a selected artist at the Colorado Governor's Art Exhibition. ♦



(top row, l. to r.) SELF PORTRAIT WITH ORCHID, *Mitsuno Reedy*, Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 in.; SPRINGTIME, *Shira Friedman*, Oil on linen, 9 x 12 in.; STILL LIFE WITH CHESTNUTS, *Shira Friedman*, Oil on linen, 12 x 8 in.; (btm. row, l. to r.) HON. MICHAEL M. BAYLSON, *Katya Held*, Oil on canvas, 42 x 36 in.; PRAYER, *Diane Rappisi*, Oil on canvas, 20 x 16 in.; SHELL, OCEAN MEMORIES 2, *Diane Rappisi*, Oil on canvas, 12 x 16 in.

(at right, l. to r.) ACE, *Dan Thompson*, Graphite on paper, 23 x 29 in. SAKIKO, *Kerry Dunn*, Oil on linen, 32 x 32 in.

♦ ALUMNI PROFILE ♦

Mitsuno Reedy

After becoming an internationally recognized artist, Mitsuno Reedy might have been satisfied. However, her thirst for improvement led the native-born Osakan, now living in Oklahoma, down a surprising path. Though expecting to simply attend a week-long workshop in Philadelphia at Studio Incamminati in 2011, what she experienced was more than she could have imagined. After completing the workshop, she returned to Oklahoma, made the appropriate arrangements and promptly returned to



the school to continue learning for another four years.

Such dedication to her art, coming from one whose portraits already hang in numerous schools from business and law to dentistry and science, speaks volumes about Mitsuno. She had painted notables such as opera tenor Luciano Pavarotti and Senior U.S. District Judge Wayne Alley. Her works have been featured in publications such as "The Best of Oil Painting," "The Best of Pastels," and "Pastel Artist International" magazine. She had earned recognition in the Portrait Society of America's International

Portrait Competition. Still, Mitsuno thought she could do better.

Her years at Studio Incamminati were spent not so much mastering as re-mastering her art. "From day one (at the workshop), I knew I was

where I needed to be," she recalls. "As soon as I returned to Oklahoma, I decided to enroll full time."

Since returning home, her career has thrived as she continues to paint portraits of all figures from families and children to civic leaders, military officials, college deans and doctors.

Many of her works hang in public institutions and private homes. Her solo exhibition, "Dances with Brushes," recently enjoyed a two-month run at The Depot Gallery in Norman, OK.

Throughout the years of her success, Mitsuno Reedy has remained a humble and quiet character, something rare in the ego-dominated business of art. She paints, she says "...not for the purpose of winning a prestigious award in competitions, or to become rich and famous, but to use my God-given gifts and acquired skills to touch the hearts of the people with my art." See Mitsuno's art at mitsunoreedy.com



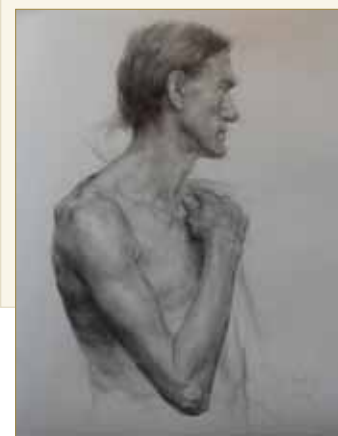
(left, l. to r.) ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A PUMPKIN, *Katya Held*, Oil on board, 16 x 20 in.; CAROL, *JaFang Lu*, Oil on linen, 28 x 24 in.; Anne Emerson Hall's works on exhibit at Atlanta's oldest operating art gallery.



Studio Incamminati Fellow **Shira Friedman's** "Springtime" and "Still Life with Chestnuts" and Instructor **Katya Held's** "Once Upon a Time, There Was a Pumpkin" were selected for the Philadelphia Sketch Club's 153rd Annual Exhibition of Small Oil Paintings. ♦

Instructor **JaFang Lu's** work, "Carol" was featured in "We Do What We Must, A Conversation on Womanhood" at the Rodger LaPelle Galleries, Philadelphia. ♦

Anne Emerson Hall's solo exhibition, "Intimations" was presented at the Gallery, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Atlanta. ♦



While Instructors **Dan Thompson** and **Kerry Dunn** were garnering awards (Finalist and Certificate of Excellence, respectively) at the Portrait Society of America's annual Art of the Portrait Conference, Studio Incamminati was establishing a personal rapport with the hundreds of attendees. President **Jay Pennie** and Director of Education Programming **Andrew Yannelli** manned the school's information station on the conference floor, greeting artists and answering questions.



Artist accolades

First-year student **Albert Aldinger's** works, "Church of the Assumption (Spring Garden)" and "View from Columbia Bridge (Schuylkill)" were juried into the Philadelphia Sketch Club's 153rd Annual Exhibition of Small Oil Paintings. ♦

Third-year student **Jason Patrick Jenkins** exhibited an array of his work at a support event for Esperanza Immigration Legal Services at the Philadelphia Art Alliance. He also donated his time painting a portrait of a raffle winner. In addition, Studio Incamminati donated an Afternoon of Painting as an auction item. Esperanza Immigration Legal Services provides community education, advocacy and direct legal services to immigrants. ♦



Angelique Benrahou, the first student to graduate from the Integrated Art Studio Major partnership with Chestnut Hill College was a featured speaker at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education Honors Conference. The consortium of eight independent higher education institutions in the Greater Philadelphia region, collaborates to improve the quality and efficiency of academic programming, student access, faculty development, institutional operations and community outreach, through a range of shared activities, services, technology and information. ♦

(above left) Angelique Benrahou discusses her artwork during her presentation at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education Honors Conference; (btm. left) PIETA, *Jason Patrick Jenkins*, Oil on canvas, 26 x 47 in.

Art—and artists—reaching out to others

Studio Incamminati was again a presence at *Chestnut Hill College's spring Open House*. The schools are partners in the Integrated Art Studio Major which allows students to earn a Chestnut Hill Bachelor of Arts degree while taking studio classes at Studio Incamminati. *Angelique Benrabou*, the major's first graduate, performed a live-model painting demonstration and answered parents' and student's questions.



Doane Academy art students, who are taught by Studio Incamminati artists held an art exhibition at the Burlington, NJ school. The partnership offers the students instruction in the basics of life drawing in the same way these principles are taught at Studio Incamminati.



Studio Incamminati welcomed the latest group of *Urban Promise Academy* seniors for portrait sittings. The program, now in its sixth year, allows students get the rare—and empowering—experience of sitting for a portrait, all the while learning how an artist works.



1. Urban Promise Academy portrait subject Angel with artist Sharon McHugh 2. Dajah with artist Rob Goodman 3. Danielle with artist Rachel Pierson 4. Artist Alisyn Blake with Estefany

For the seventh consecutive year, art and music mingled as Studio Incamminati helped the *Philadelphia Youth Orchestra* celebrate its annual gala. Studio Incamminati artists performed a painting demonstration for guests who enjoyed an exhibition and sale of artwork. All proceeds supported the artists, the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and Studio Incamminati.



Studio Incamminati artist Nell O'Leary.



5. Julio with artist Natalie Italiano 6. Artist Shira Friedman with Brandon 7. Artist Peter Kelsey with Kevin 8. Emanuel with artist Jason Patrick Jenkins 9. Nioshjah with artist Nell O’Leary 10. Pamela with artist Wendy Wagner

Studio Incamminati offered a second round of drawing classes for recovering homeless from *Project HOME*. The 10-week foundational course uses still-life charcoal drawing—an integral aspect of the school curriculum—to teach the participants to utilize art to communicate experiences, offer personal perspectives and build skills. Studio Incamminati Fellows *Rachel Pierson* and *Dan Mahlman* led the class, assisted by students *Nell O’Leary*, *Jason Patrick Jenkins*, *Kathleen Stewart* and *Damian Smith*. Studio Incamminati board member *Richard Rossello*, principal of *Avery Galleries* in Pennsylvania and New York, provided funding.



Members of the *Rotary Club of Philadelphia* enjoyed an Evening of Painting while raising money for the organization’s efforts to eradicate polio around the world.

Studio Incamminati is recognized as a nonprofit organization under Chapter 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Nelson Shanks, His Vision in Our Hands continued from front page

1. Board member Stephen Darlington surveys the silent auction offerings. 2. Robin and Ted Ashford. 3. From left, Leroy Kean, Sandra Goldberg and board member Emeritus Marc Mostovoy. 4. It was lively auction with proceeds helping continue Nelson's legacy of making superior art training available to artists, no matter their financial situation. 5. Board members Dottie and Frank Giordano, Board President. 6. Enjoying the work of Studio Incamminati instructors and fellows. 7. From left, school President Jay Pennie and board member Joseph Rishel. 8. U.S. Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick presents Congressional Record Statement honoring Nelson Shanks to school Artistic Director Leona Shanks. 9. From left, board member Salvatore Patti, auctioneer George McNeely and school President Jay Pennie. 10. Leroy Kean and daughter Candy. 11. Board member Alvin Holm and wife Nancy. 12. Auctioneer George McNeely. 13. From left, board member William Daniels and Karl Doghramji. 14. Instructors Lea Colie Wight, foreground, Katya Held and Kerry Dunn performed a painting demonstration. 15. The Sam Greenfield Quartet allowed guests to put the ballroom dance floor to good use. 16. Model Gabrielle was a favorite of the school's late founder Nelson Shanks.

An exciting new vision is shared with old friends

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Incaminati in the community over the past 14 years. Nelson reminds us, in the film, that we are “just getting started.” And like the meaning of Incaminati, we are indeed *moving forward*. Studio Incaminati is at an exciting moment in our history, one that will be transformative and which will move us forward both physically as well as qualitatively.

Our vision is to move to a new building of our own which will not only enable us to significantly expand the number of students and classes but also one designed to house three public galleries. One will contain the old master paintings from the Shanks’ private collection; one gallery will exhibit Nelson’s personal, iconic work; and the third will showcase our faculty, students, and alumni drawings and paintings.

This transformative vision of the school will position Studio Incaminati as a world-class conservatory for learning contemporary realist art. We will do this through the mastery of skills combined with an underpinning of a powerful knowledge of art history.

After the gala (our eighth), we received numerous compliments from the attendees on how much everyone enjoyed the evening, more than all of our previous ones put together. Why? People told us they liked the venue, others liked the fabulous food. Still others loved the inspiring film and speakers or the beautiful art and live painting demonstrations. Others remarked it was just plain fun! While all are probably true, I’d like to think there was one other reason. Although Nelson was not there in person, his hand still guides us in spirit, leading us to a great new future. We are very excited to be a part of the vision of moving forward. Please join us and be part of that vision!

Sincerely,

Joy Penne
President

See the series of videos telling our stories at
www.youtube.com/user/thestudioincaminati



Artist's concept rendering of proposed Studio Incaminati building.



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Nelson Shanks, (1937–2015),
Co-founder and Artistic Director

Studio Incamminati

School for Contemporary Realist Art

340 North 12th Street ▪ Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Studio Incamminati exists to meet the needs of students eager to learn the aesthetic and philosophical techniques and principles of humanist realism.

Upcoming exhibitions are an important teaching tool



An important part of Studio Incamminati's mission is to prepare its artists for those aspects of professional careers that don't include painting and drawing. Public exhibitions provide both students and alumni with the chance to learn proper artwork presentation, engage with patrons and determine pricing.

These upcoming exhibitions provide those opportunities in a range of venues:

- ♦ **Senior Show** at Studio Incamminati studios, *June 14*
- ♦ **Annual Artists and Alumni Exhibition and Sale**, Freeman's, Philadelphia, *July 12–20*
- ♦ **Alumni Gallery Show**, Manitou Galleries, Santa Fe, NM, *Opens Oct. 7*

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