

**Regular Meeting
Cultural District Commission
Monday, May 13, 2024, 5 pm
Woolworth Library and Research Center
40 Palmer Street, Stonington, CT 06378**

Anthony Caporale
Regular Member

R. Douglass Rice
Regular Member

Laura Hopkins
Regular Member

Gabriella Radujko
Regular Member, Scribe

Paul Geise
Regular Member, Chair

Elizabeth Wood
Regular Member

Matthew Beaudoin, Vice
Chair
Regular Member

Susan Lavender Fornara
Alternate Member

Marya Ursin
Alternate Member

Sandra Alexander
Alternate Member

Daniel Brandl
Alternate Member

Jessica Cerullo
Alternate Member

Call to order

Opening reflection: The Painter, John Ashbury

Sitting between the sea and the buildings
He enjoyed painting the sea's portrait.
But just as children imagine a prayer
Is merely silence, he expected his subject
To rush up the sand, and, seizing a brush,
Plaster its own portrait on the canvas.

So there was never any paint on his canvas
Until the people who lived in the buildings
Put him to work: "Try using the brush
As a means to an end. Select, for a portrait,
Something less angry and large, and more
subject
To a painter's moods, or, perhaps, to a
prayer."

How could he explain to them his prayer
That nature, not art, might usurp the canvas?
He chose his wife for a new subject,
Making her vast, like ruined buildings,
As if, forgetting itself, the portrait
Had expressed itself without a brush.

Slightly encouraged, he dipped his brush
In the sea, murmuring a heartfelt prayer:
"My soul, when I paint this next portrait

Let it be you who wrecks the canvas."
The news spread like wildfire through the
buildings:
He had gone back to the sea for his subject.

Imagine a painter crucified by his subject!
Too exhausted even to lift his brush,
He provoked some artists leaning from the
buildings
To malicious mirth: "We haven't a prayer
Now, of putting ourselves on canvas,
Or getting the sea to sit for a portrait!"

Others declared it a self-portrait.
Finally all indications of a subject
Began to fade, leaving the canvas
Perfectly white. He put down the brush.
At once a howl, that was also a prayer,
Arose from the overcrowded buildings.

They tossed him, the portrait, from the tallest
of the buildings;
And the sea devoured the canvas and the
brush
As though his subject had decided to remain a
prayer.

Review and acceptance of the February 12th Regular CDC minutes and
March 19th special tour meeting, amend as necessary.

Old Business

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
STONINGTON, CT.

Review of the March 19th walking tour and May 10th press event.

24 MAY -6 AM 8:59

SALLY DUPLICE
TOWN CLERK

New Business:

Gabriella Radujko to present an outline for the poet laureate project.

Given our charge that...“The cultural district commission must develop:”

- goals and objectives
- a management plan
- a cultural assets map and inventory
- a marketing plan*
- goals and success measures for the District

We begin to discuss the responses to the “homework” assignment [See appendix]

Public Comment: Meeting recap/action steps and request for input on what should go on the next agenda.

Adjournment