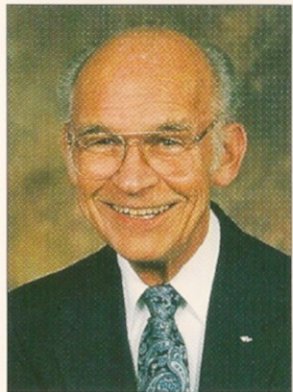


Mary Chadwell

A native of Salt Lake City and a resident of Nevada since 1933, Mary has been painting seriously since 1963. For the past 27 years she has been involved primarily in miniature painting. She has studied at the University of Nevada as well as attending a wide range of workshops given by some of America's leading artists. Mary is a member of many leading miniature art societies, including: Miniature Artists of America (founding member); Whiskey Painters of America; Miniature Art Society of Florida; Georgia Miniature Art Society; Laramie Art Guild, Cider Painters of America; Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers Society of Washington, D.C. (associate member); Sierra Arts Foundation and more. Mary's work is included in the permanent collections of the Nevada State Legislature, Nevada Museum of Art and the Miniature Art Society of Florida.

Judge's Statement

At first glance, I thought of the formidable job ahead of us - so much excellent work and not enough awards. But, thanks to Chuck Elley and Melissa Wolcott, it was a most pleasant and rewarding experience. We were amazingly in accord. The MASF is to be commended for the caring dedication of its members. This dedication has reaped the greatest and most prestigious of all miniature shows. I warmly thank them for this great honor and prestige and for their trust in me.

Chuck Elley

Chuck Elley resides in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he spent 15 years in commercial art. Since 1985 has devoted full time to fine art. Chuck's formal art education was obtained after service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He continues to study at workshops conducted by nationally recognized artists.

Chuck has won top art awards in major shows across the country and now enjoys his association with fellow members of MASF and MAA.

Judge's Statement

The first impression after viewing the pieces in this show is that it is futile to try to pick a winner. The diverse subject matter so deftly executed in the various mediums is a pleasure to see and realize that the traditions of true miniaturism is being fulfilled. In so many pieces the artists' love for, and knowledge of, the subject is reflected. They are jewels of art and need not be enlarged to be judged masterful. The Best of Show is striking in its unique composition and masterful in execution.

Judging this show has been a great honor and inspiration. I want to thank MASF for having faith in me to perform this task. Working with the other two judges, Mary Chadwell and Melissa Wolcott, has been a great and unforgettable pleasure.

Melissa Wolcott

After graduating from the School of Visual Arts in New York City, Melissa started her professional career as an art director for a New York film company. While recuperating from a skiing accident, she was introduced to the world of doll house miniatures. Her first job in the field of miniaturization came in 1981 when an art collector commissioned her to miniaturize some of the original portraits found in an historical Williamsburg mansion.

A resident of St. Petersburg for the past nineteen years, Melissa devotes herself to miniature oil painting on ivory and doll house miniatures. She has been a member of the International Guild of Miniature Artists (IGMA) since 1988 and has been awarded the Guild Cube Award for her work.

Melissa exhibits her work every year at the prestigious New York IGMA show. Her client base spans the United States and reaches as far as Canada, Japan and Germany.

Judge's Statement

In the past, when I have attended the Miniature Art Society of Florida's shows, I would hear people say "I would hate to have to judge this work - it is all so good," and I would nod in agreement. So when I was asked this year to do so, it was with great honor and trepidation that I undertook the task - made much easier by my talented and knowledgeable colleagues, Mary Chadwell and Chuck Elley. There was joy in discovering and picking out wonderful works of art as winners, and regret in having to leave some equally wonderful pieces out.

Untangling the Miniature Alphabet

Today's resurgence of miniature art is accompanied by a variety of organizations, each with a distinctive role in bringing the message of miniaturism to the public. Confused by all the initials - MASF, MAA, WFM? This brief summary may help:

Miniature Art Society of Florida (MASF) - a nonprofit organization of miniaturists and supporters which presents an annual International Miniature Art Show in Florida. It is a juried and judged event. Membership in MASF is open to all. Dues \$20. Call Harold Fry, Membership Chairman (727) 939-1563.

Miniature Artists of America (MAA) - the nation's first organization established (1985) to honor outstanding practitioners of American miniaturism. No more than ten Signature Members elected each year. Sustaining Associates are supporters who may join for \$20 annual dues. Call Anita Boyers, Membership Chairwoman (727) 733-1375.

World Federation of Miniaturists (WFM) - a loose federation of the known miniature societies around the world, now comprising 17 groups on 5 continents. Formed in 1995, the WFM membership of each constituent society automatically embraces all members of that society. However, individual support memberships are encouraged and needed. Dues are \$10. Call Bert Hollingshead, Treasurer (727) 734-1049.

As a lover of miniature art, your support for each of these organizations will return great rewards in the knowledge that you are assisting in enhancing the cultural climate around the world.