



# ROYCROFTERS-AT-LARGE ASSOCIATION CHRONICLE

■ WINTER 2024 ■

## CJ Hurley Builds Bridges Between Japanese and Arts & Crafts Styles

*By Robert Lowell Goller*

At first glance, it might not seem like Japanese art and the style of the Western Arts & Crafts Movement would have much in common. However, after a deep study of both, Roycroft Master Artisan CJ Hurley has discovered many overlaps.

"There are lots of connections to the Japanese style and culture," he says of Arts & Crafts. "Concerns about nature. Spiritual connections. How we live. And symbolism is a huge part of both."

The painter and mixed-media artist doesn't remember a time when he didn't connect with art. "I've been making art since I was a child," Hurley says. In his younger years, he focused on comic-book art. "I went into school thinking that's what I was going to do," he says.

He also had a love of Japanese and Far Eastern art, but admits that he struggled through his college years to find professors and fellow students who shared the appreciation. He points to one professor, however, who helped him develop his discerning eye for design and color. "He challenged us to not just do as we are told," Hurley says.

It was during his college years that Hurley met his now-wife and business partner, Barbara Pierce. The success of her design career had the couple moving every few years, from Greensboro, N.C., where they went to college, to Virginia to Kentucky to New Hampshire to Oregon to Pennsylvania. "It was

quite a whirlwind moving every two to three years to new places," Hurley says. "I had to restart each time." There was a silver-lining to each relocation, however. The couple took

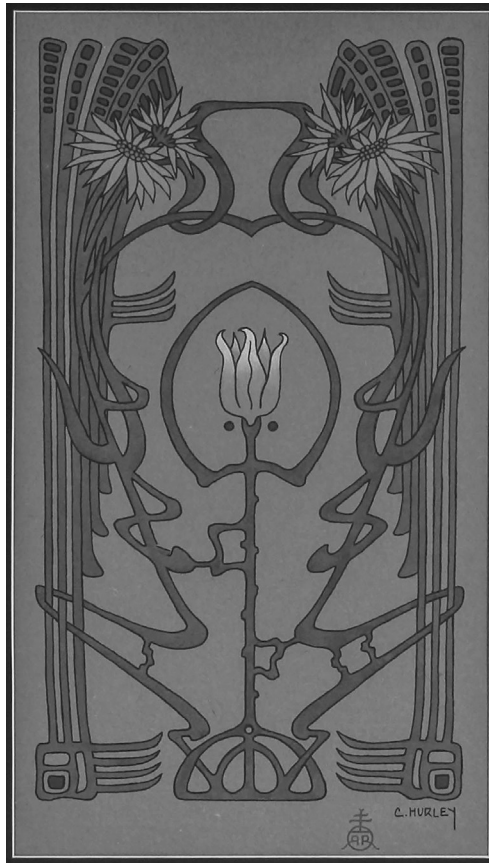
the opportunity to learn the history and design of each house they called home. This was a long-standing hold-over from their college days, where some landlords gave them liberal artistic license over the interior design of the vintage homes in which they rented apartments. "Each time we moved, we had to learn about a new house," he says. "That led to our business."

Today, based in Oil City, Pa., the couple help clients make design decisions for their homes, particularly as it relates to color and history. "We are dedicated to the decoration, restoration, and preservation of homes, both modest and grand," the couple notes on their website, [www.cjhurley.com](http://www.cjhurley.com). "We offer design, consultation, interior and exterior color, and fine and decorative art. We help people create a living environment that celebrates their family, lifestyle and architecture of their home."

As part of their research efforts, the couple were invited to tour the Sherwin-Williams archives in Cleveland, Ohio.

"We saw all those original colors from the Victorian and Arts and Crafts periods," Hurley says.

Hurley has always been fascinated by color, which he is able to explore in both aspects of his business: his paintings and



Continued on page 2





mixed media, as well as the design consultations.

"Painting is likely my most expressive medium," Hurley notes on his website. "I find that it comprises every skill that I have available to me. Not only does it combine drawing, design and compositional skills, but it also allows me to explore one of my greatest passions: color. All these elements come together when I am painting, and transports my work into realms that other mediums can't. Paint is so versatile that, as a fluid medium, it allows me to create something as refined as the most precious ink drawing, or as textured and sensory tactile as the most visceral painting on canvas. For me, painting is a means of expression in itself, but also acts as the bridge that unites drawing with my more sculptural mixed media work."

After admittedly growing frustrated with the big-city contemporary art scene after college, Hurley switched his focus from Cartoon Surrealism to Japanese-inspired art.

A friend's interest in the work of architect and designer Frank Lloyd Wright was Hurley's first introduction to the Arts & Crafts Movement. "Every time I would go over there, I'd see Arts and Crafts books," he says of his friend's house.

Hurley noticed a great deal of overlap between the Japanese and Arts and Crafts styles.

"I discovered that the (Arts and Crafts Movement) was making connections to everything I love about Japanese art," he says, adding that he quickly began reading everything he

could about Arts & Crafts. "In the mid-1990s, I did a deep dive into the Arts & Crafts Movement."

He says his work is inspired by both the past and the present. "I very much consider myself a contemporary artist, inspired by the past but without copying it."

Hurley's relationship with the Roycrofters-At-Large Association came out of his and Barbara's research into the Arts & Crafts Movement. They discovered that the Arts and Crafts spirit is still alive and well after seeing advertisements placed by Roycroft Master Artisan Laura Wilder and other artists in magazines such as *Old House Interiors*, *American Bungalow* and *Style 1900*.

Hurley was encouraged by Wilder to join RALA after they met two decades ago at a show on the West Coast, where Hurley was living at the time. Had Wilder not traveled to California, Hurley says he might never have become a Roycroft Artisan, and later a Master Artisan, for his painting. "Had she been a homebody, it might not have happened," the artist jokes.

Hurley says he continues to appreciate RALA's high creative and professional standards. "The reason I originally joined is because of my tremendous respect for their emphasis on hand-crafted work," he says. "I feel like in modern times, we are sort of in the same place they were during the Arts & Crafts Movement, and rebelling against the machine. I'm not against the machine, but it's important to not lose the handcraft skills by relying too much on computer aided design and machines like 3D printers." In that same spirit, Hurley is helping RALA return to artisan-created work for the Roycroft Festival posters.

One of Hurley's original designs was featured on the poster for the 2024 Summer Festival. Another, "The White Rose," which marks its 20th anniversary this year, graces the poster for the 2024 Winter Festival, scheduled for Dec. 7-8, at The Park School in Amherst.

For Hurley, the Arts & Crafts Movement is still alive and well: "I think the values and ethics of the Arts and Crafts Movement are more important today than they were in their own time."







## BOARD MEMBERS

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### BOARD MEETING UPDATE

Board meetings are regularly scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month. The first 15 minutes of the meeting is reserved for member comments, after which the board will enter a closed session. Contact the RALA Coordinator for details.



Community Foundation  
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Funding provided by the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, and the Cullen Foundation.



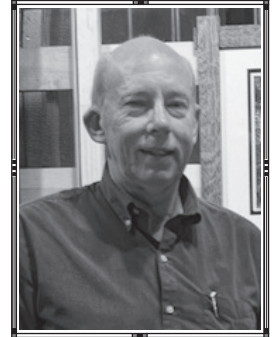
@roycroftartisans



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY PETER POTTER

Twelve months ago we were preparing for the Roycroft Winter Festival at a new location; the fourth venue in five years, as we wandered like Lt. Rowan in the jungle in search of General Garcia.



PETER POTTER

Tami Fuller had been working with us on publicity for our festivals in social, print and broadcast media, and worked as a volunteer to create the Emerging Artist Program. She also dovetailed with the East Aurora Historical Society to curate an exhibition entitled Evolution of Roycroft that was presented at the National Arts and Crafts Conference at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC. When our Coordinator Deb Muniak announced her retirement we approached Tami as a replacement. Tami has attacked the job with her sense of duty, self reliance and initiative and has helped us modernize our administrative and bookkeeping systems so that we could concentrate on providing more value to our community, our patrons and our artisans. We have re-instituted programs: witness our gatherings at The Roycroft Inn, and are creating new opportunities for us to fulfill our mission to educate, foster and inspire through the continual evolution of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

This commitment has started to pay dividends; a great example is the wonderful turn out of volunteers who are helping us stage our Little Journeys and new (and familiar) faces on the Board of Directors. Our volunteers are very important to help us achieve our goals and we truly appreciate them. Their investment is a credit to our organization and our Movement. That tells me we are doing something right. Thank you.

We have created a committee to formalize our relationship with the Schoolhouse Gallery Performance Series started several years ago by Past President Ben Little to raise funds for local not for profits. Ben and Rita Markle of the Roycroft Campus Corporation have worked to recruit talent, who generously donate their performance and practice time. This popular Summer series has given us another very positive way to serve the community and to align with our friends on the Campus. Thank you for your leadership, Ben and Rita, and special thanks to those who have shared their talent and time.

The Park School graciously offered space for our Winter Festival last year and our association with the Park School of Buffalo continues to flourish. We return December 7 and 8 for one of the largest Winter Festivals in the Roycrofters at Large history. We will also be fostering Park students and helping them to show and sell their work at the Festival. Park students, along with students from East Aurora High School, Iroquois and Springville participate with the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival professional musicians and perform in the annual performances in St. Matthias Church in East Aurora. Our December Little Journeys will highlight the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival and we have some exciting news forthcoming: watch this space.

We accepted seven new artisans in the April Masters' Jury. These artists come to us from five states; an indication of the national prominence of our organization.

It's a very exciting time for the Roycrofters at Large Association: in a time when art shows are losing attendance and participants we are bucking the trend and growing ours. Our patron membership is also growing and we are getting more engagement from our volunteers and Board. The best news is that as we go from strength to strength we have not yet reached the high point! Thanks to you all for joining us on that little journey!



## 2024 Roycroft Winter Festival

The 2024 Roycroft Winter Festival will return to The Park School of Buffalo for a second year. Thanks to the overwhelming success of the 2023 Winter Festival and the generosity of Park School, the 44th annual Roycroft Winter Festival will take place in the Rich Family Activity Center on the Park Campus. The larger size of this state of the art facility has made it possible for the Roycrofters at Large to expand the footprint of the festival to 35 booths and exhibitors, restoring the Roycroft Winter Festival to the largest festival in ten years!

Event organizers have used this opportunity to reintroduce live art, demonstrations by Masters, artist presentations and seasonal programming, marking this as a return to the Festival that collectors and enthusiasts will recall from years past. Admissions to the festival is free of charge for Members and Patrons; please be sure to bring your membership credentials to redeem your voucher for admission!

This year's Roycroft Winter Festival features the work of Roycroft Masters and Artisans, two Roycroft Emerging Artist cohorts and a schedule of live and interactive art demonstrations by Roycroft Artisans and Masters throughout the weekend. RALA and Park are also joined by the Buffalo Society of Artists and other non-profit arts partners working alongside RALA in the WNY Arts community. Also, NEW to the Roycroft Winter Festival in 2024: Visitors with children can sit with Santa Claus from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Master Henry Schmidt will present a live demonstration of his practice and a brief artist lecture between 10am and 12pm Saturday, followed by a demonstration of calligraphy and book arts by Master Linda Nagel Meyerr beginning at 1 pm. Artisan in Wood Karen Ernst will demonstrate spoon carving on Sunday morning, and Master Leah Corey will host a live beadwork session in her booth on Sunday afternoon. A roster of Buffalo Society of Artists Exhibiting Artists demonstrate from noon - 2pm on Sunday, making the weekend full of events sure to satisfy everyone.

This year's Festival Poster highlights the work of Master CJ Hurley of Pennsylvania. "Winter Rose" is a significant work by Hurley and RALA is proud to spotlight this fine work as a collaborative celebration of the White Rose's 20th anniversary. A limited series of commemorative posters will be released for purchase at the Winter Festival to festival goers and available to membership following the festival.

In furtherance of RALA's mission to educate and foster, the work of Park School student Anna Dyshlova will be highlighted as part of the 2024 Winter Festival as the first Emerging Park Artist. Dyshlova, originally from Ukraine, is a 17 year old painter currently residing in the United States and attending Park School of Buffalo. While here in the United States with her family, she has developed her process and her business practice to gain juried entry into various regional festivals,

including Music is Art, the Lewiston Art Festival, Glen Park Festival and Tiferet JFS.

Roycrofters at Large is proud and touched to have the opportunity to help Dyshlova hone her practice and will work with her to help develop a CV, a portfolio, proper pricing and assistance with sales. The work of Park Students of Note will also be represented at the festival; assembled work of Park Upperclassmen art students, recommended by Park School of Buffalo art faculty in collaboration with the Roycrofters at Large Emerging Artists Chair will be installed in the Park Art Booth. RALA and Park will also be joined by representatives of the The C. Stuart and Jane H. Hunt Art Gallery Emerging Artist Program.

Park School's proximity to both the northtowns and the City of Buffalo is in keeping with RALA's mission to promote and further the evolution of Roycroft and an exciting opportunity to connect the Roycroft Renaissance with a broader segment of Western New York Arts & Crafts collectors. Park's philosophy and shared tradition in the Arts & Crafts Movement represents significant mission overlap and shared vision, and RALA is pleased to partner with Park to further its charter and to expose what the East Aurora based Roycroft community has to a wider audience.

Raffle tickets for the RALA "Goodie Box" will also be available. This year's box contains items created by Roycroft Artisans and Master Artisans valued at over \$9,000. The drawing will be held in February 2026, at the 38th National Arts and Crafts Conference, at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC. The winner need not be present. For a full list of the Festival Exhibitors, a schedule and on the 2025 Roycroft Summer Festival, visit [ralaweb.com](http://ralaweb.com).



## Artisan News: Achievements & Upcoming

The following are Artisan Updates and Upcoming Opportunities for our Masters and Artists from across the country. For more information on individual artists, visit our Artisan Directory for links to individual portfolios and social media.

Michael Cancilla, Artisan in Painting, took First Place at the 2024 Orchard Park Festival of Art for his work "Gondolas," a 16 x 20 inch oil on panel. This is the second First Place Award for Michael at the Orchard Park Festival of Art.

Andre Chaves of Clinker Press, Artisan in Printmaking, announces that he has been selected to design and print the official poster for the 2026 National Arts & Crafts Conference at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC. Congratulations, Andre!

Karen Sienk, Master Fiber Artist, is the subject of a solo exhibition at the Harold L. Olmsted Gallery, Springville Center the Arts in Springville, NY. Sienk's show, Fiber = Art, opened on November 6 and is open to the public through December 28, 2024.

Master Metalsmith Helene Arendt opened an exhibition of her work in the Copper Shop Gallery Loft on the Historic Roycroft Campus on November 2, 2024. "...she crafts pieces from silver, gold, and precious stones. Her work [ranges] from custom commissions infused with Herkimer diamonds, turquoise and other precious stones..." Over 40 pieces by Arendt representing both established work and new designs are on view and for sale through the Copper Shop in East Aurora until Saturday, February 15, 2025.

## Little Journeys at The Roycroft Inn

The next Little Journey at The Roycroft Inn will take place on Dec. 12 as a special performance by The Roycroft Chamber Music Festival. An intimate performance by Roycroft Chamber Music Festival musicians and two students from East Aurora High School who have been mentored by professional Roycroft Chamber musicians will conclude the 2024 season of RALA Little Journeys and commemorate the conclusion of a 30th successful season of the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival.

East Aurora High School students Elliot Ticen and Will McGarry have been mentored by the Roycroft Chamber Music musicians in collaboration with Alissa Nanna Iorio of the East Aurora Union Free School District and will open the evening. These student performances will be followed by an intimate performance by two well-known and accomplished former BPO musicians, cellist Eva Herer and violinist Amy Licata.

As a branch of RALA, The Roycroft Chamber Music Festival has presented a series of concerts each June with musicians from the US and Canada in collaboration with the WNY performance arts community for 30 years. A presentation on the history and work of the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival will precede the musical performances, and a period of engagement and questions from the audience will follow.

The evening's program will begin with a relaxed start at 5:00 PM before the Little Journeys commences in The Salon at 6 pm. Guests who attend Little Journeys receive 10% off of their dinner at The Roycroft Inn that evening by mentioning Little Journeys when making a reservation.

As a RALA Little Journeys, this performance is offered at no cost with required advance registration. Tickets are needed for entry. The performance will be live streamed to Membership and Patrons for those who cannot attend. Visit [ralaweb.com](http://ralaweb.com) to reserve in person attendance or register for the livestream.

Tickets for the 2024 Goodie Box Fundraiser will be available at the evening's event prior to and immediately following the meeting and presentation. This year's box contains items created by Roycroft Artisans and Master Artisans valued at over \$9,000. The drawing will be held at the 38th National Arts and Crafts Conference at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, NC in February 2025.

Little Journeys will change to the first Wednesday of every month in 2025, commencing on February 5 with a presentation by Master Henry Schmidt about his work as a fine art sculptor in the Arts & Crafts Movement and how he draws inspiration from the late Wendell Castle. The evening's presentation will include a virtual revisit of Schmidt's visit to the studio of Castle prior to Castle's passing in 2018. Mark your calendars now to reserve your space when booking for this event opens after the new year.

ROYCROFTERS AT LARGE ASSOCIATION  
presents  
a special  
**LITTLE JOURNEY**  
with the  
**ROYCROFT CHAMBER  
MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
at  
**THE ROYCROFT INN**  
40 S. Grove St | EA

performances by:  
Eva Herer | Amy Licata  
and  
East Aurora High School Mentorees Will McGarry | Elliot Ticen

**12 Dec 2024 | 6PM**

tickets required | [www.ralaweb.com](http://www.ralaweb.com)





# ROYCROFTERS-AT-LARGE ASSOCIATION

1054 OLEAN ROAD ■ EAST AURORA, NY 14052


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## OUR MISSION

The Roycrofters-At-Large Association was formed nearly 50 years ago by a group of East Aurorans that included several descendants of the original Roycrofters, including Elbert Hubbard's granddaughter. The Roycrofters-At-Large Association, Inc. has been entrusted with educating, fostering and inspiring through the continual evolution of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

The Roycrofters-At-Large Association

# ROYCROFT



2025

\$5 admission

## SUMMER FESTIVAL

JUNE 28-29  
10am to 5pm

EA Classic Rink  
41 Riley Street, East Aurora

Roycroft Masters | Juried Artisans | Live Art | Food

(716) 655-7252 RALAWEB.COM

The Roycrofters-At-Large Association

# 2024 - 2025 calendar

December 7 - 8, 2024  
Roycroft Winter Festival  
Park School, Amherst, NY

December 12, 2024  
Little Journey at the Inn: 30 Years of the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival

February 5, 2025  
Little Journey at the Inn: Master Sculptor, Henry Schmidt

February 21 - 23, 2025  
National Arts & Crafts Conference, GPI  
Asheville, NC

February 24, 2025  
Application Deadline: 2025 Roycroft Summer Festival

April 3, 2025  
Little Journey at the Inn: Meet the Visiting Masters

April 5, 2025  
Masters Jury 2025