

The Artists' Fellowship Remembers Daniel E. Greene

By Babette Bloch

When members of the Artists' Fellowship die, we all feel the loss as a community. In this very unique period in our upside-down world, we mourn the passing of Daniel E. Greene who died on April 5th of congestive heart failure. Dan and his wife Wende Caporale, former president of the AF from 2012-16, who currently serves as head of Relief and Assistance gave their time and support for decades to our foundation. Dan has been honored with a myriad of accolades over his distinguished sixty-plus year career including being the recipient of our own Benjamin West Clinedinst Memorial Medal in 1999. Numerous articles about his art have appeared in art magazines and journals throughout his illustrious career.

He was one of America's leading figure, portrait and still-life painters, and internationally acclaimed as one of the world's most accomplished pastelists. He taught over ten thousand students in the United States and Europe in workshops and at the Art Students League and the National Academy where he was elected in 1969. His works hang in more than 700 public and private collections.

He is the author of two definitive books, *Pastel* and *The Art of Pastel*, which have been translated into nine languages, and has produced six instructional videos collected by artists world-wide. In 2017, a biography was published about Dan's work, entitled *Daniel E. Greene, Studios and Subways, An American Master, His Life and Art*. In 2018-2019, he was the subject of three Museum Retrospective exhibitions: The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio; the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, Connecticut; and the Museum of Art in Deland, Florida. And this past fall, he and his wife Wende Caporale were honored by the Figurative Artists Convention and Expo (FACE) with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dan attended the Art Students League studying with Robert Brackman who had studied with Robert Henri and George Bellows. He developed his own form



Daniel Greene

of Realism in a time when Abstract Expressionism was in favor. When discussing Dan Greene's unwavering commitment to realism in the 1960's and 1970's, biographer Maureen Bloomfield wrote that "To commit oneself to representational art, when the zeitgeist maintained the superiority of improvisation, required confidence and possibly bravado." Dan stayed true to himself, working in pastel and oil. He has masterfully explored many themes of his time, including a series of still life paintings, game boards, memories of childhood amusement parks,

games, auction paintings, figure compositions and his iconic subway series.

2020 Honoree and Dan's dear friend Burt Silverman said, "It's not possible to measure a lifetime friendship—where or when it began was almost a joke between us—or his prodigious and multi-faceted career, including his institutional honors, his painting production ... nor is it nearly enough to measure what a decent, caring man he was as a friend. He was a constant fan of my work and joked how people mistook him for me to shake his hand. I will miss him, sorely."