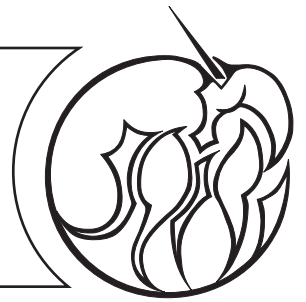


{ the avant-garde }

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design



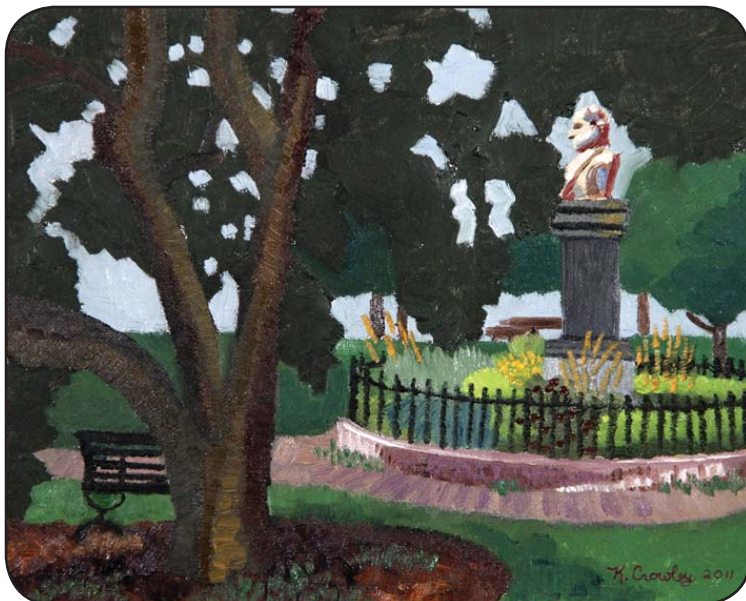
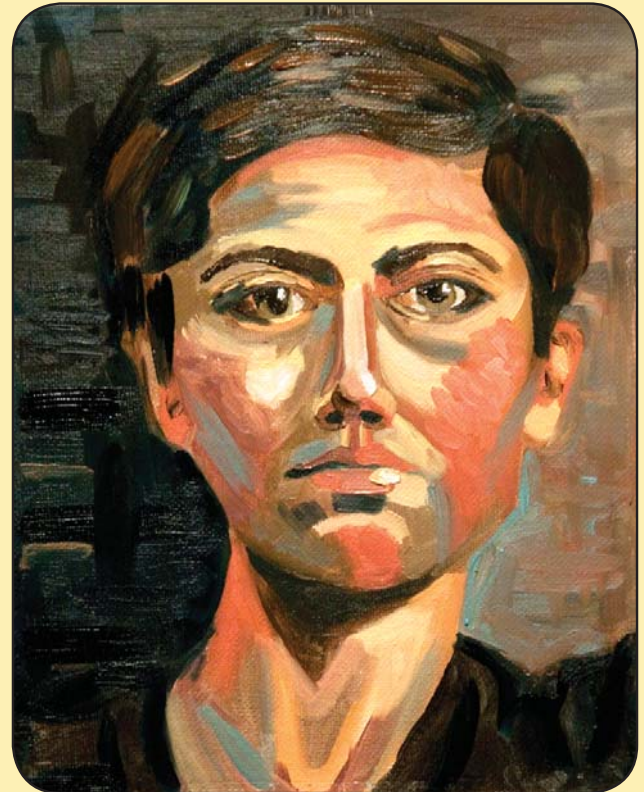
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME VIII No.4 SUMMER 2015

{on view}

Katherine N. Crowley Fine Art & Design
is Proud to Announce that

Portrait of Elise

Will be Featured in the Ohio State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition
The Portrait will be Available for Acquisition



The Worthington Area Art League at Motorist Mutual Insurance Company

June 19-July 30, 2015

471 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
<http://www.artinview.com>

From the top: *Portrait of Elise*, oil on canvas panel, 2014;
Goodale Park, oil on canvas panel, 2011.



by Katherine N. Crowley

In late spring, my husband and I took a vacation to Key West, Florida. We flew to Ft. Lauderdale and drove the Overseas Highway to the southernmost point in the continental United States. While there, we visited beaches, toured Ernest Hemingway's home, Harry Truman's "Little White House", a naval fort, and a few museums. We saw roosters, six-toed cats, souvenir shops, and cigar stores. The area museums touched on the island's history, famous for treasure hunting, sport fishing, and shipwreck salvage. Key West offers beautiful sunsets. With little to block the view but a few errant islands, the sun paints the sky a spectrum ranging from orange to purple before it disappears beneath the ocean horizon. Above is a painting I made from Fort Zachary Taylor on the far west side of the island. The shadows stretch purple across the pine needles in the foreground and the palm trees sway quietly before an illuminated ocean. On the next few pages are scenes from our various adventures.



{traveling the overseas highway}

Route 1 stretches 113 miles from Miami to Key West linking together the chain of islands known as the Florida Keys.



{around key west}

Clockwise from top right: Bright colored flora highlights the front yards of a Key West home; Mangrove trees grow in an area canal; A mahogany bed at the Ernest Hemingway House Museum, preparations for the daily Sunset Celebration; Famous hang-out Sloppy Joe's Bar.



{touring key west}

Clockwise from top left: The uniform Hemingway wore as an ambulance driver during WWI; A Victorian-era restaurant; A schooner at sea; Harry Truman's "Little White House" where he conducted business for 175 day during his presidency; The sculpture garden at Mallory Square.





{sunset over key west}

Clockwise from top left: Humphrey Bogart the cat at the Hemingway House Museum; Mario Sanchez art exhibit at the Custom House, Sunset from Ft. Zachary Taylor; Motorcycle with noodles headed to the beach; Hemingway's writing studio at the Hemingway House Museum.

{today's the day}



One of the more interesting museums we stumbled upon was Mel Fisher's Maritime Museum which displays the cargo of a Spanish galleon that sunk in a hurricane off the coast of southern Florida in 1622. The first few rooms exhibit cannon and pottery fragments that were brought up from the wreck of the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*. The rooms that follow feature jewelry, fine tableware and gold chains; all museum-ey looking stuff that one is used to seeing in glass display cases. But the room after that contains a case of silver bars and piles and piles of silver coins. Upon seeing this, it struck me that Mel Fisher's decade-long quest was more than just a historical discovery, it was pay-day. Every day he woke up and told his crew: "Today's the Day". This is the story of the ill-fated vessel *Atocha* and the man who found her over 300-years later.

On September 4, 1622 the Tierra Firme flota of 28 ships left Havana bound for Spain. With it was carried the wealth of an empire; silver from Peru and Mexico, gold and emeralds from Colombia, pearls from Venezuela. Each ship carried its crew, soldiers, passengers, and all the necessary materials and provisions for a successful voyage. The following day, the fleet found itself being overtaken by a hurricane as it entered the Florida straits. By the morning of September 6th, eight of these vessels lay broken on the ocean floor, scattered from the Marquesas Keys to the Dry Tortugas. In them were the treasures of the Americas, and the untold stories of scores of Spanish sailors, soldiers, noblemen, and clergy.

The heavily armed *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* sailed as Almirante, or rear guard, of the flota, following the others to prevent an attack from behind the fleet.

For the 1622 return voyage, *Atocha* was loaded with 24 tons of silver bullion in 1038 ingots, 180,000 pesos of silver, coins, 582 copper ingots, 125 gold bars and discs, 350 chests of indigo, 525 bales of tobacco, 20 bronze cannon and 1,200 pounds of silverware. Additionally, she carried items being smuggled to avoid taxation, unregistered jewelry, and personal goods.



2wheels
+ motor:
a fine art
exhibition

the
national
motorcycle museum



The *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* sank with 265 people onboard. Only five - three sailors and two slaves - survived by holding on to the stump of the mizzenmast. On October 5th a second hurricane came through, and further destroyed the wreck of the *Atocha*. For the next 60 years, Spanish salvagers searched for the galleon, but they never found a trace.

In 1969, Mel Fisher - an amateur treasure-hunter and his Treasure Salvors crew - began a relentless, 16-year quest for the *Atocha*. Using sand-clearing propwash deflectors that he invented, and specially-designed proton magnetometers, they spent long years following the wreck's elusive trail.

In 1973, three silver bars were found that matched the weights and tally numbers found on the *Atocha's* manifest and in 1975, Fisher's son Dirk found five bronze cannon identified as belonging to the *Atocha*. But only days later, Dirk, his wife Angel, and diver Rick Gage, were tragically killed when one of the salvage boats capsized. Mel Fisher considered suspending the search but did not want the death of his son to be in vain and so pressed on.

By 1980, progress was made when remains of another ship of the fleet, the *Santa Margarita*, were discovered. On July 20, 1985, Mel's son Kane Fisher, captain of the salvage vessel *Dauntless*, sent a jubilant message to his father's headquarters. Ecstatic crew members described the find as looking like a reef of silver bars. Within days, the shipper's marks on the bars were matched to the *Atocha's* cargo manifest, confirming their authenticity.

Mel Fisher's chief archaeologist, Duncan Mathewson, assembled a team from across the country to ensure that the artifacts and treasure were excavated and preserved properly. Because material that has spent significant time in a saltwater environment is likely to degrade when exposed to air, immediate preservation treatment was required to prevent its destruction.

Today artifacts and treasures from the *Atocha* and *Margarita* form the cornerstone of the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society Museum's collection. Among the items found on the wrecks are a fortune in gold, silver bars, and coins destined for the coffers of Spain; a solid gold belt and necklace set with gems; a gold chalice designed to prevent its user from being poisoned; an intricately-tooled gold plate; a gold chain that weighs more than seven pounds; a horde of contraband emeralds - including an impressive 77.76 carat uncut hexagonal crystal experts have traced to the Muzo mine in Colombia; religious and secular jewelry; and silverware.

With the treasure, and perhaps ultimately more important, were countless articles that provide insight into seventeenth-century life, especially under sail: rare navigational instruments, military armaments, native American objects, tools of various trades, ceramic vessels, galley wares, even seeds and insects. A portion of the *Atocha's* lower hull were examined and then



recovered to be stored in a protected lagoon at the Florida Keys Community College, making them readily accessible to interested researchers.

The treasure of the *Atocha* is on display along with exhibits on maritime archeology and preservation, the African Cemetery at Higgs Beach, and the discovery of the *Henrietta Marie* - an English merchant slave ship that is believed to be the world's largest source of tangible objects from the early years of the slave trade.

Previous page, clockwise from the top: Gold collar set with gems and pearls. A gold cross necklace set with emeralds, believed to be a gift intended for Pope Gregory XV. An etched portrait appears on the reverse of St. Anthony, the patron saint of lost things.

This page, clockwise from the top: The links of these gold chains could be removed and used as currency. Gold bars with markings that identify them as cargo from the *Atocha*. An 77.76 carat uncut emerald. Silver pesos.

In the permanent collection of the The Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society Museum.

{all around the town}

The Columbus College of Art and Design, Canzani Center Gallery

(<http://www.ccad.edu/events-calendar-news/exhibitions>)

"MJ Bole - White Elephant", Sept. 10-Nov. 5

"Chimera 45", Sept. 10-Dec. 11

The Columbus Cultural Arts Center

(<http://www.culturalartscenteronline.org>)

"Marc Ross: No Explanation Needed", Aug. 1-29

"In Close Proximity" Sept. 4-Oct. 3

The Columbus Museum of Art (<http://www.columbusmuseum.org>)

"Page Turners" Book Art, Through Sept. 6

"Remembering Marvin Hamlisch: The People's Composer",
Photographs by Len Prince, Apr. 10-Sep. 6

Dublin Arts Council (<http://www.dublinarts.org>)

"Eddie Adams: Vietnam" and "Come All Ye Gallant Soldiers:
The Songs & poetry of War", Through Sept. 11

McConnell Arts Center (<http://www.mcconnellarts.org>)

"Art Quilt Alliance" and "Ruth Ann Mitchell: Time After Time",
Through Aug. 16

"MAC Faculty & Student Exhibition", Aug. 22-Oct. 25

"yART" Arts Festival, Aug. 22 9:00am-3:00pm

OSU Urban Arts Space (<http://www.uas.osu.edu>)

"Open This End", Aug. 25-Nov. 7

The Pizzuti Collection (<http://www.pizzuticollection.org>)

"Now-ism: Abstraction Today", Through Aug. 15

Ohio Historical Society (<http://www.ohiohistory.org>)

"Power of Painting: Lilly Martin Spencer", Through Sept. 6

The Riffe Gallery (<http://www.oac.state.oh.us/riffe/>)

"Flashback to Now", Through Oct. 18

The Wexner Center (<http://www.wexarts.org>)

"Catherine Opie: Portraits & Landscapes", May 16-Aug. 2

"Jack Whitten: Five Decades of Painting", May 16-Aug. 2

{performing arts}

CAPA (<http://www.capa.com>)

CAPA Summer Movie Series: Through Aug. 9

CATCO (<http://www.catco.org>)

"The Elephant Man", Oct. 21-Nov. 8, Riffe Center Studio Two

Columbus Symphony Orchestra

(<http://www.columbussymphony.com>) Ohio Theater

"Picnic with the Pops: OSU Marching Band", July 31-Aug. 1

"Carmina Burana", Oct. 2-3

{festivals}

Ohio State Fair (<http://www.ohiostatefair.com>)

Ohio Expo Center and Fairgrounds, July 29-Aug. 9

Right: *Sunset, Key West*, mobile photography by Matthew Anderle



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