

Harold “Hal” Halvorsen

Huntington, NY 11743

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Exhibits and Art Show Participation

- Solo show, “Perspectives: Scenes from the Mind’s Eye,” Huntington Public Library, Huntington, NY (month of August 2011)
- Artist of the Month, Huntington Book Revue (month of July 2010)
- Solo show, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Huntington, NY (month of October 2009); featured 28 paintings, a mix of originals and reproductions
- Solo show, RIPE Gallery, Greenlawn, NY (month of September 2007); featured 25 originals and 45 reproductions; represented on an ongoing basis
- Represented several times at Potomac West Interiors and Antique Gallery, Alexandria, VA
- Donated two original oil paintings to the Huntington Arts Council auctions

Education

Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY, Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, 1958

Arts Education—Self-taught

Aside from attending lectures by well-known artists in Rockport, MA, Hal is a self-taught artist. He has sold a number of paintings over the years, and has had many requests for commission work. He has donated several paintings to charitable auctions to benefit schools and churches as well as the Huntington Arts Council.

A mechanical engineer by profession, he always had an interest in art and painted and drew as a child. It was not until after his retirement in 1995, however, that he started to seriously pursue painting. He prefers working in oil on canvas, but has done some work in pastel and acrylics. **He focuses primarily on landscapes, abandoned farmhouses, covered bridges, and seascapes.** Earlier, he did mostly pencil and charcoal sketches, along with some pen and ink work, for which he won several amateur art contests. All of the artist’s early work is preserved in his younger daughter’s private collection. Select paintings and sketches are posted on his website, www.halvorsenart.com. Since 1995, he has produced 99 original paintings and sketches.

Professional Work

Grumman (now Northrop Grumman), Bethpage, NY, Manager in Systems Engineering, retired in 1995

Dayton T. Brown Test Laboratories, Inc., Bohemia, NY, 1958-1961

Fairchild Engine Division, Long Island

Memberships

Artist member, Huntington Arts Council, Huntington, NY

Supporting Member, Rockport Art Association, Rockport, MA

Personal

Born in 1930 to Norwegian immigrant parents in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn, NY, Hal and his family moved back to Farsund, Norway, at the start of the Great Depression. When WWII began in 1940, Norway was occupied by the German army, and all roads back to the United States were closed. As a result, he spent his formative years in Norway, and graduated valedictorian of his high school class. At his parents' urging, he returned to Brooklyn in 1949--with only seven dollars and a relative's address in his pocket. His parents followed in 1951.

Back in the United States, Hal worked in a variety of industries, including construction, sales, and as a supermarket produce clerk. The bulk of his time was spent in the maritime industry. He served in the engine room of several ships and towing vessels, including New York Harbor and river tugs. He is a Korean War veteran and was discharged from the Marine Corps as a Corporal.

Hal and his wife, Norita, a retired professor of nursing, are longtime Huntington, NY, residents. They have three grown children and seven grandchildren. He credits his family with encouraging his artistic pursuits. In addition to painting, he is fond of visiting his family in Maryland, Virginia, and California and enjoys traveling abroad with Norita.

Other Pursuits

Hal produced an in-depth family history, in which he traces his roots back to 1846 in the United States and 1695 in Norway. Included in this work is a collection of twenty stories—*War and Other Life Stories*—which chronicle his wartime and other early life experiences. One of these stories was published in *Viking Magazine*. A second story was published in the March 11, 2011, issue of the *Norwegian American Weekly*.