



The founding Petticoat Painters Elsinore Budd, Judy Axe, Margaret Stugis, Helen Protas, Stella Coler, Bebe Hamel, Marty Hartman and Jane Ziegler in 1958. Today, the Petticoat Painters holds the distinction of being the longest continuously exhibiting women's artist group in the country. COURTESY PHOTO

Petticoat Painters

The Petticoat Painters is one of the oldest continuously exhibiting women's art groups in the U.S. This group was formed in 1953 to showcase the talents of female artists at a time when women had difficulty finding venues to show their work.

Seven women participated in the first show held at a local Sarasota gallery. These original members selected the name "Petticoat Painters" thinking it would be a one-time show of their work. The name continues to be used both in honor of the founders and to retain its historical signature. The membership is limited to twenty women.

While they revere their history, each generation of members evolves its own identity framed by contemporary thinking. As the group continues to engage new members, they actively move into the 21st century in concert with the dynamic metamorphosis in art philosophy and aesthetics.

The Petticoat Painters are motivated by their individual processes of making art. Each artist has a firm commitment to moving beyond the boundaries of materials, techniques, standard images and preconceived notions. Group members find inspiration through the camaraderie and vibrant association with each other. Each person is encouraged to continue her journey of exploration and the development of artistic endeavors.