

Ridgewood Library hosts watercolor exhibit

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BY EILEEN LA FORGIA

STAFF WRITER

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Watercolor artist Karen Rhodes calls her exhibit at the [Ridgewood](#) Public Library "a representation of Fall in lots of different places, which includes slightly different styles, some more impressionistic than others."



CHRIS PETERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Karen Rhodes is showing her painting, 'Lake Glory' at her exhibit at the Ridgewood Public Library this month. The view of Lake Tiorati at Harriman State Park brings back fond memories to her of where her parents met in 1933.

She also likes to do city scenes with an ink and wash. "Times Square" at dusk, but so vibrant (lit up) are part of the show, as is "Lower Hudson Views," painted from a photo taken on a boat (World Yacht) while on a lunch day trip. It's a lovely look at lower Manhattan and the lower West Side Hudson River.

She likes to paint water and reflections and also paints house portraits, and especially likes the shadows and reflections of windows.

"In painting plein air you get a real feel of the immediacy, the emotional quality comes through. Your eye takes in more than a camera," said the artist. She also takes photos and then paints in her studio.

Rhodes describes impressionistic painting as a fantasy with mountains and reflections. "For me a watercolor is about color. I see myself as a colorist. I like the luminosity – the way it reflects light. It's exuberant!"

In choosing a subject she says, "It has to be something that speaks to you." Her exhibit includes: "Maine Coastal Fury" – Bar Harbor; "Country Village" Hanford Mills, Rt. 28 Century Village, "Victoriana" Delaware County, Upstate New York and "Swamp Birches" Suffern, Rt. 202. Francis Ford Coppola's Winery in California is called "Fall Winery" and then there is a lovely "Fall Bouquet."

The Hudson Valley is her home. She lives part-time in Palenville and part-time in Rockland County. She draws deep inspiration from her hikes in the Catskills and the historic sites and buildings in the area. Rhodes also loves gardening and enjoys painting the flowers from her gardens and meadows.

Her interest in art began as a child and she remembers decorating her windows for the seasons. She does needlepoint and has always knit. Also a potter, she enjoys the textural effects and surprises that the relative amount of water and pigment can create – surprising like those found with raku glazes. After starting to paint, she gained a new appreciation for light and shadow. Her husband signed her up for lessons in 1996 with watercolorist Carolyn Pedersen. She studied with Pederson for several years and is now studying with Mary Ann Heinzen in Valley Cottage.

Rhodes has won a blue ribbon at the Cultural Arts Association and her work has been accepted in juried shows. Her watercolors have been exhibited in Rockland and in the Catskills. She is a member of the Woodstock Art Association and The Greene County Council of the Arts and is a frequent exhibitor in the Windham and Catskills Galleries. She has also exhibited in Manhattan at the A.I.R. Gallery. Other recent exhibits were at [Glen Rock](#) and Pearl River with upcoming shows at [Upper Saddle River](#) and the Cultural Arts Center.

Rhodes has her Ph.D. and attended Barnard College, Brooklyn College and Fordham University. She is a practicing psychologist counseling individuals, couples, and families. She and her husband are directors of Deerkill Day Camp. Her daughter Rebecca, a speech therapist for pre-school in the [Ridgewood](#) area, also runs the camp with her husband. "Having my daughter live in Ridgewood makes this exhibit more special – my grandson at two-and-a-half is coming to see my paintings." The [Ridgewood](#) Public Library is located at 125 Maple Ave. in Ridgewood. Patrons may view the exhibit during regular library hours.