



# **SALVATORE DEL DEO**

## **75 YEARS IN PROVINCETOWN**

September 30–November 26, 2023



460 COMMERCIAL STREET | PROVINCETOWN MA | [PAAM.ORG](http://PAAM.ORG) | 508.487.1750



# SALVATORE DEL DEO



On the occasion of Salvatore Del Deo's 95th birthday and 75 years of creating art in Provincetown, it is fitting that the Provincetown Art Association and Museum present this exhibition, which chronicles Sal's commitment to this special landscape and its community.

Over the past year and a half, I have had the pleasure of spending afternoons with Sal in his studio looking at art to select for the show, but also to listen to Sal share his personal experiences and stories about building his life, family, and career on this spit of land surrounded by water on three sides.

I am amazed by the wonderment that is expressed as Sal speaks of seeing Henry Hensche give a painting demonstration at the Vesper George School when he was 17 years old—putting blobs of color on a canvas that eventually morphed into a portrait of his friend Margery—Sal revealed that Hensche was a real painter. That day in art school propelled Sal and his friend, Charlie Couper, to drive 200 miles to Provincetown in an old Studebaker—it took six hours. After painting a quick watercolor of the dunes, they located Mr. Hensche and spent the next 12 hours in his home as Hensche spoke of Charles Hawthorne and his summer school of painting.

The rest is history, as they say, but there is one

part of the story that seems almost unbelievable. Sal's older brother, Silvestro, had actually been to Provincetown and wrote about it in a letter. After Silvestro's untimely death, Sal acquired his papers and read that Provincetown was a fishing town and a painter's town—a place where Sal should be. It was this premonition that was the genesis of Sal's journey to the end of Cape Cod.

Sal still remains as excited today about being in Provincetown and painting in his studio, inspired by the light, landscape, and the people who cycle in and out of town. This exhibition features paintings that emit light and hope, portraits, landscapes, the working community, and the metaphysical aspects of Provincetown—according to Sal—that you learn after you have been here for a very long time.

It has been a privilege to spend this special time with Sal, and the paintings that I have selected are personal to our shared experiences. I am grateful to Romolo Del Deo for making the access to the artwork seamless and to the Board and staff for their unfailing time and commitment to PAAM and its programs. Sal says that the best things are still in front of him, and I can't wait to see what they are.

– Chris McCarthy, Curator

## ARTWORK LIST

*Binocular #2*, 1982  
Oil on board  
Courtesy of the artist

*The Critics*, 1991  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*The Shepherd of the Clam Flats*, 2014-15  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Tony Jackett, the Keeper of the Flock*, 2017  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Untitled (Window Series)*, 1993  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*What Was Is*, 1983  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Window on Paradise (III) Oro di Napoli*, 1979  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Arthur Cohen in Al Di Lauro's Studio*, 1984  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Breakwater*, 1981  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Early Morning Light*, 1977  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Lilacs Blue Glass*, 1985  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Lilacs Pewter Vase*, 1985  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Peg Watson's Cottage*, 2004  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Portrait of Vico Fabris*, 1975  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Self-Portrait with Sunflowers*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*The Eclipse of 1989*, 1989  
Oil on canvas  
Private collection

*Victor De Carlo*, 1969  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Winter of 1972*, 1972  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Frenchie's Shack*, 1964  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*East End Cold Storage Wharf*, 1966  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Ghost Wharf*, 2023  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

*Nude Backscape*, 1979  
Oil on canvas  
Courtesy of the artist

# SALVATORE DEL DEO

*Schooner in Harbor*, 1969

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist

*Shoreline Community*, 1971

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist

*The Clam Digger 2 (Romolo)*, 1980

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist

*Pilgrim Lake #3*, 2009

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist

*Dune Camp*, 1980

Oil on board

Courtesy of the artist

*Breakwater Barges*, 1970

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist

*Wells Shack Dune View with Three Sisters*, 1982

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist

*High Head, North Truro*, 1982

Oil on canvas

Courtesy of the artist

***Thank you to this exhibition's sponsors, Judyth and Dan Katz.***

