

MARYALICE EIZENBERG: Painting A Puzzle Of Light And Dark

by Jennifer Sexton-Riley

When asked what it is about the subject matter she chooses to paint which moves her or appeals to her, artist Maryalice Eizenberg doesn't hesitate. Dramatic patterns of light and color are what attract her most to a subject, and it is her emotional response to these elements that she tries to share with the viewer.

"Images full of light are what I choose to paint," Eizenberg said. "While color is important to a composition, it is actually the pieces of light and dark following together like a completed puzzle that pushes the whole painting into an emotional space."

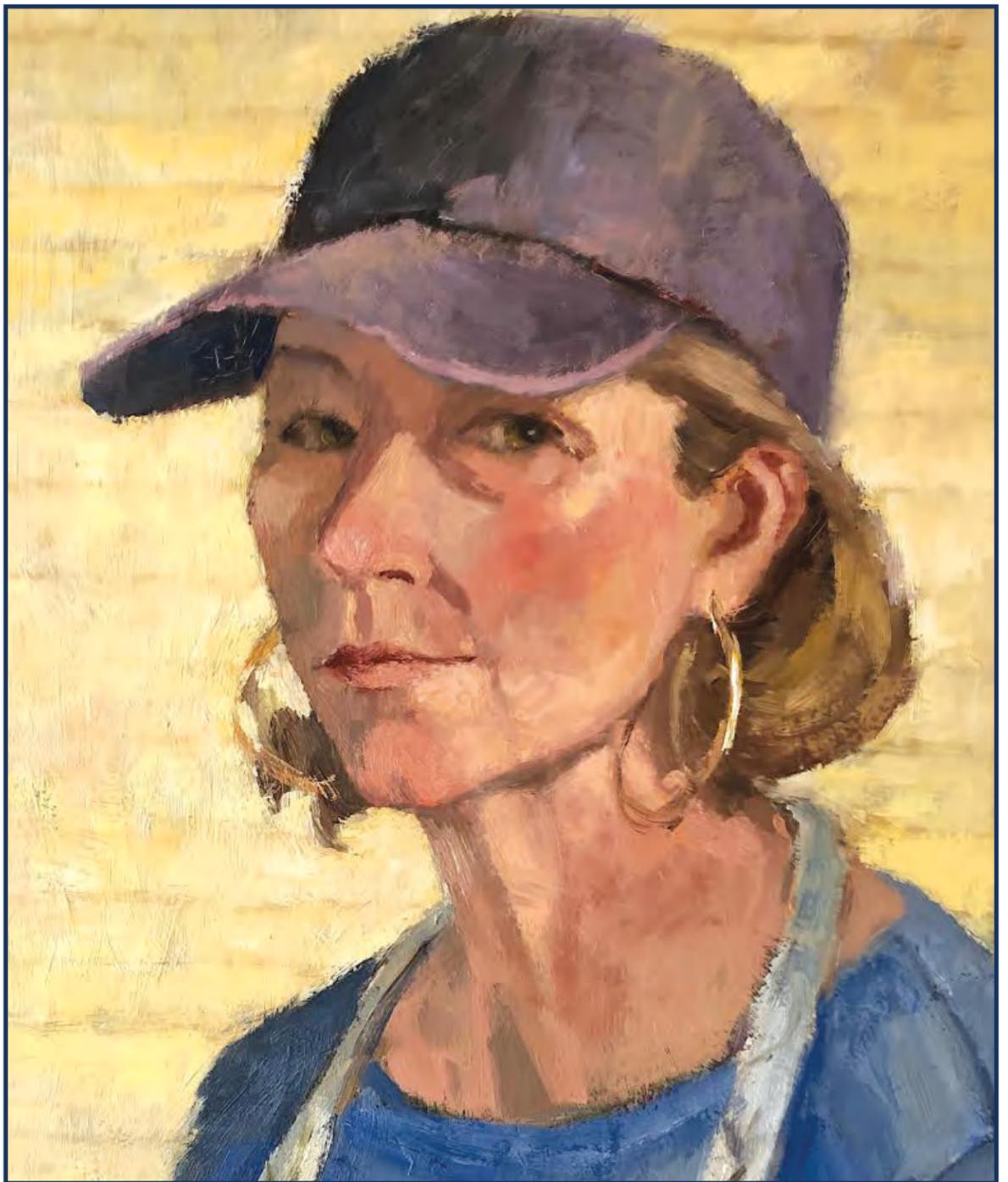
Born in Massachusetts in 1948, Eizenberg is an award-winning artist and art educator. She has drawn and painted throughout her life, finding her true passion in plein air landscapes and florals, as well as the human figure.

"Both sides of my family were populated by musicians," Eizenberg said. "My early childhood was filled with both classical and popular music. That said, drawing, then painting became my primary focus, but even now, I am happiest if I can have music while I paint."

Eizenberg's art education included course study at the Worcester and Springfield Fine Arts Museums, as well as a bachelor of arts degree from Clark University. She has studied with many accomplished painters, including John Cosby, Donald Demers, Joseph Paquet, Charles Sovek and Daniel Keys. Eizenberg has been featured in Cape Cod Life and Chatham magazines, and her work has been included in "The Creative Spirit," "Art in Chatham's Old Village" and "Contemporary Cape Cod Artists, People and Places." She teaches at the Creative Arts Center in Chatham and is a member of Oil Painters of America, 21 in Truro, Arts Foundation of Cape Cod, PAAM and the Cape Cod Museum of Art. Her work is held in private collections in the United States, Europe and Japan. Eizenberg's available work can be found at the Addison Art Gallery in Orleans.

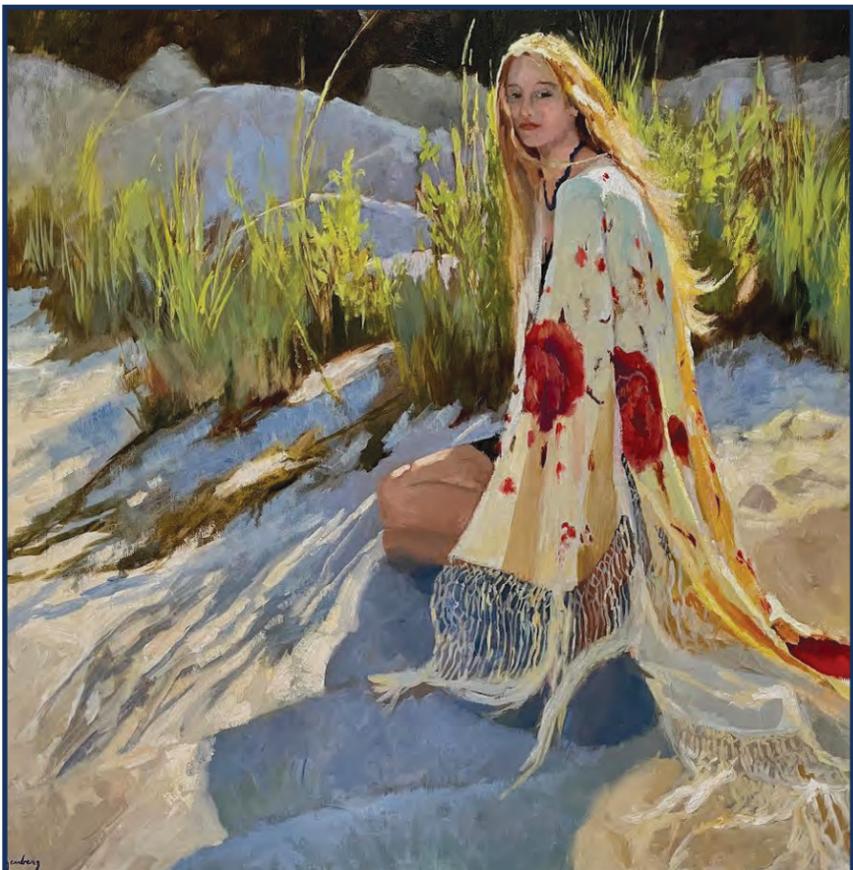
Eizenberg said her association with The Creative Arts Center in Chatham began so long ago it seems like it has always been an important part of her life.

"I started by taking classes then became an instructor," she said. "The Center is a very welcoming place that nurtures a creative community."



"Self Portrait," oil by Maryalice Eizenberg.

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"Bohemian Rhapsody II," oil by Maryalice Eizenberg.



"Scent From The Garden," oil by Maryalice Eizenberg.

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The Addison Art Gallery is an equally important part of Eizenberg's artistic life.

"The stable of gallery artists feels more like a family who respects and supports each other," she said. "It allows for connection to not only fellow artists but enthusiastic collectors. Next to actually making art, I like talking about it."

Oil is Eizenberg's medium of choice. She explained that part of the appeal is its luminous color.

"Its long drying time allows a painter to work wet into wet, my favorite technique for applying color," Eizenberg explained. "The best part of being an artist is entering a different universe while you paint. That place can be as energetic or peaceful as you like at any given time. My art gives me peace; it gives me joy. It allows for communication without words. It can pull viewers into their own stories for a time where they can find peace and joy, too."

Eizenberg, who lived in Chatham for 44 years before moving to Eastham last year, said one of the most important parts of teaching a class of artists is helping them to learn to see like a painter.

"Once someone can do that, they can step into their own alternate universe and paint their own narratives," Eizenberg said. "I have met many artists who selflessly share what they know with students. Paying it forward to those eager to listen is its own reward."



"Sunny Burst," oil by Maryalice Eizenberg.