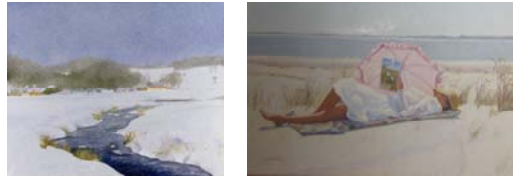


## State of the Studio by Candace Lovely

The year 2005 started off with an invitation to the Party of the Dead – *Four O'clock Milk* was accepted into the Farnsworth Museum, the home to the greatest of historic American works, and *Dreams of Fair Women II* was accepted into the permanent exhibition at the J. Fust Community Library of Boca Grande, Florida.

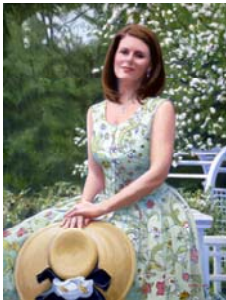


However, the year ended at the sexiest hotel in downtown Boston. Obviously, there was a lot that happened in between.



In March I was hung in the Hilton Head Library for a show called *Sketches Around Town*. This show of fifteen large giclees depicted scenes of popular culture from places all over Hilton Head Island. I thought the Harbor Town lighthouse would be the star attraction, but one of the many surprises of the year was that it was my sketch of the gentlemen's club that got the editorial in the newspaper.

By May I was in Boston for Fresh Paint, an event to which members of the Copley Society come to paint the streets of Boston and then auction off their paintings. My painting *Desperate Housewives* represented the ideal image of fashion and beauty - mannequins in a store window that could be the Three Graces.

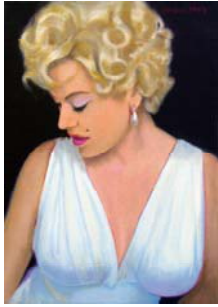


While at Fresh Paint, I stayed with one of my girlfriends in Chestnut, Massachusetts. During my stay, I was asked to paint Janet when she came for a visit. I quickly painted her on the backyard fence, which resembles the pose of Frank Benson's *Eleanor*. Now that the portrait is complete, Janet says, "I feel like 'Eleanor' only I'm in your masterpiece not Frank Benson's," which is one of the nicest comments I could receive.

By June I had a desperate grandmother on Hilton Head call me to paint her young granddaughter Claire, from Boston, behind her island beach house. The wonderful part of this commission is that I was asked over seventeen years ago to paint her other grandchildren, Sarah and Joe, who are now adults.



In the same month I had my solo show *Venus Visits Vermont* at the Southern Vermont Art Center, only an hour away from my home in Springfield. I was invited based on my collection of Fair Women in *Pink! Magazine*, and to coincide with this theme I decided to bring Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, to Vermont with her handbag, her child Cupid, her lover Mars, her dog Pluto, and all her other objects of beauty. The show received a great review by Christopher Faris in the Manchester Journal: "Candace



Whittemore Lovely's oil paintings are exquisitely, touchingly, and masterfully executed, and simply should not be missed by any lover of great art." My self-portrait in the hot tub, *Candace being Candlish on Canvas*, was used in the publicity for the summer solo shows.



In August, however, Venus had to send her handbag straight to the fashion show in Boston. *Fashion Throughout the Ages*, put on by the Copley Society, was held in the "sexiest hotel in Boston" – the Onyx Hotel. My Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy paintings were hung, and my self-portrait as Marilyn Monroe, which was displayed in the lobby of the hotel, made the Boston Globe and was used in all the show's promotions; the show lasted through the end of the year.



Soon after in August, I was also in New England to paint the children of a fan of my prints who wanted me to paint her an original. I traveled to Martha's Vineyard in Edgartown Bay, Massachusetts to paint Keith, Sonja, and Bailey on South Beach feeding the seagulls. This painting, which was recently completed, is called *Kids at South Beach*. I am very pleased to now be a part of this family's collection, which includes Whislars, Sargents, and other great painters.



In October a new family commission started in their backyard after they were finally able to all get together, and later in December a paint marker commission of a couple on the hammock was also completed.

By November, the year was almost over. However, the winter season was just beginning and my sketch of the local ballet was on the cover of *Pink! Magazine*. The paint markers had their own debut with the opening of the Main Street Youth Theatre, where I was asked to design the front lobby with my drawings of children.



For the end of the year, I donated an original paint marker drawing of *Starr on the Lounge* to the Sandbox, a new children's museum on Hilton Head. For "Shoe in the New Year", as the charity was called, each painting had to have had a shoe.



On top of all that happened this year, I still found time to share my love and knowledge of art with others. I had five students pass through my studio this year ranging from ages five to seventy.



The year 2005 was indeed "death-defying" and my sexiest year ever. I was hung in a museum with the greatest American artists, I traveled for many personal commissions along the east coast, I was hung in shows on Hilton Head, Boston, and Vermont, and I was publicized in everything from newspapers to postcards and magazines.