



# Newsletter

January 2017

Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224  
[verdugoarts.org](http://verdugoarts.org) Jeanne Windoffer, Editor, [VHArt\\_News@yahoo.com](mailto:VHArt_News@yahoo.com)

## Artist Gerald Brommer at our January 6 Meeting *by Sue Peacock*

Internationally recognized teacher of watercolor painting, Gerald Brommer will be our guest speaker at the Verdugo Hills Art Association meeting on January 6, at 7:00pm, giving a slide presentation of his collage art. Meetings are held at the La Canada Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr.

Gerald is a teacher and author, whose work has been exhibited in hundreds of solo and group shows throughout the United States and abroad during his illustrious fine arts career. He attended Concordia Teachers College (Nebraska), University of Nebraska, and in Los Angeles: Chouinard and Otis Art Institutes, UCLA, and USC. He received instruction from Watson Cross, Noel Quinn and Robert E. Wood.



Many of his early works were very carefully planned and executed watercolors. On occasion, he added paper collage to give added textures. Recently he has been painting on location and works more spontaneously, responding directly to the subject he is viewing. The subjects he has chosen to paint vary widely from views of the California coast, to desert landscapes and European city scenes. Throughout his life he has been interested in geology, and rock formations are often included in his work. He finds their varied textures and unique shapes particularly interesting as subject matter.



Gerald is in demand as a workshop instructor, and has traveled all over the world giving classes. He has written more than twenty books for high school and college classes on several art subjects. He has also written a book, "Emotional Content in Landscape Painting," and several books on collage, and has produced several DVDs.

Gerald served as president of both the California Water Color Society and West Coast Watercolor Society. Through the years he has actively exhibited, holding more than 170 one-man shows and having his works displayed in 204 group exhibitions. His work hangs in more than 4400 private and corporate collections in 44 states and eight foreign countries. You won't want to miss this interesting presentation on his beautiful collage work.

## President's Letter *by Bob Thomas*

As you read, this Christmas is either about to occur or has just happened, and the New Year is just around the corner. My wife Nikki and I want to wish you and your loved ones the most joyous of holiday seasons even if this time of the year comes with painful memories instead of happy ones.



Moreover, we hope your new year is filled with lots of artistic creativity. In the first three months we will have plenty of VHAA opportunities to display our artistic endeavors, beginning with our annual non-juried art exhibition in January at the La Cañada Library. This is your chance to display a painting, drawing or photo-

continued on page 2

graph (anything that can be hung on a wall) just for the fun of displaying it — there’s no judge to evaluate your work or compare it to someone else’s. Take-in is Jan. 7.

We have two different opportunities coming in February. The first is our annual “Small-Image” show, which will be in the Pasadena Library. Artwork **must be under 15 inches on each side, including frame**. One unique thing about this show is that, because the artwork is displayed inside glass cases, this exhibition allows sculpture and similar media in addition to paintings, drawings and photographs. Dates are listed in this newsletter and more details will be available in January.

Also in February, members have an opportunity to display their work in a gallery setting — in this case, at DIGGS, a real-estate firm in Montrose. Although our show will take up all of the office’s walls, space will be limited. There will be a modest cost to exhibit and the proceeds will defray the expenses of an evening reception. More information will be coming in January, but if you have questions, feel free to email me.

Finally, we have the honor of presenting Gerald Brommer at our next general membership meeting on January 6. One of the world’s foremost artists, Gerald Brommer will discuss the art of collage. Even if that isn’t your favored medium, you won’t want to miss seeing Gerald at the meeting. Details are in this newsletter.

As always, don’t hesitate to email me if you have questions (make sure you put VHAA in the subject line so I know your email isn’t junk). Once again, have a blessed holiday season!

Bob Thomas, VHAA President    BobTatFORE@aol.com

## December Demonstration - Deborah Swan-McDonald *by Jeanne Windoffer*



We had a wonderful time at our December meeting watching Deborah Swan-McDonald demonstrate her pouring technique. She provided a great overview of how it is done: first she transfers her drawing to the watercolor paper (140lb Arches), next masks out shapes (with “ugly” brushes), and then pours paint around the design. She generally starts with 3 basic colors mixed to a thin gravy-like consistency. To adjust the color she might squirt water to make the paint run, use a pipette to squirt more paint in a particular area, or tilt the piece to let the paint swirl around.



Did I mention the all-important large receptacle to catch the drippy paint? Don’t forget that necessary detail! As the work dries, she adds more masking to preserve the color in additional parts of the design, then more layers of poured or squirted paint. Finally, when it’s dry, she removes the masking and refines the design with direct painting. It was an exciting process to watch! This looked like so much fun and her painting was beautiful! Gotta try this!!



## Artist of the Month by Judie Apablaza

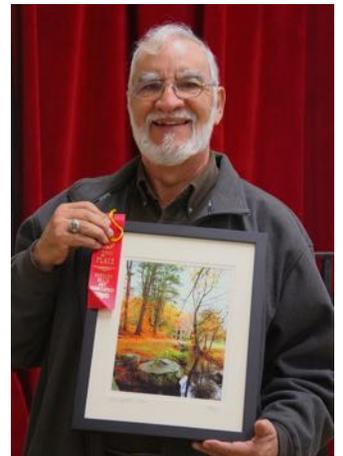


Our first place blue ribbon winner was Carol Hendrickson. Her small watercolor titled “Small Town,” was inspired by a photo that a friend gave Carol from a recent trip to France. Carol works exclusively in watercolor and prefers to work in a small format style. You will not see her work with a full or half sheet of watercolor paper! We can imagine Carol’s gems fitting into any and all decors above a small floral display on the wall or resting on an entry table on a delicate easel.

Our award winner enjoys vignettes with an abstract tone that give her work a magical or mysterious quality. She has a recognizable style and this painting was done in a lovely complement of only three or four primary colors. Carol enjoys the "free painting" group that meets on Mondays in the community room in Montrose. It is a fluid group of eight to twelve artists who encourage one another much like the group of French Impressionist painters one hundred years ago.

Carol’s background as a registered nurse has not gone by the wayside, for she continues to work on a part-time basis consulting with an agency that serves children with developmental disabilities. Even when she lived in Ohio, Carol took classes and workshops before coming to Southern California. She has enjoyed Fealing Lin’s class at the Brand Studio for at least six years, as well as Frank Eber’s and Joseph Stoddard’s workshops. We are pleased to have Carol as part of our VHAA membership and look forward to more exciting watercolor jewels in the future.

Pepe Apablaza’s photo titled, “New England Colors” won second place this month. The inspiration for this scene was the blazing Fall colors in Sudbury, Massachusetts. Longfellow’s Wayside Inn has been in continual use for three hundred years. The setting for the photo was the picturesque grist mill just down the country lane from the Inn. We can picture Longfellow spending many an evening in a wingback chair writing his poetry by the fireplace. The mill itself has been in operation since 1929, built under the direction of Henry Ford. Several posted signs made it evident that the grist mill and Inn are time-honored spots for plein air artists and photographers.



The Fall colors are fleeting and only stay on the trees for a few weeks. By Thanksgiving the deep burgundy, cranberry, orange, rust and yellow leaves are being mowed and raked by homeowner and gardeners. The wild turkeys hunt through the fallen leaves looking for an occasional fallen apple or berry before snow covers the ground for the Winter.

While photography was part of his long career as a commercial artist, watercolor was a new challenging art form he adopted in retirement. He finds photography serves him well for taking still life and landscape shots for possible watercolor paintings in the studio. We are very fortunate that Pepe brings his skills in photography to the VHAA meetings as well a helping set up the new camera for our monthly visiting demonstrators.

### Upcoming Exhibitions - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATES/TIMES!

All exhibitions are at the La Canada Library, 4545 Oakwood Ave. unless otherwise noted.

<b>Exhibit:</b>	<b>Take in Date/Time</b>	<b>Pick up Date/Time</b>
January Non-Juried Members Show	Sat. 1/7/17 8:30 -10:00 am	Mon. 1/30/17 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Small Image Show *Pasadena Library	Mon. Jan 30, 5:00 - 7:00 pm at La Canada Library	Sat. 2/25/17 9:00 - 10:30 am at Pasadena Library
Spring Members Juried Show	Sat. May 6, 8:30 - 10:00 am	Sat. May 27, 8:30 - 9:30 am
Artist of the Year	Sat. May 27, 9:00 - 11:00 am	Mon. June 26, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

**Watch for information in your email in-box, or listen for the announcement at our January meeting about the DIGGS Gallery exhibition opportunity.**

### November Workshop Recap: *by Nikki Thomas*

Jay Ewing provided a wonderful workshop for 15 students in mid-November. His instructions on 1, 2, & 3-point perspectives were very well written out, but hard to grasp in 4 hours. It will take practice, practice, practice to master perspective. Jay walked around to see everyone's progress and made suggestions when necessary. We drew squares, houses, cylinders, spheres, studied shadows and VANISHING POINTS. WOW! The vanishing points were not on the paper, but in the air, somewhere. We had guests from other art classes, which made the class enjoyable. Now, practice, practice, practice!



Make a Note:

Upcoming demonstrators:

January - Gerald Brommer  
February - Richard Gallego  
March - Jim Salchak

Are You on FACEBOOK?  
Please like our page!  
Verdugo Hills Art Association

### 2016 - 2017 Key Contacts

**President** - Bob Thomas  
BobTatFORE@aol.com

**Exhibitions** - Nikki Thomas  
323-257-3817 nikkithomas1@gmail.com

**Publicity** - Jennifer Swain  
818-429-6906 jen@getdigitalorange.com

**Demonstrations** - Sandy Rooney  
818-249-9006 artistrooney@gmail.com  
and  
Sue Peacock 626-282-2852  
suesingsbass2@gmail.com

**Membership** - Suzanne Bitterman  
818-249-5684 sbitte8670@aol.com

**Workshops** - Arda Derian  
aderian5@yahoo.com

**Newsletter and web site** - Jeanne Windoffer  
818-240-2104 VHArt-News@yahoo.com

**Artist of the Month** - Judith Apablaza  
818-243-7290 apablaza.j@sbcglobal.net



Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059  
La Crescenta, CA 91224

Next Meeting  
January 6

Next Board Meeting  
January 9