



Newsletter

February 2018

Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224
verdugoarts.org Jeanne Windoffer, Editor, VHArt_News@yahoo.com

Come try cartooning with Frank "Kimo" Mitchell

February 2, 7:00pm at the La Canada Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr.



Although he's lived on the mainland for more than 50 years, the Hawaiian influence of his early years and heritage shines through "Kimo's" paintings. "My paintings are the fun I had growing up in Hawaii," Mitchell said. His Hawaiian heritage comes from his mother. His father was in the Navy and was transferred to the mainland when Mitchell was 11.

In school, when he tried to tell a story in class, he was teased for his pidgin English. "From then on, I thought, I'm not going to talk," he said. He had always been interested in art. He had been an altar boy and would do religious paintings. His mom let him convert the pantry into a little studio.



Eventually he got a job as a copy boy at the San Diego Evening Tribune. He occasionally got an opportunity to draw an editorial cartoon when the artist was away. "I wanted to be an editorial cartoonist — again I wanted to tell a story," he said. His editors at the paper encouraged him to attend college. He started taking classes at San Diego City College and then transferred to San Diego State University. While taking classes there, he and some friends opened a graphic design studio.



He has worked as a graphic artist, cartoonist or lead animator ("Attack of the Killer Tomatoes for Fox TV), all the while continuing to paint when he had a chance. He has joined several art organizations, and exhibits his work in galleries. He moved to Ventura County 2010, where he exhibits in local galleries. Mitchell works mostly in acrylic, but he likes to experiment with different materials and techniques and paints from his imagination. "...I'm trying to portray, that good island feeling," he said.

-excerpted in part from an article by Nicole D'Amore of the Ventura Star News.

President's Letter *by Sue Peacock*

Education is the VHAA keyword. Our February demonstrator is Frank "Kimo" Mitchell, a professional cartoonist. If that doesn't sound typical, you're right - but VHAA is an organization for learning. I'm excited about seeing Kimo's demonstration and he is also going to give us a drawing lesson that will include among other areas, exaggeration for effect. Closer to February 2, we will send out a list of materials to bring so we can draw along.

In my Verdugo Hills Chorus we call this "the most wonderful time of the year" because in the lead up to our competition the end of March we are having multiple coaches and training sessions, with everything from choreography, which is more accurately called characterization - using motion to embody the story of the song, to sectional vocal lessons, to whole chorus vocal technique coaching, to weekend retreats, to performances. Like all art forms, practice and education are the tools for becoming better.

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Come to our demonstration and learn something new. It may help you gain more skill, more confidence, more artistry in your art work, whatever the medium. We always welcome young people but this demonstration might be the perfect one to bring your children, grandchildren etal, to show them the exciting world of drawing, cartooning, and art.

With the retirement of Jen Swain as our PR person, I need everyone's help. Please contact someone, through snail mail, email, phone call, Facebook, or Twitter, and tell them about our meetings. Invite your friends, even if they aren't artists, to come and see what we do. Send a link to our website or a copy of our newsletter. There's no better time than now to bring in new people to our organization

Bob Thomas's surgery was successful and by the time you're reading this he should be out of the hospital and into a rehab facility for a short spell until he no longer needs skilled nursing care.

Sue Peacock

Gil Dellinger Demo - January *by Angela Alvarenga*

Gil Dellinger is an accomplished artist who has been painting for more than 50 years. He paints in a variety of mediums: pastels, gouache, occasionally oils, and mostly acrylics. Throughout his career he learned to become versatile and good at painting different subjects so he can stay interested. "People need art but they do not know it... People need art for their souls," but don't think they need it for every day.



Dellinger has a very specific and unique technique when it comes to painting. It is a delicate process but slightly varies so there is not an exact formula. Dellinger paints on panel because he feels he cannot capture what he wants on canvas. Currently he works mainly with gouache mixed with acrylic medium to give him a very opaque paint. He also uses white gesso for his white instead of white paint.



When starting a painting, he works on a board with black background and builds up transparency or opacity trying to get good lights and darks. His main interest is on texture and light and how light effects texture. The key to great light is the neutral. He uses paint expressively and lays down the undertones to then build up tonal value. To get different effects he may sometimes use his hands to soften brush strokes, twist the brush in opposite directions and use a crumpled paper towel for foliage. At the end he may use more "dry brush," similar to pastels, and may even use some pastel to give the final touches to his painting, allowing the rich colors to radiate. Lastly he will finish with an acrylic glazing medium to make a nice varnish that enhances the color.

He uses photo references, but does not restrict his painting to conform to the photograph. Rather, he uses the images as reference for elements of the painting, making them fit his idea of the scene he wants to paint. His beautiful paintings are a perfect example of the success of his unique and perfected technique.



Artist of the Month *by Judie Apablaza*



Our first place, blue ribbon winner in the "Open" category" was Susan Washburn. Susan's watercolor and colored pencil painting was titled, "Pumpkins," inspired by the displays at Trader Joe's or other markets during harvest season. Seeing the brilliant tones of rust, reds, yellows and greens, she could not pass up the opportunity to arrange a still life on her dining room table. Like a true artist, she translated the mood of the season, interpreting it and expressing it on paper.

Although she considers herself a "dabbler" in the arts, we all can see her professional career as a registered nurse fading from full-time and now part-time work into a new artistic career in retirement. She speaks of color and the joy and playfulness that art gives her. Many of us had put on hold our pure childhood talents for the more practical side of ourselves, to then return in later years, to the arts. Susan has kept a balance in her life with sketch books and journals using pen and ink as well as watercolor. She finds watercolor transportable and easy to use as she travels with her husband Bill. She gives him credit for encouraging her to continue with her artistic interests. She has expand her interests into Plein Air painting with oils and acrylic with the weekly Mid-Valley group of painters. Susan has taken art classes for more than ten years and sees herself becoming more of a serious painter but keeping that playful, childlike joy as her inspiration.

Maria Bonoli was our second place winner in the "Open" category, with an acrylic painting titled, "Autumn." She used the sycamore and maple leaves from her backyard to set up a still life arrangement in her studio. She too was mesmerized by the harvest season and the various colors of the oranges, browns, golds and greens as they blended together to make a stunning arrangement. California's seasons are fleeting, but we occasionally have colors that remind us that summer is at an end and winter is coming.



Of course, Maria has been a "practical" artist with 25 years in the fashion industry. She had her training in her native Venice, Italy. Here in America she taught commercial sewing to seamstresses in the garment industry. She also had her own business as a fashion designer and dressmaker, with famous personalities having costumes, dresses and wedding gowns made to order. Maria states that she is always ready to try something new. Along with her fashion business, she has dabbled in china painting and ceramics. As we have Verdugo Hills Art Association demonstrations, Maria is always ready to replicate what she has seen. She states that, "she never gives up and is always willing to try new things." Maria's determination is an inspiration to us all.

Exhibitions *by Nikki Thomas*

January Show up now at La Canada Library. Pick up your paintings **January the 29th** between **5:30 and 6:00pm**

February - Small Image Show

A car full of women, including me, drove out to San Bernardino to see a watercolor demonstration by JoAnn Formia. The trip was well worth it. We watched her scrunch up her wet paper and then paint on it for a different effect. We're happy to have JoAnn as our juror for the Small Image Show at the Pasadena Library in February. She has been President of Watercolor West for 2 terms and has earned Signature Membership in Watercolor West as well as the American Watercolor Society. Her plethora of awards include being accepted into the Transparent Watercolor Society of America in 2017. JoAnn is an accomplished painter and exceptional choice for our juror. - Nikki Thomas

Take in: **January 29th between 6:00 and 7:00** will be the take-in of your **Small Image** paintings and 3 dimensional/sculpture works. Please wait while we check in your art: we ask that you then wrap them and pack them in bags, or boxes for 3 dimensional art, for the committee to take to the Pasadena Library to be judged. Remember, "Small Image" means that your frame cannot be larger than 15 inches tall or wide. All frames have to be wired. For sculpture the maximum size in any direction is 15 inches. The fee is \$10 per piece. You will need to pick up your work of art on Wednesday February 28th between 5:00 & 6:00 at the Pasadena Library, 285 E Walnut St, Pasadena.

REMINDERS and NOTES

Don't forget to bring a painting to the next meeting for the "Artist of the Month" competition!

David Crandon would like to put more info on our website about the activities of our members, as well as our club. If you have a show, teach a class, or are giving a lecture, etc., please send him photos and info so he can share these activities with our members, as well as the public who visit our website and Facebook page. Contact him at dave_vhaa@yahoo.com

Forest Lawn Glendale Museum will have an exhibit called "Pigskin Peanuts" from January 18 through March 15. Images of Charles Shultz' cartoon strip, and "Peanuts" football related items. <http://forestlawn.com/event/pigskin-peanuts/>



Make a Note:
Upcoming Events

February – Small Image Show
Feb 2 Demo – "Kimo" on cartooning
March 2 Demo – Joseph Stoddard
April 6 demo – Poe Tan drawing
April 14 – Poe Tan workshop
May 19 – Joseph Stoddard Workshop

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Verdugo Hills Art Association

2017 – 2018 Key Contacts

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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza
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Next Meeting
February 2

Next Board Meeting
February 5