



Newsletter

January 2019

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

First Demo of 2019, John Byram, Watercolor

January 4, 7:00pm at the La Canada Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr.



John Byram has been painting in transparent watercolor for over twenty-five years. He understakes each painting with the words of Thomas Eliot in mind, "Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." He enjoys pushing the balance: between representation and the wonderful chaos of the medium; between tight and loose brushwork; between what's deliberate and what almost paints itself.



John's work has appeared in the Annual Arroyo Arts Discovery Tour, the Mohave County Museum, the Southwest Museum and the Acorn Gallery in Los Angeles. He studied under noted aquarellists Fealing Lin, Robert J. Uecker, and Robert S. Oliver. He is a member of Mid Valley Arts League and the Mount Washington Plein Air Painters. He currently conducts classes through the City of Glendale's Lifelong Learning Program. See his work at johnbyram.com

Several of our members have been taking John's class at Brand Library Studios. They can attest that he has a depth of understanding of color, the challenges and joys of watercolor and a desire to share this info with his students. Plus his demos are fun to watch! You won't want to miss this demonstration creating a representational watercolor from blank sheet to finished painting during our meeting. It'll be a great start to the year!



President's Letter

by Sue Peacock

What's the state of VHAA? We added two new members in December - having new members is always a good thing. Please ask your friends to attend to enjoy our wonderful demonstrators, our treats and our social time. We cleaned out our excess storage, so the La Canada Community Center is currently okay with what we do have there. We have wonderful people running the club.



We still need to have an Exhibitions Chair. Please volunteer if you would be willing to help on that. The board members have picked up much of the slack; our dates for various shows are already set up, so the main job would be to hire a judge for our juried shows and gather a committee, which is already well established, to check in the artwork and then hang it.

This year we will be exhibiting in a couple new venues. One is Alhambra City Hall for two times. We may be limited to how many pieces we can display there so the board is trying to decide the best way to be fair to all our members. Should it be by division: the first time Open Division, the second time Premiere and Honors? Should the

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art included be decided by the juror's scores? If you have any ideas on this subject please let me know. For each exhibit I would like to have a variety of the media and styles we represent.

Speaking of exhibits, don't forget that in February we will be showing at the Pasadena Main Library. Bring your pieces wrapped and protected for transportation to our meeting on February 1, and we will deliver them to the library the next day where the juror will score them and then they will be put on display.

Have a wonderful holiday season. I hope you can allow plenty of time for art. If you haven't already, sign up and attend Jay Ewing's drawing/perspective workshop on Saturday, January 19th. VHAA has much to offer, Please take advantage of your club's activities.

Sue Peacock, President
suesingsbass2@gmail.com

Sylvia Goulden - Demo Review

Sylvia Hamilton Goulden is an award winning artist who works in various mediums. Much of her work contains movement of dancing and light. She began doing monoprinting (painting on one surface and then transferring it to another) to breakaway from being too realistic, and was able to become more open minded and free with experimentation and exploration.

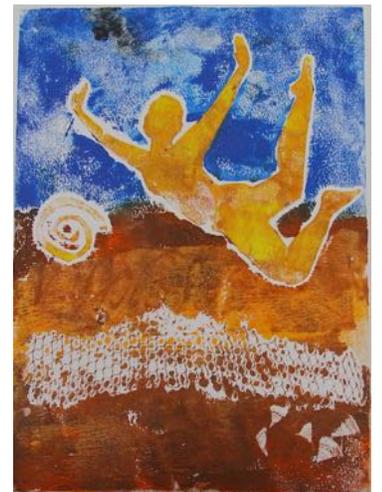


She gave a unique demonstration on monoprinting. Her supplies vary from common tools, such as a glass or plexi-glass palette, printing plate, speedball printing ink, brayers and baren, to unconventional but very useful tools such as cotton swabs, skewers and old credit cards. In her demo, she started with a dark color and covered the whole plate using a brayer. Then she wiped out the image she wanted to make—in this case a tree. She used paper toweling or a credit card to create other parts of the tree, foliage, and flowers or shapes at the ground, using the edge of the card. When she was happy with the image, she placed the plate on a graph that is registered to where she will place her plate, and then covered it with pre-dampened printing paper. Next she placed on a large piece of newsprint and lastly a large piece of felt.

Then she used a rolling pin to press the paper to the plate and used a baren to provide extra pressure to specific areas. The image at the upper right in this article was her first piece.

There may be an opportunity to make a ghost print if the remaining ink on the plate has not dried. A ghost print can still be considered a "one of a kind" print because it does not look exactly like the original. She printed the second image on rice paper. Sylvia also suggested making stencils out of manila folders because of their durability to paint on to create repeated or varied images. This could be used to add other elements to a ghost print as well. Once a print is dry, she will sometimes add color pencil or collage the artwork.

Her second piece is shown at the bottom right, which has a figure appearing to fly in the sky. She applied the blue sky, and the yellow/brown "earth" areas, and added some net (from an onion sack) to give different texture. Next she used a paper cut out painted with yellow and set on the already painted area of the plate. When printing she had to especially press harder around this portion and the "net" area of the work with a baren and her fingers working the paper into it a bit to get the texture to show. (The white is the paper showing through when printed.) The result was very effective. There are other ways to create images and manipulate the ghost prints but this was a fun demo to introduce us to this type of art piece.



Artist of the Month by Angela Alvarenga



Barbara Thorn-Otto won first place in December's Artist of the Month for her watercolor painting, *Christmas in Bulgaria*. Barbara chose to paint this piece, a copy of a Christmas card she received last year from a dear friend, because the card was so inspirational. It had been painted by Natalina Marcantoni, an artist who is paralyzed and paints by using her mouth. Barbara's painting is a tribute to the artist

Barbara has been drawing since she was 6 years old. She won drawing and painting awards in high school and received a scholarship to Art Center for weekend classes. She also studied art at Pasadena City College for 2 years. As life happens, she focused on raising her son and did not paint for 20 years. However, about 24 years ago she retired and began taking art classes at Brand Studios. She is currently a member of the Pasadena Society of Artists and the

Verdugo Hills Art Association.



Second place went to **Nikki Thomas** for her watercolor painting *Home Sweet Home*. She was inspired to paint this piece in one of her art classes. The instructor had a photograph of a house and another photograph of a forest. Nikki decided to combine the two photographs. The most challenging part of painting this piece was learning negative painting for the snow. After receiving many compliments on the piece and personally enjoying it, she decided to turn it into this year's Christmas card. She is excited to get her brother's opinion on the snow because he lives in a snowy climate. Nikki has been a long time member of the art association and has been painting for 30 years.

Upcoming Exhibition

Just a reminder to start preparing for our Small Image Show to be held at the Pasadena Library during the month of February 2019. The important thing to remember for this exhibit is the size limitation: nothing over 15 inches, height or width, **measured on the outside edge of the frame**. If the framed piece is larger on any side, it won't be accepted, so double check the outside dimensions. There is space for a few 3-D pieces, but they also must fit within the 15 inch size limit height and width, and 8 inch depth.

Take in will be at our Feb 1 meeting - bring your entries wrapped, ready to be transported. \$10 per entry, limit 2 entries (due to space limitations). Exhibition helpers will take the artwork to Pasadena library for display the next day. For this exhibition, there will be no Divisions. Classes will be Painting/Graphic-Representational, Painting/Graphic-Non Representational, Photography and Sculpture.

Our next art exhibit will be in March at the Alhambra City Hall gallery. More details will be available in January.

Member News and Opportunity

Two new members have joined: **Duane C. Stroh** of La Crescenta, ceramics, photography, painting; and **Isabella Koh**, of Eagle Rock, watercolor. Be sure to meet them at our next meeting!

Isabella applied for membership after meeting **Anna Seu** at an art class at PCC. She later joined the **Highland Park Art Club** which meets every Tuesday (except holidays) at the Highland Park Senior Center (south east corner of York and Figueroa). With yearly dues of only \$5 several members of VHAA and others gather weekly to work on individual projects, and benefit from critiques from other members, including David McCully and Pepe Apablaza. The club has the room from 9:00 to 4:00. We would love to see you there!

REMINDERS and NOTES

Lee Johnson has a watercolor titled, *Enchanted*, and Kimberly-Ann Talbert has two photographs, *Ah Lunch!* and *Inside the Poppy* in the upcoming show "Unusual Views," at Descanso Gardens. The show will run from February 11 through June 9, 2019.

Lee Johnson and Jeanne Windoffer have paintings at the Mid-Val Gallery in the Live Oak Community Center in Temple City. Exhibit runs through January 2.

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes
Art is knowing which ones to keep."
-Scott Adams



Make a Note:

Upcoming Events

Jan 4, 2019 John Byram, Watercolor
Jan 19 - Workshop - Jay Ewing, drawing
Feb 1 - Elizabeth B. Tucker - demo
Feb 1 - take in, miniature show
Mar 1 - Shaney Watters - demo

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Verdugo Hills Art Association

2018 - 2019 Key Contacts

President - Sue Peacock
626-282-2852
suesingsbass2@gmail.com

Membership - Suzanne Bitterman
818-307-2485
sbitte8670@aol.com

Workshops - Arda Derian
aderian5@yahoo.com

Demonstrators - Nikki Thomas
323-394-2165
nikkithomas1@gmail.com

Newsletter - Jeanne Windoffer
818 240-2104
VHArt_News@yahoo.com

Artist of the Month - Angela Alvarenga
angela.roberson@gmail.com



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Next Meeting
January 4

Next Board Meeting
February 4