



# Newsletter

January 2021

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)

## January 8: Virginia Hein - Brusho

*Dilmit Singh*



Virginia Hein is an accomplished urban sketcher from Los Angeles. Her drawings are a testament to the ease with which she portrays her subject matter and establishes a sense of place and time with color and line. She has worked as a concept designer for toys and entertainment, and as an art director, illustrator and fine artist. For the past 12 years she taught drawing at Otis College of Art and Design, as well as location sketching workshops, including a bi-annual workshop series at Descanso Gardens. She has been an active member of Urban Sketchers since 2009, and has been honored to teach workshops at International Symposiums as well as for her local Los Angeles Chapters. She has contributed her work to a number of books about sketching on location, and her book “5 Minute Sketching: Landscape” was published in September, 2017.



Most of Virginia’s work is done on location with ink and watercolor or pencil and watercolor and/or gouache. Recently she started experimenting with color grounds made with a product called Brusho (powdered pigment from England), and other color pigments. After using the ground color to establish her background, she draws and paints over it, usually with pencil and gouache, so the effect is more opaque. She brings “light” into her subject matter rather than “reserving” it as one would with watercolor. VHAA members will find it interesting to see the stages of Brusho preparation with some pre-prepared samples and witness her live drawing/painting over the surface with gouache. It’s an interesting layered approach



## President’s Message

*Jennifer Thomasian*

**Hip Hip Hooray!** We made it through 2020! I had so many exciting plans for 2020 and started out great and then... well...it didn’t go so well. Can you relate?

I’m done with all of 2020’s nonsense and I’m ready for 2021 to begin. I want to set some intentions for 2021 to make it my year! Are you ready to make 2021 your year too?

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## President's Message continued

In 2021, I resolve:

- \*to create more art
- \*to get out of my comfort zone from time-to-time to try new mediums and/or techniques
- \*to participate in art of the month (either by voting or by submitting my work)
- \*to attend VHAA meetings and workshops, and
- \*to help VHAA continue to be a great organization

I hope you are as excited for 2021 as I am!

Jennifer Thomasian,  
President



## Artist Release Form

Dear members,

We are requesting all artists who submit work which may be used on our website, in the newsletter, on our social media pages, or any printed promotional materials, etc. to sign a form indicating you understand your artwork will be shared in these ways. Please look for the form in your email and return it at your earliest convenience.

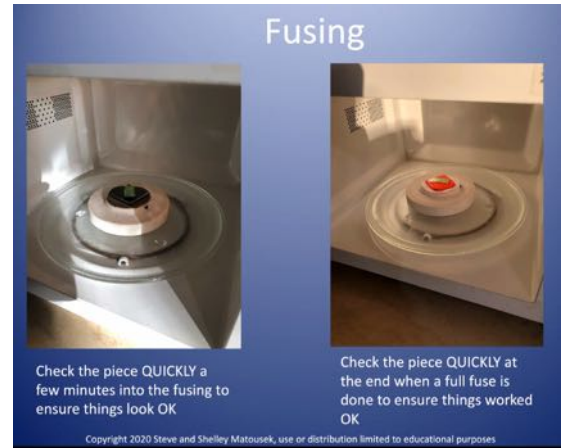
## Review of Microwave Glasswork *Angela Alvarenga*

Steve Matousek gave a fun and creative demonstration on how he creates glass jewelry by using a microwavable kiln. He finds that a microwave kiln is lightweight and cools faster than a regular kiln, however he cautioned that the microwave can **never be used for food after having been used for glass fusing**.

He talked about the tools needed: cutting tools, nippers, running pliers, rulers, fiber paper, safety glasses, masks and high temp mittens, etc. He shared a unique tip about when preparing to fuse two pieces of glass, he must first "glue" them together to stay in place, and uses generic hairspray!



He showed some short videos of the process of putting the piece together, setting it in the little kiln and centering the kiln in the microwave. Then setting the timer, and pausing the microwave midway through to take a very fast peek to see how the well the glass is fusing. Once it's fused—evidenced by its glowing rounded shape, he closes the kiln back up and lets it sit and cool. It will need to wait at least 30 minutes to cool down before removing from the oven, and then more time before opening the kiln.



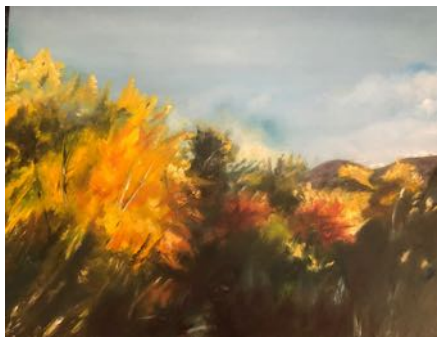
By day an engineer at JPL, Steve has been creating art with glass for 15 years. He creates glass jewelry, blown glass pieces, and is working on large format art glass sheets (example seen in background of photo at left). Check his website if you're interested in learning more.  
[matousekglassworks.com](http://matousekglassworks.com)





## Art of the Month Sue Peacock

We had 19 entries for the Landscape category for our December Art of the Month contest! As far as I know that's a record. Thank you everyone for your contributions. I asked each person to tell a bit about their painting.



Our first place winner was Dilmit Singh with her oil painting, *Golden Birches*. Hiking up the Cougar Crest Trail above Big Bear Lake in the early morning I was expecting to catch the sunrise, while in anxious anticipation of finding a clearing for the east view or perhaps encountering prowling wildlife. A little breathless and hoping for the former as opposed to the latter, I was lucky enough to see a flat section off the thicket from where, perched on a fallen log, I saw the sunrise in all its glory. The warmth of the sun's rays gradually bathed the surroundings in an orange glow and my eye drifted to the distant hills and the glorious autumn birches that turned a bright gold in the emerging light. A magical moment! I

whipped out my sketch book and in a few short strokes of color captured the highlights as I saw them. Cold, gloved hands didn't perform well and hence the sketch was recreated as an oil painting upon return to the studio.

*Sunday Drive* an acrylic painting by Joy Chung took second place. I was inspired to paint *Sunday Drive* when I was driving through the Los Olivos area. We found a pumpkin farm, and nearby a driveway through the property which I just had to paint! I changed the direction of the sign to lead the eye back to the painting, and added the pumpkins. I take photos of my subjects, but try more for a simple statement, rather than photo-realism in my paintings. I grew up going back to my dad's childhood farm in the summers, and I am inspired by the areas which are still "countryside," with outbuildings, barns, pasture, and dirt roads.

There's nothing like swimming in a lake! Or going inside a barn and smelling the hay (as well as other things!) I think we need to be careful with "development,"

because wide open spaces are important for our souls! I have been painting since college and my preferred medium is acrylic right now- but I also paint in gouache and oils.



Third place went to Lynne Sims for her watercolor, *Untitled*. I lived for a while as a child back East, and experienced mild but snowy winters. This painting made me think about those times—about winter days just after a snowstorm when it's all still and quiet except for the birds! So I think my painting should be titled *Old Winter's Song*. When I retired about 6 years ago I finally had the opportunity to spend time on what I love to do which is paint! I occasionally spent time painting before that, but not with any consistency. Once I was able to dive in, it has been a wonderful journey. Over the last few years I've been taking classes from some of our local artists. We're so fortunate to be

in this area where there are so many good artists! I really love almost all art forms. I settled on watercolor partly because it can be so luminous, and partly because you can take it just about anywhere. I am so glad to be part of VHAA with all the members who obviously love art as I do."

**Art of the Month** for January is Mixed Media. You have an extra week to work because our meeting isn't until January 8th. I'm looking forward to seeing some great diversity of textures and mediums; 3D artists this is a grand opportunity for you to show us your creativity. Anything goes this month!

**Submit your Art of the Month entry to [dave\\_vhaa@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_vhaa@yahoo.com) any time from now until Tuesday, Jan 5.**

Be sure to include your name, title of your work, medium, and size of image.

**Voting will be from noon on Thursday Jan 7 to noon on Friday, Jan 8 .**

We again had multiple votes from the same IP address (computer, tablet or phone connection) Please remember we are only allowing one vote per computer or device.

# Review of Joe Cibere Zoom Workshop

Arda Derian

What a privilege to sponsor a workshop conducted by an exceptional artist/instructor like Joseph Cibere! He believes, "Watercolor painting is the easiest medium to paint with! You only have to paint half a painting and let the medium paint itself." He showed us how in Imaginary Landscapes in Abstract Realism— our workshop on Saturday November 28th!



The workshop was an exploration and study of several concepts, elements and techniques. In advance of the workshop, Joe sent each participant a PDF file of instructions on what to expect and how to get ready. Students prepared three 11"x 14" sheets of watercolor paper, taping off specified rectangle or square divisions. Each sheet was used in sequential order to emphasize the elements and concepts such as value, composition, perspective and the "three D's - Drawing, Design, and Desire" as an inspiration to creating a balanced painting.

**First Lesson - One Color Value Study:** This lesson taught us to simplify the larger areas in a landscape into modified geometric shapes rather than the real life scenery. We used one color—Paynes Gray or Prussian Blue—and starting with the darkest pigment, then added more water to the paint to create the medium values. Finally the lightest value had the least amount of pigment on the brush. This study illustrated creating depth, showing perspective in the images with the foreground, middle ground, and back ground in each of the six 3" squares.



**Second Lesson - Two Color Study:** The main theme of this exercise was the technique of paint application: such as wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, and dry-on-dry. For this study, Joe stressed the use of one warm color such as Burnt Sienna and a cool color such as Ultramarine Blue (any brown and blue would work). With the paper at an angle, Joe wet the top 2/3 of a rectangle with water first. Then with a brush loaded with blue paint he applied one stroke horizontally across from left to right at the top letting the color bleed downward. Then he did the same with the brown paint applying it under the blue with one stroke of the brush to create the illusion of land or trees. For the bottom third he left a gap below the already painted section and applied a watered-down combination of the two colors wet-on-dry, leaving white areas to emphasize light reflections. The finishing touches added imagined details such as trees, rocks, driftwood, etc. with wet on a dry surface.



**Last Lesson - Color Play:** This exercise explored combinations of three or four colors in each swatch, working with wet-on-dry strokes, and seeing how colors bled together to create a miniature imaginary landscape. As each one dried, Joe added details to further define clarity of the landscape using a sample handout with 12 landscape paintings.

During each exercise students were "hands-on", painting along with Joe as he demonstrated. He explained that painting in this manner is all about the timing of how and when you apply the paint, whether it's wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, or dry-on-dry. Also, his motto to painting is: "Failure is your friend as you learn from your mistakes. Fear of failure is your enemy. Therefore the more you do these studies the more you improve!"





**Welcome new members!!!**



Fran Papa - Monrovia, watercolor

Judy Score - Pasadena, watercolor, drawing, collage, multimedia

Jean Woo - Pasadena, watercolor and acrylic

**A word about membership:**

VHAA has planned many wonderful monthly demonstrations via Zoom for the new year. These monthly Zoom meetings and Workshops continue to provide an interactive space for fellow artists to reconnect and see one another's faces during this time of isolation! Your VHAA board is also working hard to bring you more activities. Your membership is **important!** It helps cover the cost of monthly demonstrators, activities, organizational costs, and ensures you receive our email newsletter with demo recaps and information about upcoming events and activities. We know these are challenging times, but if you are able, your paid membership (\$35 for one, \$50 for family) will help keep us operating and ready for the day when we can all meet in person again.

**Mail your check payable to Verdugo Hills Art Association to:  
VHAA, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224**

Our board is still in need of a secretary to take minutes at board meetings (held via Zoom every other month). If you're interested **please contact Nikki Thomas at [nikkithomas1@gmail.com](mailto:nikkithomas1@gmail.com)** THANK YOU!

**Upcoming Events**

January 8 Demo - Virginia Hein  
Brusho Watercolor Techniques

February 5 Demo - Joey Huynh  
Figure/Head Drawing

March 5 Demo - Dorothy Chung  
Gouache

April 2 Demo - Julie Crouch  
Watercolor

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Verdugo Hills Art Association

[www.verdugoarts.org](http://www.verdugoarts.org)

Info for the VHAA Newsletter? send to [VHArt\\_News@yahoo.com](mailto:VHArt_News@yahoo.com) by 12th of the month prior to the next issue.

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Next Meeting  
Jan 8 - ZOOM

Next Board Meeting  
Feb 8



We look forward to seeing you January 8, 2021  
at 7:00pm  
for our next meeting on ZOOM!