



Newsletter

February 2017

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

Oil Painter Rich Gallego at our February 3rd Meeting *by Sue Peacock*

Artist Rich Gallego will demonstrate painting a landscape in oil at our February meeting at the La Cañada Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr.. Rich Gallego's longtime love of nature's wild places have taken him far afield, from Arizona's Canyon de Chelly to the beaches of Hawaii, from the rivers, gorges, and adobes of northern New Mexico to the glaciers of Alaska, and so many places in between, all in search of the scenes he loves to paint. Referring to his obsession with painting as "my magnificent affliction", he is constantly searching for new ways to reveal the natural world to others through paint. He has been painting the landscape since 1996.



Rich teaches weekly plein air workshops in southern California, annual plein air painting workshops for Cloudcroft Art Workshops in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, and

each year for the past eight, he has taught weeklong workshops for the Taos Art School in New Mexico. He is a member of the Laguna Plein Air Painters' Association and was juried into their "Best of Plein Air" show in 2015 and 2016. He has been featured in several articles by Plein Air Magazine's website, "Outdoor Painter" and appeared as a featured artist in "American Art Collector" magazine. He attended the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California as well as workshops with Karl Dempwolf and George Strickland. His work is included in collections across the United States and Europe. Rich has been represented by several galleries in Laguna Beach, CA, Monrovia, CA, and Cheyenne, WY. Currently, he is represented by CN Interiors of San Marino, CA. In his words, "If my paintings touch someone, if they remind them there is beauty in our world, then I am content that I have accomplished something worthwhile."



President's Letter *by Bob Thomas*

During the past few months, the VHAA Board of Directors has been exploring different ways for members to exhibit and sell their artwork. Now, I realize that not every member has this sort of interest but many do. Perhaps equally important, there are prospective members in our area who have such an interest, which can help increase our club's membership.

Last year many of our members exhibited at White's Gallery in Montrose. There's a current showing of our members' art in the La Cañada Public Library (don't forget to go by and see it - it runs through January 30), and our Small-Image show takes place next month in the Pasadena Library.



Another opportunity comes at the end of this month at an intriguing location: DIGGS Real Estate in Montrose. Its office at 3819 Oceanview Blvd. in Montrose, a block north of Honolulu Ave., will provide a different clientele than normally sees our art in the La Cañada Library. Everyone should have gotten an email by now with the details also found on our website: www.verdugoarts.org under “ALERTS.” If you have questions, don’t hesitate to give me a call or send me an email (I usually respond to email faster).

Speaking of the exhibit at the La Cañada Library: a word about the room in which we exhibit. The library donates this space to us several times each year for free and we encourage you and your friends to drop by to see the artwork. However, be aware that this is a community room and other groups make use of it as well. So, if you come by and the door is closed because of a meeting, please plan on coming back at another time so as not to disturb people in the room. Being a good neighbor is important!

As I sat spellbound and listened to Gerald Brommer discuss collage at our January VHAA meeting, I was once again struck about how interesting the subject was even though I don’t create in — and, indeed, have never thought of creating in — this unique art form. Our February meeting will feature oil painter Richard Gallego. Even if you don’t paint in oils, come for what will be a thought-provoking evening, along with the fun and fellowship of meeting your fellow artists. BTW: since Mary Talwar, our hospitality chair, will miss that meeting, you can help by providing goodies for the meeting, as well!

Also, remember that our March meeting will take place on March 10 (the second Friday of the month) rather than on March 3. Mark your calendars.

Bob Thomas, VHAA President BobTatFORE@aol.com

January Demonstration - Gerald Brommer *by Sue Peacock*

So what did you miss if you weren't at our January meeting? You missed seeing a unique and beautiful technique using stained rice paper to create a modern, abstract foreground with a building, a town, or mountain in detail in the background. Gerald Brommer's slide show presentation showed the multiple stages he uses. He begins with a drawing on watercolor paper, glues on strips and pieces of stained rice paper of various colors, and allows that to dry overnight; when he returns, he paints in the details on top of the rice paper and on the focal point of the piece. The results are beautiful.



I was so excited by Gerald Brommer's slide presentation and art work that immediately after our take-in at the library the next morning, I stopped at an art store and bought a sheet of rice paper. Several of my photos suddenly came to life in a new form. So maybe for next month's small image show, you may see that I've done some painting! And I'm really looking forward to a workshop that he's agreed to present. I think I will ask for the registration fee for my birthday gift from my family.



Artist of the Month by Judie Apablaza



Sara Griggs, our first place winner, is an avid traveler and often makes note of her many trips by taking photos and translating her impressions into watercolor paintings. Sara's watercolor titled, "Havana" was intended to be a quick study from her hotel window with the thunder clouds above and the buildings below. The winning painting has an abstract quality, but she intends to complete an additional full-sheet painting in an even more pure, abstract style.

Her grandfather had business dealings with Batista in the 40s and 50s when Havana, Cuba was once a hot spot for night-life and a romantic get away for Americans in a lush, exotic colonial setting. Rather than being frozen in time, she felt the old city and surrounding area that had once relied on tourism, sugar plantations and a thriving cattle industry, had crumbled into decay. Sara was struck by the empty shelves in the markets and the apparent poverty of the average Cuban. Sara has chosen to remember her visit with a colorful and abstract quality emphasizing the impression rather than the stark details. Sara has been painting for 20 years with oils and watercolor and prefers the quick, transparent quality

that watercolor gives her. We await Sara's next exciting trip and lovely paintings that follow.

Linda Tindell, our second place winner, made us chuckle with her cupcake on the transparent teals and blue background. The stark contrast of the gooey, white frosting and yummy strawberry makes us immediately relate to the whimsical title, "Got Milk?" Linda is trying out oils and is learning about a new approach to oils from an on-line workshop. She worked very small in her initial attempt, with "blocking" and doing the underpainting and not waiting for the background to dry, but going in with the overpainting in more opaque colors. She was struck with the glow that she achieved.



Linda has been our Verdugo Hills Art Association's past president from 2013 to 2015 and keeps her art and friendships alive with her active participation in workshops and plein air trips. Linda has owned her own business in commercial embroidery since 1993. She takes her equipment in a trailer to major horse shows and embroiders elegant horse blankets of champion winners as well as hats and jackets for staff and owners. Linda is a major vendor to the American Saddlebred World Championships where there may be 2,500 horses participating with 20,000 people in the grandstands. She has traveled all over America in her yearly horse circuit.

Linda's enthusiasm shows in her willingness to experiment with new ideas and techniques, but as we would guess she enjoys the outdoors and is primarily a plein air painter.

CURRENT and UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS - PLEASE NOTE DATES/TIMES!

Exhibit:	Take in Date/Time	Pick up Date/Time
January Members' Show (non-juried)	—	Mon. 1/30/17 5:00 - 7:00 pm
DIGGS Realty Gallery (non-juried) 3819 Oceanview Blvd, Montrose	Sun. 1/29/17, time TBD at the gallery	Sun. 2/26/17, time TBD at the gallery

The theme of this show is "Love". Please register your entries with Bob Thomas (BobTatFORE@aol.com) IN ADVANCE \$10 entry fee per piece. The exhibit is limited to approximately 30 entries. No glass in framing, only plexiglass/plastic. There will be an artist's reception at the gallery on February 4 between 5:00 and 7:00pm

Small Image Show (juried) 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
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All artwork must be limited to 15 inches on each side, including frame, opportunity for some sculpture. \$10 entry fee per piece.



Watercolor Workshop

Presented by Joseph Stoddard

Saturday, April 15, 2017 – 9:00am to 4:00pm
Citibank Community Room, 2350 Honolulu Ave., Montrose

This one-day workshop will show you how to create a finished painting using pen, pencil, and watercolor. We will use an urban scene as our reference and will begin with small thumbnail sketches to determine value and composition. We will then develop small color studies as a warm-up to the finished piece. We will discuss interpreting color and deviating from reality to make a statement that is our own as we work on the final piece in class. There will be a demonstration of each phase with time afterward for you to practice. I will be available for one-on-one assistance throughout the day. I will provide photo reference, although you can feel free to bring your own.



About Joseph Stoddard (by Joseph Stoddard)

Never let reality stand in the way of a good painting. This has been my goal for the past twenty years as I have struggled with the challenging medium of watercolor. I want people to get an emotional response from my paintings and sketches and to be charmed and surprised by my interpretation.

My work is about capturing city scenes, landscapes, architecture, and gritty urban-scapes in pen and ink, watercolor, pencil and pastel. My goal is to capture the moment, the color of light, the feeling, and mood of my subject. I want the final paintings to look as if they were torn from the pages of the sketchbook: full of rough energy and texture. Pencil lines, paint splashes and splatters, and errant pen strokes are all part of the piece. Sometimes I will add notes, a study sketch, sounds, fragrances and weather. These touches add immediacy and an accessibility that people can relate to, and engage with.



I am a principal at SKA Design, an environmental graphic design firm in South Pasadena. I have been featured in Artist’s Sketchbook Magazine, American Artist Watercolor Magazine and American Artist’s Sketchbook and Expressive Color. I taught graphic design at Art Center College of Design for many years and am a frequent lecturer and demonstration artist throughout Southern California.

Sign up before 3/31/17 as space is limited. **Workshop COST: \$75 VHAA members, \$85 non-members/guests**

-----To sign up, complete and return this portion to Arda Derian (address below)-----

REGISTRATION FORM for Joseph Stoddard workshop, April 15, 2017 – 9:00am to 4:00pm

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

(or mailing address if no email)

Amount enclosed (circle one): **\$75 VHAA member; \$85 non-member/guest.**

Make check payable to:

Verdugo Hills Art Association – Mail to Workshop Chairperson:

Arda Derian, 4814 Round Top Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90065

(aderian5@yahoo.com) – 323.255.0302. Supply list will be sent with confirmation of your registration.

Last Thoughts and Reminders:

Don't forget to visit the January Members' Exhibit at the La Cañada Library, which runs through January 30. Photos of the show are on our website, www.verdugoarts.org under "Member Art."

Congratulations to Rosina Maize for receiving an "honorable mention" in the current California Art League show at the Blinn House in Pasadena. Show runs through March 9.

We'll be having a fund raiser for the club at Blaze Pizza before our meeting on March 10. Look for the flyer in next month's newsletter, or on the website.

*Notable quote: "Never let reality stand in the way of a good painting."
—Joseph Stoddard*



Make a Note:

Upcoming demonstrators:
February - Richard Gallego
March - Jim Salchak

Upcoming workshops
Joseph Stoddard - 4/15
Gerald Brommer - 5/20-21

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

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Next Meeting
February 3

Next Board Meeting
February 6