



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

Come enjoy an exciting demo by Joseph Stoddard!

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



Many of you are already familiar with Joseph Stoddard as a local artist known for his paintings of iconic settings around Pasadena and Los Angeles. He has produced three delightful books (so far) with beautiful sketches of Pasadena and Redlands. He's a partner at SKA Design (an environmental graphics design office) and also works as a frequent and "sought-out" demonstrator and workshop teacher in southern California. I hope the words below will be further inspiration for you to come see what he will present on March 2. These paragraphs are from his response to our question to tell us a bit more about "why he does this stuff."



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.



It is intimidating to face the pure white space of the blank page. It scares me every time. To keep the art from being too precious and special, I try to mark up the page as soon as possible, beginning with loosely drawn grid lines dividing the page into nine spaces. Then I use pencil and pen to sketch in the scene before applying pen, and paint in bold wet layers. I finish off with Titanium white to create accents and mess it up a bit.

I also never let reality stand in the way of a good painting. If I need to alter a bit of architecture, move a tree, change a shadow or add some brilliant color, I will, exercising complete artistic license. As many artists do, I always strive for looseness and impressionism. That is another reason I love watercolor. It has a built-in "un-control-ability" that is both intensely satisfying and unnerving at the same time. When it works it's incredible, when it doesn't, well, I have torn up many disasters.

Come a little early to pick up a snack or coffee and be ready to enjoy the evening. In the meantime, you can learn more about him and see his work at josephstoddard.com

President's Letter

by Sue Peacock

HELP WANTED: THIS MONTH WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU. First, a most important job needs to be filled immediately: We need a new camera person. Linda Tindall is moving out of our area and she wants to train her replacement. The job consists of arriving at the general meetings early enough to meet the artist, correctly setting up the equipment—video camera, tripods and booms—for their demonstration, and taking it down afterward. You also will be responsible for transporting and storing the equipment.

continued on page 2

Second: we are nearing the time to develop a slate of officers for the 2018-2019 board. Before that we need to ask for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. The nominating committee needs three people plus one alternate from the general membership and two members and an alternate from the current board. It is a one time event; we meet and suggest names of possible candidates and make phone calls to see if they would be willing to serve.

I do not want to have to take time away from our wonderful demonstrators in March or April to get volunteers. So please consider now if you're willing to serve on the nominating committee—or better yet, if you'd be willing to serve on the board in any capacity. Then contact Nikki Thomas (323-394-2165) or me (626-282-2852) right away to say you are willing to help! That way we will have the full time for the Joe Stoddard demo on March 2, and for the demonstration and group drawing lesson by Poe Tan in April. THANK YOU!

Sue Peacock, Acting President

February demo: Frank “Kimo” Mitchell *by Angela Alvarenga*



What a great time we had with “Kimo” Mitchell for our February meeting. He brought some of his delightful artworks with their appealing Hawaiian Menchuna inspired characters. He had an interesting path to develop his artistic career: from drawing during recess, to painting the quarterdecks in the Navy, to creating re-enlistment cartoons—and he made it fun to hear about.

He currently teaches art to 5th and 6th graders at local elementary. His technique is great for helping see and build form. Kimo had the members of the association try out the technique during the presentation. He first starts by using basic shapes to get all the pieces in proportion with a strict rule, “No Erasing.” When looking at your subject, look for triangles, circles, cylinders and other various shapes to help simplify the head, ear, eyes and other body parts. The last step is detailing, where you can round out your shapes and add shadow for depth



Next he had us experiment with how to start a cartoon.

First we started with a basic shape and an “action line” to add fluidity. Adding details, such as silly hair, black eyes with white dots for reflection, shadows for weight and toes that bend, would bring the character to life. Our first exercise on cartooning was very fun when Kimo showed us how to draw a mermaid by starting from the shape of a raindrop. This turned very comical when the raindrop became too wide and the mermaid started to look middle aged. We next made an elephant from a basic triangle (adding modifications—including a suit!), then moved to drawing a rat with the raindrop shape again. We added an action line and appendages. Some fun personality details were silly hair, jagged teeth, potbelly, long toes and crooked toenails. The rat was running from a big cat claw so the entire feel of the drawing was very silly and over exaggerated. The smallest of details make a difference on the feeling of the drawing. The rat’s eyes were sticking out of the sockets to emphasize fright and the direction of his toe nails also emphasized panic.

It was one of the most lively, participant-involved meetings we’ve had

and everyone seemed to be having a great time and feeling good about their accomplishments (or at least had fun trying!).



Artist of the Month by Judie Apablaza

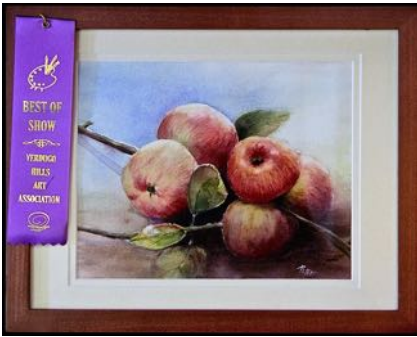


Barbara Thorn-Otto is our blue ribbon winner. She titled her watercolor painting, *My Favorite Tulip*. The inspiration for her painting was a friend's photo taken during the tulip festival at Descanso Gardens. The garden in the Spring of 2016 was an oasis especially with the welcome winter rains. Barbara's friend took many photographs of flowers during the Easter season, but Barbara was drawn and inspired by the pure, intense colors of the tulips.

Barbara says her current watercolor painting has an illustrative and abstract quality. The colors are rich and deep as only tulips can be. She was influenced by the many floral paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe. It would appear that Barbara is greatly influenced by the beauty of the art that she brings into her home as well as her unique interpretation of nature from the outside world as she works both in the studio and in a plein air setting. She is very versatile painting watercolors, and acrylics as well as oil.

We are very pleased to have Barbara as an energetic and inspiring role model to all of us at the Verdugo Hills Art Association. Barbara is tireless and a wellspring of artistic energy. We always look forward to her entries in juried and non-juried shows. She has won many awards along the way. Barbara has stated that, "art is a necessity and not a luxury. It fills our souls and brightens our spirits." She is an enthusiastic presence at Verdugo Hills Art Association and we are richer for her being a member.

Small Image Exhibition Awards by Nikki Thomas



Best of Show - Pepe Apablaza, *Sweet Crop*

Photography

1st Place: Pepe Apablaza, *Which Way is South*
2nd Place: Kimberly-Ann Talbert, *Campanile San Gabriel*



Abstract/Sculpture

1st Place: Joan Whitmore, *Signs*
2nd Place: Sandra Rooney, *Lava Flow*
3rd Place: Maria Bonoli, *Children in the Garden*

Representational

1st Place: Sandra Rooney, *Cactus Bloom*
2nd Place: Sandra Rooney, *Incoming Storm*
3rd Place: Pepe Apablaza, *New England Colors*

Honorable Mentions: Anita Colvon, *Spring Flowers*; Rosina Maize, *Three Palms*; Esther Sullivan, *Victorian Clown II*; Judie Apablaza, *Scottish Deer*; Patty O'Hearn, *Hiking Tapia Park* and for *Darling Wisteria*;



As a result of this show, the following people move up to the next higher category level: Pepe Apablaza to Honors; Patty O'Hearn, Rosina Maize, and Judie Apablaza to Premier. Congratulations to these artists and all our ribbon winners. Excellent work! For more photos of the exhibit visit verdugoarts.org

All participants: please remember to pick up your work of art on Wednesday **February 28th** between **9:30 and 10:30 am** 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!

Upcoming workshop opportunity: Poe Tan will do a demonstration for us on April 6, with a workshop on April 14. This will be on quick drawing/sketching techniques for design or planning compositions. Look for the flyer out soon!

"Masters of the American West" art exhibition and sale at the Autry Museum of the American West through March 25. theautry.org/exhibitions

Sunland Tujunga Art Assoc. invites you to their meetings held the 2nd Thursday of the month at La Crescenta Spiritual Center, 4845 Dunsmore Ave. Demo of WC portrait by Sharon Miller on March 8



Make a Note:
Upcoming Events

*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
Check out the new info there!

2017 - 2018 Key Contacts

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Workshops - Arda Derian
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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza
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Next Meeting
March 2

Next Board Meeting
March 5

