



Newsletter

April 2017

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

Marciano Martinez to demo April 7 *by Sue Peacock*



Marciano Martinez

Marciano Martinez, plein air artist extraordinaire, has the keen ability to capture the exact feeling of a moment in time while he paints from nature or the environment. He works in transparent watercolors, oils and acrylics. Come to the VHAA meeting on April 7 to see how he paints a watercolor landscape.

He earned a scholarship to Otis Art Institute while still in high school and has studied throughout California as well as Guatemala. He was an artist in residence in South Korea, taught art at Cal Poly Pomona and is Professor Emeritus of Fullerton College.

He trained with such legendary California scene painters as George Post, Robert E. Wood, Millard Sheets, Rex Brandt and others. His art is in many museums, galleries and private venues throughout the US, Europe, Japan and Latin America. You can see his work in the Norco College Art Gallery in a current exhibit (March 4—April 29) "Scenes of California" with photographer Carol G.A. Farrar.



President's Letter *by Bob Thomas*

My wife, Nikki, and I spent several days in and around Zion National Park participating in Chuck Kovacic's "Plein Air Roundup" in early March. Several other VHAA members were part of the 46 official participants (technically, I was there merely as driver and Sherpa). The number of participants has increased dramatically since the first roundup several years ago.

Although the weather was in the 20s when we arrived on Sunday and snow was along mountaintops and ridges, things warmed up each day to the point when we left on Thursday temperatures had zoomed up to the 60s.

During the week, Nikki and I took the time to drive over to Bryce Canyon NP. The drive over the mountain from Kolob Canyon (the north entrance to Zion) to Bryce gave us some magnificent panoramas of snow-capped mountains and red rock canyons from which I got some nifty photographs that will, undoubtedly, make their way into the spring show in May.



Painting *plein air* isn’t easy but it forces artists to move from the comfort of their studios into the great outdoors and battle the elements, as well as time, to create art. That’s also the purpose of our workshops, such as those upcoming by Joseph Stoddard and Gerald Brommer (details are elsewhere in this newsletter).



BTW: because Citibank is closing its Montrose branch, we need a new location for our Brommer workshop on May 20 and 21. The Stoddard workshop on April 15 has been shifted to Pasadena Presbyterian Church, but Sundays are a problem for outside groups seeking to use space in a church. So, if you know of a place with a large room that could accommodate the two-day Brommer workshop, please contact Arda Derian.

Your board is always looking for ways to help expand your knowledge and opportunities. One of those was our March meeting when Jim Salchak talked extensively and passionately about the work of John Singer Sargent. I was gratified that we had one of our largest crowds for this “non-traditional” program and I hope you will invite your friends to our upcoming programs, as well.

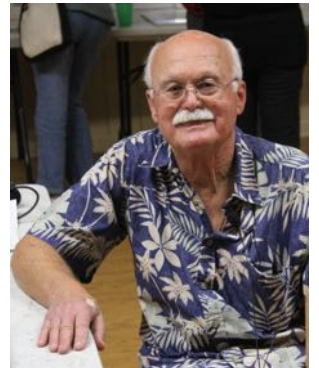
This is also the time when we are creating a slate of officers for the 2017-2018 season. Many of our current board members have agreed to return for next season, but if you are interested in serving please contact Nikki Thomas or Suzanne Bitterman to register your interest.

As always, if you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me. See you on April 7 for our next meeting!

Bob Thomas, VHAA President
818/209-4635; bobtatfore@aol.com

March Meeting Review: Salchak on Sargent by Angela Alvarenga

John “Jim” Salchak gave a wonderful in-depth presentation on John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) at our March meeting. Over the years, Jim has studied Sargent’s paintings and read many books on the prestigious artist. He also maintains a vast collection of slides of Sargent’s work.



By age 10, Sargent knew he wanted to be an artist and at 18, his parents moved to Paris where he studied under Carolus-Duran. His early submissions to the Paris Salon brought him international attention and in the 1900s Sargent was the most highly sought out portrait painter of the English-speaking world. Due to the controversial painting, “Portrait of Madame X,” Sargent left Paris to move to England and paint *plein air* landscapes. By 1907 he had stopped painting portraits altogether.

Sargent worked in oils and watercolor. His remarkable ability to capture light is to say, “to live with Sargent's watercolours is to live with sunshine captured and held.” He referred to his watercolor *plein air* paintings as “capturing a snapshot” or “making the best of an emergency.” Sargent would sometimes use opaque whites for his highlights. His favorite palette was burnt sienna and ultramarine blue. He loved to paint the effects of white on white. In his *Siesta* series you can see how he keeps the material of the clothing smooth while contrasting the background with texture and shadows. Lastly, he often used a wax resistant technique to add texture and reveal underlining colors.

Sargent died in 1925 and did not receive his well-deserved recognition because he was mainly considered a society painter. However, by the 1950s Sargent’s reputation increased and his work can be seen in exhibitions in major museums across the world.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Exhibit:

Members Spring Show

Take in Date/Time

Mon. 5/1/17, 4:00 - 5:30 pm
at La Cañada Library

Pick up Date/Time

Sat., 5/27/17 8:30 - 9:30 am

Artist of the Month by Judie Apablaza

We always expect the finest watercolor portraits and figure work from Devorah Friedman, our blue ribbon winner. Devorah works from photographs and often takes her camera when traveling as well as everyday to capture friends' informal poses. Acquiring reference material is very different than still life and landscapes.

Her current winner, titled "Girl Gazers," was of two male retirees on a park bench, both intent on making hushed comments and critiques of unsuspecting feminine strollers. The whimsical scene required artistic expertise in capturing the interaction and spirit of the conversation between two friends.



Devorah prefers the color palate of Charles Reid, a teacher, artist and author known around the world. He also uses clean colors and captures the light reflected on his figures with freshness and spontaneity. Devorah mentioned that although she attempts to be aware of every feature in her portraits, "it is vital to catch the spirit of the person." Although she has been working with international artist Fealing Lin for many years, we all feel Devorah would also make a wonderful, accomplished teacher and mentor. She has so much to share.



Rosina Maize was our second place winner, with an oil titled, "Musical Starry Night," a interesting theme with inspiration from Van Gogh. Rosina usually paints "plein air" or still life. The take-off from Vincent van Gogh allowed her to intently study the brush strokes and style of the Dutch post-impressionist painter. Many artists have stretched their abilities and have honed their skills by learning from the masters. She is also planning an exciting trip in June to the Netherlands to sketch at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam

Rosina is not a hobbyist, but a dedicated student of the arts with an interest in sketching, oils and watercolor. She paints three to four times a week in her studio or plein air. Although she commented that she has ancestors who were museum quality painters, she notes "art is hard work" and requires hours of practice to make true progress."

She never passes up an opportunity to be in galleries or shows. She will be submitting work for the Sierra Madre Art Fair in May. She especially enjoyed being in a show at the Creative Arts Group in which florists chose paintings and paired them with their floral arrangements in a vignette format. The results were spectacular.

Special Notice for Upcoming Workshops

As noted in the President's Letter, the one-day workshop with [Joseph Stoddard on April 15, 2017](#) will be held at the [Pasadena Presbyterian Church](#). We are currently looking for a location for the two-day collage workshop with [Gerald Brommer on May 20 and 21](#). If you know of a venue for the Brommer workshop, have questions, or wish to see if space is still available for either workshop, contact workshop Chairman, Arda Derian, at (323) 255-0302, or aderian5@yahoo.com.

Membership Renewal Time!

Your Verdugo Hills Art Association Board members are taking this time to create a budget for the 2017-2018 season. In order to provide exciting demonstrations, wonderful exhibitions and, most of all, the great camaraderie of fellow artists, we need each member to renew their dues. We invite returning artists to join with us again, and guest and visitors to consider becoming VHAA members.

Visitors and guests who join in April will have the advantage of participating in the Spring Show, the Artist-of-the-Month Exhibitions, and be FULLY paid until June 2018. Please send your dues, \$35 (\$50 for family membership) to: Suzanne Bitterman, 1400 Beaudry, Glendale, CA 91208; or to P. O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224

REMINDERS and NOTES

Once again we have the opportunity to show & sell our work at the [Lanterman House Annual Summer White Picnic, Jazz & Art Fest](#) Sunday, May 28th 12:00 - 4:00 pm, we may begin set up at 10:00am The cost is \$25, payable to the Lanterman Foundation e-mail Kimberly-Ann at la.photo.kat@gmail.com if you are interested to get the contracts for the event.

Remember you can still catch “[Portraits of the Garden 2: Bloom!](#)” at Descanso Gardens in the Sturt Haaga Gallery through May 28. Two of our members and many other local artists have works hanging in the gallery.



Make a Note:

Upcoming demonstrators:
Marciano Martinez, watercolor
Angela Hernandez, watercolor landscape

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

Like us on FACEBOOK!
Verdugo Hills Art Association

2016 - 2017 Key Contacts

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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza
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Next Meeting
April 7

Next Board Meeting
April 10