



Newsletter

April 2018

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

Drawing demo by Poe Tan

April 6, 7:00pm at the La Canada Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr.



"You are only as good as your last drawing," Poe Tan was told by his animation director in his second job. Tan says as an artist and designer, one needs to continue to grow in their skills with technology and skill advancement if they want to be the best artist they can be. He added, "I believe my education gave me a structural discipline to get ready for the real world, to understand and prepare for what is expected for real world scenarios."

From a young age while growing up in Malaysia, Tan had the privilege of being exposed to a variety of entertainment mediums ranging from American movies and Disney cartoons, to British comics and literature, to Japanese manga and anime. He said, "One key moment in defining my decision to be an artist was watching *Star Wars* in the theater in 1976. As I saw the opening of the movie with the Rebel Blockade Cruiser being chased by the Imperial Star Destroyer flying onto the screen, that made a huge impression on me as a 6-year-old." Thereafter he pursued drawing, and his goal to be a designer in animation and in the entertainment industry. Poe Tan has over 23 years in the animation field and has worked for Walt Disney Animation Studios, Warner Brothers Animation, Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon, Fox Animation, Sony, and many others. He has done designs for hit shows such as Ben10, Rugrats the Movie, Johnny Bravo, and He Man Masters of the Universe. His areas of expertise include background design both relating to animation and game design.

Poe Tan specializes in helping students and professionals realize their creative potential. He balances two roles professionally, alternating between being a concept artist, and a professor mentoring college-level students at Art Center College of Design, Otis College of Art, Pasadena City College, Computer Graphics Masters Academy and Los Angeles Academy of Figurative Art. Additionally he is working on several book projects and developing a new intellectual property for independent publishing.

He will give a demonstration and a lesson at our April 6 general meeting. Please bring drawing materials: sketchbook/paper— toned paper if you have it— woodless pencils, a kneaded eraser and a straight edge. He will focus on quick drawing techniques to help plan paintings and determine the best composition. He is also giving an all-day workshop Saturday, April 14; sign up with Arda Derian now. (See box below).



Upcoming Workshops: Poe Tan-April 14; Joseph Stoddard-May 19

Concept artist and instructor **Poe Tan** will be teaching artists how to use quick sketching techniques to prepare for the creation of artworks using a variety of media including pencil, pen, rulers, markers, paper and sketchbook. Watercolorist **Joseph Stoddard** will show how to create a finished painting of an urban scene using pen, pencil and watercolor. Visit our website: verdugoarts.org click the "activities" tab, select 2018 workshops and click on Poe Tan Registration, or Joseph Stoddard Registration to get the forms. Sign up now to reserve your spot! If space is still available, flyers will be available at our April meeting.

President's Letter

by Bob Thomas

I have several items to report on regarding your Verdugo Hills Art Association.

First: I want to thank Sue Peacock for serving as acting VHAA President while I have undergone serious and lengthy cancer treatments. I'm pleased to say that, so far, the pathology reports are excellent following extensive surgery, and I'm slowly regaining my strength and energy. During this interregnum, Sue has not only continued as co-first vice president with Sandy Rooney, she has also steered our club and its board of directors for the past six months. When you see Sue at an upcoming VHAA general meeting (the next one is April 6) be sure to thank her for her outstanding double-duty work.

Second: your board is going to present a motion to the membership at the next meeting to decrease the number of board meetings during the year from 11 to a minimum of four. Much as we enjoy meeting with each other, we really don't need monthly meetings to run this association. We're not exactly sure whether it will be four or five meetings during the 2018-2019 year but we'll let you know after our next board meeting.

Speaking of the board, we have received a positive response from our membership regarding filling board positions. The positions for which we need support are two of the most important: workshops and first vice president (who is responsible for recruiting demonstrators for our general meetings). Both of these can be "co" positions (i.e., 2 people share the job). So if you are able to help, please email me at your earliest convenience.

Third: notice the purple box on the first page of this newsletter has info about one-day workshops with Joseph Stoddard and Poe Tan. You can get a taste of what Poe's workshop will be like by coming to our April general meeting.

Finally, we are sad to report the death of long-time member Joyce Peterson, who passed away on March 9. Joyce was a talented artist who supported the club in many ways and she will be greatly missed by her many friends. Her family is holding a celebration of life party on March 17.

I hope you will join me at our next general meeting.

Bob Thomas

VHAA President BobTatFORE@aol.com



Upcoming Exhibitions

by Nikki Thomas

The member show at La Canada Library is coming up. Get your paintings ready - you may enter up to 3. Take in, Monday, April 30, 3:00 to 5:30. We will hang the show immediately after the juror has finished. Take out is Monday June 4, 2:00 to 3:00pm

The Artist of the year take in will also be on Monday June 4, from 3:00 to 5:00pm. Take out will be Monday June 25 from 5:30 - 6:30pm

Be sure your paintings are securely framed and appropriately wired. If you have questions please contact Nikki Thomas, (or just about any board member) for help.

No Artist of the Month

Why? No paintings were brought to the meeting. Was it the cold? too busy? just forgot? Please remember! Bring a painting to share...we love to see what our members are painting...and, you might win this month!!

March Demo Review - Joseph Stoddard *by Angela Alvarenga*

Joseph Stoddard creates beautiful paintings, rich with color and detailed with texture and line work. He has a very precise and organized work space. He generally paints on 140 lb Fabriano bright white cold press. He starts by blocking out the drawing with a pencil then refines the drawing with a waterproof Uniball Mirco Pen over the pencil. He continues to work on the drawing with a water soluble Pentel Sign Pen for darker spots. Stoddard's style is a loose sketch with graphite smudges and a carefree sense of grittiness. He makes a border on the paper to give the finished piece a vignette look. His paintings maintain all the steps because he likes the idea of showing the "process" in his paintings.



When Stoddard is not painting, he is an Environmental Graphic designer which explains his organized work space and methodical process. He enjoyed drawing and sketching the town and that evolved into becoming a painter. He encourages his students to enjoy the drawing process, too. The most exciting part of his presentation was watching each step applied loosely and carefree but in actuality it is well planned. His palette is flawlessly clean and the consistency of his paints are juicy and fresh out of the tube. He keeps his paint fresh every time to avoid any muddiness. He only uses round brushes. Stoddard practiced the painting the night before so that he wouldn't have to make any decisions during the final piece.



To start, he clamps his paper to the board and draws vertical and horizontal lines. He lets the lines cross to build the composition. Stoddard likes to mess up the paper to help get over the fear of a blank white piece of paper. He takes risks with a scuffed, messy look and splattering paint intentionally and accidentally for a gritty careless look. Good composition has balance then finish with the details.

Part of the beauty of Stoddard's work is his rich, vibrant colors. However, he is more concerned with value than the actual color. He uses a variety of blues in the sky but allows the blue to bleed onto a structure for shadows. Then that structure interacts with the sky. He mixes colors right on the paper. He works with light against darks, lets the highlights come from the paper and lets the Pentel ink smudge on the paper. He uses the chiseled handle of his brush to scratch out the branches but just like his entire process the scratches must happen at an exact time so the line doesn't become dark instead. Where the white scratches stop, he'll use a rigger brush to draw out dark lines to enhance light against dark. He keeps control of where the darks are, and maintains a distinctive separation between lights and darks to ensure a strong value statement. He adds burnt umber to warm up his shadows. Through his many years of painting, he learned that windows that are higher up will reflect the sky and windows that are lower to ground will reflect the surrounding structures or environment. He smears the windows so they don't look too rigid. After the painting dries he comes back to punch up the colors. He takes risks like adding red under trees or smudging a trunk to make it look loose.

Stoddard's demonstration was captivating and informative. One great tip is to not have an area larger than a 1" square without value or texture. He feels his paintings should have the same level of looseness or tightness to be consistent. Lastly, he does not create his paintings to have a center of interest because he feels all of the painting is important. The richness in color and interesting compositions help the viewer keep the eye moving.



REMINDERS and NOTES

Don't forget to bring a painting to the next meeting for the "Artist of the Month" competition!

Barbara Thorn Otto has a painting in the Fine Arts Federation show at Creative Arts Center, 1100 West Clark Ave., Burbank. Runs through March 22.

Mary Jane Klune will have an exhibit featuring her artwork from her recent trip to Iceland at the La Canada Library, April 2 through April 30.

"The sky is unsettled and is sprinkling us with an unconcern that shows how little feeling the Eternal Father has with regard to outdoor painting," Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec



Make a Note:
Upcoming Events

April 6 Demo — Poe Tan drawing
April 14 — Poe Tan Workshop
May 4 Demo— Jimmy Wisnowski WC
May 19 — Joseph Stoddard Workshop

Like us on FACEBOOK!
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
April 6

Next Board Meeting
April 9