



Newsletter

April 2021

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

April 2: Demo by Julie Crouch *by Dilmit Singh*



Julie Crouch is a graduate of UCLA and Loyola Law school. When she retired from practicing law in 2002, she started taking watercolor classes and hasn't put her brushes down since. She has studied with many well-known artists/teachers including Don Andrews, Gerald Brommer, Ratindra Das, Linda Kemp, Fealing Lin, Carl Purcell, Iain Stewart, and Chris Van Winkle, to name a few. Julie teaches watercolor classes at Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre.

Currently, Julie serves on the Board of Mid-Valley Arts League and has also served on the Board of National Watercolor Society and Watercolor West. She is a Signature Member of Watercolor West, and Western Colorado Watercolor Society. Her work has been juried into several national and international exhibitions. She received the Valley Watercolor Society Top Honors Award in their 2012 and 2015 Juried exhibitions. She lives in La Canada with her husband of 41 years, Chuck Crouch.

Here's what Julie has to say about her demo: "Fire up your creativity by repurposing some of your unloved paintings. Let the shapes you tear from your "dead horses" become beautiful watercolor scraps that will trigger your imagination to conceive of funny creatures, either real or completely imaginary. If you'd like to play along with me at the Zoom demo on April 2, please bring 2 or 3 failed paintings, some small pieces of inexpensive watercolor paper or cardstock to use as a ground, white glue and a black roller ball or gel pen."

Check out Julie's work at www.juliecrouchart.com. And come prepared to have a fun time at our meeting!



Coffee with the Prez...

Art is as broad a topic of discussion to some as coffee is to others. The more connoisseurs in the room, the greater the parity and disparity of the conversational threads. Why do we like art (or coffee, for that matter)? What kind of art do we like? What draws us to it? Are we driven by what we know of the elements and rules, or our first reactions? Equate it to falling in love at first sip, or pondering about where the beans were harvested before one decides whether to like the drink or not. Separating the cerebral from the emotional anchors us to why we like what we like.



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Our artist of the month submissions are a great way for us to respond, recognize and appreciate the work of our members, rationally or emotionally. Either way, everyone wins. Continue to participate and cheer your fellow artists. Enhance your ideas, guide them to maturity and then upload the images for us to enjoy! Until then...

Dilmit Singh
President

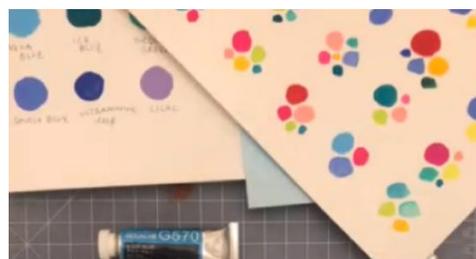
Dorothy Chung - Using Gouache

by Angela Alvarenga



Dorothy Chung gave a creative demonstration on her use of gouache. She is a talented illustrator and designer. First she shared her sketchbook, showing her thought process and thumbnails of her work. She began her demo by painting a design she made of a vintage game card from the game *Clue*. She had designed and sketched out a personalized set of Asian-American themed cards and was creating them for her family.

Her use of rich colors keeps her artwork lively and vibrant. To understand her color schemes, Dorothy paints swatches from each new tube of paint. This technique helps her analyze her colors before applying them to the paper because light colors will sometimes dry darker and dark colors will sometimes dry lighter. Although she can mix colors, she enjoys working with premixed colors right from the tube because it is similar to working with markers. Some of her favorite current colors are Opera Rose and Holbein Brilliant Pink.



color swatches, sample palettes



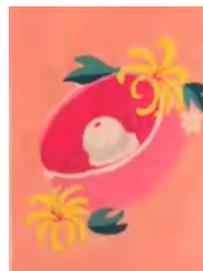
Dorothy also explained how she uses three different consistencies of gouache, comparing them to tea, milk, and cream. The consistency of “tea” is created by combining water with a little bit of gouache, creating a fairly transparent paint, similar to watercolor. “Milk” is created by combining a balanced amount of water and gouache so the gouache looks more opaque. Lastly, the consistency of “cream” combines less water and more gouache so that the viewer cannot see the paper through the paint. One of the benefits of using gouache is that it can be re-wetted, while a negative effect is that it may crack if it is applied too thickly.

Ideas



Dorothy’s demonstration was very soothing. She gracefully painted her game card while simultaneously describing her concept and answering questions. She confidently mixed in a few colors and made bold color choices for each object on the card. The exploration of color swatches and the preplanned color scheme showed that preparation is essential for creating a rewarding piece of art.

The books/artists she mentioned as influencing her are: *Traditional Chinese Textile Designs* (edited by the Northeast Drama Institute, People’s Republic of China); *The Art and Flair of Mary Blair*, an Appreciation by John Canemaker; *Delicious Metropolis* by Thiebaud (The Desserts and Urban Scenes of Wayne Thiebaud).



Partway Done



Finished

Artist Release Form

Dear Members - Remember to send in the release form we attached to last month’s newsletter—also found on the website under “Useful Stuff.” This acknowledges that your submitted artwork may be used on our website, the newsletter, our social media pages, or any printed promotional materials, etc. Thanks!

Art of the Month by Sue Peacock



The Art of the Month for March was any three dimensional work. First place was won by **Joan Gamberg** for her beautiful pot called *I Dream of the Canyons*. Joan says, "My background and education are a hodgepodge of college in NYC, fine arts at Visual Arts in NYC, and then once in Los Angeles, I studied ceramics, silver and bronze jewelry making, and watercolor at various locations. I painted in oils until I found ceramics out here, then it was about form, negative space, color relationships, textures and even surfaces to paint and carve on."

"*Canyons* is about 8.5 x 9.5, is wheel thrown of high fire stoneware, and is textured and stained. The cracked texture is achieved by applying sodium silicate to a cylinder, and then continuing to throw the piece from the inside. The silicate cannot expand; the clay body does, hence the cracking."

David Crandon took second place with his whimsical *Self Portrait in Beach Rocks*. When asked, "Why rock faces?" he replied, "Because I enjoy the challenge of creating a facial expression." He went on to say, "When the kids were young we took family vacations on the coast in Rhode Island. While kids and cousins were busy in the water, and adults were either reading or in the water with the kids, I typically walked near the water line, head down, looking for small flat rocks and interesting pieces of beach glass. I collected way too many of them, with no idea of how I might use them. After years of doing this I made my first face, using Gorilla Glue to hold stacks of small rocks in place. I then framed my rock faces by gluing them to the surface of glass in a frame, underneath which is brightly-colored origami paper. I have continued to make these 2.5-3" by 3-4" framed faces over the years, and have decided that the best place to display them is right above light switches."



The themes for the final two months of Art of the Month are:

April— Photographs; May— Seascapes.

Submit your entry to dave_vhaa@yahoo.com any time from now until noon, Tuesday, March 30.

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

Voting will be from noon on Thursday, April 1 to noon on Friday, April 2.

BOARD OPPORTUNITY

We still have an opening for a recording secretary for the board. With only two board meetings left this "year," April and June, it's a great time to step into this position and ease the load on other members who are filling 2 spots. You know the old saying, many hands make light work! The meetings have been lots of fun on Zoom (you don't even have to leave the comfort of your favorite easy chair!!) Please respond to VHArt_News@yahoo.com if you'd be willing to give it a try!! THANK YOU

"Arty Thoughts"

We've been "at home" for a year now! Still looking for something to paint or draw? New techniques? Supplies you saw in a demo? Inspiration? Dave Crandon has put a few links on our website under "fun reads." Google can find images of your favorite places, people or things (many copyright free). A few of us have been working in charcoal or graphite each Wednesday at noon our time. This has really improved our drawing, so we recommend a great free resource; "Drawing Together" on ArtistsNetwork.com or click this link. DrawingTogetherArtistsNetwork (you do not have to subscribe or sign up). I'm sure you'll find other tips out there, too!

We're fortunate we can get access to resources, even if we can't leave our houses (although that's coming soon I think!!). Get tapping on your keyboard, clicking your mouse or swiping on your phones and grab some inspiration!! And remember to get your supplies ready for Julie Crouch's demo April 2!!

Membership Update *Charlotte Briner*

We appreciate our members! Let your friends/fellow artists know about VHAA, and invite them to our Zoom meetings. Have them send an email by noon the day before the meeting to VHArt_News@yahoo.com to request the link for the next meeting.

All members automatically receive the link the day prior to the meeting (no rsvp required).

Special Announcement!

Your Newsletter editor, **Jeanne Windoffer**, is the new President of Watercolor West. Congratulations Jeanne!

UPCOMING Art Exhibit in May at ALHAMBRA CITY HALL

Watch for an email with info regarding submissions. (Entry process will be similar to Art of Month). Larger format (ideally framed 16 x 20 or larger) produced in the last 2-3 years that HAVE NOT been in a previous VHAA show. Approximately 26 juror-selected paintings will be hung at the gallery. All entries will be available to view on our website. Entries limited to 1 per person.

Upcoming Events

April 2 Demo - Julie Crouch
Watercolor

April 17 Workshop - Pradeepa Thirumulu
Watercolor Floral

May 7 Demo - Joe Cibere
Watercolor

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Verdugo Hills Art Association

www.verdugoarts.org

Info for the VHAA Newsletter? send to VHArt_News@yahoo.com by 12th of the month prior to the next issue.

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Next Meeting
April 2 - ZOOM

Next Board Meeting
April 5

We look forward to seeing you April 2, 2021
at 7:00pm
for our next meeting on ZOOM!

