



Newsletter

May 2018

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

Don't miss the "surprise" demo by Lynne Fearman

May 4, 7:00pm at the La Canada Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr.

Will our demonstration be a watercolor or oil? We don't know. Lynne Fearman playfully said, "It'll be a surprise." Sandy Rooney describes our May artist as a "colorist" - a person who enhances nature with additional color. Lynne herself says this:

"So let me be clear, I was born and raised in Pasadena, CA. and ran wild as a kid. My parents were of the sort that during the summer months they were happy to throw us out of the house and say, "Don't come back until supper time!" So we amused ourselves by riding our bikes down to the Arroyo under the Colorado St. Bridge, where we would muck about in the stream, looking for snakes, lizards and tadpoles. It was an ideal childhood. I got to know the city pretty well. My mother didn't drive until I was 8 or 9 years old, so we walked all over town. The local parks, and stores were no stranger to me...I thought! {One} Thursday we took our regular paint-out group to the LA Superior Court of Appeals, formerly known as Las Casitas Del Arroyo. It's a lovely building, something like a Spanish castle. I've drawn it and painted it from all angles. This time I decided to walk up the block to the park at the north end of Grand Ave. which is also the site of the small park that leads to the walk across the Colorado St. Bridge. If you are unfamiliar with it, you'll recognize it in "La La Land", with Emily Stone and Ryan Gosling walking over it in the movie. I was going to try painting the top of the bridge, but turned around to go back to my car to get my painting gear, when I saw an unfamiliar view in the opposite direction! An extension of the park to the east that has a view of Pasadena City Hall. I've never seen this in my life! I was charmed by the lovely composition of the arching trees and the morning-lit city hall in the distance. So this was what I painted that morning: (photo at right).



"Now when I go out to paint, I look around a little more carefully. You never know what you'll see to paint if you don't. It's not always the obvious things right in front of you that make the best paintings, it might be what's behind you! I am the product of an artist/illustrator father who believed that if you had a desire to be an artist, you could achieve it through daily painting and drawing. It wasn't by osmosis that I became an artist too, but I had the desire to practice and observe my daily world, and found the creative process an enjoyable endeavor. Through the encouragement of my teachers, and mentors, I continue my studies with other artists who enjoyed the creative process too. I believe the learning process never ends and I look forward to each new learning experience."



In her paintings, Lynne captures the essence of Southern California: our mountains, palms, red tile roofs, and especially the light. This is the quintessential Southern California painting. Come see what surprises she has in store for us on May 4. - Sue Peacock



Calling all members!

It's time to renew your membership! To provide exciting demonstrations, wonderful exhibitions and, most of all, the great camaraderie of fellow artists, we need each member to renew their dues. Pay now and be FULLY paid until June 2019. Please send your dues, \$35 per person or \$50 for family membership to: Suzanne Bitterman, 1400 Beaudry, Glendale, CA 91208; or to Verdugo Hills Art Assoc P. O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224; or pay at the May or June meeting.

President's Letter

by Sue Peacock -1st Vice-President

Most major board positions are filled. You will see many of the same faces, often in different positions. To be honest, some of our faces are getting old, 😊 and our bodies are too. We enjoy working together and want to support our club, but many of our jobs could run more smoothly with a co-chair. For instance, Sandy Rooney and I have co-chaired the position of first vice-president for the last two years. She worked tirelessly to find the wonderful demonstrating artists, and I sent the contracts, letters of welcome and instructions—with almost all the work done electronically. Nikki Thomas will be taking this position and would like a co-chair. Plus, we still need one (or two folks) to take the Workshop Chair position. “Many hands make light work” and that’s especially true in managing our association.

There are other jobs where you can assist as well. Come help at the exhibits take-in and hanging. Give a hand to Mary on setting up the treats. Learn how to run the speaker system—as was evident a couple months ago, I don't know how! You could be the back-up camera person for helping to set it up. And next year when we ask for volunteers for the nominating committee say yes. It's a once a year job and a good opportunity to connect with other members.

Here is my plea. Please volunteer to help. Ask what you can do. Be willing to assist. This is your club, you enjoy the demonstrators and the camaraderie of our monthly meetings. Please say yes if you're called. You won't be put in charge of something you know nothing about, and you will have the gratitude of each of us!

And keep in mind, as a result of your vote at the last meeting, we'll be scheduling board meetings only four times a year with perhaps an additional meeting as needed. That's not a bad commitment of time, so remember to consider taking a position if asked! Thanks,

- Sue

April Demo Review - Poe Tan *by Angela Alvarenga*



Poe Tan gave a captivating demonstration on how to maintain form and life in inanimate objects. He started with giving the audience questions to encourage us to think of creative ways to use our tools. How to sketch? How do you use line and pens to make something more dimensional? How do you use your pen to create or suggest texture? Tan reminded us that drawing is not easy and time is needed to master and nurture it. He enjoys working with woodless pencils because it is like painting, and working with pen because it makes you think before you start the drawing. Each line must have a meaning before putting it down on paper.



Tan always starts with basic shapes because everything has a basic shape—visual language can be broken down to basic circles, squares and rectangles. Use different elements to make texture. When creating animals, think about the overall anatomy of the animal, how do you apply basic forms and shapes with the consideration to their real proportions? Study military vehicles and think about how and why they were built in regards to functionality for battle. Planes are cylinders attached to other cylinders, carving out other shapes to make it aerodynamic. These objects all started with simple shapes and form. To create a unique tree, break it down to shapes and values. Create dominant shapes, light areas, and interesting groups of leaves. Try to stay away from symmetry and make it organic. Add volume and choose one source of light in order to then indicate shadows with volume for each shape. Have the lines wrap around the object to create texture and volume. Organize your darks and let them overlap each other. Lastly, go in for the detail on the outer line to solidify the form.

Remember to use perspective when drawing rocks. Start out with your basic rectangle and then sculpt away. Rocks have multiple surfaces and values. Consider the type of rock because different rocks generate different texture. Lastly, use surface values to indicate each side so it does not look flat.

Tan's demonstration reminds the artist to plan and start with basic shapes. Texture and value will help bring objects to life and make them more interesting. All of these steps take practice but with each drawing you will get better.



Artist of the Month *by Judie Apablaza*

Our first place winner in the Premier category was Dora Giordano. Dora is a new member to our Verdugo Hills Art Association, but she is not a neophyte to the fine arts. Dora is an accomplished painter and a long-time member of the California Art Club, and has shown her work at various shows and received many awards over the years. The winning oil titled, *Anniversary Orchid*, with mellow tones of purples, blues and muted pinks, certainly made us catch our breath. She stated that her friends and family know her love of flowers, and she is especially fond of orchids. We were all drawn to the deep richness of the colors and the shadows that gave depth to her painting. She prefers painting with oils, but when traveling by plane she uses acrylics for ease of clean up.



Besides her "brush mileage," Dora is a world traveler. She is originally from Lima, Peru. Having a husband who was employed by the airlines, made traveling a little more common place. Visiting museums and art exhibitions in Europe and the Americas have always been high on Dora's list of delights. She has taken oil painting with the late Sergei Bongart and Rosita Tseu as well as classes at Otis Art Institute. Dora says, "as an artist you must be passionate about your work." Dora's evolutionary process as an artist began mainly with the still life format, but the immediacy of plein air has become more of her chosen style. She especially enjoys painting plein air with friends at Descanso Gardens and other locations. Mastering the ability to catch the light in a landscape, while painting with confidence and passion, seem to be Dora's unique artistic signature. We welcome Dora to our Verdugo Hills Art group and look forward to more of her beautiful paintings in the future.

Honor Haase was our blue ribbon winner in the Open category. *Aria* was a small watercolor gem portraying Honor's granddaughter. We seem to see the fleeting expression on an impish face that she developed with several sketches, then several paintings to get it "just right." Honor said, "it was just luck" but I think it was the adoring grandmother that caught a special impression of a moment in time.



Honor is a multifaceted artist, with a love of sketching, watercolor, oils and acrylics. Honor says that when she is painting, it really does not matter which medium she is using for she is lost in the moment and there is a special joy in the process. A teacher of ballet and dance, Honor feels that dance and painting are very similar in that their unique expression is in the immediacy of the moment. She has taken classes with Tony Couch in Colorado as well as numerous workshops and classes through college programs in the local area throughout the years. We look forward to more paintings from this very versatile artist.

Welcome new member!

We want to welcome our new member Ed Joswick of Los Angeles. He paints in watercolor and oil.

Be sure to say hi when you see him at our next meeting! 😊

Upcoming Exhibitions *by Nikki Thomas*

The spring member show at the La Canada Library is coming up. Get your paintings ready - you may enter up to 3. Fee is \$10 per entry. We had date changes for take in and take out.—please note the dates below:

Take in, **Monday, May 7, 2-3:30pm**. The juror is John Byram. We will hang the show immediately after the juror has finished. Take out is **Saturday, June 2 from 8:30 - 9:30am**.

The Artist of the Year take in will also be on Saturday, June 2, **starting at 9:30, to 11:00am**. 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.

Don't forget to bring a painting to the next meeting for the last "Artist of the Month" competition! We'll be voting for Artist of the Year at the June meeting.

REMINDERS and NOTES

Member News:

Descanso Gardens: Growing Habitat is an upcoming exhibition addressing 3 aspects of human/wildlife interactions: coexistence, connection, and cooperation. Kimberly-Ann Talbert will have a series of Descanso Gardens' wildlife photos on exhibit. Members only viewing May 18th-20th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Opening reception May 20th, 4:00-6:00 pm. Exhibit runs May 22nd - August 19th,

La Canada Community Center Pottery Show and Sale will be held May 11 from 3-8, & May 12 from 11-5. Arda Derian has many of her ceramics at the show.

Mary Jane Klune's exhibit featuring artwork from her recent trip to Iceland is at the La Canada Library through April 30.



**Make a Note:
Upcoming Events**

*May 4 Demo— Lynne Fearman
May 19 — Joseph Stoddard Workshop
June 1 - Artist of the Year; Scholarship
Winner*

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Verdugo Hills Art Association**

2017 - 2018 Key Contacts

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Next Meeting
May 4

Next Board Meeting
May 7