



Newsletter

May 2021

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

May 7: Demo by Joe Cibere *by Dilmit Singh*



Joe Cibere is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society and his painting style demonstrates his love of nature and wilderness. His “abstract realism” paintings integrate strong design and balance with a sense of illusion. He has appeared in “Watercolor Magazine” and in the International Artists book, “The Watercolor Sky and Cloud Techniques of 23 International Artists”. He is also in the new book “Splash 20 and the 2019 February issue of Watercolor Artist magazine. His studio is at Studio Channel Islands Art Center, Room R5 in Old Town Camarillo, CA. <http://studiochannelislands.org/>

“The challenge is to know when to stop and let the medium take over. That’s why the most successful paintings seem almost effortless,” Joe asserts. “I always look forward to interacting with art patrons and other artists for feedback about the creative process and affirm that visual expression is one of life’s greatest joys.

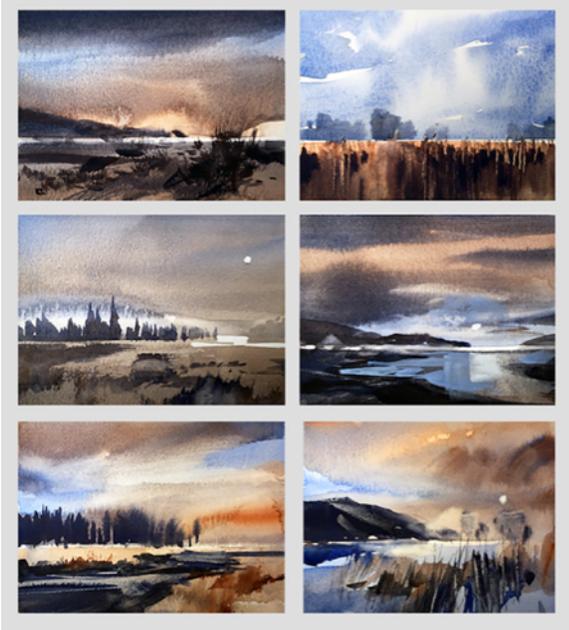
Joe would like to bring members together in a paint along. If abstract realism intrigues you, get ready with your paper, watercolor and brushes, and join in the fun.

You can find more about Joe and his art at:

www.joeciberewatercolors.com

<https://www.instagram.com/joecibere/>

<https://www.facebook.com/joeciberewatercolors/>



Coffee with the Prez...

It’s been over a year since the pandemic isolated us; people continue to struggle even as we reopen armed with vaccinations and some semblance of “feeling safe.” I believe everyone knows someone who has been impacted; and each of us has probably contributed to friends’ and families’ welfare. Thoughts about the world, the riots in Ireland, and the passing of an era with Prince Philip shaped my message this morning.



continued from page 1

Each one has a life to live
To take, some, and some, to give;
Make concessions and then confess
Make provisions and then profess
And pass some nectar through the sieve.

Friends, I hope our art is the nectar passing through the sieve, steadily contributing in some way to engage our minds and bring joy through creativity.

Dilmit Singh, President

“Dead Horse” to Creature Feature - Julie Crouch Demo

review by Angela Alvarenga



Julie Crouch gave a fun and creative demonstration on how to repurpose your unloved or “dead horse” paintings. Julie has been painting since 2002 and brings life and richness to her watercolor paintings. Unfortunately, she does not feel that each and every one of her paintings is absolutely perfect, therefore she has found a new way to repurpose them. Julie tears her unloved painting into various shapes, glues one shape to a piece of cardstock paper and draws or paints around the shape to turn it into a creature.

She invited her audience to grab an unloved painting, a sheet of cardstock, glue and a waterproof pen so we could follow along. She assured us that she does not have a pre-planned idea, so that she is not limited to one idea.

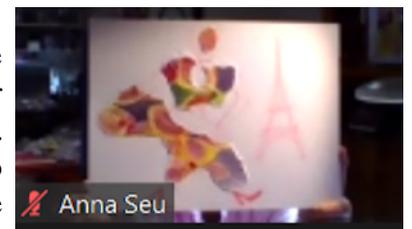
Before we began to tear our paper, she told us to think about interesting shapes versus uninteresting shapes. Interesting shapes interlock—like a jigsaw puzzle piece—with sides that push in while others push out. Uninteresting shapes may be too symmetrical such as circles and squares. Then she had us flip our painting over so we wouldn’t be swayed by the colors. She told us to tear gently because it is nice to save some of the white edges created as we tear the paper to create a type of border on the outside of the colored shape. She can usually get four shapes out of one painting. Once we had some interesting shapes, she had us glue it on to the card stock—color side up! Now comes the creature creating!



As we worked Julie said she likes to work on more than one of these repurposed creations at the same time, to not get too fussy or stuck on just one. Once the shape is glued down and dried, she can rotate the paper to see what ideas come to mind. Julie calls this approach, “accidental magic.” She uses shapes and color to trigger her creativity. She also thinks of a variety of adjectives such as: grotesque, whimsical, odd, fancy, dreamlike, royal. Julie will also consider things she can add to her artwork creature, such as: clothing, hands, hair or a mouth. She may use watercolor to fill in certain areas as well. Towards the end, she makes sure not to overdo her work and to leave some mystery for the viewer. Julie shared some encouraging tips: “you do not need to create a creature that is real” and “creativity flourishes the more you work on these pieces of artwork.”



We had a great time working with Julie, seeing the fun imagery that was created by repurposing those unloved paintings into whimsical creatures.



Art of the Month by Sue Peacock



Barbara Thorn Otto took first place in April's Art of the Month contest with her photograph of *Camellias Under Glass*. She reports she has 7 different varieties of camellias on her property! "I usually pick a variety of colors and put them in a dish of water. I was taking photos that day and wanted to create something different! So I held the dish under my glass patio table and shot it with my Apple 7 cell phone! You never know how something will turn out until you try it. I was hoping for a lovely textured look! And, I think I captured it!" We think so too.

Charlotte Briner tied for second place with *Spring-Matilija Poppy*. She took the photograph while strolling through Descanso Gardens with her iPhone Xs. She says, "As the beauty of this Matilija Poppy caught my eye I knew I wanted to get as close as possible to reveal the intricate texture on the petals. Cropping was the only editing made to the photo.



"My love of art stems back to my childhood when I enjoyed doing any creative activity, such as drawing, making tile mosaics, and sewing my own clothes. In high school, I took every sewing class they had and in my final year did an independent study course where I created my own curriculum of drawing fashion designs and constructing them. I had very little formal training until I went to college for a fashion design degree at Woodbury University. During my career in fashion, I found myself in management working for manufacturers. In the early 2000's I started teaching elementary school and taking classes in drawing and painting and more recently studying photography.



Pepe Apablaza also took a trip to our wonderful local landmark for his tying second place entry. *Golden Koi* came about from a visit to Descanso Gardens. He told us, "Being in the right place at the right time is usually the formula for a successful shot. In this case a koi surfaced just in the precise area where some sky was reflecting on the water, plus the koi movement created a very interesting, radiating texture for a pleasant composition." The camera he used was his trusted digital Canon D7, with adjustment of contrast performed on a Mac computer.

The theme for May entries is seascapes. It's open to all mediums. Be sure when you submit your piece that you indicate its medium, as well as the size and title. This will be our last Art of the Month for 2020-2021. In June we will vote for our favorite of the winners for Art of the Year from this year's contest.

The theme for May (our last Art of the Month) is Seascapes.

Submit your entry to dave_vhaa@yahoo.com any time from now until noon, Tuesday, May 4.

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

Voting will be from noon on Thursday, May 6 to noon on Friday, May 7.

Board Elections

It's the time of year when we look to fill our board roster for the coming year. If you are interested in filling a spot or if you receive a call asking if you'd serve, please consider this opportunity. Feel free to contact one of the board members, or email vhart_news@yahoo.com to ask questions about a position, or put your name in the hat! You have many talents—you're in this art association after all—how about sharing some of your time and energy to add creativity to the board?

Membership Update *Charlotte Briner*

Don't forget to 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).

New Member: Welcome [Diane Gilmore](#) of Pasadena. She is interested in watercolor.

[Kimberly-Ann Talbert](#) has some pieces at Spicetopia on Main St. in Ventura, and 4 "postcards" in an on-line exhibit at <https://artlifefoundation.org>

Don't forget to enter our spring Members' Art Exhibit!

Email up to 3 entries due to dave_vhaa@yahoo.com by April 18.

Juror Pradeepa Thirumulu will select 26 to hang at

Alhambra City Hall from May 3 through May 27.

Artists whose paintings are selected will be notified about take-in/pick-up. Your paintings will need to be framed, with appropriate wire hanger.

Upcoming Events

May 7 Demo - Joe Cibere
Watercolor

June 4 - Scholarship Winner
New Members Share

Like us on FACEBOOK!
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
May 7 - ZOOM

Next Board Meeting
June 7 - ZOOM



Some of us, and/or our creature creations from April meeting

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