



Newsletter

October 2016

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

October 7 Meeting: Hear from Levon Parian, Photographer by Sue Peacock

Our Demonstrator for October is Levon Parian who specializes in people photography and photo montage. Levon will speak about portraiture and art: about what makes or breaks a photo; what he looks for in a good photo and why. I've asked him to show some of his "i-witness" project photos, and talk about the intentional distortions he has in them, as well as other thoughts for us as artists to consider in our work. Many painters use photography to aid in setting up their paintings, but even if that's not the case for you, Levon will be discussing tips that are helpful for all artists, including focus, composition and light. Come and hear this informative, interesting artist and teacher!

His works have been exhibited throughout the world and have received numerous awards including Best of Show from the Advertising Photographers of America in 1990 and more recently (2002) The Eagle Award from the Armenian National Committee. This award was for his book in progress and traveling exhibit "i-witness" -portraits of Survivors of the Armenian Genocide, recently displayed in the Rotunda of the Capital building in Washington DC.



Levon studied photography from two different schools of thought. He attended Southern Illinois University at Carbondale for the psychological and abstract qualities of image making, and Art Center College of Design in Pasadena for the highly technical and commercial. After his schooling he freelance assisted for Playboy, Helmut Newton and Alice Springs before opening his own photography studio in Los Angeles in 1984. He currently teaches photography at California State University, Northridge. He and two of his artistic colleagues were among the 100 leading global thinkers of 2015, as identified by Foreign Policy magazine in response to their work on the "i-witness" installation. For more information see our website <http://www.verdugoarts.org/october-2016-meeting.html>.



President's Letter by Bob Thomas

Why do people join or belong to a group? There are many reasons but one of the most important is the people we meet there. At our September general meeting, one of the things that struck me was the lively interaction between people before and after the meeting and during the intermission. Art may be what draws us together but the friends we meet are what keep us coming back again.

So I encourage you to come to the October meeting (Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. in the La Cañada Community Center) not just to hear the demonstrator but also to meet old and new friends and enjoy the camaraderie. We also encourage you to invite any artist you might know to join us — the best marketing is word of mouth and growing the club's membership is a prime goal for our current board. To aid in these efforts, the board decided this summer to invite demonstrators who represented media beyond watercolor. Therefore, as mentioned above, we will welcome Levon Parian, who teaches photography at Cal State Northridge, to share his insights with us.

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At the September board meeting we discussed the Directory of Club Members, which will be published shortly. If we're going to include you in the directory, you need to send your 2016-2017 dues to Membership Chair Suzanne Bitterman before Oct. 7 or bring them to the meeting that night. Dues are \$35 per person or \$50 per family.



We also know that some of you are concerned about privacy when it comes to directories. Even though our directory is sent only to club members (i.e. not posted on the Web site), we want to honor those concerns. If you do not wish to have information published in the directory, please email me what you don't want included (e.g., address, phone number, email address).



Thanks to Sandy Rooney and Sue Peacock for coordinating the September meeting and for all the board members who offered a little something about how we got into art and what we do (photos here & below). We hope you found it interesting. Thanks, also, to all of you who came on a holiday weekend. We plan on shifting the first meeting of the 2017-18 schedule to Sept. 8 to avoid a similar conflict.

One other decision the board made was to hold just one raffle, in June 2017, rather than having a raffle each month. We will continue to pass around an envelope to raise money for our annual art-student scholarship this season and will use the raffle money next June as seed money for the 2017-2018 scholarship.

As always if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email me. See you at the October meeting!

Bob Thomas, VHAA President BobTatFORE@aol.com



Photos of some of our Board Members sharing their artwork at the Sept 2 meeting.

WE ARE STARTING SOMETHING NEW! by Joan Whitmore

Does your artwork not fit into traditional oil or watercolor painting categories? We tried something new in September, and we liked it! We will have a monthly "sharing" table where you are encouraged to share artwork that takes other forms like journaling, sketching, mixed media, ceramics, glass, sculpture, etc. The idea is just to share. We will continue to have artist of the month too. Hope you will join the fun!

!!!!!! SCHEDULE CHANGE !!!!!!!

Due to a change in the La Canada Library scheduling, please note the new take in and pick up days. The Fall show take in/pick up will still be on Saturdays. All 2017 show take in/pick up will be on Monday afternoon/evenings, except for the Small Image Show.

Schedule of 2016 - 2017 Association Art Exhibitions

All exhibitions are at the La Canada Library, 4545 Oakwood Ave. unless otherwise noted.

Exhibit:	Take in Date/Time	Pick up Date/Time
Fall Show	11/5/16 8:30 - 11:00 am	11/26/16 9:00 - 11:00 am
January Members Show	1/9/17 3:00 - 4:30 pm	1/30/17 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Small Image Show *Pasadena Library	Take in TBD	2/28/17 9:00 - 10:30 am at Pasadena Library
Spring Show	5/1/17 3:00 - 4:30 pm	6/5/17 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Artist of the Year	6/5/17 3:00 - 4:30 pm	6/26/17 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Artist of the Month by Judie Apablaza

Barbara Thorn-Otto, our first place winner has an affinity for painting children. The title of her watercolor painting was, “Kristie,” and the personality of the little impish child was well represented and perfectly captured. Rather than staying away from a difficult subject, Barbara states that painting children is a joy. She follows the masters’ advice and does a value study first, and in this case her reference photograph translated into a successful portrait reflecting Barbara’s personal style. She was very pleased to have saved the “whites” with the purity of the paper that make watercolors sparkle.

Our award winner is not a sporadic painter, but has attended Glendale’s Brand Studio Monday group for many years. The group consists of about a dozen artists who have formed a cohesive group; true friendships have formed over a period of twenty years. Just as the French Impressionists supported one another, these artists have encouraged each other, and in turn have perfected their art and evolved over time.



Barbara majored in fine art at Pasadena City College and was granted a scholarship to Art Center College of Design. After a time in the entertainment industry she worked as a sales representative for eighteen years. As we can see, her love of figure drawing and fashion illustration has served her well in her portrait painting. Barbara Thorn-Otto believes that art is a necessity and not a luxury, she states that art fills our souls and brightens our spirits. She is an enthusiastic presence at Verdugo Hills Art Association and we are richer for her being a member.



Our second place winner, Mary Jane Klune, is also a member of a select group that has painted and traveled with the late Chris Van Winkle. She has also formed friendships that will continue much like groups of well-known painters from the past. A sense of solidarity continues even though their teacher is no longer with them. The title of her painting, “Morro Bay Pier” has special significance for Mary Jane for she created this award-winning painting the weekend of Chris Van Winkle’s memorial in Morro Bay, California.

The Van Winkle workshops in Morro Bay and other locations will continue under the leadership of several women from the Mid-Valley Art group. Mary Jane also continues to take classes and paints with other artists at the Community Center in El Monte, where about 30 artists meet on a Monday morning. She also participates in a Plein Air group on Thursday mornings in which a critique at the end of the morning adds invaluable information for continued growth.

ANNUAL FALL SHOW

Now is time to be thinking about what you want to enter in our annual Fall Show, which will take place in November (take-in is Nov. 5 at the La Cañada Library). Even if you have never exhibited before, this is the year for you to put a painting or photograph in the show.

Why should you enter? Preparing an entry is good discipline for each of us and what you think isn't worthy of entry may, in fact, be a favorite of the judge — you never know! Fees are \$10 per entry with a limit of three entries per member. Think of it: for less than what you would spend at Starbucks, you can put an entry into our show. What a bargain!

Complete details will be in the November newsletter. Entry forms are attached with this newsletter and can also be found on the VHAA Web Site under the "Useful Stuff" tab and "Entries" section.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Your board is considering adding an Exhibition category called Digital Art. This would include art created specifically on a computer (or similar platform) and photographs that are significantly enhanced or altered in an artistic way. This new category might spur new-member recruitment, as well as being helpful to the expanding field of photography. However, one potential disadvantage is that traditionally we've had only a small number of entries in the photography field (we would continue to have photography as a category) and we wouldn't want to cannibalize that category. The goal would be to increase entries, not decrease them.

Do you create digital art? How? Do you know of folks who create digital art who would be interested in exhibiting? Or is this all a waste of time? Please email BobTatFORE@aol.com with your thoughts.



Make a Note:

Upcoming demonstrators:

October - Levon Parian, Photography
November - Loraine Veeck, Pastels
December - Deborah Swan-McDonald,
watercolors
January - Gerald Brommer

November Workshop
Jay Ewing - Drawing and Perspective

2016 - 2017 Key Contacts

President - Bob Thomas
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Exhibitions - Nikki Thomas
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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza
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Next Meeting
October 7

Next Board Meeting
October 10