



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

Don't Miss Out! Oct 6 Meeting—Artist Richard Martinez

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



Richard Martinez says in his artist's statement, "I paint because I love the world. As a child I used to grab my sketchbook and wander through the colleges to study the light through the trees, I was always in awe of the world around me. I see the beauty in the light and paint all that surrounds me—it can be a city scene, an old boat, a landscape or a man playing checkers. Painting the world makes me feel connected to the world. Putting together colors on canvas is like completing a puzzle. I respond to the shapes, contrasts and even the sounds of each color as it touches the canvas."



Richard won many scholarships in his youth and studied at Chouinard's Art Institute (now California Institute of the Arts) and earned a Master's degree in Art from Claremont Graduate School. He taught painting, drawing, ceramics, and photography at Claremont High School for 36 years, and Chaffey College for over a decade. During his teaching career he continued to show and sell his work throughout Southern California. He has served on the board of National Watercolor Society, and is a signature artist for Watercolor West. He will be participating in the upcoming film and book project dedicated to the life



and career of Milford Zornes, one of his mentors. You won't want to miss the watercolor demo by this very talented and passionate artist!

President's Letter *by Sue Peacock*

Hello Everyone - When you say yes to a position like First Vice President, you figure it's to do that job. In VHAA's case, that's finding the artists, getting their contracts sent out, and writing a newsletter article about each demonstrator. The other, almost hidden part of the job description, is one that's rarely needed: take over for the president when necessary. Today, Sept 12, is Bob Thomas's first day of chemotherapy. We wish him well! So here I am, filling in.

In the good news department, several of our members, former members, and families had the La Tuna fire knocking at their door, but were spared thanks to the aerial and ground crew firefighters. It was great to see so many that were able to make it out to our first meeting September 1.

The October meeting will feature Richard (Rich) Martinez. See the article above. I can't wait to see his demonstration, I love his bold use of color!

We need a new camera person! Linda Tindell will be able to teach what to do, and be there to assist for the next several months, but she is needing a replacement. We all know how much better our meetings are with this wonderful equipment. Please consider if you, or even a family member, could take over this task that adds so much to our demonstrations. Say yes if asked, so we can continue to use this resource. Thanks!

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Here are a few reminders for each meeting:

- *Videos are \$5 to rent. Please return them the following month. If kept longer an additional \$5 will be charged.
- *We have a "donations" jar on the refreshment table; please contribute when you can. If you would prefer, you may bring a goodie for the table.
- *Bring your art for Artist of the Month. Let your friends see what you are working on and how much progress you have made.

Our first art show is in November, as is our first workshop. More info on these events can be found in this newsletter, and will be available at our October meeting, in the November Newsletter, and of course on our website: verdugoarts.org

A great big thanks to Bill Washburn for his donation of a stack of wonderful books to the sales table last month; thanks also go to Nikki Thomas who contributed books and frames, and Trish Kertes who gave away card racks.

Sue Peacock, Acting President

Upcoming Shows

November Exhibition: Start preparing now for our first show at the La Canada Library! Take in will be Monday, November 6 from 1:00 to 3:00pm. Take-down will be Monday November 27 from 5:00 to 6:00pm. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES AND TIMES! If you can't make the scheduled take-in time, please ask a board member about transporting your artwork, and arrange to bring them to the November meeting on the 3rd. Members may enter up to 3 pieces, they must be prepared with wire hangers, and if appropriate, framed behind plexiglass (preferred) rather than glass. The juror for the show will be Rich Gallego, who is also our workshop artist in November (see below). We hope to have a great representation for this first show!

Miniature Show: Keep in mind our miniature show at the Pasadena Library will be in February. Start looking now for those smaller gems you'll want to enter. Remember the categories for this show are representational, abstract, photography, and small sculpture (check with the exhibit chair) that will fit in the allotted cabinet spaces. No framed piece may be bigger than 15 inches on any side, measured on the outside edges of the frame.

New Opportunity: As mentioned at the September meeting, VHAA has the opportunity to have a small show at the USC Verdugo Hills Hospital in January. To start off, a very few members will be selected to display their art. In the future we hope to have many members propose artwork in keeping with the guidelines of the USC VHH 'Healing Arts' program, which may be on display during various times in the year. Look for more info on this opportunity as we work through the process over the next few months.

Plein Air Painting in the Park

November 18 Workshop with Rich Gallego

We have been looking forward to a workshop with oil painter Richard Gallego since his demonstration for us last February. For this workshop, Rich will give step by step instruction. He'll demonstrate each step, having students then try it. He'll talk about value, shapes, and shadow patterns to develop the composition. Rich is primarily a landscape painter and teaches weekly plein air painting classes in Southern California as well as annual workshops in New Mexico. He is a member of the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association and has been featured in several articles by Plein Air Magazine's website, "Outdoor Painter", and American Art Collector magazine.



This plein air experience is open to artists of any medium and will take place on November 18, at Eagle Rock Recreation Center, 1100 Eagle Vista Dr in Eagle Rock, 90041. The workshop will run from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Flyers/registration will be available at the October meeting, on the web and emailed out.



Artist of the Month by Judie Apablaza



Many of our sturdy and determined members braved the smoke and freeway closings, to bring artwork for display and treats for the table to enjoy for our first meeting of the season. Kimberly Ann Talbert was our blue ribbon winner with a photography piece titled, "Bridge of Dreams." We see a familiar Japanese bridge at Descanso Gardens, but no, the bridge has been changed to a teal blue! Because the textures, values and tone have been altered, it creates a heightened awareness in the observer that would otherwise be overlooked. True to Kimberly's quest, we look at the bridge with fresh eyes. Our winner has used the "Picasa" computer application to manipulate and change an original photo into something unique and a one-of-a-kind work of art.

Kimberly has stated, "Through my photography I want to show people what I see. There are so many wonderful things to see in the normal world, but most of us are so busy that we simply do not take the time to stop and enjoy what is around us. So

in essence, I want to share the beauty and awe of the everyday things surrounding us. If I have done that, then I am happy and am accomplishing what I have set out to do."

Kimberly works with gourds, photography, watercolor, oils and hand-strung jewelry of semiprecious and precious gems. She also works in leather, producing "Medicine" bags for various Native American groups. She is very attuned to nature and is especially drawn to the peace and beauty of Descanso Gardens. She is active as a docent with school children with official tours of the garden.

We are very pleased to have Kimberly's energy and dedication invested as a member and board member of Verdugo Hills Art Association. If you wish to keep up with Ms. Talbert's shows, visit her website kimberlyann-talbert.pixels.com.

September Demo — Pete Morris by Angela Alvarenga



Rather than using watercolors, Pete Morris gave a beautiful demonstration on his use of Sumi-E ink with a splash of watercolor to enhance a focal area. Although he was painting mainly in shades of gray, he used a color reference photo because he can already see the values. As he remarked during his demo, pay attention to the values! He likes Sumi-E ink because it gives softness to the shadows, it allows painting in layers without becoming overworked because it doesn't show brush strokes, and he can punch up the darks at the end with the blackest tone.

He started with a 30% gray scale light wash for the sky and foliage area. The ink dries lighter than it looks when first put down, so Pete gradually built up the darks and the shadows through following layers, always thinking about the edges of the objects and looking for interesting shapes. He put in the red watercolor in the signage on the building pretty early on. He noted that when one puts in lettering, as long as the appearance of the letters are consistent, even though not perfect, the eye will figure out the words, and they will look right.

Leaving some empty spaces in the tree shapes, in successive layers, he concentrated on the edges to define the shape of the tree. He sometimes uses distressed brushes to give the sharp leaf shapes or create randomness to the edge. He uses the foliage in the back to help construct the foliage in the front, as he paints from back to front and builds up the grays gradually.

Once again at the end of the demo he encouraged us to pay attention to the values, and said if you can nail the shadows you can nail the picture. The result of his demo was a wonderful rendering of a store in "Toonerville." Thanks Pete for sharing your expertise in this inspiring demo!



REMINDERS and NOTES

Membership Renewal—It's not too late! Please send your dues, \$35 (\$50 for family) to: Suzanne Bitterman, 1400 Beaudry, Glendale, CA 91208; or to PO Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224 Must be received by Oct 1 to be included in directory.

Members with current exhibitions:

Arda Derian has watercolor and pottery at DIGGS realty gallery on Ocean View, in Montrose, through Sept 27. Call to check gallery hours: 818-396-7588.

Kimberly-Ann Talbert at La Canada Library, through Sept 30; and she will be at Ventura Harbor Gallery on Sept 30 if you want to drop by.



Make a Note:

Upcoming Events

- Oct 6 Richard Martinez Demo
- Nov 3 Meeting
- Nov 6 Exhibition Take-In 1:00-3:00pm
La Canada Library
- Nov 18 Workshop with Rich Gallego

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Verdugo Hills Art Association

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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza
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Next Meeting
October 6

Next Board Meeting
October 9