



Newsletter

October 2018

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

Jimmy Wisnowski at October Meeting

by Nikki Thomas

October 5, 7:00pm at the La Canada Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr.



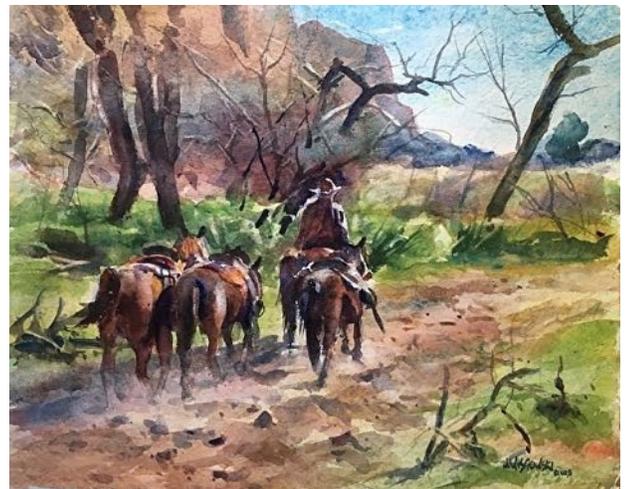
James (Jimmy) Wisnowski decided to become an artist after having grown up in the Midwest where he was always involved with the outdoors and nature. He found that painting was a way that he could share with others his personal connection with the trees, fields and mountains.

In order to pursue his new passion, he attended and graduated from the American Academy of Art. He has since become a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, and the Transparent Watercolor Society of America and many more including many in Chicago. He leads workshops in inspirational locations throughout Europe and the USA. He will be returning from a workshop in Sardinia (Italy) and Corsica (France) shortly before our meeting!

Jimmy finds both his spiritual, and artistic inspiration, in the quiet beauty and serenity of nature. These surroundings do not create a passive, sentimental imprint for him, but instead, out of these slowly disappearing landscapes, he finds his mission of capturing and documenting this ever-ephemeral environment for future generations. He shares for all to see the rediscovered beauty that may be lost or forgotten in every day subjects.

After relocating to California, the rocky coastlines, colorful fishing villages, national parks, and vineyards, and the urban scenes, continue to expand and inform his artistic horizons.

We are looking forward to the demonstration of his watercolor technique at our upcoming meeting.



President's Letter

by Sue Peacock

Our September meeting was so full of learning; what a great experience we had with Richard Scott! Thank you everyone for bringing in your art for us to see and for Richard to critique, and for so many of you contributing to the Artist of the Month competition. It was a delightful night.

When I arrived home I watched a PBS special on Andrew Wyeth. It was fun to analyze each of his paintings with my "new eyes" looking for areas of equal size, color or shape; seeing reflected light, such as the one Richard pointed out with the orange brown of the guitar needing to be reflected on the green vase, and vice versa; and finding the passion Wyeth's work.



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When I think of Andrew Wyeth I often see his painting of strong resilient Christina, lame and crawling up the hill, or the Helga series that he hid from his wife, but I hadn't seen the amazing portraits he drew of his neighbors, which I found vivid, real and raw.

Your board has been working very hard to find venues for our shows. We have several in the works. One option you may have heard about is an opportunity at Alhambra City Hall. We also have a location for the Artist of the Year Show and of course we will still have the Small Image Show at the Pasadena Library. Please continue to help by checking with galleries, libraries, and other places that display art, such as restaurants and stores, and let anyone on the board know when you've found a possible location.

Sue Peacock, President, 2018-19

Dues are Due!

If you're reading this before October 1, it's not too late: Membership fees are due now—\$35 for one or \$50 for a family. Mail to Suzanne Bitterman at 1400 Beaudry Blvd, Glendale, CA 91208, or bring them to the next meeting. Dues need to be paid **before Oct 1** to be sure you are included in the membership directory. (Also, dues go to \$40 after Oct 1).

“Critique” of the Critique - Richard Scott *by Angela Alvarenga*



Our “demo” artist for September, Richard E. Scott, landscape architect, artist, teacher, and author gave an exceptional and thorough critique of some members’ paintings and photographs. His experience as a teacher helped guide the artist to see deeper into their work and question their best composition. For his own paintings, Scott does not focus on narrative but emotion. When reviewing the paintings, he asked, “What is your highest pleasure?”— the shape that is the most satisfying and with a clear center of interest. This answer can be supported by two ideas he highlighted: first, *Composition* is 90% of the artwork, and second, consider *Color Harmony* and how colors relate to one another.

When critiquing on composition, Scott would flip a piece of artwork upside down to reevaluate the composition. Looking at the piece upside down helped the viewer see the layout in completely different manner. He would also use two pieces of blank paper to cover parts of the artwork to suggest different ways to crop the piece. Scott suggested it is important to consider composition as an abstract painter. Try taking geometric shapes and putting them together like a puzzle, to please the eye. He also emphasized the importance of doing a thumbnail sketch with tonal values. Thumbnails are like a science project experimenting on composition.



Color Harmony also plays a significant part in a successful piece of artwork. When bringing emotion to a piece, think of how colors effect the viewer. The brightest whites against the darkest darks pulls the eye where there is something to look at. Take note of “temperature.” Recessed areas will have the warmest colors in shadows. Lastly, imagine everything is made out of chrome and look at how other colors reflect other colors.

Scott took time to really critique these beautiful pieces, and the artists certainly loved his feedback and great advice for future artworks.



Artist of the Month *by Angela Alvarenga*



Arda Derian won first place in the Premiere category for her watercolor painting, *Storm Coming*. Arda is a retired art teacher and has been a member for four years. She loves to paint seascapes and lighthouses. *Storm Coming* is a large watercolor painting of a lighthouse and seascape. Her goal was to not overwork her painting with too much detail and really keep it loose. She first started painting mini seascapes 3"x5" as gifts to her co-teachers for her retirement. Arda loved teaching art and retired as an art teacher from Glendale Middle School. She also has a Masters in Art Education with a thesis on how to teach art. She noticed that elementary teachers did not know how to teach art for the sake of art. As part of her thesis she held workshops for the teachers and taught various styles, such as contour drawing, perspective and a packet on 10 famous artists. Her workshops allowed the teachers to be hands-on and openly try these styles and the styles of the 10 artists. Her overall objective was to help students be more observant.

Nikki Thomas won second place in the Premiere category for her watercolor painting titled, *Hibiscus*. She recently moved into a retirement community that has beautiful flowers. Everyday she walks her dogs and passes by these beautiful pink and white hibiscus bushes. When choosing the style, she was inspired by Brenda Swenson and her negative paintings. Nikki started painting in her 30's. She felt like she needed a brush in her hand and slowly started taking classes in Eagle Rock. She wanted to pick one medium and stick with it, she has been dedicated to watercolor ever since.



David Wolf won first place in the Open category for his acrylic painting, *Two Friends*. David was inspired by a photograph he had come upon. The artwork of the two trees was painted completely with a palette knife to maintain its freshness and to not get overworked. David sometimes paints in watercolor and oil but mostly in acrylic. He had dabbled in art when he was younger but got away from it for about 30 years. He has recently been able to return to it with more regularity thanks to his retirement. David has been a member of VHAA for about 10 years.

Dilmit Singh won second place in the Open category for her oil painting, *Skeptical*. Dilmit was inspired by a series that ran in the LA Times a couple of years ago on refugees from African and Asian continents. This tiny image of a young girl in a coarse blanket intrigued her and she was not only drawn towards the earthy colors of the photograph but the expression on her face - intense and skeptical. The stories that accompanied the pictures were heart wrenching but also uplifting as they described the resilience of the human spirit. She is currently in the process of completing two additional pieces that were part of the series.



Ever since Dilmit was little, she loved to paint. She never had the opportunity to receive any formal training so she experimented in many mediums - oils, watercolors and pastels. Being with a group of aspiring and accomplished artists is really motivating and the demonstrations and presentations in the monthly meetings have given her new insights

Please welcome new members:

Nikki Mojarradi of La Canada, Jennifer Thomasian of Glendale, and Hea-sook Yoo of Glendale.

Be sure to look for them and get to know them at our next meetings.

Art Thoughts - an occasional feature, space permitting

If you've read an art magazine, attended classes or workshops, watched an art video, come to a VHAA demo etc. you've heard these before. BUT do you practice them? Here's a few thoughts to "keep in mind", compiled from Judy Morris, Richard Scott, Fealing Lin, Tom Fong and every other art teacher you've known:

Look for good shapes and composition: check your painting by looking at it upside down, or in a mirror.

Repeat shapes, with variation i.e. papa, mama and baby sizes.

Check those edges: do you have hard, soft and lost?

Link your darks as they run through the painting.

Value does all the work. Color gets all the credit.

REMINDERS and NOTES

Don't forget the Joseph Stoddard Oct 20 workshop. Find sign up info on our website under "Activities" or click on this link: [Stoddard flyer](#)

If you missed [Kimberly-Ann Talbert's photographs](#) at Descanso, you can see them through Sept 29 at La Canada Library (check with the library for times the room is open).

[The VHAA ten artists show](#) is still up at USC-Verdugo Hills Hospital "Healing Arts" exhibition through October.

Membership Dues! \$35 for one or \$50 for a family. Mail to Suzanne Bitterman, 1400 Beaudry Blvd, Glendale, CA 91208, or bring them to the meeting. Dues need to be paid before Oct 1 for you to be included in the membership directory. Price goes up \$5 after Oct 1.



Make a Note:

Upcoming Events

Oct 5 - Jimmy Wisnowski, watercolor

Oct. 20 Workshop - Joseph Stoddard, watercolor

Jan 19, 2019 Workshop - Jay Ewing, drawing

Like us on FACEBOOK!
Verdugo Hills Art Association

2018 - 2019 Key Contacts

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Artist of the Month - Angela Alvarenga
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Next Meeting
October 5

Next Board Meeting
December 10