



# Newsletter

October 2019

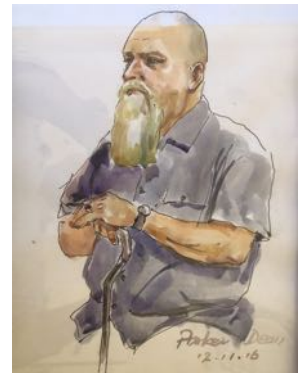
Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224  
[verdugoarts.org](http://verdugoarts.org) Jeanne Windoffer, Editor, [VHArt\\_News@yahoo.com](mailto:VHArt_News@yahoo.com)

## Portrait Painting Demo

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



Our demonstrating artist this month is Parker Dean. He was born in Shanghai and moved to the US to work at an international trading company. He started drawing at the age of 15, and his hard work and determination paid off. He has perfected his craft so well that he has 3 very famous students. He works in charcoal, watercolor, and oils, and his portraits effectively communicate a deeper meaning than what initially meets the eye.



He currently teaches at the senior center in Rosemead and also teaches for Central Health Plan of Calif in Alhambra. On Mondays he draws from live models at the Joslyn Senior Center in Alhambra.

This will be a different meeting for us, as you may have the opportunity to have your portrait done by Mr. Dean! Opportunity drawing tickets will be sold during the early part of our meeting. (\$1 each, proceeds benefit our scholarship fund). Winners will have their portrait done. We may have time for 5 or 6 drawings. Don't be late to the meeting, or you'll miss your chance!



## President's Message

by Mary Talwar

Aaaah! Fall is here—my favorite time of year! It's a great time for artists to paint some wonderful, colorful scenes. VHAA is off and running, and I hope you all enjoyed the demonstration by Robert Sherrill last month. As you'll note above, our next meeting, Oct 4th, will feature demonstrator, Parker Dean. Be sure to get tickets for the drawing if you'd like a chance to have your portrait sketched.

Also, be sure to let Sue Peacock know if you'd like to participate in the October show at Alhambra City Hall. She needs to know ASAP! There were some beautiful art pieces last year and we'd like to fill the space with your great artwork! More participation! We have some wonderful artists in our organization, let's flaunt our talents when we have the opportunity!

Happy Fall!!

Mary Talwar VHAA President



## Upcoming Exhibitions *Sue Peacock*

Fall show at Alhambra City Hall in October—UPDATE: I haven't heard from many artists, so it is now open to **all** members. Each piece is to be framed to a **minimum 16 x 20 inches**, with a **maximum framed width not to exceed 36 inches**. Space is somewhat limited so each person will be allowed to enter only one painting initially, but depending on entries there might be a chance for two. **Take-in** will be at Alhambra City Hall on **October 1, 9:30 - 10:00am**. If you cannot meet us there, then you may deliver your work to my house beforehand. **EMAIL ME** asap to reserve your spot. [suesingsbass2@gmail.com](mailto:suesingsbass2@gmail.com) (There will be no artists' reception for this exhibit).

Coming up in December we will have an exhibit at Diggs Realty. The size limit will be 16 x 20. For even smaller pieces, in February we will have our usual Small Image show at the Pasadena library where artwork/frame cannot be larger than 15 inches in any direction! Take advantage of these opportunities to exhibit your artwork!

## Robert Sherrill Palette Knife Demo Review *Angela Alvarenga*

Robert Sherrill gave us a fun and lively demo with his palette knife. To begin he talked about scouting out for ideas and inspiration. He takes a sketchbook or uses a camera and takes lots of photographs (to easily frame a composition and get quick ideas). Sherrill's sketchbook is filled with quick, small thumbnails that examine composition and rhythm. Usually black and white with minimal gray scales, the drawings can be sketched by marker or gouache, but are left loose and abstract to help find what is interesting in a piece. Sherrill encourages the artist to paint what interests them using their own ideas and opinions about things. He emphasizes the importance of shape, value and color.



Sherrill uses large palette knives and enjoys painting about color and texture. He does not overwork his paintings with detail but rather gives basic shapes enough detail to get a layout of where the artwork is going. He holds his palette knife very loosely to keep the painting loose.

To begin his demonstration he quickly painted a 5"x7" gray scale composition as a roadmap to guide his colored painting. Before starting a painting, he suggests making a light grid as "the *Rule of Thirds*" to help make an interesting composition and make sure the focal point was not directly in the center of the painting. He put his main focus, a tree, off to the left one-third of the canvas, and then worked with three values: white, mid tone and dark. The tree (focal point) used the mid value, while his dark shadows came forward and the bushes behind the tree were white to help make the tree pop.



Sherrill started his color painting with the sky. He put down white and blue and mixed right on the canvas. He then added a tiny smidge of red and lemon yellow in various places in the sky. These colors are mixed right on the canvas and create a variation of blues in the sky,

and sometimes create *happy accidents* that give a great look or mood. Sherrill doesn't mix too much or else the color will get grey. He saturated his tree to bring it closer while painting the background bushes blue grey to recede back. At first, he painted in a thin layer to leave room on the canvas to add more paint.



Throughout his demonstration, Sherrill continued to build on his painting by adding the giant tree, foliage, and leaving white spaces in the foreground shadow to let the light shine throughout the trees. He then grounded his tree by delicately bringing foliage and dead grass up and overlapping various bushes and rocks. He added small twigs, hanging branches and baby trees

Sherrill demo from p2

sprouting near the main tree. He might consider adding silhouetted objects to help lead the eye and help enhance the main tree.

Sherrill began with shape and value, moved to color and finished with bringing about emotion to the edges. Sherrill knows his paintings are complete when he gets working on the edges. He creatively brings his paintings to life with light and color. The backlight of the vibrant bush illuminated the tree. The heavy foreground shadow over the dead grass, the rocks, and twigs helped create a depth in this nature scene. Sherrill's demonstration was inspiring and insightful.



Sherrill teaches classes at the Creative Arts Group, The Huntington Library and Art Center.

*In Memoriam*

## Suzanne Bitterman

We are very sorry to report the passing of our dear friend, Suzanne, a few days ago. She had been having some health issues over the past few months, and we had been hoping to have her back with us this fall—sadly it was not to be.

Suzanne was a very long time member of the organization and served on our board of directors for many years. During these last several years she was a welcoming face at the membership table for our meetings. She always had the latest info on our members (past and present), and carried a lot of the history of our club in her head. We appreciated her thoughts at meetings, her willingness to help, and her sense of humor. She will be greatly missed.

A PDF of an article from our 2013 newsletter is attached with this emailed newsletter. It is a charming look back at her adventures with art.

## Artwork of the Month *by Angela Alvarenga*



**Joan Whitmore** won first place in this month's Art of the Month for her art piece *Tide Pool*. Her one of a kind piece was created by the technique, acrylic pouring or acrylic flow painting. A beautiful awe-inspiring painting that resembles the spontaneity of a tide pool, her painting is filled with a variety of cool blues, whites and warm reds. There is a multitude of circular shapes that make up the tide pool but no two shapes are alike. These unique shapes encourage the viewer to calmly move throughout the painting and enjoy every singular detail.

Joan has been working with acrylic pouring for almost 2 years. She took her first art class when she was 30 years old and considers herself a mixed media artist, having also worked in ceramics, porcelain, jewelry, woodwork, collage type book making and glass fusing. Acrylic pouring is a technique where acrylic paint is mixed with a pouring medium and silicone that does not completely mix into the paint creating *cell activity*. "The wonderful thing about this type of painting is everyone sees something different," explains Joan.

Upcoming themes for art of the month are:

October: "Inktober" pen and ink, Chinese Brush  
November: Collage/Mixed Media etc  
December: Watercolor, Pastel, Colored Pencil  
January: Texture (Any medium)

February: Photography  
March: 3-D challenge (sculpture/ceramic, etc)  
April: Sketchbooks  
May: Seascapes and "Mermaid" (Mermaids in May)  
June: Vote on Artwork of the Year



*REMINDERS and NOTES*

VHAA was well represented at the Glendale Open Art & Music Festival held September 4, 2019, with a wide array of artwork including jewelry, sun catchers, original watercolors, prints, stickers and a zine by the following intrepid members: [Judy Apablaza](#), [Pepe Apablaza](#), [Elana Goldheimer](#), [Jeanette Hey](#), [Angela Roberson](#), [Dilmit Singh](#), [Kimberly Ann Talbert](#), [Mary Talwar](#), [Nikki Thomas](#), [Jennifer Thomasian](#), [Kai Thomasian](#) and [Joan Whitmore](#). We are hoping to see some new faces at upcoming meetings as we had numerous questions about our group!

[Watercolor West and City of Brea Art Gallery](#) are presenting a series of watercolor demonstrations at the gallery. Presenting artists include Keiko Tanabe, Setsuko Okubo, John Dunn, Fr. Michael Tang and John Byram. For info visit [www.breagallery.com](http://www.breagallery.com). Also remember the 51st Annual Watercolor West exhibition will be October 12 through December 25 at the Brea Gallery, VHAA has 3 members juried into the show.

There may still be a spot for [Julie Crouch's workshop](#) "Watercolor Flowers with Negative Painting" to be held Saturday, Nov 2 from 9 to 4. Check with Arda at [aderian5@yahoo.com](mailto:aderian5@yahoo.com).

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Oct 4 Demo - Dean Parker, portrait](#)

[October Alhambra Exhibition](#)

[Nov 1 Demo - Julie Crouch Watercolor](#)

[Nov 2 - Julie Crouch Workshop](#)

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Info for the VHAA Newsletter? send to [VHArt\\_News@yahoo.com](mailto:VHArt_News@yahoo.com) by 12th of the month prior to the next issue.



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Next Meeting  
October 4

Next Board Meeting  
October 7