



Newsletter

October 2020

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

Shelley Matousek: Pine Needle Baskets, Oct 2

At our next meeting, VHAA member Shelley Matousek will use a mix of power point and video to present, “The Beginner’s Guide to Pine Needle Baskets.” She’ll show us how to make a basket from start to finish, answering questions at the end of each segment.

Shelley is an accomplished artist who weaves magic with her hands. When she first experienced basket weaving about 12 years ago, “it was love at first sight.” She feels a deep connection with the raw material, be it pine needles or gourds. She uses native pine, manzanita, pine cones, tar stones and grasses and explores their possibilities. Shelley believes that native organic and recycled materials reflect the mood of the artist and that wood, glass, agates and leather get a new lease on life in the form created design. The tactile act of creation doubles up as therapy and makes the end product a personal investment that symbolizes love and wellbeing.



A desire to expand her skills led her to learn glass fusion. She makes her own embellishments for the baskets by torching beads that add uniqueness to the pieces. She designs and executes based on the feel of the material. She exhibits at art galleries in Santa Fe, Los Angeles, Glendale and Montrose, and at museums and botanical gardens. In addition, she conducts classes at her studio, at high schools and at senior centers. A resident of Tujunga, Shelley has taught classes both in Colorado and New Mexico. She and her husband Steve—December’s demonstrator— exhibit their work on their two websites – www.pineneedlebasketryandgourdart.com and www.Matousekglassworks.com.

We are extremely happy to welcome Shelley to bring us this unique demo. Don’t forget to RSVP to VHAAMeetings@gmail.com to sign up for the meeting “invitation.”

President’s Message

Your Board and Committees hope you enjoyed Richard Scott’s gouache presentation at our September 4 meeting. Richard never fails to wow! We had a good turnout of members and a number of visitors. If you missed the meeting, be sure to read further to learn about the demonstration and we hope to see you (virtually) at our October meeting.



When was the last time you checked out the website (www.verdugoarts.org)? If it’s been a while, it’s a great resource for information and a great place to share your artwork. Artwork-of-the-Month is being posted on the website so be sure to check it out.

Did you know we have a Facebook page “Verdugo Hills Art Association?” And we’ll be ramping up an account on Instagram ([VHAA_insta](https://www.instagram.com/VHAA_insta)) so be sure to check them out, like, follow and whatever else to stay up-to-date and get involved with your club.

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President's Message continued

We continue to strive to make VHAA the premier arts organization around. I think we've done an outstanding job so far with fantastic presentations, workshops and more. There are lots of things in the pipeline as we work to develop more opportunities to learn, explore and meet fellow artists. Connect with us to be sure you don't miss a thing!

One of our goals this year is to expand our reach and increase membership. To do that, we need your help. It's really simple ... invite your family and friends to meetings (right now, there's no fee for visitors and guests), interact with our social media platforms, share your artwork and get involved.

We have a fascinating demonstration by Shelley Matousek of her pine needle basket weaving at our October 2 meeting so check out the description on page 1, and be sure to RSVP to vhaameetings@gmail.com.

Have an idea? Want to get involved? We would love to hear from you! Just shoot me an email to vhaameetings@gmail.com so we can get the conversation rolling!

I look forward to seeing you at our October 2 meeting. We'll be zooming for the foreseeable future so don't forget to RSVP as space is limited!

Jennifer Thomasian, President

Review of Richard Scott's Demo on Gouache *Angela Alvarenga*

Richard Scott gave a wonderful demonstration using gouache. Scott seamlessly gave the demonstration through ZOOM's online platform, so that members were able to watch-live and ask Scott questions from their home. Scott shared how he prefers to paint in gouache when he is on the go. He uses his gouache paintings as studies to capture color, photographs for details and then will return home to do a watercolor painting of his study. He noted that the medium is similar to watercolor but is opaque. He uses a Masterson's palette, a Staedtler 1.3mm mechanical pencil and keeps a variety of brushes from bristle, hog hair, round synthetic and a liner. He prefers to paint on 5"x7" Stonehenge paper and keeps the painting no larger than his hand.



When beginning the under-sketch, Scott looks for center points in his composition and compares the placement of objects to each other while measuring gaps and distances. He likes to keep the sketch rough and will even block in the shadows because they are also shapes that help with placements of other shapes/elements in a composition. Scott feels speed is critical for on-the-go sketching because shadows are always changing.

Gouache is a fast drying medium. Once Scott begins to put down paint, he will consider if the color is too light or too dark. He then begins to cover the paper before he works on refining any parts of the painting. Scott likes to dance around from one area to another and never think about details but just shapes. Once the paper is filled, he will again compare how light and dark parts compare to one another and find areas that may need to be changed. Some tips he shared were that he uses quinacridone gold to help mute violet, and uses gum Arabic to keep his darks from looking too dull.

The finished painting really caught the essence of the building, and truly expressed the interesting features of the image he wanted to capture. I know many of us were wondering how good a Zoom meeting would be. I think everyone felt they had an up-close, front row seat to this terrific demo of using gouache to create a lovely and useful sketch.

Art of the Month Sue Peacock

This month we had 16 wonderful entries! Thank you everyone. Our winners for September in the field of Watercolors were:



Dilmit Singh for *Queen of Cereus*. You must go to Dilmit's website to read the full story of this painting <https://www.dilmitsingh.com/post/the-queen-of-cereus-a-la-the-gorettians>. Dilmit grew up in India. As a young girl, she dabbled in both watercolors and oils but never had an opportunity to formally engage in drawing or painting. She is primarily self-taught, but in the last few years since becoming a member of the Verdugo Hills Art Association in 2017, she has participated in workshops with Gerald Brommer, Richard Scott, Keiko Tanabe, and Julie Crouch. Dilmit is a keen observer of nature and human behavior. She loves to interpret her observations in various themes, mediums, subjects and colors.

She recently retired from a forty-year career in education and is an avid supporter of arts in education. She has used the months during quarantine to practice her watercolors and create a series of oil paintings depicting the California landscape.

Jean Essa earned a second place ribbon with her painting *Summer Nights* which is from a photo she took when she was in Grand Marais, Minnesota. She goes home every summer to visit her sisters. While she is home, she and her sisters take a trip up the Northshore for a "painting retreat." This painting reminds her of home every time she looks at it.

She says, "I started painting three years ago. Watercolor is the only medium I know so far. I originally painted a 6x9 of this scene and liked it, so I decided to do a larger version, using Scarlet Lake by Winsor Newton for the sky. The challenge for me is always the reflections in the water. Practice, practice, practice!"



Pepe Apablaza took third place, in an extremely tight race, with *Morning in Prague*. He and Judie visited Prague five years ago and he wanted to catch the square without a lot of people. He ventured out early in the morning taking lots of photos. He recently picked this as a subject.

Although I knew Pepe was a graphic designer and commercial artist by profession, I didn't know he only took up watercolor painting when he retired eight years ago. He began taking classes with April Drew Foster offered at the Highland Park Senior Center, and has also taken from Jay Ewing, Brenda Swenson, Fealing Lin and others. He says he doesn't consider himself an artist because in his work he always had to be exact, and he thinks he doesn't have the artistic interpretation that his wife Judie has. He is inspired by artist Richard Reardon.

Submit your Art of the Month entry to dave_vhaa@yahoo.com any time during the month, but **no later than Tuesday, September 29th. Voting will be from noon on Thursday, Oct 1, to Friday noon, Oct 2.**

Upcoming Art of the Month Categories:

October: Pen and Ink, November: Acrylic/Oils, December: Landscapes, January: Mixed Media, February: Portraits, March: 3-Dimensional/Sculpture/ Glass/Pottery, April: Photography, May: Seascapes

Ready for the next ZOOM meeting?

Remember to RSVP "yes" to vhaameetings@gmail.com by Sept 30 to get the emailed link for our October 2 meeting. Then sign in a few minutes early that Friday evening so we can start our meeting promptly at 7pm.

Member Reminders:

Dues are \$35 for one, \$50 for family, payable to Verdugo Hills Art Association. Mail your checks to VHAA, P. O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224. Membership dues pays for demonstrators and costs of running all activities and exhibitions, and ensures you get our email newsletter with necessary information, demo recaps, workshop updates etc, as well as invitations to our monthly ZOOM meetings, until we are able to resume in person. Help keep VHAA a “going concern” and a source for our local artistic community for demos, information and events.

Remember to send in your pen/ink artwork entry for this month’s art of the month by Sept 29! Email to dave_vhaa@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

November 6 Demo - JoAnn Formia
Watercolor

December Demo - Steve Matousek
Firing glass beads/tiles

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[Verdugo Hills Art Association](#)

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
Oct 2 - ZOOM

Next Board Meeting
Oct 5