



Newsletter

November 2015

Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224
verdugoarts.org Dave Crandon, Editor, dave_vhaa@yahoo.com

Pete Morris, "The Metro Da Vinci," to demonstrate on Nov 6

by Sara Griggs

Pete Morris, known as "The Metro Da Vinci" makes the time to paint wherever he goes. This month Pete will be illustrating his technique for doing a quick portrait and a street scene in watercolor for our VHAA monthly meeting. His work spans from drawings and paintings of scenes along the classic Route 66, the daily grind of people going to work as in his Metro series, images from a LA jazz scene, to paintings illustrating a mission to Guatemala of life changing surgery on children in need. Pete Morris puts down his reflections of life on paper as he lives it.

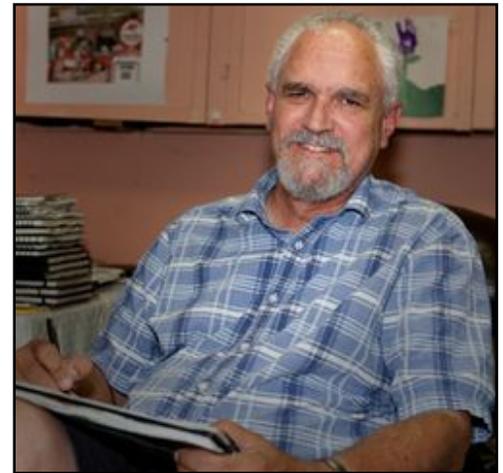


6:00 AM Tree

He prefers to draw on location - to interact with his environment. "There is really nothing that can take its place. It might not be better, but it's more real than real." His work is that of a storyteller and he captures the essence of daily life.

Pete has published a few books of his paintings and sketches, and has been featured in a number of YouTube videos. His work was recently displayed at a one-man show at Azusa Pacific University and at the SPACE gallery in South Pasadena. Please take the time visit [his Facebook page](#) to see a beautiful selection of his work.

In addition to his Facebook page, we particularly enjoy two Youtube videos that give a great introduction to Pete as a good painter, teacher, and person. First, check out [a video called "The Metro Da Vinci,"](#) a wonderful introduction to his work. After that, watch [a video called "The Artist in the OR,"](#) about a series of watercolor paintings Mr. Morris recently completed while in Guatemala on a surgical mission with Mending Kids, a non-profit organization that deploys surgical teams worldwide to provide life-changing surgeries to children here in the U.S. and in developing countries.



Far East Cafe

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VHAA November Exhibition

by *Lee Sanderson*

Due to the library being tied up on Saturday, October 31, Verdugo Hills Art Association has set the take-in date and judging date to Saturday, November 7th, from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. We have a new hanging system with limited hooks and lines but it is very efficient and improves the overall appearance of our art exhibits. There is a limit of three submissions per member and it costs \$10.00 per work. Chuck Kovacic is our juror and he will begin the judging promptly at 10:00. The take-down date is the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend, November 28, from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. If members who have submitted work for the show are intending to be out of town that weekend, they need to make arrangements to have their work picked up by another member.

Artists of the Month

by *Judie Apablaza*



Judie Apablaza,
"A Splash of Color"

Judie Apablaza is our first place winner, with a still life titled "A Splash of Color." Judie works in watercolor and prefers to work with the natural world in the form of still life, florals and landscapes. April Drew Foster's recent class presented a unique opportunity for painting a still life set up with Hydrangeas. Judie completes a fairly detailed drawing before she adds any watercolor. Jay Ewing, Fealing Lin and Richard Scott stand out as instructors who have also added tips and encouragement over the last three years.

Judie is a recently retired college professor in the field of Psychology. She has also worked with victims of domestic violence and adults with disabilities, besides other mental health issues requiring testing and counseling. Now, she states, is the time to return to her childhood passion: drawing and watercolor.



Diane Bernstein,
"Self Portrait"

Judie always sketched as a child and received a summer scholarship to Otis Art Institute while in middle school. Her pastel art was featured on the walls at Swain's Art Supply while she was in high school. Many mentors have stated that the field of art, like any other discipline, requires dedication and practice. Judie is so appreciative of the encouragement and community spirit that the VHAA provides to its members.

Diane Bernstein is our second place winner. Diane was interested in replacing her self portrait on her Facebook page. The original watercolor that she had painted in the past featured her in costume and seemed "too stiff." She felt that it did not adequately reflect her personality. The new self portrait in watercolor reflects her "true self" as she is at the present time. Diane had been taking Sheri Garwood's classes at McGroarty Art Center. With Sheri's encouragement she produced her current self portrait. She states that "portraits are easy" for her and the process just seems to flow naturally.

Diane attended the Art Center College of Design and worked in the commercial art field before she was a stay-at-home mom. Diane identifies herself first and foremost as an advocate for the special needs community. She calls herself an "art coach" and works with children with disabilities and their families. She states that she was changed by her own child and has worked tirelessly to attain funding to support programs for children and parents dealing with the challenges of autism and other special need issues. We are so pleased to have such a dedicated person as a member of our art club.

President's Letter

by Sue Peacock

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find all the activities of VHAA so this month I'll just share some thoughts with you.

As I write this I'm in Las Vegas watching the Sweet Adelines' international contest. The quartets and choruses are at various levels of mastery of their craft, although all qualified at a lower level to compete. In art or music we are being judged on our current abilities; whether we paint, do collage, sculpt or throw, shoot photos, or sing only for our own enjoyment, we want to show improvement.

Next year I will be a chorus competitor at international. I know we will not win because there are many other choruses bigger and better but we will be there to face the world, to show how much we've improved. And we will have amazing fun doing it!

My focus this year is improving my technical and artistic skills in both my art and music. So I am going to bring my art to the world - my world of VHAA. And again I will have amazing fun doing it! You'll see me entering the Artist of the Month contests and our shows, because no one will know that I've improved if I don't show where I've started. Please join me on the risers - oops the Artist of the Month tables and library exhibits. Show the world your love and enjoyment of your art!

See you at the meeting,
Sue

100 Paintings for \$100

by Lee Sanderson

(Editor comment: Lee is having an inventory reduction sale of paintings she has accumulated over her years of painting. The sale is at her home, 828 Landmark Lane in La Canada, on October 17 and 18, from Noon until 4PM. Following are her thoughts and feelings on undertaking such an effort.)

Holding such a sale is a big decision because when you put up so many for sale, many of the paintings are like your children. You are attached to the creative process that produced the work and there is something about each one that you rather like and many are outright bargains...ones that you will miss emotionally. The sale includes works from the last 20 years. It is somewhat like a retrospective of my work. They are all sizes, many are quite large and more than half are framed. Even the unframed ones are on canvas and the sides are painted for immediate hanging.

They all have a mini history. Some were featured paintings from my three years of exhibiting at Descanso Gardens, some like the ones that I painted for my son-in-law's wine store, are paintings that were created with a sense of celebration and have come to be a bad reminder of a wine store business that didn't work and a marriage that didn't work. Those are three large paintings of vineyards on black canvas. My daughter and her children have moved on in life so we will all be glad to say farewell to those pieces.

Water colors, oils, and acrylics are offered for sale. They represent a variety of subject matter and they seem to appeal to a variety of people off the street and from the neighborhood. There are racing horses, potted flowers, sunrise on a pier with a surfer walking down a beach, charcoal drawings of French waiters etc. I rather like being a 57 Varieties artist. Speaking of the people who come to the sale, these are often people who would not go to a gallery. They are people who are not going to shell out what the paintings are actually worth but when they come to examine all that color and choice that is on display the length of my long driveway, there is a sense of joy and there is a lot of interaction and discussion of the works. The shoppers seem to enjoy the sense of possibility to buy such works on a whim. If they don't buy anything, they've had a gallery experience without the pressure or the stuffiness of a gallery.

On the monetary side, it helps to clear the storage house that my husband built for me. It leaves room for something new that I might yet paint and my granddaughter can use the proceeds for college. All in all, the paintings, too, get to be displayed somewhere, enjoyed by someone who entertained a "whim." Everyone benefits.

Not-to-be-missed happenings

Watercolor West - Recognized as the leaders in the transparent watercolor technique, Watercolor West once again presents an exhibition of the finest examples of the watercolor medium. This year's juror, Stephen Quiller, selected entries submitted from all over the world. A demonstration and lecture series will accompany the exhibition. The exhibition runs from October 17 through December 13 at the Brea Gallery, located at the Brea Civic and Cultural Center, 1 Civic Center Circle, in Brea. For more information, please visit <http://breagallery.com>.

Works on Paper - Right in our own backyard is a superb show, the Brand 43 Works on Paper Annual Juried Exhibition at the Brand Library, at 1601 West Mountain Street in Glendale. The juror is Ken Twitchell, a muralist and grand scale artist whose larger-than-life portraits, often of celebrities and artists, are iconic in Los Angeles and beyond. The exhibition runs through the end of October.

Gerold Brommer 200 - The San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center is hosting *Gerold Brommer 200: For the Love of Art*. Brommer has produced 200 new works for this show (primarily his signature watercolors) and is generously gifting 60% of all sales to help the Arts & Cultural Center, which is located at 18312 Oxnard Street, in Tarzana, and is open Tuesday - Saturday from 11AM until 5PM. The show continues through October 24.

Julie Hill's Demonstration

by Sara Griggs

Julie Hill, who is currently teaching an online computer watercolor course, and has taught at the Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre, was the VHAA demonstrator for October. Julie shared her palette colors and brush preferences with the group. She uses as a reference photographs which she has taken on her iPad. For our demonstration she did a street scene of the intersection of Hollywood and Vine - buildings, cars, people and the requisite palm trees. She had lightly sketched her topic and applied frisket to save some of her whites prior to the meeting. Working quickly, Julie's brush danced across the paper. Her tips were great. One was if you have signage, people, cars or a door, that turns out to be a painting's focal point. Any time you have lettering melt it up a bit so that it doesn't look contrived and take the viewer out of the picture. You want the eye to question what it is seeing - keeping the viewer engaged. Try not to distract from the story or focal point that you are creating. Using contrasting warm and cool paints she tells her story. I think the group thoroughly enjoyed her demonstration and I envied the person who won her picture.



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Upcoming Meetings
Nov 6, Dec 4

Board Meetings
Nov 9, Dec 7