



# Newsletter

November 2020

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)

## JoAnn Formia - Watercolor Demo Nov. 6



JoAnn Formia recently received an email statement that she proudly displays across her website's landing page. It is overlaid on an intriguing watercolor painting of a centipede kite: "Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes....Art is knowing which ones to keep." She is an award winning artist who has been recognized in a multitude of exhibitions and shows including some in Taiwan and Spain. JoAnn learned painting from many noted artists including Oscar Van Young, Robert Uecker, Henry Fukuhara and Milford Zornes. She recounts it was Uecker who taught her that every stroke counted. She has enjoyed many memorable art trips/workshops

which she finds are enriching experiences that not only improve her watercolor practice, but create camaraderie among people with similar interests.



JoAnn paints both plein air and in her studio. She works primarily in watercolor and loves compositions depicting structures, urban symbols, landscapes, seascapes, florals and still life. Her small outdoor sketches take greater shape and form in her studio. She determines the colors based on the temperature, season, location and subject and is drawn to warmer hues but says that all colors are up for grabs. As a watercolorist, she believes that the paint guides the direction of the art work. Her belief is that artists cannot go wrong if they allow an accidental drip or a run to become a creative moment and utilize the formation in the art work, rather than panic.

She does not have a specific technique: some of her pieces are loosely painted while others are controlled and tight. She says "the subject helps me decide which path I take to complete the painting." In addition to watercolor, she has been using water-soluble color pencils and ink when appropriate. JoAnn will demonstrate a "structural" composition and share techniques for enhancement and variety in completing a piece.

JoAnn holds Signature status in the Transparent Watercolor Society, American Watercolor Society, California Watercolor Association and Master Signature status in Watercolor West. She has juried many shows. You can see her art work at [www.joannformia.com](http://www.joannformia.com).

## President's Message

*Jennifer Thomasian*

I am so proud to be a member of Verdugo Hills Art Association, and to be associated with such a talented group of artists. Your work inspires me!

If you missed our Oct. meeting— the pine needle basket weaving and stunning work being produced by our own Shelley Matousek—you'll want to check out the article on Page 2, for a glimpse of her wonderful demonstration.

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## President's Message continued

You've probably already read the info on our not-to-be-missed watercolor demonstration by JoAnn Formia coming up Nov. 6 Be sure to RSVP to [vhaameetings@gmail.com](mailto:vhaameetings@gmail.com) Our meetings are free to guests and visitors so invite your family, friends and fellow artists...just ask them to RSVP as well in order to get the meeting link. Or forward them a newsletter so they can see what we're about.

Speaking of seeing what we're all about, we would love to see what you've been doing. There are several ways you can share your work with us: Enter a piece into "Art of the Month" (November is Oils/Acrylics); Have some of your work uploaded to Facebook (contact Angie Alvarenga for details at [angela.roberson@gmail.com](mailto:angela.roberson@gmail.com)); have work uploaded to Instagram (contact Joan Whitmore at [joans\\_art@yahoo.com](mailto:joans_art@yahoo.com) for info); contact [Dave\\_VHAA@yahoo.com](mailto:Dave_VHAA@yahoo.com) about having some of your paintings uploaded to "Quarantine Creations" on our website.

Lastly I need some help to develop "VHAA-On-The-Go," a regular gathering (frequency to be determined based on interest) to share our passion for art by exploring museums, galleries, going to lectures, talking about art or watching a video...there's a plethora of videos available on the Internet and YouTube. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in helping put together or that you'd like to participate in, please email me at [vhaameetings@gmail.com](mailto:vhaameetings@gmail.com) so I can gauge interest and nudge this project along.

I look forward to seeing you at our Nov. 6 meeting. We'll be zooming for the foreseeable future so don't forget to RSVP, as space is limited!

Jennifer Thomasian



## Review: Pine Needle Baskets Demo by Shelley Matousek



The wrap technique

At our October meeting, Shelley gave a great presentation creating pine needle baskets. She talked us through the process, inserting a photo or video of the technique from time to time to better illustrate how the piece gets put together.

First she explained about how to get pine needles (gather them yourself or purchase), and how to prepare them (wash and take off the rough "caps" that hold the 3 pieces of each "needle"). Later on she gave a tip on how to keep the thickness of your coil of pine needles uniform (loved this - use a short piece of a plastic straw!).

To begin the basket she used a round piece of leather for the "bottom" that had holes along the edges. You take a handful of needles and wrap/sew them into place along the bottom (through the holes) using a blunt tapestry needle and appropriate thread or sinew. She illustrated adding to the row length by adding/pushing 3 needles at a time into the coil as you move along, wrapping the needles into the coil shape. Then continue the wrap/sew at each bottom hole, adding more needles as necessary, eventually moving along the edge to a start a new row. (I promise it made more sense watching her than from this description!)



Finished basket



Some with solid bottom, some coiled

You can also make the basket just with coiled pine needles, but using a leather, wood or other round bottom to start is easier until you have the technique. It requires really very simple tools and supplies, a bit of preparation—like any art or craft—and of course, practice! But coming away from the meeting I felt it was very doable, which is always a good feeling after being exposed to something new. Shelley is not only a fabulous teacher, she's also an amazingly creative artist doing things outside the box (or basket)! To learn more about Shelley, or sign up for classes visit her website at [www.pineneedlebasketryandgourdart.com](http://www.pineneedlebasketryandgourdart.com) .

## Art of the Month Sue Peacock

This month we had 14 wonderful entries! Thank you everyone. Our winners for October are as follows:



*The Other Side of the Road* by **Jeanne Windoffer** won first place for Pen and Ink. "I drew this sketch while at my brother-in-law's "cabin" in Big Bear last month. Our family was enjoying the much fresher air, blue skies, and some family togetherness on a weekend away—board games, walks with the grandsons and an opportunity to get out my trusty Preppy fountain pen, Noodlers Lexington Gray ink, and Aquabee sketchbook to capture some of the surroundings. It's always a bit tricky for me to decide how best to portray the darker color of the cabins or trees versus the shadows, but it's a great thing to work on while sitting with a cup of coffee on a porch in the mountains!"

**David Crandon's** whimsical *Awaiting the Return of Flower Power* was second place in Pen and Ink. "I do a lot of what I think of as almost scribbling - drawing quick cartoonish faces, hoping for one with a particularly interesting look. Most of them end up in the trash and a few are keepers. When I find one that I like, I then try to find a caption that suggests a story. Indeed, a good caption is essential for a finished piece. When I have that, I go back and "complete" my sketch. In the case of "Awaiting the Return of Flower Power," that meant adding the flowers in the hair and in hand. I really enjoy playing with my cartoonish sketches. It is fascinating that a slight difference in the inclination of a small line, or a slight squiggle in place of a smooth curve, can have a big impact on a cartoon face. My art education? - I don't have any beyond scribbling my way through school."



**Dale Frazier** won first place in Pencil, for her delightful presentation of *Buddhist Monk*. She responded to my questions by saying, "My drawing of the Buddhist monk was inspired by a photograph that I found. It was his expression that inspired me to draw him. It was as if he had a secret that he wanted to share with us. Since I was a little girl I have always been interested in art and drawing. I graduated from CSUN with an Art History major and a minor in ceramics. I enjoy taking art classes and since retiring, I have taken art classes at Glendale College, several with Jay Ewing and Virginia Hein, and also from April Foster, Madelein Aviron and Sharon Wilson. It seems my fingers are always somewhere in the creative process - from needlepoint to watercolor."

Second place in Pencil went to **Pepe Apablaza** for his stunning white pencil on black paper drawing, *Our Future VP*. "I was inspired by a very high contrast photo in an election article in the LA Times. I was fascinated by the fact that basically the lit part of the photo determined the features of the person, so just by using a white pencil I drew only the white shapes without thinking of them as facial features, and the result...Kamala Harris's likeness appeared."



**Submit your Art of the Month entry to [dave\\_vhaa@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_vhaa@yahoo.com) any time during the month, but **no later than Tuesday, November 3**. Voting will be from noon on Thursday, Nov. 5, to Friday noon, Nov. 6.**

Be sure to include your name, title of your work, medium, and size of image.

*Upcoming Art of the Month Categories:*

November: Acrylic/Oils, December: Landscapes, January: Mixed Media,

February: Portraits, March: 3-Dimensional/Sculpture/ Glass/Pottery, April: Photography,

May: Seascapes

## Reminders:

Even though we are not holding “in person” meetings, membership is still important for the organization. Your membership entitles you to receive our email newsletter with demo recaps and info on upcoming events and activities. Dues pay for our monthly demonstrators, organizational costs, postage, fees etc. We know these are uncommon times, and you may not have the resources to renew your monetary support at this time—**you’re still welcome as a member this year!** But if you are able, your paid membership (\$35 for one, \$50 for family) will help keep us on track and ready for the day we can all meet again.

**Mail your checks payable to Verdugo Hills Art Association to  
VHAA, P. O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224.**

The **Watercolor West 52nd Exhibition** is now open at the Brea Gallery, and on-line from the Gallery’s website. Visit <http://breagallery.com> for information on visiting the gallery, or to see the virtual tour. Member Cherrie O’Hagan has a painting in the show!

Don’t forget to RSVP to [vhameetings@gmail.com](mailto:vhameetings@gmail.com) for our November meeting!

## Upcoming Events

November 6 Demo - JoAnn Formia  
Watercolor

December 4 Demo - Steve Matousek  
Glass Jewelry

January 4 Demo - Virginia Hein  
Watercolor Sketching

February 5 Demo - Joey Huynh  
Watercolor/Collage

March 5 Demo - Dorothy Chung  
Gouache

April 2 Demo - Julie Crouch  
Watercolor

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Verdugo Hills Art Association

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  
Nov 6 - ZOOM

Next Board Meeting  
Dec 7