



Newsletter

December 2015

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

Mixed Media Artist Lisa Agaran to Demonstrate on December 4th



Lisa Agaran is a professional Mixed Media Artist and Instructor. After graduating from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California, Lisa began her artistic career as a graphic designer. She worked in the corporate arena for 18 years with companies such as Disney, Nestle and Toyota. With a background in psychology specializing in creativity, she also worked as a therapist, creativity coach and taught one of the core certification courses at the Creativity Coaching Association where she also trained under renowned creativity coach, Eric Maisel. Lisa currently teaches various Mixed Media, Visual Art Journaling and Creativity Enhancement Workshops.



*Mixed media collage and found objects
on up cycle wood*

Lisa's technique is spontaneous and often intuitive. She allows each piece to dictate the direction it wants to go. Forms, themes and textures organically emerge, guiding the next step in the process and so on. She finds this mindful path an opportunity to surrender to the moment, without a predetermined plan.

Through a blend of different acrylic mediums, her original photography, collage and found objects, she channels and transforms the subconscious into art. As Lisa describes her work, "One of the most marked characteristics in my work is the mysterious, ethereal dream-like feel of the imagery. When we dream, our subconscious creates scripts as an avenue to uncover meaning, clarity and resolution to our waking life. In the same way, I strive to produce work that invites the viewer to cultivate his or her own individual experience by projecting their own interpretations onto the piece."



*Mixed media acrylic and collage
on 3/4" wood panel*

To learn more about Lisa, and to see her work, visit [her web site](#) and check out two videos, one showing [her lotus series](#), and another in which [she introduces herself and describes her workshops](#).

2015 - 2016 Key Contacts

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Artist of the Month - Judith Apablaza
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A fantastic November exhibition

What an event! We had one of our highest participation exhibitions in years, with 60 entries, and including the largest collection of photographs in more than 20 years! And all of this member creative work was submitted on a day when our take-in time was constrained to just one hour. Fortunately, Lee Sanderson had the help of a record number of volunteers taking in and hanging the work. The result is a beautiful display of some very impressive member work. Please make sure to stop in to visit the exhibition during November, before the 28th, at the La Canada Library.

Best in Show	David McCully, <i>Backstreet View</i>
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	Open Division	Premier Division	Honors Division	Photography
First Place	Jeanne Windoffer <i>Last of the Golden Days</i>	Grant Wood <i>First Out</i>	April Drew Foster <i>Medieval Brittany</i>	Kimberly-Ann Talbert <i>Illuminated Splash</i>
Second Place	Lee Johnson <i>Blue Fish</i>	Joyce Peterson <i>Chicken Feed</i>	Cherrie O'Hagan <i>Prelude in D Minor</i>	Kimberly-Ann Talbert <i>Egret</i>
Third Place	Lee Johnson <i>The Umbrella</i>	Ann Carpenter <i>Morning Ablution, Santa Barbara</i>	Cherrie O'Hagan <i>Stormy Day</i>	Pepe Apablaza <i>Crossing the Petals</i>
Honorable Mention	David Wolf <i>Quiet Afternoon</i>	Barbara Thorn-Otto <i>Coast Line</i>	Dorothy Shepherd <i>Artist's Block</i>	Joan Whitmore <i>Morro Rock</i>



Backstreet View
David McCully



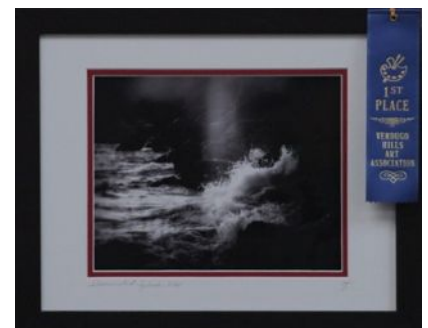
Medieval Brittany
April Drew Foster



First Out
Grant Wood



Last of the Golden Days
Jeanne Windoffer



Illuminated Splash
Kimberly-Ann Talbert

Please join us for our paint-in on Nov 21. It's free!

I will be at the November paint-in at the Citibank in Montrose on Honolulu at 9:00 am. The room is in the back and down the stairs. Please join me and others to have a place to paint without any obligations from the home front. Just come to have a good day painting and have feedback if you want. Bring your own paint supplies. Montrose is having their Art Walk the same day and you could walk around visiting other painters. Don't forget a snack and lunch, either brought from home or bought in Montrose. Every third Saturday we will be having an activity, such as paint-ins or workshops. Check our website for the current month. Hope to see you there, Nikki

Artists of the Month

by Judie Apablaza



Light, Lilacs and Lace
Ann Carpenter

Our first place winner in the “Premier Category”, Ann Carpenter, titled her lovely watercolor composition “Light, Lilacs and Lace.” We can almost catch the scent of the blue lilacs in the vase as they sit on a drawing room table, crowning the middle of a 100 year old Battenburg lace tablecloth. (Battenburg lace was developed in the 1800s and revived the English lace-making industry.) Ann has borrowed the tablecloth on many occasions from her sister-in-law who inherited it from her grandmother. There is also a deeper connection to family, with memories of gathering wild lilacs around the family cabin in Big Bear.

Ann rediscovered the drawing of her lilac and lace composition that she has put away in storage. After eleven years she resumed her painting. The painting will be given to her sister-in-law with all the fond memories and hours of work that went into this intricate watercolor painting. Ann would like us to be aware that she did not use any masking fluid in the preparation and completion of this art work. We have written about Ann on other occasions and always look forward to her display of skill and attention to detail.



Pot Full of Daisies
Barbara Thorn-Otto

Our second place winner, in the “Premier Category” is Barbara Thorn-Otto. Barbara is not a stranger to the winners circle and we have been pleased to interview her about her career and accomplishments in the past. Her watercolor titled, “Pot Full Of Daisies” was a standout with the members and guests. The fluid composition and delicate nature of the painting was balanced out by a contrasting, darker background and the pastel quality of the well-placed flowers. The composition has an almost animated quality. Barbara completed this painting in her neighbor’s backyard. Barbara and several painting friends still get together with their teacher from Brand Studio in Glendale. Her neighbor has a stunning garden, thanks to her knowledge and expertise gleaned from her part-time work at Sheridan Gardens. Truly the airiness and spontaneity of the painting makes us think of a sunny day. We are pleased to have Barbara as one of our Verdugo Hills Art Association’s loyal and active members.

Nikki Thomas was our blue ribbon winner in the “Open Category.” She gave us a playful moment with her watercolor painting titled, “Give Me A Kiss.” These two elephants romping and playing caught Nikki’s eye, as she happened to see the pair at play in a unique magazine photograph. The pair had their trunks crossed as they turned and greeted one another. Her inspiration was the spontaneous action and fluid quality of these seemingly ponderous animals. She captured the moment in a delicate and luminous quality that only watercolor can capture.



Give Me a Kiss
Nikki Thomas

Nikki has many interests and tireless energy. She describes herself as a “practical person” but we know that her practical bookkeeping career in the field of banking has also balanced out with years of musical and visual art expressions. She started out with childhood “paint-by-the-numbers” and tole painting. Her other passion has also been music and specifically singing with her church choir and with the Sweet Adelines for 10 years. When she explored an art class at Cal State Los Angeles, she said “she was hooked” on art. Nikki is not content to hide her talents and interests, rather she shares and encourages us with her warmth and enthusiasm for art.

Local Shows by Members

Please let us know if you are doing a show so we can publicize it. For instance, Nikki Thomas and Arda Derian are both selling their art at the Woman’s Club of South Pasadena, 1424 Fremont Ave, South Pasadena, on December 5th, 9:30 to 3:00. There will also be a bake sale, jams, candies, \$7.50 lunch and a raffle. Also, Kimberly-Ann Talbert, who just placed first in the photography division in our November exhibition, will be showing her Spirit Gourd Vessels at the La Canada Library during November. In addition, if you feel like a drive to the ocean, Kimbelry-Ann will be showing her photography and jewelry at the Buenaventura Gallery, at 700 E Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA 93001 from November 17th through December 31st.

Presidents' Letter

by Sue Peacock

Thank you all for your contributions to our fall show! We have sixty pieces of art hanging in the La Canada Library, and the exhibition looks tremendous. Come by and check out the show! You'll find there are more photos and photographers, as well as perhaps some of the highest quality of art in years. Thanks also go to all the volunteer workers who jumped in to help with the much shortened take-in and judging time.

It is a privilege to be allowed to display our work at the library. If you plan to visit, please remember that the library uses the Community Room for occasional activities, at which times the room may be closed.

The Watercolor West juried show continues in Brea through December 13th. Three of our members have entries: Julie Crouch, Tom Fong, and Devorah Friedman.

We want to get ideas from our members about ways in which we might make our club more fun and/or valuable for you, and encourage more participation in our many activities. A committee from the VHAA board will be phoning some of you to ask a few questions, so please think about the club: what makes it special to you; how might we improve what we offer; what would you like to see and hear; how can we improve our meetings?

We hope your celebrations of the holidays at this time of the year are joyous, filled with good food, family and friends.

We hold our monthly meetings on the first Friday evening of the month at 7:00P.M. at the Community Center of La Canada Flintridge, located at 4469 Chevy Chase Dr, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011



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Upcoming Meetings
Dec 4, Jan 8

Board Meetings
Dec 7, Jan 11