



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)

## Karl Dempwolf will demo at Dec. 1 Meeting

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



California artist Karl Dempwolf has a deep love of nature. When he sets up his paint box, he says, "It's not really important that it's going to turn into some fantastic painting. It's just the act of being out in nature all by myself, sitting in God's creation, and putting something down on canvas." His colorful scenes evoke an impressionistic style by combining painterly brushwork with vibrant color. Dempwolf has dabbled in still lifes and portraits, but his passion remains in painting the land and the sea. He is always striving to make his work stand out by painting scenes that reflect "my awe of the masses, shapes, and design elements encountered in nature, as well as the inspiration I receive on a much grander spiritual scale." Karl will demonstrate in oils his own delightful, insightful style of California Impressionism.

Dempwolf received a Lifetime Achievement Award during the sixth annual Plein Air Convention & Expo in April 2017. He is a signature member of the California Art Club and also gained notoriety when President Barack Obama presented one of his paintings to German Chancellor Angela Merkel as a diplomatic gift in 2016.

Dempwolf spent his childhood growing up in the picturesque Bavarian countryside but at the age of fourteen he and his family immigrated to the US. Dempwolf received his BA from California State University Northridge CA. He continued his art education by attending Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California, getting his Masters degree in 1974. Also in 1974 he won the coveted CINE Golden Eagle award for his film, *The Story of a Craftsman*, which also won the Silver CINDY award and Best of Show at the Bellevue International Film Festival in Washington. His film career ended when painting became his passion.



Over the years Dempwolf has participated in exhibitions at the Museum of Science and Industry in Los Angeles, the Frederick R. Weisman Museum at Pepperdine University in Malibu, the Phippen Museum in Prescott AZ, the Carnegie Art Museum in Ventura County, the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana CA, and the Pasadena Museum of California Art. His work can also be found in publications from North Light Books, entitled *Art from the Parks*. His paintings are in the permanent collections of large corporations, among them McGraw-Hill Publishers, and the National Park Foundation. Dempwolf's newly published book, *A Painter's Journey*, is available on his web site, <http://netmonet.com> as well as videos of his life and work.

## President's Letter *by Sue Peacock, President Pro-Tem*

Verdugo Hills Art Association is more than just a place to showcase our art and connect with other artists. Yes we do that, and do it well. We have enjoyable informative meetings with great demonstrators, art shows to exhibit our most current works, and opportunities to learn new techniques in our workshops. It is also a group filled with friendship, as I can attest personally. At the Monday board meeting I became very ill: a combination of a medical procedure that day, a new prescription, very little to eat and a couple good margaritas. There were four great friends who stuck with me, took care of me, and, on one of those evenings when several of the 210 exits were closed, gave step by step

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directions to my husband so he could pick me up. I would like to personally thank Jen Swain, Kimberly Ann Talbert, Mary Talwar, and Nikki Thomas for everything you did.

At our December meeting, or when you pick up your art from the library, or at our workshop, speak to your friends, tell them sincerely that you're glad to see them, and if you don't know anyone, please introduce yourself. We are good, caring people.

Enjoy your holiday whatever it may be: Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's, Festivus, Kwanzaa, Omisoka, Shabe-Yalda or any of the other 22 holidays celebrated at this time of the year. Shalom, Peace on Earth,

Sue Peacock

## November Demo — Nan Rae *by Angela Alvarenga*



Nan Rae's deep knowledge of Chinese Brush painting technique and her witty personality made her presentation come to life. She follows an old Chinese saying, "From heart to arm, to hand, to brush, to paper." This saying reflects the trueness, freedom and spontaneity that come from brush painting. She encouraged us that we do not have to be talented but just be willing to enjoy the journey.

Nan Rae explained several aspects of the history and differences between Western and Eastern paintings, for example the very thorough study of the subject in preparation for painting. Although there are many rules to keep in mind, Chinese brush painting is about the spirit and self-expression. To maintain spontaneity, you do not do a sketch

first and you do not make corrections. It is important to leave 1/3 of the paper white to let the mind wander. "Flying White," is when you leave a little bit of white revealed in the stroke. Also, it is customary never to paint in patterns of fours. The faster you paint, the less the chance is of bleeding. If your brush is dry you can paint slower. There are many different types of strokes but it is important to hold the brush close to the hairs for best control and to practice "pressure - release, pressure - release" in your strokes.

Nan Rae's graceful and carefree brush strokes danced effortlessly on the paper as she gave demonstrations of bamboo, cherry blossoms, a landscape and a peony flower. Working with ink and watercolor, each of her strokes was flawless, had a purpose and was never overworked. Her free spirited paintings genuinely reflect her welcoming and kind personality.



## Fall Members Show Award Winners *by Suzanne Bitterman*



The annual VHAA Fall exhibition is installed in the community room of La Canada Library. Judge Richard Gallego pronounced the collage/mixed media *Rural Patterns* by Sandy Rooney as **Best of Show**.

Other winners included Jennifer Zapp who won both First Place for *The Immigrant* and Second Place for *Lady in Red* in the **Open** category. Third place went to new member Dora Giorbano for her oil painting *Flowers and Pomegranates*. Angela Alvarenga took Honorable Mention for *Springtime*.

In the **Premier** category, Arda Derian was awarded First Place for her watercolor on stained paper/collage *Cliffs of Bass Harbor, Maine*.

Gretel Merkel won First Place in **Honors** for her watercolor *The Legend* and Third Place for her oil painting *Lady from Europe*. Dorothy Shepherd achieved Second Place for her Chinese Brush/Watercolor *Winter Journey* and Honorable Mention for *Poppies*.

Bob Thomas won First in **Photography** for *Bryce Canyon*, and Andrea Merkel received Second Place for *Dragonfly*.

In the **Non-Representational** category, Nikki Thomas won First Place for *House of Cards*. That award moved her into the Premier category.

Congratulations to all. Viewing for the exhibition ends on November 27. You are reminded to check with the library staff before visiting to be sure the room is not occupied for another function. If the door is locked, library staff will be happy to open the room for you. For more photos of the show, visit [verdugoarts.org](http://verdugoarts.org)

## Artist of the Month by Judie Apablaza



Our blue ribbon winner in the “Open” category was Jennifer Zapp. Her watercolor painting titled, *Pasadena Town Hall* was from a recent drawing in a class by Richard Scott. The class was doing plein air drawings and paintings in the courtyard of the Pasadena City Hall grounds. Jennifer took several photographs of the scene and completed her painting in her studio. She mainly paints in watercolor and occasionally in acrylics.

Jennifer received a degree in Art Education from the University of Illinois. Her career choice allowed her to teach kindergarten level through high school. Jennifer's affinity for art had always been an interest which she then parlayed into a career in life-long learning through instructional design. She took her interest in fine and applied arts into multimedia design of on-line courses, teaching the “how, why and what” of learning software packages. She continues to consult in the area of on-line multimedia design even after retirement. She has been very active in taking classes through the Brand Studios and the Huntington Library among other opportunities.

Jennifer is highly disciplined, recently challenging herself to draw or paint every day for twenty-one days. Of course our instructors have recommended painting every day, but most of us sometimes find distractions and do not follow through with our best intentions. Not Jennifer! She states that she really did see improvement after her personal challenge. She is looking forward to a trip in the new year to Australia and New Zealand to spend a month of touring, sketching and painting. The VHAA club is very happy to welcome Jennifer back to our community as a returning and participating member.

Joseph (Pepe) Apablaza won first place in the “Premier” category. A photograph of a desert scene on the kitchen calendar was the inspiration for *Desert Sentinel*. The vibrant reddish hills contrasting with the greens in the foreground that connected with the majestic saguaro cactus was irresistible. The reddish mountains in this painting were inspired from the work of the late Tom Fong—the wide brush strokes and fluid style that were his unique style.



Having worked in the Graphics field since the 70's in advertising agencies and corporate business, the switch back from graphics tools to the hands-on brush and paint of watercolor has been a delight. His artistic capabilities were honed by attending LA Trade Tech and The Art Center College of Design, plus working alongside well known illustrators in the LA area. His watercolor chapter continues to evolve through classes and workshops from impressive local artists such as Fealing Lin, Richard Scott, Tom Fong and others. Pepe enjoys acquiring the techniques and unique style that watercolor, as a transparent medium, offers the viewer.

Being a member of the Verdugo Hills Art Association and the compliment of awards and ribbons as well as the camaraderie of fellow artists have all inspired him to keep challenging his abilities. His skill with technology and photography has also allowed him to contribute to the club's meetings and newsletters.

### ***Special Thanks for the Members Exhibit***

Nikki wants to thank the hard working people who took the time to volunteer at the take in, and after the juror left, hang the show: Linda Tindell, Sue Peacock, David Crandon, Joan Whitmore, Kimberly Ann Talbert, Anita Colvin, Suzanne Bitterman, our returning member Jennifer Zapp, Pepe Apablaza, new member Dora Giordano, Gloria Clark, Arda Derian, Sara Griggs, & Esther Sullivan. The show has remarkable paintings and was hung to show off every size and color to its best advantage. Thank you everyone who brought their paintings as well as the hanging committee. Please pick up your paintings on Monday night, Nov 27, between 5 & 6pm.

### **Membership updates**

We are fortunate enough to have several new members this year. PLEASE greet them and make them welcome. The latest newcomer:

Rebecca Van Eman  
rave0557@pacbell.net  
(323) 509-2694  
Watercolor, oil, charcoal

Returning Members: Honor Haase, David Wolf, Jennifer Zapp

*Welcome to Verdugo Hills Arts Association!!*

### REMINDERS and NOTES

Don't forget to bring a painting to the next meeting to participate in "Artist of the Month." You could be the next winner! (and we all enjoy seeing our members artwork!)

Want to be encouraged to do more art? Set yourself a challenge (see Artist of the Month story on Jennifer Zapp), or join in with a group of friends to sketch or paint every day for a month. It's a great way to get motivated, see improvement in your skills and keep up with fellow artists!

[Kimberly-Ann Talbert](#) has photography and jewelry at the Buenaventura Art Gallery in both the Holiday Boutique and the Small Image Show, through January 16.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!



Make a Note:

#### Upcoming Events

Dec 1 - Karl Dempwolf demo

February - Small Image Show

March Demo - Joseph Stoddard

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Verdugo Hills Art Association

### 2017 - 2018 Key Contacts

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**Artist of the Month** - Judith Apablaza  
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Next Meeting  
December 1

Next Board Meeting  
December 4