



Newsletter

December 2019

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

Lynne Sims — Chinese Brush Demo

Dec. 6, 7:00pm at the La Canada Community Center, 4469 Chevy Chase Dr.



Lynne Sims works primarily with watercolors and pastels. She has focused on several diverse styles of visual art including Chinese watercolor, Western landscapes and abstract pastels. She has studied with prominent Chinese watercolor artist Nan Rae who ignited her passion for painting when they met. Several other noteworthy artists have been instrumental in her love for Chinese brush painting, including the renowned artists Ning Yeh and Mayee Futterman. Thanks largely to them she has been honored to exhibit at Shumei Hall in Pasadena and at the annual Sierra Madre Art Fairs.

This month's demonstration is on Chinese brush painting. Painting in the Chinese manner can be enjoyed both by young and old, as well as by skilled and unskilled artists. It's not about creating the most perfect representation. Instead, it's about injecting the artwork with vitality. Vitality often happens when the heart is connected with the hand and the hand with the paper. This can free you from preconceived notions of what is "right" and what is "wrong" in your own works of art. It is amazing how much pleasure you can experience when you are free to simply paint what is your interpretation.



Pomegranate fruit, bursting with its richly colored garnet seeds seems like an ideal seasonal subject to demonstrate how you can go about infusing vitality and movement into a simple, quick and imperfect study.



President's Message

Hi, [Sue Peacock](#) here filling in for [Mary Talwar](#). I have some questions for you. Please send me your answers via email to suesingsbass2@gmail.com.

Is there something you'd like to see us do that would make the club more enjoyable?

Would you like to get together to visit galleries or museums in the area?

Would you like to have a meeting where you could have a table to display and sell your art?

A few years ago we had a fundraiser where we ate dinner together before the meeting. Would you like to do that again—either as a fundraiser or just to have a chance to sit and visit and learn more from your VHAA friends?

Let me know your ideas and I'll see what we can do to make them come to life. Thanks!

Sue



Exhibitions *Sue Peacock*

Our next judged exhibition opportunity will be at Diggs Realty, 3819 Oceanview Blvd., Montrose, CA 91020. Take in will be **Thursday, Dec 5th from 9:00 - 10:30am**. Pick-up will be **Saturday, Jan 4 from 9:00 - 10:00am**.

No more than two pieces, maximum size 16 x 20. \$10 per piece. All art must be framed (or have finished canvas sides) and have wire hangers. The forms and regulations for exhibiting our art are on our website: verdugoarts.org under the tab "Useful Stuff." Note there is no opportunity for sculpture/ceramics in this exhibition.

Julie Crouch Demo Review *Angela Alvarenga*



Local watercolorist [Julie Crouch](#) has had her paintings juried into several national and international exhibitions and she has earned top honors at the Valley Watercolor Society. Julie has served on many Watercolor society boards, including Watercolor West and National Watercolor Society, and currently teaches watercolor classes. In recent years she has been honing her "negative" painting skills which she shared with us at our November meeting.

Julie gave an intriguing and in depth demonstration on her negative painting technique. To begin, negative painting is a very methodical process because it is a backwards way of thinking. The artist is painting around the subject to bring the subject forward, rather than painting the subject directly (or positively). Julie begins her work using a black and white reference photograph to study the positive and negative shapes. It is important to understand the shapes because they will suggest the subject. She doesn't copy the photo, but using the shapes to make a pleasing composition.



When beginning her painting, she identifies a probable center of interest and lays down a spontaneous and loose under-painting, usually using 3 colors, and leaving some whites of the paper. Once dry, she will draw in the shapes, those she wants to have the lightest values (including the center of interest area). Next she will paint a second wash of color, around the shapes she just drew. The paintings are not based on color but on shapes and values. When that layer has dried, Julie moves onto the next layer and repeats the process, drawing a few more shapes and painting around them with a bit darker value of color. She continues to draw more sections of shapes and paints a little darker with each layer. She

avoids hard edges that may distract the viewer and will paint a minimum of three layers. At the end of her painting she may go into the "far" background and suggest more, small negative shapes to allow the viewer to "see" something in the background which also pushes the background deeper and pulls the subject closer.

This breath-taking demonstration was intricately executed and the finished painting of eucalyptus leaves was amazing. Negative painting is an interesting method which captivates the viewer while continuously challenging the artist in their craftsmanship and knowledge of shapes and values.



Artwork of the Month - Mixed Media by Angela Alvarenga



Susan Washburn won first place for her art piece titled, *Waterfall*. This uniquely crafted piece was created with fabrics, bubble wraps, Tyvek, dryer lint and dryer sheets. She assembled her beautiful scenery by modifying the fabrics with a heat gun and quilting the pieces together.

Susan is an experienced quilter and loves to be experimental. She has made other collages with fabric and paper but was inspired to quilt together this piece. Susan gains inspiration from the various mediums and materials she finds and questions what can be made from them. Her desire of exploration helps keep her from getting confined to one form of art.

Kimberly-Ann Talbert won second place for: *Rosa Hagner, Blue Ribbon Grandmother: Just Because You Can't See Her, Doesn't Mean That She's Not There.* This piece used acrylic paint on a 10 x 10 cradleboard with fabric samples, a photo of her Grandmother, metallic ribbon, wrapping paper and a key. It is a more creative, expressive and loving manner in which to remember her Grandmother than by looking at a plain black and white photograph.

As an artist Kimberly-Ann also is a “collector of cool things”—bottle caps, colored foil, old keys, electronic parts, ribbons, shells, etc— that might eventually find their way into her artwork! Both these artists have given us beautiful and interesting examples of mixed media!



Next Month Artwork Media: Watercolor, Pastel, Colored Pencil.

Julie Crouch - Watercolor Flowers with Negative Painting Arda Derian

There was a lot of excitement in the air as people arrived early on Saturday morning, Nov 2. The day finally came for VHAA's full-capacity “Negative Painting” workshop with Julie Crouch—and what a fulfilling day it was!

Julie started by showing the class how to tear, not cut, a 22 x 30 full sized sheet of watercolor paper into sections of various sizes from 5 x 7 to 11 x 15, which we would use that day. Using one of the 5 x 7 pieces she began her lesson with a simple outline drawing of a flower, then painted that image, showing how most artists paint what they see. On the second paper, again with a simple flower drawing, Julie painted the background only—calling it the “negative” space—painting around the image with light valued color. Continuing the demonstration, after the background dried, she drew another image behind the first one, then painted another layer of color behind that image as well as the first image, thus creating depth within the picture. Then she had us try it.



the nearly completed painting

After these exercises we started on an 11 x 15 sheet, wetting the paper first with a large brush, splashing, dripping and painting with light value colors (3) covering most of the paper, but leaving some white. This was the fun part! The process of drying the paper, drawing more images, painting behind each successively drawn image was repeated 3 or 4 times until the images of the flowers popped out as the “negative” spaces became darker. For most of us it felt like a foreign concept as we are used to painting what we see - a “positive” image. At the end of the day, like magic, each and every person's artwork was like a masterpiece with various shapes and colors that transcended into deep space as the flowers magically appeared!



REMINDERS and NOTES

[Kimberly-Ann Talbert](#) has two photos in Buenaventura Art Assoc exhibition through Nov 17.

[51st Annual Watercolor West Exhibition](#) at [City of Brea Art Gallery](#). The show runs through Dec. 15.

Art on Palm at Jones Coffee Roasters, Saturday Nov 23, 9:30am to 4pm 693 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA

[Chris Van Winkle, A New View exhibition](#) at Citrus College, Visual Arts Gallery. See paintings never shown before, and have the opportunity to purchase some. M-F 9am-4pm; weekend 11am-4pm. Closes this weekend-Nov 17. Some of his sketchbooks will be available for purchase this weekend also.

Our first workshop of the new year will be Jan 25. [Richard Scott: Drawing](#) - a workshop designed for VHAA members from his insights of judging our shows several times over the last few years. Tips on composition, breaking through subject overwhelm, how to use both sides of the brain to make drawing logical and easier and more! Spaces are limited contact aderian5@yahoo.com to register!

Upcoming Events

Dec 6 Demo - [Lynne Sims](#), Chinese brush

Jan 3 Demo - [Joan Whitmore](#), Acrylic pouring

Jan 25 Workshop: [Richard Scott](#) Drawing

Feb 7 Demo - [Mary-Linn Hughes](#), Photography

Feb 22 Workshop: [Parker Dean](#), Portrait Drawing & Painting

March 6 Demo - [Sabine Steinmetz](#), Computer Art

April 18 Workshop: [Robert Sherrill](#) - Plein Air Painting

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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
December 6

Next Board Meeting
December 9