



Dust in the Wind

LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY

MARCH 2013

The Artist's Corner



"What We Learn from Others."

As we continue on this artful journey in life, I am amazed and awed by the creativity and imagination of others. My eyes and heart have been opened to a fresher look on what inspires and motivates others to create their art. I have discovered that seeing the world through my eyes as an artist and sharing the gift of our art is exceptionally rewarding. It becomes our opportunity to make a difference.... I want to share with you a couple of

highlights from Robert Henri's book, The Art Spirit.

"Cherish your own emotions and never under value them."

"The pursuit of happiness is a great activity. One must be open and alive. It is the greatest feat any person has to accomplish, and spirits must flow. There are no easy ruts to get into which lead to happiness. A person must become interesting to himself /herself and must become actually expressive before he or she can be happy."

On behalf of the members of the Lake Country Pastel Society, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to Cheryl for her wonderful leadership of this organization. We are grateful for the opportunities and the commitment and vision that you have demonstrated to all the members of LCPS. We look forward to your continued support and assistance on the board to help with the transition.

Bruce Koprucki has so graciously stepped forward to help as Vice President of the LCPS. Bruce is a newer member and I had the opportunity to get more acquainted with him about 4 years ago in Christine Tierney's pastel class at Savage Art Studios. We look forward to you sharing your talents and time and we know that your contributions will be appreciated by all. Thank you Bruce!

We are pleased to announce that Cynthia Kath is excited about chairing our Program committee. The program committee is responsible for creating ideas and executing the programs at our members meetings. Thank you Cynthia, and we look forward to the many fun and interesting program ideas that you will bring to the organization. If you have a desire to join Cynthia as a committee program planner or if you have any program ideas that you would like to share with Cynthia please feel free to contact her: cynthiaKath@CKATHDRAW.com after March 15th.

Rene Ellis will continue as Treasurer, however, we are looking for a volunteer to fill this office position. This would be a great opportunity to volunteer your time and talent with LCPS and Rene would be happy to help with the transition and train the new volunteer in doing this job.

Board of Directors

Patricia Duncan
President,
952-941-1914

Bruce Koprucki
Vice President
952-448-7559

Rene Ellis
Treasurer,
651-690-5671

Heather Hultgren
Secretary,
651-739-1329

Cynthia Kath
Program Chair
651-297-8558

Eileen France
Exhibits Chair,
952-431-9753

Lisa Stauffer
Workshop Chair,
218-728-6046

Michelle Wegler
Public Relations,
218-343-6887

Karen Stombaugh
Membership Chair,
952-473-2344

Barb Björnson
Historian,
651-636-1427

Elizabeth Strootman
Newsletter Editor,
763-427-0860



Heather Hultgren will be our Board Secretary. Eileen France will be our Exhibition Chair assisted by Shelley Aquino Brandon and Michelle Wegler. Lisa Stauffer will continue as Workshop chair. Karen Stombaugh is our membership chair. Barb Bjornson is our Historian and Elizabeth Strootman is the Newsletter Editor. All of these members have so graciously given of their time and talent and we know how their important contributions continue to make a difference for all members.

The next exhibit opportunity for all members will be at the Stillwater Croixdale Senior Center location in March. The dates for the exhibit are March 13th to June 10th 2013. We are scheduled to drop off our artwork on March 12th from 4:00-6:00. Each member can exhibit 2 - 3 pieces of artwork. Please get your registration in by February 26th to the Exhibit chair, Eileen France at: franceart@earthlink.net We all look forward to seeing the creativity of our members!!

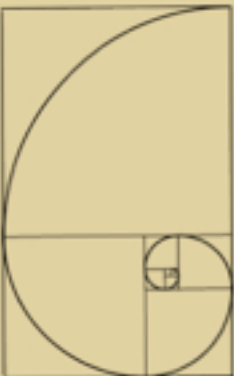
Please come ready to join in the fun of getting to know your fellow pastelists at the next meeting in March. We will have some fun getting more acquainted with each other. Our program for the meeting on March 12th will be on "Promoting and Marketing your Artwork" with Noah from Springboard for the Arts! It will be an exciting opportunity to learn more about ways to get your artwork out in the public view.

I had the pleasure of seeing one of our members work on Feb. 7th at the Starbuck's on Grand and Excelsior in St. Louis Park. Melody O. Allen had several of her beautiful pastel landscape paintings on exhibit. Thanks Melody for sharing your work with the public. It is a source of inspiration for many of us.

I am honored and grateful to be a part of such a good organization with many talented and gifted artists. I want to reiterate the Mission statement of the Lake Country Pastel Society. "We seek to unite artists interested in the pastel medium and to serve their needs by encouraging artistic growth and development through education and sharing. We also work to create public awareness of pastel as a unique and beautiful art form." As we continue on this journey together, I am asking for many of you to volunteer your time and talents to the various committees. It is so much more fun to do the volunteer job with our fellow artists. The benefits are so great as we continue to get to know each other on a more personal level. Bruce and I are looking for members to step forward to help with designing and updating our website. We feel this is of utmost importance. Please contact Bruce at: chaparralwoodart@chaska.net or myself at: mpatriciaduncan@aol.com and we are excited to hear back from you very soon.

Enjoy your process!

Patricia Duncan
LCPS President



*The human soul is hungry for beauty. . .
When we experience the Beautiful,
there is a sense of homecoming.
Beauty brings a sense of completion and sureness.*

*- John O'Donohue
from Beauty - the Invisible Embrace*

Member News



Carol Pruchnofski...

was honored to have her painting,
"Earned Place of Honor", juried into the IAPS
2012 Web Show.

Carol Pruchnofski
wildwoodstudio@dishup.us

Earned Place of Honor



Joanne Meierhofer...

was awarded one of two Judge's
Awards at the Fall Exhibit of
CBAC (Chequamegon Bay Arts
Council) for her painting
"Hauser's Road At Apple Time".

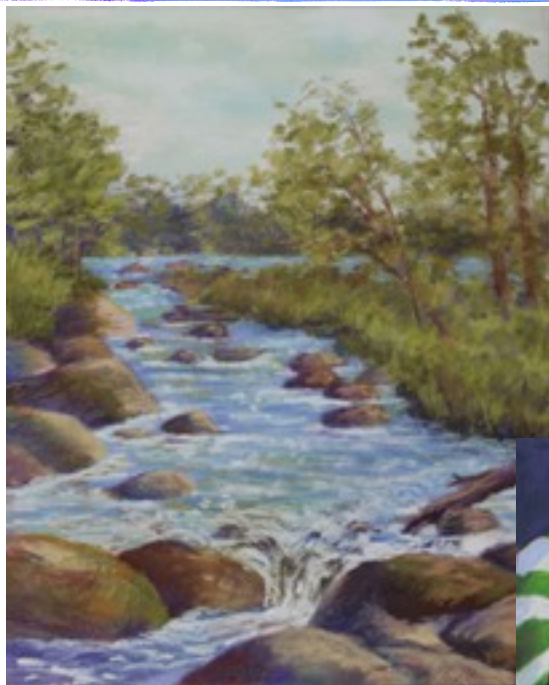
Hauser's Road At Apple Time

Heather Hultgren...

was the January/February “Artist of the Month” for the Artist’s Corner Exhibit at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Woodbury, MN.

Her pastel, “Peace Like a River” was selected for the “Seeing God: Juried Exhibit of Sacred Art”, which runs until March 15, at the Benedictine Center of St. Paul’s Monastery, St. Paul,

and “Flavors of Fall” was selected for the Ninth Annual Northeast National Pastel Exhibition in Old Forge, NY. The show runs from May 3rd – June 29th. See her website and blog for more information:
heatherhultgren.com



Peace Like a River



Flavors of Fall

Rita Corrigan...

was awarded 2nd place in The “Seeing God: Juried Exhibit of Sacred Art” held at the Benedictine Center of St. Paul’s Monastery, St. Paul, MN. She created her winning pastel, “Resurrection”, four years ago in response to the deaths of her mother and sister within a three months period of time.



Resurrection



Michelle Wegler & Lisa Stauffer...

participated, along with 12 other hardy Minnesotans, in the 4th Annual Winter Plein Air sponsored by the Grand Marais Art Colony. Painting in the beautiful BWCA with winter temperatures of 19 degrees, who, might you ask are these artists who embrace the seasons and will trudge their painting and camping supplies across a frozen lake to spend a week painting outside? In January?? And why do they do it???

Lisa Stauffer- *We were sitting around the table, discussing why we paint in plein air in the winter? One of the other artists said, "Because we can't paint snow in the summer!" That is certainly true, and the amazing subtleties of light on the snow is one of the prime motivations that brings us out to work to capture that beauty in a painting.*

We enjoyed the camaraderie of working together with a group of friends, sharing inspiration, companionship, and fun! Sharing meals (provided by Camp Menogyn along with our bunks) and conversation and music at night. It was a great time! Come and join us next year!



Michelle Wegler- *I've been to every winter camp the Art Colony has sponsored, I just love it! The landscape is beautiful, and I can paint all day, the staff ring the bell when it's time for a meal. It's fun to look at and admire the paintings each day that have been created by the other artists. In the evening I can go out and paint a night scene, or sit around the fire with fellow artists and have a few laughs.*



An exhibit of finished paintings was held through Feb 24 at the [Grand Marais Art Colony](#), 120 Third Ave W, Grand Marais, MN.



Winter Shadows

Michelle Wegler



White Pine - White Snow

Lisa Stauffer



Melody O'Connor Allen...

had an exhibit of her work shown through February at the Starbucks on Grand and Excelsior in St. Paul, MN. Her painting "Minikahda Club Bridge" was purchased by the Minikahda Club manager.

Minikahda Club Bridge

Upcoming Member Exhibits



Sandra Dowd...

is pleased to invite you to her exhibit
 "Do You See What I See?"
 an exhibition of 35 years of self-portraits
 covering many of her life challenges:
 child birth, divorcing, middle-age-spread, friendship,
 widowhood, aging, and emerging.

Opening April 20th

6:00–8:00 pm

Artist Talk: 7:00 pm

Northrup King Building

1500 Jackson St NE

Minneapolis, MN 55413

The show will be up each Saturday from 1:00–4:00
 between the opening and Art-a-Whirl
 May 17th–19th.

It will be open for Art-a-Whirl as well.

Go to www.northrupkingbuilding.com for more about Art-a-Whirl and directions to the Northrup King Building.



*Artist Emerging With Attitude
 mixed media, primarily pastel.*

Sandra Dowd is a fiscal year 2012 recipient of an Artist Initiative Grant from the Minnesota state Arts Board. This activity is funded, in part, by the Minnesota State Legislature from the State's arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



Turning Toward the Light

The sunflowers have significant meaning for our daughter and our family. I personally had a wonderful and memorable experience with her in a sunflower field on August 7th, 2010. It was my gift from her to have this precious time...

that our family had been given with this wonderful and beautiful young woman. We were blessed with her presence in our lives.

John Reardon (our families' grief counselor) and I have created a book as a memorial for Abbey.

We will have the book, "Grace Fullness", available to purchase.

Anyone interested can refer to the Pax Christi website for their parish hours. (www.paxchristi.com)

Patricia Duncan...

is pleased to invite you to her exhibit

"Turning Toward the Light"

a solo exhibition of her paintings

in celebration of her daughter

Abbey Christine Duncan

who passed away on November 3, 2010

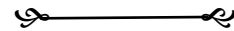
The show will be held at

Pax Christi Catholic Community

in Eden Prairie

from April 14th–28th

Opening Reception will be Sunday, April 14th
from 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.



These paintings have been a huge part of my healing process after our tragic loss. They are a memorial and celebration of the 27 years of life

Rita Corrigan...

is pleased to invite you to an exhibition

of a collection of her paintings

at the

Dakota County Robert Trail Library

in Rosemount, MN

through March 31, 2013

The library has installed a hanging system

and the Rosemount Area Arts Council

plans to host three artists in

a joint exhibition every three months



Twin Point #1

INTRODUCING LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY PRESIDENT, PATRICIA DUNCAN
interviewed by kathryn kobs

Patricia Duncan... ballet dancer, choreographer, award winning pastelist and, with a bit of head tilting dissonance, a computer programmer!

This mom of two girls and three boys, the oldest being thirty-three, signed on to preside over the LCPS Board for the next two years, focusing on an appreciation for and continuing application of our founders' mission statement; a focus that reiterates our mutual need of community, to include an emphasis on our wish to give and to receive support in the sharing of our artistic gifts and experiences. Patricia's vision seeks to encourage a revisiting of LCPS's original goals and reasons for coming into being. Why do we exist as a group and how can we, as a society, make our experience more meaningful for each member. By matching our new President's vision with her organizational skills as a computer programmer, arguable the next two years promise a continuation of many good outcomes for LCPS.

Patricia Duncan, born in the small town of Flandreau, South Dakota, recalls her first artistic promptings being due to the creativity and encouragement of her second grade teacher. She attended both grade and high school in Flandreau until matriculating to the University of Utah to major in the performing arts. Patricia received her MFA in Ballet, mastering both dance and choreography, performing in a professional ballet company called the "Ballet West, Utah." Eventually Patricia turned her talents to teaching ballet for a private dance academy along with personal tutoring.

Arriving in Minnesota, Patricia returned to school for the purpose of obtaining a degree in computer programming. Upon completion she found employment with Cenex, Corporation. Somewhere during these years she married her childhood sweetheart from Flandreau, South Dakota. When her first child came along, Patricia devoted full time to raising this child and the four babies to follow. She is a grandmother to four and loves the privilege. During these years, Patricia and her husband Ken Duncan devoted themselves to their Biblical faith and their children. Painting, although still a rustic interest in the recesses of Patricia's mind, remained relatively dormant. But then about fifteen years ago, she took classes in drawing and pastels at the Edina Art Center and the rest is history.

Now as an award winning artist with eclectic painting interests, she is ribboned in portraits and other subjects. Patricia often paints out of her studio in Wisconsin and currently studies under Joe Paquet and Jeff Hurinenko in oil painting, where she met and struck up a friendship with our outgoing President, Cheryl LeClair-Sommer. And Although Patricia became a member of LCPS about five years ago, it was only a tangential involvement until her association with Cheryl culminated in her willingness to become our new President.

Recently Patricia won the top pastelist award at the Elk River Arts Alliance show and the first and second prize, awarded by Fred Somers, at the Savage show last June. She also received an honorable mention at the St. Benedictine Monastery in Maplewood at their Sacred Art Exhibit. She is currently working on a commissioned painting of Christ.

Asked if her faith informed her art, Patricia answered that art to her is a sacred experience. Wondering if she might elaborate, she noted that painting or dancing--art per se--is a meditative affair and therefore entails elements of the spiritual.

To paraphrase Patricia's summation of her painting experience, she stated that art is a means of expressing and communicating ourselves--a truly intimate process. We see, then, just how personal is Patricia's LCPS mission purpose emphasis, which is to share support and the communication of ourselves through our creativity---pretty much what painting is to her every time.

Thank you Patricia Duncan for volunteering your time, your energy and your vision to all of us in LCPS.



Elk River Arts Alliance Juried Exhibition and Beauty in the Visual Arts



Early Morning Light

Patricia Duncan



Day in the Sun

Sher Leksén

Our new President, Patricia Duncan, received the “Best Pastel” award at the ERAA’s juried exhibition - Arts in Harmony. The LCPS sponsored this award, in order to promote our society to other artists working in the pastel medium. We are proud that one of our own received this LCPS sponsored prize. Also, Sher Leksén received a Merit Award for her soft pastel. Other members juried into the exhibit were Karen Berning, Rita Corrigan, Michelle Wegler, Lisa Stauffer and Cheryl LeClair-Sommer. Many of these artists’ works were featured in the January newsletter.

In attending the reception, the juror and judge of the exhibit, Curt Pederson (Curator for the American Swedish Institute) commented that there is risk in entering juried shows. That risk involves many aspects:

1. Learning the techniques necessary to develop your skills, which requires countless efforts;
2. Struggling with the artistic process until you break through;
3. Taking your efforts to a level until you decide to end the process; and
4. Entering competitions with an unknown outcome, which may include rejection and/or recognition.



Passing Storm *Karen Berning*

continued, next page

Curt commented that skill and craft in the visual arts are becoming more important in the contemporary art world. He stated that the best pieces are beautiful and draw you in – particularly in landscapes, the viewer feels that they have participated in the landscape. He stated that art can represent beauty and doesn't require angst or social comment to be vital. The best art, in Curt's opinion, is spiritual and brings the viewer to a special place.

I was personally happy that the juror/judge expressed his opinion publicly that visual art can simply represent beauty. This aspiration as a goal in visual art has not always been lauded in the contemporary art world.

By Cheryl LeClair-Sommer

Highlights from the January 2013 Lake Country Pastel Society Board Meeting

We welcome Patricia Duncan as our new President of LCPS!

We have several people signed up for the Albert Handell workshop in August and look forward to having him as part of our exhibit reception and member meeting that week. The board continues to research new exhibit venues for the next two years, including other cities around Minnesota. We are in need of a Program Chair, and invite members to consider how they might help in that capacity.

Survey findings were shared with the board. Thank you to those of you who filled surveys out, as they are quite helpful as we move forward with our planning. Some of the topics of interest for future meetings included: the business aspect of marketing your art (pricing, artist statements, career advancement, etc...), creating an exhibition list using online resources for members so they know what is coming up, having a critique group for artists to get feedback and learn from one another, and a mentoring program for seasoned artists to work with newer artists. We also spent time discussing volunteer opportunities and how to equip volunteers with tools for a successful experience.

Our next board meeting is 5:30 p.m., March 12, 2013, at New Brighton Family Center. All members are welcome to attend!

*Respectfully submitted,
Heather Hultgren
Board Secretary*

JANUARY LCPS PROGRAM NOTES

LCPS members enjoyed a double feature for January's meeting program thanks to LCPS's Lisa Stauffer and Wet Paint Artist Materials and Framing of St. Paul.

For her feature, Lisa assembled a range of pastel papers and hard-to-soft pastels from several makers. Attendees were invited to test their favorite techniques with these samples to help decide future purchases or upgrades to their materials. Canson, Strathmore, Wallis, and the full range of UArt textured papers (240, 300, 400 500, 600, and 800) were among the papers on hand; Girault, Sennelier, Unison, Rembrandt, Ludwig, and NuArt among the pastels. A helpful guide listed various pastel brands on a scale from soft to hard. Lisa also displayed assorted boxed sets of Girault, Dakota, and Ludwig pastels for inspection or purchase.

For the second feature, Wet Paint general manager Darin Rinne and associate Kate Ratzer showcased a sample of new products, popular products, and paper stock on closeout. Among the featured products:

Viarco (Art Graf) Water-Soluble Carbon Coin. This thin briquette of compressed carbon from Portugal was inspired by the white chalk wafers used by tailors. The edges can create both crisp lines lengthwise and broad tones widthwise. The Art Graf coin is substantially harder than vine charcoal, charcoal stick, or charcoal pencil but not as hard as graphite. The intensity of gray and black shades will vary with pressure and the surface to which the carbon is applied. What's more, the carbon can be converted to a permanent wash when moistened with water from a brush or sponge. From my own trials I found the coin edges gave a crisp line and held up well without the need for repeated reshaping. It performed best with toothed papers such as UArt, good with Strathmore and Canson, but only fair-to-poor with newsprint. I also found the carbon will indeed affix permanently to paper and other surfaces (including my denim jeans) once moistened and dried.

Strathmore Toned 400-series medium-surfaced Sketch Pads available in toned gray and toned tan pads sizes 5.5"x8.5", 9"x12", 11"x14", and 18"x24". These provide a good mid-range base for developing a range of dry media drawings with lighter and darker values.

Richeson Soft Pastels- hand-rolled in boxed sets of 12 full-sticks or 24 half-sticks- are notable for Unison pastel quality at a more affordable price.

Schminke Horadam 12 half-pan watercolors. This compact limited-edition set was produced to Wet Paint specs and has been popular both in-store and on-line through a couple reorders.

Lascaux Spray Fixative. Although expensive, this fixative is noted for clarity and workability. Only 1-2 light layers are needed in most cases.

Dual Brush Pens. These brush-like markers are available in sets for landscapes, portraits, and gray tones.

Silicone spreader. This versatile item falls into the "Hey, I can use this for _____!" category. The palm-sized flexible spreader has found uses in place of brush or trowel by some painters.

Mucacious Iron Oxide. On hand by popular request from the last LCPS program.

After door prize drawings, attendees swarmed both feature displays in a shopping and sampling frenzy for the remainder of program time. Samples of Richeson pastels, Milan duo pencil erasers, UArt sandpaper shaper sticks, and Richeson Unison Gator Foam pastel surfaces, were among other items available for attendees to take home.

By Bruce Koprucki

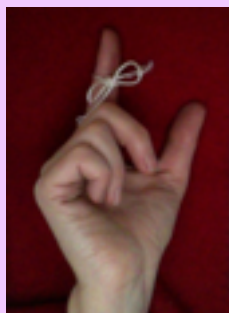
A supplement to this report from Lisa (about product information) will follow separately.

Join us for our March member meeting: We welcome Noah Keesecker from Springboard for the Arts as our featured speaker on March 12, 2013.

Noah will give us a presentation on promoting and marketing your artwork. Springboard for the Arts has

their team of Artist Career Counselors that are working and well-established artists in their field. Noah brings experience in mentoring and teaching individual artists.

March Program



Just a reminder...

I am still collecting 2013 membership dues. Mail the Membership Dues form to me or make your payment at the March meeting.

Thank You!

Karen Stombaugh, Membership Chair

LCPS Membership Dues 2013

___ \$30 Membership Dues

___ \$5.00 additional if you would like a tan artist's apron with LCPS logo. (apron can be picked up at a meeting or other arrangements can be made for shipping; fee included)

___ Check here if you are a returning member from 2012 and your contact information has NOT changed.

Contact information:

Name

Phone Number

Address (street, city, state, zip)

Email address (please print clearly)

Fill out and mail check (either \$30 or \$35 with apron) written to Lake Country Pastel Society:

Karen Stombaugh
3565 Deephaven Ave.

Deephaven, MN 55391 Any questions, call Karen at 952-473-2344 or email at: kstombaugh@mchsi.com



THE INTERNATIONAL PASTEL SOCIETIES TENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
June 6-9, 2013 - Exhibition Opening June 5
Pre-Convention Workshops June 4-6 • Post-Convention Workshops June 10-11
Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
Albuquerque, New Mexico

The International Association of Pastel Societies is pleased to announce its Tenth Biennial Convention, to be held June 6-9, 2013, with pre- and post-convention workshops and juried exhibitions of pastel paintings. Information about the convention is posted on the web site with a description of classes and workshops.

The convention features demonstrations by nationally and internationally known pastel artists, hands on workshops, the opportunity to meet pastel artists from all over the world, to see and try out new products, and to purchase products in the vendor area. The convention is such a great time – by signing up early, you will have the greatest chance of attending the classes and demonstrations that you are most interested in.

The Prospectuses for the Twenty-Second Juried Exhibition and the Second Master Circle Exhibition are now available for download. You can read class descriptions, instructor information, and find out everything you need to know to plan your convention experience. You can also make your hotel reservations online. Just go to OnlineJuriedShows.com and scroll down to get to their two shows. You can download and print the prospectuses and log in and sign up right on that web site. Entry is online only, and the entry deadline is **March 22**. Your dues to the LCPS (an IAPS member society) must be up-to-date (or another IAPS member society) in order to be eligible for exhibiting in an IAPS exhibit.

When you start to think about your travel plans, be sure to consider the pre-convention one- and two-day workshops, and the post-convention two-day workshops. Also, the exhibitions will open on June 5, (Wednesday evening). IAPS has been working on plans to bring the exhibitions into the hotel, and at this point IAPS is 95% certain that is going to happen. In addition to the opening reception on June 5, the exhibition will be open throughout the convention, so everyone will be able to enjoy it without leaving the hotel.

The names of the demonstrators, presenters and speakers for the Tenth Biennial Convention will be:

Marla Baggetta
 Mike Beeman
 Sandra Burshell
 Robert K. Carsten
 Lorenzo Chavez
 Bill Creevy
 Doug Dawson
 Christine Debrosky
 Leslie DeMille
 Margaret Dyer
 Frank Federico

Terri Ford
 Liz Haywood-Sullivan
 Anne Hevener
 Jason Horejs
 Carole Katchen
 Kim Lordier
 Jamie Markle
 Andrew McDermott
 Richard McKinley
 Clark Mitchell
 Elizabeth Mowry

Paul Murray
 Desmond O'Hagan
 Julia Patterson
 Dennis Rhoades
 Karin Richter
 William Schneider
 Stan Sperlak
 Debora Stewart
 Vianna Szabo
 Donna Yeager

If you want to receive timely updates from IAPS directly, please sign up for their email updates on their website: pastelinternational.com (click on top right Get Email Updates).

The Tenth Biennial Convention is going to be bigger and better than ever!

Workshop Opportunity

Karlyns Gallery in Washburn, Wisconsin is sponsoring a pastel workshop by Richard McDaniel which will be held August 17-21. The cost is \$500 and class size is limited to 12 students. We will be in the studio and on site in beautiful Bayfield county. For more information, visit Karlyns website or call 715-373-2922. Check out Richard McDaniel's website to view his work.

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES

by Cheryl LeClair-Sommer

mnartists.org

Other artists frequently ask me how I find out about the many visual arts opportunities available in our community. While I have many sources to draw from, I mainly obtain information about opportunities within the state of Minnesota through MNArtists.org. This website provides, in part, information about various artist opportunities that are not merely limited to visual art. On your internet browser, type in: mnartists.org. Click on **News/Opportunities**. You will find a recent listing of opportunities, which can include exhibit opportunities, job opportunities, studio rentals, residencies, etc. I suggest you check frequently. When I recently checked it out, I found the following: TLC is sponsoring its 4th annual Emerging Artists Program. This program subsidizes 2 week-long residencies for 7 emerging artists from Minnesota and 5 NYC boroughs - a stipend is provided. Wow - stay at a great northern MN location and get paid to create art. Does it get any better?

Receive emails

Another great way to find out about artist opportunities is to subscribe to receive emails from the many exhibit spaces and galleries in your community, i.e. Hopkins Center for the Arts has a call for visual art exhibitions that is due soon. Another rich source of information is found by subscribing to email subscriptions at museums and private art centers, i.e. The Crossings at Carnegie. You will receive periodic emails that may fit your needs for both educational and/or exhibition opportunities.

When traveling

If you are interested in traveling to a certain area, check on-line for information about their art galleries, plein air exhibits, museums, and art centers. You may find exhibition and event opportunities in that area that may correspond with your travel dates.

Calendar and Exhibit Details

Once you subscribe to various email notifications, you will need to sift through the information carefully. Be careful about the due dates, exhibition fees, shipping fees, etc. Does the exhibit call for exhibiting one work or are you asking for a solo exhibition? Ask yourself if the opportunity is geared toward the type of work you create (check out the background of the judge, if named)? Is this the type of venue that fits within your immediate artistic goals? What are the potential prizes or awards? Be sure to maintain a calendar of exhibits and to be careful not to overlap venues where you are exhibiting the same piece (if you plan to exhibit the same piece in two successive exhibits, the piece should be listed as NFS in the first exhibit).

ArtShow.com

Websites are available that feature national exhibitions/calls for entries, such as: ArtShow.com. This website contains information on calls for entry nationally, which normally requires you to ship your work.

National Parks

The national parks have artist residencies described on: http://www.nps.gov/romo/supportyourpark/artist_in_residence.htm.

Time!

Be efficient and cautious with the time you spend sifting through emails - it can consume a great amount of time that would be better spent painting. Whatever your artistic goals, I'm sure you will find numerous opportunities that fit your needs. Good luck!

Keep It Simple

Easier said than done! So much of painting is being able to see it simply, then paint it simply. Whenever we get mired in the thick of it, going back to the simplest solution seems the way to head. But painting is complex, which by the way is the beauty of it; the mix of boldness and nuance, intensity and subtly. This is what is most attractive and challenging about the activity. So, how do we tease out the important bits, get them down and succinctly

Making anything simple is an art in itself. I am easily overwhelmed by tasks, and tend to make things harder than they need to be. This even extends to my studio set-up. For years I had the table that my pastel palette rests on, pushed against the wall making it two long steps from my easel. Finally the day came when it dawned on me that it would be infinitesimally easier if I just pulled the table towards the easel! We fall into routine and habit that could be making things harder, not easier. Challenging these habits is a good thing. I try to remember that I want to make poems, not novels.

The same goes for the painting process. Are there habits and biases that are making things harder? Ideas, like 'it's not ok to use black' or 'you should always start with the darkest darks' or 'you should work top to bottom in pastel'. You have to figure out what makes it simple for YOU. Adopting another artist's method without really checking out whether this is for you is folly. Trying new stuff on for size, sure, but don't do it blindly

Even starting can get you down. Choosing from the myriad of materials available then amassing them, deciding what to paint, especially if you have lots of ideas and then carving out time to get going.

For me, I try to make sure I know why I am painting something, first and foremost. Is it the color, gesture, mood that has me enchanted? What do I want to say with the work? Then I can always point back to that simple idea when I get stuck. When breaking down the components of a painting, I start with the biggest and easiest shapes and block those in quickly. Simple to complex. This way I get to see how the whole is working really fast and I build on what is working. I try not to get stuck on what isn't resolved yet. I can work on something a long time and get that done eventually. I can also paint over something multiple times, so getting it right the first time isn't my primary objective.

Holding the idea that something is hard to do, sets you up for procrastination and avoidance of it. Better to dive in and figure it out than not do it at all. Just keep painting. Believe it is simple, see it simple. **KEEP IT SIMPLE!!!**
SO SIMPLE!!!

Happy, happy painting!!!

These thoughts, posted on January 6, 2013 by Marla Baggetta on her blog, are submitted here by Cynthia Kath with permission from Marla Baggetta. Visit her blog: <http://marlabaggettastudiopdx.com/blog/> where you can subscribe to her blog post.

A Book Review

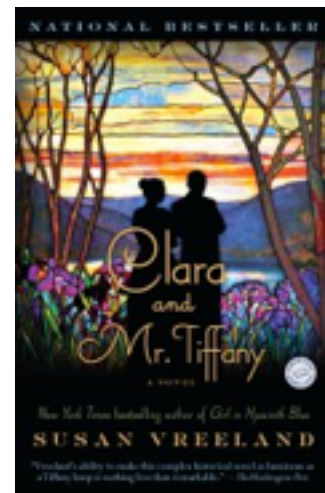
Susan Vreeland is a best selling author, most recently known for her book "Girl in Hyacinth Blue". Her books are about the lives of artists. The author herself is not a visual artist, but she has a wonderful way of offering glimpses into the hearts and minds of artists as they create their work. Her most recent book is "Clara and Mr. Tiffany". In this book, the artist, Clara, creates windows and lampshades. She uses glass instead of pastel or paint, but much of what she has to say holds true for all artists.

A few quotes from the book:

"Beauty is what nature has lavished upon us as a Supreme Gift."
 "Take pleasure in the grace of shape, the excitement of color."

Treat yourself to reading some books by this [author](#).

Michelle Wegler



LCPS 2013 Calendar

TIMES: 5:30 LCPS board meeting
 all are welcome
 7:00 Member meeting begins

MAR 12	LCPS board & member meetings
APR 15	<u>DEADLINE for newsletter</u>
MAY 14	LCPS board & member meetings
JUN 15	<u>DEADLINE for newsletter</u>
JUL 9	LCPS board & member meetings
AUG 5-8	Albert Handell Workshop
AUG 15	<u>DEADLINE for newsletter</u>
SEPT 10	LCPS board & member meetings
OCT 15	<u>DEADLINE for newsletter</u>
NOV 12	LCPS board & member meetings
DEC 15	<u>DEADLINE for newsletter</u>

NEXT LCPS BOARD & MEMBER MEETINGS

March 12, 2013

at the New Brighton Family Service Center
 Community Room B

Board Meeting: from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.
 just prior to the members' meeting.

If you are currently not on the Board and are interested in attending, please email Patricia to indicate your anticipated presence. We'd love to have you join this dedicated group!

Member Meeting: follows at 7:00



Mission Statement: *We seek to unite artists interested in the pastel medium and to serve their needs by encouraging artistic growth and development through education and sharing. We also work to create public awareness of pastel as a unique and beautiful art form.*