

LAKE COUNTRY



Dust in the Wind

LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY

November 2016

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Newsletter:

Barb Björnson

A CHANGE IN PRESCRIPTION



As artists, I'm sure none of us take our vision for granted. Yet that gratitude doesn't come easy for many. In my case, the correction process for astigmatism and nearsightedness saddled my nose with thick and thicker glasses from second grade into my mid-20's along with the youthful taunting they often attract. Fortunately, my budget and advances in contact lenses aligned in 1983 to allow a switch to gas-permeable hard lenses. Ensuing years of complacency ended in 2002 and 2006 with detaching retinas in both eyes. Prompt action by the outstanding eye surgeons and staff at the Minneapolis Eye Institute preserved my vision, for which I'm forever grateful. Later in 2006, they performed cataract surgery that removed the last traces of astigmatism and nearsightedness to give me the best vision I ever had. Yet, we age. Since 2015, I noticed my vision became less acute, especially when reading signs or distant screens. When it reached the point where I kept asking Jean to read me the closed captions on our Netflix videos, I knew it was time for a check-up and new prescription.

A change in prescription is not limited to our eyes. Audiophiles discover that their ears become more discerning of distortion and frequencies over time. In response, they seek peer reviews or professional advice and buy more refined—and expensive—equipment (e.g. Bang and Olufsen). The same goes for woodworkers and their tools, or musicians and their instruments. We sense a growing discomfort, pain, or “dis-ease” in some part of our lives or pursuits...and we seek advice and ways to address it.

Likewise, in our world of pastel painting, an art form hundreds of years old, we frequently face hurdles or issues that need a new prescription of sorts. The student-grade pastels no longer deliver the desired results. Papers and surfaces become inadequate.

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For me, I've noticed my trusty Rembrandts are not the "soft" pastels they claim to be. My pastel prescription will be to buy a set of Senneliers, Ludwigs, or Giraults to give me the buttery soft pigments I seek for some later passages in my paintings. Jean's generous birthday gift card to me from Wet Paint is just what the doctor ordered!

There are many ways to address our pastel "dis-ease" besides "buying" the solution. Yes, workshops, classes, videos, books, and magazine articles will certainly help, but our annual peer review meeting and mentoring programs at LCPS can pay big dividends. If nothing else, we can get informal support from our LCPS peers. Granted, a prescription may include different equipment, pastels, or surfaces, but it may also call for a graduated series of classes, more training, or a rigorous painting schedule. None may be easy or yield immediate results.

What's your prescription?

Bruce Koprucki – President

A request for oil pastels from Mary Sabin

I am looking to buy some additional oil pastels if you have any unwanted and lurking in your stash of art supplies!

Please contact Mary

Sabin: lms1200@mlcmmn.net

~ *New Members* ~

Cindy Columb

Laura Frykman



651-698-6431

www.wetpaintart.com

1684 Grand Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55105

Programs

November meeting

November

Our November 15th meeting will have two parts. The first half of the evening Heather Hultgren will update us on the Mentoring Program. Participants in the group will share their experiences and display pastels they have done this year.

The second half of the meeting Bruce Koprucki will talk and demonstrate about how to hang art at home and for an exhibit. He will cover the basics such as determining height from the floor, centering art, grouping art, sight lines and go through the hanging layout process. He will also tell us how to split up tasks for hanging an exhibit.

January meeting

Over the past few years there have been many questions about the IAPS (International Association of Pastel Societies) Conventions. The next convention is June in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For the January meeting we would like to have a panel of our members that have gone to an IAPS Convention share their experiences and reflections. Please send an email to Rachel Heeren (rachelhheeren@aol.com) or Carol Rowley (pastelcr@comcast.net) if you have gone to a convention so we can get a panel together to share information. Please check the January newsletter to find out what else may be added to this meeting.



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LCPS Members

You have the opportunity to put 3 images of your paintings on the Lake Country Pastel Society website.

Go to :

lakecountrypastelsociety.org

Members Showcase page.

On top of the page click on:

How to submit images for the showcase.

It is free to members and you can change images for free once a year.

Notes from September meeting

Our September meeting found us in Cynthia Kath's studio, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota's Northrup King Building.

Most of the evening was taken up with Marc Hanson demonstrating some of the methods he uses in creating his pastel paintings.

Viewing a small oil paint landscape study as initial inspiration, Hanson used a big piece of vine charcoal to lay in basic shapes on a La Cart surface. (I cannot remember if it was paper or board.)

Bits and pieces, and quotes from the demo - mostly in order:

- He blocks in shapes with black or dark brown, and over-lays other colors over initial ones.
- "Don't look at trees as trees - look at them as shapes."
- "If I'm worried about what the actual thing is, I'll get in trouble."
- Hanson first painted as a Naturalist. Now he is freed from worrying about what kinds of trees he is painting.
- He uses sides of pastels to block in much of the piece; trying for loose, quick marks.
- To catch pastel bits/dust, Hanson places a small rain gutter at the bottom of his easel. He found his gutter at Home Depot.
- He laid in a light green area quite intensely - knowing some of the pastel was going to be knocked off in the next step.
- Hanson is always thinking of warms and cools in colors. He said, "In Texas the green is full of red."
- On painting a landscape: "What I painted is not a duplicate of what was there."
- The actual painting he worked on differed from the study. Hanson did not care to make an exact copy of his original sketch.
- He then began using little, light, wispy marks, and pastel pencils, to glaze areas and to get shapes to relate more to each other.
- "You have to discover what the painting has."
- He was looking for "little notes of authenticity" toward the end.
- Marks on painting kept getting smaller and smaller, finishing with "little notes to make it real."
- Hanson added a bit more purple, said, "I'm done," and knocked the finished piece on the table to remove loose bits of pastel.
- He prefers to use no fixatives.
- Hanson suggested to us finding a person or small group to meet with regularly as trusted critics, and said these sessions work best if people are gentle, yet truthful.
- And sometime during his excellent demonstration Marc Hanson stated, "Eventually, you have to decide to be the artist."

We were invited to ask questions while Hanson was working, and afterward, more closely inspect the finished landscape painting.

all in all, an evening well spent, in a building filled with creativity.

By Sue Rowe

Members News



Karen Stombaugh is having an exhibit at the Marshall Area Fine Arts Council (MAFAC) Nov.8-Dec.16 entitled "Oh, How We Grew". Opening Reception is Saturday, Nov.12, 2-4 pm. Web site: www.mafac.net



MaryAnn Cleary

The attached painting "Blossoms of Spring", 16 x 16 inches, pastel with fluid acrylic underpainting on UArt paper was accepted into the American Women Artists Annual Member Show & National Juried Exhibition in Bennington, Vermont.

.....*More Members News*

Fred Somers painting "Water Music II" received the Bill Creevy award for Innovation in Pastel at Pastel Society of Americas's exhibition "Enduring Brilliance." Fred joined his college classmate, Maceo Mitchell who was honored as "Friend of Pastel" at the society banquet. Great fun!



Pastel Journal magazine just announced that the same painting, "Water Music II" received Honors in the Pastel 100 competition.

Fred will be joining other LCPS artists exhibiting at the Outdoor Painters of Minnesota Celebration of Minnesota State Parks opening Nov 3 at 6 p.m, Hopkins Center for the Arts.

And Bonnie Featherstone's "Bonnie and Friends" exhibit opening in December at the Ames Center in Burnsville.

Save the date: "Out of the Depths" Fred Somers solo exhibition associated with the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council grant opens Friday January 13, 2017 at The Paradise Center for the Arts, Faribault, MN. The exhibit includes new large scale oils and new pastels. More information to come.



Accepted paintings in State Fair Fine Arts Exhibit



Edgar Carablo "Draught Horse" won **third place** at the MN State Fair. It also won fifth place in the Animal Category in Pastel Journal's Pastel 100.



Sue Rowe "Seth and The Girls"

This painting depicts Sue's cousin's sheep herd, and is made up of un-counted cross-hatching marks. **Sold at the State Fair!**



Eileen France "Snow Cover"
Sold at the State Fair!



Karen Berning "Used Freight"
Sold at the State Fair!

Linda Ricklefs Baudry
"Freedom From Expectation"

Additional news from Linda

Linda will be part of the Smithsonian-sponsored exhibit *Water/Way* at the Lanesboro Art Center in January.



**The judge for Class 4 Drawings/Pastel:
Lisa Stauffer.**

Marc R. Hanson Pastel Workshop

September 6, 7, & 8, 2016





Workshop

Fred Somers 4-Day Workshop in Pastel

“Pastels for the Joy of It”

**Tuesday through Friday, May 2 - 5, 2017 at the
New Brighton Community Center, New Brighton, MN**



“Blooming Spring” copyright Fred Somers

The Lake Country Pastel Society is honored to sponsor a workshop by LCPS member, Fred Somers. This will be a four-day workshop held at the New Brighton Community Center in New Brighton, MN. The workshop will be held on Tuesday through Friday, May 2-5, 2017. Fred is an IAPA' Master pastel painter and what a thrill it is for the LCPS to be a part of this event.

4 day Pastel Workshop (studio & plein air)

Awaken the sparks of your creativity with IAPS' Master and Eminent Pastellist, Frederick Somers .

Fred will establish a solid foundation to work with the traditional landscape. In plein air demo he will explore how we see vs. how a camera 'sees.' Introducing his unique uses of materials he will show us some new techniques he has been working with including hints about using gold leaf. Demos and slide shows give tools to enhance each student's artistic identity.

His own work is very expressive, often focusing on close up details with an abstract sensibility. He has a very reassuring manner as well as inspiring and interesting insights on art making. All student painting will be conducted indoors. Some experience in painting is recommended but all levels of experience are welcome. Certificates of Participation are available for educators.

Registration is on the Lake country pastel society website.
www.lakecountrypastelsociety.org go to workshop page.

Lake Country Pastel Society Calendar 2016 and 2017

November 15

5:30 Board Meeting
7:00 Member's Meeting

December 15

Deadline for January newsletter

January 10, 2017

5:30 Board Meeting
7:00 Member's Meeting

February 15

Deadline for March newsletter

March 14

5:30 Board Meeting
7:00 Member's Meeting

April 15

Deadline for May newsletter

May 2-5

Workshop with Fred Somers
New Brighton Family Center

May 9

5:30 Board Meeting
7:00 Member's Meeting

July 11

Potluck

Mission Statement:

We seek to unite artists from beginner to professional who are 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.



New Brighton Community Center
400 10th St. NW
New Brighton, MN 55112

In case of bad weather.....

LCPS will email members by noon the day of the meeting and will contact people who don't have email. If you have questions, call Bruce Koprucki 952-448-7559

or email: chaparralwoodart@gmail.com