



# *Dust in the Wind*

LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY

May 2017

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"Springing forward" is about more than setting our clocks ahead. We're thrilled to be joined by so many pastel artists who are willing to share their skills, ideas and enthusiasm springing us forward during this new year for Lake Country Pastel Society. We are so grateful for those who have served so faithfully fulfilling their 2 year

commitments. New faces and familiar ones have joined the LCPS leadership team for 2017-18. Let me introduce them:



**Connie Ludwig**, long-time pastelist and member and my "neighbor" has agreed to serve as **Treasurer**. After being confirmed at the March board meeting she has been vigorously plunging into learning about her new responsibilities and opportunities. We are so glad to have her help in keeping the wheels of LCPS running smoothly.

**Art Weeks**, after his season as temporary **Exhibits** chairperson coordinating the Lake Country Pastel Exhibit at Minnetonka Center for the Arts, has agreed to continue in that role. Art brings people together and blazes new trails. He is already building relationships with galleries and art centers that will pave pathways for us to exhibit in new venues for seasons to come. Thank you Art, for a masterful job with your committee putting together the Minnetonka Show. Art will need volunteers in the future as other exhibitions are scheduled. Thank you Elaine France and all who helped in the last two years and to Bruce Koprucki for encouraging.

**Heather Hultgren** will be our new **Programs** chair while continuing to coordinate the **Mentoring** Program. Carol Rowley and Rachel Heeren, thank you for lending your vision through the past 2 years. As Heather is gathering program suggestions and a team to help her, we look forward to having more of our members join her. You've already had a email inviting you to the Pastel Out at the park near the Minnetonka Center for the Arts on April 29.

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**Workshop Committee, Eileen France** has agreed to serve as chair and we already know of her faithful leadership. She's acquainted with many nationally known artists. We look forward to her representing LCPS as she welcomes those who come here to share their skill and wisdom. She'll need help on the committee so please join the team. It's an exciting time.

Finally, thank you to all who entered and submitted paintings for the juried exhibit at Minnetonka Center for the Arts. This was a growing time for all of us and each of you can be proud for having met the challenges of entering and for supplying your best work for the show.

Paint What You Love, Walk in the Light

## Welcome

### ~ New Members ~

#### **Stephanie Danek**

Is new to pastel, interested in landscapes and lives in Lakeville.

#### **Lindsay David Lee**

Is a plein aire and studio painter and also a garden designer. Lives in Decorah Iowa

## Don't miss the Spring LCPS Paint-Out!

**Date: Saturday, April 29 at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts**

2240 North Shore Dr., Wayzata MN 55391

Time: 11 a.m. —meet for lunch at the art center (bring your own lunch and drink), paint-out begins after lunch (or come in the morning to paint, then join us for lunch).

What: Paint the spring landscape around the art center, nearby lake area, bike trail, etc... Take in our current LCPS exhibit too, it's a beauty!

Email Heather Hultgren at: [hultgren4@msn.com](mailto:hultgren4@msn.com) if you plan to attend.



**Wet Paint**

1684 Grand Ave St. Paul, MN 55105

**wetpaintart.com**

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# Exhibit

The opening exhibit at the Minnetonka Art Center April 20, 2017



**Best in Show**

*Old Maple*

Becky Jokela



**First Place**

*Coffee with the Girls*

Carol Pruchnosfski



**Second Place**

*Crossing the Zumbro*

Jo Nelson



**Third Place**

*Nursing Mother*

Gary Carabio





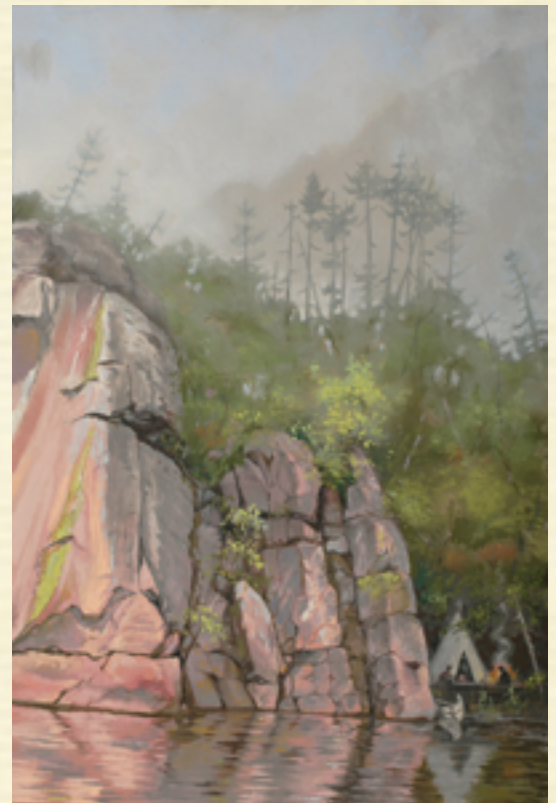
**Merit**  
*Hills of Lupine*  
 Eileen France

**Merit**  
*Waves of Emotion*  
 Cynthia Kath



**Honorary Mention**  
*Spiritual Healing, Comfort and Solace*  
 Pat Duncan

**Honorary Mention**  
*Native Land*  
 Rick Jacobs



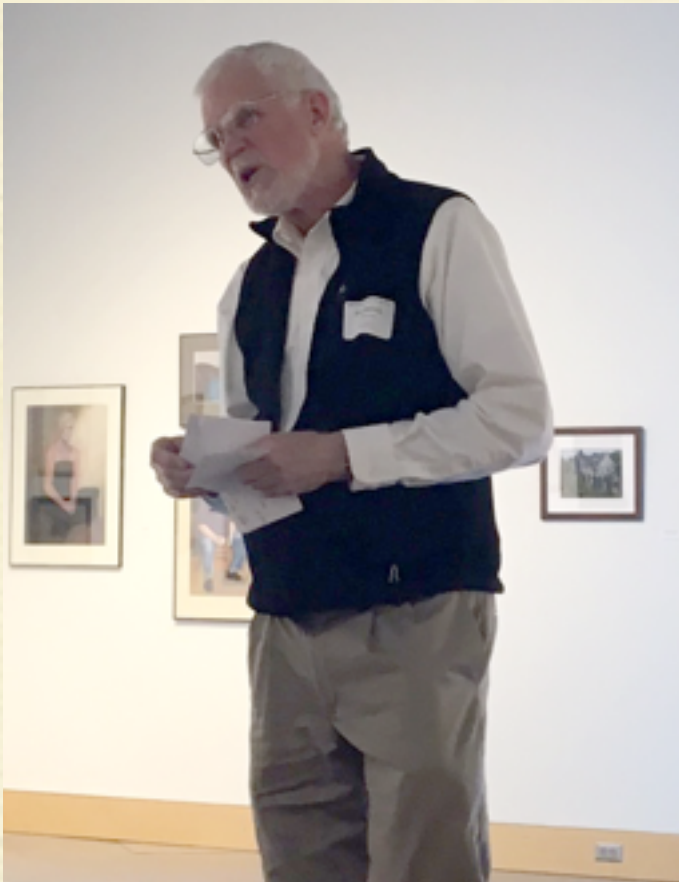




**Honorary Mention**  
*What Does the Future Hold*  
 Michelle Wegler



**Honorary Mention**  
*New Year's Crescent*  
 Christine Tierney



This wonderful exhibit was juried and judged by Fred Somers. At the opening reception Fred talked about each painting that was awarded. His comments were very positive and encouraging. Thank you Fred!



**Honorary Mention**  
*Seeking Its Level*  
 Laura Frykman





# Programs

## May Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday May 2 at 7:00** in room A at the New Brighton Community Center. Fred Somers will be giving his workshop "Pastels for the Joy of It" starting that same day. He will then be hosting our evening meeting. Fred is an IAPA Master pastel painter and the president of LCPS. His demonstration will be "Working on the Edge". Edges are both elements of painting and metaphor for exploring new ideas. Fred Somers will be showing examples of both photo references and the resulting paintings and will be demonstrating working with edges to create volume and space in your artworks. Don't miss it!

## July Meeting

Our July meeting will be our annual paint out and potluck picnic. This year we will again be at Silverwood Park in St. Anthony at 2500 County Road E. You are welcome to come anytime, most people come around 1:30. Our meeting place will be on the island which is down the hill just to the left of the Visitor Center. They have a beautiful coffee shop in the Visitor Center. We will reserve the picnic shelter. If you don't want to do plein air feel free to work in the shade of the shelter at a table. At 5:30 we will have a short board meeting, followed by the picnic at 6:30, then time to look at paintings done that day. It's a great way to spend an afternoon.

## A recommendation from Mary Sabin

If anyone needs mats, the Wholesale Mat company in Derby, CT is wonderful.

Last year, I went to a store for a mat and since it was a 'custom' size the darn thing cost me \$15 before tax. Plus I had to drive 120 miles roundtrip for it. The mat was 9 x 12 with an opening 9 x 6 ½, plain white and no back. It was for a project but the cost really was high in my opinion. This year I wanted to do the same project again, and went on the internet to do some comparison shopping.

Through the Wholesale Mat company I was able to order 4 of the exact same 'model' for a grand total of \$16 for all four and that price included shipping. They were packaged beautifully with no dings, dents, or smudges.

I know most of you live in the cities and have more options readily available but if anyone lives a distance, they may find this useful.

Thanks for reading and have a wonderful April!

Mary

PS. I had gone to Michael's Crafts, which is a fun store, but the mat price seemed awfully high.

## Art Club Challenge, by Barbara Gould

I am a member of the LCPS and my local Nobles County Art Center (NCAC) in rural southwest MN, about a 3 hr drive from Twin City Metro area. I often visit the Daily Paint Works website to see artwork in different media by artists in the USA and overseas. Some great artists have written about the importance of daily painting to improve their work, and when I visit the website I see large numbers of very good paintings and sales of small, medium and larger size artwork from across the USA and Europe. Size, subject and artwork techniques vary, and there is a challenge component to the DPW website as well.

I don't paint daily but do like to interact with other local artists and art lovers. When paying my yearly Art Center dues six months ago, I made a suggestion to our Art Center director Tricia Mikle about doing a challenge piece every month with similar theme but in the medium of the artist's choice (photography, painting, pastel, sculpture, pencil, collage, etc.). Interested people met and liked the idea, and we formed an Art Club which agreed to meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 6PM in our Art Center and show each other our monthly challenge project. For alphabetical reasons, I was chosen to state the subject of the first art challenge. Subjects change monthly and are chosen in turn by our members. It has grown from there into a mental and art puzzle that as one person said "when I can't sleep or need a diversion, I think of what I'm going to do".

I sort of expected certain types of projects like landscape, portrait, still life, abstract, etc., but it's grown to be more than that with an increase in last Tuesday of Month attendance and a variety of topics that are really open to different interpretation. It gets us into our home studio areas and producing due to the group deadline, with the side benefits in my case of finding and using a lot of my art supplies and reference materials--sometimes not the ones that I want-- but the references/supplies that I find to do the project.

**1st topic** was "a person in a space" by which I meant a person in a setting and generated 3 paintings and 4 sculptures including a modern wire sculpture in a box ring of a big fisted fighter (maybe Joe Louis) with background historical tune of "going down" with a knockout punch, and a small sculpture of a man in a meticulously detailed paper feather cloak dancing on a platform.

**2nd topic** was "insects(bugs) and incorporate an Altoid box" and generated mostly sculptures made of the Altoid boxes, with one that had a buried box under Origami insects in a florist moss setting and one painting that used the box under an easel holding a small watercolor painting of flowering plants and a butterfly.



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**3rd topic** was "postcard of a place where you were or wish to be" and/or "a souvenir or artifact from that place". That art challenge generated mostly paintings and collages. One was very colorful postcard size painting of the sky on a planet far away with a thrilling note on the back, two hand-painted cards were postmarked and mailed back to the artist sender, and another new member (a lifelong rock hound in a family who collected rocks) brought in her beautiful rock collection and family photos to show family rock hunting/gathering events. Another artist brought in a plein air painting that she did of a famous battlefield in PA, with cutouts from brochures overlaid on parts of the painting for the project.

**4th topic** was "the sound of light" which generated a variety of projects including poetry about plants quietly growing with a painting of emerging plants. I thought of lightning first, then the light/sound on the first atom bomb test, but wanted more pleasant subjects, and ended up with a composite piece painted with pastel, watercolor, acrylic & watercolor brush pens with subtitle "Birdsong, Starburst, Ouch and Sizzle". The painting won an honorable mention in our Nobles County Art Show.



"Sound of light"

"Bird song, starburst, ouch & sizzle"

**5th topic** was "self portrait in the style of an artist you admire" and a real challenge. The club member who chose the topic showed an example of an abstract painting modified to include items that represented things she liked to do, and handed out blank 11x 14" white stretched canvases to use for our portraits. This topic represented really 2 or 3 challenges--find an artist you admire/like who has done a self-portrait that you can use for inspiration while you paint yourself in a similar pose or abstraction on a white canvas surface which will be tinted and modified for the media used. I narrowed my choices down to four artists: famous pastel artist Rosealba Carriera [Self Portrait as "Winter" in 12/1729]; a Mabel Alvarez self portrait from 1923; a B/W and gray linear self-portrait etching by Rembrandt; and a wild blue, white, yellow and gray energized self portrait of male modern artist and surrealist Joan Miro. I favored the last two due to the energy and impact of the portraits and ended up doing a wild, bright acrylic self portrait which was recognizable but not my usual style.

**6th topic** is "literature made manifest" which is sure to have many different interpretations. I have a rather concrete, evolving idea of what I am going to do after reading dictionary meanings of the word "literature" and look forward to our next meeting.

For me, painting more often with specific deadlines for projects, has lead to several personal "Boy, do I need to do" realizations like the importance of putting reference photos or sketches in an accordion file, art materials where I can find them, and having at least two small easels to hold ongoing paintings & reference items. I also now have a medium size vertical mirror in my work space to continue work on my self-portrait.

We are having a lot of fun and very different results for our ongoing monthly art club challenges. I hope you enjoyed hearing about it too.





## Carol Rowley

My painting "Leaving Grindstone" will be at the Swedish Institute until May 21st as part of the traveling show from the Arts And Harmony Exhibit.

## Art Weeks

The images below appeared in January 2017 issue of Southwest Art Magazine, 1/2 page, painted by Art Weeks, Minnesota scenes.

I am in the process of publishing a 40 page soft cover book of recent pastels and early works of pastel, oil, watercolor and litho-crayon. Looking at a proof copy first before next steps!

Currently in spring show for the Northstar Watermedia Society in Mahtomedi at the Unitarian Universalist Church with 1 transparent watercolor painting.





## Cynthia Kath

'Art A Whirl' May 19, 20 and 21, 2017 in North Minneapolis. My Gallery/Studio 366 is in the Northrup King Building at 1500

Jackson Street NE Minneapolis, MN 55413

There are over 200 artists in the Northrup King Building alone.

This event is full of activities, performances and food.

It will prove to be a wonderful gathering.

Make sure to note the dates:

**Friday, May 19, 5-10 pm**

**Saturday, May 20, noon - 8 pm**

**Sunday, May 21, noon to 5 pm**



Emotional Wave



Grandma's Peonies



Introspect

I'm proud to announce that the **Lake Country Pastel Society (LCPS)** is having an Exhibit at the **Minnetonka Center for the Arts** in Wayzata, Minnesota, where I teach pastel painting. I will be showing three paintings, including the above: Emotional Wave. Click image for more information.

This pastel society is a great organization and I've enjoyed serving on the board of directors for six years. The pastel exhibit will be open April 13 to May 11, 2017. **The reception is April 20, 6-8 pm. Please join us.**



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## Report from Sue Rowe

Our March 14th meeting primarily held an evening of group critiques. First, President Fred Somers gave a short talk on critiquing and being critiqued - a bit concerned his jurying a show: "Click, click, click, Boom." "The same, same, same - Wow!" A good point to keep in mind. We know we should be aiming for the Booms and Wows if we intend our work to be chosen for juried exhibitions.

After a few announcements we counted off into four or five groups, and then placed our pastels around the room. We stayed with our same groups throughout the night, but there were sheets of paper at each area where comments or suggestions could be noted. In this way we could all learn of each group's thinking.

The vast majority of pieces were landscapes - lots of trees, water, and variations on green and blue. However, there were also abstracts and animals in attendance. As some paintings were finished and others works-in-progress it was either easy or sometimes difficult to know an artist's intentions. And as our group welcomes pastelists of all skill levels the quality of displayed work went from brave-in-the-attempt to the sublime.

Some notes on our particular group's thoughts, and others that were overheard:

- When working with "greens" do not be afraid to add purples, pinks, oranges, blues, or other colors.
- "Is that a path or is it water?" Try to be clear in subject being depicted - unless it is your intention to be mysterious.
- Some elements met unexpectedly with "solid" edges of color in odd places, causing the eye to stop abruptly where it should have perhaps carried though to other areas in the painting.
- A hunting dog's eyes are already beautifully "alive," though its body is only still lightly sketched out.
- Some trees are more "alive" and individual than others. Note natural shapes of trunks and branches.
- Our group enjoyed seeing one artist's courage painting a field of cornstalks were abstractly than realistically.
- Some images could be improved by cropping particular areas.

I wish there was a way to know other comments. Perhaps next critique one could photograph the notes made and create a more complete list of helpful suggestions.

All in all it was quite the productive meeting. A friend accompanied me that night, and she was sincerely thrilled by how much she learned. I hope that she will decide to join LCPS and bring her own work to a critique next year.

On to the adventures of the coming months. The Minnetonka Center for the Arts exhibit is a beauty! I am sorry that I cannot attend the late April group Paint Out. I will be participating in the Our Creative Routes art tour in and around Roberts, Wisconsin. I hope those of you who get to enjoy the LCPS painting day will share some of your work with those of us who will be otherwise engaged!



## **Lake Country Pastel Society Calendar 2017**

### **April 13 - May 11**

Exhibit at Minnetonka Art Center  
Intake Sat. April 8 10:00 -2:00  
Pick up Sat May 13 10:00-2:00

### **April 15**

Deadline for May newsletter

### **May 2-5**

Workshop with Fred Somers  
New Brighton Family Center

### **May 2**

5:30 Board Meeting  
7:00 Meeting with Fred Somers

### **July 11**

board meeting: time announced later  
Potluck

### **August 15**

Deadline for newsletter

### **September 12**

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

### **October 15**

Deadline for newsletter

### **November 14**

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

### **December 15**

Deadline for newsletter

## **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 Fred Somers at: 507-645-5031

or email: [studio@fredericksomers.com](mailto:studio@fredericksomers.com)