



# *Dust in the Wind*

LAKE COUNTRY PASTEL SOCIETY

*November 2017*

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### **Historian and Newsletter:**

Barb Björnson  
651-636-1427



## **From the President,**

The other day I was discussing with someone about what amazing bodies we have been given. When we move there is a smooth transition from one muscle to another, each part taking turns pulling in different directions. That allows us to eat a lunch, take a walk, paint picture. Even when we see with two eyes, the images are different but our brains merge them to create something more than what is possible with one eye.

Ask anyone who has had to rebuild those skills after illness or injury. Their body must give extra attention to the part that is weaker in order to regain balance and movement. Even when we are healthy and strong we can benefit from support and encouragement from others with special knowledge and experience.

So it is with our group. LCPS is like a body. We want to make room for each member to be their very best both individually and together. As a member organization of the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS) Lake Country Pastel Society has the support and encouragement of the best materials makers, pastel artists and teachers, and local society leaders from across the world. Several of us were privileged to attend the 12th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque in June. We returned excited and enthusiastic about what we experienced and look forward to sharing with all of you at the November 14 meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Fred Somers

## Renew Membership for 2018

**2018** will quickly be here which means it is time to renew your LCPS membership. Membership is valid from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

To renew, please go to the Lake Country Pastel Society's website and select "Contact". This will give you the option to renew online using PayPal, or to download a "Membership/Renewal" form and send to:

Karen Berning  
4651 Ibarra Ave. NE  
St. Michael, MN 55376

The membership fee is \$30. Please make checks payable to "Lake Country Pastel Society".

Welcome  
~ New Member ~

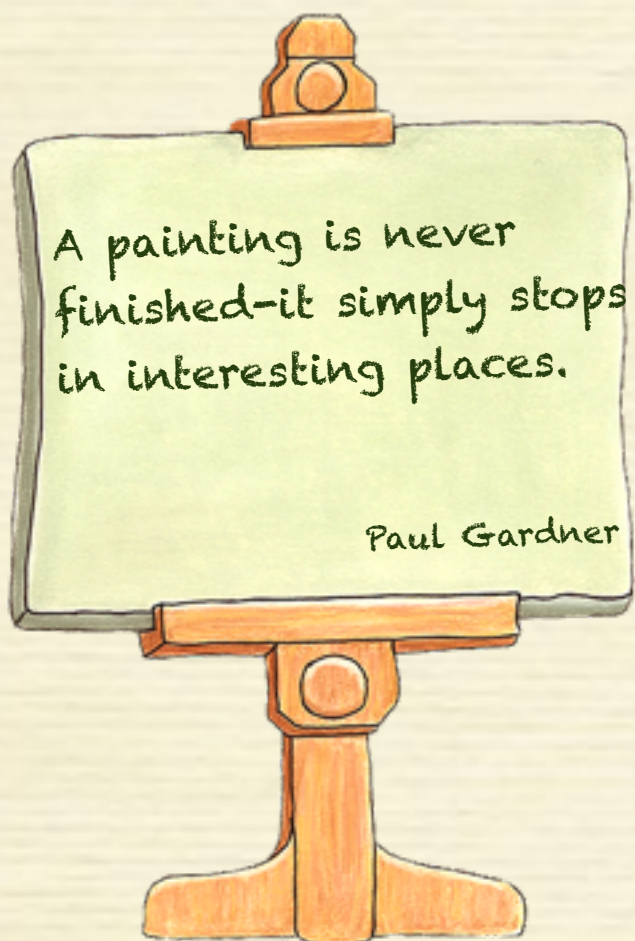
**Nancy Kolacke**  
from Eden Prairie.

Nancy is interested in  
landscapes.

## Good news!

Carol Pruchnofski will be our next editor of the newsletter. I am sure Carol will do a wonderful job. Thank you for volunteering Carol.

Barb



art by Barb Björnson

An advertisement for Dakota Art Pastels. The background is a close-up of several large, irregular blocks of blue pastel. In the upper center, there is a white logo of a stylized animal, possibly a goat or ram, on a green square. Below the logo, the text "Dakota Art Pastels" is written in a white, elegant script font. Underneath that, "your pastel specialist!" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the phone number "888.345.0067" and the website "WWW.DAKOTAPASTELS.COM" are displayed in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**888.345.0067**  
**WWW.DAKOTAPASTELS.COM**



# *Sept meeting: demo and talk with Gary Carabio*

**By Sue Rowe**

At our September, 12, LCPS meeting we had the privilege of having member, Gary Carabio, give both a talk and demonstration on his experiences in pastels.

Originally from the Philippines, where he began drawing at a very early age, Carabio moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, three years ago. Since then, this primarily self-taught artist has garnered well-deserved awards, both locally and nationally.

Some points made during the evening:

"People are some of my favorite subjects, because people are interesting." His subjects are often "everyday" people.

A painting can contain broad areas of color as well as large sections with amazingly fine detail. A work on display depicted a woman in a colorful dress - trim and jewelry a-glitter with a



number of closely-placed tiny pastel marks.

An excellent draftsman, he often works from photographs of subjects holding objects or busy doing things.

One of his favorite papers is Fabriano, though he also works with others.

A painting can depict an isolated figure or a subject that completely fills the paper's surface.

When doing his demonstration Carabio worked from a portrait shot on his iPad tablet. First, he made a light sketch on the paper; then defined the shapes with pastel pencil. "I always start from light to dark," he said. And, "I like pictures with high contrast." Areas of color were filled in with scribbles and cross-hatching, sometimes blended by using his fingers. "Drawing is very important," he said.

He then established value - starting with light touches of dark pastels. Red on dark brown worked as under-color for the subject's flesh tones.



As more and more small marks were added, the young girl on the paper became "alive." We know the power of a few well-placed strokes of color, but it is still magical to watch this happen before our eyes.

Though he did this demonstration while standing at a French easel, he most often works sitting down.

A few more points:

He usually applies only three layers of color as to not fill the paper's tooth completely, uses finger or kneaded eraser to blend colors, cleans up areas with kneaded eraser, and does not use a spray fixative; removing excess pastel from paper by gently tapping paper's surface.

We were invited to gather around the easel as Carabio worked. We took turns to peer closely as the portrait progressed. It was amazing to see the painting go from a few fine lines sketched on the paper's surface to the finished painting.

By the scheduled night of our meeting, our presenter created a beautiful portrait, talked about his process, and offered answers to our many questions.

Thank you, Gary Carabio, for an evening well-spent!

## Member Reflections on Gary's Presentation

**Question 1** — What is something new you heard Gary discuss or show last night that will inspire you in your own art-making?

A) Accurate drawing critical when doing pastel artwork.

B) Patience is a virtue - slow down the process and observe critically light and shadow, shapes and tonal differences. — **Art Weeks**

**Question 2** — What is something you learned from Gary about materials, subject matter, technique, etc...that you thought was interesting?

A) Use of vivid color and people in a dynamic mode add relevancy and interest to paintings that perhaps landscapes cannot capture.

B) Softening application of pastel in some instances is appropriate, particularly for someone like me who likes texture in paintings! Some texture is good, but balance between texture and smooth (soft) can have contrasting synergy in a painting. — **Art Weeks**



## more reflections on Gary's Presentation

Gary is so beyond me, that I can't think I could ever do what he does. Everything he does is interesting, amazing, beautiful. He is so unique, and blessed. I only do what I do, and his work inspires me in the beauty he creates. However, I can't think of ever coming alongside him. He is especially humble, kind, and gentle. Those qualities are also worth so much, having him as a pastel friend is a gift. — **Sher Leksen**

I loved the way he put his values in first using shades of black to grey to paper color and then popped in the color. Basically he used a value study as his under painting I can't wait to try it. — **Connie Ludwig**

Motivated by Gary's demo last night and hearing his story and passion for painting, I grabbed my easel and pastels first thing this morning, headed to a favorite prairie and I painted!  
It was fascinating to watch his direct, confident, skillful approach to portrait painting... and with such an expressive end result! — **Becky Jokela**



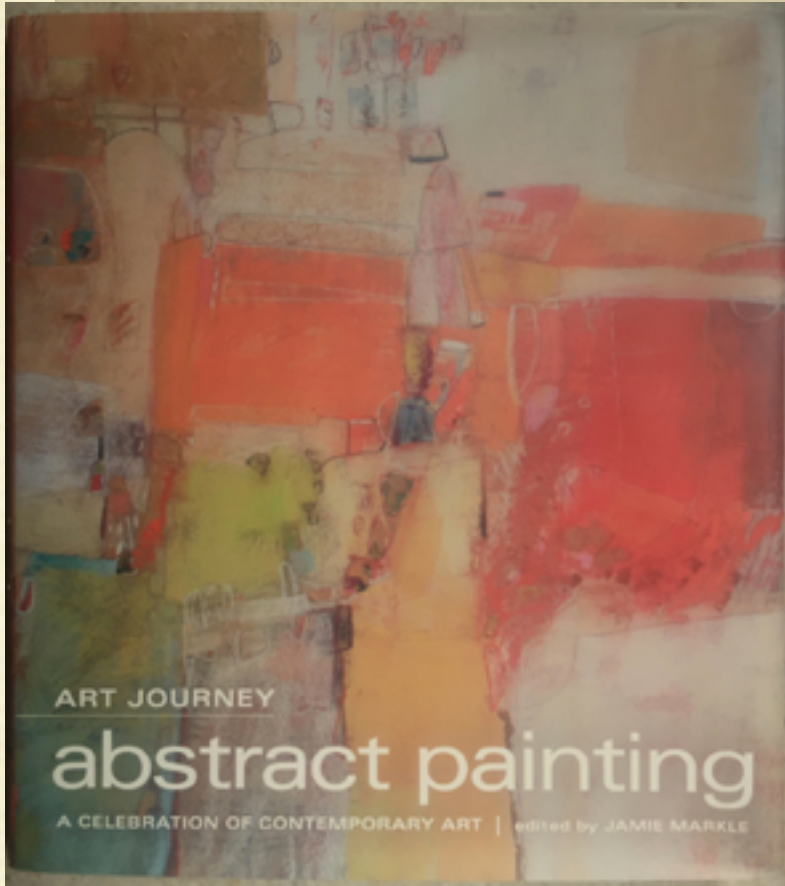
*Value does the  
work; color gets  
the glory.*

*(Richard McKinley)*



pastel by Barb Björnson

# Members News



**Fred Somers** has 2 pastels featured in the recent North Light book, *Art Journey: Abstract Painting, a celebration of contemporary art.*

3 Artists at the Red Wing Depot Gallery through November 12.

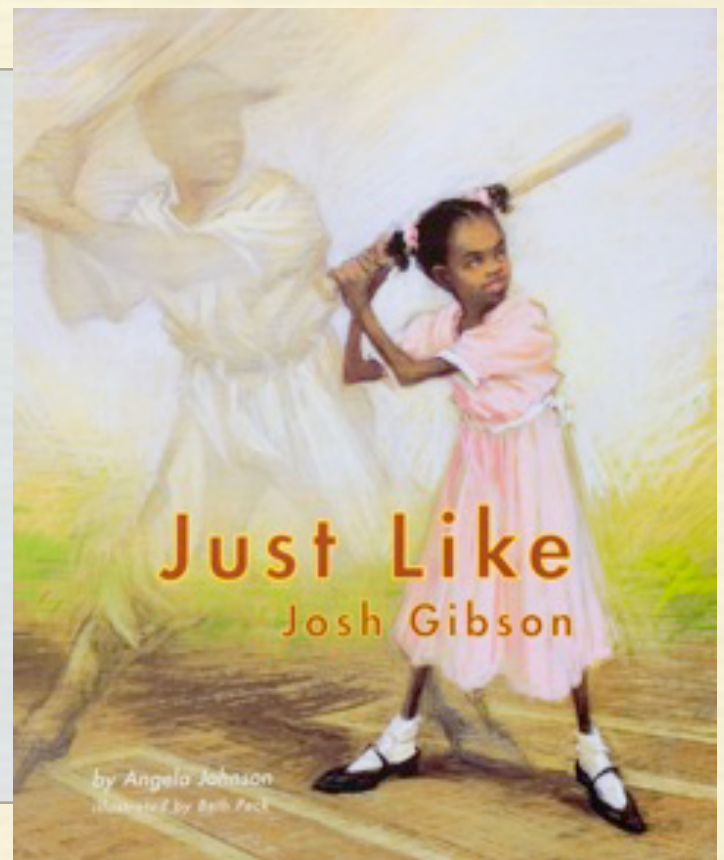
Len Guggenberger,  
Fred Somers,  
and Richard Rock

**Beth Peck** is exhibiting the illustrations for a book called "Just like Josh Gibson." All the art was done in pastels.

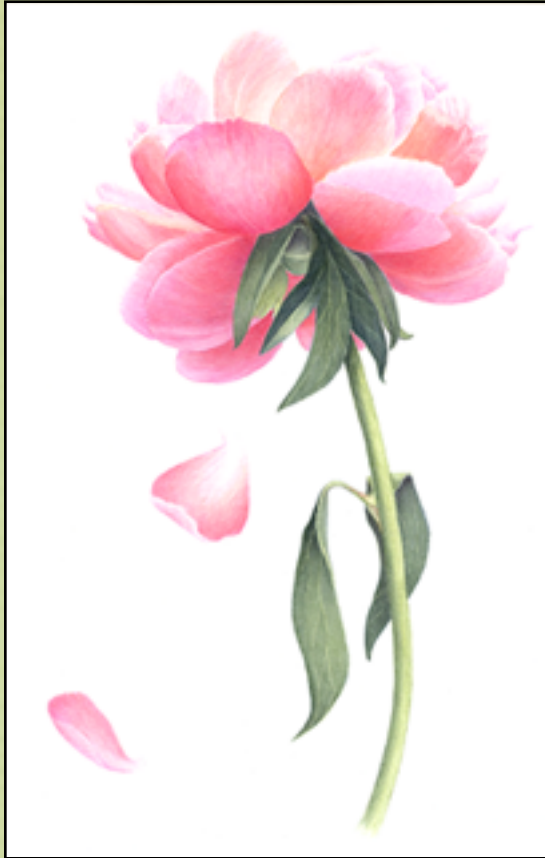
It will be on exhibit at the Hopkins Center for the Arts November 2 - December 3.

Opening reception November 2 from 6-8pm

ARTIST TALK -November 9 -at 6pm







**Barb Björnson** has 3 botanical paintings in the “Inspired by Nature” 10th annual Great Rivers Chapter exhibit at the Ames Center in Burnsville.

Opening November 29

Exhibit runs through Dec. 31.

(The peony is done in watercolor. I know this isn't pastel, but since it's the last newsletter I will be doing, I thought I would share my news. )

### Art Weeks

I have personally updated my website on [Mnartists.org](http://Mnartists.org) website that features approximately 200 paintings and drawings beyond just pastel, including oil, watercolor, one/ink, charcoal, pencil and litho crayon. The site can be reached at [www.mnartists.org/art-weeks](http://www.mnartists.org/art-weeks).



# Opportunities

## Mary Sabin

I was reading an article in the Colored Pencil Magazine for October 2017 and thought of the LCPS and its assorted artists. Even though it is a feature in the colored pencil issue, it is entirely possible those artists who are volunteering are using a variety of mediums.

Perhaps, some of the LCPS members who are portrait artists would be interested in this organization, which is a legally designated nonprofit that works with families who have children with cancer. For more information on, please check out their website at:

[www.inmyfatherseyesportraits.com](http://www.inmyfatherseyesportraits.com).

If anyone is interested, the email given (in the magazine) for artists is:

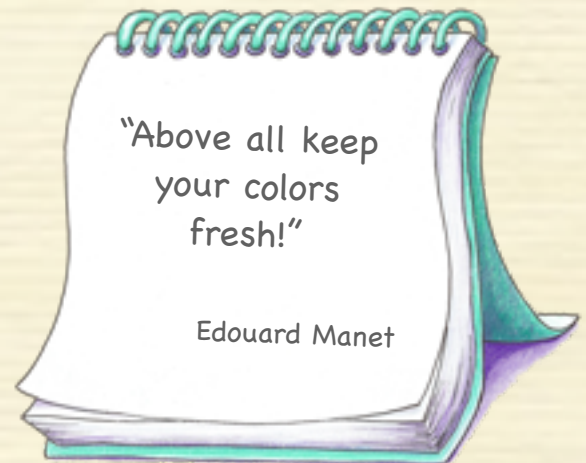
[brent@inmyfatherseyesportraits.com](mailto:brent@inmyfatherseyesportraits.com)

**Christine Tierney** teaches classes in pastel and oil.

Tuesday mornings  
9 am to noon  
in Burnsville.

All levels welcome.

Call 612-210-3377



art by Barb Björnson

# Workshop

## DOUG DAWSON, PSA, MASTER PASTELIST AND HALL OF FAME

We are pleased to announce that our next five day workshop will be given by Doug Dawson. The dates are May 7-11 and will feature a demonstration given at our regular meeting on May 8. Doug will also serve as the judge for our exhibition at the Frameworks. The workshop will include some plein air experience. The cost is \$625 and a \$100 deposit can be mailed to

Eileen France  
13024 Garrett Lane  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Doug's workshops are open to all levels from beginner to master. He discusses many topics such as color harmony, design, texture, use of edge, and organization. He uses demonstrations to illustrate principles and techniques that can take your artwork to the next level.



# Exhibit

**Our next show venue will be at The Frameworks** in the Highland Park area of St. Paul (2022A Ford Parkway, St. Paul, MN) from **April 7, 2018 through May 26th, 2018**. This show will be a non-juried show (open invitational for members and new members) for entry but entry submittals will be judged after opening by Doug Dawson who will be giving a pastel workshop for those LCPS members that signed up, in early May. Doug is an internationally known pastelist who has won many awards and Frameworks has also graciously agreed to provide space for Doug to hang some of his pieces during the show when he is in town. Many thanks go out to Frameworks and Manager Mandy Bitzegaio for making this exciting venue possible.

At our last open invitational show held at the Grand Hill Gallery in St. Paul, congratulations are in order to Gary Carabio, Nancy Bruno, Carol Pruchnofski, Jo Nelson and Karen Stombaugh who each sold paintings at the show. Gallery Owner, Doug Nielsen, thought that the quality of work was very good and was pleased with the diversity of artistic styles and subject matter. Thanks to all who participated in this first LCPS show at Grand Hill.

## *pictures from Grand Hill exhibit*





# Programs

## November Meeting

**Tuesday November 14** at the New Brighton Community Center.

Five of our members will be sharing their best take-aways from the International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS) Biennial Convention. They will share insights from painting demonstrations and workshops, information about new materials, and some of the fun and special memories from getting to know artists from across the world. There will also be a slide show of paintings from the exhibition with discussion about how they were framed. Come for the fun, leave with some new ideas.



Fun times at the IAPS convention.  
(More photos on page 11-12)



## January Meeting

Mark Your Calendars For: **The 2nd Annual Paint-In—Saturday, January 13th.**

The Paint-In will be at the New Brighton Community Center from **11:00 - 4:00** with a meeting at **1:00**. Bring your pastels and set up your easel or sit at a table to enjoy a relaxing afternoon of doing art. We hope this will be a great opportunity for everyone to share ideas and get inspired. We will be drawing names for pastel supply prizes, have a framing demo, and short artist talk(s). There will be added treats and munchies on our coffee table. You are welcome to bring your lunch if you like. Please bring paper or plastic to place under your work area so clean up will be easy. Come spend the entire afternoon or stop in for an hour or two! By having this afternoon meeting we hope to see more of our members that can't get to the evening meetings.



# *Photos from the IAPS Convention 2017*



Five Artists Switch at IAPS 2017





**Tom Christopher**



**Collette Smith Demo**



**Margaret Evans Demo**



**Dinner with McKinley**



## Lake Country Pastel Society Calendar 2017

### November 14

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

### December 15

Deadline for newsletter

## 2018

### January 8

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

### February 15

Deadline for Newsletter

### March 13

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

### April 15

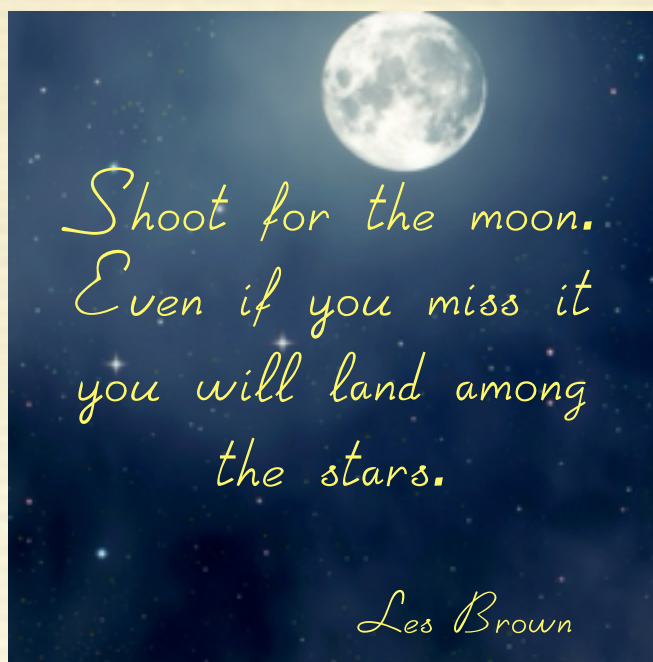
Deadline newsletter

### May 8

5:30 Board Meeting  
7:00 Member's Meeting with  
Doug Dawson

### May 7-11

Workshop Doug Dawson



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

## 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.

## 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)