



September 2019

LCPS 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.

Contents	Page
July Paint-out	3
White Bear Exhibit	4
Exhibit Opportunities	6
June 2020 Workshop	7
Member News	8
Getting to Know Fred Somers	10
Climate Change Pastelist	11
Calendar	12

From the President



Hello, fellow Pastel Painters!

We are finally in the midst of summery weather. I enjoyed the day of plein air pastel painting hosted by **Fred Somers** in the beautiful **Nerstrand Big Woods State Park** on July 27. The weather was perfect!

Our **White Bear Lake Arts exhibit** was a huge success! Many thanks to all involved in pulling this show together. The gallery is bright and open with a high ceiling, and the paintings all show wonderfully. **Art Weeks** put together an impressive proposal, and worked very hard to negotiate this show, and also to get esteemed artist **Kami Mendlik** to act as our judge for the awards. Congratulations to all the award winners. Your work is amazing and inspiring!

As promised in the last newsletter, I have some travel tips for you if you will be traveling with your pastels on an airplane.

The **IAPS** crew gave several suggestions and I took notes. First of all, make a label such as one of those in the photos below. Other artists attending the **IAPS Convention** shared the labels prior to our travel and I found them to be helpful.

It is important to label the outside of your pastel box with your name and cell phone number. I also took a photo of the inside of my pastel box (also below) and printed it in color including a note explaining that it is a photo of the contents inside the box.

Check your pastels, or carry on?

It is recommended that the best option is to bring your pastels on board with you as a carry-on. This way you are able to watch as the agent opens, inspects, and closes your box. The main thing is that you should expect to be pulled aside for a search when going through TSA. Our beloved pastels in a case look like bullets on the x-ray machines, so naturally they trigger a red flag. When

THIS BOX CONTAINS ARTIST'S CHALK PASTELS
CONTENTS PICTURED HERE:



ATTENTION AIRLINE INSPECTORS:

This bag contains professional artists' pigments made with vegetable-based oils as well as WET PAINTINGS! Please take care when inspecting to prevent pigment from getting on clothing.

The TSA defines flammable liquids as those with a flash point 140°F or below. All of these supplies conform to TSA, allowable standards with a FLASH POINT ABOVE 550°F and are considered NOT HAZARDOUS.

To confirm, please contact TSA 866-289-9673 or the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration at 800-457-4922.

Please! Do not discard. These pigments are expensive.

If you need to reach me, please contact me at the phone number below:

Continued on page 2

From page 1

the security guard pulls you aside, remain calm. Do NOT touch your pastel case – the agent alone must handle the inspection and any motion or movement on your part can easily be misunderstood as a threat. Remain calm. Explain to them that these are artist colors (*don't say paint, that's also a trigger*). Calmly and politely let them know that they are fragile, and must be opened carefully. Some agents might even ask you how to unlatch the box. Just remember, you are not allowed to touch the box until the inspection is over and the agent dismisses you.

My pastels were inspected both on my flight from MSP to Albuquerque, and on the return flight, while some artists behind me in line breezed through without inspection. My experience was not at all unpleasant; just a few extra minutes added to my TSA tour, so make sure to arrive at the airport early to allow plenty of extra time so you're not stressed about missing your flight.

Oh, and at the Albuquerque airport the agent even asked me about my painting as she looked over my pastels and commented that she understood this is my livelihood and did not want to damage the pastels!

There is a very good article on the Artists Network website: www.artistsnetwork.com/art-mediums/pastel/pastel-frequent-flyers-tips-for-navigating-air-travel-with-art-supplies/

Artist Karen Margulis (who will be teaching a workshop for LCPS in fall of 2020) also has a couple of informative blog entries covering the subject: kemstudios.blogspot.com/2018/06/tips-for-flying-with-pastels.html



Suggested label to put on your box when travelling by air.

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To confirm, please contact TSA 866-289-9673 or the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration at 800-467-4922.

Please! Do not discard. These pigments are expensive.

If you need to reach me, please contact me at the phone number below:

REMINDER: Entry for the IAPS Fall Web show is now open. Remember - you can't win if you don't enter!

www.iapspastel.org/exiaps_upcoming.php



— Happy Painting!
Christine

**Dakota Art
Pastels**
your pastel specialist!

888.345.0067
WWW.DAKOTAPASTELS.COM

July Member Paint Out at Nerstrand Big Woods

July 27 turned out to be a beautiful day to join Fred Somers at Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. Here are a few photos of the day's activities. Thank you to Becky Jokela.





Summer Celebration at the White Bear Center for the Arts

Reception and awards — Thursday, July 18, 2019

The judge for this exhibit was award winning artist, Kami Mendlik from Stillwater Minnesota (kamimendlik.com). Kami began by explaining the criteria she used when judging the paintings for this show. She has specific things she looks for, but in the end, finally it will be where her heart pulls her.

Criteria she looks for:

- Paintings that have carrying power from across the room
- Simplification of shapes
- A strong armature
- Decisions on what does not have to be in the painting
- Handling and sophistication of the medium

Presented Awards

(With some of the judge's comments about these paintings.)

Best of Show — "Turning to Joy" by Fred Somers

Before knowing whom the artist was, her thought was "Man that person can paint!" Pastel strokes show a mastering of his craft; decision of what not to put in; a beautiful armature.



Second Place — "Orange Scarf" by Kathe Drake

A stunning, stunning painting! A painting is never about the subject, it's about capturing a sense of time and moment; masterful execution.

Third Place — "Appetites" by Linda Ricklefs Baudry

Great handling of the medium; beautiful abstraction of an idea; a feeling of depth in the painting.



Continued on page 5

Exhibits



**Merit Award — “The Color of Water”
by Carol Pruchnofski**

I see the seen and unseen; beautiful subtle greens; a strong armature.



**Merit Award — “June Flowers”
by Lisa K. Stauffer**

Beautiful brush work as move through the landscape, beautiful edges.



**Honorable Mention — “August Landscape”
by Art Weeks**

Simplified shapes in the landscape with strong carrying power from across the room; beautiful movement with the medium.

**Honorable Mention — “A Gift of Summer”
by Cynthia Kath**

A light filled painting that makes her happy; a beautiful armature



**PSA Award — “June”
by Kathe Drake**

This painting is filled with light and color; she liked the simplified shadows; the painting is light and airy.

The show runs until August 21st at which time the **People’s Choice Award** will be announced.





Inspired by Nature

On Saturday, August 3, Cynthia Kath gave a talk for the Mahtomedi Garden Club and the White Bear Center for the Arts. Her gallery talk introduced the audience to pastels and the Lake Country Pastel Society.

Cynthia spoke about a few of the show pieces, showed the audience her pastel set-up, and gave them information about various papers.

She talked about the soul in creating art and about how important it is to support artists. The audience was very interested and had a lot of questions for her.

Thank you Cynthia for representing LCPS!



The Mahtomedi Garden Club had some gorgeous floral arrangements in the gallery and much more for garden lovers.

Upcoming Exhibit Opportunities

We have two upcoming, back to back shows starting later this year. They are as follows:

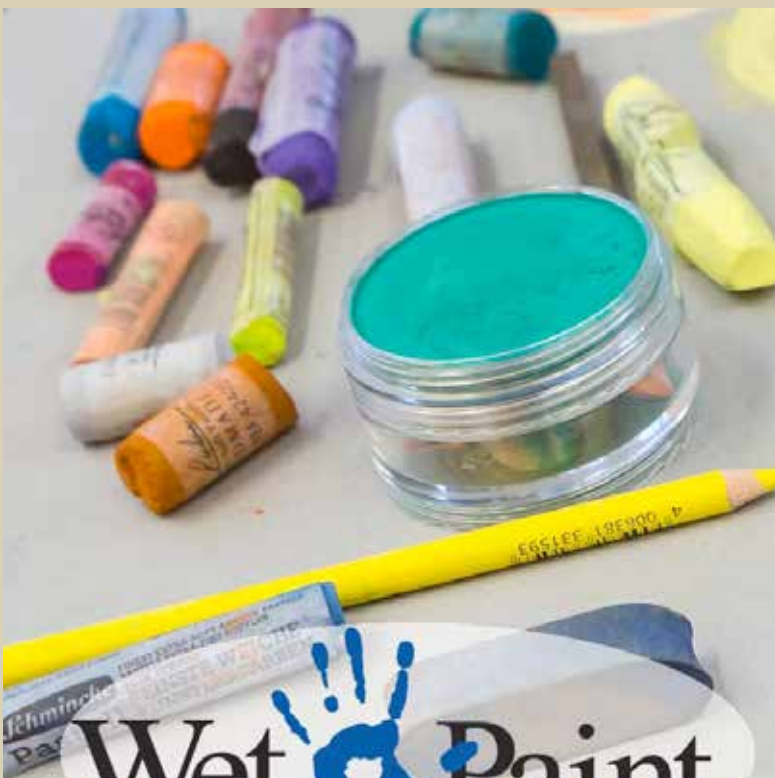
St. Paul's Monastery, Maplewood, MN

Intake: November 16, 2019, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Show Dates: November 18, 2019 - January 23, 2020
 (Tentative - To be Verified by Monastery).
Format: Open Invitational (Non-juried) for Entry;
 No judging for Awards.

Paradise Center for the Arts, Faribault, MN.

Intake: Exact Dates and Times TBD.
Show Dates: February 17, 2020 - March 28, 2020
Format: Open Invitational (Non-juried) for Entry;
 Judging for Awards.
Judge: To Be Selected.

— Art Weeks, Exhibit Chair
 Susan Estill, Exhibit Co-Chair



Wet Paint

1684 Grand Ave St. Paul, MN 55105
wetpaintart.com
 651-698-6431
 M-F: 10am-8pm Sat: 10am-6pm Sun: 12pm-5pm

2020 June Workshop with Nancie King Mertz



Nancy King Mertz

Morning Call

Workshop description:

"Struggling with Structures?"

Master & Eminent Pastelist, Nancie King Mertz, will help you find the way to include structures in your landscapes or tackle city scenes, and get the drawing right. Her rapid methods, whether plein air or studio, teach you to see perspective and understand its principles, so that you can include buildings of all types in your paintings.

Look for more information in the future about dates and registration.

— Eileen France, Workshop Chair
Becky Jokela, Workshop Co-Chair

Nancie also wanted to share this upcoming show with our members. Additional information can be found at chicagopastelpainters.org



BEST OF SHOW 2017 National Exhibition
At Ease, Mary Lynn Sullivan, CPP-D, soft pastel,
7 x 10

PASTELS CHICAGO 2019

Seventh Biennial National Juried Open Exhibition
2019 Prospectus

NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 5, 2019

THE ART CENTER HIGHLAND PARK

1957 North Sheridan Road
Highland Park, Illinois 60035
theartcenterhnp.org

2019 CALENDAR

Submissions open May 1, 2019
Submissions closed September 15, 2019

Jury Notification the week of: October 1, 2019

Shipping: To arrive October 28-November 1, 2019
Hand-Delivery: November 5, 2019, 9 am-5 pm

Reception and Award Ceremony

Friday, November 15, 2019, 5:30-7:30 pm

Pick-up Hand-Deliveries: December 3, 2019, 9 am-5 pm
Return of Shipped Work will start
the week of December 3, 2019

Member News

News from Lisa Stauffer

My quick paint entry, Freshly Picked, won a Third Place Award at Red Wing Plein Air. June 2019.

August will fly by for me, I am competing in Port Wing Plein Air the first weekend, Mineral Point, WI, Paint The Point the second, and I have been invited to serve as the Judge for Plein Air Hudson this year. That opening will be at Seasons On St. Croix Gallery, Monday, August 19, 6:30-8:30.

I will also give a mini-workshop/demo/paint along for Outdoor Painters Of Minnesota on Saturday, August 24.



Lisa Stauffer

Freshly Picked



Christine Tierney

Zuzu

News from Christine Tierney

Christine is teaching painting classes in her studio located in historic Downtown Shakopee. Classes run Mondays 1-4 or Tuesdays 9-Noon. 612-210-3377

Christine Tierney is also teaching two plein air workshops at the Ed Mako Environmental Learning Center in Lakeville on Thursday, August 15, and Thursday, September 19, from 4-8 pm. Cost is \$64 each session. Register through Lakeville Area Arts Center:

www.lakevilleareaartscenter.com/151/Take-a-Class

Christine Tierney's pastel painting "Zuzu" has been accepted into the Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts competition. The fair runs August 22 through September 2.

Workshop with Kathe Drake

I will be having a pastel workshop at Zeller Studio in Hopkins on Monday September 30 and Tuesday, October 1. The first day will be still life and the second, clothed figure.

Email deb@parleylake.com to register.

There will be brief demos each day during which I'll demo my working method developed over many years.

The hours are 9-4 with a one hour break for lunch. Bring a lunch or go to nearby restaurant

Cost is \$250 (includes model fee and still life setups) payable to Deb Zeller.

Minimum of 6 students and maximum of 12.

*"If people can experience the
sublimity of these landscapes,
perhaps they will be inspired to
protect and preserve them."*

— Zaria Forman
(See page 11)



Fredrick Somers

Floating Free



Fredrick Somers

Roadside Memories

Farm to Palette: Agriculture as Muse

Friday, August 23 –
November 19, 2019

This show complements the opening of the brand-new Farm campus at the Arboretum.

The accomplished artists featured in this exhibition demonstrate an affection for productive agricultural land. There is a tram to bring visitors from the Arboretum Visitors Center to this new venue.

arb.umn.edu/art-galleries/reedy-gallery

News From Fred Somers

Make Your Mark! International Online Open Juried Exhibition Pastel Society of Southern California includes two Fred Somers' paintings: *Timeless Wonders* and *Floating Free*.

Pastel Society of America **Enduring Brilliance.** September 3 – 28, 2019, New York, NY includes Fred's painting "*First Snow, Golden Threads*".

Foundations

A celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Northfield Arts Guild

September 6 - October 26

304 Division Street Northfield, MN 55057

Artist Reception/Talks

Friday, October 11 6:30-8:30 pm

Fred is one of six Northfield artists invited to exhibit.

northfieldartsguild.org



Fredrick Somers

Quiet Place — Touched from Above



Fredrick Somers

Timeless Wonders



Fred Somers

First Snow, Golden Threads

South Central Minnesota Studio Art Tour

Fred's Studio will be open
Saturday, October 12: 10am - 6pm
and Sunday, October 13: 10am - 5pm

Friday, October 11: 4pm - 8pm (optional) Fred will not be open. He is at the Foundation Reception and Artists Talk at Northfield Arts Guild

18 studios host 44 artists

ArTour Region: Farmington, Faribault and Northfield

www.studioartour.com

Getting to Know Fredrick D. Somers

By Susan Estill



Looking out onto a green grass field dotted and outlined with a variety of hardwood trees such as basswood, oaks, cottonwoods, maples, and others, one pastel artist who had arrived at Fred Somers' paint out at Nerstrand Big Woods State Park asks him, *"What do you do when there's a sea of green? My eyes are already searching for any hint of color!"* Fred Somers, a rock climber in previous years, replies, *"You must find a place to get a grip, a toehold."* Then, pointing to a tree beginning to be bathed in mid-morning sunlight he adds, *"See how yellow those leaves are on that tree where the sun is hitting it? Begin with that and then work from there."*



In a similar fashion, Fred Somers and his wife Avis, got a toehold in the Northfield area in the 1970s when they

rented a farmhouse south of town. Somers then began his career as a full time studio artist and a faculty member in the art departments at first Carleton, then St. Olaf, college. The farmer who owned the farmhouse they were renting saw they were good stewards of the property and agreed to a contract for deed purchase agreement for the farm at a time when no bank would make mortgage loan to an artist. Fourteen years later, they were the owners of the farm.

Somers converted an old granary building into his studio and gallery over the years. It was completed in 1995 and it's where he still does his work and sells his paintings. But his plein air work, which is often used as a field studies for studio painting, takes place at Somers own version of

Walden—Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. Somers had spent so many hours painting the park that in 1996, a park ranger recommended that he create the image for the state park sticker because, *"he's the artist who's here all the time"*. Currently he has an exhibit titled *"Discover Seven Falls"* of new paintings of scenes in the park. The exhibit will be on display in the park office until August 11.

Somers sticks very close to home for his plein air painting. If not found in Nerstrand Big Woods, he can often be found painting at the farms of his friends and neighbors. Not a *"destination plein air painter"*, largely due to financial constraints, he fondly remembers his trips to Sweden and Norway for commission work and for teaching in 1989 and 1995.

Earning his BFA at the University of Omaha, Somers began his studies there in sculpting and printmaking. But soon he decided he could tell more stories in his paintings. He followed his degree in Omaha with 5 years at the University of Iowa where he earned at MA in drawing and an MFA in painting. It was during this time that through a campus ministry for the Missouri Synod Lutheran church on campus, he met his wife Avis. He remembers his time at the University of Iowa with very mixed emotions. He fondly remembers creating paintings for each Sunday service to accompany that week's scripture lesson. But then quickly switches to relating frightening scenes during a Vietnam War era demonstration on the campus and in the town.

When asked how he became a pastel painter, Somers tells the story about how he received his first set of pastels. In high school there was a girl who everyone called "mom" because her mother had died when she was a young girl and as the oldest, she became the mother of her siblings. She was the caretaker. Somers says chuckling, *"she was the girl that no one wanted to date, but everyone wanted to marry"*. She gave me her mother's pastels. It was my first set of pastels and I cherished them for many years.

Continued on page 11





Since receiving his first set of pastels as a precious gift, Somers has gone on to become the recipient of a long list of awards both for individual works and for his career as a whole. Most recently he just



received the Best in Show prize at our own Lake Country Pastel Society exhibit in White Bear Lake. Most notably, in 2013 he was named Eminent Pastel Artist by the International Association of Pastel Societies. (Somers was the second person to receive this honor.) But the honor that Somers cherishes the most is the Bill Creevy Award for Innovation in Pastel. He received this award at the 2016 Pastel

Society of America Enduring Brilliance Juried Exhibit. He says that he knows that he must keep getting new ideas and working hard to innovate in his paintings.

A man of dreams and visions, Fred Somers wonders how and when he should be incorporating these spiritual experiences into his future works. *"Part of me wonders whether I should paint the 'dream paintings', as he calls them. He adds, 'There is something I learned at this most recent IAPS (International Association of Pastel Societies) Convention in June. You don't run a race to stop at the finish line. You run past the finish line. That's how your life should be. You need something that keeps you moving both toward and through.'"*

One of Somers next challenges is the Northfield Art's Guild, Founder's Exhibit coming up this fall. He has begun preparation for this exhibit. *"There are things about pastels that have drawn me into the study of pigment that a different medium wouldn't have provided. Also watching and studying the pattern of sedimentation in local streams has made me curious about pastel pigment pours. I like the combination of control and freedom."* It is this curiosity and inquisitiveness that will keep Somers and his work moving past the finish line for years to come.



What One Pastelist is Doing to Bring Attention to Climate Change

By Michelle Wegler

I had an unexpected opportunity to attend a conference with my husband in St Paul. It was surprising to see an artist on the cover of their program. I immediately recognized her as a pastelist, but had no idea why she was on the cover for a conference focusing on construction of commercial buildings. I got up early to attend the opening session, as that's when the most motivating speakers are usually on. Was I ever surprised to see the pastelist be the opening speaker! Zaria Forman presented an inspiring talk about her work and how she got involved in her subject matter. I was proud to be a fellow pastelist and to know that artists can have an impact in our world.

The TED talk is a shortened version of the talk she gave at the conference. Her website is worth exploring, too!

www.ted.com/talks/zaria_forman_drawings_that_show_the_beauty_and_fragility_of_earth?referrer=playlist-powerful_art_activism

www.zariaforman.com/press

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Lake Country Pastel Society 2019 Calendar

September 10

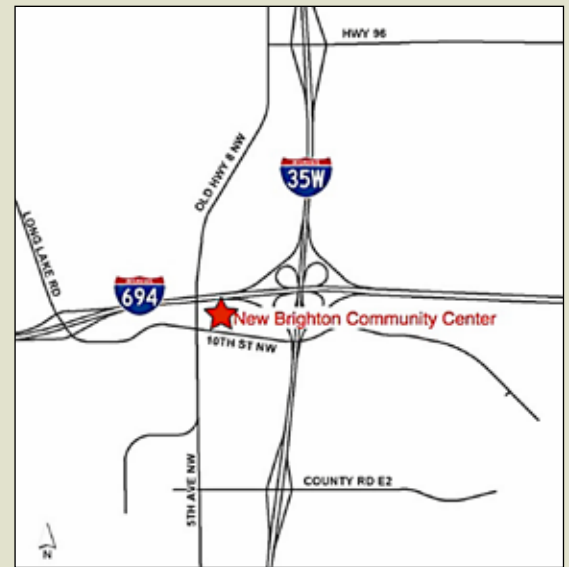
5:30 Board Meeting
7:00 Member meeting

October 15

November Newsletter Deadline

November 12

5:30 Board Meeting
7:00 Member meeting



New Brighton Community Center

400 10th Street 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 Christine Tierney at 612-210-3377 or email christinetierneystudio@gmail.com

"You don't run a race to stop at the finish line.

You run past the finish line. That's how your life should be.

You need something that keeps you moving both toward and through."

— Fred Somers