



Dust in the Wind

September 2020

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.

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From the President



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

We all know that the seasons bring change, and that is just a fact. But it is already September, and I want to know where has the time gone?

HANGING IN THERE

I hope that all of you are finding some inspiration in these strange times. My summer plein air painting has been pretty pathetic this year, though I see many other artists are consistent and creative in getting out there in the elements. I have done only a handful of plein air pieces, but mainly I've been sticking to my studio. I don't know about you, but it seems my warm-up routine to get back to painting is to muse around my studio, dig out and admire supplies I forgot I had, look at some notes (I've taken copious notes in every art workshop, class, demo and seminar I've been blessed to have viewed) and then *finally* plunge into a new painting. That's my way to prep. **What are some ways YOU jump-start yourself after a slowdown or artist's block?**

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Recently my old high school art teacher, **Mr. Harold Bobgan**, passed away. He was 93. I realized I never really thanked him for supporting and encouraging me in my art. After high school I moved on and kind of forgot about his influence. That made me think: We need to show each other **kindness and appreciation**. I'm sure you all have people in your lives (past or present) that have encouraged and bolstered you in your art. Now is the time to reach out and tell them how much their support means to you. **Do it now.**

CARRYING ON

Our Great Minnesota Get-Together, **the Minnesota State Fair**, has been canceled this year due to the pandemic. Did you know that in spite of the fair's cancellation, the **Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts** competition is alive and well? The entries were all submitted and juried online. **It is amazing what we can do with technology and ingenuity!** You can purchase tickets to view the exhibit ***in person*** during special gallery showings, and there will be a free video recording tour on the Minnesota State Fair website and social media. There will also be a free virtual catalog. Check www.mnstatefair.org for details.



And speaking of technology, I recently viewed a wonderful 2-hour demonstration on Zoom, sponsored by the Wheaton Library, in Wheaton, Illinois. It features master pastelist [Nancie King Mertz](#) (she was scheduled to teach our May workshop.) Well, my day had been so busy I almost passed over the opportunity to watch thinking I was too tired, but as soon as she started painting I was **spellbound**! Nancie truly poured herself into her demonstration work, and it was fascinating to watch her process. Yes, you do see a lot of the back of her head, but her patient husband was recording, and he kept gently reminding her to move. I cannot wait until she is finally able to come in person for an LCPS workshop. Here is the link to the video:

[Nancie King Mertz Video](#)

A GENTLE REMINDER:

Yes, the days are getting shorter, and the hot summer weather is starting to give way and hint at fall, with more comfortable evening temperatures (**great sleeping weather!**) Remember to get out and enjoy the beautiful changing colors as they appear. It all happens too quickly, and like **Ferris Bueller** said:

“Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.”

~ *Ferris Bueller*

Be Kind, Be Appreciative and Keep Painting!

Christine

Christinetierney.com

SEPTEMBER 15TH MEMBER MEETING CANCELLED BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM

Hello fellow LCPS members. It’s been so long since we met at the New Brighton Community Center, but unfortunately they are still operating under restricted hours so we will not be able to meet again this month.

The board meeting will again be held via Zoom. Invitations will be sent by email.

I recently returned from two weeks on Cape Cod & took an abundance of photos of the surf & waves. Several years ago I discovered the highly regarded pastel artist [Jeanne Rosier Smith](#); she is best known for her wave depictions of New England beaches. I was able to visit her exhibit at Gallery 31 in Orleans to view several of her pastel paintings in person; they are luminous.



Inspiration for future works!

Where did your journeys in art take you this summer?

Ginda Columb

Dakota Art
Pastels
your pastel specialist!

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July Member Paint Out at Shakopee

Twelve LCPS members braved the iffy weather conditions on July 14, and made it to [The Landing in Shakopee](#). In spite of a brief downpour, we enjoyed strolling the grounds overlooking the Minnesota River, viewing the various architecture & finally choosing our site to paint. There were so many picturesque scenes that it was hard for me to pick just one. Plus, there was a large group of chickens & roosters that added a “back-to-the-farm” atmosphere with their crowing & clucking!

We held a drawing. Lisa Stauffer & Christine Tierney were the winners of a \$25 gift certificate to [Dakota Pastels](#).

Cinda Columb



Sandy



My work in progress



Nancy & Becky



Susan



Cheryl



Christine

Starting this month we will be getting to know one of our members a little better. Because Linda was the FIRST person to submit content to me for the newsletter I asked her to share a little more about herself.

Linda Ricklefs Baudry

How long have you been painting and how did you get started?

I've created art most of my life, though it definitely took a backseat and/or a different form during childrearing years. I reclaimed my **art as significant soul support** when I went through divorce. Pastels were new to me at that time, and I found my hands itching to grasp the sticks and immerse myself.

Color and texture, they are so visceral. It's what pulls me into nature as well. And yarn!

What is the story or inspiration behind this show?

This show is an outgrowth of my solo exhibition last fall at Lanesboro Arts, entitled 'The Edge of Familiar', where I realized that perhaps these expressions were not mine, but rather those of nature. Was I painting my emotional experiences using the vocabulary of nature or was I being a **conduit for the expressions of nature itself**? It makes for an interesting discussion of how interconnected we are once we pay attention.

How do you keep motivated to paint?

I allow myself time NOT to paint, to **allow feelings and connections to incubate** as it were, so there is a rather natural (pun intended) ebb and flow.

How would you like to grow as an artist?

I intend to **play** again with oils, hopefully sooner rather than later, with the emphasis on 'play'.

What is one thing most people don't know about you?

I know Row, Row, Row Your Boat in Latin (thank you junior high language camp!).



UNI*VERSE. ONE SONG

I will be having a show in Gallery Two at [The Phipps Center for the Arts](#) in Hudson, WI September 11-October 18th. The galleries WILL be open to the public but due to COVID there will be no opening reception.

My show is titled 'uni*verse, one song' and dates are September 11 through October 18th. A virtual tour will be available about a week after opening. The above piece is a piece from the show.

[Linda Ricklefs Baudry](#)

Art Weeks

This summer I have been concentrating on oil painting, pastel sketching and watercolor painting. This has allowed me to think about similarities between **oil, pastel and watercolor** and learning from other mediums. Painting landscapes with these mediums using my technical approach has led me to become aware of similar methodologies as well as contrasting methodologies. A few of these are as follows:



Pastel



Oil



Watercolor

SIMILARITIES

- 1) Start thin and **build up texture** or at least the allusion of texture.
- 2) Lay in darks and lights to establish overall medium **value(s)**.
- 3) Use **underpainting** with thin washes or hard pastel to establish color luminescence where required in the painting.
- 4) Utilize **limited sketching** for all three and integrate or dissolve/paint over sketching lines as the painting evolves.
- 5) **Color blend on the surface** using pre-mixed colors of oil and water color. With pastel, color blend by using hard pastel with hard pastel. 'Licking', or color blending too much with oil is best to be avoided in order to maintain color clarity and intensity.
- 6) **Assimilate mistakes** or rework/paint over errors with all three mediums.
- 7) Typically I work **from sky to foreground first** when blocking in a painting to establish light to dark values. As painting devel-

ops and more detail is added, I reverse that process, and then perhaps even again.

- 8) **The last 10% of a painting should take as much time as the first 90% regardless of the medium.**

CONTRASTS

- 1) For oil, work dark **values** to light values; for watercolor, work light values to dark values; for pastel, both methods can apply depending on the composition and hardness/softness of the mediums used.
- 2) Watercolor is **spontaneous** by nature whereas pastel and oil tend to be more **labor intensive** utilizing a layering process of colors and detail. Oil paintings can best take on a feeling of spontaneity if detailed sketching is avoided at the outset.
- 3) **Lifting color** can be used with oil and watercolor, but not practical with pastel.
- 4) **Pace** yourself with pastel and oil. Don't worry about pace with watercolor.

Painting Ireland Workshop with Nancie King Mertz

By Wendy Peterson and Carol Pruchnofski



We didn't exactly travel to Ireland. We did, however, have the pleasure of joining a group of artists on a virtual trip, July 22-24th, with tour guide and **artist extraordinaire**, Nancie King Mertz. Specifically we set out to learn how to paint the greens of Ireland.

Our zoom class began each morning with Nancie completing a full demonstration piece based on one of the reference photos she sent in advance. Questions were encouraged during this time but mostly we just watched in awe as her **beautiful paintings emerged**. A quick break at noon and we each tackled our own pieces. We could send Nancie photographs of our work in progress throughout the afternoon for immediate feedback and guidance. At 4:00 it was time to drop our pastels (no! not really!) and submit our work for the group critique (**Happy Hour**). Rarely did any two artists paint the same scene which made our “travels” even more enjoyable. This was such a great opportunity to see other’s work and gather ideas on how to make them even better.

As you would expect, Nancie shared a lot of great information. Here are just a few of our top picks along with one of our our class projects:

Carol



- The zoom class platform was perfect for watching Nancie’s demonstrations. There was **not a bad seat in the house**.
- When I checked out Nancie’s supply list, it was interesting to see a **fan brush** listed. It turned out to be a favorite new tool for me. It was used to create an interesting under-painting using de-natured alcohol (it speeds up drying time). Later in the process I also used it for creating grasses

and for movement in the water.

- A big focus of the workshop was **mark making** — using the side of the pastel for interesting marks, rather than drawing with an edge.
- Nancie uses her hard pastels toward the end of the painting process, often with lots of pressure, **“shoveling” the mark onto the surface** of the painting.

Wendy



My work in progress



My final version of Nancie's demonstration - Galway



Nancie King Mertz - Demonstration - Galway

- Nancie starts every painting by laying down the dark values in soft pastel. Using a fan brush she sweeps the color across the surface. Following her demonstration, I was excited to try this technique to create the building outlines.
- When painting water, she does not mass in a color but instead works across the surface of the water changing colors and strokes for a beautiful rippled effect.
- I was awestruck by how Nancie captures light in her pictures. She mentioned that for city scenes she will often paint one side cool and the other warm to exaggerate the light and shadows.
- Perhaps the best lesson from Nancie is her nuanced application of pastel which allows for both the paper and under-painting to show creating both lightness and depth.

Nancie offers numerous classes throughout the US and Europe and while this class was the next best thing to being there, it would be great to join her on location in the future. We are really looking forward to her re-scheduled LCPS workshop May 10-12, 2021.

Check out her website at NANCIEKING-MERTZ.COM for additional upcoming virtual class information.

Wet Paint

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

Sher Leksén

These are a couple of my recently done pastel paintings of a place in Sweden.



Sher Leksén

Industrial Evening 17x14



Sher Leksén

Urban Dwelling 8 x 11

Connie Ludwig

Art is keeping me sane in this prolonged isolationism. But I have been doing more oil paintings than pastels.

“Ayla –“checking in” with her muse” soft pastel on tinted Canson pastel paper. 12x16 inches.



This one is “Char’s Birch” It is soft pastel on sanded paper, 18x24”. Char (my sister-in-law) lives in the bluffs by Hay Creek in southeastern Minnesota. This is a lonely stand of birch in a mostly white oak and juniper piece of woods. I started this last fall and used a photo that I had taken to finish it this summer.



Rita Kirkman PSA, IAPS/EP

After many weeks of tech struggles, I have been streaming from my studio the last two months in what I call live [Virtual Open Studio Days](#), which are sort of a casual cross between classes, demos and mentoring.

Laid back and informal with lots of live Q&A and discussions and demos on technique, process, and anything I happen to be working on in my studio.



Are you craving the company of like-minded artists who love to chat about art stuff?

Are you in a slump with your art and need an inspiration boost?

Do you want to learn more about pastel and love to learn by watching?

Is a full length workshop not in your budget?

Read more and sign up on [my website](#).

WORKSHOP

Alternatively, for those who are looking for an online workshop, I've got one scheduled next month:

[“Painting Sunlit Gems in Pastels”](#) for 4 weeks (Tuesdays) on Zoom, September 15 - October 6, 2020. 11am-1pm Pacific Time (1-3pm Central Time). Hosted by the [Winslow Art Center](#) in Bainbridge Island, WA. More info can be found at [www.ritakirkman.com](#).

Awarded

“Connection Timed Out” (16x30) won the Jack Richeson & Co Award at the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod For Pastels Only 2020 exhibition.



Michelle Wegler

I am looking forward to again participating in the 2020 Plein Air Grand Marais. There are many changes this year to the event, but I am still looking forward to creating beautiful work. Select paintings from the participants will be exhibited at the [Johnson Heritage Post](#) in Grand Marais and posted in an on-line exhibit. The exhibit starts **September 18!** I will post more details on my website as they become available

michelleweglerart.fineartstudioonline.com



Not Quite Spring



Michelle painting at the 2019 event

I am also pleased to announce that my pastel, "Not Quite Spring," was accepted into the 2020 Minnesota State Fair Fine Art Exhibit. My work is featured on page 109 of the [catalogue](#).

Wendy Peterson

My hometown, Santa Cruz California has been battling devastating fires in the nearby mountains. With my family and friends on my mind, I just completed two small paintings done from old photographs of an area hit especially hard.



Pigeon Point Light Station 6x4 on UART 400



Sea Lions sunning at Año Nuevo 4x6 on Pastel Premier

Lisa Stauffer

LISASTAUFFER.COM

"I have been painting some, but time is strangely elastic- was that 15 minutes or 3 weeks passing?"

Here are a few updates:

The Red Wing Arts Plein Air Show will stay up in The Depot Gallery through September 26, extended one month. The show can be viewed online at redwingarts.org

White Bear Arts has a beautiful international plein air show that is online as well, I had 2 pieces juried into that show. Perfect For Pigeons and Mississippi Barges. View the show at whitebeararts.org.



Mississippi Barge 12X12

WORKSHOP

Autumn In Pastel

November 17-20, Tuesday-Friday

9am-4pm daily

Tuition \$375

I will be teaching a class at Karlyn's Yellowbird Gallery in Washburn, WI. Class size limited for social distancing, for more info- orders@karlynholman.com, 715-373-2922

Birch and Maple leaves are gorgeous during our northern fall. Bring some of your best photographs of the season with high contrast, and we will discuss composing a painting from your pictures. Class time will include painting basics, instructor demonstrations, personal assistance, group critiques and lots of fun! We may find time to experiment with underpaing also. A variety of pastels and papers will be available for purchase from your instructor.



Perfect For Pigeons 12X12

WORKSHOP

Plein Air Grand Marais

Mini Workshop - Reflections and Ripples on Water

September 13

9:00-12

Lisa Stauffer will demonstrate techniques in capturing reflections and ripples on water as observed from the breakwater at Artist Point. Instruction is applicable to any plein air painting medium. Demo will be in pastel. Hands-on instruction is offered if participants wish to paint after the demo. Through Outdoor Painters of America. There will be an online as well as an in person option to attend, check the website.



Sumac 9X12

Christine Tierney



Dreams 12x18



Changing Skies 12 x 9



Peek-a-Boo Bear 20 x 16

Kristina Rodby



Ona Gustafson

Panpastel and pastel pencil on pastemat



Charger Sees Treats 8x10



Jazzy 8x10

Deborah Damgaard-Hansen



Blue Farm Tank 12x16



Field in Mjang 12x16



Flag on the Shed 6x6



Greens in Spring 16x12



Poppies in the Canola 12x16



Mark in Mjang 16x12

Here are a few pastels from my summer. In March we moved to a new area of Denmark.

It's been fun to explore the new environs, but I must say, I didn't venture very far afield, many of these are from my back yard or my front yard! (All except the poppies and the blue tank!)

But I live in a charming little village out in farming country, where many of the buildings are old traditional Danish farmhouses and barns, so, any short jaunt takes me to a new paintable view. And since it's all new to me, everything little corner is interesting. (We lived way out up the northwest coast previously, comparable to moving from, say, Ely to....Rochester?)

Als, the area I live in, is an island in South Denmark, where the main town is Sønderborg. We are a half hour from the German border, and 10 minutes from Sønderborg. But since Als is an island, there are lots of harbors, boats, and beaches, surrounding the farmland, which is dotted with little villages.

The local artists association I have recently joined, just put out requests for exhibitors for a group exhibit in February 2021 with the theme, "Water and beaches of Als". I jumped right onto that one! This will keep me out pasteling all fall for sure, in order to have entries ready before it gets wintry, cold and dark.

Joanne Carmody Meierhofer



The first is a quarantine self portrait done in April and the first time I tried it with a mirror. 12x9 on Wallis .

The second one is also a first. We were invited to paint someone's chickens. Of course it's impossible to have them pose so I had to take take phone pictures. While looking at them for details, one flew up on my easel! 12x9 U Art dark

The third one was another invitation to paint goats. They were better models but we couldn't be in the pen because they nibble on everything. 10x 8 Wallis with an orange underpainting.

LCPS MEMBERS' BOOKSHELF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Poetic Landscape by Elizabeth Mowry

Capturing Light and Color in Pastel by Doug Dawson

Daily Painting by Carol Marine

Painting on Location by David R. Curtis (British painter),

Pastel Painting Atelier by Ellen Eagle,.

Painting the Landscape in Pastel - Albert Handell and Anita Louise West

Pastel Innovations - Dawn Emerson

The Art of Perspective; The Ultimate guide for artists in Every Medium - Phil Metzger

Harley Brown's eternal truths for every artist

Renoir My Father by Jean Renoir

Exploring Color by Nita Leland

Pure Pastel: Contemporary Works by Today's Top Artists by Anne Hevener

Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting by John F. Carlson

Painting Brilliant Skies & Water in Pastel: Secrets to Bringing Light and Life to your Landscapes by Liz Haywood Sullivan

Zen Seeing, Zen Drawing Meditation In Action by Frederick Franck

The Illustrated Life by Danny Gregory

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lake Country Pastel Society 2020 Calendar

September 15

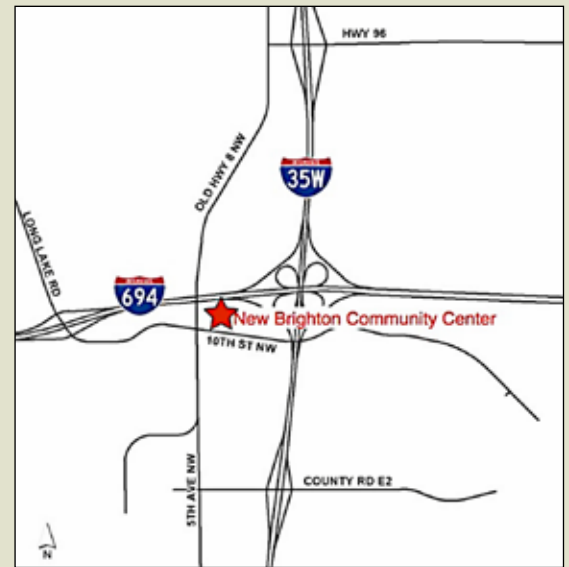
Member Meeting Cancelled, Board Meeting via Zoom

October 20

Newsletter content deadline

November 17

Member Meeting (tentative)



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

“The artist’s world is limitless. It can be found anywhere, far from where he lives or a few feet away. It is always on his doorstep”

Paul Strand