

Dust in the Wind

November 2022

From the President



Comparison is the Thief of Joy — Theodore Roosevelt.

My sister sent me a photo of a painting she made. I was really impressed since her work has primarily been of the paint-by-number genre. This piece was different – so abstract and quite beautiful. Then, for a split-second, I felt a little pang of jealousy. I thought “I have been toiling in my art practice for three years now and she just sat down and made that!” And then just as quickly I gave myself the “don’t compare yourself to others” pep talk and moved on.

Later in the day she mentioned the painting by the horse. Wait – what?!?! Yes, that’s right, the piece was created by a horse’s nose using cardboard, acrylic paint and plastic wrap. I was comparing myself to a horse!

Karen Margulis kicked off her recent LCPS hosted workshop with tips for getting the most out of the three-days. Her list included “don’t compare yourself to others”. This is especially important in a learning environment when we should be free to experiment and to fail all for the sake of learning.

Well then, why enter my work into shows if not to compete with other artists? Knowing why you are entering a show is an important consideration. Is it for the exposure? Is it to share your love of the pastel medium? Is it one of the ways you sell your work? Is it with the goal of being awarded? All of these are good reasons and yet truly have nothing to do with you making your art. Once that piece is completed and you place it in front of another to view, you are no longer involved. Come what may, you did your best and now you are ready to move on to the next piece.

Does comparison ever serve us? Some years back, I ran across a worksheet to use when trying to develop your personal style. It suggests you pick three very different pieces of art by different artists and compare them. What do you like and dislike about each: Genre, subject, color palette, brush work or mark-making, composition etc.? This process will develop your language to both identify what you like as well as to learn how to speak about your own work. Not a judgmental comparison (mine vs. theirs) but as a learning tool.

So back to the horse picture and what I like about it. I love the loose abstract style and the calming color palette. I love the “nose work” and how it created the ripples in the



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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paint. And I love the broken color created when he nudged the colors together without mixing them. That's information I can use.

Our work is uniquely ours based on our personal experiences and ideas. How can we compare ourselves to others when no one in the world can make art the way we do?

And now, the rest of the story. My sister's daughter also had a horse creation, but I didn't like it. The colors were too bright for my taste, and the paint was far more mixed, perhaps even a little muddy. Also, information I can use. And the best part is the horse could care less what I think.

Wendy

Open Positions

Membership

2 years term

Are you a People Person?

Like meeting new friends?

Want to have an impact on the future of our group?

Skills needed:

Basic Spreadsheet knowledge

Basic email knowledge

Attention to detail and recordkeeping

Time Commitment:

1 ½ hour monthly board meeting prep and attendance

2 hour member meeting attendance

Approx 1 hour per month for new member and renewal processing/record keeping.

(end of year could be a bit more during renewal season)

You can share this role with another person, or create a committee to take on all of the tasks. You can grow the role to include outreach activities, new member recruitment.

For a full position description, contact Susan Warner

susanmwarner@hotmail.com

Public Relations/Advertising

2 years term

Are you good at Facebook and Instagram?

Do you like to write?

Want to increase visibility for our group and gain sponsorships?

Would you like to help increase participation in shows, workshops, membership?

Skills needed:

Experience creating postings and events in Facebook and Instagram

Able to write short articles and ads

Good at researching local publications for ad placement

Willing to approach existing and potential sponsors

Time Commitment:

1 ½ hour monthly board meeting prep and attendance

2 hour member meeting attendance (optional)

Approx 1 hour per month for creating social media posts

Create Ads for 2 Art exhibitions and 2 workshops per year.

3 Annual sponsorship renewals with existing sponsors

You can share this role with another person, or create a committee to take on all of the tasks.

For a full position description, contact Susan Warner

susanmwarner@hotmail.com

Exhibits (Be a member of the Exhibits Team)

2 years term

Do you have an eye for hanging art?

Do you want to help our group find great galleries for our exhibitions?

Do you have experience planning events?

Skills needed:

Writing skills for prospectus and gallery applications

Organizations skills for deadlines and tracking participants

Word and Spreadsheet skills for creating labels

Contacts for galleries and judges

Ability to delegate and manage a small team of volunteers

Time Commitment:

Prep, plan and manage 2 shows per year

2 hour board meeting per month

2 hour per month member meeting attendance (optional)

Time to find appropriate venues for future shows

Be present at drop-off, set-up, take-down and pick-up for shows

It is highly advised that you share this role with another person, or create a committee to take on all of the tasks.

For a full position description, contact Susan Estil at sestill58@gmail.com

Exhibits Committee co-Chair:

Work with partner to locate and Coordinate 2 annual exhibitions for LCPS. One is judged, one is not judged. Position entails talking to gallery staff and handling administrative details of publishing notice of exhibits to our membership and gathering entries. Sometimes you will help hang an exhibit depending upon the hosting gallery policy.

Secretary

2 years term

Do you like to write?

Can you be available for the Board meetings each month?

Skills needed:

Listening and Writing skills for reporting on monthly board meetings

For a full position description, contact Nancy Dahlof

Vice President

2 years term

followed by 2 year President term and 2 year Past President Term

This is the biggest commitment to LCPS. If you have been a member and want to make a long-term commitment to the future of our group, please consider taking on this role

For more information please email Wendy at Wlpeteking@gmail.com.

Feeling that 2 years terms is too long of a term?

Or the idea of being a full chairperson is a little too optimistic?

Helpers are always welcome for any of the committee!

You can pick a topic to help with. Many of these jobs can be split up and coordinated by one person.

For more information please email Wendy at Wlpeteking@gmail.com.

Members Meeting

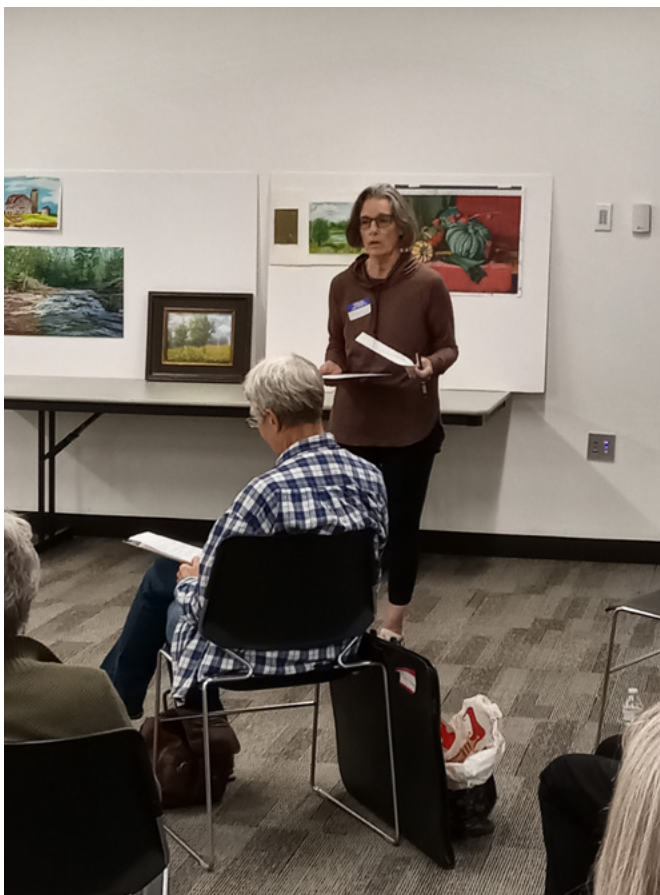
Guest Speaker: Diana Schandorf

Although Dianna Shandorf misses some member meetings due to the distance she travels from home, she had no trouble wanting to contribute her energy and talent to other members of our pastel community.

Shandorf is a Minnesota pastel artist. Since 2004 she has been painting with pastels exclusively and has taught adult pastel workshops for the last ten years. She exhibits regularly in the Twin Cities and in Southwest Florida. Her work has been accepted in national and international exhibits, and she is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America.

Following are a few tips she gave before the entire group critiqued each other's paintings. She pointed out that although there are many design elements to review, the most important beginning approach is to just view the painting itself. What does one see immediately as the main subject matter in the painting? What feelings come alive and what do we think the intent of the artist was initially?

With these questions in mind, she brought a few samples of her own works in progress and three member paintings were also on display. Dianna then highlighted the formal qualities that she had printed as a hand out for those attending. They were Design Elements, Design Principles and Drawing. Clearly, she was not going to go through all of them; to allow time for us to critique each other's works.



Dianna Schandorf





Following her introduction to a critique, the group got into a short discussion of what they say as the main subject and what stood out to them in each painting. In many cases the process of creating has a big story. The group discussed the edges, the overall geometric shapes, color contrast and movement throughout the painting, if there was any. There was discussion of the balance in the drawing, in color and the shapes. Sometimes the artist must edit a piece for strength. Paintings do not have to look like the photograph they are taken from. What is most important, is whether or not the painting is believable.

Dianna then shared some stories of reviews she received from some of her paintings. Now the group was supplied with sheets and questions used to review the works of art brought in by other members. Many conversations and discussions were had between members as they went around the room to review all sixteen paintings.

During the last half hour, some members shared their reviews with the group as they related to the painting on display. Everyone agreed with Fred Sommers that it was good to work as a group and even paint together for the support we give each other.

Steve Budas — Program Chair

Members Exhibition

We are excited to announce the upcoming exhibition. Here are the details:

Friday December 2, 2022 - Saturday January 21, 2023

Boreal Art Loft—2276 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

This event is non-juried and non-judged.

PROSPECTUS

Calendar:

Postmark entry deadline for checks—Saturday November 19, 2022 (No Late Entries Accepted)

Artworks drop offs—Thursday December 1, 10am-2pm (Hanging of the show will begin right after drop off time)

Artworks pick ups—Sunday January 22, 2023 11am-2pm

Paintings must be picked up and dropped off during listed times. (If unavailable on list drop off arrangements must be made with another LCPS members for drop off at the stated date/time.)

Eligibility and Restrictions:

Must be a current Member of LCPS (All members are encouraged to submit for the show, and membership renewals can be paid online)

Exhibit entry fee is \$20 for 1 piece; \$25 for 2 pieces; \$30 for 3 pieces.

Paintings submission must be:

- With a tasteful subjects and family friendly (no nudes)
- Must be made at least with 85% soft pastels
- Completed within 2 years of the exhibit's start date
- Must not be completed under supervision or classwork
- Not from past exhibitions
- Must be framed, under glass, and ready to hang with wires attached. (No sawtooth hangers)

The title or price changes of submitted paintings are not allowed after the submission, and the paintings must not be taken off until the end of the exhibition.

A 20% Commission will be taken by Boreal.

Insurance and Liability:

All Possible care will be taken with your artwork, however LCPS is not responsible for loss or damage to artwork at any time. Artists must arrange insurance if desired.

Entry Procedure

1. Fill out and sign the entry form. Mail in the entry form and check (Payable to LCPS) and postmarked by Saturday November 19 to: Susan Estill, 1817 Keller Lake Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306
2. Fill out ID tags to match entry information and attach to the upper left corner of the back of the painting before drop off.

Questions

Contact—Susan Estill, Exhibit Chair. Sestill58@gmail.com 612-751-9625

Entry Form for the Lake Country Pastel Society 2022-2023 Exhibit (Non-Judged)

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____ZIP_____

Phone_____

Email_____

_____I could volunteer to help hang the exhibit Thursday December 1, 2pm-5pm if needed

I AGREE TO ALL THE TERMS SET FORTH IN THE PROSPECTUS

Signed_____Dated_____

Entry #1

Title_____

Price (Including 20% Commission to Boreal)_____

Not for Sale_____

UnFramed Dimensions: Height_____ Width_____

Entry #2

Title_____

Price (Including 20% Commission to Boreal)_____

Not for Sale_____

UnFramed Dimensions: Height_____ Width_____

ID TAGS for the back of your paintings

Artist_____

Title_____

Dimensions_____

Price_____

Phone_____

Artist_____

Title_____

Dimensions_____

Price_____

Phone_____

Challenge

October: Fall Theme

Thank you to our October entrants AND congratulations to our October winners, who just happen to be the same! Yes, that's right. We had FOUR entries — so we decided to make all four WINNERS.



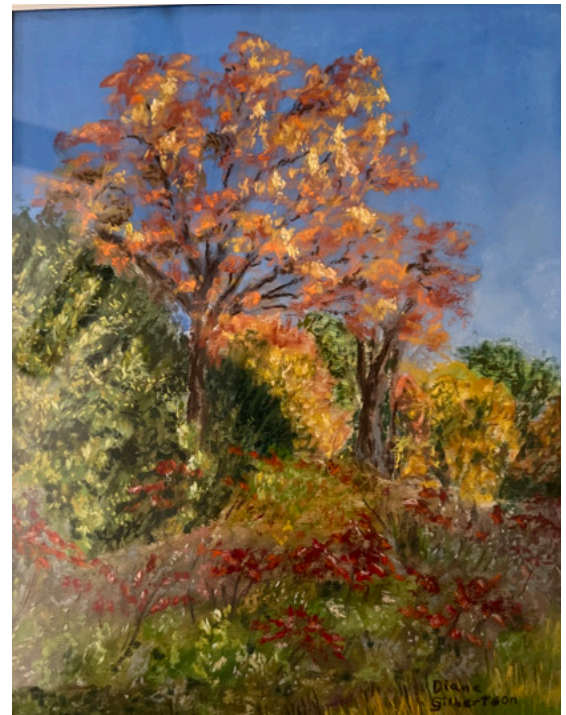
Joanne Meierhofer - Falling Gold
12 x 18



Tina Schwach - Connecticut Barn
15.5 x 12"



Angie Archer — Minneopa State Park
7 x 9



Diane Gilbertson -
8 x 10.5

Each winner will receive a Pan Artists' Pastel in a beautiful shade of Fall orange - 280.3 Orange shade. Our next challenge will be December 1-15.

Workshop - Karen Margulis

Here are two articles by our board members:

A great instructor.
Organized and well-informed.... A wonderful demonstrator.
A new technique with every lesson... I learned a lot!
Encouraged me to be expressive.
Enthusiastic!

These were some comments made by fellow pastel painters as our Karen Margulis workshop on October 12–14, 2022, came to an end. The workshop, Expressive Pastels: Loosen Up and Add some Spice to your Paintings, was full of tips for painting in a more expressive manner. We explored methods from the initial planning stage and a variety of underpainting techniques to the final addition of those important 'spices'.

There was so much information presented, but here are a few of the important take-aways.



Karen quoted, less information leads to more interpretation, as she introduced her five steps to expressive paintings:

1. Use reference materials to inspire your painting... NOT to copy. Use small photos as you will be more likely to interpret rather than copy every detail.
2. Have a 'WHAT IF' attitude. Be bold and unafraid. It's only paper!
3. Organize your supplies. Have everything handy, select the pastels you will be using and put them into one small box.
4. Study! Understand basic painting concepts like composition, color, VALUE and drawing. But beware of 'Educosis' (overly educated)
5. Paint often!

Karen emphasized VALUE, the lightness and darkness of a color, and how important it is to start your painting with a good value plan. Your underpainting should have big, strong, simple shapes of 2-4 values.

Planning and creating a thumbnail sketch is key to a successful painting. She encouraged the use of an index card rather than a sketchbook drawing as you can tape it to your easel and more easily use it for reference. Lightly sketch in the big shapes and fill them in with no more than four values.

Use this thumbnail sketch, not the photo to begin your painting. Draw lightly onto your paper/board and create the underpainting. Once this is completed, remove your thumbnail, replace it with the reference photo and begin painting with pastels. Use dark values first, layered with several colors to make it interesting, next medium values and then light. Be sure your foundation is strong before adding the final touches, the 'spice'!

When your painting is close to completion, evaluate it by using Karen's 'Punch List':

1. Is there a visual journey for the viewer? Are there areas of interest that lead the viewer through the painting?
2. Is there a believable feeling of depth in the painting?
3. Is there an earth-sky connection, a relationship between the earth and sky?
4. Is there anything distracting that takes the viewer's eye out of the painting?





Design + Value + Color = A good painting

We ended by pulling together techniques learned throughout into a fun painting exercise, followed by a final feedback session. It was an impressive display of paintings created in a mere three days.

Those things learned without joy you will soon forget. Karen quoted this Finnish saying on the morning of day one. Three days, six demonstrations, six different techniques and dozens of paintings later, I believe every participant felt inspired, that they had grown as a painter- and had fun doing it. As one person said during the final session, “She made it playful!”

And... a perfect statement for summing up our Karen Margulis workshop:

“I never thought I’d learn so much in such a short time!”

Becky Jokela - Workshop Chair

There were close to 20 people who attended Karen’s demonstration. Since some of the people attending were participants in Karen’s workshop, the evening already had a warm feeling to it.



The demo was to be a scene of prairie flowers, with a focus on the mystery and magic of under-painting. While she passed around the small photograph of what she planned to paint, she delved into some of her personal journey of how she developed her art. It began at the age of seven, when she won her first contest. It was an easter egg decorating contest and each person could submit only one egg. Karen could not stop herself from decorating two and when she submitted the second egg, it was under the name of her sister. She didn’t think it was a big deal until her mother found out that publicly it was announced that the “two sisters” tied for first place!



She knew she wanted to be an artist, but found while exploring photography that it was too inflexible. Her water coloring experience told her "...what not to do." Once she explored pastels, she knew she was on the right path and became determined to master pastels. The advice given to her was to practice by painting a small picture daily, but she needed encouragement. So, her starting a blog about her experiences goaded her to paint daily.

For Karen, she believes that one is not meant to copy a photograph, but to interpret the image. For each theme, like the prairie flowers she was going to demonstrate, she chooses her pastels ahead of time and has a guideline for approaching the painting.



As mentioned earlier, Karen was to explore the mystery and magic of the under-painting. She began with a pencil sketch of the overall pattern. She used dark pastel squares from Jack Richardson for the dark areas. (He only does dark values.) Karen followed this with light pastels from Luxarchival. Once the pastels were applied, she used rubbing alcohol to "paint" these colors onto her paper. Once dried, it was followed by a single coat of clear Gesso, which has its own texture. This allows for additional layering of the pastels. The under-painting was complete.

As Karen continued to paint, there were multiple tips and explanations of why she did what she did. Here are some of them: Use a wide brush with bristles when applying the alcohol and Gesso. Apply the Gesso strokes in the direction of your planned painting that area. Start with your dark colors, then go to light, so the painting does not get muddy. Can use a chop stick or even something like a money clip to scrape and remove some of the dry gesso, for texturing. Don't focus on one area too long. Don't get impatient. Take your time and relax. Sometimes you walk away from your painting and return for a different perspective.

Karen got a round of applause after she finished. She answered everyone's questions and in the end we all stood up to look more closely at her beautiful work of art, as well as the other paintings she brought along with her.

Steve Budas — Program Chair



Upcoming Events

This coming November Meeting

This coming November we have Cheryl LeClair-Sommers presenting on the topic of snow. You do not want to miss this one! Cheryl is one of our first board members. With her extensive experience in plein air painting, she will feature her ideas on creating snow and its many effects that can be created by using pastels. Her presentation will also talk about ways in dealing with bright light and how to dress for outdoor winter weather. Several images will be projected onto the screen to illustrate her points. Not only will she explain some of her techniques, the presentation will include a hand-out with tips on painting during the winter season. Cheryl is a member of many art organizations including Oil Painters of America, Outdoor Painters of Minnesota, and past President of the Lake Country Pastel Society.

Following her presentation, attending members will have the opportunity to cut out a piece of gel the size of their viewfinder, that will help to shade their outdoor image when they do winter plein-air painting. The type gel used is the industry standard shade of orange used for outdoor painting.

January 7, 2023 Paint-In



The new site for this paint-in event.

For our winter Paint-In, one can choose the topic of snow, based on what we learned in the November meeting, or you could just bring in one painting that you are currently working on. Our location is not the Community Center as it has been in the past. We will be in a more brightly lit room at the Totem Pole Park in New Brighton. This is only about 1.5 miles away from our original place. Follow these directions to get there:

Many take 35W to get to meetings.

This time, your exit will be County Road D, a little more south of the community center.

Upon exit, turn to the west and very soon you will come to Old US Hwy 8.

Turn right, going north to Foss Road.

Turn left (west) and shortly you will come to the entrance of the park building for Totem Pole Park: 1011 Foss Road.

There is a parking lot just off the road near the building to pull into. If that is full, you can park on the street.

March 14, 2023 Meeting

Ann Solyst is a painter and illustrator living in Minneapolis. She loves nature, and storytelling and has always wanted to be an artist. For her artist talk in March, Ann Solyst will discuss hard pastels; their strengths, challenges, subtle differences to soft pastels, and how she came to love the accessibility and flexibility of the medium.

Ann will also discuss her creative process which playfully engages in art history and natural history. Inspired in part by the bizarre descriptions of real and fantastical animals in medieval texts, she creates her own animal mash-ups that are delightfully contrarian and full of personality while still being carefully rendered so-as-to stylistically reflect the art of 19th century wildlife illustrators such as John James Audubon.



BLICK®

art materials

May-9, 2023 meeting

Dawn Emerson, who is teaching the workshop, will demo her technique for the meeting's presentation. Dawn spent most of her adult life living in a log home and studio in the high plateau desert of Central Oregon and the change was huge. The wide-open space of the west, with all its inhabitants and unique topography encouraged new artistic expression.

She applied her love of drawing to teaching art to children in the public schools as a visiting artist in education. When she took workshops in pastel, she fell in love with the medium. She has been recognized for her work by respected pastel societies, and in the late 1990s started showing her work in galleries around the country, while leading her own pastel workshops.



I began printmaking in 2008, and that led to incorporating mixed media in my work. Dawn produced a book titled "Pastel Innovations," which was published 2017 and is now printed in 4 languages. She has 6 instructional DVDs and made a new video available on Vimeo titled "Breaking New Ground" that features new techniques about layering pastel with water mixable oil. If you do not sign up for the workshop, this is a great way to learn more from a great artist for free.

Steve Budas

LCPS Program Chair

Workshop 2023

Look forward to two workshops next year:

Dawn Emerson will be here on May 8-10, 2023. (She will also be the featured presenter for our LCPS membership meeting on May 9)

Desmond O'Hagen will be our workshop instructor on October 9-11, 2023.



Rita Kirkman

“Fun with Feathers!” Paint-Along with Rita Kirkman, on Zoom

\$25

Who! Who!... wants to paint this Screech Owl? Dive in to all these fab feather textures on Saturday, Nov 19, 2022, at 1pm Central Time.

Register here! <https://www.ritakirkman.com/workshop/31385/fun-with-feathers-paint-along-on-zoom>

For this owl, Rita will be going back to her early years and using mostly hard pastels and pastel pencils on a toned sanded paper, but you can use the medium of your choice. She's had some attendees enjoy use oil, acrylic, and even watercolor with her paint-alongs. (You can even do her usual warm underpainting if you're familiar with that!) This paint-along will focus on feather textures in a variety of tones and lines.

(PS: Registration includes a link to the video which will be ready just a few days later! So if you must skip out early, or come in late, no worries!)

“Fun with Feathers” Paint-Along!

Who! Who!.. wants to paint this Screech Owl?
only \$25!



photo



on Saturday
Nov 19, 2022
1pm CT

(Registration link in description
or IG profile Linktree)

Lisa Stauffer



GTA Grain Elevator
12 x 9

My painting, “The Old Granary” won an Honorable Mention at Prairie Lakes Plein Air the last weekend in September.

“GTA Grain Elevator” won the quick paint competition with the Artist’s Choice Award. The show was on display in October at Art Of The Lakes Gallery in Battle Lake, MN.



The Old Granary
9 x 12

“Time Rolls On” was juried in to the 9th Master Circle Exhibition. It is on display now on the International Association Of Pastel Societies website.

“Old Red Leaning” and “Bowing Birch” were juried in the MidAmerica Pastel Society’s International Show. It is available through November at the Tim Murphy Gallery in the Merriam, KS Community Center.

One class is coming up in November, one in February. Feel free to send me a note if you have any questions about class. Hope I might see you there!

[Exploring Underpainting for Pastel and Other Media](#)

Play with the possibilities that a loose underpainting can provide for the abstract foundation of your painting. Experiment with a variety of media to create colorful and textural designs to paint on. These will include watercolor, oil stain, inks, gesso and more to begin your paintings with abandon! These underpaintings will work for nearly

any media, but instructor demonstrations will continue in pastel. Bring photos, paintings, field studies of subjects that you love to paint. This class works well for all opaque mediums such as pastel, acrylic, gouache, and watercolor!

Supply List

November 18-20, 2022

Friday-Sunday 9:30 AM-4:00 PM

CLASS ID: NP11

Tuition: \$250 Member/\$312 Non-Member

Material Fee: \$40 payable to instructor

Age/Level: Adults, Advanced Beginner and Beyond

Location: WBCA

I will also be teaching my pastel foundation course White Bear Center for the Arts. This is the draft of the course. It will be included in the next catalog

Artistic Essentials: Still Life In Pastel

Focus on painting simple still life set-ups in the versatile medium of pastel and learn how these lessons apply to painting all subject matter as we discuss design and composition, painting fundamentals, and the importance of accurate drawing. Class time will include demonstrations, personal assistance at your easel, group critiques, and fun! Other mediums welcome for intermediate and advanced artists, though demonstrations will be done in pastel.

Visit WhiteBearArts.org for a supply list.

February 3-5, 2023

3 Days, Friday-Sunday, 9:30 AM-4:00 PM

CLASS ID: AD12

Tuition: \$230 Member/\$288 Non Member

Age/Level: Adults, Beginner and Beyond

Location: WBCA



Time Rolls on
12 x 12



Zest

at

Board of Directors

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651-247-4405

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Past co-Presidents

Christine Tierney
612-210-3377
Pat Duncan
612-644-6798

Lake Country Pastel Society 2022 - 2023 Calendar

November

8 — 5.30-7PM Board Meeting - Zoom
15 — 7-9PM Member meeting “How to Paint Snow”, Cheryl LeVlaur-Sommers
19 — Deadline to enter Member show (No late entries) Prospectus can be found on our website.

December

1 — 10AM-2PM Member Show: drop off artwork
2 — Members’ Show: opens

January 2023

7 — PAINT IN
21 — Members Show: closes
22 — 11-2PM Member Show: pick-up artwork



**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 con-
tact people who don't have email.**

**If you have questions, call Wendy
Peterson 651-247-4405.**

