

YOU'RE INVITED! Dress festively!
December 17th Zoom Holiday Party @ 12:30

And if you're so inclined, **please create a miniature masterpiece or ornament to share!** If possible, send your images to gail@PLPgraphicdesign.com the day before the meeting and everyone will be able to see a detailed view of your holiday creativity. There will be holiday decoration demonstrations and other surprises in store, so please join us to celebrate the season! **Zoom etiquette: Come in, say hello, then mute yourself.**



Examples of holiday miniatures from 2018

Look for an email from gail@plpgraphicdesign.com the morning of the meeting, and click on the link in the email. No password. **We look forward to seeing YOU on December 17th!**
—> **NOTE: Please come 10-15 minutes early if you need to check audio and video settings, so we can start on time this month.**

FINAL REMINDER!! If you want to trade out your art images on our website, send up to three good pictures to gail@PLPgraphicdesign.com by **December 31**. Next opportunity will be June 2021. New members or old, if you don't yet have an art page on our site, let's go! Visit the **Members' Artwork** page on www.AWSOMEART.org to see how it works. Be sure to include title, dimensions (HxW), and medium.

AWS ZOOM BOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 10:35 by President Carol Mills. Attending: Gail Mardfin, Patty Bird, Jerry Fabiano, Fran Neilsen, Nancy Sanchietti, Deni Marrone, and Lorraine Stribling, Patricia Marina.

PRES: Carol began by stating that lowering our yearly dues by half to \$20.00 will be implemented and dues should be paid by Dec. 31, 2020. Lorraine Stribling will send an email to all members that dues should be sent to her.

VICE PRES: Jerry stated that some members had requested that we find ways to shorten the general Zoom meetings. Several of us agreed, and we will try and find ways to keep the business part of the meeting shorter and try and limit the length of the programs as well. Two members will be highlighted today, which will make today's meeting a little longer, but we will attempt to keep to shorter times in the future.

NEWSLETTER: Gail said that there will not be a prompt for the December meeting because it is the holiday party and people are encouraged to make small seasonal paintings. The prompt for January will be self-portraits, and Jerry will give us a video to watch prior to that meeting on doing a self-portrait. Gail would like us to send these in to her for the newsletter, and she will post all the self-portraits anonymously so members can guess who is who.



Kathy Byrne - "Silk Lanterns" 22x28 watercolor
I have three paintings in the CWA Holiday Marketplace Affordable Art online show. <https://www.californiawatercolor.org/gallery.php?cat=149> The show runs through January 1, 2021. The three paintings are: "Antique Saws," "My Favorite Chickens," and "Pillsbury's Best." [ABOVE] Here is one of my latest.

Gail also said members' art for the website should be in to her no later than Dec. 31 for the twice-yearly change. Gail said she was learning about Zoom "breakout rooms" and showed us how she was able to "screen-share" artwork on Zoom. She will implement this with work she receives.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY ZOOM:

Carol showed us a painting of poinsettias that she had done and said she hopes members will also do a small holiday painting or an ornament to share at the December Zoom meeting. Lorraine showed us two folded boxes she had made from watercolor paintings, which were very cute and useful. She can provide patterns for these if members would like to make some. Other ways to make our December Zoom meeting fun and in the holiday spirit were discussed including Zoom breakout rooms to chat together.



VENUES: Deni stated that two venues are receiving artwork. These are the Sebastopol Specialty Center and Umpqua Bank. Artwork will be left in for three months. Tombe Realty still has Phil Wilkinson's artwork but is open by appointment only.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Sanchietti

Sebastopol Venues

PLEASE NOTE: VENUE EXHIBITS WILL HANG FOR 3 MONTHS AT A TIME NOW.

Tombe Realty

Currently: Phil Wilkinson

1/21/21-3/18/21: **ANYONE ELSE INTERESTED?**

Umpqua Bank

11/19/20-1/21/21: Patricia Marina

1/21/21-3/18/21: Sky Richardson*

Specialty Center

11/19/20-1/21/21: Deni Marrone & Nancy Sanchietti

1/21/21-3/18/21: Gail Mardfin*

***Make arrangements with previous artist as to a mutually convenient day/time to change shows (sometime in that third week of the month), or call Venues Coordinator Deni Marrone at (408) 202-3875.**

If interested in showing in any of these venues, please contact Deni.



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Where did our year go!? It has been like none other! If I would have known that last February was the last time we would all be together in person, I would have given more hugs. We were still trying to figure out whether we were going to have our annual Apple Blossom Art Show. Now, here we are almost a year later and we still don't have an

answer about our 2021 show. As we said back then, we will take it one month at a time.

We are lucky that we have stayed together as a club because of Zoom and our newsletter (thanks to **Gail**)! We are still "inventing" a new type of meeting and trying to find things that will interest you. Last month we tried our "Member Highlights" and it was fun. Going forward, we will have one member highlight a month, and **Paula** will continue to do a Member Profile for our newsletter each month, too. I hope this helps us to get to know one another better!

I know I have found out things that I didn't know about some of you: **Judy Goldberg**, my husband and I graduated from Long Beach State (so did **Beverly Bird**) and I taught school in Huntington Beach! **Kathy Byrne**, I still have most of my Revere Ware that my grandmother gave us for our wedding 51 yrs ago! I think the upside to this horrible year has been there have been more opportunities to read about and listen to our members.

I hope everyone will try to get to our December meeting/party. It will be fun. I am making some sample ornaments to demonstrate and **Lorraine** will be sharing something you can make at home, too. No materials to bring, but maybe your phone, so you can take pictures of the screen. There is a SURPRISE in store, too, so please do try to make it!

Other news: Membership voted in a new board for 2021. And looking ahead to January: We have almost two months to each paint/draw/collage/sculpt a portrait of ourselves! No pressure! You'll be sent a portrait video **Jerry** picked out, as well as some other portrait and self-portrait inspiration links in next month's newsletter.

Hope to see all of you on Zoom on December 17th. Be safe,
Love,
Carol

Congratulations! 2021 AWS Board

PRESIDENT: CAROL MILLS
VICE PRES: JERRY FABIANO
TREASURER: PATTY BIRD

RECORDING SECRETARY: MERRIE KRISL
CORRESPONDING SEC: FRAN NIELSEN

Appointed by the President:

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: LORRAINE STRIBLING
VENUES: DENI MARRONE
ABS CHAIR: PATRICIA MARINA
HISTORIAN: BEVERLY BIRD
NEWSLETTER: GAIL MARDFIN
HOSPITALITY: KATHLEEN ANDRE,
KATHY BYRNE, SUSAN BARRI
PUBLICITY: OPEN

2021 AWS DUES ARE DUE BY 12/31/20



And the Good News: Half Price! Only \$20

Everyone should have received an email from **Membership Chair Lorraine Stribling** on 11/28 requesting up-to-date contact info - *clearly write your name, address, phone & email*. Send it along with your \$20 check (or more, if you'd like to make an additional contribution) to:

Lorraine Stribling
3 Oakwood Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954



November Prompt (& Prompt-ish): Plein Air Landscape



Beverly Bird -

FAR LEFT:
"Cyprus by the Footbridge"
16x12 acrylic

"Pond Reflection"
16x12 watercolor

*These are plein air paintings
painted at the Oregon Coast
Paintout this summer.*



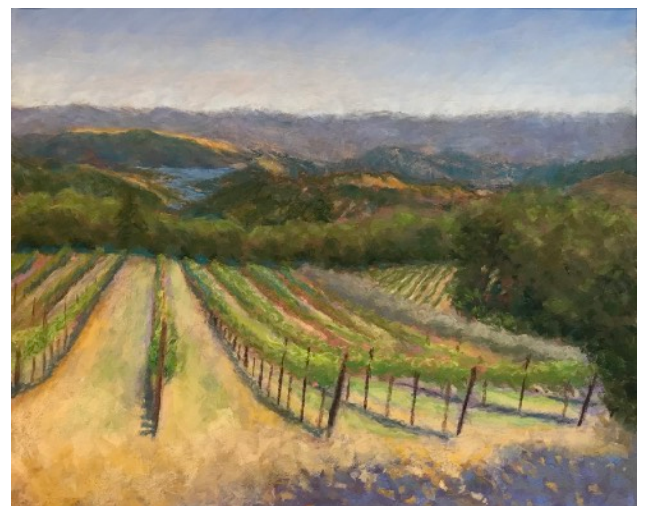
Three by Susan Barri -

12x12 palette knife oil on stretched canvas
I recently spent six weeks in North Carolina near the Blue Ridge Mountains. We walked almost every day around beautiful Lake Junaluska near Ken's home. We arrived in NC while the leaves on the trees were still lush and green and were able to watch them turn all the colors and then drop off. It was an amazing experience. One day this fisherman was in the lake in just the perfect spot, so I managed to get a good photo and paint it.

12x12 palette knife oil on stretched canvas
Another painting from a photo I took in North Carolina last month. This old barn is just around the corner from Ken's house. We have passed by it a million times, but when the leaves changed color, it really caught my eye.

10x8 palette knife oil on canvas
This old house seemed to call to me one day while I was driving out Bodega Hwy toward the ocean. I took a photo and was able to paint from it.

Merrie Krisl -
"Gustafson View" 16x20 pastel
While I didn't paint this plein air, some time ago I did have lunch overlooking this view. I'm trying to push color a bit and one book I have, California Light: A Century of Landscapes, was helpful. A copy is available in the public library if anyone is interested.



November Zoom Meeting Report

by Gail Mardfin & Nancy Sanchiatti

So great! We had 35+ members at the November meeting! Hope to see even more of you at the December Zoom party!

President Carol Mills presented the final slate of Board officers and appointed chairs for 2021, and by a vote of hands, everyone was unanimously voted in. (See box on page 3.)

Earlier, at the Board meeting, we had talked about whether members come to AWS meetings for the art, or for the social interaction – and most of us felt we were there for both! We were discussing how to make the Zoom meetings both fun and shorter, so we will try and keep the meetings to about an hour long going forward. **Carol also stressed that if you ever need to leave early, no need to apologize or hesitate, no problem.**

However, we didn't really get started today until 10:47 because of all the quirks with Zoom, so **if you had any trouble this time, please come to future meetings early so we can try to work out the kinks before everyone else arrives.**

Beginning next month, we will feature one Member Highlight per meeting; **Rod Morgan** volunteered for January.

Sadly, we were informed that one of our past AWS Presidents (two years) and longtime member **Melinda Frances** had passed. A card will be sent to her family.

VP Jerry Fabiano gave a “heads up” to the **January prompt, a Self-Portrait** (with video to follow). We hope everyone will participate – be it a painting in any medium, sketch, caricature, sculpture, collage, or whatever. **Gail** added that she hoped everyone would send their pieces to her to be placed in the newsletter – *sans* artist identification – and then for fun, people could challenge themselves to match the artist to the artwork.

Patricia Marina, Susan Bradford, and Nancy Sanchiatti reported they'd been painting still lifes outdoors, socially distanced, at Patricia's house. (See last page to learn more.) **Susan** explained a new technique she's been working in: “10-Stroke,” as in create a painting using ONLY ten strokes on the main object; ground and background don't count in the tally. (See examples on next page.) **Deni Marrone** will be inviting members to come and paint outside on her property again in the spring when the weather clears. She also announced that Made Local will be moving to Montgomery Village after Christmas.

Ann Storms put in the “chat box” that she had attended the Bay Area Open Show at the deYoung and it was

fantastic. [NOTE: I (**Gail**) must say that I feel lucky to have seen the show the day after Thanksgiving – so glad I had ordered the tickets and got to go, because only a couple of days later the museum announced they had to close for another Covid break. Still, the viewing was a strain on the neck with works hung from floor to ceiling, but EVERYONE can see it painlessly this way: <https://deyoungopenexhibition.artcall.org/pages/web-gallery>]

Gail showed us how she was able to “screen-share” artwork during the Zoom meeting (rather than trying to hold something up to your computer camera at home), allowing everyone a great detailed view as you discuss your work. So...**if you want to show your art this way in a future meeting, you need to send a well-shot photo of your piece to Gail no later than Wednesday afternoon, the day before the meeting.**

Carol shared a small poinsettia painting, complete with glitter, as an example of the kind of **mini-easel paintings we hope many of you will create for our December 17th Holiday Party, as we have done for the past two years.** Of course this year, we won't be raffling them off, but we'd still like it to be a focus of our festive meeting. **Tree ornaments or any seasonal paintings** are all welcome.

VP Jerry introduced our first highlighted member of the day, **Fran Nielsen**. Fran told us the story of her interest in art beginning as a child, her high school dance decorations, and the Certificate of Excellence in Art at her HS graduation. After becoming a wife and mother (3 boys) she began creating pen & ink & watercolor caricatures and then apple ranch labels and brochures before designing all the artistic sets for the Junior Miss Scholarship Programs. By the 90's, (**cont. on next page**)



Fran's display of beautiful handmade animal figurines meticulously dressed in original outfits. These sell very well!

November meeting, cont.

she'd settled into crafts, and began making her "creations," which were very popular at craft shows. With the help of TV artist Jerry Yarnell, Fran began her serious study of painting and developed her very detailed style of acrylic and watercolor painting we have all come to recognize and appreciate.

After a stretch break, our second highlighted member, Beverly Kjeldsen, new to us since the Covid lockdown, came to us via Zoom from Fort Bragg. In describing her many-faceted art life, we learned she had taught art to pre-K through third grade teachers at the Junior College and at Ursuline HS, a private girl's high school, for 20 years. Bev was the illustrator for

two California magazines, one in wine country and one in the central valleys, as well as the author/illustrator of two children's books, plus more! She primarily worked in watercolor before meeting Lonna Necker, with whom she traveled twice to Giverny, France to learn acrylics - sitting in Monet's garden! She was very cheery and self-effacing as she told us of her many artistic accomplishments.

VP Jerry began the discussion of the video of the month by Australian artist Ken Knight. **Georgia Simons** was



10 STROKES... Susan Bradford explained her latest challenge in creating these 5x7 oils of vegetables and fruits at her *plein air* still life sessions. Her palette is only three colors (cobalt blue/cadmium red light/cadmium yellow light) plus titanium white. Sounds like a fun assignment!



April Lynch -
"Canadian Geese" 5x15 watercolor

These geese are from high-definition pictures from the web. The mountains in the background are the Sutter Buttes. When I was a kid I used to love to hear them honking at night as they flew through the fog. I was surprised that they do have green feathers.

most enthusiastic about this video: "I absolutely loved the video" with its atmospheric perspective. People commented about "what is the actual scene" vs. how an artist interprets it. **Patty Bird** noted it was quite abstract with its "drywall trowel" application *en plein air*, but then how he pulled it together in the studio. She also remarked that once the assigned video had ended, YouTube presented another one and she enjoyed that one as well, of a beautiful Montana painting. **Dante Corsetti** thought Knight's palette knife application was not harsh, but nicely done, and wondered how he managed to keep his colors from mixing. While **Paula Pearce** was distracted by the "ferris wheel" tree shape *en plein air*, Knight got rid of it by the end. **Judy Goldberg** remarked that she had started painting, and this video helped her to realize the importance of the size of brushes, especially in relation to the size of the canvas being painted. **Merrie Krisl** noted how the video had two distinct sections: the outdoor energy and the indoor critique, and how Knight managed to make corrections without losing the immediacy of the *plein air* process. **Rod Morgan** commented that the artist's "nervous energy" had settled down by the end of the painting process, and it was obvious this painter was self-confident and had painted for a long time. All in all, everyone enjoyed Knight's large, loose depiction of a landscape, which was reminiscent of our Sonoma County outdoors.

And a reminder to all: Please send suggestions to Jerry for other art demo videos you've seen on YouTube and can recommend. jfabiano@comcast.net
Thanks!

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021 @ 1PM – Zoom ART SPOTS
 THE TRUE STORY: GAUGUIN with Linda Loveland Reid •**

Paul Gauguin was born 170 years ago in the cradle of French anarchy, and yet, what do we really know about this man? His art, boldly charged with color, speaks of love but has roots in the darker recesses of the human mind. Support our sister organization through your attendance by donation: <https://www.sebarts.org/classes-lectures/art-spots-the-true-story-gauguin>



NOW SHOWING: 2020 Members Show

View it here - <https://www.sebarts.org/2020-members-show>

Can you spot the works by seven of our AWS members? Click on each image in the exhibit to learn more about the piece and its creator. (LEFT: “Poppies by the Side of the Road” 10x10 watercolor on Masa paper by Gail Mardfin)

ENTRY DEADLINE TODAY 12/1/20 for “ECSTASY: BREATHTAKING BEAUTY OF NATURE.” Share your vision of the magnificent and inspiring beauty of Mother Earth. Show runs January 9 - February 14, 2021 Click to enter ASAP! <https://www.sebarts.org/entries/ecstasy-breath-taking-beauty-of-nature>

Kim Winter -
 “Studio Thoughts”
 48x24 mixed media



“OMG, this podcast is amazing!” writes AWS member **Kim Winter** of **DIALOGUES: The David Zwirner Podcast**. In each episode of this show, the David Zwirner Gallery pairs artists and creative people to discuss art and their process for making things. Featuring major figures from the worlds of art, architecture, music and beyond, there are 25 episodes, approximately 30 minutes long. Says Kim, “I absolutely love these discussions. The cool part is that I have only heard of a few people.” You can find this podcast on several podcast platforms.

AND

“OMG! I just found another great podcast called **THE LONELY PALETTE**. Sorry, I get excited and want to share...don't really know anyone who might care like you guys!” explains Kim. Each episode averages 15ish minutes, where host Tamar Avishai picks a painting *du jour*, interviews unsuspecting museum visitors in front of it, and then dives deeply into the object, the movement, the social context, and anything and everything else that will make it as neat to you as it is to her. Go to www.thelonelypalette.com to listen.





Nancy Tulloh -

ABOVE: "Autumn 1" 24x24 acrylic
I started this painting as totally abstract but it became more representational so I went with it.

UPPER RIGHT: "Autumn 2" 11x14 acrylic

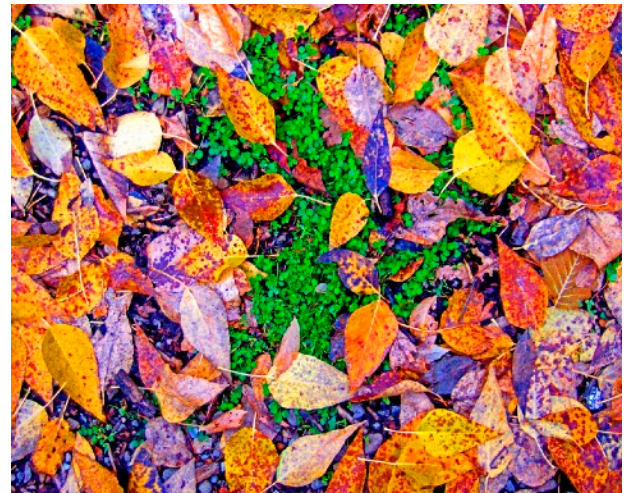
RIGHT: "Autumn 3" 12x16 acrylic



Carol Mills - "Watching with birds"
14x11 watercolor
I did the painting of the chair and birdcages because it reminded me of lots of European villages I've been to over the years. Don't think I want to do birdcages again, and I had to make up the birds as you couldn't see them in the photo.

Tattoo artist turned *plein air* watercolor painter...

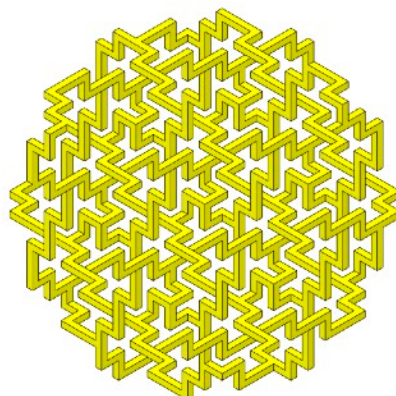
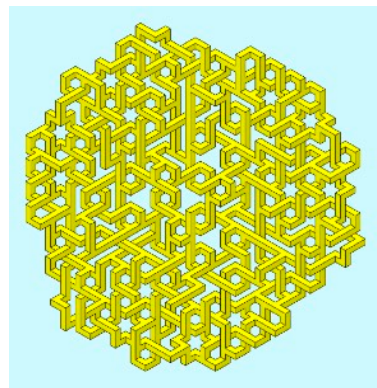
"Watercolor and *plein air* painting were a direct response to me getting burned out on tattoos," says Daniel Marshall. Click to see his beautiful paintings: https://www.outdoorpainter.com/how-watercolor-can-make-you-lose-friends/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=7+Art+Projects+for+Difficult+Times&utm_campaign=PAT+11-04-20



\$30.5 million Impressionist & Modern Art Day sale smashes record for an online auction at Sotheby's



Wayne Thiebaud's Single Triple Decker reaches \$2.3 million. Courtesy Sotheby's.



Rod Morgan - LEFT: Two 3-D Constructions & ABOVE: "Leaves" and "Firetrees" are photographs.



Linda Grainger -

ABOVE: "Winery in Bennett Valley"
8x12 watercolor
RIGHT: "Iris" 24x18 watercolor

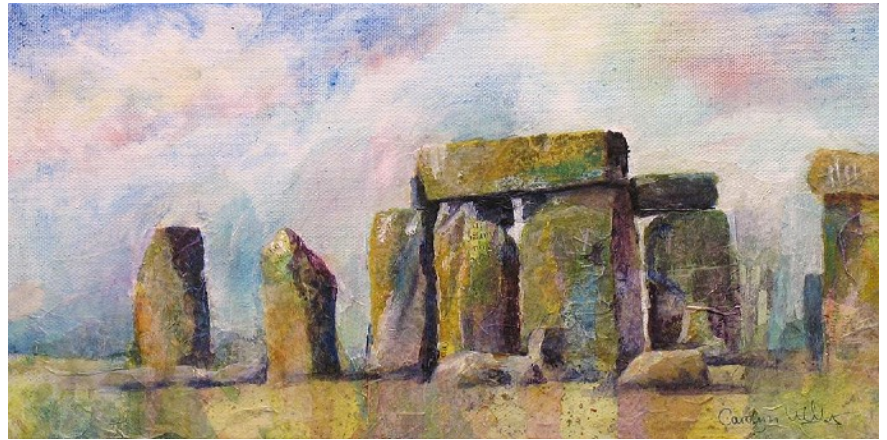


Linda Loveland Reid -
"City Summer" 24x30 acrylic

Oh, the Places You'll Go

by Gail Mardfin

AWS member **Carolyn Wilson** is the Program Associate at Sebastopol Center for the Arts and works long hours "making miracles happen here every day," as stated by Creative Director Catherine Devriese in a Zoom webinar about Frida Kahlo that Carolyn was recently orchestrating. In addition, she is an Artist Partner in the Upstairs Art Gallery in Healdsburg (along with other AWS members Beverly Bird and Karen Miller).



Carolyn Wilson -
"Stonehenge I" 6x12 mixed media (watercolor & collage) on canvas

On a bright and socially-distanced Saturday in Healdsburg recently, I went to see Carolyn's show "Oh, the Places You'll Go." The exhibit came down on November 22, but it was a treat to see the many texture-rich watercolors collaged with hand-colored rice papers on display both in the bookstore window and up in the gallery. Yosemite, her homeland England, France, and African safari adventures made up the show she had worked diligently to mount. Her latest, my favorite, was a small painting of a teacup with a real teabag tag affixed. Good show, Carolyn!

CALL FOR ENTRIES: SANTA ROSA ARTS CENTER - 312 SOUTH A STREET, SR

It is a new year, a fresh start, and a time to shed the inequities of the past, to walk in a new direction with a commonality of purpose towards a just and wholesome planet. Santa Rosa Arts Center invites artists to create artwork imagining a world full of things that never were.

In the spirit of hope and optimism that we will turn the corner on the pandemic with the new administration, the next non-juried online and gallery exhibition is **New Beginnings**, scheduled for January and February. Here is the link for the Call-for-Entries, <https://santarosaartscenter.org/index.php/call-for-entries-new-beginnings/>.

Entry Deadline: Drop off artwork at Santa Rosa Arts Center on December 30 from 12 to 4 pm. For online entries, please submit art and writing by sending a jpeg (small) of each entry to info@santarosaartscenter.org. Label each with your last name, first name, title, size, medium and price. Show runs Jan. 2 - Feb.28, 2021.

To insure the well being of artists and guests we are following the CDC and Sonoma County Dept. of Health guidelines. Safety precautions such as social distancing and use of face masks will be enforced during intake and gallery visits.

**FRIDAYS at NOON (Usually; depends on weather)
STILL LIFE PAINTING A LA PLEIN AIR**

Patricia Marina and Susan Bradford are holding
- Friday Painting Get Togethers -
Socially distanced @ Patricia's Sebastopol property*

Bring your art supplies - we have tables and chairs
2-3 more artists can attend!!
For more info and to confirm your place,
please call Patricia at 415-307-4734

* **Location: 1924 Gravenstein Hwy South**
between Hardcore Coffee at Bloomfield Rd & the Flea Market
on Gravenstein Hwy (Red mailbox out front)

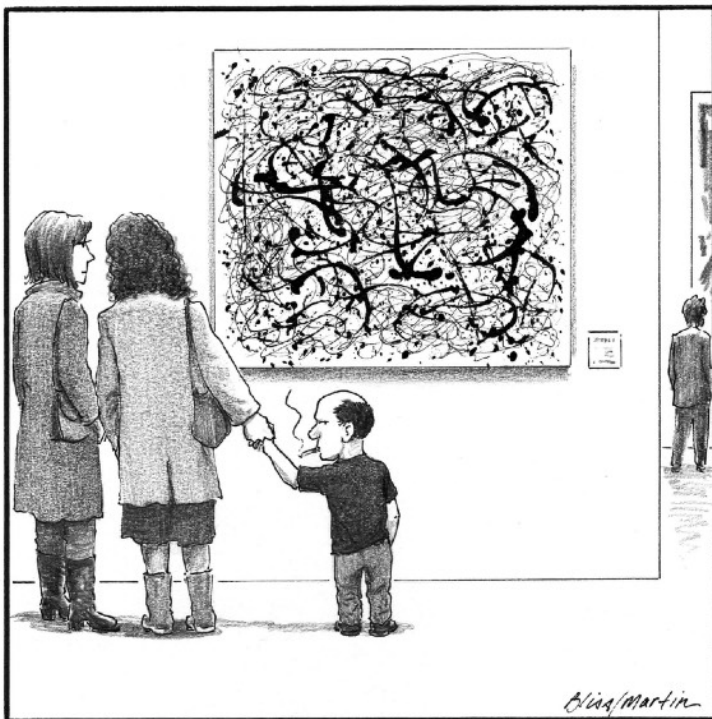
Susan's wonderful collection of teapots and other historic items form the basis for the weekly still life set-up.



Susan Bradford -
"Daisies, Pottery and Pumpkins" 20x16 oil



If 2020 was a math word-problem:
If you're going down a river at 2 MPH
and your canoe loses a wheel, how
much pancake mix would you need to
re-shingle your roof?



"MY KID COULD DO THAT."

The above cartoon appears in a new book co-created by comic Steve Martin and illustrator Harry Bliss called **A WEALTH OF PIGEONS**.

RileyStreet Art Supply
103 Maxwell Court, Santa Rosa

(707) 526-6421

