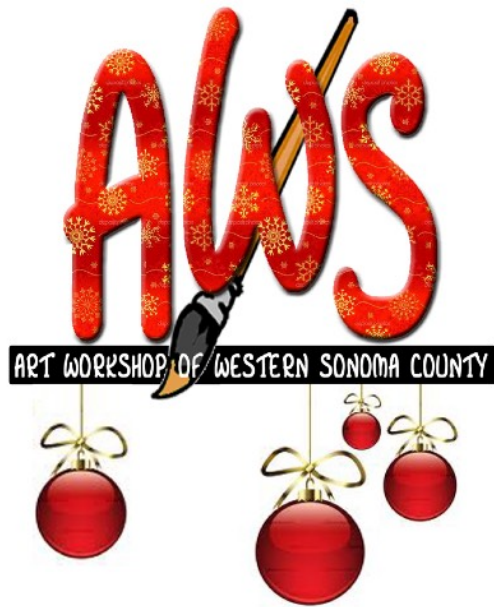


Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County
PO Box 1160 Sebastopol CA 95473



AWS Holiday Party! December 19, 2019

12:00 - 3:00 pm

Mini-Art Raffle Winners picked at 2:00 - you must be present to win!

Sebastopol Veteran's Building, 282 South High St., Sebastopol, CA

Inspirational Prompts: January - SHADOWS • February - Faces in Nature

Is your art on our website www.AWSomeArt.org ?

**Please send 3 photos of your artwork to Gail Mardfin
at gail@plpgraphicdesign.com by December 20th.**

**Take your photos squarely (not at an angle) and without glare/reflection. If possible, please save
each using the following naming format: Artist-Title-Size-Medium.jpg
EXAMPLE: GMardfin-AutumnFields-12x12-watercolor.jpg**

*If you can't figure out how to do that, don't worry, just send the images to Gail with information
(artist, title, size, medium) in the body of the email.*

**This is a perk of AWS membership, having an artist's webpage - don't miss out!
You may send up to 3 updated images if you are already on the website.
Next opportunity to add or replace images will be in June 2020.**

***We would love full AWS member participation!
Go to <https://www.awsomeart.org/members-artwork> to see how it works.***

AWS Board Minutes November 21, 2019

Members Present: Patty Bird, Gary Caldwell, Jerry Fabiano, Merrie Krisl, Gail Mardfin, Patricia Marina, Deni Marrone, Carol Mills and Fran Nielsen.

Meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by President, Carol Mills.

President: Carol said that Trula LaCalle had sent the board a letter requesting she sell her book (a novel, *Helen's Crusade*) at the Holiday Party with 20% of proceeds going to the club. Fran said there was some precedence for this. We agreed that members, upon submitting a letter to the board, could sell personally-created works of art at our meetings with 20% going to AWS.

Carol said she needed a person to circulate and sell raffle tickets for the small paintings during the Holiday Party. (Carol Leif volunteered at the member meeting.) Deni Marrone volunteered to do the auction. (Jan Blake volunteered to assist her at the member meeting.) Members need to take home any auction items that do not sell.

We have not heard yet about our county grant application. We still need dry space (40-50 sq. ft.) for our panels.

Vice President: Jerry noted that he had a great response (57 artists) from everyone regarding possible demonstrators. In January, Susan Bradford will demonstrate a method of using three colors plus white to paint cohesive works. Jerry is concentrating on having demos which teach the membership things they might want to learn. John Burns, a pastelist, will demo in July.

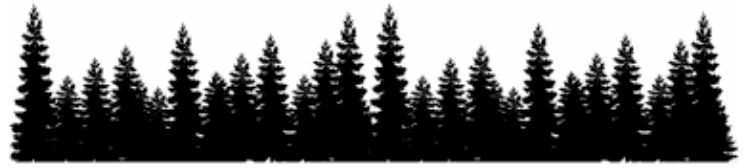
Treasurer: Patty reported she has received a nice thank you from the Analy Art Department. They intend to use our gift to buy good-quality brushes for the students. She will ask for an invitation to their student art show. We have a balance of \$3037.07. Need to pay about \$1200 in rent, but we are looking good.

Apple Blossom Show: Patricia Marina has emailed all chairs from last year. She asked Carol to request signups for all vacant chairs at the membership meeting.

Corresponding Secretary: Carol asked we send cards to people who used to be active, but whom we have not seen recently. Gail suggested we might do the same for people who have joined, attended a few meetings, and then have been absent. Please let Fran know if you know of anyone who might appreciate hearing from us.

Membership: Carol noted that Ann Nichols is on the roster, but has passed away. Gail suggested Gary change the column title about dues to read "Dues paid for 2020," because there was some confusion over who paid. Gary will send a blind email to remind those who have not paid yet.

Website: Deadline for updating your artwork on our website is December 20th. 3 pieces, same format.



Venues: Deni asked if we are open to venues that only show on occasion, as opposed to year round. Yes.

Roster: Merrie will ask members to update info for the roster, which will come out in February

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Merrie Krisl, Recording Secretary

Sebastopol Art Venues Current & Upcoming

Tombe Realty (10 pieces)

11/21/19-1/16/20: Hale Darby

1/16/20-3/21/20: **ARTIST NEEDED**

Umpquah Bank (6 pieces)

11/21/19-1/16/20: Marilyn Sommer

1/16/20-3/21/20: Diane Ceccarelli

Eye Associates Medical Group (12 pieces)

11/21/19-1/16/20: Bob Hart

1/16/20-3/21/20: **ARTIST NEEDED**

Slice of Life Restaurant (12 pieces)

11/21/19-1/16/20: Gail Mardfin

1/16/20-3/21/20: Susan Bradford

Senior Center

11/21-1/16/20: Susan Bradford

1/16/20-3/21/20: Jan Blake

**Please contact Coordinator of Art Venues
Diane Ceccarelli to fill in these spaces!
dianececcarelli@yahoo.com • (707) 823-3875**

*Congratulations to Jan Blake,
who sold a painting in Slice of Life in November!*

Paula Pearce, AWS interview author is taking a holiday break. Her next interview will appear in the February newsletter 2020.



Thanks, Paula, we all enjoy your profiles.

11/20/19 Artist Talk: COMPOSITION with Gail Mardfin

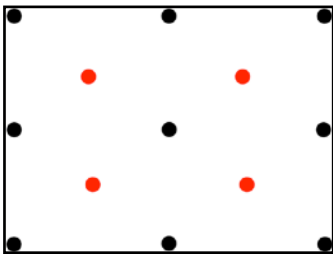


Speaking in the first person, I was very pleased with the way my “lecture” on Composition was received at the November meeting. Afterwards, I received many, many thanks; I heard from people that I

know are very art literate and I heard from one who said, “I never had any formal art training, so this was all helpful to me.” Just what I was hoping for.

Although I attended two colleges and a master’s program to become an art teacher, I honestly don’t remember being taught any basics of composition – it was the 70s and we were encouraged to “do our own thing!” I know I was never taught how to draw in perspective! But I learned a lot “on the job” while

teaching art in a girls’ boarding school in New Jersey for 20 years. I developed my own Basic Rules of Composition that I presented in the introductory art class, which everyone was required to take.



These I shared with my AWS audience: Place your focal point where it is NOT already a “natural” focal point (i.e. not center, corners, or half-way points on edges - see illustration above, where the red dots indicate “good” places for a focal point). Make use of edges and corners in a way that reroutes one’s attention back to the entire painting. Keep a piece “balanced,” often in an asymmetrical way. Even



Compositional elements should not all be equidistantly spaced apart (left) or overcrowded with no room for the eye to rest (right).

expanses of seemingly unused space can work to create such balance.

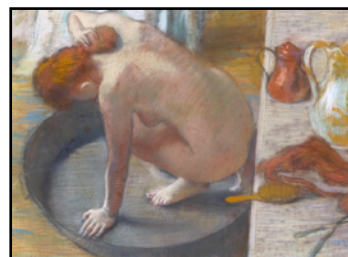
I then solicited other compositional “rules” that members had learned. The Rule of Thirds is a good one for dividing space in a pleasing way. Variety in placement, size, shape, and color is recommended, as well as the use of repetition and pattern to help move one’s eye around a composition. Identifying the dominant horizontal and vertical are very useful in strengthening a composition, explained Beverly Bird.

My presentation included 50+ slides of representational and abstract art works, both famous and not so, which we analyzed as to focal point and how each artist led the viewer’s eye around the format. I also stressed that rules of composition were made to be broken and used a number of famous artists’ works to demonstrate that. I am also grateful to my personal art friends whose works I included. I love Pennsylvania artist Earl Lehman’s compositional advice to “**activate the space!**”



© Earl Lehman

I learned the basics of Powerpoint for this presentation, encouraged by Phil Wilkinson, who loaned AWS the projection equipment owned by Oakmont Art Association, of which he is the president. Thank you, Phil! I spent many hours preparing for the presentation and used the full hour and a half of allotted time, but it was a lot of fun being in the Art Teacher role again, especially with so many eager “students” willingly participating in the class discussion!



Edgar Degas was a master of compositional “rule breaking” as seen in *The Tub*, 1886. His many paintings and pastels can be studied as wonderful examples of use of space and edges.



One’s eye is drawn to the human face with the most contrast in this double portrait by Alice Neel, 1978.

Annual Winter Holiday Party Dec. 19!



No regular meeting or artist demo in December, just pure Holiday Fun!

*Come be in the spirit of the season with fellow AWS members, spouses, and other significant others on **Thursday, December 19, at 12 noon.***

What should I bring?

1. A savory or sweet food item to share for the holiday potluck. Beverages (including wine) also welcome.

2. Items for the annual Silent Auction and Sale are welcome. Any art supplies or equipment you no longer use/need (frames, books, paper, paints)...as well as things that are just nice to have (candles, soap, etc.) Smaller items will have a set price of \$1 to \$5, while nicer items will have a sheet of paper with a minimum bid and people can keep bidding throughout the party. It's an AWS fundraiser and a great way to clean out your art studio! Deni Marrone and Jan Blake will head up this effort. NOTE: If you bring something to be sold and it does not sell, YOU MUST BRING IT HOME WITH YOU - to keep or donate elsewhere.

3. Your Miniature 2-Dimensional Art, no larger than 5"x7". This was a big hit last year! If you'd like to participate, create a winter-themed (holiday or otherwise) painting in any medium, collage, or fine art photo — to be placed on a miniature easel (provided). Carol Leif will sell the Holiday Party Raffle tickets.

4. Your 2020 Membership Dues, if not already paid.

Miniature Art Raffle!

How does the raffle work? \$5 buys two Mini Art Raffle tickets. Folks who bring an art piece will receive one free raffle ticket.

Before the party ends, raffle tickets will be drawn. The first winner gets first choice of the mini artworks on display around the room. Second ticket gets second choice, and so on.

Join in the fun! Create a piece, buy some raffle tickets, win an art piece, and support AWS in this fun, creative fundraiser.

ALSO, Trula LaCalle will be selling her new novel, *Helen's Crusade*, with 20% of sales being donated to our club. Sounds like a good read! (Price is \$17.95 plus tax) Here's a link to learn more about the book: https://books.google.com/books/about/Helen_s_Crusade.html?id=-

AWS Artist Demo, Thursday, January 16

Our own Susan Bradford will be demonstrating and discussing the “life-changing” painting technique she learned from John Pototschnik, who paints with just three colors (various Triads on the color wheel) plus white. With those colors he mixes all the colors he needs and the colors all work together. Susan will expand on her article which appeared on page 6 of the October AWS newsletter, using many examples from



her own collection. Don't miss it, AWS painters!

Attention!! President Carol Mills' email was recently hacked, unfortunately, by some creeps in Somalia! So if you don't want YOUR email hacked by them, do not write to her old address and change her address in your Contacts ASAP:
carolmills202@gmail.com

Speaking of Contacts... Merrie Krisl will be updating the AWS roster in February. **Has YOUR email (or phone/address) changed? Please let her know: kmerric@comcast.net**

ABS CHAIR, PATRICIA MARINA SAYS:
ABS 2020 Sign Up sheets will be at the table (next to the meeting sign in sheets) at the December party. Please start signing up as April will be here before we know it and the planning starts in January! Call or email me with questions:
collagegirl62@yahoo.com or 415-307-4734

2020 AWS Board

President:	Carol Mills
Vice President:	Jerry Fabiano
Treasurer:	Patty Bird
Recording Sec'y:	Nancy Sanchiatti
Corresponding Sec'y:	Fran Nielsen
Membership Chair:	Gary Caldwell
ABS Chair:	Patricia Marina
Hospitality Committee:	Kathleen Andre Susan Barri Kathy Byrne
Venue Chair:	Deni Marrone
Newsletter/Website:	Gail Mardfin
Historian:	Beverly Bird
Publicity Chair:	Open

A.R.T. Demos

CORRECTION: In the November newsletter, I misprinted the dates for upcoming **Artists' Round Table** demonstrations. They meet on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH** in the Veterans Memorial Building, Santa Rosa. Several of these presenters may be of interest to AWS folks, so mark your calendars. Mtgs start at noon; demos start about 12:30pm. \$5 visitor fee.

2/5/20 - James Reynolds, framing techniques
3/4/20 - Robert Benson, watercolor & acrylics
4/8/20 - Timothy Dixon, oil
5/6/20 - Peggy Sebera, How to achieve your art goals
More info:
<http://artistsroundtable.club/demonstrations.html>

2020 Dues are DUE by the end of December!

To be an AWS member in good standing AND to be eligible for the Apple Blossom Show, your dues must be paid up. Thank you!

If you're not coming to the Holiday Party, please send check for \$40 (or more!) payable to AWS, to our Membership Chair before the end of the month:

Gary Caldwell
316 Mountain Vista Court
Santa Rosa CA 95409

Santa Rosa Artists: Deadline Jan. 10 & It's Free

The National Arts program is a great opportunity to display your artwork and have a chance at winning cash prizes! This wonderful program provides local artists with a forum to showcase artistic accomplishments while encouraging artistic growth through awards. And don't forget it is FREE to enter.

This program is open to all City of Santa Rosa residents, as well as City of Santa Rosa employees and their families. This year, the exhibition will take place February 3 - March 27, 2020 at the Finley Community Center. Registration ends January 10; we strongly encourage early registration since it is limited to the first 200 entries and we reach our max each year.

New this year! All registration will be online at www.nationalartsprogram.org/santarosa. If you cannot register online, please contact Jessica Rasmussen at 707-543-4674, or jrasmussen@srcity.org. Additionally, informational brochures are available at Finley or Steele Lane Community Centers and City Hall.

Fire Stories...



I trust all who are reading this were safe and sound during and after the most recent Kincaid Fire in Sonoma County. Stories abound.

Karen Miller has a recent story of fire to tell: Wednesday the fire started. Thursday a couple from Virginia bought her "Ridge to the East" (*shown at left*) and "Manzanita" pastels at Upstairs Art Gallery in Healdsburg. On Friday she shipped both paintings. Saturday they were evacuated. The following Wednesday they returned and Karen took a photo of the same scene after the fire had raged (*shown at left, below*). With confirmation that her pastels had been safely delivered, she sent the post-burn photo with the following explanation to her patrons:

...lots to deal with here in Healdsburg right now! We were evacuated to escape the Kincade Fire (still going but our town is safe now). Your paintings got out in the nick of time. Mailed out on Friday, this area burned on Saturday night (I think). On my way back yesterday I stopped by the place where I sat painting "Ridge to the East" and took a photo. I thought you might like to see it:



The darker hillside on the right is the burned area. Sorry for the poor photo

quality, I took it through the car window as there is still smoke in the air. Hope you are well and that you enjoyed your visit to Healdsburg. You now have a disaster story to go with your paintings!...

The darker hillside on the right is the burned area. Sorry for the poor photo



During the October members' critique, **Jerry Fabiano** shared a study he was working on, part of a triptych to be gifted to a friend who had lost their home in the 2017 fires. The completed housewarming gift is now finished! (*shown at left*)



A third "fire story": At the 2018 Gravenstein Fair, **Carol Mills** sold an original Round Barn watercolor (a "fall" version") to someone who had grown up near to the landmark (*shown at left*). She then painted a "summer" version of the Round Barn. Both the original summer watercolor and a print of the fall one were hanging at the Airport Health Club. She recently received a call from a man that works at the company on the top of Fountaingrove Parkway (formerly H.P., now something else). He said a friend he worked with up there is retiring and he wanted to buy the original Round Barn painting for him, as they had both driven by it to and from work for many years - until it burned down in 2017. He also bought the fall print for himself!

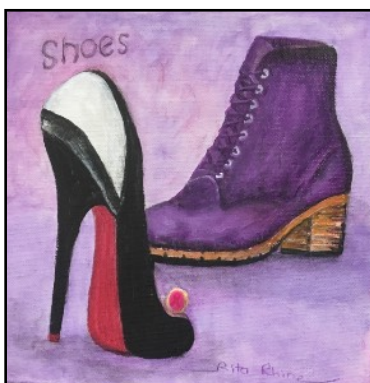
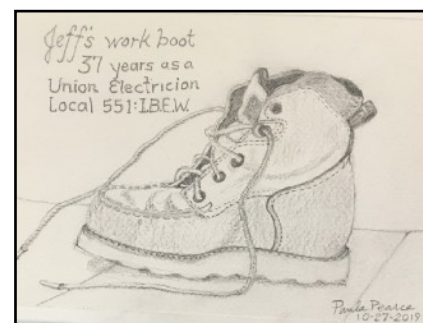
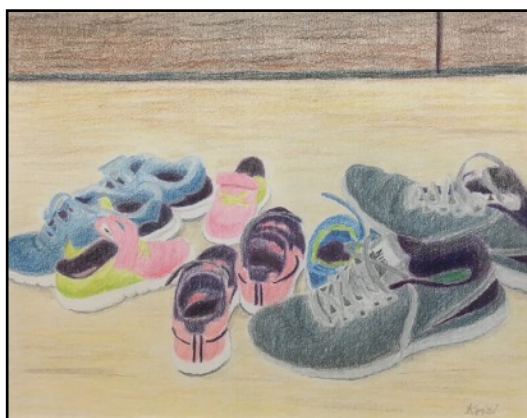
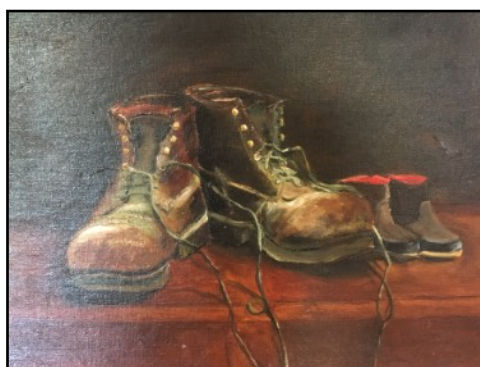
Just three examples of how AWS artists and their artwork recorded pre-fire history and contributed to a beautiful post-fire future.

- Gail Mardfin, Editor

Each month members bring in wonderful recent artworks to share — some are prompted by the suggested theme but many are not.

Fortunately, there is time between 12:00 and 12:30 to have a look at all of the members' art, though they may not be highlighted during the meeting.

November's Inspirational Prompt: SHOES



Top row, left to right:

Carol Mills - watercolor; Judy Leandro - graphite; Kathy Byrne - watercolor

Second row:

Carol Mills - watercolor; Carol Leif - oil; Rhoda Bloom - collage

Third row:

Patricia Marina - collage; Merrie Krisl - colored pencil; Paula Pearce - graphite

Fourth row:

Rita Rhine

RileyStreet
art supply

the source for your
color needs!

the only place in
the north bay
where all oil, watercolor
and acrylic paints are

20-40% OFF
365 DAYS A YEAR!



WWW.RILEYSTREET.COM

Santa Rosa 707-526-2416

San Rafael 415-457-ARTS



AWS Membership Benefit...

You get an **additional 10% off** at RileyStreet Art Supply on non-sale items (matboard not included). Just remember to mention you are an AWS member when you check out!



Your Ad Here!

Your business card size ad costs only \$25 to appear in all 10 newsletter issues.

Only \$10 to place your ad ONE TIME [this size, or probably larger depending on space] for an event or sale coming up. This includes text and one image. Payable to Patty Bird, Treasurer.

Materials due by the 21st of the month before it will appear. (January newsletter deadline is December 21st, for instance.)

Contact Gail Mardfin at gail@plpgraphicdesign.com



A wonderful twice-weekly email I get in my inbox - and actually take the time to read - is from PAINTERSKEYS.COM. (You can sign up to receive yours - free - on the website.)

Written by the excellent Canadian landscape painter Robert Genn (now deceased) and his artist-daughter, Sara, the letters are encouraging, humorous, philosophical, and helpful! Here's a favorite quote I shared during my presentation on Composition. xo gail

“Compositional mastery is a variety of traditional rules that beg to be broken. That’s why composition is the queen of the skills. With composition you learn to control and play with the eye and move it within the picture plane. Composition includes the golden mean, the rule of thirds, big and small, dark and light, activation, circulation, focus, pattern, stoppage and a pile of other ploys, many of them developed by you and unique to yourself. Compositional mastery also means the avoidance of lineups, homeostasis, and a jungle road of potholes too tedious to include here. Learn to compose intelligently in your own vocabulary and you can get away with murder. Compositional mastery takes time and patience.”

- Robert Genn, 2012