

Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County
8214 Covert Lane • Sebastopol CA 95473



Our August 20 meeting will be via Zoom at 12:30 noon.

>>> See information on page 5 <<<

August Inspirational Prompts: TREES & see page 4 for the Visuals

www.AWSOMEART.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

HAPPY AUGUST!! (Where did March, April, May, June, and July go??)

I hope everyone is trying to stay positive and finding creative things to do! This is a difficult time for everyone. I know we will all get through this. As I said at the beginning of this pandemic, we will take things month by month. A few months ago, it was looking like we were moving towards “normal” again, but we know now that is not the case. We chose August as a month we thought might work for our picnic, but it’s now been moved back another month to September 17 — if the powers-that-be allow for it. We will keep you updated.

I hope you are all enjoying our expanded newsletter as there is so much information and photos of art contained in it. Gail is doing a fantastic job! I love being able to see paintings that members have done and sometimes a little story that goes with it. Our “normal, in-person” monthly meetings, unfortunately, rarely allowed us the time to talk about the paintings you brought in. I hope more of you will tune in to Zoom for

our monthly get-togethers now. It is nice to see faces and hear voices. Please let Gail know and she will include you in the email invitations. It’s easy, I promise.

Please shoot me an email if you have any ideas about what you would like to see at our Zoom meetings. I’m assuming you have all been watching the videos our VP is putting out there every month for you to watch. We’ve had interesting discussions afterward.

There are small groups of painters going out with masks to do *plein air* painting all over. And because of our wonderful website and newsletters, we have picked up 3 or 4 new members! Remember to find things to laugh about, limit your news watching, and reach out to others who might need someone to talk to.



Carol Mills - “Painted Bunting” 8x10 pastel on pastel paper glued to wood canvas

Love,
Carol

AWS Zoom Board Minutes

July 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order via Zoom by President Carol Mills. Present were Gail Mardfin, Fran Nielsen, Nancy Sanchietti, Patty Bird, Deni Marrone, Patricia Marina, and Jerry Fabiano.

The first item on the agenda was what to do about our Annual paint-out/picnic at Riverfront Park. Carol said she had called the Park Dept. to find out if the picnic area of the park would be open in August and was told they didn't know, due to the ever changing situation with the corona virus. After discussion it was decided that we would wait until September to try and have it. [Later, at the general meeting a show of hands indicated that many members would attend if we were able to set it up in September.]

A discussion was held regarding digitalizing the duties of each board position. Any new changes will be added by the chair of the position. Each Board member will write an updated digitalized job description of the job they currently hold. This will be added to the Constitution and posted on the AWS WEBSITE so members can see what the duties of each position are. Jerry Fabiano has made a detailed job description of all of the Apple Blossom Committee chair positions. These will be made available to whomever assumes the ABS chair position. Jerry will also keep his digitalized ABS chair document for future reference.

The role of videos in our Zoom meetings was discussed. The consensus was that 45 minutes was too long to hold people's interest and then have a discussion about it afterwards. Shorter online demonstrations and YouTube videos will be suggested for the group. We watched two Clyde Aspevig YouTube videos suggested by Jerry this month and will discuss it at the general meeting.

TREASURER: Patty Bird said our bank balance is \$4291. The remainder of Jacque Mielke's gift to the board is \$8534, which she specified be used as monetary awards for winners of the ABS.

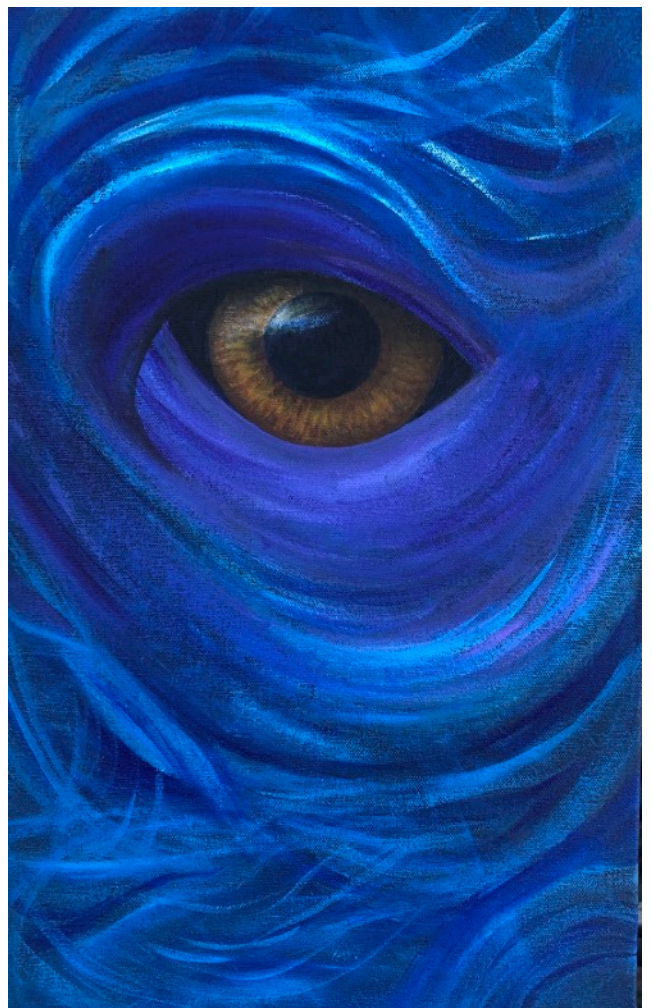
VENUE CHAIR: Deni Marrone said that all of our venues continue to be closed due to the corona virus with the exception of medical offices. A suggestion was made that we look into having small art shows during Farmer's Markets and perhaps during sidewalk sales in Sebastopol. Deni will look into the possibility.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35. [Note, 21 members attended the general Zoom meeting.]

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Sanchietti, Recording Secretary



Georgia Simons regularly paints outside with friends. This *plein air* painting was done at Timbercrest Farms in Healdsburg.



Kathleen Andre - "Eye On The Pandemic" 19"x 12" acrylic on canvas. This piece was in SCA's recent virtual art show, Pandemic Transformation.

Our July Zoom Meeting

by Gail Mardfin

We only had 21 members at our July meeting, but I did hear from others who wrote in to say they were traveling, had medical appointments, just “spaced out” and forgot, or, best of all from **Kim Winter**...”I can’t make it to the Zoom today...I have baby chicks escaping my chicken yard...I have to put up extra fencing. I will catch you folks next time and look forward to the newsletter!”

We had two guests, **Dante Corsetti’s** wife **Jackie**, and a new member **Linda Grainger**. Linda works in watercolor and in pen & ink; some of us already know her from other art associations. Welcome, Linda!

Carol Mills discussed the social-distance picnic, which will be postponed to September (or beyond) and asked for a show of hands, the majority of whom were interested in attending. **April Lynch** said she had hundreds of photos of beautiful wildflowers she was preparing for a Zoom presentation for Sonoma County Master Gardeners. **Deni Marrone** reported that most of our regular venues are closed, but she had wonderful ideas for showing art outside in a few places: at “Bloomfield Corner” (where route 116 and Bloomfield Rd. cross), at Sebastopol sidewalk sales (she has many contacts with Sebastopol store owners), and at the Sebastopol Farmers’ Market (similar to the Gravenstein Fair setup). Several members were interested in taking advantage of these potential places. If you want to be a part of those in-person displays, please contact Deni at denijomarrone@gmail.com or call/text her at (408) 202-3875. Thanks for doing all that on our behalf, Deni!

Hedda Gold announced that the **Petaluma Art Association is having a VIRTUAL Art in the Park August 1 - September 1**, and we are all invited to participate in this online showcase. Participation is FREE and no commission taken! Visit petalumaartassociation.org to learn a lot more. YOU CAN EVEN APPLY AFTER THE EVENT BEGINS, so go for it!

Deni encouraged us to take a day outing to Bodega Artisan Coop (hours change, but currently Friday-Monday 11-5.) <http://www.artisansco-op.com>

After a short break we discussed two videos that **Jerry Fabiano** had selected, both about one of his favorite landscape painters, **Clyde Aspevig**. The first video was a painting demonstration, in which the artist surprised us all with the way he held his brush so far down the handle! **Patty Bird** remarked his work was similar to **Edgar Payne** (1883-1947). The second film

was even better, with an artist in the Tacoma Art museum executing a master copy of Aspevig’s painting, *On the Way to Heaven*. We all enjoyed the way Melissa Weinman guided us through the composition, which had been so thoughtfully composed by Aspevig. His work appears tight from a distance, but is actually somewhat impressionistic up close. **Jerry continues to invite suggestions from AWS members for good art demo videos** on YouTube - 15 minutes or so in length.

Merrie Krisl showed a watercolor she was working on of her “grand dog,” which we’ll hope to see finished in the September newsletter. **Kathy Byrne** shared a watercolor she had done in a Paint Along led by artist **Leslie Wilson** through the **California Watercolor Association**. For \$45 (yearly membership), these 2-hour demonstrations happen once a month. The image is sent out ahead of time so you can have the pencil drawing ready to go at the start. —> In a follow-up email, Kathy said the **next Zoom Paint Along is on August 26 with Roland Lee**. To take part, go to www.californiawatercolor.org and JOIN. On their “Newsletter” page you’ll learn more about the Paint Alongs, which they’ve been doing since we’ve had the shelter-in-place situation.

The August Zoom meeting will be led by Carol and Jerry, as I will be on the road, heading to my mountain home in Northeast Pennsylvania. The Zoom invitation will be coming from Jerry.

So, see you again in September! Stay healthy til then!
xo gail



Paula Pearce is sporting a new hairdo and her sweet 6-month old Abbey is sporting a new collar, now that she’s gotten all her shots. (Photo by Gail Mardfin ;-)

Optional Inspirational Prompts for August



VISUAL PROMPTS are the two images pictured here. Crop / re-compose / work in any medium! Please send a photo of your work to Gail no later than August 27 to be in the next newsletter and/or share at our Zoom meeting. **VERBAL PROMPT: Trees**

Welcome to our three new members!

HEDDA GOLD

Petaluma - hagold615@gmail.com

LINDA GRAINGER

Santa Rosa - glgrainger@aol.com

KIM WINTER

Santa Rosa - kimwinter@att.net

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! We are one of the few art clubs that are still going STRONG during this pandemic, so please invite your art friends to join us!

**New Member Dues
for the remainder of the year
are \$20.**

And before you get working on your TREES, you may want to check out this excellent Painter's Keys letter online: <https://painterskeys.com/trees-2/>



Dancing Sunlight by Canadian artist Emily Carr (The Group of Seven) 1937

ART SPOTS:

America Paints Itself by Gail Mardfin

Linda Loveland Reid's art lectures presented by the **Sebastopol Center for the Arts** (sebart.org) are both educational and so entertaining! The July 23 presentation I just attended moved at a fast pace and covered the topic of American Art from the Depression to World War I, much of it centered in California.

Are you familiar with **Maynard Dixon**? I wasn't. This artist, who brought "California Scene Paintings" to European attention, was once married to **Dorothea Lange**, the photographer of iconic Depression era images. Most of us know **Thomas Hart Benton** (whose rounded forms celebrated traditional Americana), but another artist I had never heard of was **Millard Sheets**, largely responsible for elevating watercolor as a respectable art medium (previously relegated to hobbyists working in small format - thank you, Millard!). I learned about **Ansel Adams** — did you know this famous photographer was also a pianist? That **Grace McCann Morley** was the inaugural director of the San Francisco MOMA — only the second modern art museum in the country after NYC? That **Frida Kahlo** painted a painting of Luther Burbank? My favorite part of the lecture was about the wonderful WPA murals adorning the famous Coit Tower, **Otis Oldfield** being one of the 26 artists selected to paint there.

These 2-hour presentations (including a live Q&A) are generously donated by Linda Loveland Reid (a professor at two colleges, as well as a painter and author) to support SCA. Tickets to the event are by donation, starting at \$10. Hope you can make the next one about **Bay Area Modernism on August 27 from 1-3PM**. See you there!



Have you been to our website lately? awesomeart.org

Several pages have updated photos on them, but the best news is that **21 AWS artists have new work** on their personal art pages. Go to **Members' Artwork** and look for new work by...

Susan Barri
Susan Bradford
Kathy Byrne
Dante Corsetti
Angel Fabela**
Jerry Fabiano
Carol Leif Gianni
Judy Grigg Goldberg**
Merrie Krisl
Gail Mardfin
Patricia Marina

Deni Marrone
Carol Mills
Rod Morgan
Marjorie Murray-Cortez
Lonna Necker
Fran Nielsen
Paula Pearce
Lorraine Stribling
Nancy Tulloh
Kim Winter**
**** NEW PAGE**

Your next update opportunity is December 2020.

Call for Entry!
Deadline August 28th

WHO ARE YOU

International Juried Exhibition

October 10 - November 14, 2020

Juror: Barbara Stout

Link to enter [https://](https://www.entrythingy.com/)

www.entrythingy.com/

[d=sebarts.org#show=6417](https://www.entrythingy.com/d=sebarts.org#show=6417)

How is your identity informed by your ethnicity, who you love, your gender, your political or religious beliefs, the culture that resonates within you? **How has your identity changed over the years?** In what ways has your identity shaped or changed your life? **Think portraits, landscapes, abstracts, photos, collages, paintings, sculptures, etc., etc.**

ENTRY FEES

SCA Members \$20 per entry or 3 entries for \$45

Non-members \$25 per entry or 3 entries for \$60

AWARDS

\$300 Best of Show

\$200 Second place

\$100 Third place + Merit Awards

Our August 20 meeting will be via Zoom at 12:30.

This month look for an email from

jfabiano@comcast.net the morning of the meeting - that is the invitation you'll need to join. A few minutes before 12:30, just click on the link in the email. •• If you have never received an invitation and you would now LIKE to be included, please let Gail know (gail@plpgraphicdesign.com). You need a computer/device/smartphone with a camera and microphone to participate. **All those who've already asked to be included in Zoom meetings will automatically be invited.** They are fun and we'd love to see more of you! •• After a welcome and announcements led by Carol, we'll move into sharing art &/or other personal updates. After a short break, we'll discuss the video. Sound good? Any other ideas are welcome.

Please view this YouTube video for our August meeting. It is a watercolor demo of human figures in a casual, busy street scene (15-minutes) by Gary Tucker. <https://youtu.be/agj17ZvNS5A>

You may recall that we had an artist scheduled to demonstrate this topic at one of our AWS meetings. I hope you enjoy it and find it helpful. I look forward to the discussion of this video during our Zoom meeting.

**Thanks very much,
Jerry Fabiano**



You've seen **Kathy Byrne's** watercolor (LEFT) in a prior newsletter, but since then it's been accepted into two shows! "Through the Window" was juried into the CWA (California Watercolor Association) Summer-So-Serene member show - held virtually July 28-August 22. To view the show go to California Watercolor Association's website or their Facebook page. The painting is also in the Graton Gallery "Anything Goes" virtual show now online.

"Through the Window" 18x24 watercolor mounted on wooden artist panel.

Prompt Paintings from July: Pets & Foxglove



FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT

Carol Mills - "Harvesting Pinot" 9x12 watercolor
When we had our winery and vineyard, our dog Annie would eat pounds of pinot and chardonnay grapes out in the vineyard (I know they are supposed to be poisonous for dogs). She would eat tons at harvest. No keeping her away, and she lived a full life. A wine distributor took this photo when visiting and I painted three different originals and sold two.

April Lynch - 10x8 acrylic on canvas board. *I did this pet portrait for a friend after her pet's death. I held the paintbrush at the end as we discussed at our meeting yesterday. It forced me to forget tedious detail work.*

Marjorie Murray-Cortez - "Beauty of Spring" 8x6 oil

Hedda Gold - 14x10 watercolor

Kim Winter - "Jasper, Julia, Juniper" 18x35 acrylic





CAROL MILLS - "Buoy" 10x4 watercolor

I recently finished a little painting titled "Succulents in a Tin" 8x6 watercolor. [top]

Then the buoys I just finished. Thought it would be fun and colorful to paint. From Tomales Bay.

***"A little ART everyday
is good for the soul...
either by viewing
or by doing."***

- Deni Marrone

There're so many resources and opportunities on the internet! And Free!

FROM THE DE YOUNG:

Sometimes a change in your physical environment sparks creative change and growth.

For American artist Richard Diebenkorn, this shift in perspective occurred during his first commercial airplane flight: miles high, Diebenkorn was "knocked out and thrilled" by his new vantage point, which changed the way he approached his art. Later, Diebenkorn experienced a similarly transformative artistic transition when he began painting representational works, though he still retained the loose, gestural brushwork of Abstract Expressionism. Learn more about how Diebenkorn incorporated an aerial perspective into his art with Emma Acker, associate curator of American art. <https://deyoung.famsf.org/Richard-Diebenkorn-Aerial-View>

FREE DRAWING CLASSES / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM:

Online Drawing Classes [for all ages]

The Art Museum and the Arts Council of Princeton have partnered to provide free online drawing classes taught by artist-instructor Barbara DiLorenzo. Participants can join live from their home computers, tablets, or phones. Techniques emphasize drawing with pen or pencil on paper. Each week's lesson features works from the Museum's collections.

<https://artmuseum.princeton.edu/learn/art-making/online-drawing-classes>

NATIONAL ARTS PROGRAM VIRTUAL OPEN EXHIBIT – REGISTER BEFORE AUGUST 19

This virtual art exhibit is open to all ages. They are holding this OPEN Exhibit as the country begins to reOPEN to showcase the resilience of people and of the arts during these unprecedented times! Artists may register online on its website now through August 19th. Be sure to select just ONE artwork image in any medium that best represents your talents. All artists will register in their appropriate category: Youth (12 & Under), Teen (13-18), and Adult Amateur, Adult Intermediate, Adult Professional. After the show closes the exhibit will be professionally judged and fifteen cash prizes will be awarded by category!

<https://www.nationalartsprogram.org/venues/national-arts-program-virtual-open-exhibit>

Some Composition Pointers . . .

Steve Bauman's Saturday Campfire Chat (7/11/20) Center of Interest

What I coach is not only improving your painting skills but how to use those skills to communicate to the viewer what is it that you want them to experience. We as humans have certain traits baked in because of evolution. Throughout our evolution we have learned that certain **visual cues allowed us to survive**. For example, when a **lion** was at the cave opening you would read through eye contact whether it was interested in you for dinner. ...There are automatic centers of interest that are always going to trigger the viewer's eye and will cause the viewer to react regardless of where they appear on a canvas. **These things are: Eyes, Movement, Human figures, Animals, Letters, Faces, Valuables, Numbers, Symbols, etc.** When we scan an image for the first time, our attention is naturally drawn to these items.

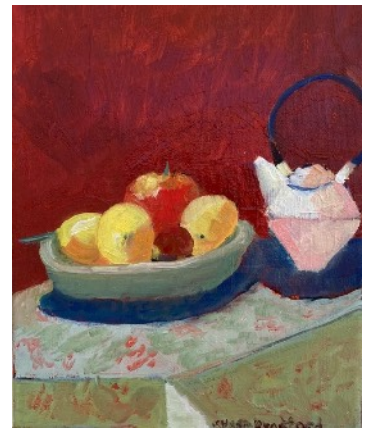
Focal Point

A focal point, on the other hand, acts as a kind of "eye magnet" regardless of the subject. Strong tonal value contrast (**light vs. dark**) is the **most powerful visual magnet**. The viewer's eye is naturally drawn to areas where light and dark are in stark juxtaposition. **Bright colors, fine detail, sharp edges, anomalies, patterns** and any arrow-like "pointers" also **attract the eye**. Any part of a picture that exhibits these features will make the viewer focus his gaze upon it.

Susan Bradford - One of our more prolific members has been joining **Patricia Marina** for a weekly "plein air still life." She says there's room for two more! If you're interested, contact Patricia at collagegirl62@yahoo.com They usually meet on Fridays, but it varies. Terrific!



Susan says, "The first is *Hydrangeas in a Crystal Vase*" 12 x 9 oil. The second one is *Fruit and Teapot*" 10 x 8 oil. The third one is *Table Setting*" 10 x 8 oil, which I redid entirely at 16x12. Most recent is *Peppers and Tea Pot.*" I spent about 2-2 1/2 hours on each one. I love the spontaneity of them. I set the still life's up in the sun from stuff I had at my house. I bring it down to Patricia's and we both paint them."





Fran Nielsen - "California Hills" 16x20 acrylic
Here's my latest painting. It was painted from one of the photos I took from my car window (I was the passenger) on the way north to Hopland last year. I am currently working on another painting of the windblown tree out at Bodega Head. There just happened to be an egret in the photo of the tree. What luck. I'll share it next meeting."



BEFORE & AFTER...
Paula Pearce's Frog painted with acrylics

RileyStreet
art supply

**Our Santa Rosa Location
is OPEN to IN-STORE Shopping!**

We have been given the green light to open our doors. We've opened up part of the store to add extra space for social distancing along with plenty of continual cleaning and other safety protocols.

But remember to wear your face mask! It is required when entering the store with no exceptions.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!



SANTA ROSA STORE HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:30am - 6pm

Saturdays

9am - 5pm

Sundays

11am-4pm

You can also order by phone **707-526-2416**
and do curbside pickup

**Announcing Gail Mardfin's
New & Improved Website!**

Following the inspirational lead of **SusanBradfordPainting.com**, after many years of it being on my ToDo list, I finally made the time — a LOT of time! — to update my website **www.SeetheGood.net**.

This one was built in Wordpress, and in many respects, it was a pain! But I am happy that the size of the images is much larger than on my older site, plus I added a lot of my pen & ink/watercolor cards, and I finally put prices on everything. (Some would say the prices are too low, but my life cannot accommodate too much "inventory"!)

I hope you enjoy it if you haven't yet visited, and you can learn more about why I try to **"See the Good."**

- Gail Mardfin, Newsletter

**"Choose to be optimistic,
it feels better."**

- Dalai Lama