



NEXT AWS MEETING: March 19, 2020

Board mtg: 10:30 am **Lunch:** Noon **Meeting:** 12:30 pm **Art Demo:** 1:15 pm
Sebastopol Veteran's Building, 282 South High St., Sebastopol, CA

Inspirational Prompts: March - ELEPHANTS • April - NIGHTTIME

www.AWSOMEART.org

March 19 Meeting Demo Artist: **KATHLEEN LACK**

Artist and teacher Kathleen Lack works in oils and pastels, specializing in the portrait and the figure.



Artist's Passion by Kathleen Lack 24x36 oil

In her portraits and figurative work, the body language is informal, relaxed and fluid, so that the figures interact naturally in the environment. We'll witness her approach in this demo. Visit www.kathleenlack.com to learn more about this award-winning artist.

Register for the 2020 Senior Art Show by Monday, March 30!

All Sonoma County seniors (over 60) are invited to participate in a free, non-juried show at the Finley Center (2060 W College Ave) in **Santa Rosa**. Sponsored by Sonoma County Adult & Aging Division, the show runs **May 19 - July 9**.

Delivery: Monday, May 18 (9-11 am)
Reception: Thursday, May 28 (1-4 pm)
Pick-up: Friday, July 10 (9-11)

Visit <https://apps.schsd.org/SAS/> for further details and to register online or download the registration form.

AWS Board Minutes

February 20, 2020

President: Carol Mills called the meeting to order at 10:37am.

Members Present: Carol, Gail Mardfin, Patricia Marina, Nancy Sanchiatti, Jerry Fabiano, Patty Bird, and Gary Caldwell.

Vice President: Jerry Fabiano gave a rundown of upcoming program presenters. Demo today: Patrick Fanning, Watercolor demonstration

March: Kathleen Lack demo - figures in oil

April: Tom Rissacher demo - seascapes in oil

May: Member Paint Around using different mediums

June: AWS member picnic at Regional Park

July: Demonstration by John Burns in pastel

August: Member critique

ABS Chair: Patricia Marina said several positions still need to be filled, sign up sheets available during the meeting. She stated that she has been working with SCA and the Chamber of Commerce to agree on a contract and is waiting for contracts to be signed. The judge for this year's show is Wendy Brayton. Intake hours for the show will be shortened to 3:00 to 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 16. Discussion was held regarding the number of popular votes show-viewers be allowed. Docents are being asked to give only one vote form per person and ask they only vote once.

Carol stated that Honorary Member Angel Fabela has written requesting to be in ABS. After discussion, it was voted on and approved that he be allowed to

participate in the ABS show, as he has done so much for the betterment of the club.

Treasurer: Patty stated that she will deposit the \$1000.00 Grant check we just received, thanks to Carol's hard work. Our current balance is \$4295.70. People are asked to send in their ABS entry fees ASAP to help with the cost of renting the space.

Corresponding Secretary: Patricia is sending a card to Deni Marrone in Fran's absence.

Membership Chair: Gary Caldwell asked that members check the new roster to make sure their info is correct, and to contact him if corrections are needed. We have 51 members who are cleared to participate in ABS. Our membership is around 60. [NOTE: There were 12 guests at today's meeting, some of whom may become members.]

Website: The next time around for updating your artwork is June.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Sanchiatti, Recording Secretary

March 19 Refreshments

Please deliver your food (enough for a dozen people) to the meeting **BEFORE NOON.**

Sandwiches/Finger Food

Susan Bradford
Dante Corsetti
Judy Goldberg
Trula LaCalle
Lonna Necker
Gail Radice
Nancy Sanchiatti
Phil Wilkinson
Sharon Wright

Dessert/Fruit

Marilyn Gale
April Lynch
Paula Pearce
Tira Rhine
Sue Rogers
Nancy Tulloh

And don't forget to sign in at the entry/registration table AND at the food table, so your contribution will count toward your membership requirement. Thank you!



Enter the next SCA show!

“FAVORITE THINGS”

Entry submission deadline:

Weds, April 1 • 2-6 pm

Opening Reception: Friday, April 4, 1-4 pm

Exhibit runs April 4 - May 10, 2020

Option 1: Artwork shows your favorite Thing, Person, Animal, Food, Game, Team, Color, ETC.!

Option 2: The artwork itself is your favorite, the best you ever made.

Entry fee is \$10. You can enter ONE piece at Sebastopol Center for the Arts

on April 1 (*no joke!*) between 2-6 pm

Or visit the website sebart.org and fill in application

First come, first served!

2/20/20 Demo by Patrick Fanning, Watercolor

By Beverly Bird • Photos by Beverly Bird and Gail Mardfin



The watercolor demo by Patrick Fanning was inspiring and packed with information gained from his 25 years of experience as a realistic watercolor painter. He generously shared his approaches to painting, his tools, his palette, and a number of “tricks of the trade” with AWS members present, as well as more than ten guests who came to learn from the demonstration.

Approach: Patrick’s sketches on location are the basis of his realistic works, often taking longer than the painting, generally more than an hour. He explained and demonstrated his three-stage approach to painting:

1) Washes covering most of the paper support, using a large brush and laying in an underpainting. He prefers synthetic brushes for this step as they are better for pushing the water down into the grooves of the paper. The demo was based on a foggy day photo and during this phase he saved the round sun shape in the upper right quadrant.

“What it comes down to is practice.”



2) Add mid-values. Here he darkened the foreground shape and mid-ground tree ridge and began creating the main tree shape, which would become the darkest dark against the lightest light (sun), creating the focal point.

3) Final stage, adding darks and details. He builds layer upon layer - like “layering stained glass.” Since watercolor is transparent, one has to remember that what you put down in the beginning shows up at the end. As to composition, he works to cluster interest in the “four hotspots.”

Paper Support: He prefers 300 lb Arches cold press paper, but he used 160 lb for the demo. He clips his paper to his backing board (rather than taping), so he can move the clips as the paper stretches.

Easel: He uses a modified half-French easel on location, and works on a table in his studio — with water jars, paper towels, palette, etc. always in the same arrangement to create ease in working. “Nothing can replace familiarity with materials,” he pointed out.

Palette: He uses a palette designed by Steve Quiller because it is round (like a color wheel) and it has a very tightly fitting lid, and he designed his own color disk. Patrick uses all high intensity colors on his palette: Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Orange, Cadmium Scarlet, Cadmium Red, Quinacridone Rose, Permanent Magenta, Dioxazine Violet, Ultramarine Blue, Winsor Blue, Cobalt Turquoise, Viridian, and Sap Green. Earth colors can be mixed from these colors.

“Usually the time to stop a watercolor is 10 minutes ago.”



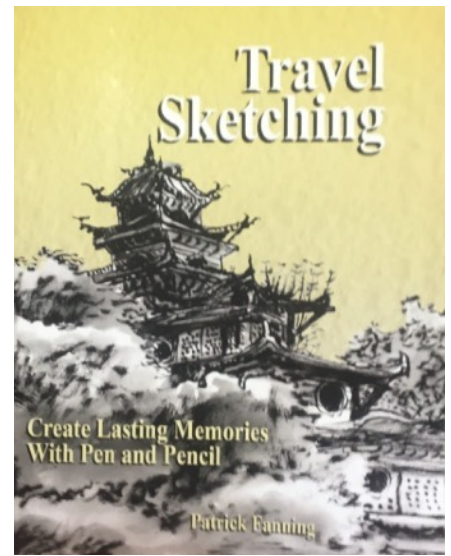
Detailing: Using a one and a half inch brush, he created tree shapes which he likened to a hand shape — asymmetry is important. His blackberry bushes appeared after laying in a broad dark brush stroke and then turning the painting upside down, pulling out the brambles with the handle of his brush. “Nothing replaces familiarity with materials,” he pointed out. *(continued)*

Patrick Fanning



Patrick finished out his presentation by discussing the process and techniques used in some of the finished paintings he presented at the demo. Viewers were also able to look at two sketchbooks he passed around and a book he has published called *Travel Sketching*.

And there's more! Check out www.fanningartwork.com. Not only does one find images of his paintings, but a "Teaching Art" section, which lays out his thoughts on a number of aspects of producing art. ♦



February's Inspirational Prompt: FACES IN NATURE



Top left: Lots of faces in nature photographs by Rod Morgan. Top right, Linda and Merrie try to spot the faces in Jan Blake's abstract. Bottom row, L to R: Art by Paula Pearce, Patty Bird, Merrie Krisl; Rita Rhine poses with her fish painting.



The Apple Blossom Show: Everything Eligible Artists Need to Know

Final day for Entry Forms: Monday, April 6
Delivery: Thursday, April 16 (3-5:30 pm)**
Reception: Friday, April 17 (7-9 pm)***
Show: Saturday/Sunday, April 18 and 19
Pick-up: Sunday, April 19 (5-6 pm)

** Note new delivery hours on Thursday.
Follow directions on entry form! Judging by artist Wendy Brayton (braytonart.com) is Friday morning and AWS volunteers hang the show after that.

*** EVERYONE brings finger food to the reception; drop off in kitchen from 6:30 on.

Entry Form must be RECEIVED by April 6. Entry forms will be available at March meeting and have been emailed to eligible artists. For entry requirements or questions, contact Lorraine Stribling: 707-775-3234 (lorrainestribling@comcast.net) If you can, **please pay early - bring a check to the March meeting.** Or send your check to Lorraine, along with the entry form (early, if you can). The fee is \$15 per artwork entered - you may enter up to four artworks that fit in a 4'x5' space.

Sign up at the March meeting for your volunteer service (4 hours) if you haven't already! ABS Chair Patricia Marina says **these committees need people (# needed):**

Hospitality - (4)

Wine server - (2-3)

Floor Docents & Popular Vote -

Sunday 10-12:30 (2) & 12:30-3 (2)

Receiving - (2)

Sales - Friday night (1), Sat 10-2 (1),

Sat 2-6 (2), Sun 10-2 (1)

Raffle, most times needed -

Friday night 7-9 (2), Sat 10-12:30 (2),

12:30-3 (1), Saturday 3-6 (2),

Sunday 10-12:30 (2), 12:30-3 (2).

2020 Apple Blossom Art Show

Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County

Artist Reception & Sale
Friday, April 17 • 7-9 pm
Free Admission
Art, Food, Drinks & Music

Art Show & Sale
Saturday and Sunday
April 18 • 10 am - 6 pm
April 19 • 10 am - 5 pm

Sebastopol Center for the Arts
282 South High Street
Sebastopol, CA

awsomeart.org

Best in Show 2019
Santa Rosa Area #4023 by Susan Herritt

Founders Award 2019
Golden Summer by James Reynolds

Founders Award 2019
Three in a Crowd by Fran Nelson

This year's ABS poster by Gail Mardfin. ABS artists will be emailed images of the poster to share with friends and to post on facebook.

Card Sales - Sign up at March meeting if you want to sell cards (up to 30-ish). Some card racks will be needed. Speak to Carol Mills.

Get the Word Out! Pick up postcards and posters at March meeting. This is an important way of getting the word out about the show. Send cards to friends, relatives, customers. Put posters in public places all over the county! The more who come to the show, the better for us all! Those not in the show are also invited to help. And did you know...

- 25% of ABS sales goes to our club.
- ABS artists are encouraged to donate smaller paintings (with lower prices), say 11"x14" selling for \$50-100. 100% of these donation sales goes to AWS.
- Thanks to the estate of Jacquie Mielke, cash awards, determined by Judge Wendy Brayton, are: \$500 for Best of Show, \$300 for Founders' Award, and \$100 for First Place in each of the six categories.

Winner of a Best in Show Award



by Gail Mardfin

I was honored (and surprised!) to have my piece judged Best in Show in the National Arts Program Foundation contest, a city-wide Santa Rosa art exhibit, now up at the Finley Center through March 27.

I was told the two judges kept returning

to view my piece *Eight Radishes*, one of whom was Kristen Throop, a guest artist at AWS in April 2018.

The watercolor is about 12x12 and was created using Masa paper (rice paper with a backing), crumpled up, water-soaked, and wrung out before painting, creating a batik-like effect. It was an experimental technique I was being taught and as I worked on it, I was thinking "This is so much fun!!" It was the JOY infused in the painting that attracted the judges, in my opinion.

The Press Democrat gave the show great coverage in its 2/21/20 issue, including a big picture of Yours Truly (not so much the painting)! It was fun to hear from so many friends I've made since moving here 4 1/2 years ago, congratulating me on the award. The best part was being contacted by a friend from 25 years ago; neither of us knew we lived in Santa Rosa, and now we have reconnected, which is a sweet result of such "fame!"

Knowing how decisions by judges can be second-guessed ("What?! Why did they give THAT the



EIGHT RADISHES by Gail Mardfin

award?") I was recently talking to AWS member Rod Morgan, and he relayed this story: Rod entered one of his photographs called *Misty Mountain Morning* into two juried shows. It was rejected by one, and it won a blue ribbon in the other! He added, "It just goes to show, you never know. Exhibitions and competitions have judges, prejudices and preferences. Go figure. Keep trying, producing, and entering, it's how we improve."

I think the bottom line is, If you win, GREAT! If you don't, that's okay too! Do your work for the joy of it — and if you get a cash prize (like I did), celebrate!



MISTY MOUNTAIN MORNING by Rod Morgan

Sebastopol Art Venues

Current & Upcoming

Tombe Realty (10 pieces)

3/19 OUT: Phil Wilkinson

3/19-5/21: **ARTIST NEEDED**

Umpquah Bank (6 pieces)

3/19 OUT: Diane Ceccarelli

3/19-5/21: **ARTIST NEEDED**

Eye Associates Medical Group (12 pieces)

3/19 OUT: Carol Mills

3/19-5/21: **ARTIST NEEDED**

Slice of Life Restaurant

Closed until further notice

Senior Center **

3/19 OUT: Jan Blake

3/19-5/21: **ARTIST NEEDED**

Viva Mexicana **

This is a new venue AWS has acquired! Yay, Deni!

Note that restaurant takes 10% of sales.

3/19/20 OUT - Carol Mills

3/19-5/21: **ARTIST NEEDED**

**Please contact Coordinator of Art Venues
Deni Marrone to fill future venue space.
denijomarrone@gmail.com • (408) 202-3875**

**** Visit space to determine number of pieces
you'd like/need to hang in this venue**

Member Profile with Fran Nielsen

by Paula Pearce

Paula: So, Fran, where were you born and raised?

F: I am second generation Sebastopol born and basically have lived in this house since I was two years old.

P: Did you grow up with siblings?

F: Yes, I have two older sisters. One is four years older, Marjorie, and the other sister, Claudia, is ten years older than me.

P: Did you have relatives who were artists?

F: Yes, Marjorie was quite artistically talented as she designed and built custom dollhouses and sold them at craft fairs. Later on in life, she excelled in designing and constructing high-end handbags.

P: Can you recall any art projects from school??

F: Yes, in high school, for school dances I would usually do the decorations. My favorite memory was making a life size suit of armor out of cardboard and then painting it silver. A photo of it was in the yearbook. Those experiences served me well for a future involvement with the California Junior Miss Scholarship Program, which included a full stage production with music, dancing and set designs. That was my forté. I was art director for the stage sets for over 12 years.

P: Fran, did you major in art in school?

F: At Analy High School, I took art classes all the way through and earned a certificate of excellence in art upon graduation. But even as a young child, I drew all the time.

P: Did you move on into a college setting after high school?

F: No, because I married my high school sweetheart at age 18 and we had our first of three sons when I was 20.

P: Your studio space is very well organized with all these cupboards, drawers and closets. Do you do something else in here besides paint?

F: Yes! I first started making soft sculpture dolls many years ago and I made that my focus using holiday craft shows as my sales platform. That eventually evolved into my sculpting the dolls' faces with polymer clay.

P: What inspired you to create these character figures?

F: I always loved Beatrix Potter's characters and *Wind in*

the Willows characters, so those were my impetus.

P: So was that your full time occupation?

F: Not exactly, as I had a full time job in Santa Rosa at a school supply retail store for ten years until 1994.

P: What led you to painting?

F: In the 60's I was especially attracted to the Keene style of portraiture with the big eyes and I experimented with a similar style back then. That got me started in landscape painting. Then I happened to gift one of my sons a painting for Christmas one year. After that, he wanted a painting every year. I started out using lousy craft paint because that is what I had on hand. Then I started using better paint and my favorite paint is Liquitex.

P: I have always admired your realistic excellence in your paintings. Did you ever paint on-location for some of your landscape pieces?

F: No, but I paint from my own photographs.

P: How did you find out about AWS?

F: In 2008, I met Arlene Parnay as a mutual artist showing at a local winery. Arlene suggested I come to an AWS meeting to get acquainted. I feel that was one of the best decisions I ever made.

P: Why do you say that?

F: As a self-taught artist, I never had formal art training in my background. So the programs that we have, provide excellent instruction. In addition to that, I now have other art venues for showing and selling my artwork.

Conclusion by Paula:

We've all missed you, Fran, since your recent knee replacement surgeries. It was good having time with you for this second interview after many years. Thanks for dredging up the original interview from your archives. It was good to use it and combine our recent comments.

Fran, thank you again for all you do as Corresponding Secretary and for leading our club's participation each August in the Gravenstein Apple Fair. You are very much appreciated by all of us at AWS. We look forward to seeing you again soon at our meetings sitting up at the head table with our other board members.



THINGS to NOTE

IF YOUR EMAIL CHANGES, PLEASE LET Gail Mardfin know: gail@PLPgraphicdesign.com
Corrections will be published in the newsletter so you can change your printed-out copy at home. Email is the main way AWS communicates with members, so please **be sure all your contact information is correct in the membership booklet** that Merrie Krisl compiled, which was sent out via email 2/9/20.

The Oakmont Art Association is offering a 3-day workshop by master watercolorist Lian Zhen in the Oakmont Art Room at the Central Activities Center Thursday-Saturday, June 4th - 6th. Time is 9am - 4pm each day. Cost of the 3-day workshop is \$245 for non-OAA members. There are a few spots left. Contact Phil Wilkinson ASAP if interested, docsevo@me.com or (707) 529-4587



RileyStreet Art Supply
103 Maxwell Court, Santa Rosa
(707) 526-6421

Remember, AWS members get a
10% discount,
excluding sale items and mat board



