



SPS NEWSLETTER

Bringing Brilliance to Art and Life

September-October 2009

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Message from the president

Dear Members,

What a great line-up we have for pastel enthusiasts this fall and winter! I have to give a big thank you to our board members – who make a wonderful team, hard at work to carry off our many events and opportunities. **We all hope you'll get these dates on your calendar now** and plan for an exceptional, artistic couple of months. Most everything I'll mention here has a further article in this newsletter - as you peruse, we hope you'll be energized into pastel action!

Our **10th Anniversary plans** are gearing up. We're planning an afternoon party on Saturday, **December 19th** (before the 3rd Saturday Art Walk in Placerville). We'll need your help getting our history together and planning the fun. Give Jimmie Grann a call if you want to be involved.

We're pleased to announce the following members who successfully achieved **Signature Status** during this year's review of submitted artwork - **Frances Zurek Morgan, Phil Bates, and Ralphie Hendrix. Congratulations!!** We hope you'll enter our First Signature Show this winter. Our judge, Duane Wakeham, was impressed with all the applicants. He's a wonderful artist to receive a critique from – he's honest and direct and also gives good learning tips (see the article inside).

Our member meeting in early August was a great success, with an interesting talk given by Urania Christy Tarbet on the national health and light fastness standards committee she sits upon, our 2nd Art Swap, and drawings for pastels donated by Terry Ludwig. Our earnings from the drawings netted us over \$75! **At future meetings we will have IAPS' new 2010 pastel calendars available to bid on.**

Be sure to fill out the **preregistration form inside** this newsletter for either or both of our upcoming shows — the **fall membership show *Harvest of Art***, October 12-17; and for Signature members, the first ever **Signature Show**, November 9 – December 31. (Note the reservation form for the Signature show is due October 3rd.)

There are **still spaces in our Lorenzo Chavez Hope Valley workshop**, October 5th through 9th. Hurry and call Thaleia Georgiades to reserve a spot. And be sure to join us on September 23 and 26th for **paint-outs at Boeger Winery** in the Apple Hill area. See you there!

Susan Levitsky



EVENTS CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2009

Sept. 12th El Dorado Hills Art Assoc. Membership Show opens for two weeks at *Hang It Up Gallery*, El Dorado Hills
Sept. 18th – 20th El Dorado County Studio Tour
Sept. 23rd & 26th SPS Paint Out at Boeger Winery, Apple Hill. Come one or both days (Wed. or Sat.) to paint vineyards and old buildings in the foothills. Contact: Joyce Amlick (530) 676-2519

OCTOBER 2009

Oct. 3rd Signature Show reservation form due
Oct. 5th – 9th Lorenzo Chavez Workshop in Hope Valley
Contact: Thaleia Georgiades (530) 626-9188
Oct. 12th – 16th SPS Fall Membership Show at Government Center, Placerville Contact: Ramona Beckwith (530) 295-0176
Oct. 25th 2-6 pm Organize SPS 10th Anniversary History Book...come one day or both.
& Oct. 27th 10 am Contact Jimmie Grann (916) 358-3805

NOVEMBER 2009

Nov. 9th – Dec. 31st SPS Signature Membership Show at *Flowers on Main*, Placerville. Contact Kathy Hall (530) 620-3400 or Gloria Vernon (530) 621-2468
Nov. 14th SPS General Membership Meeting details, time and location to be announced
Nov. 21st 4 – 6 pm SPS Signature Show Reception at *Flowers on Main*, Placerville, followed by 3rd Sat. Art Walk

DECEMBER 2009

Dec. 19th SPS Holiday Party & 10th Anniversary Celebration appetizer party in Placerville followed by 3rd Sat. Art Walk. More info to come soon.

COMING NEXT YEAR!

Jan. 9th, 2010 Haggin Museum, Stockton: American Legacy Show – carpool

Sept. 13-17, 2010 Richard McKinley Workshop in Hope Valley Contact: Thaleia Georgiades (530) 626-9188

Urania Christy Tarbet Addresses Membership Meeting August 8, 2009

Approximately 23 members came together in the meeting room at Placerville Raley's on Saturday morning, August 8th for a general membership meeting. President Susan Levitsky conducted a short business meeting, and some time was spent on an artist material swap, in which members were able to sell, swap or give away unused items, getting them into the hands of artists that could appreciate them. Some artists, including Jewel Foster, kindly chose to donate their proceeds to SPS. Terry Ludwig had generously donated 19 of his large specially shaped pastels to SPS, and after chances were sold to win these pastels, a total of \$79.10 was collected to help the organization with future events.

Urania Christy Tarbet, being a member of ASTM (American Society for Testing of Materials), addressed the group explaining how this voluntary organization assists in standards-writing for artist materials. Urania gave suggestions about what to watch for when we purchase pastel products; products packaged in the last five years should include the code **ASTMD4236** on the label which means they meet the standards for lightfastness and health standards. "Student grade" and products made in China should always be avoided. She suggested ways we can test the products we have for lightfastness, and gave additional recommendations for health protection, including using fingercots, or "gloves in a bottle" to keep pastel from pores. Regarding breathing issues, Urania reminded us never to blow on a pastel to remove excess dust, plus she suggested a newer fixative, Spectrafix, as a safer product if you spray your pastels.

Urania shared some of the highlights of the 2009 IAPS convention, and announced that she will be hosting a Maggie Price demonstration at her studio in October. Contact Urania for further information regarding this opportunity. (644-4899) SPS is grateful to Urania for offering her time and knowledge to our group, - and for all she does to promote pastel art in general!

Call to Artists

The Pioneer Arts Club Inc. in Grass Valley, California is proud to announce its 26th annual juried Northern Mines Art Exhibition to be held from November 2 thru Nov 29, 2009 at the Grass Valley Center for the Arts. Entries will be accepted on C.D. only and the deadline is September 19, 2009. Limit is three entries. Exhibition is open to all artists in Northern California. Please visit our Pioneer Arts website at www.pioneerart.com after May 1, 2009 for prospectus and further information.

Last Call for Fall Color Workshop! October 5th -9th in Hope Valley! There are still a few spots available for this fabulous 5day, fall color, plein air workshop with nationally renowned painter, **Lorenzo Chavez!** Lorenzo is a wonderful artist and teacher! Look him up on line at lorenzochavez.com. Both oil and pastel painters are welcome! The class is based at a gorgeous log home in Hope Valley in the high Sierra between South Lake Tahoe & Kirkwood along Hwy 88 (where all the fabulous fall color is)! These 5days are a not-to-be-missed experience painting in several very exciting locations! Come share a cabin at Sorensen's Resort with a few other artists or book your stay in one of the other options we have available! For a special treat, 2 beds are available in this fabulous log home (where Lorenzo will also be staying) for only \$10/night for SPS members! The class is \$550. If we fill the class our SPS Members will get a \$50 discount, too! Contact Thaleia today for more information or to register at 530-626-9188 or Thaleia@directcon.net.

Help Save the Center!!

The Sacramento Fine Arts Center, which for 25 years has housed art activities, events, classes for adults and children, and top notch art exhibits, is facing possible closure due to the downturn in the economy. This would be a great loss to the entire area. You can help! Go to their website, www.sacfinearts.org and click under "Help Save our Art Center" to learn more. There you can download a list of people who will be influential in making the final decision, and you can write or email them a short note in support of the center. This is an important way artists can support the arts!

Thaleia reports:

I am getting ready to launch the opening of reservations for the **Richard McKinley** workshop for September 13-17 of Fall 2010.

As promised, we want to open this up to SPS Members first. Anyone interested needs to contact me ASAP via e-mail and tell me they want to be on the list. The price for the workshop is \$550 per student and includes a box lunch each of the 5 days. It will require a \$200 advanced deposit which will not be dues until they receive and send back their registration form with the check for \$200.

The class is limited to 18 students and I already have quite a few people from other parts of the nation who want in so DON'T DELAY!

More detailed information to follow.
Thaleia@directcon.net

**Indian Summer with Richard McKinnley
5 day Plein Air Workshop
Hope Valley (south of Lake Tahoe on Hwy 88/Blue Lakes Road/Carson Pass)
September 13th - 17th, 2010
Lodging options will be sent to registered artists and shared cabins will be available!
.....only 3 spaces left!!!!**

Downtown Placerville Art

This is the third year of **Banners on Parade**, and more importantly, the fifth year of **Art on Parade** in downtown Placerville.

The banners will hang until mid-October, when they will be taken down to be sold at auction at the Art & Wine Festival on Saturday, October 17, from 6pm to 9pm in downtown Placerville. The silent auction will occur throughout the evening, with a minimum bid of \$75 and increasing in \$10 increments. Since the City of Placerville will not be able to help fund this event next year, we need every single dollar we can get to ensure that Art on Parade can continue.

SIGNATURE JUDGE SELECTS THREE NEW SIGNATURE MEMBERS !
Provides Hints for All of Us

Our signature status judge, Duane Wakeham of San Francisco, is a Master Pastelist with the Pastel Society of America and Distinguished Pastelist, Pastel Society of the West Coast. He is a member of PSA Board of Governors and IAPS Board of Directors. He has had 27 solo exhibitions. Duane reviewed all the applicant's paintings (3 each) and rated each of them from 1 to 10. Those with total scores of 25 or more were awarded Signature Status. Congratulations to **Frances Zurek Morgan** of Placerville, **Ralphie Hendrix** of Redway, California, and **Phil Bates** of Myrtle Creek, Oregon, selected to receive Signature status this year!!

Duane provided the applicants with insightful critiques of their paintings and guided them regarding what they should focus on. Some of his comments are summarized and presented below as good reminders for all of us:

- "What is evident after many years of selecting paintings for exhibitions, as well as judging for awards, is the tendency of artists to feel that they should demonstrate their diversity by submitting paintings of a variety of subject matter and paintings executed in different styles. Yet, as jurors, I find that my colleagues and I are more interested in seeing paintings that demonstrate an artist's consistency. Personally, I place considerable importance on composition, both as it applies to structure and to color."
- "Another thing that the judges seem to agree on is that the choice of what is submitted is a reflection not only of the artist's ability but also of their concept of how best to present themselves."
- "I would suggest that a successful painting is one that offers a well-constructed, pleasing color composition that exists separate from the subjects of the painting. A successful painting is more than choice of subject and mastery of technique."
- "...think carefully about how you use color in your paintings -- both the role it plays in defining space and its importance as part of pictorial composition. ...pay attention to aerial or atmospheric perspective, which is the way color diminishes in intensity and becomes bluer and grayer as it recedes into the distance. The contrast between light and dark also diminishes as forms recede."
- "Yellow is the color that begins to lose its intensity most quickly, [therefore a] yellow in the distance [should not be] the same yellow as in the immediate foreground..."
- (Don't make) "the blue of the sky too uniform. Lightening the [sky] color as it approaches the darker [color of the horizon line] would create the feeling of a more atmospheric and spacious sky."
- "Consider how strengthening the light and dark of the foreground (subject) against the background would produce a greater sense of space in the painting between the foreground and background, and add a slight element of drama."
- You are the artist and you are free to make things whatever size you want them to be or that you think they should be to make a more interesting painting.
- "Avoid confusing the viewer about which direction to travel within the painting." "Ultimately, I realize that the viewer gets to choose, but I believe that the viewer is also entitled to (be able to) determine what your choice is."
- "I look forward to seeing you begin to explore and express your own individuality, and create your own identity as a painter."

Thank you Duane for an excellent job of jurying! And Congratulations again to our new Signature Members!

SIERRA PASTEL SOCIETY'S FIRST SIGNATURE MEMBER SHOW - FALL 2009

It's a first! This fall we are putting on our first exhibition featuring the paintings of our **Signature Members** only. This show is **separate** from October's fall membership show *Harvest of Art*, and will give the Signature members a chance to display and compete within five categories instead of just the one "Signature category" available to them in general membership shows. This is an opportunity to showcase the work of these accomplished artists, a number of them SPS's founding members, and also publicize and celebrate the tenth anniversary of our pastel society. We encourage all Signature members to participate in this event, and we anticipate an outstanding show!

Location and show dates: Judie Stewart of *Flowers on Main* has agreed to host the show in her lovely gallery/flower shop at 318 Main Street, downtown Placerville. The show will hang from **November 9th through December 31st**, which includes two holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas) and two 3rd Saturday Art Walk evenings – great opportunities for exposure to shoppers and art aficionados!

Make reservations for your paintings by Oct. 3rd: *Flowers on Main* has high walls, but we will still be somewhat limited for space, and are therefore limiting entries to three per artist. To help us prepare for the show, we are requesting that artists submit a "reservation" for their entries, giving us the number and size of paintings to expect, and letting us know if they will be hand-delivered or shipped. [Shipping instructions will be sent to those indicating that method of delivery on the Reservation Form]. **The entry fee is \$10 per painting, and we're requesting that you include your check when you mail the reservation form.** This will simplify the procedure on receiving day. Reservation forms must be postmarked by **October 3rd**. Details regarding eligibility, categories, calendar dates, etc. are on the Reservation Form.

Delivery: Hand-delivered paintings will be received at *Flowers on Main* between noon and 3 p.m. on Saturday, **November 7th**. Shipped paintings must arrive at shipping destination by **November 4th**.

Judge: **Gil Dellinger** is scheduled to judge the exhibition on November 14th. A retired Professor of Art after 30 years with the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Gil continues to be sought after as an instructor as well as an outstanding artist. He is a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America, and considered a "Master Pastelist". Award winners will be notified by telephone or email.

Reception and Awards: scheduled for **November 21st from 4 – 6 p.m. at *Flowers on Main*** in conjunction with a Third Saturday Art Walk. Come and enjoy the party, then continue the art experience and check out the other galleries in the downtown area. Signature awards will include a Best of Show; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each of the four categories, plus Honorable Mentions as the judge chooses. During the reception the artists will be able to vote for the painting of their choice for a very special additional award, the "Artist Choice Award". Minimal cash awards will be given, similar to those in the general membership shows.

Pick up date: The show will close at the end of the year, and artists are asked to pick up their paintings on **Saturday afternoon, the 2nd of January, 2010**. Please contact one of the show co-chairs if you need to arrange for a different day. Shipped paintings will be sent back the following week.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact one of the co-chairs, either Kathy Hall (530) 620-3400, or Gloria Vernon (530) 621-2468. Additional reservation forms may be downloaded from the SPS website.

RESERVATION FORM for the 1st SIERRA PASTEL SOCIETY SIGNATURE MEMBER SHOW - FALL 2009
LOCATION OF SHOW: FLOWERS ON MAIN, 318 Main Street, Placerville, CA 95667

Calendar

Oct. 3rd Deadline for Painting Reservations
Nov. 4th Shipped paintings received
Nov. 7th, 12-3pm Receiving for hand-delivered entries
Nov. 9th – Dec.31st Show opens
Nov. 21st 4 – 6 pm Reception and Awards
Jan. 2nd, 2010 Paintings to be picked up

Eligibility: Must be a current member of SPS, and have achieved **SPS Signature status**. Work must be original (not executed in workshop or under instructor supervision), and done within last three years. Paintings shown in previous SPS exhibitions are allowed.

Maximum Framed Size: 42" x 42"

Categories:

L/S Landscape/Seascape
P/F Portrait/Figure
S/F Still life/Floral
A/O Animal/Other

Awards: Best of Show; 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category; HMs as judge chooses; plus "Artist Choice Award" voted on at reception. Minimal cash awards. Winners will be emailed or phoned.

MAIL ENTRY RESERVATION WITH FEES TO:

Kathy Hall, Signature Show Co-Chair
 7800 Crystal Blvd
 El Dorado, CA 95623

Entry Fee: \$10.00 per entry (limit of 3)

Make check out to: S.P.S. (non-refundable)

Sales and Commission:

The gallery will keep 30% commission on sales;
 SPS will keep 10% commission;
 Artist receives remaining 60% of sales price

For further information contact Kathy Hall at (530) 620-3400 or Co-Chair Gloria Vernon at (530) 621-2468

ENTRY RESERVATION

(Complete, sign and mail this portion with fees; must be postmarked no later than Oct. 3rd)

Artist's Name (Please print)

Address

City State Zip

Phone #

Email Address

Work will be shipped ___ **Hand delivered** ___
 (Instructions will be sent for shipping)

1. _____

Title

Category Price Framed Size

2. _____

Title

Category Price Framed Size

3. _____

Title

Category Price Framed Size

I hereby release SPS, individual members, and the establishment where the show is located, from all responsibility for damage or loss of any entry during the show and in transit to or from the show.

Signature Date

PAINTING LABELS

(Do not mail)

Fill out and attach to the upper right corner of the back of each painting.

Category: _____

Entry # (Please leave blank)

Painting Title

Artist Name

Phone Number Price

Category: _____

Entry # (Please leave blank)

Painting Title

Artist Name

Phone Number Price

Category: _____

Entry # (Please leave blank)

Painting Title

Artist Name

Phone Number Price

HAPPENINGS!!



SPS MEMBERS JURIED INTO MOTHER LODGE NATIONAL EXHIBITION

Eleven members of SPS were juried into the 43rd Mother Lode National Art Exhibition on display at the Shakespeare Club in Placerville during the last two weeks of August. They include Ramona Beckwith, Mary Ann Broddrick, Anne Gladwill, Jimmie Grann, Kathy Hall, Ralphie Hendrix, Frances Zurek Morgan, Bonita Paulis, Judith Perry, Connie Randmaa and Gloria Vernon. Ramona received an Award of Excellence for her watercolor, “The Wave”; Mary Ann was awarded the PSWC Award for her pastel, “Umpqua”, and Kathy received an Award of Merit for “River’s Edge”, pastel. Congratulations to all of our members whose participation added so much to this beautiful show sponsored by the Placerville Arts Association.

STATE FAIR WINNER

Marie Crockett was selected to be in the prestigious California State Fair Exhibit this year. She has had this honor two years in a row! This year “Apple Hill – Placerville” won an award of Excellence and \$250, and last year it was “Harbor House View on Highway 1”. The State Fair had 586 applications out of which 157 were accepted. Congratulations Marie!

Regarding the Bulletin Box.... The need to include information and pre-registration forms for two upcoming SPS shows crowded out the Bulletin Box page this time. Do continue to “toot your horn” and send your news to marise@mdabreu.com

Judy Perry not only had painting in the KVIE Art Auction held Aug. 28 - 30, but it won a 2nd place in her category!

Congratulations Judy!

A HARVEST OF ART FALL MEMBERSHIP SHOW

It's time to get ready for our Fall 2009 member show, "A Harvest of Art." The show will be held Monday, October 12th through Friday, October 16th at the El Dorado County Government Center, Building B in Placerville (on Fair Lane Across from the library). An Awards reception will be held Friday from 4:00 – 5:00 pm with awards given at 4:30.

Please bring your paintings to building A at the Center on Monday morning between 8am and 10 a.m. You may submit up to 6 paintings in any or all of the following categories: Land/Seascape, Floral/Still Life, Portrait/Figure, Animal/Other and Signature. You may also submit up to 6 Miniatures, not for judging. The miniatures must have an outside frame measurement no greater than 24 inches on two adjacent sides.

All paintings must be original works, not produced under the direction of an instructor or a copy of another's work. Since our show is in a public building, it is important that paintings be appropriate for the general public to view. Paintings must hang by wire on back, with taped wire ends. The member entry fee per painting is \$5.00. If you are not a member, you may join when you deliver your paintings (membership fee is \$25). Please see the entry form in this newsletter to help you organize the information that will be needed when you sign in.

We are honored to have Margot Schulzke serve as our juror for this year's autumn show. Margot is well known for her paintings and her informative workshops. Her work regularly appears in national shows and publications. She has written and has had published her own instructive book, "A Painter's guide to Design and Composition".

Please remember that our member shows are our primary opportunity to educate and excite the public about pastels (and to earn money for the Society). Please tell your friends about the show and remind them that it's a great way to get a head start on their holiday shopping, as all paintings are for sale, (the artist to receive 80% of the price of the painting). Also, the membership show is a volunteer event. By entering, you are also agreeing to help make the show a success. We need members to 'sit' with the show through the week to answer questions of the public, to sell works and to be sure the paintings are safe. Please be prepared to sign up to sit for a 3 hour period sometime during that week. If unable to sit, you may help with the reception..

Finally, don't forget to take photos of your work before you frame it. If you are awarded first prize, or Best of Show, your painting will be featured on our website and sent to the International Association of Pastel Societies to be put on our SPS section of their website!

If you have any questions please contact Show Chair Pat Watkins at (530) 344-8233, patandken@innercite.com or Exhibition Director Ramona Beckwith at (530) 295-0176 or ramonab@softcom.net. Good luck to all and come enjoy the fun of entering our membership show!



SIERRA PASTEL SOCIETY
PO Box 1936
Placerville, CA 95667

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Tuesday Morning Group at Placerville Senior Center,
All medium, 9:00am-noon. Call Valerie Bye at
(530) 622-4111

Anita Wolff, Oils/Pastel/Watercolor. Classes are held
On Friday by appointment. Classes are semiprivate:
(530) 644-6814

Blanche Kawahara, Pastels: (530) 622-8026.

Chris Rex, workshops in CREATIVITY,
Finding the inner spark, based on a process
Called Focusing.
(916) 944-2003

Sherry Huntting Studio, Oils & Pastel. Two year
Apprentice program in Classical Realism, specializing
in portraiture. (530) 677-1282 -
website: www.SherryHunttingStudio.com

Irene Lester, Pastel School of Light and Color (916) 966-
8664

Connie Randmaa, Pastel/Watercolor. Classes by
Appointment, call for information
(530) 644-8664

**★New: Uraina Christy Tarbet PSA Life Member and IAPS
Master Circle – Founder/President IAPS** Semi private classes by
appointment-pastel/oil, pallet knife/watercolor & pen ink for plein
air painting on how to create a travel sketchbook. Easels available
for studio use. Call for information: (530) 644-4899