

# awesomeart

P.O. Box 1160 Sebastopol CA 95473

[www.awesomeart.org](http://www.awesomeart.org)

**Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2009**

Sebastopol Veteran's Memorial Bldg.

**DEMONSTRATION  
Luncheon: 12 Noon**

Business meeting and demonstration following lunch.

The newsletter of the Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County  
Edited by Andrea Way (email: [andreaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andreaway@sbcglobal.net))

## BOARD MEETING

The board meeting will be held Aug. 20 at 10:30 am in the main room

## REFRESHMENTS

### Sandwiches/Finger Food:

Angel Fabela  
Linda Forrest  
Linda Simms  
Bitte Bertilson  
Nancy Wilkins  
Arlene Parnay  
Johanna Monroe

### Desserts/Fruit:

Lorna Skinner  
Judy Morrison  
Jann Aanestad  
Marilyn Sommer  
Paula Pearce  
Rita Griffith  
Gerda Barbieri  
Cher Church

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions.  
[sharonemiller@comcast.net](mailto:sharonemiller@comcast.net), 829-0177 Thank you for volunteering. If you are unable to attend the meeting for which you have volunteered, please make arrangements with a friend to deliver your contribution. Please have your offering at the meeting before noon.

**Sharon Miller**

## AUGUST PROGRAM

### Elin Pendleton

Elin will be giving a demonstration of her methods. She works in both oils and acrylics. Not only will you learn a lot--you're likely to laugh a lot too. Elin is a fine teacher with a sharp wit.



Elin will present her Color Boot Camp for AWS members and friends, a follow-up to last year's popular workshop, in the community room of the Fircrest Mobile Home Park, across from Fircrest Market on Gravenstein Highway South, from 9:30-4:30,

Monday-Wednesday, August 17-19.

Elin's Color System works in any medium. Judicious use of colors by this method gives artists the power to determine time of day and



# E-NEWSLETTER



season on paper or canvas. Besides teaching how to make a sunset or rainy day you're looking at in nature "read" right in your painting, this knowledge gives you the ability to change at will the milieu of any reference material.

Add Elin's many practical tips for making your materials work for you for a rewarding workshop experience.

The workshop is nearly full. Contact Margot <[margotsart@mac.com](mailto:margotsart@mac.com)> to grab one of the last spots! (Cost is \$225 for AWS members, \$250 for nonmembers.)

## JULY CRITIQUE - Virgil Elliott

*By Helen Shane*

### Ya Hadda Be There...



It is impossible (for me) to report piece by piece on critiques, absent the piece being judged, so I will set forth the recurring points made by Virgil Elliott at the July meeting, during which he reviewed a wall full of offerings.

First, Virgil emphasized that he considers his métier to be traditional oil painting, and feels that's where his expertise lies. He disavowed any specific opinions on other styles. He said Painters Thomas Cole, Frank Church and Albert Bierstadt have influenced his style.

But here are the constants, as he stated them, for paintings:

Do not use a frame that has colors in it that don't appear in the painting. Do carefully choose quality frames to complement your good work. Short changing on your frame lowers the perceived value of the work. Use no mat color lighter than the lightest color in the painting. If you varnish, choose glossy instead of matte finish for paintings with lots of deep darks.

Pay attention and paint more detail in the area of interest than in other areas and be careful not to place this area in the center. Contrasting adjacent colors help bring attention to the area.

Use large brushes for strokes in foreground, gradually decreasing size of strokes and depth of color as you move into mid-ground and background. Layer strokes in foreground. Limit use of smallest brushes in any painting. Short strokes stop viewers' eyes from traveling around the painting.



Use large brushes for strokes in foreground, gradually decreasing size of strokes and depth of color as you move into mid-ground and background. Layer strokes in foreground. Limit use of smallest brushes in any painting. Short strokes stop viewers' eyes from traveling around the painting.

The higher the sky, the deeper its hue.

For animals, think carefully about where to crop limbs at edges of pictures; don't cut them off at the joint. Vary their hair or fur colors; they are not all one shade or texture.

If a feature reads ambiguously in nature, modify it. Don't paint anomalies. They won't "read" correctly.

Take care that "outlines" of elements don't have a constant sharp edge... vary thickness of strokes. Pay attention to hair lines against background or near skin colors...no regular, sharp edges there.

Pay attention to geometric perspectives for roads, vineyard rows, etc. Take care to paint realistic curves as the eye travels away.

For portraits, render the whole head before detailing facial features. This keeps you on track for accurate and proportional placement of details.

## MEMBER PROFILE INTERVIEW WITH MIKE STIMMANN

*By Paula Pearce*



**Question:** Mike, where did you grow up?

**Mike:** Mostly in Petaluma until I was 15. Then we moved to San Leandro where I finished high school.

**Question:** Did you have any siblings in your family?

**Mike:** Yes. I have one younger sister who lives in Davis.

**Question:** How old were you when you started to be interested in art?

**Mike:** In 6<sup>th</sup> grade I can remember that our whole class had an art exhibit at a local hardware store and my mom saved that painting. I still have it somewhere around here. Then I recall I had a school chum who became ill and stayed home for a year. In that time his mom

taught him how to draw. When he came back to school we all saw his incredible cartoons and other drawings. At that point I remember many of us quitting art because we couldn't compete with that level of expertise.

**Question:** Were there any family members, close friends, neighbors or teachers that encouraged you to be artistic?

**Mike:** No, but in 1995 in Woodland we had a school right down the street that offered evening art classes. Kathy and I wanted to learn how to make travel journals.

**Question:** Did you have any other formal art training?

**Mike:** Yes, in 1996 we came to Pt. Reyes and took an illustration class from Chuck Stasek. He was a well-known illustrator. Then we met this old guy in Sacramento at the fine art center. He was a docent that day. He ended up showing us his portfolio. That was truly amazing, considering on my first impression I thought he had Parkinson's disease as he shook so much. His name was Bill Sanders. He offered us private art lessons in his studio for \$10 plus his wife made us lunch as well. He taught us pencil drawing that led to portraiture in pastel. After a while, Bill got too old to teach us and he sent us to someone else, Marbo Barnard. She was a fabulous pastel artist and taught us for 2 to 3 years. Then I took more portrait training from Fred Dalkey for a couple of years until we moved to Sebastopol.

**Question:** What career did you aspire to as a youngster?

**Mike:** I wanted to be a biologist. When I was young there was a microbiological laboratory right across the street from our home. I wandered in there one day and they let me watch them dissect chickens to search for disease. It made a strong impression to be sure.

**Question:** What was your career?

**Mike:** I had two main careers. The first one I was a research entomologist for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. The second career was as an academic instructor at U.C. Davis and U.C. Berkeley. I taught toxicology.



**Question:** What other hobbies or interests do you have?

**Mike:** I build engines. And from this, I learned machine work.

**Question:** Where do you find your artistic inspiration?

**Mike:** It's everywhere. I am curious how things work. Our biggest project was we restored a 1913 bungalow in Woodland that is still on the historic house tour there.

**Question:** Do you and Kathy go out to paint together?

**Mike:** Yes occasionally. Kathy paints out more than I do. We have a large studio that we share. Come take a look.

**Question:** Do you critique each other's work?

**Mike:** It is best if we avoid that.

**Question:** How did you find out about AWS?

**Mike:** We were at Gravenstein Apple Fair and met Colleen Odom at the AWS exhibit. She gave us her card. Then we moved here in 2002 and joined then.

**Question:** What are your future goals with your art?

**Mike:** I just enjoy it.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Andrea Way** was selected as a finalist in the Landscape/Interior category of *The Artist's Magazine* 26th Annual Art Competition.

## ROSTER CHANGES

### NEW MEMBER:

**Norman Stricklin**

2476 Cooperfield Ct., Santa Rosa, CA 95401

707-526-5507

[Norman\\_S@nordbyelectric.com](mailto:Norman_S@nordbyelectric.com)

## MONDAY MORNING PAINTERS

[www.mondaymorningpainters.com](http://www.mondaymorningpainters.com)

9am - 1pm. critique at 12:30pm

*See website for more details and any last minute changes.*

### August 10 - China Camp, Marin County

**Directions:** Four miles east of San Rafael on the shore of San Pablo Bay. From Highway 101, go east on North San Pedro Road for five miles until it enters the park. After entering the park, proceed approximately 3 miles to China Camp Village and park in the village lot, where we plan to have critique, but views in other areas might have us spread out.

**Overview:** Views of San Pablo Bay, China Camp, restrooms.

### August 17 - Spring Lake Regional Park, Santa Rosa

**Directions:** From Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa, turn south onto Channel Drive. Take the first right onto Violetti Road. Turn right into Spring Lake Regional Park. **Overview:** Lake views, small watercraft or swimming lagoon figures would be **good under shady redwoods, oak tree hills. Restrooms & snack bar. Fee:** Park fee \$6.

### August 24 - Riverfront Regional Park, West of Windsor

**Directions:** 7821 Eastside Road, Healdsburg (closer to Windsor) From Santa Rosa, take Hwy 101 North to Central Windsor exit. Turn left onto Old Redwood Hwy. Stay straight and turn left onto Windsor River Rd. Turn left onto Eastside Road for 1.9 miles. **Overview:** Shady redwood groves, sunny lake scenes in bird paradise to walk in to (maybe best for early arrivals). One could paint here all season, lots of natural beauty and shady nooks. **Fee:** Regional Parking fee: \$6.

### August 31 - Town of Tomales

Critique in front of bakery (closed on Mondays), restrooms there, key from deli. **Directions:** Located on Hwy 1 in Marin County, about 7 miles south of Valley Ford, or 18 miles west of Petaluma. Or paint west of town, 1 mile out, park on left after bridge for creek frontage, or on right by rusty bridge in S-curves further west. **Overview:** Quaint buildings, vistas.

### September 7, LABOR DAY

Some of us will be up in Mendocino County, for others we suggest: Salmon Creek north of Bodega Bay

**Directions:** Turn left, park in free lot at end by restrooms, do not park along narrow lane.

**Overview:** Views of creek, dunes, quaint old summer cottages.

## AWS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2009

President Katrina Small called the meeting to order at 10:40 am. Attending members were Fran Neilsen, Andrea Way, Lorraine Stribling, Susan Moore, Judy Maize, Helen Shane, Kathy Root, Margot Comstock and Jacque Mielke. Minutes for May, 2009 were read and approved.

### BOARD REPORTS

**Vice President** Judy Maize read the list of future programs. **AUGUST: A demonstration.....**by Elin Pendleton. **SEPTEMBER: A demonstration....** by Christopher Schink **OCTOBER: open NOVEMBER: A model.....**not confirmed. **DECEMBER: Christmas party JANUARY: A demonstration ....**Clark Mitchell...pastels

Elin Pendleton's 3 day workshop is confirmed for August 17, 18 and 19  
Brooks Anderson's 3 day workshop is confirmed for October 26, 27 and 28.

Both workshops will be held in the Fircrest Mobile Home Park's Recreation Center.

Christopher Evans will have an open studio, to which AWS is invited on August 27th.....1875 Rio Lindo Road in Healdsburg at 1:00p.m..

**Publicity** Mary's Pizza sent \$50 for the 20% they they agreed to contribute to the fund raiser. Only two members and their guests attended so we need more advertising for the next one that they have agreed to do.

**Corresponding Secretary** Fran Nielsen said that James Reynolds wished to send out the thank you notes for the ABF.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Web site** Someone is needed to take over the responsibility of hosting the web site, which entails providing a credit card to insure payment.

**Membership** Lorraine reported that there are two new members joining today: Joyce Pointe and Norman Stricklin.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. After a discussion the following motion was made by Susan Moore, 2nd by Helen Shane and passed.

**AWS will pay venue rental fees for workshops that they sponsor, with the provision that the workshop fees paid by participants be sufficient to cover AWS expenses.**

2. The committee comprised of Kathy Root, Andrea Way, Helen Shane and Katrina Small presented a constitutional revision. The board voted in favor of the changes proposed by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, **Jacque Mielke**, Rec. sec.



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**Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County**  
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**Interested in joining us?**

The AWS meets the third Thursday of each month from noon to 3 P.M. in the Sebastopol Veteran's Memorial Building to share art, do business and enjoy a program. Guests are welcome. A light buffet is served at noon, with refreshments and fellowship. The business meeting and program follow. Programs consist of demonstrations of artwork in various media, practical advice, helpful critiques and hands-on workshops. Contact Art Workshops of Western Sonoma County (AWS) membership committee:  
**Lorraine Stribling 775-3234 [lorrainestribling@comcast.net](mailto:lorrainestribling@comcast.net)**

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*“To become truly immortal a work of art must escape all human limits: logic and common sense will only interfere. But once these barriers are broken it will enter the regions of childhood vision and dream.”* Giorgio De Chirico

*“Some advice: do not paint too much after nature. Art is an abstraction; derive this abstraction from nature while dreaming before it, and think more of the creation which will result than of nature. Creating like our Divine Master is the only way of rising toward God”.* Paul Gauguin

*“Art is a corner of nature seen through a temperament”.* Emile Zola

## BEWARE!

### E-mail from Steven Rockfellers

**Several of us have received this e-mail. It is a fraud - hit the delete button. It is just another way of trying to get your money, or in this case a free painting.**

“Hi There,

I saw the links to your website and decided to contact you in regards to painting. I wish to know if you could recommend any kind of painting which will fit interior decoration of my newly purchased house with walls painted in Cream. The kind of painting i am looking for could be any type ranging from the acrylic oil on canvas, impression, abstract, wildlife and maybe oil or watercolour.

As per the issue of size, 16 by 24 or a size close to this will be ideal. something within the range of \$600-\$850 will be ideal because we all need to cut down our expenses even during these period of recession. How soon may i have this mailed to me ? Conversely, i think it will be a good idea if you have completed work of your style attached and sent to me say between 3-8 images and after critical review let you the exact image that i will prefer.

Kind Regards, Steven”

## A BIT OF AWS HISTORY

By Helen Shane



**Betsy Shimmel**

Betsy Shimmel, founding member of Art Workshop, died in 2006. Recently her daughter, Susan Stewart sent AWS a copy of a history evidently written by Betsy in 2003. Here are some excerpts from that. The document will appear in its entirety on the AWS website [www.awsomeart.org](http://www.awsomeart.org).

A number of local artists who had met in Angelo DeBello's Analy evening art classes had been trekking to Petaluma to attend the art group there. We decided to start our own group, and met in 1965 at the home of Dorothy Anderson.

The group included Mary Peelen, Don Todd, Jack Anderson, Bernadine Garzoli, Dorothy Anderson, Betsy Shimmel and Jack Ballinger. We did a bit of everything from enamel on copper to silkscreen.

Some of the first members were Mary Peelen, Betsy Shimmel, Hilda Kaster, Jack Anderson, Donabel Carley, Don Todd, Sherry Jackson, Margaret and Dick Crippen, Bernardine Garzoli, Jack Ballinger and Dorothy Anderson.

The first officers were President Dorothy Anderson; Vice President Betsy Shimmel; Recording Secretary Sherry Jackson; Treasurer. Outdoor painting trips were begun early, managed by Betsy Shimmel. Locations included the Round Barn, Bodega Bay, Griffith Woods, Trappe's Ranch, Marshall Boat Yard and the O'Farrell Ranch on Bodega Highway.

Critiques of member's work by guest artists became a big part of the evening meetings and have become an important part of the Workshop's continuing attempt to help in the development of each artist.

A Christmas Party became a traditional affair, with an exchange of art gifts and paintings, wonderful food and good conversation. In 1987 we changed and instead of exchanging gifts among our members, we gave small personal gifts to the local convalescent hospital patients.

The first general meeting was held in the Optimist Youth Center, next to the theater on North Main Street (now the Safeway parking lot).

The 1967 First Wine Tasting and Art Show was the beginning of annual art shows. AWS was invited to participate when the Annual Apple Blossom Festival started up again in 1968.



Contributed by Dante Corsetti