

# awesomeart

P.O. Box 1160 Sebastopol CA 95473

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

**Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 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 Sept. 17 at 10:30 am in the main room

## REFRESHMENTS

### Sandwiches/Finger Food:

Joyce Pointe  
Katrina Small  
Patty Bird  
Donna Solin  
Marilyn Greenblat  
Georgia Simons  
Lynn Hennessy  
Henry Violin

### Desserts/Fruit:

Kalitheia Timberlake  
Linda Skoko  
Fran Hewlett  
Eula Jenkins  
Judy Butler  
Gen Zorich  
Dorothy Anderson  
Barbara Goodridge  
Jan ?

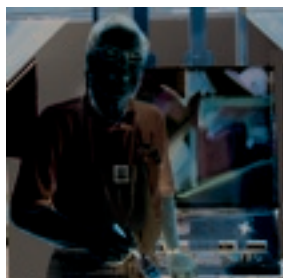
Please call or e-mail me if you have any question  
[sharonemiller@comcast.net](mailto:sharonemiller@comcast.net), 829-0177 Thank you for volunteering. **If you are unable to attend the meeting for which you have volunteered, please make arrangements with a friend to deliver your contribution.**

Please have your offering at the meeting before noon.

**Sharon Miller**

## DEMONSTRATION

### *Christopher Schink*



Mr. Schink holds a B.A. degree in Fine Arts from Stanford University and has studied privately with Rex Brandt, Edward Betts, and Barse Miller. Schink is an elected member of the National Watercolor Society and an Honorary Member of the Federation of Canadian Artists.

Schink's paintings have been included in numerous national and international exhibitions including Watercolor USA,

The National Watercolor Society Annuals, and Watercolor West. He has exhibited at one- and two-man shows at The Asheville, NC Museum, The Columbia, SC Museum and the Jackson, MS Municipal Art Gallery.

# E-Newsletter



His paintings are in many private and corporate Collections.

Mr. Schink has conducted workshops in 45 states in the U.S. as well as classes in Canada, Mexico, Australia, and Europe. He has served as juror for over 40 state, regional, national, and international exhibitions.



Schink is the author of several popular books and the co-editor of the quarterly publication **The Palette Magazine**. His work has been featured in many books and magazines including The American Artist, The Artists' Magazine, and International Artist.

## AUGUST PROGRAM *Elin Pendleton*

*By Helen Shane*



Elin Pendleton's demo was once again, a revelation and a big hit at the August meeting. This was Elin's third visit; her color system as demonstrated, would be a helpful addition to any tool box.

A few take home tips:

When making fine marks, hold your brush (she uses filberts" as you do a pen, when making strokes, the handle of the brush lies along the inside of all four fingers and is grasped by the thumb.

Elin sorts her palette into exclusive pillboxes with lids, into cool and warm colors. Elin's "cool" color palette: Lemon Yellow/Hansa/Azo Yellow or Yellow Ochre, Burnt Umber, Alizarin Crimson, Thalo Green, Ultramarine Blue and White for mixing.

Elin's "warm" palette: Cadmium Yellow Medium, Cadmium Orange, Burnt Sienna (dark value range), Cadmium Red, Sap Green, Thalo Blue and White for mixing.



## MEMBER PROFILE - MARGOT COMSTOCK

By Paula Pearce



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

**Margot:** I grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey just 14 miles from the George Washington Bridge going into Manhattan, New York.

**Question:** Did you have siblings?

**Margot:** Yes, my brother was 13 years older and my sister was 10 years older than me. It seemed I was always trying to catch up to them.

**Question:** Were you interested in art as a child?

**Margot:** Yes. I recall my sister having friends over and they would let me color with them. As I recall I was better than they were.

**Question:** Were there any artists in your family?

**Margot:** Well kind of. I remember when I was 10 or 11 years old getting a brand new set of oil paints. I had only painted one painting with them. Our family went on vacation to Maine and I brought my paints along. My mother asked me if she could borrow my paints and since I really wanted to go on a ride with the others, I told her yes. I never painted with them again. I just did art in school but not independently. My mother died when she was 90 and she left me her oil paints and brushes. It was then I started painting again on my own.

**Question:** Other than fine arts, what was your passion in terms of self-expression?

**Margot:** I loved to create stories, poems, and plays even as a very young child. I was an avid reader. I was very fortunate to attend a primary and a secondary school that were rated second highest in the country.

**Question:** What did you major in school?

**Margot:** I majored in English. I loved it. I even enjoyed diagramming sentences!

**Question:** When you were young what did you want to be when you grew up?

**Margot:** I assumed I would be an artist as in drawing and painting.

**Question:** What was your career path?

**Margot:** I followed my English major right into the publishing business. After college, I went into the newspaper publishing business as an editor and then I became a copy editor. After that I was intrigued with the first computers in the late 70's. An opportunity presented itself for Al and I to start one of the very first trade magazines for new computer start up companies called Softalk.

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

**Margot:** I love computer games but I seem to get addicted to them easily so I avoid them.

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

**Margot:** When I lived in Sebastopol in the late 90's, I looked up local art groups and the contact person for AWS was Betsy Shimmel.

**Conclusion:** Margot said that she used to feel more at home at AWS meetings than anywhere. She added that artists she knows on line from all over the country are envious of us for the upbeat, enthusiastic and thriving art community we know as AWS. We should all be very proud to be members.

## AUGUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

President Katrina Small called the meeting to order at 10:40 am. Attending members were Fran Nielsen, Lorraine Stribling, Susan Moore, Judy Maize, Helen Shane and Gen Zorich. Minutes for July, 2009 were read and approved.

### BOARD REPORTS

Vice President Judy Maize read the list of future programs.

**SEPTEMBER: A demonstration....** by Christopher Schink

**OCTOBER: A critique by Ruth Robinson**

**NOVEMBER: A model.....**not confirmed.

**DECEMBER: Christmas party**

**JANUARY: A demonstration ....**Clark Mitchell...pastels

Christopher Evans' open studio tour is filled. Brooks Anderson's workshop is still open. There are 9 people signed up so far. The workshop is Oct. 26, 27, and 28. it will cost \$250 per person to attend.

Treasurer The Gravenstein Apple Fair outsold 2008 by 104%. The total sales amounted to \$5260.93. 10% of the gross profits were returned to AWS and 10% to Farm Trails.

Elin Pendleton's workshop was very well received. There were 13 artists paying a total of \$2950 tuition. Ellen received \$2000 for her expertise, \$100 was paid to Fircrest Mobile Home Park for the use of their facility and the remaining \$850 went to AWS.

In regards to the debit card..... Helen Shane proposed that the following motion be presented to the membership at the August meeting, and voted on at that time. **AWS will require only one signature for all checks signed and the books will be audited once a year, by mid February, by a board member other than the treasurer.**

Publicity Helen said an excellent article was written about Elin Pendleton's workshop in Sonoma West.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website Gen reported that the web site is up to date, however, she would like to include the names of the winners of the ABF and would like someone to write an article about the Gravenstein Apple show. She showed the board the logo submissions and will put them up on the wall for a vote by the membership. The result will be announced at the September meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. After a discussion of the possible purchase of an easel for the programs, the following motion was made by Helen Shane, 2nd by Susan Moore and passed. **AWS is authorized to spend up to \$150 for an easel and carrying case.**

2. The need for a laser pointer was discussed and the following motion was made by Susan Moore, 2nd by Lorraine Stribling and passed. **AWS is authorized to purchase a laser pointer before the next critique.**

3. Helen Shane requested that she be given names and addresses of ABF and Gravenstein Fair art purchasers so that they may be added to the list of postcard recipients for ABF promo; also suggested that members be reminded that the AWS roster is to be used only for AWS purposes and is not to be shared with anyone outside AWS.

3. 4. It was decided that at the Christmas party we would have a silent auction of art and related art items.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, Lorraine Stribling, acting secretary in Jacque Mielke's absence

**Due to lack of space the MMP schedule is on page 5**

## ROSTER CHANGES

### Please add:

**Barbara Goodridge** 8510 Kennedy Road Sebastopol. ca 95472  
823-7205 [bargd@comcast.net](mailto:bargd@comcast.net)

### New members:

**Marjorie Murray-Cortez** 4092 Siskiyou Ave. Santa Rosa, CA  
95405 527-7250 [mmcortez@att.net](mailto:mmcortez@att.net)

**Laura Box** 7925 Washington Ave. Sebastopol, CA 95472 823-1678  
[lbox@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lbox@sbcglobal.net)

**Perry Cordill** 45 Darcy Dr. Santa Rosa, CA 95403 838-6953  
[teamcordill@yahoo.com](mailto:teamcordill@yahoo.com)

**Jon Yatabe** P.O. Box 816 Bodega Bay, CA 94923 875-9127  
[jonyata@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jonyata@sbcglobal.net)

## 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)

## Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County

P.O. Box 1160, Sebastopol, CA 95473

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

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Vice Pres: **Judy Maize** 838-9049 [art4me@sonic.net](mailto:art4me@sonic.net)

Treasurer: **Susan Moore** 857-3703 [simart@comcast.net](mailto:simart@comcast.net)

Recording Sec: **Jacque Mielke** 824-9112 [jadomielke@comcast.net](mailto:jadomielke@comcast.net)

Corresp. Secretary: **Fran Nielsen** 823-3542 [jwfnpw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwfnpw@sbcglobal.net)

Parliamentarian: **Kae Prince** 869-2886

Publicity: **Helen Shane** 823-3744 [shane5@sonic.net](mailto:shane5@sonic.net)

Newsletter: **Andrea Way** 773-1277 [andreaway@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andreaway@sbcglobal.net)

Membership: **Lorraine Stribling** 775-3234

[lorrainestribling@comcast.net](mailto:lorrainestribling@comcast.net)

Refreshments: **Sharon Miller** 829-0177 [sharonemiller@comcast.net](mailto:sharonemiller@comcast.net)

Art Venues: **Arlene Parnay** 829-2660 [rnarnay@webtv.net](mailto:rnarnay@webtv.net)

Name Tags: **Cher Church** 531-0130 [dearsnhubs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dearsnhubs@sbcglobal.net)

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## PICASSO AND THE BULL *The Meaning of Abstract*



The other day Helen Shane and I, obviously with time on our hands had a discussion on the meaning of the word, **abstract**. Helen took it literally and Webster definitely agrees with her, stating “**disassociated from any specific instance <an abstract entity> expressing a quality apart from an object.**” But then it goes on to say “**having only intrinsic form with little or no attempt at pictorial representation or narrative content <abstract painting>**”. Emphasis on the “little”.

At this point I thought we were both correct. Then I decided to go to a dictionary of art terms\* and had to go back to Helen’s way of thinking. Under abstract art I found the following: “A work of purely abstract art is one that is entirely independent of the natural world, although it may have had its origins in Nature. Such a work is considered as an object in its own right and has no distinguishable subject-matter. Its arrangement of forms and colours gives pleasure in much the same way that a piece of music gives pleasure. This is the distinctive feature of abstract art.

Like many labels in art history and aesthetics, ‘abstract’ is an awkward and inappropriate word. Pure forms of aesthetic beauty are not found in Nature and then abstracted. Instead, they are created by the artist and then imposed on Nature. The man-in-the-street who is upset by abstract art, attacks it because it interferes with, or changes Nature.

The natural world contains numerous incidental and inharmonious features on which artists tend to impose a degree of order and harmony when including them in works of art. If an artist makes only slight alterations to natural subject-matter, he produces a work which closely resembles the appearance of Nature. This is more or less realistic art. However, if an artist allows order and harmony to dominate rather than control natural forms, he produces what is commonly called an ‘abstraction’, although as we have seen it is, in fact, an imposition.”\*

So then, how would one describe Picasso’s bull lithographs? None of them are abstract but they are progressively abstracted or maybe more correctly stated, they are stylized: “depicted or treated in a mannered and nonrealistic style”.

Our conversation led me to explore this topic and I only came up with more questions. Maybe next month, if there is room I will go on to explore the difference between expressionism and abstract expressionism. Your thoughts on these subjects is always appreciated. **ed.**

*\*Illustrated Dictionary of Art Terms by Kimberley Reynolds & Richard Seddon*

## RAGLE RANCH SHOW PHOTOS *By Ernie Eler*



### MONDAY MORNING PAINTERS

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

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

See website for more details and any last minute changes.

#### September 14 Sausalito

10am-2:00 pm, due to peak commute traffic avoidance. Critique at 1:30pm if we can find each other. **Directions:** 101 south to Sausalito exi. Left to T, right to town. Park in pay lot by water or go into neighborhoods and park on street. **Overview:** Great views from neighborhoods. Lots of boats to paint by water.



#### September 21 Rio Lindo Academy Healdsburg

**Directions:** From Santa Rosa, go north on

Hwy 101 to the first Healdsburg exit and turn right. Drive for 0.5 miles; turn right on Bailache Avenue at the Academy sign. Go up hill 3.4 miles to the stop sign at the school entrance. Turn left and park just past the church. **Overview:** Unusual view of Russian River valley, farms, vineyards.

#### September 28 Jack London State Park Glen Ellen

**Directions:** The historic park is at 2400 London Ranch Road in Glen Ellen, about 20 minutes north of Sonoma. Take Hwy 12 east to right turn on London Ranch Rd. Turn right into parking lot where critique will be.

**Overview:** The park’s upper parking lot provides access to a picnic area, London’s cottage, stables, stone barns, silos and “pig palace,” vineyards to east. **Fee:** State park fee: \$6. If parks close, look for substitute notice.

#### October 5 Lynmar Winery Sebastopol

**Directions:** 3909 Frei Rd, From 101 exit Steele Ln, heading west it turns into Guerneville Rd, go about 5 miles turn left on Frei Rd, continue .6 miles to winery. **Overview:** Lovely gardens, terraces, redwoods, rolling vineyards views and great barn. Please turn left when entering, park all the way to the left, and please do not park anywhere else unless the \*guest house area is approved. It's crush season, so we need to stay out of vineyards themselves. We can paint on terrace edges around the tasting room; must be mindful of visitors. \*If guest house is not rented, we can be escorted by Rob to deck above with wide open views to Laguna de Santa Rosa below, which can be driven back to if open to us, (watch for updates herein). If you are interested in wine tasting, we need to call in advance to reserve so that they can accommodate. Nibbles are served with wine flights and such, see their site.