



ART WORKSHOP OF WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY

AWSOMEART.ORG • AUGUST 2023

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17th

Sebastopol Veteran's Building, 282 South High St, Sebastopol, CA • **MASKS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**

10:30 Board • 12:00 Potluck • 12:30 Meeting

1:30-2:45 - **Art Demo: 10-Stroke Painting with Susan Bradford***

August Prompt: "HATS" • September Prompt: "MODES OF TRANSPORTATION"

AWSOMEART.ORG

UPDATES!

Check out the new web pages for the following — a great way to see the quality and variety of art that our newest members create!

Becky Brendlin
Barbara Evans
Marcella Ford
Elizabeth Gomes
Rhonda Johnston
Niki Skelton
Deborah Wand

Other members also updated their pages, so take a look, starting here: <https://www.awsomeart.org/members-artwork>

AWS member **SUSAN BRADFORD** will be demonstrating her "Color Mixing and 10-Stroke Painting"

process at the August 17 meeting. A method that can be done in oil or acrylic, it simplifies

the subject matter into shapes of color. She will discuss color mixing, temperature, and other ideas. Susan has been inspiring students at SebARTs for years, and will be teaching a still life class on August 9 at the Santa Rosa Art Center 10am-2 pm.

Susan discovered her love of painting 15 years ago and is an avid *plein air* painter, as well as a still life painter. Her work, blog, and class sign-up can be found at her website, susanbradfordpaintings.com.



FROM THE PRESIDENT JUDY GOLDBERG

Hello "august" AWS artists!

Our July meeting had a lot of art stuff going on! Besides the member's art displayed to share, our guest artist brought a collection of her wonderful work.

Also taking place was a surprise giveaway of bequeathed art materials, thanks to the family of our recently-departed member, Chris McNamara. Thanks to all who helped make that happen.

Our program, a collage demonstration by local artist, Catherine Cruz, probably inspired many of us to get some of that Polycrylic, a couple of sturdy paint brushes, and try some collage making when we got back to our studios. That's what I was *planning* to do.

What is it all about, this putting off doing something you should really want to do?

I intended to spend lots of time on my art this week. I had an idea in mind and believed I was excited to pick up a brush, fill my water tubs and get busy.

However, noticing my workroom had been hit by a bomb cyclone, I spent precious time shoveling off the drawing table, pattering papers into their proper piles, then of course, the tape residue needed scraping from my cutting mat. After rearranging tubes of acrylic head to toe, so they fit nicely in their box, I determined the grungy dried paint crust must be removed from all the screw tops. I kinda lost my creative momentum. *What is my problem?*



Despite an uncooperative mic, Prez Judy led the July meeting with aplomb.

Could it be procrastination? Do I suffer from fear of failure or judgment or more likely that pesky perfectionism. Perhaps a bit. In Rick Rubin's book, *The Creative Act: A Way of Being*, I found a clue to this behavioral mystery. If it isn't procrastination, it could be considered unconsciously chosen distraction. Ah ha! Rubin writes, "Distraction is one of the best tools available to the artist, when used skillfully... sometimes it's the only way to get where we are going."

We artists aren't always in the mood. Maybe we have only the beginnings of an idea and it needs to mentally percolate. Things aren't conducive. We're not ready. What can we do?

Any simple mind-easy activity, like washing dishes, walking around the block, pulling weeds, dancing about the living room or some sun salutations and down dogs, keeps one part of the mind busy and allows a different part to receive and retrieve from our subconscious. Getting out in the world - even if it's only down the street and around the corner - refreshes our perspective. Being immersed in natural surroundings, walking among trees in a forest or on the beach along the ever changing sea relaxes the mind into a receptive state when inspiration can be allowed a chance.

Back in the day...way, waaaaaay back... was fretting about whether to take a weekend off from my ceramics class work and join a group of fellow students to enter a car painting contest. I was working as much as I could on my clay creations and thought I should just keep my nose to the pottery wheel. My professor advised me to get out, take a break, have some fun and I would return to my work with more creative energy. He was quite right. By the way, we won that contest!

Sometimes it's good to just relax....refresh.....restart.

Stay cool everybody!
Judy Goldberg



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT • LONNA NECKER

Summer greetings to you all. Well, we asked for summer and now we've got it! It makes paint dry faster. That's either good or bad news, depending on your medium.

Our demonstration in July was by **Catherine Cruz**. She truly demonstrated collage opportunities that I'm sure will encourage many of us to take bold steps and just give it a go. I'm not sure we've had a demonstrator who was able to make the making of art so much fun and joyful. And who doesn't have a pile of lovely papers that could be used for a similar art project?

Our demonstrator for August will be our own **Susan Bradford**, who will demonstrate her limited stroke style of painting. From the few paintings I've seen, they show lively and delightful results.

We had a very interesting and eclectic display of **HOME SWEET HOME** paintings. It's always so fun to see all the different interpretations of a suggested prompt. And remember that the prompts are only meant to be a suggestion. However, I'm always impressed by the interpretations. **Our Prompt for August is HATS.**

This year's prompts are set through November, but **if you have any ideas for future prompts, please send them to me!**

Also, **please let us know of any topics and/or artists you would like to have presented at a future meeting.** Send your suggestion or the name (and contact info, if possible) of presenters to me or any board member, and I will try to contact them.

Take care,

PROMPT: HOME SWEET HOME



Elizabeth Gomes -

"Private Song"

27x33 Ink, silver foil
& colored pencil

*A memory painting more
about the Bay Area
than a specific place.*



Marilee Wingert -

"Home Sweet Home"

9x5 watercolor & pencil



Carol Mills -

"Home Sweet Home"

11x14 watercolor
*Painted a long time ago
based on a postcard I
found among my*

AWS BOARD MINUTES

June 20, 2023

Members Present: Patty Bird, Judy Goldberg, Deni Marrone, Patricia Marina, Gail Mardfin, Deni Marrone, Fran Nielsen, Lonna Necker, Linda L. Reid, Lorraine Stribling Others Present: Carol Mills, Merrie Krisl.

Meeting was called to order at 10:45 by President, Judy Goldberg.

General Updates

- Carol Mills reported CIF grant money has been received.
- AWS will participate in the Gravenstein Fair, August 12 and 13, with set up on the 11th . Six people have signed up so far.
- Harvest Fair, Saturday, October 14th, will be like last year and AWS has been invited to participate. Carol Mills will ask for a show of hands of those interested at the member meeting.

Revisit or Consider

- Past president having the option of serving one more year with the new president to facilitate passing on expertise. Will talk about it becoming an amendment to the Constitution.
- When the Constitution is changed, current board members are listed at the end.

VP Programs: Lonna Necker

Listed presenters through the end of the year.

Treasurer: Patty Bird

- \$995 from the donated paintings sold at ABS has been deposited in the Mielke awards account.
- Discussed doing this each year, but decided to keep it fluid and consider where the money is most needed.
- Regular checking account has \$7464.34 and the Mielke account has \$5968.78.

Membership: Lorraine Stribling

- **It was decided to count attendance, art, and food for the ABS from May to April each year.** Carol Mills moved and Lorraine seconded. Passed.
- **Dues should be paid by January 1, but reminders will start in October.**

Correspondence: Fran Nielsen

- Sent cards to Judy McFarland and Paula Pearce.

Venues: Deni Marrone

- Anyone who wants to show at a venue must visit the venue **before** they sign up. This will give them an idea of the size of the space and how many and size of pieces to hang there. Members must speak to Deni to sign up; sign-up book is not on a table.
- * Hole in the Wall has invited AWS to show in their outdoor courtyard. Deni will see if we can do this in late August.

Communications: Gail Mardin

- She is working on the member packet.
- Seven new member artists have been added to the website.

Apple Blossom Show: Linda L. Reid

- She has put her report of this year's show in the binder.
- Will form an ABS Review Committee to meet in mid-September to discuss a number of problems and suggestions for a better show.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50

Merrie Krisl for Rhonda Johnston, Recording Secretary



**STAND BY
FOR
DETAILS**



Kitchen elves
Lonna
&
Linda



Linda records suggestions from the group to improve next year's

IT'S A WRAP! Apple Blossom Show Chair Linda Reid hosted a lovely brunch in her home for all available ABS Committee Chairs on June 7th. Fifteen Chairs gave a report on what went well and suggestions for what could be improved.

Linda will also be **forming an ABS REVIEW COMMITTEE** to look more closely at some aspects of the ABS: funding the awards account, media categories, raffle painting donations, and more. If you are interested in participating, the first meeting will be in September. Let Linda know,



THE BEST ART MUSEUM IN EVERY U.S. STATE

Wherever you go in the United States of America, you aren't very far away from art. From intimate galleries to massive world-class collections, art museums worth visiting can be found across the country. In this special roundup, Art & Object highlighted the best art museums in every state, plus the District of Columbia.

www.artandobject.com/slideshows/best-art-museum-every-us-state

How many have you been to?

The Yellowstone Museum in Montana?

The Portland Art Museum in Oregon?

The High Museum of Art in Georgia?

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC?

The Ringing Museum of Art in Florida?

The National Museum of Wildlife Art in Wyoming?

Check out the full list - it could be

SEBASTOPOL VENUES

July 20 - September 21

Coffee & Moore

CURRENTLY: Kathleen Andre

NEXT: Carol Mills

Fandee's Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Jan Blake

NEXT: Avinash Pandey

Hole in the Wall Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Elizabeth Gomes

NEXT: Marilyn Sommer

Hair Masters

CURRENTLY: Enid Barnes

NEXT: Deni Marrone

Sonoma Burger

CURRENTLY: Linda Grainger

NEXT: Gail Mardfin

Specialty Center

CURRENTLY: Nancy Sanchietti

NEXT: Marcella Ford & Charito Shetty

Umpqua Bank

CURRENTLY: Deni Marrone

NEXT: Elizabeth Gomes

SIGN UP at the next meeting with
Venues Coordinator Deni Marrone

August 17 Refreshments

Please have your contribution (enough to serve
12 people) on the table promptly at noon.

>> Remember to sign in at the door
AND on the food table.

SANDWICHES/ FINGER FOOD

Linda Donahue

Judy Goldberg

Linda Grainger X2

Diana Jones

Christine Paschal

Pam Simpson

Kathy Staples

Kate Vasey

Kim Winter



DESSERT/FRUIT

Susan Barri

Judy Boles

Allene Donato

Elizabeth Gomes

Paula Pearce



**RAFFLE
SALES**

IMPORTANT!!

You **MUST VISIT** any Venue you
wish to exhibit in **BEFORE** signing
up. No exceptions.

Please read the Venues sheet available at the
sign-in table. First Guideline:



ANOTHER VENUE SALE!

Congratulations to **Marilyn Dizikes**, who sold this
painting titled "Syrtos" (30x40 acrylic) at Fandee's
Restaurant in July. It shows Greek dancers
performing at the annual festival at the Greek
church in Novato. Marilyn put McEvoy Ranch in the
background because of the olive trees.

SEBASTOPOL
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Sunday, August 6 • 2-6pm
A FREE day of Art, Music + Creativity

**THE SONOMA COUNTY
FAIR IS ON! August 3-13**

Who entered work? Who won an award? Who sold something? Please send info (and a picture!) to gail@plpgraphicdesign.com so it can go in the September newsletter!

Good Luck to
Carol Mills & Kathleen Andre,
who entered work in
the deYoung Open!

(Did anyone else enter?)



Linda Dove Pierson

has 40 pieces on display at Moonlight Brewing Company (3350 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa) through August 21. And congratulations on the sale of "Home is Where the Heart Is."

REMINDER:

It's about space...
Please share only
ONE art work
at each meeting.





Jerry Fabiano -
"Spring Lake Glow" 24x24 acrylic



Merrie Krisl -
"Cat"
8x8 collage



Kim Winter -
"My Wife" 24x48 acrylic



Marcella Ford -
"Painterly Pears" 9.5x11.5 pastel



Linda Loveland Reid -
"White Light" 24x30 acrylic
"Step Stones" 12x12 acrylic on wood

July Artist Demonstration: Catherine Cruz

Written by Linda L. Reid • Photos by Kim Winter



Catherine Cruz, painter and art instructor, has spent the last six years exploring abstract COLLAGE. She shares her time between Sebastopol and Valence, France. Catherine teaches workshops for SebARTs and other arts organizations in the area, as well as in France.

She received a BS in Interior Design from Florida State University in 1993 and pursued a successful career as a residential and commercial interior designer for 25 years, followed by a second career as a green building consultant. Catherine studied color theory, drawing and painting in college and private studies, but thinks of herself as self-taught.

Catherine began her demo by reviewing the materials used. She works in acrylics. For the “glue” used to paste down collage materials, she uses Liquitex matte medium, or to leave a shiny surface, gloss medium. She shared samples of the collage sheets that she makes using many tactile textures and colors. “Using your own collage material gives your work authenticity,” she stated.

Catherine works on both canvas and board. Her favorite shape is a square or circle. She says, “The process of building layers of collage is where the fun is!” She likes to use her own painted papers that she has created on newsprint or other types of paper. Sometimes she sands the collage in between multiple layers, to create visual and tactile texture.

Her process begins by putting a layer of gesso on whatever surface she is using. Then she pours the “glue” (Liquitex matte medium) over the entire surface, and brushes the backs of her selected collage papers with the medium, pastes it down, and then brushes the medium over the top. It is important to push any bubbles out. On larger pieces, she uses Minwax water-based Polycrylic as a glue and varnish (clear satin finish).

China markers (aka grease pencils), oil pastels, graphite sticks, and other mark-making tools can be used to draw over the collage, and of course, you can paint on top of the glued collage. More layers of collage can be added until you are satisfied with the result. To finish the work, she might varnish or put a layer of cold wax medium over the top.

Catherine brought many samples of her work and everyone in attendance was surely inspired to try their own collage painting! Her tip: Select a color palette, apply paper intuitively, then once you have a good base, focus on composition.



Pondering an assortment of patterned papers to get the design process started



Smoothing the matte medium and paper with a plastic spreader

HOLE IN THE WALL COURTYARD SHOW OPPORTUNITY

AWS has been offered the opportunity to have a ONE DAY OUTDOOR SHOW in the courtyard in front of Hole in the Wall Restaurant. Date has not been set, but it will be a SATURDAY, most likely in late August or early September.

You would need to bring your own display stands, etc. We did this a few years ago before Hole in the Wall had gotten to be such a popular spot. You may show paintings and sell cards.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN POSSIBLY PARTICIPATING, LET DENI MARRONE KNOW BY phone or text: (408) 202-3875



GRAVENSTEIN FAIR

**Ragle Park, Sebastopol
Sat-Sun, August 12-13
10AM-6PM**

**Stop in and look for AWS
artists Patty Bird, Hale
Darby, Deni Marrone, Carol
Mills, Fran Nielsen, and
Christine Paschal!**

HARVEST FAIR

**Saturday, October 14th, One-Day
AWS Art Show in Santa Rosa**

As last year, AWS has been invited to provide an art exhibit experience during the Wine Tasting for folks that have pre-ordered their tickets, from 12 to 4 pm on Saturday, October 14. Last year we had several artists participate and eight paintings were sold during the four-hour timeslot. Though the hours will be the same, AWS can have an even bigger presence at the event this year. It takes place in the Pavilion (large building facing the front of the fair) at the County Fairgrounds.

To make the AWS show happen, artists must drop off their paintings in the morning, during a small window of time assigned to us. We will need 4 or 5 people to help set up the show before the event starts. Once we get a final



count on the number participating, I will let you know how many paintings each of you can bring. I will have premade labels to go with your paintings, made from your entry information the week of the event.

Last year we weren't able to dismantle the show until the bulk of the take-down was done by the food and wine folks (It's a mad house). I will let you know the time for pick up, but probably 4:30-5ish that day.

If you want to pair with someone else in the show so one of you does the drop-off and the other the pick-up, that's one way to free up your day -- or just plan on a day in Santa Rosa for shopping and maybe a spa! I am

meeting with Harvest Fair staff later in the month after the Summer Fair is over, so stay tuned for updates at the August and September meetings.

IF YOU ARE SURE YOU WILL BE IN TOWN AND WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL CAROL MILLS



This summer AWS member **Charito Shetty** got to spend six weeks in her home country of **The Philippines** (*left*). Too busy to paint while traveling, she jumped right back in to her watercolors, painting three in one week when she returned! Below are two, both 14x11 watercolors: “Apple Mangoes” and “Vibrant Gold Blooms.”



Barbara Evans -

“Blue Tit” 9x12 watercolor on Yupo

YUPO is a polypropylene “synthetic paper” often used with alcohol inks. I asked Barbara what it was like to use it with watercolors. -gm

She replied:

Yupo can be frustrating because when you want to layer, the wet paint can push away the dry layer below. On the positive side, you can easily lift to get whites (like feathers) and colors can merge with a nice effect. Also you can rinse the paint off and start fresh so you don't have to



HEALING WISHES FOR JUDY!

Judy McFarland (our Publicity co-chair) is doing well, eight weeks after an accident in Denmark. While visiting her son in Denmark, she was run into by a speeding bicyclist, causing multiple fractures. When asked for any Words of Wisdom, Judy said, "Buy good travel medical insurance! Mine saved me an enormous amount of money and paid to transport me back to the US after two weeks in hospital and a complex surgery."



Judy says she's probably 80% healed from the fractures but it will probably be awhile before she's walking as easily as before. ***We're all rooting for you, Judy, to heal fully and swiftly!***

Carolyn Wilson -

"Poppy Solstice Sunflower" 18x18 mixed media collage



AWS member **Carolyn Wilson** is having a show at the **Upstairs Art Gallery** (306 Center St, Healdsburg, inside Levin & Co. books) now **through August 27.**

There is an **Opening Reception on Saturday August 5th 3:30-5:30pm**, with refreshments served. Also, Carolyn will be hosting the gallery all day (11-6) on Saturday, August 12 and Friday August 16, if you would like to catch up.

She is also part of a group show at **Corrick's** in Santa Rosa, called "Wild Things," which benefits Safari West Wildlife Foundation. That show runs **August 4-26.**

Carolyn describes her work as "collage paintings" and they make use of hundreds, if not thousands, of pieces of torn tissue and rice papers that are magically arranged to form the final piece.



July 6 - August 6, 2023

Thur/Fri/Sat/Sun from 11am to 4pm

Congratulations to all the AWS artists whose work is in the show: Enid Barnes, Susan Barri, Kathy Byrne, Linda Donahue, Elizabeth Gomes, Patricia Marina, Lonna Necker (3), Linda Dove-Pierson, Linda Loveland Reid (2), and Nancy Sanchietti (2).

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AS AN AWS MEMBER, REMEMBER TO ASK FOR YOUR 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL ITEMS NOT ALREADY DISCOUNTED OR ON SALE.