

Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County
8214 Covert Lane • Sebastopol CA 95473



WWW.AWSOMEART.ORG

MAY 2022

NEW COVID NOTE

NEXT AWS MEETING: MAY 19th

Sebastopol Veteran's Building, 282 South High St., Sebastopol, CA

If you have not already shown us your **Covid vaccination card**, please do.

Masks are not required in the SCA building now, but recommended. Proceed at your own comfort level.

10:30 Board • 12:00 Potluck • 12:30 Meeting • 1:30 Demo

Demo artist: Donna delaBriandais (*see p.7*)

Remember to sign in & remember your nametag!

MAY Prompt: Lakes/Rivers/Streams • JUNE: Black & White w/ a Touch of Color

PARKING: To make room for the FoodBank Truck, please park across the street, in the first parking lot (left of building), or in a few spaces closest to the road on right side of building.

NEW START TIME

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Lorna Ho, Santa Rosa
Pam Simpson, Santa Rosa
Charita Shetty, Santa Rosa
Linda Donahue, Santa Rosa
AWS now has **77** members!

Lorraine will be sending out
the latest roster soon!



Congratulations to the big Apple Blossom Show winners this year! Lots more photos on pages 10-12!
Left, Gail Radice, Founders Award winner and right, Kathy Byrne, Best in Show winner. All winners are listed at:
www.awsomeart.org/apple-blossom-show

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

WE DID IT!!

After two years of not having an Apple Blossom Art Show, and little or no publicity from the Chamber, we pulled it off! It could not have happened without the leadership of our ABS Chair Linda L. Reid and the MANY volunteers who worked hard on making a fun event. It was so nice to see smiling faces at our reception and all the weekend show attendees. Our wonderful docents made sure they all voted for their favorite piece.

We sold 19 paintings that were in the show for a total of \$4,920, and 20 donated small paintings for \$1,013. (Thanks again to Angel Fabella for his idea of donating work, 100% of which goes to our club.)

We had far more sales this year than in the prior six years! I have all the ribbons awarded by our judge, Wendy Brayton, and Linda will be presenting them at our May meeting. And then we'll also find out which two artists won the Popular Vote!

We are continuing to get new members and I hope to have more time to hear from them at the next meeting. After the ABS, even more people signed up for our newsletter at our website!

As to our fun future activities, our **June 16th**



Picnic is up next! It is at Riverfront Regional Park near Windsor on Eastside Rd. As several of our board members will be gone in June, two of our seasoned esteemed members, Paula Pearce and Susan Moore, volunteered to get there early and set up. They will also put signs up on the road, etc. As it is a county park, if you haven't purchased a year's pass, it is \$7 to park. It is a potluck, so bring your food contribution for all to share, but please bring your own drinks. (Sounds like there may also be barbecued hot dogs and/or hamburgers – we can decide at the May meeting.)

Then comes the **Gravenstein Fair** at Ragle Park in Sebastopol. They are giving us a much smaller space and not in the shade, so we will have limited space for a limited number. This takes place on August 13 and 14, usually with set up on the 12th. Fran Nielsen is still getting information from Farm Trails, which sponsors the event. More to come on this.

Gail and I met with the Jessica Rasmussen in Santa Rosa, in charge of **Finley Center** art shows, about the AWS exhibit there September 28 through November 28. We will hang the show on Wednesday, September 28, have a 5-7pm reception the following day, and take the show down the Monday after Thanksgiving. ***I will be looking for a committee to work on this. Let me know if you are interested.***

I hope to see you all at the May 19th meeting.

Take care of yourselves and each other,
Carol

AND THE RAFFLE WINNERS ARE...

An eager group was gathered in the gallery at 4:30 pm on Sunday, but the lucky winners both had to be called by phone. Congratulations to Loretta Wilson (Petaluma), winner of Susan Barri's painting and Robert Freund (Santa Rosa), winner of Fran Nielsen's painting. They were both



Created by April Lynch

super happy to receive the news from ABS Chair Linda Reid, shown here picking the winning tickets! Proceeds from the raffle go to support art programs in local schools.



AWS Board Minutes

April 22, 2022

Members Present: Patty Bird, Merrie Krisl, April Lynch, Deni Marrone, Gail Mardfin, Carol Mills, Lonna Necker, Fran Nielsen, and Lorraine Stribling.

Meeting was called to order at 10:43 by President, Carol Mills.

President: Carol said there has been a lot of interest in our group. She talked with a woman from a Mendocino group who is looking for ideas for revamping their organization. Carol noted things are coming together for the ABS, but she thought the Chamber had not advertised the festival very well. April noted she had sent out publicity, including press releases in Spanish to the Latino media.

Carol will ask for a June picnic volunteer at the member meeting to arrive a bit early and set up signs and table cloths. (Thanks, Paula.) Members are asked to bring food to share and their own drinks. Riverfront Park has lovely scenery, so bring your art supplies and do some plein air painting, drawing or photography.

Gail and Carol will meet with Jessica Rasmussen at the Finley Center on the 26th to find out details about our show in September. Will also follow up on the show at the Redwood Café scheduled for the fall.

Treasurer: Patty reported a balance of \$3194.81. We paid the Chamber \$2545 and collected \$2270 in entries for the show. She will order checks for our regular

account, making sure they are different from the Meilke account to avoid confusion.

Vice President: In May, Donna De La Briandais will talk about composition and color in watercolor. We will have this demo on the patio. In July, Linda Reid will give an art history talk. The board will narrow down the topic selection to three and then the members will vote on their favorite topic at the May meeting. There will be a critique in September and Paul Kratter will demonstrate a seascape in oil in November. Our prompt next month is Rivers, Lakes and Streams. We have enough prompts for this year, but please keep sending suggestions to Lonna for future use.

ABS: Patty will bring change for the raffle. April made a raffle box. Paintings can be picked up until 6:15 on Sunday. Ribbons are collected and will be presented at the May meeting.

Venues: Deni has found us a new place, Fandee's, a restaurant in the same building as Redwood Credit. She said there are about 14-16 places for art. The Senior Center has said we can come back after they have remodeled.

Website: Members have until the end of June to update their member page, which is composed of three art pieces and a link to their website, if available. Gail encourages new members to add a page.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44.

Merrie Krisl, Recording Secretary

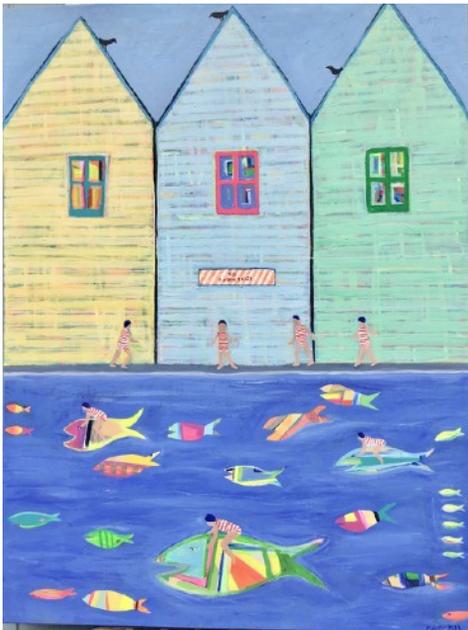


Nancy Tulloh -
"Horizontal #11"
16x20 acrylic



Gail Mardfin -
"Goose on Green"
11x11 watercolor

Marilee Wingert -
"Shiny Spoon" 9x4 watercolor
"Make Believe Squid" 3.5x9 watercolor



Sandi Maurer -

ABOVE: "Fish Riders" 48x36 acrylic
 BELOW: "Grid Taping" 48x36 acrylic



We cannot cure the
 world of sorrows,
 but we can choose
 to live in joy.

~ Joseph Campbell

Venues: May 19 - July 21, 2022*

This is a switch-out month. The current artist should arrange with the next artist a mutually convenient day/time to change. Use the roster Lorraine sent to get contact info.

Coffee & Moore

OUTGOING: Carol Mills • INCOMING: Linda Grainger

NEW VENUE** Fandee's Restaurant

INCOMING: Carolyn Jarvis, Deni Marrone, Carol Mills

Sonoma Burger

OUTGOING: Gail Mardfin • INCOMING: Carol Mills

Specialty Center

OUTGOING: Dana Rodney & Carol Mills

INCOMING: Phil Wilkinson

Tombe Realty

NOW: Linda Grainger • NEXT: OPEN

Umpqua Bank

OUTGOING: Gail Mardfin • INCOMING: Deni Marrone

SIGN UP IN THE 2022 VENUE SIGN-UP BOOKS

Or contact Deni Marrone (408) 202-3875

*Approximate dates

** The Fandee's Restaurant owner was beyond thrilled with the new AWS exhibit on his walls! Stop in - it's right behind Redwood Credit Union.

May 19 Refreshments

Please have your contribution (enough to serve 12 people) on the table so the potluck is ready to start promptly at noon - and remember to sign in! Thank you.

Sandwiches/ Finger Food

Jan Blake
 Diane Ceccarelli
 Judy Goldberg
 Linda Grainger
 Judy Leandro
 Gail Mardfin
 Rod Morgan
 Dorothy Rapalyea
 Gary Wilson

Dessert/Fruit

Merrie Krisl
 Patricia Marina
 Paula Pearce
 Marilyn Sommer
 Marilee Wingert



AWS April Guest Artist: Diana Majumdar

by Gail Mardfin & Lonna Necker

Since a very early age, Diana Majumdar was exposed to art in many forms and shapes. She grew up in Estonia in the last days of the Soviet Union, and was first introduced to art through her father. She loved watching her father draw and loved it when he taught her the basics of watercolor. He took her to see museums in Estonia, Russia, and Armenia, and gave her his large set of art books and his very old watercolor set.



VP Lonna Necker introduces Diana Majumdar to a full house

So when the choice for a field of studies presented itself and Diana had to ask herself what she would like to learn, the choice was easy. She is about to graduate from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. The academy has offered her the opportunity to explore different subject matter from traditional landscape painting and still life to portraiture. Experimenting with different media has been a major part of her experience at the Academy, and she has taken a wide range of studio art classes, her favorites being oil and watercolor painting.

Diana's work is a process of discovery and experimentation. Each painting consists of many layers of different materials and mediums. Sometimes Diana combines mediums that traditionally shouldn't go together. She often uses encaustic to fuse the layers together to achieve a deep complex surface. Diana finds beauty in the most mundane and small objects of nature, like the Queen Anne's lace that grows freely on the sides of roads all over Sonoma and Marin. Each of her paintings is a discovery of the intimacies of nature, rather than the majesty of Yosemite Valley or the awesome vistas of the coast.



DEMONSTRATION OF HER MULTI-STEP PROCESS

Diana Majumdar brought her delightful personality along with a box loaded with materials and partially-finished paintings in order to demonstrate the various states that her pieces go through until completion. Using hard panels or boards as substrates, she has been working in this layered style for about eight years. She was generous in

sharing her techniques, remarking she has two garages full of art supplies and lots of "snippets" to work from. She frequently starts by "making piles of things that go together." She said that her compositions are usually not planned, "but it works out."

COLLAGE – Her first step is applying collage materials (photos from magazines, old sheet music, wallpaper, blueprints, etc.) with Golden or Liquitex brand Acrylic Gel Medium. The medium acts as a glue and a sealer. She advises us to think about the background, that it always gets more interesting as more layers are added, but at least "we are not facing a white canvas."



COLLAGE

PLASTER – Next, she often works with joint compound (premixed and available at the hardware store). She applies it in thin layers, a good technique to cover up anything she didn't like in the collage layer.



PLASTER

Once the plaster is dry, she lightly sands it down, allowing lower layers to peer through, giving the effect of an old fresco wall. On top of that she paints on very diluted liquid acrylics, which helps to make the texture in the plaster stand out.



PHOTO TRANSFER

MIXED MEDIA COLOR – Working with water-based media such as watercolor pens or markers, acrylic inks, etc. she draws or invents shapes.

PHOTO TRANSFER – Diana selects photos that she herself has taken or that she has found. She makes the contrast more extreme by lightening and brightening them, something that we can do with our iPhones (playing with the Edit controls).

(continued on next page)



(Diana Majumdar, continued)
 Using the Acrylic Gel Medium she coats the front of the photo (or alternately, the surface of her painting), and then with a brayer, firmly attaches the photo (face to face). She sets it aside to dry. After about 15 minutes (much longer is also OK), when it is dry, she applies plain water and using a dull scraping tool, she scrapes off the dissolving paper. The colored part of the photograph will remain stuck.

FUSING THE ENCAUSTIC

CLEAR GESSO is then coated on, creating a surface on which she can do whatever she wants with watercolor media such as Tombow markers. This step is her favorite part, saying, "I love messing with it." She can also draw with pastel or charcoal, using spray fixative to set it. Then she goes over the whole thing with the Gel Medium again to seal it.

ENCAUSTIC - Encaustic medium is 90% beeswax with Damar resin mixed in, and comes in pellet form from an art supply store. She loves working with this wax, which makes all the layers come together in a "misty, mysterious, subtle"

way. After the encaustic medium is applied with an old brush, she uses a heat gun (purchased at the hardware store) to fuse it together. Often, she scrapes this layer smooth with a big razor blade, normally used in scraping floors.

OIL PAINT - On this layer she carefully paints details in oil, often of birds interacting with the forms on the layers beneath. She applies the oil paint in several transparent layers, otherwise known as glazing, using Gamblin Galkyd as the thinner. This is indeed the final layer and the oils are not sealed in any way, allowing their sheen to contrast with the somewhat cloudy encaustic layer. Especially after watching this demonstration, it will be easy to spot her lovely pieces in local art exhibits.

Many AWS members were entranced by Diana Mujamdar's presentation and were happy to learn that she offers two-day workshops in Petaluma. You can write her at diamaj@aol.com for the latest information on those. Her website featuring many of her iconic pieces is dianamajumdarart.com.



Linda Grainger picked a painting to color-coordinate with

THANKS FOR COMING! And a Note from Gail Mardfin

I recently took down my "Ethereals" show at the Center for Spiritual Living in Santa Rosa featuring 29 mixed media pieces. I was able to have a little reception one Tuesday afternoon and was delighted to have several AWS friends stop by. I feel so loved and appreciated by this group.

I will be back east for 11 weeks, so will be missing the June picnic and July meeting, but I look forward to getting photos and information from you so I can still put together a couple of good newsletters! *Thanks in advance for your help!* - **Gail Mardfin, Newsletter Editor**



Paula Pearce chose "Whisperings" to pose in front of with Gail



Photographer-for-the-day April Lynch in front of a long wall of 36x36 mixed media paintings



Deni Marrone and Carol Mills with Gail by the wall of monoprints and collages

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

from LONNA NECKER

Our April demonstration by Diana Majumdar, with mixed media collage and encaustic was a fabulous success. We all learned new skills that we can use for future projects. (See pages 5-6.)

And speaking of the future, our May demonstrator will be Donna DeLeBriandais. She is a third generation native of Santa Rosa. She finds inspiration for her paintings in Sonoma County and the North Bay. Donna's paintings reflect the beauty of the area's diverse landscape of farmland, rivers, ocean, vineyards, etc. Her impressionistic style is painterly and spontaneous. Her paintings reflect light and shadow, atmosphere and color.

Donna studied painting at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, and graduated from the University of San Francisco. She spent a summer at LaRomita School of Art in Italy painting *en plein air*, (on location). Donna is a professional artist, juror and judge for art competitions. She earned signature membership in the American Impressionist society in 2007 and is a member of the California Art Club. She exhibits her work in galleries, juried exhibits and wineries, and she is celebrating her 32th year in Art Trails, a juried open studio program held in September. Donna teaches *plein air* painting at monthly workshops.



Donna DeLaBriandais
in a field of lavender

MAY 19 GUEST ARTIST - Donna DeLaBriandais

Visit her website at www.donnasfineart.com.

Donna will use watercolor to demonstrate composition and color theories. Her subject will be trees, with lots of grassy "texture" techniques.

She will conduct her demonstration out on our north patio, beginning at 1:30. You may want to bring a hat for shade.

Our May prompt is Lakes/Rivers/Streams, and next month it will be Black & White with a Touch of Color.

All the best,
Lonna



Instead of the usual meeting on June 16, everyone is invited to go to Riverfront Regional Park for a picnic!

It's a time to socialize - eat, talk, walk, and if you are inspired, to paint!

See Carol's President Report (page 2), and there will be more details in next month's newsletter.

Santa Fe is Calling Susan Bradford!

Susan is going to Santa Fe, New Mexico for the Plein Air Convention (PACE) for the first time in two years, since the pandemic. This will be the third one she has attended and she "can't wait to go" May 17-22. She says, "Basically you are bombarded by greatness," watching 2-3 demos during the day in a range of media to select from. At 4:00pm attendees are taken out to beautiful places to paint *en plain air*, and in the evenings there are more lectures - or you can do evening *plein air* painting with an accomplished painter. She says, "I have learned more at the two conventions that I have attended than I ever learned in any class I have taken." Many of us will remember the presentation Susan gave after the last one she attended, painting in three colors plus white. We look forward to hear of your experiences this time around, Susan!!

SEBASTOPOL
CENTERARTS
 FOR THE

Abstract 2022

Call for Entries

Deadline is Monday, May 9. Any medium accepted.
 No size limits. Show runs June 18-July 24.
 Details: <https://www.sebarts.org/call-for-entries>

Reverberations:two

A visual conversation through May 18

Two AWS members have work in the show!

First the poetry was written, then the artists (chosen in a highly selective process) were randomly assigned the poems to interpret.

At right, Linda Loveland Reid's poem "Seconds" was interpreted by Sherrie Lovler in the painting shown behind Linda.



AWS artist Kim Winter (right) stands with Alicia Hugg Cutting, whose poem "My First Paying Job" inspired Kim's piece (of the same title) done in her very recognizable style.



We welcome new member ALLENE DONATO, who shared these acrylics with us.



"Ocean Wave" 12x16



"Fall Trees" 16x12

Membership Chair LORRAINE STRIBLING missed the April meeting, but we will forgive her because she was up in Portland having a blast with her daughter at an ART & SOUL RETREAT, a weeklong workshop they've been attending for many years.



They selected from a range of classes offered each day, usually taking three a day and one at night. The ones they chose this time were "The eyes have it" (right), where they put paint all over a piece of watercolor paper in any way they wanted. Once that was done and dry, they created an animal and made it stand out by dulling down the paint around it. In an evening class they felted a gnome (bottom right) and in another class they eco-dyed silk scarves (right).

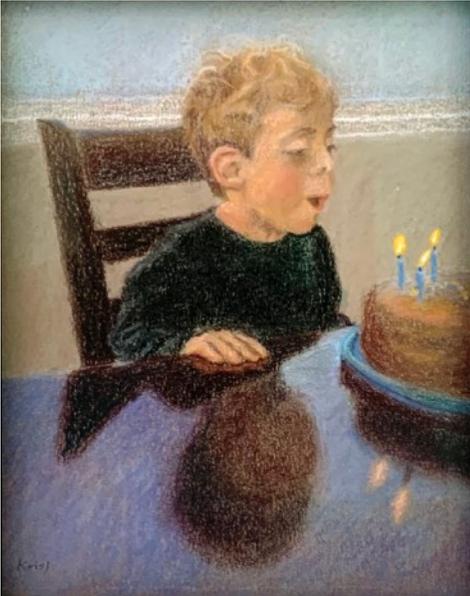
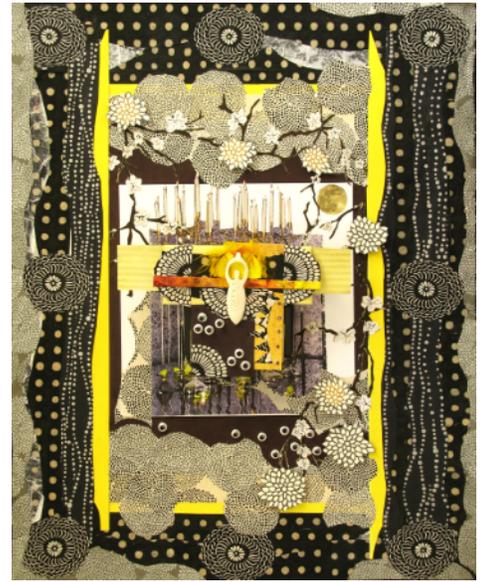


Sounds like fun!!



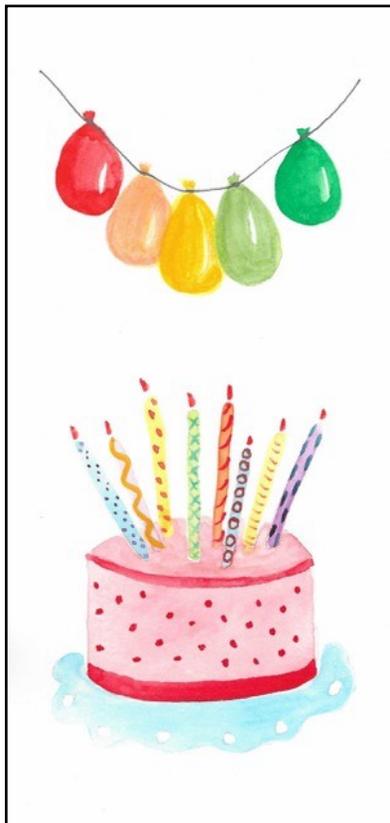


April Prompt: Celebration



LEFT, from the top:
Kathy Hainke - "Celebration" 9x12 oil
Merrie Krisl - "Turning 3" 10x8 pastel
Marilyn Sommer - "Twilight Dining II" 36x36 oil

CENTER, from the top:
Carol Mills - "Celebration" 8x10 acrylic
Rita Rhine - "Celebrate" 8x7.5 acrylic
Marilee Wingert - "Happy Birthday to You!" 9x4 watercolor



ABOVE, from the top:
Patricia Marina - "Out of the Box" 24x18 collage
Kim Winter- "Cheers to Cheese" 12x12 acrylic & spray paint
Nancy Tulloh - "Celebration of the Moon Egg" 24x24 acrylic



“Gigi” Mardfin took her graddaughter Azalea to the opening, and she loved it!



Gary and Carol Mills enjoy the show



A visitor has a look at the “Winners Wall”



Hedda Gold (center) and friends



AWS artists Nancy Sanchiotti & Beverly Bird



Sandi Maurer stands by one of her go-go girl paintings



Lonna Necker and Bev Kjeldsen look like their enjoying the reception



Treasurer and Sales Chief Patti Byrd and Jan Blake



April Lynch and her trusty S.L.R.



Left: Rita Rhine and Fran Nielsen

Right: Dorothy Rapalyea and Angel Fabela (Angel returned from Upland, CA for the occasion.)





That looks like Merrie Kris checking out the bargains on the Donations table! Half of the paintings donated sold!

KUDOS TO LINDA!

Linda Loveland Reid took on the enormous role of 2022 ABS Chair, even though she had never attended one before! Great job! And thanks to the many, many volunteers that made it all happen!



Many thanks to Fran Nielsen and Susan Barri, last year's big winners, for donating original paintings for this year's raffle!



Carol Mills looks a little ambivalent about the sale of her wonderful watercolor that made it into the DeYoung Open in 2020!



Saturday saw a steady stream of visitors of all ages to the Apple Blossom Show & Sale.



THE PAINTER'S KEYS



In Praise of "the SQUINT" . . .

"Looking at work with half-closed eyes has several benefits — and there are several ways to do it. We have to agree that establishing an effective pattern — the overall compositional integrity of a design — is valuable. Simply put, squinting makes notes of weak areas. Squinting tells you what's wrong and what's bad. Squinting lets you know where darkness or lightness might be added. . .

"By drawing together the eyelids like an external iris diaphragm, you see the subject as more or less reduced to black and white. When work is viewed without the benefit of colour, decisions can be more readily made. It seems that in standard easel-working vision, you 'can't see the forest for the trees.' The squint becomes a quick and easy re-evaluation technique that simply gives the artist a second opinion." - Robert Genn, 2007

Heads Up! It's Website Update Time! Deadline: June 30, 2022

One of the benefits of being an AWS member is having your own Artist Page on the website.

Visit www.awsomeart.org/members-artwork to see!

Send up to THREE good, squarely-shot jpgs of your work to gail@plpgraphicdesign.com, new or to replace what's there.

Include title, medium, and dimensions for each one. (If you are capable of renaming your files, please use this format: Mardfin-SunnyDay-12x12watercolor.jpg)

* If you are a new member, please tell me exactly how you want your name to appear.

* If you have a website, include that link.

IMPORTANT: Write "FOR AWS WEBSITE" in the Subject line of the email. Thanks!

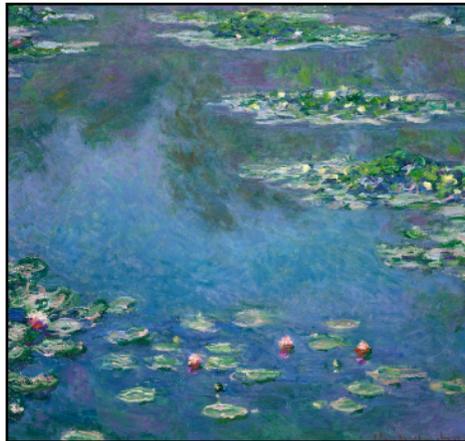
History and Evolution of Monet's Water Lilies

Between 1897 and 1926, **Claude Monet** painted approximately 250 water-scapes of his favorite subject towards the end of his life: Water lilies.

Learn more here: <https://www.artandobject.com/news/monets-water-lilies-their-history-and-evolution>

Who doesn't love Monet's water lilies?

He painted this version in 1906, approximately 36"x36"



Painting for Peace

The sunflower, the national flower of Ukraine, has become a symbol of peace and solidarity for the war-torn country since Russia invaded at the end of February. • Artists in Ukraine have not only continued to work but have doubled down on their efforts to stay creative and demonstrate strength by producing art and posting it online, donating the proceeds.

Learn more about how artists are using their talents to wage peace:

<https://streamlinepublishing.com/inside-art/painting-for-peace/>



11 Contemporary Black Artists you should know

www.artandobject.com/slideshows/10-contemporary-black-artists-you-should-know-more-about

Throughout history, countless ethnic groups and marginalized people have not been given the attention they deserve from the art world. This slideshow is dedicated to Black contemporary artists. Many of these artists' works both acknowledge the art world's exclusionary history and subvert it. The artworks shown span drawing, painting, quilting, and sculpture.

Art History News

KATHE KOLLWITZ is one of my favorite artists. She was a German artist of the first half of the 20th century, who addressed themes of war, poverty and death in her empathetic works. Her world-renowned drawings, prints and sculptures also conveyed love, security and the struggle for peace. Read a bit more about her here.

- gm

<http://arthistorynewsreport.blogspot.com/>

[2022/03/kollwitz-context-work-behind.html](http://arthistorynewsreport.blogspot.com/2022/03/kollwitz-context-work-behind.html)



This is one of Kollwitz's well-known lithographs from 1941 called "Seeds Should Not be Ground." She lost her son

and grandson, first in WW I and then in WW II.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN MARILYN SOMMER'S STUDIO GROUP

As we learned in Marilyn Sommer's video last winter, she hosts a weekly gathering in her home studio.

She is seeking artists to join her now.

Here's what she has to say:

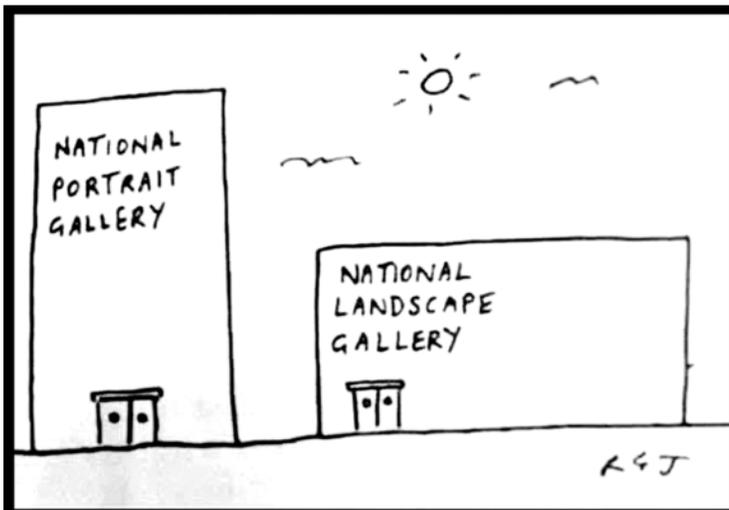
We meet each Monday at 10am and begin painting. I have easels, tables, chairs, etc. You bring your own art supplies. The teacher, Michael Coy, comes about 11am and presents several artists and their work on a large screen with discussion by him and whoever else in the group wants to ask questions, etc. The fee is \$25, which all goes to him. He has a website, www.coyart.com. (He also gives weekend workshops on a regular basis at his studio in Graton/ Sebastopol area.)

After his presentation, Michael comes to each person for help with what they are doing. ***There are beginners as well as others in the group. Everyone is very supportive.***

When everyone is satisfied, he leaves and we continue to paint till 3-4 pm.

We bring our own lunch and eat when we want to. There's coffee and tea and a bathroom and a microwave.

Interested members can call Marilyn Sommer at 823-4478 or 303-6792 for more information.



HAH

HAH

HAH

HAH

EVERY MONTH, you have a chance to win a \$15.00 Gift Certificate* to Riley Street Art Supply!!

Raffle tickets are available during lunch: \$1 for one, or \$5 for six.

We'll be looking for a volunteer to sit at a card table by the FOOD, making it easy for everyone to find you and not a distraction during the meeting. It's a fun way to meet people!

RileyStreet
art supply

103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa
(707) 526-6421 Mon. - Sat.

9:30am - 5:30pm

Sun. 11:00 - 4pm



* AS AN AWS MEMBER, REMEMBER TO ASK FOR YOUR 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL NON-SALE ITEMS. DOES NOT INCLUDE MATBOARD.