



ART WORKSHOP OF WESTERN SONOMA COUNTY

[AWSOMEART.ORG](http://AWSOMEART.ORG) • MARCH 2023

## THURSDAY, MARCH 16th

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

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

1:30-2:45 - **Members Critique** (see below)

**March Prompt:** "TRIPTYCHS, TRIANGLES and TRIADS"

**April Prompt:** "TREES"



AWS member **Marlene Horn** bejeweled the potluck table with a beautiful bouquet from her garden. She came to learn from Clark Mitchell's pastel demonstration.

### MARCH CRITIQUE

VP Lonna Necker will lead a Members Critique beginning at 1:30. All members are invited to bring in one piece of art that is at the stage of needing some objective input from others, something partially done or almost finished. Each person will present their art in turn and request whatever feedback

they are looking for, as time allows. Critiques are wonderful opportunities to learn more about composition and color, and it can be very useful to see your work from others' perspective.



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT JUDY GOLDBERG

Hello everyone!

**We're growing!** It is exciting to see so many guests and new members attend our recent meetings. May AWS continue to be an expanding resource of support and connection for our creative community.

The upcoming March meeting of AWS will treat each of us to a critique of our work by the rest of us. The very word "critique" suggests the idea that the creations of our heart, mind and soul will be criticized. Some of us might hesitate to share our struggles and prefer to show only the work that we feel is acceptable or finished. But if we always and only view a successful end result, there is no opportunity to figure out for ourselves, how to get there.

Claude Monet advised his *amis artistes*, "Do not fear mistakes." Creation requires experimentation, making intentional decisions with unforeseen outcomes, perhaps revealing new and unexpected directions for our work to take. When things become difficult or don't

turn out the way we wished, this is a sure sign that we, as creatives, are venturing outward and beyond, trying a new technique or a new approach to a familiar medium.



A **peer critique** is a great opportunity to help one another grow as artists and become stronger as a group. Since we will be present during our critique, we have the advantage of describing our inspiration, intention, opinions, or feelings, then asking specifically for the help we are seeking. Looking at someone else's artwork, further develops our ability to find direction in our own.

*"Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun."* ~ Mary Lou Cook

Let's do this!

Judy Goldberg

## March 16 Refreshments

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

### SANDWICHES/ FINGER FOOD

Marilyn Dizikes  
Christine Field  
Marcella Ford  
Hedda Gold  
Bev Kjeldsen  
Gail Mardfin  
Leah Ocean  
Joan Rumrill  
Dana Rodney  
Andrea Way

### DESSERT/FRUIT

Barbara Evans  
Christine Field  
Elizabeth Gomes  
Patricia Marina  
Christine Paschal  
Paula Pearce



**RAFFLE**  
Carol Mills



Oakmont Art Association

## 49th Annual Art Show

Friday March 31st  
Saturday April 1st  
2023

11 am-5 pm  
Berger Center  
6633 Oakmont Dr.

Raffle Drawing 3 pm Saturday  
with wine & refreshments

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT • LONNA NECKER

Greetings to you all.

Our February demonstration was given by **Clark Mitchell**.

Clark was engaging and informative, discussing and demonstrating these art basics: value, proportion, variety, rhythm, mass, shape, volume, and perspective. **His lovely finished pastel is shown at right.**



Rather than an art demonstration in March, we will have our annual **Member Critique**.

We should all bring **one** painting that is incomplete or nearly complete but still needs a little something changed. You can tell us your concerns or questions about the color/design/proportion, etc. and our competent and experienced members will try to find ways to help each of us “finish” what we bring.

The February prompt (the nudge to paint or create something to bring to our meetings) was “With All My Heart.” And they were indeed heart-felt. Thank you for all the lovely and thoughtful pieces you brought to the meeting..

The **March prompt is Triptychs, Triangles and Triads**. These works will be separate from our critique pieces but be part of our “art share.”

Take care,  
Lonna

**PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY ARTISTS AND/OR TOPICS YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PRESENTED. SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO ME OR ANY BOARD MEMBER.** Send your idea or the name and address (if possible) of presenters and I will try to contact them. - LN

## FEBRUARY PROMPT

### “WITH ALL MY HEART”



**Gail Mardfin -**

“Decorating Cookies with Zaylie” 6x9 watercolor & ink.

*From a daily drawing book I kept in 2020*



**Patty Bird** showed three prompts during the art share in February’s meeting.



**Gary Caldwell** has been working with bright alcohol inks, a medium introduced to him by his “heart,” his daughter.

## **AWS BOARD MINUTES**

### **FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

**Members Present:** Patty Bird, Judy Goldberg, Deni Marrone, Patricia Marina, Gail Mardfin, Fran Nielsen, Lonna Necker, Linda L. Reid, Lorraine Stribling, Judy McFarland, Nancy Sanchietti

Meeting Called to order 10:35am by President Judy Goldberg.

#### **President: Judy Goldberg**

- \$1000 grant for ABS from Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will be reviewed in March.
- Discussion of how to keep Awards account replenished; at current rate, it will run dry in 4 years: good idea to put in \$500 per year to keep the fund funded. Motion: Linda moved that revenue from sales of ABS Donated Art be used to replenish ABS awards fund. Second: Patty. Vote: Unanimously passed.

#### **Membership: Lorraine Stribling**

- Lorraine is working on a "AWS Members Info Sheet" so all info, who to contact, etc. is in one place, especially for new members. She will send out current draft to the board; send suggestions/additions to her.
- Discussion about membership/whether to limit numbers – current membership at 93. We are still welcoming new members.
- Eligibility for ABS is tracked on sign-in sheet; list of eligible members appears in newsletter. *(See page 12.)*

#### **Programs: Lonna Necker**

March - Member critique of unfinished work that could use improvement; Lonna will lead to keep comments constructive

April - Jean Warren, watercolor

May - Susan Barri, palette knife

June - picnic

July - Catherine Cruz, collage

August - Susan Bradford, 10-Stroke

September - Tamara Sanchez, Pastel



#### **Treasurer: Patty Bird**

- Effective balance of working account \$6030.33
- Art Supply Sale + \$320 ("good money; good bargains")
- Dues + \$3055 with more still coming
- Rent to SebARTs has been paid, July '22- June '23
- ABS: Rent to SebARTs for intake day: \$216 paid; appx \$2500 to Seb Chamber of Comm for ABS weekend to be paid
- Jacque Mielke Awards account balance \$6,469.12

#### **Venues: Deni Marrone**

- 3 possible new venues in the works, including Zoftig Eatery, Santa Rosa
- Suggestions for new venues are welcome as almost all current venues are a result of member suggestions
- Sales in venues are up!
- Discussion of how to thank our Venues. Decided that Corresponding Secretary will send a handwritten thank you note yearly and enclose a more official AWS business letter as well.

#### **Apple Blossom Show: Linda L. Reid (& Nancy Sanchietti/Judging Comm.)**

- SebARTs will be contacted to be sure lighting throughout the show is adequate.
- All panels will be used this year for best display.
- Board decided that works for sale or NFS are all eligible for judging.
- Discussion of display of Donated Art; works well the way it is; lots of sales. *Continued on next page...*

**Continued**

- Additional donated work (original, matted, poly-wrapped) will also be for sale in a display rack.
- Revised entry form discussed; Lorraine will email to eligible artists; due back postmarked by April 12.
- Discussion of new categories:
  - Subcommittee decided and Board approved new category “Additional Media” to include: Alcohol Inks, Collage, Drawing, Fine Crafts, Mixed Media, Printmaking. New entry form and labels will reflect these new sub-categories.
  - Photography category will now be Photography/Digital.
- Waiting for confirmation on the judge (Carole Wantanabe); new categories will be added to judge’s info sheet.
- Judy McFarland will send out press release ASAP, with or without judge information

**UPDATE!! Carole Wantanabe has agreed to judge the 2023 Apple Blossom Show**

Judy adjourned meeting at 11:58.

Submitted by Gail Mardfin in place of Rhonda Johnston, who was ill



**Sandi Maurer** shared two whimsical ceramic figures she made in 2015 that illustrate her resistance to making art. But she is currently working in the Sebastopol Center for the Arts ceramic studio and has 6 new pieces



**Sandi Maurer -**

ABOVE:  
“Stubborn-Ass”  
6x2.5x5  
stoneware

RIGHT:  
“Girl” front & back  
6x2.5x3.5  
stoneware



**Let's go to the movies!**

**MARY CASSATT: PAINTING THE MODERN WOMAN**

An “Exhibition on Screen” at the Rialto in Sebastopol

**Wednesday, March 8 at 1 & 7pm**  
**Tuesday, March 21 at 1pm**

Mary Cassatt made a career painting the lives of the women around her. Her radical images showed them as intellectual, feminine and real, which was a major shift in the way women appeared in art.

Presenting her astonishing prints, pastels and paintings, this film introduces us to the often-overlooked Impressionist whose own career was as full of contradiction as the women she painted... [MORE INFO](#)



HAPPY  
**St. Patrick's**  
DAY

# A SATURDAY SPENT AT ART OPENINGS

by Gail Mardfin

When it comes to seeing art shows, sometimes you just want to be two places at once! Or you can actually get to see two big shows in one day, like I did on February 11th.



Selfies with Linda Donahue, Linda Reid, Patricia Marina, and Lonna Necker. Below with Judy & Mel Goldberg.



First I perused the “Small Works” show at the Graton Gallery. I spotted pieces by a full dozen AWS members. It was fun to overhear complimentary remarks being made about the art on the wall, thinking to myself, “I know that artist!”



Then I went to the crowded opening for the “Color of Water” show at Sebastopol Center for the Arts - where I ran into the nicest people! (See photos at left.) It’s a wonderful exhibit, and it will still be up when you come to the March AWS meeting, so don’t miss it. Special thanks to our own Patricia Marina and Kim Winter, who serve on the Visual Arts Team at the Center, who helped hang the show.



Linda Loveland Reid stands below her abstract painting that was juried into “Color of Water.” Linda says she does very little brushwork on her canvases anymore, preferring to apply paint with various tools she can pull across the surface.

## SEBASTOPOL VENUES March 16 - May 18

### Coffee & Moore

OUTGOING: Carol Mills

INCOMING: Jan Blake

### Fandee’s Restaurant

OUTGOING: Linda Grainger

INCOMING: Carol Mills

### Sonoma Burger

OUTGOING: Charito Shetty

INCOMING: **AVAILABLE**

### Specialty Center

OUTGOING: Phil Wilkinson

INCOMING: **AVAILABLE**

### Umpqua Bank

OUTGOING: Enid Barnes

INCOMING: Marilyn Dizikes

### It’s been a great few months for SALES in our VENUES!

Recently **Carol Mills** sold a watercolor from Coffee & Moore, and **Gail Mardfin** sold one as well. Kim Winter sold a large painting from Fandee’s, and **Rhonda Mertle** sold two there. **Linda Grainger** had a patron who bought two of her watercolors from Fandee’s and **Enid Barnes** sold a piece from Umpqua Bank. Nearly all of the sales were images of animals, FYI.

**SIGN UP IN THE VENUE SIGN-UP BOOKS!**  
Or contact Deni Marrone (408) 202-3875



# SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS



At our February meeting Judy Goldberg introduced SebARTs' Interim Director Sue Ellen McCann (center) and Interim Associate Director Steve Markus (right). They told of being impressed with the wide variety of programs, quality of work, and commitment of volunteers at the Center.

With a paid staff of only four people, Sue Ellen said, "We're running as fast as we can." The most important thing at this point is raising capital to preserve this community treasure and they announced \$160,000 had been raised in just 2 1/2 weeks! "We're over the hump of worry, but not out of the woods," she summarized.

If you are not yet a member, please join, and please contribute to SebARTs' fundraising campaign. They have received donations from \$10 to \$25,000, and everything helps! The goal is to double the contributed income over last year, hoping to raise an additional \$285,000 so the organization can replenish staff and focus on other priorities.

SebARTs has about 600 members and offers a broad range of programs, including gallery exhibits, a ceramics studio, poetry, weaving, adult and children's classes, the Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival, and two annual artist studio tours, Art at the Source and Art Trails.

Find everything here: [www.sebarts.org](http://www.sebarts.org)

## TWO UPCOMING CLASSES WITH SUSAN BRADFORD

More info & sign-up at  
[www.sebarts.org/classes-and-events](http://www.sebarts.org/classes-and-events)



### Color Mixing & Ten Strokes

Painting demo and a discussion of the color wheel followed by guided practice painting an object with "ten strokes".



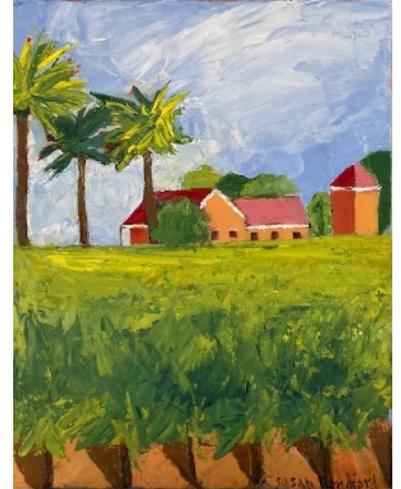
### Color Mixing & Still Life with Oil and Acrylic

We will paint a still life with several objects and fruits using oil and acrylic.

# MEMBERS' ART WORK



**Judy Boles -**  
 "Charles Bridge Decanting" 18x24 oil



**Susan Bradford -**

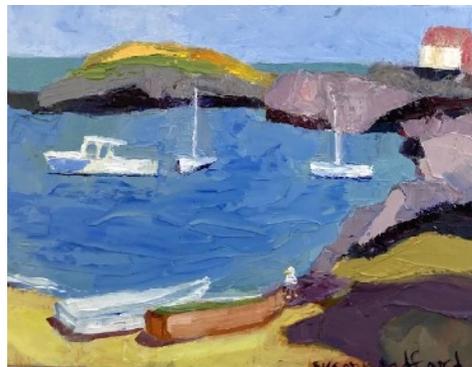
CLOCKWISE FROM  
 TOP LEFT:

"Boys Laughing"  
 14x11 acrylic

"Forestville Vineyard"  
 14x11 oil

"House Across the  
 Road"  
 9x12 oil

"Fish Beach -  
 Monhegan Island"  
 9x12 oil



**Bev  
 Kjeldsen -**  
 "Tea Time"  
 5x7 gouache  
*Bev had  
 these  
 reproduced  
 on canvas  
 for her kids,  
 cropped to  
 8x8 size.*



**Gail Mardfin -**  
 "How Fun to Be a Bird!" 24x24 acrylic  
*I've wanted to paint a very minimalist painting like  
 this for a long time, so the Santa Rosa National  
 Arts Show provided a good incentive/deadline.*



**Marilyn Dizikes -** "Sonoma Mountain #2"  
 26x34 watercolor

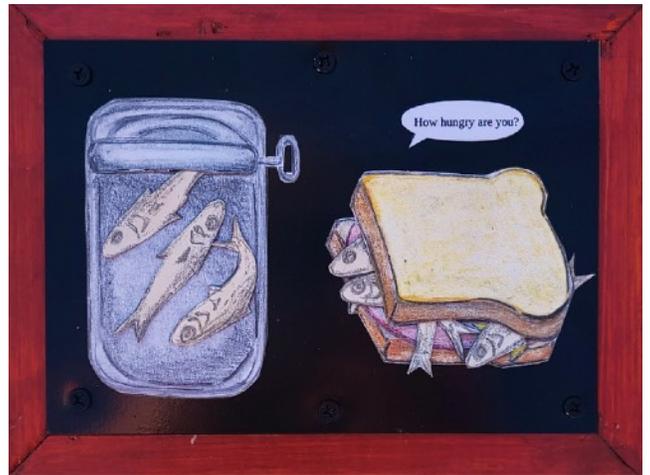
**Elizabeth Gomes -**  
"Rainy Day"  
11x8 pastel



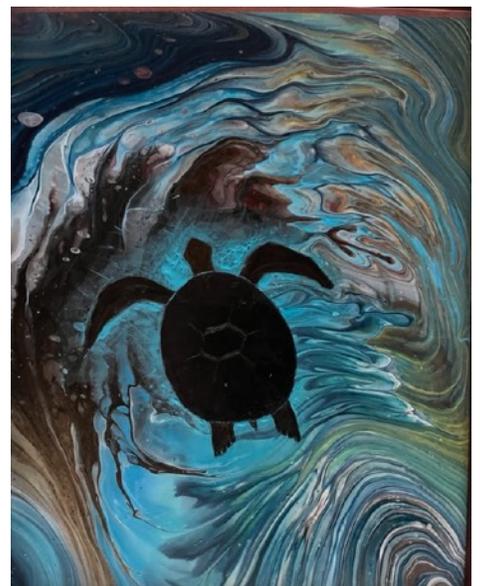
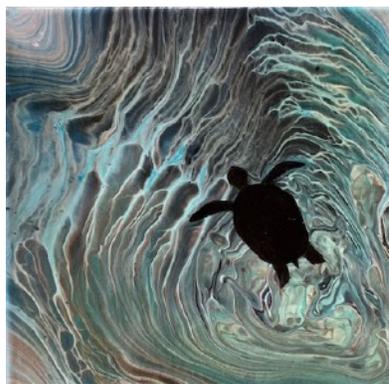
"Forest Mystery"  
12x16 pastel



**Patricia Marina -** "Cat in an Accessory Bag"  
11x14 acrylic



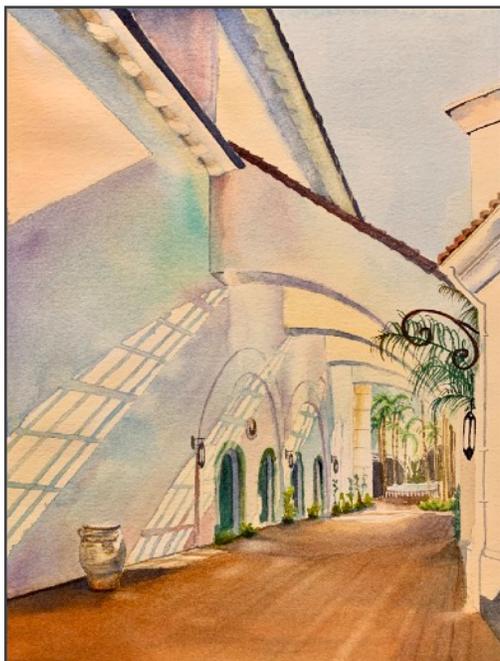
**Kim Winter -** "How hungry are you?"  
6x8 magnets, mixed media



**Deni Marrone -**  
LEFT: "Holy Moly"  
20x16 acrylic bloom pour

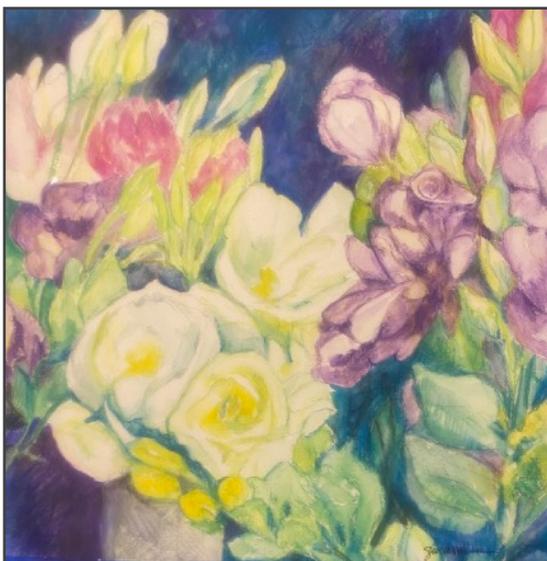
ABOVE & RIGHT, from the Turtle Series  
8x8 embellished acrylic pour  
14x11 embellished acrylic pour on glass

**Barbara Evans -**  
"Santa Barbara  
Paseo"  
16x20 acrylic



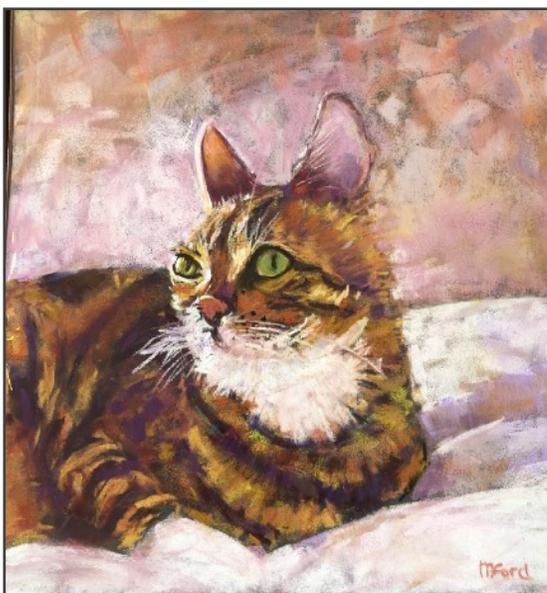
**Jerry Fabiano -** "Midwinter" 16x20 acrylic

**Gail Mardfin -**  
"Spring Floral"  
12x12  
watercolor pencil  
*My first piece that  
is 100% watercolor  
pencil; I like the  
way the energy of  
the drawing is still  
visible along with  
the rich color that  
can be obtained  
when the pencils  
are activated by  
water.*



**Bev Kjeldsen -**  
"Sunshine in the Morning" 12x9 oil

**Marcella Ford -**  
"Tabby Cat"  
9.5x9 pastel



New member **Lin Dahl** discusses her watercolor of poppies during February's art share.

# FEBRUARY PASTEL DEMO WITH CLARK MITCHELL

by Beverly Bird

AWS welcomed back a favorite artist, Clark Mitchell, for a pastel demo in February. We in Sonoma County are fortunate that Clark, an internationally renowned artist, lives virtually in our backyard. On this occasion he presented a comprehensive demonstration of how he makes magic in the pastel medium.

Starting with an explanation of pastel as a medium, he took us step by step through his process. Pastel is a dry medium, comprised mostly of pigment with just enough binder to hold it together, soluble in alcohol, turps, or water. Working with various brands, he uses the softer to create the broad strokes, and the harder to make the crisp edges and details. He tears the outer paper off of the pastels to break the chunks he likes to work with, blending with his fingers (though a *tortillon* can also be used).

Paper is the next consideration – Clark likes an aggressive sanded tooth paper. “You need tooth to hold the pastel,” he noted. His preferred brands: Art Spectrum, UArt, and Canson ‘Touch.’

Composing the piece requires multiple decision-making steps: format (rectangle, horizontal vs vertical, or square); focal point; and what to leave in or out. Initially making a value study (a red filter can be used), he noted that value is of utmost importance to create depth or distance. He shared his notebook of value studies done with 6B or 8B pencils – sometimes he tries both a vertical and a horizontal version of the scene.

During the painting process, he continually questions the composition, making adjustments to improve the design. Referring to completed works, he pointed out where he had adjusted the ridge of the hills to heighten the asymmetry, repositioned subjects, or changed colors, all to improve the overall design. (See *comparison*

*photo on next page.*)

He strives to attain a one-third/two-thirds warm/cool and light/dark balance.

The painting process starts with an underpainting on toned paper, which he feels ties it all together.

Using a quickly drawn *plein air* study as a reference, he outlined the major shapes and began blocking them in with broad strokes, choosing

colors that would complement the subsequent dry pastel layer. In this stage he applies one color per area/shape. Once blocked in, alcohol is used to fix the underpainting, which must completely dry before applying the dry pastel layer. He noted that cheap brushes can be used for applying the alcohol.

Applying the pastel, he works with broad strokes well into the painting process, drawing in (*cont. on next page*)

**“For me, the fun part is the underpainting. Everyone finds what they like best when they start playing with the medium.”**



A VIEWCATCHER is a helpful device sold at RileyStreet.



Blocking in major shapes



Alcohol is used in the underpainting.

## Clark Mitchell, continued

details towards the end. He makes strokes in the direction of the objects depicted.

He constantly checked color by making a patch outside the picture plane to see if it felt right. He also showed how to remove color with a brush or eraser. He



You can see the finished piece Clark completed at home on page 3.

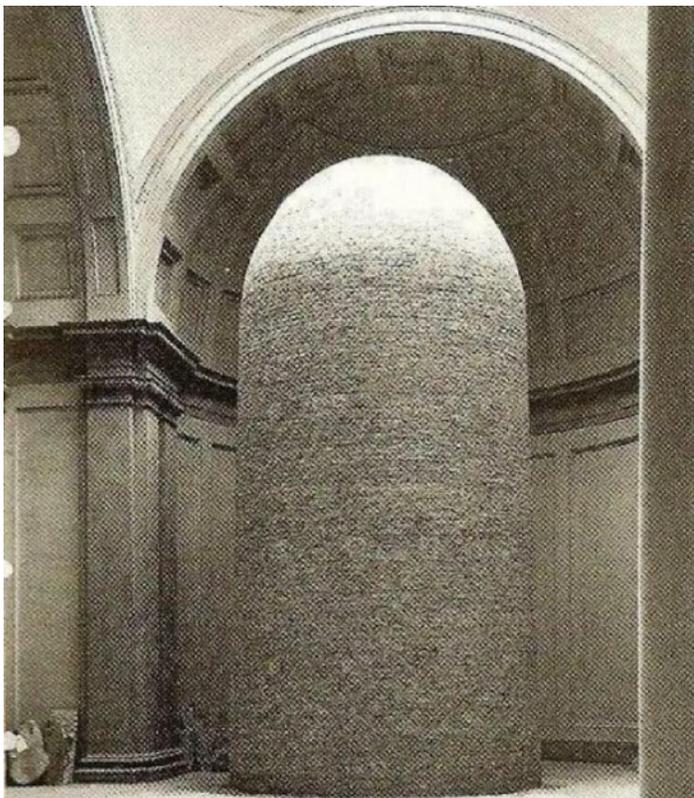
emphasized the importance of standing back often to evaluate progress, whether working *en plein air* or in the studio. Given the time constraints, while he was not able to fully take the painting to its



Reference photo on left. Notice changes he made in the composition at right.

final detail stage, the structure of the coastal landscape was strong and clear.

Clark Mitchell offers private classes and would be happy to offer a group class if someone would like to organize that. Examples of both his pastel and oil landscapes can be found at [www.clarkmitchellart.com](http://www.clarkmitchellart.com). You can also visit him in his beautiful Cotati studio during Sonoma Country Art Trails in the Fall.



**NO JOKE:** This is the statue of David by Michelangelo encased in bricks to prevent damage from bombs during World War II (1943).

# RileyStreet

art supply

103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa  
(707) 526-6421 • [www.RileyStreet.com](http://www.RileyStreet.com)  
Mon. - Sat. 9-5:30 | Sun. 11-4



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

## For the Joy of It by Paula Pearce

The first thing that comes to mind is that I am so grateful to be an artist. We artists need to say a special prayer of thanks to this special creative energy that runs through us. Many people have it but just some people actually use it.

Sometimes I am struck by words about competition and art. We all compare our artwork to that of others. We enter shows where our artwork is “judged.” We are a little disappointed when we bring our artwork back home after a sale.

Beware! Those three things - comparing, judging and selling - are outside the real point. Art is a process where we can express ourselves in a very unique way. In that process the joy of doing should always be number one. If you are true to this one concept, it will come out in your work.

We use the word “work” often to describe our art. In my mind work is laborious, but work can be a joy if you love doing it!

I went to an art show recently, a wonderful collection of artwork submitted by artists from all over. There were all types of subject matter on display. The ones that I was particularly attracted to were those that emitted a sense of fun. So I have decided to paint for the sheer joy of it - and let the child in me come out and play.

I will try not to look for approval, which is a big thing for me. Approval from others is another one of those concepts that seems to be beside the point of art.

Now that I have written this down, I hope that I have the courage to act on these ideas. It is all too easy to slip back into our usual way of approaching things. May this year be a benchmark to a refreshing new approach for all of our artistic expressions.

Ancient depiction of the first CVS receipt



### HELPFUL HINT!!!

On your smart phone there is a feature in **Settings > Camera**, where you can select **Grid**. This puts a faint grid on your images so when you take pictures - *especially pictures of your art work* - you can see whether you are shooting them squarely or at an angle.

## 2023 Apple Blossom Show

Reception - Friday, April 28, 7-9

Saturday, April 29 11am-6pm

Sunday, April 30 11am-5pm

2023 Theme: "Sonoma County Blossoms - Celebrate Sonoma County"

> **NOTE!!** If you have a painting you would like considered for the cover of the ABS program, please send it to [gail@PLPgraphicdesign.com](mailto:gail@PLPgraphicdesign.com) ASAP. <

All artists in the ABS may have 1-2 pages for the AWS Artists Book, which will be on display for visitors to peruse. Update as needed.



### AS OF FEBRUARY, THESE MEMBERS ARE IN GOOD STANDING TO ENTER THE 2023 ABS.

If you believe your name should be on this list, contact Membership Chair Lorraine Stribling at (707) 480-7132 or [lorrainestribling@comcast.net](mailto:lorrainestribling@comcast.net), preferably *before* the March meeting.

Kathleen Andre	Linda Grainger	Avinash Pandey
Enid Barnes	Lorna Ho	Christine Paschal
Susan Barri	Carolyn Jarvis	Paula Pearce
Beverly Bird	Rhonda Johnston	Gail Radice
Patty Bird	Diana Jones	Dorothy Rapalyea
Janet Blake	Beverly Kjeldsen	Linda L. Reid
Rhoda Bloom	Merrie Krisl	Rita Rhine
Judy Boles	Dena Lash	Susan Rogers
Susan Bradford	Judy Leandro	Kathy Root
Wendy Brown	Gail Mardfin	Nancy Sanchietti
Kathy Byrne	Patricia Marina	Charito Shetty
Diane Ceccarelli	Deni Marrone	Nancy Tulloh
Linda Donahue	Sandi Maurer	Philip Wilkinson
Allene Donato	Judy McFarland	Gary Wilson
Jerry Fabiano	Rhonda Mertle	Marilee Wingert
Hedda Gold	Carol Mills	Kim Winter
Judy Goldberg	Lonna Necker	

# FRAGILE

If you need to ship or move a painting...

### OIL PAINTINGS

Use tissue paper, foam, or breathable sheets to avoid trapping moisture when moving an oil painting. Humidity can damage your artwork. Do not use bubble wrap directly, to prevent trapping moisture as it can rough up the painting's layer. **Oil paintings must always be packed with the works stacked sideways and not flat.**

### ACRYLIC PAINTINGS

When packing acrylic paintings to ship, store or move, make sure that the picture is absolutely waterproof before covering it. Then wrap it first with wax paper or glassine paper. After the initial wax paper wrapping, then use bubble wrap to secure the painting. Make sure that you mark the boxes you are using for moving your paintings in as FRAGILE.

