



# Chaparral Sketch

April 2020

Volume XI, Issue 3

Chaparral Artists, a non-profit organization, is one of the oldest artists groups in the Morongo Basin.

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Chaparral Artists  
P.O. Box 2202  
Joshua Tree, California 92252

ChaparralArtists@gmail.com  
www.chaparralartists.com  
Facebook.com/Chaparral Artists

501C3—Nonprofit

## PREVIOUS MEETING March 9, 2020

Our March meeting was sparsely attended, but what it lacked in participation, it made up for in another great demonstration. Beverly Schmuckle demonstrated the 'dirty pour' technique of the Acrylic Pouring method. With the

aid of two volunteers, she was able to provide examples of three versions of the similarly grouped techniques involved in the dirty pour. A dirty pour refers to the process of pre-mixing individual colors, layering them together in a vessel, and then the pouring of these colors onto a surface. Dirty pours are considered the most common acrylic pour methods.

Many tools and techniques can be used to then vary the results of this type of pour. Beverly first demonstrated the flip-cup technique to apply paint to the canvas and then she demonstrated the string pull technique. Raini Armstrong volunteered to show a pattern pour technique. Nancy Miehle volunteered to illustrate the use of a tool during the pour - a sieve that would create a design as the paint transferred through it.

Beverly shared that many sources on the internet that demonstrate and teach Acrylic Pouring. She urged the group to visit YouTube and become more familiar with the acrylic pour method but also urged everyone

*Editor's note—if you have any questions please send them to ChaparralArtists@gmail.com and include your name and phone number so that one of our volunteers can reply back to you.*

to be safe when watching and following these online sources. One particular technique that Beverly does not recommend is the fire method - lighting the acrylic paint on fire during a pour - this is a highly dangerous method without proper precaution and safety gear in place. She also does not recommend using bookbinding glue during the process of any pour because the adhesive remains tacky for a long time.

Beverly creates beautiful scenes with her acrylic pours. Her interest seems to be in the search for how a pour can somehow signify a known scene or animal, with as few alterations as possible. Some artists revel in, and accentuate, the odd and morphing qualities of their pours, preferring the naturally abstract nature of the finished product. Others use the poured result purely as a backdrop to their object of interest, adding more detail paint to represent their



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—stations are prepared



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Beverly’s pour settling



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Beverly discussing the process



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Beverly’s pour spread out



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Beverly’s pour adding black

primary focus. And then others, like Beverly, exercise their powers of imagination by studying the result of their dried pour and searching for a scene that speaks to them. She will go into her pour and add small amounts of paint to accentuate a landscape or creature, drawing the viewer's attention to the finished product.

The demonstration given by Beverly Schmuckle was very informative. She offered a printed walk-through to help those interested in repeating the processes, and she brought in a number of examples of her own acrylic pours.

Other business covered during the meeting included introducing the authors of the photo slideshow—Florida, Idlewild, Living Desert, Corn Springs, and the 29 Palms Arts/Craft show were being displayed during the meeting. Kathy and Mitch Miller’s art gallery space at Zannedelions Boutique in Joshua Tree was shared. The current featured artists at both the Center for Healthy Generations and the Presbyterian Church were announced. Several art display opportunities were shared, including the Reduce Reuse Recycle show, the 29 Palm



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Beverly’s pour after a string pull technique



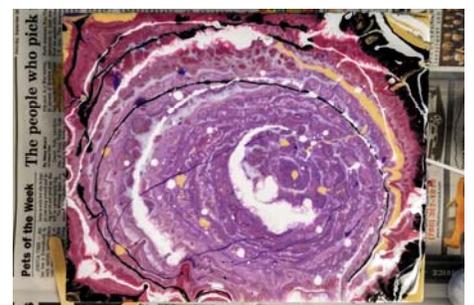
Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Nancy’s pour through a sieve



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Nancy’s pour settled and pulled



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Raini’s pour after applying paint in a circular motion



Beverly Schmuckle—Acrylic Pouring Demo—Raini’s pour settled

Visitors Center show and the Judged Fine Art Chaparral show. Upcoming trips were announced (though they were soon to be cancelled.) Only twelve members attended the meeting, likely because of the health concerns of COVID-19. The door prize went to Gwendoline Morgan, and the 50/50 winner was Beverly Schmuckle.

**UPCOMING MEETING**  
**April meeting CANCELLED**

The April meeting has been canceled in response to the need to slow the spread of COVID-19. We all want to ensure the health and safety of those in our community, and we are doing our part to keep our members safe.

Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to welcoming each other back once the precautions have been lifted.

**CHAPARRAL**  
**OUTINGS**

Chaparral Artists *had* planned on two outings during the spring—March was to see a trip to the Whitewater Preserve, and we were to visit Pioneertown in April. We were forced to cancel these trips. We hope to see everyone soon, but in the meantime we send out healthy and artful hopes to our members!

**FEATURED ARTISTS**  
**OF THE MONTH**

March’s Featured Artist, at the Center for Healthy Generations was Virginia Neal. Virginia is a mixed media artist, photographer and painter.

March’s Featured Artist, at the Presbyterian Church was Carl Smelko sharing some of his great travel photography.

We regret to announce that April’s artists—Sunshine Laue at the Center for Healthy Generations and Nancy Kims at the Presbyterian Church., will not be able to display their work. Everyone is doing their best to follow the State mandated home quarantine in order to limit the spread of COVID-19.

We do not yet know when the quarantine will be lifted and when both venues will be open to begin their regularly scheduled events, but we will do our best to keep you informed. We hope everyone is staying healthy and we look forward to showing our support, along with all of you, by visiting art venues once we are able.

If you would like to get on the list to display YOUR art, contact us at [ChaparralArtists@gmail.com](mailto:ChaparralArtists@gmail.com).

*Editor’s note—we place the newest version of the newsletter on the Chaparral website— please visit often and check out the latest articles while you are there!*



Art by Virginia Neal, March Artist of the Month at the Center for Healthy Generations, Yucca Valley



Photography by Carl Smelko, March Artist of the Month at the Presbyterian Church, Yucca Valley



Photography by Carl Smelko, March Artist of the Month at the Presbyterian Church, Yucca Valley

**ART CREATION**  
**OPPORTUNITIES**

The Center for Healthy Generations has canceled its classes and gatherings through April. Watercolor Instruction is likewise on hold.

The Yucca Valley Community Center workshops and gatherings have been canceled through the end of April. Thursday Painting Workshop is likewise on hold.

**ART DISPLAY OPPORTUNITIES**

Most, if not all, display opportunities across the Basin have been cancelled or delayed until further notice due to the COVID-19 health concern. Until information is shared with Chaparral Artists, take the following as an announcement for upcoming or ongoing opportunities that will feature online or future art exhibitions.

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The Hi-Desert Nature Museum's Reduce-Reuse-Recycle art exhibit is moving to the world wide web! Art submissions must be emailed by **April 4, 2020**. Two quality JPEG images of each art entry. Limit of two art entries per artist. A description of the work and the artists information will be required. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your art work that has been inspired by the importance of recycling. For more information regarding submission rules and naming conventions, please visit: [facebook.com/theHDNM/](https://facebook.com/theHDNM/)

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The 2020 Hwy 62 Studio Art Tours registration is open until **April 30**. No late entries will be

allowed, so if you are planning on showing your art and/or your studio, make sure to visit [MBCAC.org](http://MBCAC.org).

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The Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council provides a wonderful array of display opportunities with their Art in Public Places program. To be eligible to display your art at any of their venues across the Basin, you must be a resident of the Basin and be a member of MBCAC. For more information, please visit the MBCAC website at: [mbcac.org/art-in-public-places/](http://mbcac.org/art-in-public-places/)

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Alternative art exhibition opportunities are popping up during this time of isolation. These opportunities are online. If you know of one of these digital exhibits, please share! Chaparral Artists will be happy to look into and post the information on its website for members and interested readers.

**MEMBERS ART ON DISPLAY**

Janis Commentz, Jennifer Grandi, Nancy Miehle, and Raini Armstrong are showing their art at the Hi-Desert Medical Center in Joshua Tree as part of TheARTISTS rotating galleries

managed by the Hi-Desert Cultural Center until April 28. Jennifer's pastels are displayed at the Nurses' Station. Nancy's stained glass is featured in the ER Lobby display case and her oils are in the ER Lobby. Janis Commentz is displaying her Acrylics in the Main Lobby. Each artist has a lovely selection of art in the Desert Breeze Cafe as well! Art can be viewed and purchased online:

[hidesertculturalcenter.org/shop/](http://hidesertculturalcenter.org/shop/)

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If we missed announcing YOUR art show, and this can certainly include the announcement of an online gallery exhibit, please contact us at [chaparralartists@gmail.com](mailto:chaparralartists@gmail.com). And remember, the newest/revised newsletter can always be located on the Chaparral Artists website.

**Chaparral Administrative Assembly**

<b>President</b>	Julianne Koza
<b>Vice President</b>	Patricia Quandel
<b>Secretary</b>	Raini Armstrong
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nancy Miehle
<b>Advertising</b>	Rainbow Stew
<b>Historian</b>	<i>Unfilled position</i>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Raini Armstrong
<b>Hospitality</b>	<i>Unfilled position</i>
<b>Show Committee</b>	Raini Armstrong (Chair), Members of the Board
<b>Sunshine</b>	Julia Terpening
<b>Web</b>	Raini Armstrong & Shirley James

## CALL FOR ART THROUGH DIGITAL SUBMISSION

An intriguing opportunity is coming up in Twentynine Palms—a call for artwork from local artists to be printed on banners. These banners will be on display throughout the city during the summer months and between seasonal events. They will be printed to a size of approximately 29” x 84” and vertically displayed on light poles. Artists will not be compensated for the use of their art, but the public exposure of an artists work is certainly a great alternative compensation. Submission is free, the printing costs will be covered by the city of Twentynine Palms. Only 40 light poles will feature banners, so get your submission in!

If you are interested in submitting your desert inspired art for possible banner use, you must be a resident our lovely desert, and you must submit your entries for review by May 18, 2020. You will email your images and contact information to Vickie Waite at:  
[artinpublicplaces29@gmail.com](mailto:artinpublicplaces29@gmail.com)

Please visit the [Z107.7fm.com](http://Z107.7fm.com) website for more information and alternative submission options.

## DIGITAL EXHIBITIONS TEMPORARY OR NOT?

I think it is safe to say that we will go back to ‘normal’ soon, but for some, *soon* isn’t coming fast enough! I work with all walks of life, and I hear opinions that run the gambit from precautions lasting until the end of summer to precautions being removed slowly starting in May. I cannot offer an opinion myself as I am stuck in the middle somewhere. However, one interesting change is occurring, and that is how artists are being forced to leverage digital methods of entertainment and exhibition. I feel like this is brilliant, though I am biased being a self-proclaimed invert and all!

We are doing our best to navigate the COVID-19 situation, and so far, the online exhibitions popping up around the country is a wonderful way of sharing and hopefully selling art.

I hope that everyone will be on the lookout for these digital exhibition opportunities, for they will provide a lifeline for artists until we can share our work with the public at galleries and festivals once again.

Remember that even when we

are faced with uncertainty and limitation, there will always be that silver lining to reach out for. With the imposed isolation, some are finding time to create, some are even exploding with a newly sparked artistic spirit. We need to make our voices heard, and hopefully we can do so with positivity. Art is the perfect medium to work with during times of confusion. Let’s try to inspire as we are producing our latest artistic statements!

With so many artists already expressing their feelings and their views about the outbreak through their art, I cannot wait to see how Chaparral Artists are reacting through their work!

For those interested in researching the latest digital art exhibit movement spurred on by COVID-19 some should simply jump onto Instagram. Or you can visit: <https://creative-capital.org/> and scroll through the article “Online Arts Events During the COVID-19 Outbreak”.

Chaparral Artists will invite members to share the art that they were able to work on during this outbreak, at the next general meeting, still planned for May 11. If anything changes, we will keep you informed.

**JUDGED FINE ART  
SHOW RESULTS**

The judged Fine Art show was open to all entries, regardless of whether the entrant was a member of Chaparral Artists. 21 entries were received, and the show will be on display until May 13, due to an extension until the health concerns of COVID-19 are lifted. The exhibit can be found in the back room of Rainbow Stew in Yucca Valley. This spring-time Fine Art show was divided into three categories. The judge was Snake Jagger, and the judging results are as follows:



Beautiful Creatures—1st place  
“The Peacock” by Sunshine Laue



Hand of Man—1st place  
“Pioneer Town” by Nancy Miehle

**Nature’s Bounty  
1st, 2nd, 3rd, HM**

“Morning Glow ” by Mary Catherine Fetterly

“Under Water Fantasy ” by Susan Davenport

“Shadow Play ” by Raini Armstrong

“Desert Cactus” by Nancy Miehle

**Beautiful Creatures  
1st, 2nd, 3rd, HM**

“The Peacock” by Sunshine Laue

“Carpenter” by Susan Davenport

“Memories of JT” by Mary Catherine Fetterly

“The Owl” by JoAnn Peterson

**Hand of Man  
1st, 2nd, 3rd, HM**

“Pioneer Town” by Nancy Miehle

“The Glory of Autumn Leaves” by Sunshine Laue

“Summer Perfection” by Raini Armstrong

“My Memories of SaVille” by Sunshine Laue

**BEST OF SHOW**

“Under Water Fantasy ” by Susan Davenport



Best of Show  
“Underwater Fantasy”  
by Susan Davenport



Nature’s Bounty—1st place  
“Morning Glow”  
by Mary Catherine Fetterly

**UPCOMING  
CHAPARRAL SHOW**

The next Chaparral Artists show has been postponed to May—the spring Judged Photography show.

At this point in time, we plan on hanging this show come May 14 & 15, but if anything changes we will inform all members beforehand.

Remember, this show is open to the public, you will not need to be a member of Chaparral to submit your presentation-ready photos! So invite your friends and family to submit some of their photographic art come May! The photography cannot have been shown at one of our judged photo shows before, but we do not require that the work be newly created. Details for the judged photo show can be found on the Chaparral website under Schedule.

## MEMBERS APPRECIATION EVENT

The Members Appreciation event was held on Friday, February 21, at the Center for Healthy Generations.

Chaparral Artists wanted to honor their members by providing a free workshop. Chaparral members were welcomed to invite a guest interested in joining our group. Pizza and ice cream was served.

Chaparral Artists had a wonderful time painting on glass using multi-surface acrylic paints. Inspiration was drawn from a floral arrangement featuring small sunflowers. Multiple photos of the floral arrangement were provided to the attendees to spark inspiration or provide guidelines.

A brief introduction was offered on the glass painting technique. Tips and tricks were provided to the workshop attendees and supplies - paints, glass bowls, glass plates, and brushes were provided. Attendees were introduced to the concept of painting the first layers of an object - the topmost element of a scene - before painting any additional layers. Acrylic paint is affixed on the outside of glass when using this method, not the



inside of glass. The vessel will then remain clean to use for displaying candles or serving snacks.

The process of painting on the outside of the glass can be tricky. Artists must wrap their mind around painting foreground elements before background elements. For many artists, this practice seems backwards to them. For example, dimples on an insect must be painted before the body of the insect is painted. Some of our members equated the process to that of 'negative painting.' Still, there are strange differences from even the difficulties experienced by artists familiar with the negative painting method.

Some members and their friends chose to diverge from the floral arrangement. They painted a variety of scenes - sunsets, feathers and rope, and simple shapes were a few alternate scenes that members came up with.

The gathering was a big success. Many participants shared

that they had fun painting on glass as a surface. They hoped to have a second gathering to continue practicing the technique. Both experienced and self-proclaimed inexperienced artists worked together, sharing their excitement at playing with a medium new to them. As always, everyone brought different expertise to the event and produced beautiful results.

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**WHAT'S NEW...**  
**An article on a non-**  
**Chaparral event**

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Some readers might remember an article shared in the April 2019 issue of the Chaparral Sketch, that shared the results of an ongoing archaeological study of the Rodman Mountains.

Daniel McCarthy was leading the study. His goal was to collect detailed information on any human interaction—new or old at a particular site in the Rodmans. The study included measuring the size of ancient glyphs as well as graffiti, providing hand drawings of the images, taking detailed photos, and mapping the area using GPS.

For Daniel, this project is years in the making. He has so much information to compile and make sense of. He has been

working across the Southwest for most of his career, and as of his last trip in mid-March, he believes he has collected the bulk of information he needed.

Raini Armstrong met with Daniel for the last pass through the tiny canyon of petroglyphs. He was on the last twenty feet of recording, and it took two days to complete. The rest of the time was spent confirming locations for other recorded images or graffiti and cleaning up GPS coordinates.

This four-day adventure was packed with a lot of rock scrambling and information recording. Even if you are unaccustomed to long stints of standing on small boulders, or balancing upon little ledges, you become adjusted very quickly.

As I mentioned back in 2019, the process isn't glamorous. Much of it becomes repetitive, and you realize that the images you are focused upon are the only ones that become important, regardless of the potentially more exciting sites surrounding you. But if you like nature and camping... if you aren't averse to a little rock scrambling and a whole lot of rock-balancing... and most importantly, the concept

of laboriously documenting a relatively small set of features doesn't scare you away, you will find yourself in heaven.

Daniel McCarthy's work has only just begun! Now that he feels good about the extent of the recording efforts, he must compile many years worth of data into a lengthy report. Analyses can be conducted on the imagery, redrawing/sketching of glyphs must be done, and so much data sifting will be needed. New data collection wouldn't be unheard of since he plans on revisiting the site periodically in search of new graffiti and other vandalism. This consistent revisiting provides a historical look at an archaeological location.

I wish Daniel much luck in the coming months and/or years as he compiles the data for this Rodman Mountains location!

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**WHAT'S NEW...**  
**A shout out to a non-**  
**Chaparral event**

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The Center for Healthy Generations is doing its part to continue serving the community, despite the necessary limitations imposed on the public across the world. The Center will hold a blood drive on April 18, 9am to 2pm. Health precautions will be observed. Please join if you can!

EVENTS CALENDAR

Now—April 28

Art by Janis Commentz, Jennifer Grandi, Nancy Miehle, and Raini Armstrong on display at the Hi-Desert Medical Center, 6601 White Feather Rd, Joshua Tree

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April 3

*"Morongo Basin"* themed show

In-take on April 3, 11am-1pm at the 29 Palms Visitor Center, 3484 29 Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms

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April 4

Online submission of art entries for the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle exhibit hosted by the Hi-Desert Nature Museum, information at:

facebook.com/theHDNM/

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April 13

Chaparral Artists Meeting on Monday, 1-3pm at the Center for Healthy Generations, 57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

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May 11

Chaparral Artists Meeting on Monday, 1-3pm at the Center for Healthy Generations, 57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

Art I created during my COVID-19 quarantine

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May 14 & 15

Judged Fine Art show Pickup  
Pick-up Day 1, May 14 at 4:30-6pm  
Pick-up Day 2, May 15 at 12:30-2pm  
at Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley

(Chaparral member names are underlined)

May 14 & 15

Judged Photography show intake  
Drop-off Day 1, May 14 at 4:30-6pm  
Drop-off Day 2, May 15 at 12:30-2pm  
at Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley

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May 18

Call for Banner Artwork for Twentynine Palms Art in Public Places  
entries to be submitted to Vickie Waite  
artinpublicplaces29@gmail.com



Members Appreciation Workshop  
...painting on glass...

