



Chaparral Sketch

February 2022

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

President's Palette

I want to thank Ed Keesling for volunteering to do a drawing demonstration at January's General Meeting. We all have to learn the basics before bringing depth and detail to our works of art.

January was in the heart of winter with its shades of gray. February, on the other hand, trending winter, also transcends the beginning signs of spring. This month is about love, moving out of hibernation, and taking steps toward new growth and awareness. This is a time of reflection, discernment, and moving

forward. When we are not too far ahead of ourselves, we have the time to put things in perspective. We can be creative and search our hearts for the inspiration of life, art, and proposals that lift us out of our hibernation. The past year was such a time for most of us, especially me.

There are many opportunities revealed when the right time comes along. Occasionally, those moments feel odd, especially when you are already dreaming the dream. Maybe an opportunity feels out of place. But not to worry, you can be confident that the perceived obstacles will be removed in due time.

Last year we stepped forward one foot at a time. I am sure you can recall that one special moment... maybe two or three. A heartfelt turn; those moments go by so quickly if we do not pay attention.

Yet we can also be that special moment for another. We each are capable of the gift of giving, serving, and expressing with love. Often through the creation of art, teaching, mentoring, or providing ways for others to express their passion and emotions... we are making memorable moments for others. We share kindness and love through connection with ourselves, each other, nature, humanity, and the animal kingdom. This is how I would express Chaparral Artists and those affiliated. I believe we will grow and do great things for our community. We all share a common bond, the freedom to express and be who we are through the art

we create. As we open new doors and new visions, we will open the heart and expression in others.

Whether the door of opportunity is closed or open as far as *meeting in person*, we will still have other ways to communicate and stay connected!

Kind Regards,
Nancy Kimes

General Meetings

Our *last* meeting marked the first general meeting of the new year and was held on January 10, 2022. We enjoyed the company of 13 members and we were introduced to the basics of sketching and shading by our guest demonstrator, Ed Keesling! Ed supplied everyone with small sketchbooks, courtesy of the 29 Palms Art Gallery along with small wedge pencils. He went over how to sharpen the pencils and how to utilize all edges of the graphite. I personally enjoyed the lesson immensely! For some, the active demonstration served as a reminder, and for others, a moment of reflection and practice. Thank you Ed for a lovely demo!

Our NEXT general meeting will be on February 14 at 1:00 PM. The Center for Healthy Generations asks that masks be worn by all. We will NOT be sharing food, so please bring only your own snacks and drinks. Our guest demonstrator will be Nancy McHenry who works with many mediums, but this time around she will introduce us to alcohol ink on thin metal sheets (soda pop cans!).



Demonstrator: Ed Keesling, graphite drawing



Above - Members at work

Left - Nancy Kimes practicing with provided tools

Board Meetings

Members of Chaparral Artists are invited to attend board meetings. Previous board meeting *minutes* can be requested for viewing by contacting us through email and requesting specific months. Our next Board meeting will be on February 14 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Center for Healthy Generations, right before the General Meeting!

Group Outings

We do not have any scheduled group outings to mention at this time but we hope that members are interested in a whole new year of opportunities! We hope to arrange a trip out to the Calico Ghost Town in the spring, so keep on the lookout for that email or newsletter announcement. And remember to share your ideas with us by contacting an Officer or by emailing us at ChaparralArtists@gmail.com

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit

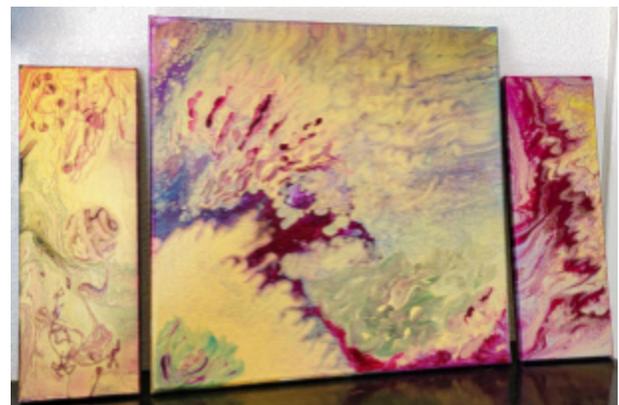
January 2022 featured the theme of a “Black & White” show at Rainbow Stew, in Yucca Valley. This is the second time in recent years that we have presented this limited color palette theme and for a second time I have been pleasantly surprised at the turnout of entries! Our membership has really reacted well to the call for black and white creations in both photographic and painted subjects. We received a total of twenty-three entries from eleven artists. The show will be on display until February 16 - still a little time to catch the show!

If you are interested in an article with greater detail for any shows mentioned in the newsletters, please visit our website to locate the article of interest. These articles have photos of the art that was on display during the show, they mention the titles of the pieces on display along with the creator, and often a general summary of the mood that the show created is provided.

Upcoming Exhibit

Our upcoming February show will feature the theme of “Love” and we welcome our member’s interpretation of what Love means to them. For those interested in what I think might visually represent Love, the usual cuteness will always apply - cuddling creatures, intertwined vines in nature, captures of ‘heart’ shaped objects, and of course, family and found-family embraces. I think the classic imagery is always beautiful. Children at play, animals snuggling, mothers and children, and the still-life captures of bouquets and candy will be eternally perfect. Do you have something in mind that captures the kindness or the beauty of ‘Love’? Share that visual representation with us at Rainbow Stew during intake on Thursday or Friday, February 17 or February 18. The show will be up for a month.

Information about upcoming shows can always be found on the Chaparral Artists website by navigating to Publications, then Exhibits, and locating the show paperwork that you are interested in. Be sure to check in regularly for updates.



Art by Nancy Kimes
on display at Rainbow Stew

Artists of the Month

We are happy to feature Chaparral members at both the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley AND the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. We do not control when these venues open, so calling in advance to a visit is recommended.

Jennifer Grandi is sharing her lovely creations at the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley during the month of January. Her detailed works, both vibrant and soft, are created using the medium of pastel. Jennifer's art will be on display for the month of February.

Raini Armstrong is sharing her watercolors and photography at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley during the month of February.



Art by Jennifer Grandi
on display February at
Desert Hills Presbyterian Church

Chaparral Collage

Love of Art

Author: Nancy Kimes

February is a month devoted to LOVE, hence Valentine's Day! In celebrating birthdays, weddings, and anniversaries we can also revisit Valentine's Day with hearts, candy kisses, flowers, cards, and 'art from the heart.'

There is one real meaning of love that is unconditional. There are many other abstractions that we call love, but they are conditional. I love you because... I love this. I love the sunrise, I love the sunset, etc. We as artists are lovers of the canvas and the camera - still life, landscapes, the desert, animals, etc. When we focus on our artistic pursuits, we permeate the feelings of love which can also be construed as passion.

Love is much broader than the surface conditional aspects. It is more extensive than we innately realize or sometimes accept. Share *your* concept of love and extend it to others through your art.

Occasionally, it is hard to find the perfect words to express love.' Sometimes, through creation and capture, the concept of love in many of its forms can be a little easy to represent. Tap into that expression this month and place it on the wall at Rainbow Stew for all to see!

We hope you bring your art to the show themed 'LOVE.' There is no amount of love that is too great for our world and the world around us.

There is no better time to share care and love with the world than now!

The Kindness of People

Author: Nancy Miehle

Dear Fellow Artists,

This is a short story about the kindness of people every day of the year.

It has nothing to do with art; it has to do with people doing something kind because someone needed help.

Bob and I decided to go to Texas for Christmas to visit my sister, Sharon, and her husband, Duane. Because of all the problems with flying we decided to drive. The visit was great, and we enjoyed our holiday together even more because we had not seen each other for over a year. We had left them on the day after Christmas and started home. We made it to Alpine, Texas. We were so close to Big Bend National Park that it seemed to fit right into our schedule. The next day we planned a day trip to Big Bend. We drove around all morning, checked out all the attractions, and came across a little Chili Peppers restaurant. We had our lunch and were about to leave. We backed up the car, and it made a terrible sound... and that was it. The vehicle did not want to go any further. We broke the primary part that steers the wheels. So there we were - 80 miles from our hotel in the middle of a National Park on a holiday weekend. No rentals of any kind, motels, or cars. No mechanics.

A gentleman named Jay from Indiana on vacation with his 3 kids came from across the street and asked if we needed help. Jay spent most of the rest of the day with us, thinking about the situation, and with the help of two other couples, they arranged a place to sleep for the night at a church. One of the couples brought blankets, one brought pillows, and someone provided an air mattress. Someone brought water and snacks. The next day Jay drove us to Alpine to pick up a U-Haul and tow-dolly. We all went back to Terlingua to pick up our car. The other two couples and 10 more men were waiting to help position our vehicle on the dolly. We could not drive it, so it took a while. After thanking everyone and accepting that no

one would allow us to give them anything for their help, we drove the U-Haul back to Alpine to pick up our clothes and things. We started on the 1200 mile trek with our car in tow the following day.

We have been lucky enough to have never had anything like this happen before. We were even more fortunate to have met such friendly people that went out of their way to help. Thank you, Jay & Katie Rozelle and family, and Guy Roush!

Seeking out the Shape of Love

Author: Raini Armstrong

Most of us have been raised with the generalized notion of LOVE being represented by a very abstracted heart. It isn't a complete mystery that we represent love with the image of a heart, of course, for it is the muscle that beats louder when we are full of joy!

The abstraction of the shape likely began in the times of ancient Greek and Roman society. Around 800 BC, the heart organ was thought to be shaped like a pinecone. The heart morphed in illustration, story, and sculpture from a pinecone to a pear to an eggplant. It seems as though our concept of the heart *shape* we all know began truly solidifying in around 1340 AD with the illustration of a maiden holding up her loved one's heart, titled "The Heart Offering". Whether anyone agrees with the simplification and abstraction of the valentines-day-heart from its tangible counterpart or not, I cannot argue with the joy such simple representations make. I also get a kick out of the challenge some have taken on, to find occurrences of the heart in nature!

For photographers, finding naturally occurring 'hearts' in rocks, plants, or clouds provides a challenge and sometimes an obsession. For a small few, it has even become a profession!

I have tried my hand at seeking out the proverbial shape of love, that cute little heart hidden in naturally occurring textures - lichen, cloud, feather, rock, and water. Have you tried to challenge yourself to seek out this same shape in the ether? If you have, share some of your captures with us at the "Love" themed Member's show on display at Rainbow Stew between February 19 and March 16!



Seeking Hearts, photos by Raini Armstrong

Ongoing Invitation to Share!

Members and friends of Chaparral Artists, we want to share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, and art snapshots in the newsletter. Please share art-related information with us by sending your stories to ChaparralArtists@gmail.com. For anyone that cannot access the internet, call Raini Armstrong at 760-383-3005 to arrange the conveyance of your submission via phone or in person.

Events Calendar

The calendar for the 2022 year can be found in its entirety at our website by navigating to **About Us** and then clicking on the **Schedule** link. There you will find the *General Meetings* listed in one column and the *Gallery Shows* with dates and times listed in another column. You can also download a PDF page with dated information on our main events from the same Schedule page.

February 14

Chaparral Artists General Meeting, 1-3pm
Center for Healthy Generations
57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

February 17 & 18

"Love"

Members-only show

Drop-off Day 1

February 17 at 4:30-6pm

Drop-off Day 2

February 18 at 12:30-2pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

March 14

Chaparral Artists General Meeting, 1-3pm
Center for Healthy Generations
57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

March 17 & 18

"An Abundance of Green"

Members-only show

Drop-off Day 1

March 17 at 4:30-6pm

Drop-off Day 2

March 18 at 12:30-2pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway