Chaparral Sketch

November 2022 Volume XIII, Issue 9

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President's Pallette

Greetings Friends and Artisans,

I hope all are feeling the gratitude that the holiday season is bringing. This is a time to show gratitude, to be forgiving and kind. It is a time of gathering, celebration, and sharing our bounty with family, friends, and those in need. The act of being generous with your time and attention can be a gift to so many. Paying attention to the little things in life often gains the respect and recognition that bring multiple blessings to the giver as well as the receiver. Think about how you can bless someone with an unexpected gift, like a meal, a sweater, or something you created yourself to honor the season. Be a generous giver and the blessings will overflow in your life, not for the purpose of giving but giving what your heart is calling you to give. There is no limit when giving from your heart. Being generous brings out your compassion and being in the right relationship with yourself and others. Thanksgiving is a time to express joy and to be thankful for all of life's treasures and challenges because it keeps you alert, and aware, and allows you to experience the fullness of life. What gifts come to mind that you can share this holiday season?

In Gratitude for You and Chaparral,

Nancy Kimes

Editor's Musings

Autumn in our desert always feels short lived. The cooler temperatures are welcome and the potential for rainfall is much anticipated, yet we do not experience the color change as other regions do. Those autumn yellows, oranges, and reds that so exemplify the feeling of sweater-wearing autumn is much, much subdued in our neck of the woods.

Yet as artists, we can create or hunt down what we feel as our 'perfection' for every season. And that is a marvelous feeling. I was lucky to visit southern Utah this month and it was beautiful. It is still a desert

paradise but the reds and dark browns take over in that part of the state in the form of geological bands. I might not have gotten enough painting accomplished during my travels, but I visited a few excellent sites to capture images that might one day influence a painting or two.

How have you been enjoying our desert autumn? What do you seek out to heighten the notes of color change around you? Have you stolen a weekend or two in order to visit our nearby mountains for that touch of chill? Please share your artistic musings, your creative endeavors, and lend a touch of added inspiration to this newsletter by sending your written pieces to chaparralartists@gmail.com. Thank you!

Kayenta, Utah

Zion National Park, Utah
Photos by Raini Armstrong

General Meetings

Our October meeting was held on the 10th of the month and it was an absolute blast. We had twenty-two (22) members attend the meeting, what a wonderful turnout! We enjoyed the discussion and beautiful photography offered by Carl Smelko. Carl was our demonstrator/presenter. The topic he so wonderfully delivered was on the *absolute basics of photography*. He focused on the three most prevalent elements that must be considered when shooting scenes - aperture, ISO, and shutter speed, leaving off the discussion on light because of the complexity of such a subject. Carl focused on explaining what each of these elements of photography was and provided examples. It was just enough to provide insight to those unfamiliar with these terms and it was interesting enough for the photographers in the room as well! Thank you Carl for providing imagery and examples that succinctly explained what an increase or decrease in either of these three elements do to the resulting photograph. And of course, thank you for sharing a peek into your trip to Africa. I'm sure most of us wanted to teleport ourselves out there immediately after your visual display. I know I did!

Other business conveyed at the October meeting was the announcements of upcoming events held by the local Chamber of Commerce and art galleries in the Morongo Basin. We rely on each other to share news and art opportunities, so I appreciate all of the

insight and suggestions to local festivals and Gallery showings. It was the month of open studio art tours in the Morongo Basin, so several had a chance to mention their studio numbers or those studios they had visited. Thank you all for your participation. Also announced was the decision to donate funds to the venues that have been so supportive over the years to Chaparral. The Presbyterian Church, the Center for Healthy Generations, Rainbow Stew, and the Chambers. We are very fortunate to be able to show work on a monthly basis at these venues, and we hope to support them in return when we can. The door prize of a cloth Chaparral Artists tote bag went to Darla McAlister (note that the door prize in September actually went to Myrtle - but the error wasn't noted and fixed on the newsletter until recently).

Our NEXT general meeting will be in November, Monday the 14th at 1:00 PM. We will NOT be sharing food, so please bring only your own snacks and drinks.

And our LAST meeting of 2022 will be our Holiday gathering on Monday the 12th of December at 1:00 PM where we will hold our much enjoyed pig-n-the-poke, a greeting card contest, and we'll get the opportunity to share updates and stories with each other. Though we do not have a contest for over the top holiday sweaters, feel free to dress up anyway for the meeting!

October Meeting attendees

Board Meetings

Our next Board meeting will be on November 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 group outings scheduled for the remainder of the year, but feel free to make suggestions, recommendations, and requests for outings that you feel are beautiful or artistically engaging.

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit

The October exhibit is on display from October 15 to November 16 and it sports a beautiful selection of art submitted for the Judged Fine Art show. We received enough entries to fill three categories, totaling twenty-three (23) entries from seven (7) artists. The judge for this show was Glenn Grishkoff, an Anaheim based artist who teaches workshops in performance, brush making and ceramics. The following are the judging results:

Beautiful Creatures

1st - "Bright Light Calls" by Raini Armstrong

2nd - "I'm free!" by Joan Scott

3rd - "Mr Owl" by Nancy Miehle

HM - "Bee Busy" by Joyce Nichols

HM - "Solo" by Joyce Nichols

Flowers

1st - "Blossom Fire" by Jennifer Grande

2nd - "La Casa" by Joyce Nichols

3rd - "Breezy" by Joyce Nichols

Nature's Kaleidoscope

1st - "Midnight Jugglers" by Raini Armstrong

2nd - "Blue Water" by Joan Scott

3rd - "By My Side" by Jeni Bate

HM - "Simple Beauty by Raini Armstrong

HM - "Less is More" by Myrtle Cassell

Best of Show

"Midnight Jugglers" by Raini Armstrong

Upcoming Exhibit

In November we will hang the "Same but Different" members-only show. Remember that this one can offer an excellent opportunity to coordinate with other artists, creating a small category of entries like 'birds in flight' or 'shadows and fences'. I think many of us have captured or painted quail, which might create a perfect grouping of entries. Ultimately, this theme allows you to work with other members, challenging them to come up with something new or share something beloved. And you can bring in your own mixed media versions fitting the theme as well!

How about sharing the photo you took that inspired your painting? Did you attend a workshop with other members where you painted the same subject? This is the perfect time to display those beauties together. You are all so talented and you pull from diverse buckets of inspiration and preference - the same subject painted by three different people NEVER look the same ^_^

Intake for the "Same but Different" show will be held at Rainbow Stew on the 17th and 18th of November - a Thursday from 4:30-6pm and a Friday from 12:30-2pm. As always, let's have fun with this! There are no fees for this show, but your membership dues must be current.

Information about upcoming shows should be available 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 and if you notice something missing, reach out to an officer.

Artists of the Month

We 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.

During October and into November we enjoyed a superb display of photography by Robert Rufer at the Center for Healthy Generations. Kathy Miller's photography is now on display and the pieces she is displaying for us certainly carry stories and beauty.

The featured artist at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church during October and into November was Nancy Miehle. Be on the lookout for the beautiful photography by Julianne Koza in November!

If you are interested in sharing your work at these locations, contact Jennifer Grandi for the Presbyterian Church and Raini Armstrong for the Center for Healthy Generations.

Art On Display - Basin and Beyond

That chill is in the air as winter temperatures - at least our amazing subdued version of winter in the desert - take over. Our hi-desert continues to present creative workshops, classes, gallery showings, and outdoor AND indoor art fairs that might be open to participation. Be sure to reach out and check for openings! And if you prefer to attend them as a supporter of art, make note of the upcoming dates.

The exhibitor deadline for the Yucca Valley Art Festival (previously the Gourd Festival) may have passed but the event is right around the corner! Saturday, November 19, 10am-4pm and Sunday, November 20, 10am-2pm, artists will be displaying and selling their beautiful creations. Be sure to continue your holiday shopping by supporting these artists. The festival is held at the Yucca Valley Community Center Complex.

The 29 Art Faire will be held on Saturday, November 26 from 9am-3pm featuring local artists and their amazing creations for sale in perfect time for the holidays, don't miss out!

If you know of an opportunity to show and sell work that we should announce, contact us. Share announcements about YOUR current or upcoming show as well. We want to celebrate one another's accomplishments so please reach out to one of our officers directly or email us at ChaparralArtists@gmail.com.

Chaparral Collage

Orchid Festival 2022

The Orchid Festival was held on October 1st and 2nd this year. Chaparral is so lucky to be a part of this event! Thanks go to Nancy Miehle for maintaining such a wonderful connection with Chris Gubler.

For years now, Chaparral Artists have been able to set up inside where the Orchid classes are held. It allows us the ability to hang a few pieces of member-created art on the walls and provide half-tables to those members wishing to showcase or sell their creations. Members wishing to show their work just need to manage their table and help manage the Chaparral table(s). Our big goal during the Orchid Festival is spreading the word about Chaparral and to hold the raffle that is responsible for funding art supplies for kids-paint events and members art creation events. In fact, the Orchid Festival is our biggest fundraising event during the year! We sell raffle items that are donated by members of the organization and sell special wood sets that were donated to us in the 60s. We also provide painting opportunities for kids and adults alike. For those interested in honing their painting skills, we offer advice while painting along with participants, but often our painting volunteers just have to keep the table tidy and the paint brushes clean!

The Orchid Festival is by far the best environment we have to share our artistic experiences with the public while raising funds for Chaparral. And better yet, the orchids are amazing! There is a lot to do for volunteers and visitors during the festival too. The

event has grown immensely over the years. Non-profits share information about their organizations and food and children's games draw families to the event. I thank everyone who offered their time to Chaparral that weekend. Some volunteers were able to help set up on the Friday before, and spend all day with us during Saturday and Sunday, while others could only offer a few hours. I want to make sure to thank you for whatever time you could provide. The event can be a whirlwind of excitement every year, but there are always lulls of quiet in between. I was excited to see familiar faces and work alongside volunteering members and friends.

I look forward to the event every year, and I hope we continue to attend for many to come! Nancy

Nancy Miehle & Julianne Koza

Patricia Quandel

Miehle deserves extra kudos for creating something lovely as well... this year there was a contest for the best decorated donation can. Those cans sit within the store and outside by the food court. Because of Nancy's eye for color and subject, Chaparral Artists won the prize this year for the bright and beautiful Orchid themed decoration!

Art Creation Workshops

We have so many opportunities to create art here in the Morongo Basin and wonderfully we can choose to find solace with our thoughts by taking advantage of plein air opportunities OR we can seek out group projects and art workshops held around the desert.

If you have Thursday mornings free consider attending the Open Studio Art Workshop held at the Yucca Valley Community Center from 9am-11:30am. Participants bring their own materials, pay a reasonable room fee of $3, and are free to work on whatever they are interested in. Advanced registration is required as space is limited, which can be done through the community center's website - www.yucca-valley.org

If you are a watercolorist or are interested in the medium of watercolor, consider attending Watercolor

Instruction on Friday mornings at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. Classes can follow a workshop format where you work on your own watercolor projects, though subjects will also be offered each month per the syllabus created by the instructor. Participants bring their own watercolor materials and classes are $5 per session. If you have questions about the class, contact Raini directly at 760-383-3005.

Ongoing Invitation to Share!

Members and friends of Chaparral Artists, it is never too late to share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, art snapshots, or art advice that you are following, 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

October 15 - November 16
Judged Fine Art Show on display
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

November 14
Chaparral Artists General Meeting, 1-3pm
Center for Healthy Generations
57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

November 15
DEADLINE to register for a table (if available) at the 29 Palms Art Gallery for their Holiday Market!

November 17
DEADLINE to register for a table at the Christmas Craft Faire held indoors at the Yucca Valley Community Center

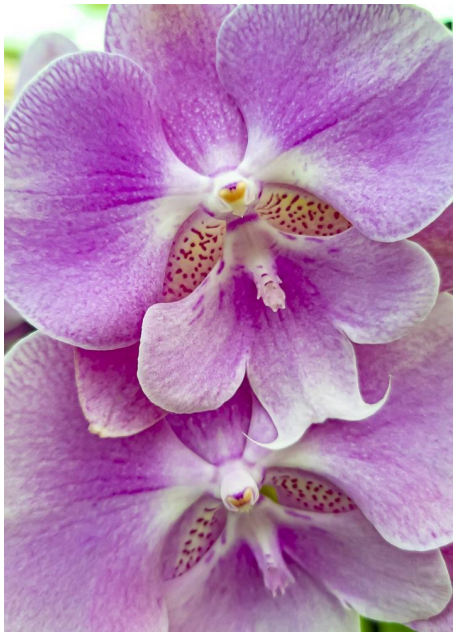
November 17 & 18
"Same but Different" Show
Members only
Drop-off Day 1
November 17 at 4:30-6pm
Drop-off Day 2
November 18 at 12:30-2pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

November 19 & 20
Yucca Valley Art Festival, 10-4pm & 10-2pm
(previously the Gourd Festival)
Yucca Valley Community Center Complex

November 26
29 Palms Artists' Guild Holiday Market, 9am-3pm

December 12
Chaparral Artists General Meeting, 1-3pm
Center for Healthy Generations
57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

December 15 & 16
"Anything Goes" Show
Members only
Drop-off Day 1
December 15 at 4:30-6pm
Drop-off Day 2
December 16 at 12:30-2pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway


Orchid Festival photo by Raini