



# Chaparral Sketch

April 2021

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

## Vice President - An Artist's View

Dear Friends of Chaparral,

We finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. I am very excited about the outings that are being planned for in the coming months. I hope you will seize the opportunity to bring your cameras and easels for an open-air experience in Joshua Tree National Park this month. A blast was sent out to you about the event. We are limited to 15, so do not hesitate to reserve your spot.

There are changes taking place, and I believe these changes will go smoothly. There is so much to look forward to. By the next Board meeting, there

will be a shift or change of positions due to the President's resignation. There will be more regarding that in the next Newsletter. Be rest assured we on the Board are staying on top of these changes. Chaparral has created a strong link that will keep everyone informed and productive.

I hope everyone is staying well through this pandemic and that you are discovering new ways to express your potential and creativity.

I am very thankful to serve on the Board of Directors and have been anxious to nurture the position I was elected to carry out. Now, new opportunities await on the Board, and I look forward to serving Chaparral in whatever capacity I am needed.

I look forward to the result of what this year will bring. Make the best out of your ideas and your creativity.

Nancy Kimes

## General Meetings

Chaparral Artists are not holding general meetings... yet. We are pleased to share that the Center for Healthy Generations is rolling out their reopening of services. They are following a scheduling format with their classes. Limited class size and social distancing will be observed, in and out of the water, and masks will be worn (not in the pool though.) Group events are slowly becoming possible

under similar restrictions. Once everyone feels comfortable with the idea, and after working with the Center, we will share the resulting schedule for our general meetings!

### **Group Outings**

Chaparral Artists is thrilled to announce that the Keys Ranch in Joshua Tree National Park will be our next outing! This day trip is scheduled for April 19, it costs \$25 per attendee and the Eventbrite website must be used to pay for your ticket. We are limited to 15 attendees. This event is sponsored by the Desert Institute. Join us for a special opportunity to photograph and paint at this historic landmark. Explore a bit of heaven in a secluded area in the park catered to facilitate unique experiences.

If you plan to attend, you must meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Visitors Center in Joshua Tree on April 19. We will leave promptly at 8:00 a.m. to make our way into the park.

We are working on future event plans and we need your help - does a second trip into the National Park in August or September interest any of our evening and night photographers? Please contact an officer or email us at [ChaparralArtists@gmail.com](mailto:ChaparralArtists@gmail.com) with your thoughts.

We would also like our photographers to think about a special trip to the Mitchell Caverns again. This particular event will require extensive planning and we will likely need to meet a minimum attendance commitment. This opportunity involves night scape and/or light-painting photography. A special visit to the Mitchell Caverns can be arranged

where the Ranger would turn off the cavern lighting and allow the photographers to light their own subjects. If this sort of opportunity interests you, please drop us an email. We will not know whether such a trip is even possible until restrictions have been lifted for 'indoor' group gatherings, but the opportunity also requires a great deal of coordination, so we are planning early.

### **Current Gallery Display**

The Judged Spring Photography show is on display at Rainbow Stew until April 14. Seven photographers submitted a total of fifteen photos that are available for purchase - Raini Armstrong, Kim Clements, David Clements, Nancy Kimes, Julianne Koza, Joan Scott, and Barbara Wells-Roberts. Our judge was Mitch Miller. The show was judged as a whole - we did not divide the entries into categories because neither category received enough entries to properly fill it. Congratulations to the photographers who placed!

#### ***Honorable Mention***

“Yucca in Fog” by Kim Clements

#### ***Third Place***

“Rhyolite Depot - No Entry” by Julianne Koza

#### ***Second Place***

“Burano, Italy” by Barbara Wells-Roberts

#### ***First Place & Best of Show***

“Mating Present” by David Clements

### **Upcoming Gallery Display**

Our next show will be the [Spring Fine Art Show](#). You do not need to be a member of Chaparral Artists

to enter, so invite your friends and family to submit their art pieces. For more information, visit the website. Remember, we must limit the number of entries and the sizes of an entry, so make sure to read through the show details provided on the paperwork. All art must be original and cannot have been displayed in a previous **judged** show with Chaparral Artists.

For anyone that had photos on display during the Photography show, please be sure to pick up your unsold pieces during intake.

## Future Gallery Displays

The month of May will feature a new theme for our members - [“Abstract”](#). We are very excited to see what you have been working on that fits within this fairly broad category. Remember, the term abstract runs the gambit from hazy, not quite defined subject matter to absolute non-representational creations. We all look forward to having fun with this theme!

The month of June will feature our second [“Anything Goes”](#) members only themed show of 2021. This open theme provides a wonderful opportunity to share any of your beauties with the community and the many visitors of Rainbow Stew.

Information about upcoming shows can always be found on the Chaparral Artists website. Be sure to check in regularly for updates.

## Chaparral Collage

### *Plein Air - more than an outdoor experience*

This might not be news to everyone - Plein air has undoubtedly been around for a while, ever since the

increased portability of paints and canvas. But for me, the experience is relatively new. To paint in-the-moment is both challenging and freeing. You often learn something about yourself and your painting style, and you might just realize that those little insights carry back to the studio!

Challenges come from lugging around your choice of painting and drawing materials. The changing weather threatens a perfect composition that you finally located. You will probably find frustration before the peace of mind you might be searching for, but the reward comes when you are forced to let go of that which you cannot control.

The highly detail-oriented are necessarily forced to loosen their command over color application and brush stroke. Lighting and colors change as the sun travels overhead, and you, in turn, are forced to simplify the world to keep up.

The experience - the frustrations coupled with the simple successes, all affect your studio experience in one way or another. I certainly respect the control I have in the studio. I also find myself reflecting on the calm absolution learned in the field. I cannot, and I should not attempt to perfect everything, even if I am protected from the elements. Even if the photograph I am working from remains unchanging, goading me into replication, I should simply paint from the heart while I sit in comfort.

Personally, I recommend painting outdoors on at least a few occasions. Start small and venture into your backyard. Struggle with the limitations, find ways to work with them, allow your painting process to change in order to accommodate the

uncontrollable. Free yourself a bit. See what happens.  
And have fun!

Sincerely - Raini Armstrong

### *Chaparral Artists on Display*

As the world calms and a few normal activities begin again, we look forward to announcing your accomplishments and your upcoming art displays.

There are so many amazing art galleries in the area and knowing that a fellow Chaparral member is sharing their creations at one of them is exciting.

Jennifer Grandi, an artist with a beautiful talent with pastels, will be a featured artist in May at the 29 Palms Art Gallery. Her pastel creations are detailed yet soft and her mixed media pieces have provided a certain whimsy to items straight out of nature. It will be a treat to experience her work at the gallery.

Please share any upcoming shows that YOU will be displaying at, Chaparral Artists, and we will announce it in the next newsletter!

## Events Calendar

### **NOW - April 14**

Judged Photography display  
Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **April 15 & 16**

Judged Fine Art show  
Open to the public  
*Drop-off Day 1*  
[April 15 at 4:30-6pm](#)  
*Drop-off Day 2*  
[April 16 at 12:30-2pm](#)

Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **April 17 - May 12**

Judged Fine Art display  
Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **May 13 & 14**

“Abstract” members only themed show  
*Drop-off Day 1*  
[May 13 at 4:30-6pm](#)  
*Drop-off Day 2*  
[May 14 at 12:30-2pm](#)  
Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **May 15 - June 16**

“Abstract” members only themed show  
Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **June 17 & 18**

“Anything Goes” members only themed show  
*Drop-off Day 1*  
[June 17 at 4:30-6pm](#)  
*Drop-off Day 2*  
[June 18 at 12:30-2pm](#)  
Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **June 19 - July 14**

“Anything Goes” members only themed show  
Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **July 15 & 16**

“Mixed Media” members only themed show  
*Drop-off Day 1*  
[July 15 at 4:30-6pm](#)  
*Drop-off Day 2*  
[July 16 at 12:30-2pm](#)  
Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **July 17 - August 11**

“Mixed Media” members only themed show  
Rainbow Stew - 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway