



# Chaparral Sketch

May 2023

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## General Meetings

Our April meeting was held on the 10th of the month at the Center for Healthy Generations. There were thirteen (13) in attendance. Organization announcements were made, member announcements were shared, and Jennifer Grandi & Victoria Sebanz shared their experience with an acrylic workshop focused on spirit animals.

The presentation was excellent and both Jennifer and Victoria brought in their creations from the workshop! The paintings offered strong color, bold lines, and an interesting process of beginning with abstract strokes that would eventually transition into defined animals. Wow. From the results and the shared stories, it sounds like the workshop was fun.

Our NEXT meeting will be on May 8 starting at 1pm, held at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. In addition to the organization and member announcements We'll receive insights on marketing strategies and maybe even some enjoyable, uncomplicated business approaches for our art ventures, which can ignite inspiration that is aligned with our individual aspirations as artists.

## Board Meetings

Our next Board meeting will be on May 8 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Center for Healthy Generations, right before the General Meeting! Remember that members are invited to join these meetings.

## Group Outing - Aerial Tramway

Chaparral Artists are going to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway on Tuesday, May 23. Caravan or carpool opportunities exist. We will depart from Jack in the Box, Yucca Valley at 9 am, so please reach out to make arrangements.

The Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, which boasts the largest rotating tram car in the world, takes passengers on a stunning two-and-a-half-mile ride along the breathtaking cliffs of Chino Canyon. This impressive feat of engineering transports visitors to the pristine wilderness of the Mt. San Jacinto State

Park. During the approximately ten-minute ascent, the tram cars slowly rotate, offering magnificent views of the valley floor below. Upon reaching the Mountain Station at an elevation of 8,516 feet, guests can indulge in the many amenities available, including two restaurants, observation decks, a natural history museum, two documentary theaters, a gift shop, and over 50 miles of hiking trails.

Temperature differences could be drastic between the valley and mountain top, so dress in layers, bring water & snacks, good shoes, hats, etc.

We hope to plan more and more field trips that might inspire our members to collect imagery for their next art project, provide scenic locations for plein air painting, or a pleasant gathering hub for lunch and conversation. These group trips often inspire our members to plan additional outings to revisit a site or find new ones once they have connected with like-minded art & culture searchers. So, we are always looking for events and locations we can share together. Please share your recommendations and requests for trips you would like to see us plan as a group by contacting us at [ChaparralArtists@gmail.com](mailto:ChaparralArtists@gmail.com)

## Gallery Displays

### *Previous Exhibit - Judged Art*

The April exhibit of Art was on display from April 13th to May 10th. This was a judged show, open to public entry. We received a total of sixteen (16) entries from nine (9) creators. Our judge was Ana Stump, a 29 Palms artist, arts educator, performance artist, and curator.

The show was judged as a whole, one category recognized. Congratulations to the creators that placed!

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1st - Nancy Kimes, "Art in the Park"

2nd - Noreen Lawlor, "Big Wind"

3rd - Jennifer Grandi, "Enjoying the Waves"

Honorable - Chip Vazquez, "Untitled"

Prez Award - Raini Armstrong, "Layered Springtime"

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### ***BEST OF SHOW***

Nancy Miehle, "Pots"

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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 - Black & White***

Our members' exhibition in May will be centered around the theme of "Black & White", and we encourage you to participate by showcasing your own black and white creations. These exhibitions are free for our members, and this particular theme is a classic one that highlights certain aspects of a piece of art by strictly limiting the color palette! With many black and white creations, there is an emphasis on the subject, emotion, and dramatic intent of the finished product.

The Black & White theme can be particularly challenging for those who are new to such a limited palette concept! For many artists, regardless of their chosen medium, color plays a significant role in the story they are trying to tell through their work. Removing such a broad range of colors from the equation can be a difficult or liberating experience. Which is it for you? Share your experience of creating with the limited black and white palette at our May exhibition, "Black & White".

All two-dimensional mediums are welcome in these themed shows.

Intake for the Black & White exhibit will be held at Rainbow Stew on the 11th and 12th of May - a Thursday from 4:30-6pm and a Friday from 12:30-2pm. No intake fees. As always, let's have fun!

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 to notify us of the absence.

## **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.

The featured artist at the Center for Healthy Generations in May is Joan Scott. She is presenting

creations highlighting merely some of her talents in mixed media, acrylics and pastel.

The featured artists at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church during May are Myrtle Cassell and Jennifer Grandi. Myrtle is sharing a selection of watercolors while Jennifer is sharing three lovely pastel creations.

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 Exhibits - Basin and Beyond**

In May, Jennifer Grandi is exhibiting her artwork at the Glass Outhouse Art Gallery, a one-of-a-kind venue that exudes artistic inspiration both within its walls and in its surrounding environment. With numerous talented artists displaying their creations, it's definitely worth visiting the gallery. The reception was held on May 6th from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., offering vibrant creations in each room. Jennifer is offering beautiful prints AND originals.

Victoria Sebanz and Jennifer Grandi have art on display at the Hi-Desert nature Museum until May 27th for the Metamorphosis: A recycled art exhibition show. The exhibit as a whole is truly remarkable and serves as a great source of inspiration. It highlights the idea that art is omnipresent and can be created using recycled materials, thereby promoting the efficient use of resources and paving the way for a sustainable future.

Several Chaparral members shared interest in showing one or two creations at the upcoming "Put a Joshua Tree On It" exhibit displayed at the Space

Truckin Gallery in Yucca Valley (near Triangle Park). Watch for an announcement to the opening reception AND which members were able to get their art displayed.

Nancy Kimes and Nancy Miehle's exquisite artworks still dazzle visitors at Rainbow Stew, where they showcase their pieces in the Invited Artists Room. Be sure to stop by, maybe you will find the perfect gift for a loved one in glass, oil, or acrylic!

Did I miss YOUR exhibit? Please contact us at [ChaparralArtists@gmail.com](mailto:ChaparralArtists@gmail.com) The announcement will be placed in a few issues of the Sketch. Inform us of upcoming exhibit opportunities as well!

## **Chaparral Collage**

### ***Creative Workshops***

We have so many opportunities to create art here in the Morongo Basin from finding solace with our thoughts and taking advantage of plein air and writing opportunities OR seeking out group projects, creative workshops, photography excursions, and writers groups.

**Mil-Tree Writers Group** meets Monday evenings, online via Zoom, 7-9pm. This writing group welcomes individuals of all writing levels and fosters a relaxed and friendly environment. The primary expectation is that members are open to providing feedback on their peers' writing, but all are encouraged to share their own written work as well. Interested in joining? Contact [info@mil-tree.org](mailto:info@mil-tree.org) and ask questions OR sign up.

**Open Studio Art Workshops** are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center every Thursday

morning, 9-11:30am. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$3, and are free to work on whatever they are interested in.

**Watercolor Workshops** are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center every Thursday afternoon, 1-3pm. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$5, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor.

**Watercolor Workshops** are offered at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley every Friday morning, 9-11am. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$7, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor.

### ***Guild or Not?***

The question was raised about whether Chaparral Artists was a Guild, which made me ponder. At the time I hesitated to allow the term because I thought it came with certain expectations that I couldn't define at that point in time. We certainly refer to ourselves as an art organization, and it's worth noting that a Guild is essentially an organization of individuals who share common interests... and please take my opinion with a grain of salt, because I think it is fair to use the broadest definition of a guild for your group, if it fits!

Over time, the definition of Guild has undergone some slight changes, but many still hold onto the traditional meaning. According to Britannica, a Guild is a group of craftsmen or merchants who form an association to aid and protect each other and advance their professional interests. Throughout history, Guilds have been responsible for establishing and maintaining standards of quality for goods and ethical

trading practices in various industries, resulting in stable prices for goods and services.

In my opinion, Chaparral Artists does not conform to the *detailed* notion of a Guild, as we don't strive to establish standardized processes. Rather, our aim is to cultivate and nurture creativity, self-expression, experimentation, and even the simple enjoyment of making art. We certainly support those who have business aspirations and want to see them flourish. Our group is made up of a diverse range of artists from the desert region, some of whom create to alleviate stress or to share a moment with loved ones, while others seek a supportive community and guidance on how to develop their artistic businesses. We hope that our organization plays a positive role in your creative journey in some way.

This is how I perceive that our organization diverges from the conventional notion of a Guild. While we do share the goal of advancing the professional interests of our members, if they seek assistance or advice, our main focus is on providing a supportive environment for artistic expression.

Please, always share your thoughts on how we can better serve you in this organization!

### ***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 have learned or devised along the way. Your voice belongs in this newsletter!

Please share art-related information by sending your thoughts to [ChaparralArtists@gmail.com](mailto: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**

### **May 6 - 26**

Jennifer Grandi & more exhibiting  
Glass Outhouse Art Gallery  
77575 29 Palms Highway, Twentynine Palms

### **May 8**

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

### **May 11 & 12**

Black & White Show

Members Only

*Drop-off Day 1*

May 11 at 4:30-6pm

*Drop-off Day 2*

May 12 at 12:30-2pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

### **May 13**

"Put a Joshua Tree On It" exhibit  
*Drop-off Deadline at the Space Truckin Gallery*  
*Gallery is open Fridays/Saturdays/Mondays from*  
*1-5pm*

55940 29 Palms Hwy, #2, Yucca Valley

909-519-1729 or @spacetruckingallery

YOU MUST **RSVP** TO CHECK ON AVAILABLE SPACE

### **May 23**

Group trip to the Aerial Tramway  
1 Tramway Rd, Palm Springs  
Carpool or Caravan from Jack in the Box, Yucca Valley  
at 9am!