



Chaparral Sketch

August 2023

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Editor's Greeting

I hope that everyone is still enjoying their summer escapades, projects, travel and art retreats! I definitely took advantage of Chaparral's summer break to gather my thoughts, but coordinating the newsletter is its own kind of fun. I truly missed the opportunities that the monthly newsletter provides - for me as a hobbyist writer - and I always enjoy announcing events and sharing articles/stories from YOU.

I am treating this late summer issue as a warm-up to the fall, where I look forward to sharing plenty of creative information to our readers in September. Hopefully you all help me in that endeavor!

It has been an active few months and we are busy planning for the fall. I hope you all will join me in adding to the September issue by submitting any project updates you are in the middle of, announcements for shows or contests you plan on participating in, or stories you want to share.

General Meetings

Our general meetings are typically held at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. I will make note of where special meetings are held if they differ from our usual location!

The May general meeting was held on the 8th of the month. There were thirteen (13) in attendance. Organization announcements were made, member

At a Glance Chaparral Reminders

Abstract Members Show Intake

Rainbow Stew

Thursday, August 17th, 4:30-6pm

Friday, August 18th, 12:30-2:30pm

General Meeting

Center for Healthy Generations

Monday, September 11th at 1pm

Calendar Call-for-Art

Online

Submit a hi-quality photo of your favorite creation by September 1st to be included in the 2024 Chaparral Calendar. It will feature a selection of 13 member artworks.

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!

The June general meeting was held on the 12th of the month and was the last planned general meeting before summer break. Fourteen (14) attended the gathering and we flew through organization and member announcements that included a cooperative hi-desert gallery in formation, a shout-out to the Artists Center at The Galen in Palm Desert where Paul Ivanushka was showing his creations. We were then treated to a wonderful presentation/discussion on Composition by Krista Wargo. Krista taught for twenty-seven (27) years, now retired, and enjoys plein air painting. She is dedicated to her creative time and offered wonderful insight to a variety of composition principles, providing handouts while highlighting the importance of Structure, Hierarchy of Size and Focal Points.

A special meeting was held on the 1st of August at the Center for Healthy Generations to get us on the

right track for the rest of the year. We discussed when we could gather as members and create saleable small items in preparation for our biggest fundraiser of the year - the Orchid Festival - and our Vice President, Myrtle Cassell put in perspective the accomplishments to date for Chaparral as an organization. It was a fun meeting attended by nine enthusiastic creators. Save the Meow Meows - a brand new cat lounge in Yucca Valley plans on holding an art show to raise money for their rescue attempts. More information will be provided as soon as we receive more information! Location hours might fluctuate as they settle in, so call ahead and look them up on the internet. The address is - 56925 suite B Yucca Trail, near Copy Center Plus! Members shared online locations they use when printing photos or merchandise.

The call for mural 'concept' art we are working on as an organization is still going on, but the location we were planning to work with - Center for Healthy Generations - is interested in coordinating an OPEN call for art designs/plans and will take over the management of this call for art. We hope that Chaparral Artist members will continue thinking on a mural design that they would love to see on the east facing wall of Healthy Generations and we urge you to continue designing/imagining/and putting on paper those concepts to submit come the fall! The unofficial plan at this moment is to work toward a painting date of January. More information will be provided as Healthy Generations share their intentions.

The 2024 Chaparral Calendar is in the works as we continue to accept entries until September 1, 2023.

We look forward to a photography demo/discussion during one of our general meetings soon, a creation-centric meeting where attendees will play/learn/create/dabble/paint *during* the September meeting, and we can discuss coordinating meet and greet opportunities where members can share their artistic style with visitors while enjoying light snacks and beverages. More information on this *Progressive Art Mixers* concept as we all get a chance to discuss and plan with all of you. We really hope to increase the number of member/friends mixers that Chaparral can provide by coordinating with restaurants, community centers, and member's studios - for those that are interested in sharing/showing off their creative space with visitors.

We also hope to bring back receptions for our monthly shows at Rainbow Stew. Dates/times are being discussed as we hope to coordinate it with a resurgence of Third Saturday events in Old Town Yucca Valley. More information will be shared as we know more!

As you can tell, we discussed quite a bit during this Special Meeting held in August. We hope you are interested in seeing us push these ideas into action!

Our NEXT meeting will be on September 11 starting at 1pm, held at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. In addition to the organization and member announcements we will have tables set up for creative endeavors - painting on the Yucca wood that was donated to Chaparral long ago - folded paper and permanent markers for zentangle creations or watercolor greeting cards -

AND if you know of a simple and fun project that can be created over two hours share the idea with us, it just might become something we can create during the September meeting!

This hands-on meeting is in preparation for the Orchid Festival in October. Member created donations are one of many saleable OR won objects during our fundraising events and the event and we offer small handmade creations during the

Board Meetings

Our next Board meeting will be on June 12 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.



Photo-op from the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

Group Outing - May Recap

Chaparral Artists went to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway on Tuesday, May 23. We had nine take the trip up to the top of the tramway. The temperature difference from the desert floor to the mountaintop

was around 30 degrees, only getting to 58 degrees up on the mountain! A refreshing, and chilly reality. We took advantage of the group photo opportunity before splitting up into smaller adventuring parties. Some chose to hike out to the hidden lake and other beautiful overlooks, while others enjoyed the amenities and restaurants and views surrounding the visitors center.

The June field trip promised an outing to Big Bear - another excursion to a cooler environment where we would visit the Alpine Zoo. Unfortunately, the road was blocked by some unknown impediment - seemingly a truck. We waited for a time, hoping the road closure would clear, and finally decided to give up on the outing and return another day, weather permitting.

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

Gallery Displays

May Exhibit - Black & White

The May exhibit at Rainbow Stew was on display from May 13th to June 14th. This member's show received a total of twenty two (22) entries from twelve (12) creators. This was the second time we've featured the theme of Black & White and we enjoyed a greater variety of creations, mediums, and number of participants. Working with the limited palette of black & white is often avoided or simply forgotten as an option when sitting down to create. For many creators, regardless of their chosen medium, color plays a significant role in the story they are conveying through their work. Removing the broad range of colors available to us can be a difficult or liberating experience. Yet the interesting aspect highlighted when removing most color is the sudden importance placed upon contrast, stroke, and placement of objects to convey an emotion. That is what we see during exhibits dedicated to black & white medium uses.

For 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.

June Exhibit - Collage & Mixed Media

The June exhibit at Rainbow Stew featured collage and mixed media creations and was on display from June 17th to July 12th. This member's show received a total of nineteen (19) entries from ten

(10) creators. The theme encouraged the showcasing of creative texture uses, a mix of mediums, and the coordination of recycled materials. We enjoyed creations where unrelated objects were merged together in symmetry and emotion and the mixing of different mediums - photography, ink, acrylic, oil, watercolor, pastel, and more reminds us of textures and effects that can be included in any creation if/when we are willing to merge the strengths of multiple mediums together.

July Exhibit - Vivid & Bold

The July exhibit at Rainbow Stew featured vivid and bold creations and was on display from July 15th to August 16th. This member's show received a total of twenty seven (27) entries from eleven (11) creators. This show was beautifully represented by dramatic and bright color use and bold stroke. I was so pleased to see all the amazing creations fit together on the walls of Rainbow Stew! The show is on display for a few more days, and if you haven't gotten a chance to see it, make sure to visit the gift shop.



UPCOMING Exhibit - "Abstract" (August)

August is dedicated to Abstract creations. A detachment from reality. How much of a detachment is up to you! Abstract art can be a mild or drastic simplification of that which you are representing.

Often it is a concept or thought that is being put down on paper, already without a physical form. What is abstract art to you, and what will you submit during the members only Abstract show in August?

Intake for the Abstract exhibit will be held at Rainbow Stew on the 17th and 18th of August - 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 June was Nancy Miehle. She works in oils, watercolors, glass, and mixed media.

The featured artist at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church during June was also Nancy Miehle. She shared a collection of portraits, the cutest set of animal paintings and many scenes depicting flowers and our amazing desert.

Starting in July at both Healthy Generations AND the Presbyterian Church we are displaying Summer Exhibits of many participating members.

The featured summer exhibit at the Center for Healthy Generations is on display until September 22nd.

The featured summer exhibit at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church is on display until August 29th.

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.

On Display - Basin and Beyond

Nancy Kimes and Nancy Miehle's exquisite artworks still dazzle visitors at Rainbow Stew, where they showcase their pieces in the Invited Artists Room - back of the shop. 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? Are you displaying creations at any of the local art galleries? We have so many creative gift shops, exhibit spaces and offices that feature art so please share these amazing accomplishments with us so we know to visit. Please contact us at ChaparralArtists@gmail.com The announcement will be placed in issues of the Sketch. Inform us of upcoming exhibit opportunities as well!

Chaparral Collage

Color, Color, Everywhere

Written by Raini Armstrong

I do not typically lean into real-life colors when I paint. I make excuses for why I do this that occasionally fit with the realities that painters face. In the end, I enjoy color and lots of it. When faced with

creating realistic paintings or splashing any scene with the bright blues, purples, and oranges I want to include, I would just as soon let my imagination run wild! With that said, however, I will share a few of the eccentricities faced when using the medium of watercolor that sometimes support my choice of using straight-from-the-tube colors:

1 - Color Fade

2 - The Spirit of the scene

3 - Representing reflected/refracted color

Pigments are created from any number of natural and derived materials. Some of the most brilliant, long-lasting pigments used in the past were, in some fashion, highly toxic. This toxicity was a byproduct of the materials or processes used to create them. We have done our best to steer clear of such toxic pigments. Unfortunately, the tradeoff was sometimes challenging to give up - color longevity. The replacement hues for some of these classic pigments are often mere proximities that do not often hold the same vivid quality, while other mixtures are fleeting. Opera pink is often a perfect example of a fleeting color that is bold and full of light when used straight from the tube... for a time. If and when I use it, I apply a generous amount, and I allow ample time to soak deeply into the paper. The hope is that it at least soaks in through the fibers of the material, settling deep enough that the ambient light touching the finished painting will not be able to so quickly fade from the scene. Ample pigment, pure pigment, and the hope that it lasts a few more years if protected from direct light.

The spirit of your peace, of you, is one of the most important aspects of a painting. The piece itself will be lovely, and the quality of the paint, the decisions made in composition and subject matter, and the number of exciting objects play significant roles in the success of a painting. Still, as the painter, the added emotion YOU add to a scene makes it unique and desirous. Artists develop a style, and often, that style includes the pigments they choose to utilize in their work. There are moments when you visit a gallery, and by noting the colors and technique used, you know precisely who painted the scene. Including abnormal pigments and bold strokes convey a spirit unique to the artist. For me, adding pure, unexpected color to my works conveys the emotion I felt as I experienced some moment in time.

Finally, adding color into a scene that didn't initially contain that color... But didn't it? So, this is clearly subjective, as are most of my points. However, representing a color that doesn't obviously make it into a scene can result in magic. I am pulling from reality by considering a subject's reflected and refracted light and color. Attractive colors pop out in the shadows and the highlights of many subjects. We can thank the reflected light cast off by neighboring rocks or walls hitting the sand below your subject, the subtle lichen blossoming across a surface, or that cast shadow as it appears on the ground through so many leafy greens. There are many reasons why quirky colors sneak into a scene, and they all add to my excuse for including splashes of vivid color everywhere.



Cyanotype Experience

Diana Shay Diehl of Mojave Light Studio treated Chaparral Artist participants to an introductory workshop on Cyanotype alternative photography.

As a hobbyist photographer and a watercolorist, I was very interested in this art form. Diana has a wealth of knowledge and has had fun with this creative method.

As participants, we were urged to bring items we wanted to create our scenes with - transparent to opaque objects, things with crisp and interesting edges. I was excited, and I brought a lot of natural and manufactured items like buttons, strings of beads, shells, thinly cut geodes, ribbons, and of course, feathers from molting Ravens, quail, and chickens. We were introduced to the entire process, from coating our own paper to exposing a scene using the sun, completing development by rinsing and air-drying our creations.

Cyanotype has been around since the 1800s. A photo-sensitive chemical solution is mixed, applied to a porous material like paper, and allowed to dry thoroughly. The dry solution reacts immediately to light, growing dark; objects that block the light can be placed on the coated paper, leaving the solution relatively untouched - and that is the exposure

process. The development of the image requires water to wash away the solution thoroughly from the paper. The blue areas eventually darken to a brilliant blue over several days, but Diana shared a way to speed things up.

The process was more than I had hoped for. I plan to invest in a small amount of the materials, hoping to merge my watercolor and photographic passions.

Thank you, Diana, for providing such a special visit and introductory workshop on solar printing, alternative photography, and cyanotype creations!

Calls-For-Art

Chaparral Calendar Call for Art!

Topic: "Favorite Creation"

Printing format: 11" x 8.5" (horizontal)

Styles accepted: painting, sculpture, photography, digital art, illustration, etc. As long as you can take a quality photo of your creation, we should be able to turn it into a calendar page.

Submission requirements: Send your entry (just one) as .jpg with a resolution of 300 dpi, aspect ratio of 4:3, horizontal format, and dimensions of 2400px wide by 1800px high, to chaparralartists@gmail.com with a subject line "Chaparral Calendar". Please include Creator's Name and Submission title.

Please note: A year has 12 months, we can select 12 works from all the submissions plus a cover image, making 13 images needed in total.

If you have already submitted your entries, thank you! If you want to submit something but do not have the means to do so (camera, email, etc) we can help -



please call Raini at 760-383-3005 to arrange a quick visit.

5th Annual Art Contest - Call for Art

The California Welcome Center - Yucca Valley deadline to submit entries digitally OR in person by 5pm, August 31, 2023 for the 5th annual Art Contest & Showcase. Winners of the contest will be showcased for five months at the Welcome Center and automatically become consignors in the shop.

More information can be found at their website www.californiawelcomecenter.com or by calling 760-365-5464.

11th Annual JTNP Art Expo - Call for Art

The Joshua Tree National Park's juried exposition of "art depicting or inspired by the natural aspects of Joshua Tree National Park OR its cultural history is closely approaching. The deadline to enter the contest is September 1st, 2023. This is a big event that includes a weekend art show, a free art exhibit catalog featuring the juried artists and submissions, and an awards ceremony and reception. Fees apply to submissions.

More information can be found online at www.jtnp.org/jtnp-art-exposition

Creative Opportunities

World Cyanotype Day - Inheritance Theme

This is an Alternative Photography event held around the world to celebrate solar printing and there is an event held on September 30 from 10am-2:30pm right in Yucca Valley. Make your way over to the Space Truckin' Gallery in Old Town Yucca Valley where Diana Shay Diehl is hosting and conducting a public event for participants interested in making their own cyanotype print in the style of Anna Atkins. Pre-registration and ticket purchase recommended! Tickets cost \$10 which buys you 2 pre-prepared 5x7 sheets of paper ready for cyanotype processing. On the day walk-ups only get 1 sheet of paper for \$10. Half of the proceeds from this event will go to the Joshua Tree Residential Educational Experience organization (JTREE).

More information and a link to ticket purchase can be found at www.dianashaydiehl.com under current events.

Workshops and Paint-outs

We have 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 and ask questions OR signup.

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.

Plein Air meetups are coordinated by Krista Wargo around the desert most months and are announced on the Chaparral calendar when we hear of them. Attendees bring their own materials, prepare for any weather changes, and bring plenty of food and water for their adventure in painting on site in the wild. Krista chooses locations that have basic amenities, such as restrooms, but otherwise you must pack in and pack out anything you need to create with. Please contact Krista directly to share your attendance intention, so that she knows to expect you. The following dates are on the calendar for August,

plan on early arrivals at these locations and a short visit of 1-3 hours to avoid the hottest part of the day:

Tuesday, August 22nd - Ryan Mountain Trailhead

Wednesday, August 30th - Cap Rock

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. 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

August 17 & 18

Abstract

Members Only

Drop-off Day 1

[August 17 at 4:30-6pm](#)

Drop-off Day 2

[August 18 at 12:30-2pm](#)

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

August 29

Summer Members Show pickup at Presbyterian Church

Pick-up Day

[August 29 \(Tuesday\) at 11:00am](#)

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church

56750 Mountain View Trail, Yucca Valley

August 31

Deadline to submit entries

California Welcome Center & Online

5th annual art contest

September 1

Deadline to submit entries

Joshua Tree National Park Online

11th annual art contest

September 1

Deadline to submit entries

Chaparral Artists Email

13 entries to be chosen from submissions to fill a 2024 Chaparral Artists calendar

September 11

Organization Meetings

Board Meeting

[September 11 at 11:30-12:30pm](#)

General Meeting & Creation Day!

[September 11 at 1-3pm](#)

Center for Healthy Generations

57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

September 22

Summer Members Show at Healthy Generations

Pick-up Day

[September 22 \(Friday\) at 11am](#)

Center for Healthy Generations

57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

September 30

World Cyanotype Day

Alternative Photography event held around the world to celebrate solar printing, 10am-2:30pm

Local event held at the Space Truckin' Gallery in Old Town Yucca Valley

55940 29 Palms Hwy #2