



Chaparral Sketch

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General Meetings

The November meeting was held on the 13th and we had fourteen (14) people attend. Some organization updates were shared along with announcements and member introductions and an evening meeting day/time suggestions list was passed around. We hope to begin offering quarterly evening or weekend meetings for any of our members who cannot attend the regularly scheduled Monday afternoon meetings. L Hilary Slotta then provided an insightful look at working with alcohol ink. This is an amazing medium with exceptionally vivid color. She shared important quirks to be wary of, the importance of protecting one's skin during the working process and provided examples of her creations. Every medium in the art world should be respected and carefully used, and alcohol ink is certainly up there with the best of them as it can easily stain skin and

clothing and can be dangerous when directly inhaled. Well ventilated rooms, or outdoor creative spaces are highly encouraged.

Our NEXT meeting will be on December 11 - the regular place and time - every second Monday at 1:00 PM held at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. In this LAST meeting of the year we hold our Holiday Party. Invite some friends and or family who are curious and/or interested in what Chaparral Artists is! We will provide a light lunch to attendees, more information provided in the next section...

Our Holiday Gathering

As the holiday season approaches, we're thrilled to invite you to the Chaparral Artists Holiday Meeting on December 11th at 1pm. This special gathering will take place at the Center for Healthy Generations, and we can't wait to celebrate the joy of the season with our wonderful community of artists.

The agenda for the day includes a brief organization update to keep everyone in the loop about our exciting developments. Following that, we'll dive into the heart of the festivities with a fun and creative twist – a greeting card and handmade ornament contest! We encourage you to showcase your artistic talents by bringing a greeting card and a handmade ornament to enter the friendly competition.

The real prize? The sheer delight of witnessing the creativity and ingenuity displayed by our talented community.

But that's not all! To add an extra element of excitement to our holiday gathering, we're hosting a pig-in-the-poke auction. We invite you to contribute a small gift, no more than \$10 in value, for the auction. Whether it's something fun, forgotten, or soon to be loved, your contribution will make the event even more memorable. The auction winners will open these delightful surprises during our holiday event, creating moments of joy and laughter for all.

So, mark your calendar for December 11th, gather your creative treasures, and join us for an afternoon of festive fun with fellow Chaparral Artists. We look forward to seeing you there!

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings are held on the same day as our general meetings to keep things simple. Our next Board meeting will be on December 11 at 11:30 AM, also held at the Center for Healthy Generations. Remember that members are invited to join these meetings.

Group Outings

Chaparral Artists traveled to Cabot's Pueblo Museum in Desert Hot Springs on Wednesday, November 15th. We met at Jack in the Box in Yucca Valley and from there we ventured into Desert Hot Springs. We had a really enjoyable time exploring the grounds without committing to a tour inside. The tour is definitely worth the money, however, we were

enamored by the architecture, natural and manmade decorative goodies scattered around the grounds, and the wonderfully fresh air. We spent most of our time chatting about upcoming Chaparral events, and simply enjoying each other's company. We grabbed lunch at Delicias Mexican Cuisine Restaurant and as always, the food there was delicious!

The weather was moody and pleasant and it provided soft light and the perfect amount of chill before a few sprinkles of rain fell from the heavens. Cabot's Pueblo is a delight to visit and the history - if one chooses to take part in the tours - paints a colorful picture of the lower desert and the visitor of the time.

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

Previous Exhibit - "Same but Different"

November was dedicated to the much anticipated Same but Different show. The exhibition ran from November 18 to December 13. We received submissions from nine (9) members, totaling

twenty-four (24) entries, resulting in a diverse yet cohesive collection of "same but different" creations.

We are always thrilled with this particular theme as it offers an opportunity for workshop attendees to showcase their paintings in the same exhibit. It offers a space for coordinating creators to share mini-themes like we had with the Zebras grouping. It provides creators with the ability to challenge themselves to come up with a way to represent the theme with a *single* entry such as a bird reflected in water or a cat sitting against a mirror. Over the years we have witnessed so many interesting takes on this particular theme and we hope to continue the tradition for many years to come!

Next Exhibit - "Assemblage & Digital Art"

We dedicate December to our Assemblage and Digital Art adventurers. Assemblage creations are made from often unrelated everyday objects, scavenged and then secured together to make partially three-dimensional art forms. Digital Art relies heavily on a computer, digitally woven photography and collage works, or drawing and compilations created primarily using a tablet as the 'canvas' of creation. Heavy manipulations and mergings make use of a computer as the tool to enhance important aspects, blend/merge edges, and morph realism into fantasy.

Let us attempt to walk in someone else's shoes by learning and 'assembling' a piece of art or 'digitally manipulating' and 'digitally drawing' something for this show! Intake will be on Thursday, December 14 from 4:30-6pm and Friday, December 15 from 12:30-2pm at Rainbow Stew in Yucca Valley.

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 artists at the Center for Healthy Generations through November are Sharon George and L. Hilary Slotta. A powerful duo, these women work in many mediums and they enjoy color! The walls are much improved by the joyous hues in use. And the detail presented in the mercurial alcohol inks of L Hilary and the fine strokes in the scratch art of Sharon offer a sense of awe and admiration. Be sure to visit before while you still can to enjoy and maybe purchase a gift for that special someone.

The featured artist at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church during November is Patricial Quandel. Patricia has wowed us over the years with her photographic eye. She often captures scenes with an interesting story behind them, presenting landscapes with careful planning backing them as well as luckily timed moments many might have missed. But she is now sharing a different side of her creative mind with us through her watercolors!

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 (December is available).

Creative Opportunities

Workshops and Paint-outs

There are numerous chances to make art in the Morongo Basin, whether by enjoying solitude, joining plein air sessions and writing opportunities, or participating in group projects, creative workshops, photography trips, 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, organized by Krista Wargo, happen in the desert almost every month and are listed on the Chaparral calendar once confirmed. Participants bring their own art supplies, prepare for weather changes, and bring enough food and water for painting outdoors. Locations chosen by Krista have basic amenities like restrooms, but you need to bring everything else you need. Contact Krista directly if you plan to attend, so she knows to expect you.

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.