



Chaparral Sketch

April 2024

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Editor's Note

IT IS SPRING! It is such an exciting time of year and knowing that some are taking advantage of the warming weather to create or to travel, be sure to connect with us so that we can properly mention your accomplishments. Share photos of your creative journeys, share your poetry and your musings, share snapshots of you out in the field creating or capturing the next awesome creative representation of life. Let's make this newsletter as vibrant and imaginative as you are! Are you currently crafting a creation that you're eager to unveil at our upcoming judged art exhibit? Let's see them shine on the walls of Rainbow Stew this month! And mark your calendars, because our judged creative photography exhibit is just around

the corner in May. It's time to get those stunning shots printed and ready to showcase!

General Meetings

The March meeting was held on the 11th and we had fourteen (14) people attend. Some organization updates were shared along with event announcements. We also went around the room and asked for brief introductions, allowing everyone to share background info or current projects and focuses. It is always a special treat to learn things about each other. We also announced the upcoming *new quarterly* evening/weekend meeting - Rainbow Stew, March 16, to coincide with the soft opening reception for the "Surprises" exhibit. For anyone who cannot make the monthly 2nd Monday afternoon meetings, we hope this quarterly Saturday option helps. The next

At a Glance Chaparral Reminders

General Meeting

Center for Healthy Generations
Monday, April 8 at 1pm

Creative Art OPEN Judged Exhibit Intake

Rainbow Stew
Thursday, April 11, 4:30-6pm
Friday, April 12, 12:30-2pm

Outing - Hemet

Diamond Valley Lake & Western Science Center
Wednesday, April 17
9am at Jack in the Box to carpool/caravan

Creative Art - Soft Reception

Rainbow Stew
Saturday, April 20, 3-5pm

quarterly meeting will be in June, and all are welcome to attend.

Our NEXT *regular* meeting will be on April 8 - the usual place and time - every second Monday at 1:00 PM held at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley.

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 April 8 at 11:30 AM, also held at the Center for Healthy Generations. Remember that members are invited to join these meetings.

Group Outings

We went to the Palm Springs Art Museum on Monday, March 25 with a group of six people. It was a fun and informative visit. The museum regularly rotates out its exhibits, giving regular museum visitors a chance to see something new while also revisiting familiar works. Our group enjoyed the first exhibit on the ground floor together before splitting up to explore the museum at our own pace.

I particularly enjoyed an exhibit featuring the work of an experimental photographer named Joan, aka Kali, who moved from Long Island to Southern California and spent years experimenting with photography. Her daughter discovered her collection of works in 2019, revealing Joan's innovative techniques. She used traditional analog methods but with a twist, creating unique images by manipulating

prints in her swimming pool with dyes, paints, and organic materials. The exhibit will only be on display until April 8, and I was struck by how ahead of her time Joan was. Her layered compositions, which might seem familiar to today's youth accustomed to digital blending, were groundbreaking in the 60s. I also admired her dedication to projects that she rarely shared with others.

The rest of the museum was just as engaging. From precise mathematical large gradients on the ground floor to culturally significant creations upstairs. The basement level showcased more amazing art series, including permanent outdoor sculptures.

We ended the day by enjoying Palm Springs' local cuisine by dining outdoors. Overall, the trip was a reminder of the treasure we have right in our own backyard.

THIS month, we are heading out to Hemet in search of wildflowers and scholastic information when we visit first the Diamond Valley Lake Wildflower train and then the Western Science Center nature museum. Caravaning/carpooling is an option, just make sure to contact one of the officers to share your intention of attending.

We will meet at the Jack in the Box in Yucca Valley on April 17 (Wednesday) to carpool/caravan. Trailhead parking is \$11 (\$5 for seniors 62+, military, vets). Trail fee is \$4/person. No pets allowed. Museum admission is \$9 (adults) and \$7.50 (seniors, 62+).

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 - "Surprises"

March was dedicated to the theme of Surprises - a members only show. This exhibit of 'surprises' was as simple or complex as our members decided, showcasing unexpected delights in various forms. It could have been the vibrant surprise of a sunrise or sunset, the thrill of capturing elusive moments with a camera, or the unexpected success of a new technique. Whether it was something going wonderfully right or a delightful twist of fate, surprises were depicted in many different ways.

The exhibit received twenty-six entries (26) from twelve (12) creators. It is a wonderful showing of exciting creations each with stories embedded within them. Upon delivery some of our members explained how their creations were surprises and as hoped they ranged from captured moments that were atypical of the environment and progressed to techniques that surprised the artist by how well they worked.

Come and immerse yourself in this captivating exhibit, installed since March 16 and open for exploration until April 10. We kicked it off with a delightful Soft Opening reception at Rainbow Stew on March 16 from 3-5pm, perfectly coinciding with the newly established quarterly meeting! These soft receptions offer a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow creators and the show committee. Don't miss out on these great opportunities! Swing by, say hello, spark up conversations, and enjoy the exhibits. Everyone is welcome!

Next Exhibit - Open Judged Creative Art

We dedicate April to a judged exhibit, Creative Art, open to public submissions - so pass along the announcement to friends and family.

Intake will be on Thursday, April 11 from 4:30-6pm and Friday, April 12 from 12:30-2pm. Submission fees exist. As always, let's have fun! There are fees for this show, ribbons and prizes will be awarded for first, second, third, and honorable mention in three different categories when possible -



Surprises exhibit submission
"The Eyes Have It"
by Tami Wood

Creatures, Nature, Manmade. Look for the Best of Show and President's Award over the entire exhibit. The Soft Opening reception will be held on April 20 from 3-5pm all 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.

Joan Scott's wonderful pastels, acrylic pours, and mixed media is viewable at the Center for Healthy Generations until April 10. Be sure to swing by and visit before the exhibit comes off the walls.

Tami Roleff will be our April featured artist sharing her photography for the rest of the month at the Center for Healthy Generations. Tami highlights local and surrounding features in her compositions and occasionally makes us all smile with the cutest dog portraits you could hope for.

The featured artist at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church during February is Meilani MacDonald. Meilani's work is very interesting and the exhibit she curated for April lays out the trek taken in her adventures toward virtual photography and digital art.

She provides visitors with descriptions of her process and mindset. The show is informative and the work is stunning.

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.

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 on Thursday mornings, 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 most Thursday afternoons, 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 most Friday mornings, 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. *@watercolor.yv or contact Raini to confirm workshop days - workshop resumes on April 11/12 & April 18/19 before she heads out of town again.*

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.

April 16 (Tuesday) - Whitewater Preserve

April 22 (Monday) - Barker Dam

April 30 (Tuesday) - Ryan Mtn. Trailhead

Contact Krista directly if you plan to attend, so she knows to expect you.

Chaparral Collage

Power in Photography

Written by Raini Armstrong

I love photography and what a world of possibilities it holds.

I started out my artistic years with the desire to create a world of my own by capturing the fleeting moments around me and cementing them in time. However, I will be the first to say that I am a hobbyist

photographer and no more. Why? Because during my self-educated experience, I realized that I could not capture everything *I* wanted. I was not patient enough to wait for a preconceived moment to occur. I was not quick enough to snap up each breath of an event. I was not yet skilled enough to utilize post-processing tools that might allow me to massage a captured scene into that which I envisioned. Watercolor filled those gaps for me; I could depict scenes in all my imagined glory. Soon, the camera became a documentary tool, a support tool. Yet, I fully respect and am inspired by the photographers around me.

Photography offers gorgeous artistry whether you use the camera as a documentary tool, a means to capture the fleeting magics of everyday life OR as one cog in the machine of world creation *before* AI is woven into the process. Photography can be powerful. Moods, truths, and pure fantasy can all be created using the camera. I admire photographic captures that required months of site stakeout and weather hunting for a composition to work. I admire the time commitment and skill set necessary to make subtle or grand alterations during post-processing for a composition to shine. And to those photographers that mix tricks of light, props, long exposures, stacked imagery or rely on catching the elusive by waiting and ‘seeing’ to create an entirely new world parallel to ours - wow! Photographers are amazing artists.

Photography represents a broad range of styles, utilizing many techniques, including alternative methods, and I hope that one day the artistry of each can be properly highlighted during all photographic exhibits. Currently, however, photographs seem to be

noticed most when they fall into a classic category (the recording of light). Whether you take this to mean recording light bouncing off tangible objects in the world or the recording of light created using computers (like virtual photography), the resulting image should have similar strengths! They should have some combination of crispness or clarity, story, composition, contrast, and movement or relatability or appeal. These elements may not ALL be necessary for a photo to catch someone's eye, but they all should be considered.

So, whether you are a photographer that captures light bouncing from tangible objects of this world, bounced light from the universe, or computer created light, consider these elements so that a strong outcome might be recorded. Hopefully we are all able to weave together more than one of these elements in our next photographs, and if we can, there is a strong possibility that they will capture the attention of the public and maybe the judge!

With our own judged photography exhibit coming up in May, consider experimenting with your photography a bit. Join us in submitting multiple entries that you feel convey a story, catch a fleeting beauty, are strongly composed, or are just plain awesome! This is an open exhibit, so please pass along the invite to neighbors, friends, and family.

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! Your submission will be

read and formatted to fit into the newsletter just like the article above. You will be credited.

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

April 6

29 Gallery Reception, 4-6pm
Jeni Bate in the East Wing!
 29 Palms Art Gallery
 74055 Cottonwood Dr, Twentynine Palms

April 8

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

April 11 & 12

Chaparral Artists - Creative Art
 OPEN to the public, judged exhibit
Drop-off Day 1
 April 11 at 4:30-6pm
Drop-off Day 2
 April 12 at 12:30-2pm
 Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

April 20

Chaparral Artists - Soft Opening, 3-5pm
 Held during the 3rd Saturday Yucca Valley Art Walk
 Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

April 17

Chaparral Artists Group trip - Diamond Valley Lake & Western Science Center
 2615 Angler Ave, Hemet, CA 92545
 Carpool or Caravan from Jack in the Box, Yucca Valley at 9am!