Chaparral Artists

Chaparral Sketch

May 2024 **Volume XV, Issue 05**

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President's Message

Greetings everyone! If you haven't gone to Rainbow Stew to check out the judged show, please do! Come in support of your peers! Get inspired! Also get an idea of what criteria is often used for judging.

The next show is the judged Creative Photography Show. During our meetings we asked our group what they look for in a piece of art or photography.

Our members said:

1. Unique point of view, authentic work
2. Original and creative work
3. Strong and interesting composition (law of thirds, use of dynamic diagonals etc)
4. Excellent technique
5. confident work, not overworked
6. Expressive, has a sense of emotion
7. Strong use of values (lights to darks)
8. Good use of color and shape
9. Sharp clear focus, strong edges, soft and implied edges for variety.
10. Clear focal point. (Yes, there are exceptions!!)

I also asked prior judges what they mainly looked at. There is definitely overlap! Take a look:

Judge #1, creative painting:

1. Unexpected, a surprising or evocative element.
2. The subject or topic is current and trending.
3. Use of color and composition choice to fully convey or evoke a mood
4. Demonstrates a mastery of skill or technique.

At a Glance Chaparral Reminders

General Meeting
Center for Healthy Generations
Monday, May 13 at 1pm

Creative Photos OPEN Judged Exhibit Intake
Rainbow Stew
Thursday, May 16, 4:30-6pm
Friday, May 17, 12:30-2pm

Creative Photos - Soft Reception
Rainbow Stew
Saturday, May 18, 3-5pm

Outing - Whitewater Preserve
9160 Whitewater Canyon Rd, Whitewater
Wednesday, May 22
8am at Jack in the Box to carpool/caravan

Judge #2, creative painting:

1. Technical mastery/skill, design sensibility, unique and harmonious color schemes
2. interesting composition, clear focal point.

Judge #3, creative photography:

1. Technical skill, strong and clear use of depth of field, good composition, clarity and sharpness when required, blur when appropriate (indicating motion), personal point of view, clear focus for eye to travel through the image.
2. Use of design and shape: repetition of shapes
3. Tonal range; from whitest whites to blackest blacks, value *range* is considered in colored works.

I'll also include aspects that I've observed and deemed meritorious during my teaching experiences.

Presidents Additions:

1. Unique, authentic work that shows mastery
2. Clear use of the elements of art and design to evoke a mood or message … (That means: elements of art: Shape, Form, (negative and positive) Space, Value, Color, Texture and Line (implied and actual).
3. Principles of design: Unity and Variety (i.e of shapes, lines, colors) Balance Symmetry and Asymmetry, Repetition, Movement, Pattern and Rhythm, Proportion and Emphasis (i.e. focal point).

*Remember that these are useful tools and not every piece will have all elements/design but they will guide your personal exploration and assessment of the final work.

Our categories for evaluating creative art and photography show a broad acceptance of exploring materials, surfaces, and techniques. I'm impressed by the mix of traditional methods and the adventurous spirit, experimentation, and innovation shown by our artists.

I encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to share your work, whether it is within our meetings or in the supportive environment that is Rainbow Stew. Continue to tell us what you need! We all learn so much by celebrating each other's endeavors! You and your creative expression and exploration matter!! We are there for YOU and each other!

Sincerely, Victoria

General Meetings

Our last meeting took place on April 8th, with a turnout of twelve (12) individuals. During the session, we discussed organizational developments and upcoming events. Each attendee provided a brief introduction and shared something they were grateful for. Victoria facilitated a 'mind-mapping' activity, a visual method of note-taking that combines drawing and writing, ideal for unleashing our creative sides!

Our NEXT general meeting will be on May 13 - 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 May 13 at 11:30 AM, also held at the Center for Healthy Generations. Remember that members are invited to join these meetings.

Group Outings

In January a few of our members were inspired by the Southwest Arts Festival in Coachella. In February we had a grand time at the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival. In March a group of us visited the Palms Springs Art Museum.

Last month, April, we took a nice drive out to Hemet on the 17th in search of wildflowers and scholastic information. We visited the Diamond Valley Lake Wildflower trail and enjoyed a large water view, but only a few pockets of flowers along the primary trail. After some conversation and exercise we set our sights on the Western Science Center nature museum - a beautifully built place that features regional information and local archaeological finds wonderfully. Together we grabbed a late lunch at Polly's Pies for delicious food - oddly enough, no pie was had - maybe next time!

For MAY we hope to visit the Whitewater Preserve on the 22nd. This is a great location for fresh air under a lovely tree canopy. It will be warm, so please dress and pack accordingly. Bring snacks for an early lunch while the weather is still pleasant in the morning. Bring your drawing or painting supplies and cameras - you never know when something will inspire you. And be prepared for a short walk if you want to dip your toes in the rushing water. This location is dog friendly - but bring everything THEY need as well for a warm morning.

Caravaning/carpooling is an option, just make sure to contact one of the officers to share your intention of attending so we know to wait for you. We will meet at the Jack in the Box in Yucca Valley on May 22 (Wednesday) at 8am to carpool/caravan. No fees associated with this preserve!

Remember to share your trip recommendations and requests. We are coming up on summer, and we take a break during July and August, but the rest of the year is open to suggestions! ChaparralArtists@gmail.com

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit - Creative Art

April was our spring judged art show. The exhibit received thirty-four (34) entries from fifteen (15) creators, and we filled three categories - Nature's Kaleidoscope, Beautiful Creatures, and Abstract. The exhibit will be on display at Rainbow Stew until May 15. Our judge was Susie Thorp, a long time desert lover and a local resident for over six years. Susie has worked extensively with artists and galleries in various art communities across Southern California.

Congratulations to the artists that placed!

NATURE'S KALEIDOSCOPE

1st - "Ancient Calling" by Victoria Sebanz

2nd - "Alien Joshua Tree Sunscape" by Tami Wood

3rd - "Serenity" by Sharon Nieters

HM - "Springtime Awakening" by Krista Wargo

BEAUTIFUL CREATURES

1st - "Blue Bunny" by Audrey Green

2nd - "Keeping an Eye Out" by Raini Armstrong

3rd - "David's Jack" by Sharon George

HM - "Mrs Big Red" by Sharon George

ABSTRACT

1st - "Looking East" by Joan Scott

2nd - "When God was a Woman" by Victoria Sebanz

3rd - "Our Lady on Grandma's Chair" by Audrey Green

HM - "North Winds" by Victoria Sebanz

BEST OF SHOW

"Twilight Musing" by Victoria Sebanz

President's Award of Merit

"Prickly Quail" by Myrtle Cassell

Next Exhibit - Open Judged Creative Photos

We dedicate May to the spring judged exhibit, Creative Photography, open to public submissions - so pass along the announcement to friends and family.

Intake will be at Rainbow Stew on Thursday, May 16 from 4:30-6pm and Friday, May 17 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 - 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 May 18 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.

Tami Roleff shared a gorgeous collection of her photography at the Center for Healthy Generations from April 10 until May 10. She has an eye and patience for capturing creatures and boy are her night skies beautiful!

TAMI WOOD will be our May featured artist sharing mixed media gems for the rest of the month and into June at the Center for Healthy Generations.

The featured artist at Desert Hills Presbyterian Church during May is Victoria Sebanz. Ethereal, conversational, nature-inspired, Victoria works in multiple mediums and it is always a delight to see her creative works on display.

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. *Visit instagram @watercolor.yv or contact Raini to confirm workshop days.*

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.

Chaparral Collage

Watercolor Effects Experimentation

Written by Raini Armstrong

I've been traveling quite a bit over the past few weeks, and while I've had ample time to paint, I've mostly indulged in playful experimentation. And that's always a positive thing. It's a reminder of the importance of revisiting foundational skills each year and exploring unfamiliar techniques or effects that intrigue you but haven't yet found a place in your creative repertoire. While my chosen medium is watercolor, this principle applies to any artistic medium you work with!

In recent days, I've dedicated myself to exploring a variety of unconventional additives, tools, and methods. My aim was simply to immerse myself in the experience. Watercolor, in particular, lends itself wonderfully to experimentation, as even the most

unexpected kitchen ingredients can find their way into your artwork! Have you ever experimented with adding a few drops of cooking oil to the water before applying paint in a wet-in-wet wash? I hadn't, but the results were fascinating – the process was enjoyable, the effects were peculiar, and while the cleanup was a bit tedious, it was worth the experiment. Working with saltwater or introducing a couple of drops of bleach into the water also yielded intriguing outcomes.

While I may not integrate these unconventional additives into my future paintings, the process of discovering their effects has been invaluable. I plan to document my experiments with photographs and summarize my experiences, although I'll need to share this compilation on the website to avoid inundating this newsletter with pages of my quirky trials!

I encourage you to explore your favorite medium and set aside moments for experimentation from time to time. It's through these playful explorations that we often stumble upon new techniques or inspirations that can invigorate our artistic practice.

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

May 13
Chaparral Artists - General Meeting, 1-3pm
Center for Healthy Generations
57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

May 16 & 17
Chaparral Artists - Creative Photography
OPEN to the public, judged exhibit
Drop-off Day 1
May 16 at 4:30-6pm
Drop-off Day 2
May 17 at 12:30-2pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

May 18
Chaparral Artists - Soft Opening, 3-5pm
Held during the 3rd Saturday Yucca Valley Art Walk
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

May 22
Chaparral Artists Group trip - Whitewater Preserve
9160 Whitewater Canyon Rd, Whitewater
Carpool/Caravan from Jack in the Box, Yucca Valley at 8am!

May 10 - June 7
Chaparral Featured Artist - Tami Wood
Center for Healthy Generations
57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley