



Chaparral Sketch

June 2026

Volume XVII, Issue 06

Inside this issue

Presidents Palette	1
General Meetings	1
Board Meetings	1
Group Outings	1
Gallery Displays	2
Previous Exhibit - "Little Wonders"	2
Next Exhibit - "Looking DOWN"	2
Artists of the Month	2
Creative Opportunities	3
Workshops and Paint-outs	3
Chaparral Collage	3
Creating Art Through Music	3
Ongoing Invitation to Share!	4
Events Calendar - June 2026	4

Presidents Palette

There is plenty to look forward to this summer in our wonderful desert community. Keep an eye out for calls for art—they always seem to arrive sooner than expected! We'll continue sharing reminders in upcoming issues of the Chaparral Sketch, but a couple of important deadlines are already on the horizon: the California Welcome Center exhibit deadline is August 1, and the Joshua Tree National Park Art Expo deadline is September 1.

The summer concert series also begins in early July and is always a great excuse to spend an evening outdoors enjoying music and community.

On another note, Chaparral Artists is still seeking a volunteer to serve as Vice President. The primary responsibility is to act as a backup when the President is unavailable. While I do my best to schedule travel around our meetings, that is not always possible, and it is important to have someone ready to step in when

needed. If you have considered becoming more involved with the organization, please give this position some thought.

General Meetings

The May meeting was held on the 11th at HDA in Yucca Valley, with sixteen members and guests in attendance. We were excited to gather at this welcoming location. Many Chaparral Artists members are also active with HDA, making the collaboration a natural and enjoyable fit.

With a larger-than-usual turnout, we opened the meeting with introductions before moving through organizational updates. Members and visitors shared their current creative pursuits, discussed a new and exciting boutique opening in town, and enjoyed a variety of snacks generously provided by attendees.

Our **next** meeting is June 8 at HDA. The usual organization updates, brief round table member sharing followed by a small form activity where we hope to practice drawing/creating against music will be done! We hope to see you there.

Board Meetings

Our Board meetings are held on the same day as our general meetings to keep things simple. The June 8 meeting will be at 11:30 AM, also at HDA in Yucca Valley. Remember that members are invited to join these meetings as long as they don't mind listening to a few things twice!

Group Outings

We are taking a break from group outings as we gather more information from membership on what

everyone wants to do. As we get closer to summer months, outings typically move indoors - museums and galleries, or to higher elevations such as Big Bear. So please get a hold of us via email or phone to put in your recommendations!

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit - "Little Wonders"

In May, we invited our creatives to share their smallest works—pieces measuring 5x7 inches or smaller—for display at Rainbow Stew from mid-May through mid-June. The exhibit featured 69 entries from 12 artists and was celebrated with a reception during the Third Saturday Old Town Artwalk.

"Little Wonders" proved to be a wonderful success, showcasing the talent and creativity of our members. Working small can be surprisingly challenging. Tiny details often require the finest brushes, good lighting, magnification, and a steady hand. Entire organizations exist to celebrate the unique demands of miniature art.

At the same time, small works can feel wonderfully approachable. For artists intimidated by a large blank canvas, a 5x7 or even a 3x3 surface offers an inviting place to begin. A few brushstrokes, pencil marks, or touches of color can quickly transform an empty space into something expressive and complete.

That balance of challenge and accessibility was exactly what we hoped to celebrate. Sometimes the most important step is simply starting. In a busy world, creating something small can be a meaningful and satisfying way to make art. I truly loved the works submitted for this exhibit and hope they inspired visitors and artists alike.

Next Exhibit - "Looking DOWN"

We invite our members to participate in our next themed exhibit, "Looking Down." This theme encourages artists to shift their perspective and

explore what lies beneath their usual line of sight. Subjects might include ground-level views, aerial perspectives, overlooked details, shadows, textures, or moments of quiet reflection. "Looking Down" can suggest stillness, humility, discovery, or emotional depth, revealing beauty in familiar places when viewed from a different angle. Interpretations may be literal or metaphorical, realistic or abstract, and all mediums are welcome.

Artwork intake will take place at Rainbow Stew on Thursday, June 11, from 4:30–6:00 p.m. and Friday, June 12, from 12:30–2:00 p.m.

The exhibit reception will be held on Saturday, June 20, from 4:00–6:00 p.m., during the Third Saturday Old Town Artwalk.

Chaparral Artists is proud to support this growing community event, which highlights the galleries, studios, and creative spaces of Old Town Yucca Valley. As neighboring communities host their own monthly art walks, the Third Saturday has become an opportunity to celebrate the arts right here in Yucca Valley. We encourage artists, friends, and art enthusiasts alike to visit Rainbow Stew and explore the many creative destinations throughout Old Town and nearby Pioneertown.

Information about upcoming shows can be found on the Chaparral Artists website. Navigate to Publications, then Exhibits, and locate the show paperwork you're interested in. Be sure to check back regularly for updates. If you notice any missing information, please contact an officer to let us know.

Artists of the Month

We feature Chaparral members at both the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley AND AquaFit in Yucca Valley. We do not control when these venues open, so calling in advance to a visit is recommended.

Raini Armstrong is showing a collection of smaller watercolors through June at the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church. These 8x10 works offer a friendly glimpse into her travels throughout the local desert landscape, with a few scenes inspired by excursions into the nearby pine-covered mountains.

Anthony Beal is sharing an excellent collection of whimsical creations through June at the Aquafit Activities Center. Anthony has presented a playful collection of works filled with mythical creatures, storybook scenes, colorful characters, and moments of reflection. Be sure to enjoy this imaginative display before it gives way to the Summer Group Show!

Be sure to visit these displays while you still can, and consider being the next artist to step forward for September! During the Summer we feature a few pieces from hopefully all of our members - a sign up sheet will be available during General meetings. If YOU are interested in sharing your work at these locations, contact Raini Armstrong to select an available month.

Creative Opportunities

Workshops and Paint-outs

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 Arts & Crafts Workshops are offered at the Yucca Valley Community Center bi-weekly on Thursday mornings, 10-12:30pm. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$3, and are able 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. April and May 2026 are dedicated to Landscapes!

Watercolor Workshops are offered at the AquaFit in Yucca Valley most Friday mornings, 9-11am. Participants bring their own materials, pay a fee of \$10, and can work on their own watercolor projects or follow along with the instructor. April and May 2026 are dedicated to Landscapes!

Visit instagram @watercolor.yv or Facebook by searching for watercolor.yv or contact Raini directly to confirm workshop days, as she often travels!!

Plein Air meetups, organized by Krista Wargo, happen in the desert almost every month. Scheduled bi-weekly for as long as the weather permits, they will be listed on the Chaparral calendar online. 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 and/or to receive her announcement emails.

Chaparral Collage

Creating Art Through Music

For our upcoming Brent Lewis-inspired exhibit, artists are being challenged to create work while listening to Brent's music. While this may be a new experience for some, artists have been using music as a creative influence for generations.

Music has a way of affecting mood, energy, and even movement. A fast rhythm might encourage bold marks and energetic colors, while a quieter piece may lead to softer lines and a more reflective approach. There is no correct way to interpret music visually, and that's part of what makes this creative challenge so interesting.

If you're planning to participate, consider setting aside some uninterrupted time with your chosen music. Before picking up a brush, pencil, sculpting

tool, or other materials, simply listen. Notice what stands out to you. Is it the rhythm? The instruments? The overall feeling? Do certain colors, shapes, places, or memories come to mind?

Once you begin creating, try not to focus too much on making the artwork "about" the music. Instead, allow the music to influence your choices as you work. You may find yourself reaching for colors you don't normally use or making marks that feel different from your usual style. Let that happen.

Some artists find it helpful to start with a few loose sketches or experimental marks while listening. Others close their eyes for a moment and focus entirely on the sounds before beginning. There is no formula. The goal is simply to remain open to the experience.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this challenge is that the results are often unexpected. Two artists can listen to the same piece of music and create completely different works, each equally valid and personal.

Whether your final piece is a painting, drawing, sculpture, mixed-media work, or something else entirely, the important thing is to trust your own response to the music.

We hope you'll enjoy the process, stretch your creativity a little, and perhaps discover a new source of inspiration along the way.

Ongoing Invitation to Share!

Share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, snapshots, lessons learned, or creative advice. Short and simple is perfect. Your voice can inspire fellow artists, and it belongs in this newsletter.

We welcome brief write-ups on any creative form — painting, abstract art, sculpture, music, dance, writing, theatre, and more.

Worried about length or grammar? Don't be. We'll review, format, and make sure you're properly

credited. Send submissions to our email or call Raini Armstrong at 760-383-3005 to arrange sharing by phone or in person.

Events Calendar - June 2026

June 6

Glass Outhouse Reception, 6-9pm
Glass Outhouse Art Gallery,
 77575 Twentynine Palms Highway, 29

June 6

29 Palms Art Gallery Reception, 4-6pm
29 Palms Art Gallery, 74055 Cottonwood Drive, 29

June 8

Chaparral Artists - General Meeting, 1-3pm
HDA, 55635 29 Palms Highway, YV

June 11 & 12

Chaparral Artists - "Looking DOWN"
Members only Exhibit
Drop-off Day 1 - June 11 at 4:30-6pm
Drop-off Day 2 - June 12 at 12:30-2pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

June 20

Chaparral Artists Reception
"Looking DOWN", 4-6pm
Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway, YV

June 20

Hi-Desert Artists Reception
 Multiple exhibits celebrated, 5-7pm
HDA, 55635 29 Palms Highway, YV

Chaparral Artists, a non-profit organization, is one of the oldest artists groups in the Morongo Basin. Its mission is simple, to promote arts and culture in the Hi-Desert through accessible, affordable, friendly programs and demonstrations that inspire and educate.

Chaparral Artists

P.O. Box 2202 | Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Email	ChaparralArtists@gmail.com
Website	www.chaparralartists.com
Facebook	facebook.com/ChaparralArtists
Instagram	instagram.com/chaparralartists
Bluesky	chaparralartists.bsky.social
YouTube	youtube.com/@ChaparralArtists

Administrative Assembly 2026

President	Raini Armstrong
Vice President	Volunteer NEEDED
Treasurer	Nancy Miehle
Membership	Myrtle Cassell
Secretary	Krista Wargo
Marketing Advertising	Rainbow Stew
Historian	Victoria Sebanz
Newsletter	Raini Armstrong
Shows Committee	Raini + available Board members
Sunshine	Julia Terpening
Communication (Email, Website, Socials)	Raini + Myrtle + Meilani
Publicity	<i>All members needed to talk up Chaparral!</i>
Hospitality	Donna Webb