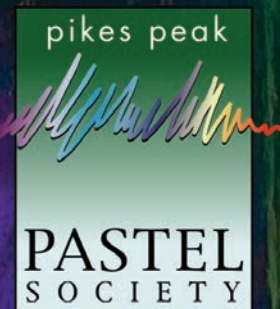


the paper

DECEMBER 2023



| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Letter from the President..... | 1 |
| 2024 Calendar..... | 3 |
| National Exhibition..... | 4 |
| Sponsors..... | 8 |
| September Workshop..... | 9 |
| Sue Tormoen..... | 10 |
| President's Brunch..... | 12 |
| Bluebird Studios Workshops... | 14 |
| Member News..... | 16 |
| Meetings..... | 18 |
| Portable Pastel Palette..... | 20 |
| Holiday Lunch..... | 22 |
| 2024 Workshop..... | 24 |
| Board of Directors..... | 23 |
| FREE Resources..... | IBC |

Night Hunter by Betsy Cook



"The Far Reaches" by Patrick Kochanasz

Patrick Kochanasz



the paper

DECEMBER 2023

Message from the President Goals, Successes and Failures in Pastel Painting

At the end of every year I try and do two things. First, I look back through the year and take an inventory of what I've accomplished of the goals I laid out at the beginning of the year. That process almost always involves acknowledging that I failed to reach some of those goals. I don't look at these as absolute "failures" because I generally set too many goals, knowing that I cannot reach all of them.

Secondly, I decide what goals I want to reach in the upcoming year. That involves deciding if I want to try to accomplish some of the unmet goals from the current year or if I've decided that they were not that important and turn to something else.

At the beginning of 2023 my overall goal was to get better at my art skills and producing quality paintings. Back in January I signed up for two different oil painting courses from two different instructors; one was an in-person class with 7 others and the other was conducted live over Zoom that included 14 students. I was also regularly watching pastel instruction videos and taking one in-person pastel class. The classes were all finished by the end of April and I painted regularly each week. By the beginning of May I had one pastel painting I felt was good enough to submit to our Commonwheel member show. To my surprise, it sold during the show. I was shocked, but quite happy. It was the first painting I'd ever sold.

The feeling did not last very long. During the months of June and July, I started working on paintings that I hoped I could submit for our national juried

show. I worked on painting one subject repeatedly (sunflowers, my favorite) and completed no less than 20 paintings of them. By the end of those months, not only had I used nearly every yellow and orange pastel I own, I'd purchased at least 15 more from Meininger's open stock. I felt that if I could find exactly the right color I would succeed in making an awesome painting of sunflowers. I did not. I was not happy with any of them, but felt that I had to submit at least one of them since they were nearly all I'd worked on throughout the summer. It was quite frustrating.

I submitted only one of them to the show and it was not selected by the juror. I did get one painting into the show, for which I am grateful but I felt that I was not really moving forward in my pastel skills. So, I made a mid-year course correction and decided to concentrate, for the time being, only on pastel painting. I need to be able to progress and dividing my time among different media was not working for me. I even cleaned out my studio and gave away all of my acrylic paint. I'm keeping the oils for now, but I am only painting with pastels until I'm confident my skills are progressing on a consistent basis.

I also decide to stop purchasing instructional videos (even though I really like them) and concentrate on in-person, private instruction. I need someone who can look at my work, evaluate it honestly and give me guidance on what to do to improve. I need to be able to ask questions of that person and get clear answers, and if I don't understand, to ask follow up questions. I started taking private lessons in September from

continued on page 2

President's Letter

continued from p1

our fellow PPPS member, Katie Cassidy. Katie is an excellent artist and she and I meet twice a month. She provides a lesson and sometimes a demonstration and then I paint while she watches and evaluates. She gives me things to work on in between lessons and then evaluates the work when she returns. It has been a life-changer for me. I feel like the information and help I'm getting from her far exceeds the other types of instruction I've previously received.

My goals for 2024 are to continue to progress in my pastel painting skills and be able to produce some quality work that will eventually receive recognition in pastel painting shows. I still plan to go to workshops where I can hone various skills (I'm really

looking forward to the Desmond O'Hagen workshop next fall). I will sign up for some classes at IAPS, but my private lessons are what I'm counting on to push me forward the most.

The reason it's working (so far) is that focus is so important in skill progression. Research shows that focus is key to developing any skill. I believe that if I focus exclusively on this goal for 2024 I will see progress.

Have a wonderful New Year pastel artists!

Lyn Farrell, *PPPS President*

PPPS Tumblers and Aprons and Hats!

Show your support for PPPS.

The apron is 100% cotton fabric with an adjustable neck strap and two pockets with a large embroidered PPPS logo.

The tumbler is made from double-walled stainless steel, designed to keep beverages hot or cold for hours and includes a push-on lid with metal straw and a large PPPS logo.

The donation for the apron is \$30. The donation for the tumbler is \$35. The donation for the hat is \$20.

Contact Lyn Farrell at 713-204-9500 or email kathlynfarrell@gmail.com to place an order.



The PPPS Board modeling the new PPPS hat:
Lyn Farrell, President; Katarina Kostin, Exhibits;
Ingrid Burnett, Past President; Pat Geonetta, Membership;
Beth Gramith, Secretary; Margie Miller, Education;
Betsy Cook, Treasurer; Mary Sexton, Webmaster & Graphics

2024 Calendar of Events

JANUARY

Member Meeting January 6 at the East Library at 10:30 AM. Katie Cassidy will kick off the year with an introduction to drawing. We will have a fantastic door prize and will talk about a new challenge for 2024.

Informal painting afternoons: January 17 and January 25 from 1–4 PM, in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Drive, Colorado Springs.

FEBRUARY

Member Meeting February 17 at the East Library at 10:30 AM.

Informal painting afternoons: February 7 and February 29 from 1–4 PM, in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

MARCH

Informal painting afternoons: March 7 and other dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

APRIL

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

MAY

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

JUNE

Member Show at Commonwheel
Colorado Rhapsody will be the theme.

IAPS Convention: June 11–16, in Albuquerque, NM

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

Check the PPS web site for updates!

JULY

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

AUGUST

Garden of the Gods Show
Colorado Nature will be the theme.

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

SEPTEMBER

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

OCTOBER

Workshop with Desmond O'Hagan
October 4 & 5
Painting Interiors in Pastel

National Show
Exhibiting at Library 21c

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

NOVEMBER

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

DECEMBER

PPPS Annual Holiday Lunch, date TBD

Garden of the Gods Show
Colorado Nature will be the theme.

Informal painting afternoons: Dates TBD, from 1–4 PM in the CreateSpace on the second floor of Library 21c.

Our 2023 National Juried Show at Library 21c

The PPPS National Show had 82 entries from 26 artists. 50 paintings were juried in. The exhibit began on September 2 and ended on September 30. The

Show was juried and judged by **Diane Fechenbach**. The Artists' Reception and Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, September 9, 2023.

Awards

Terry Ludwig Best of Show:

\$250 in cash and a \$250 Terry Ludwig gift certificate awarded to *Pelican Pair* by Beth Gramith

First Place:

\$200 cash, LederEasel and set of Pan Pastels from Golden Awarded to *Makin' Waves* by Carey Peltó

Second Place:

\$150 cash, a Unison gift certificate and Dakota gift certificate Awarded to *Whale Hunt* by Patrick Kochanasz

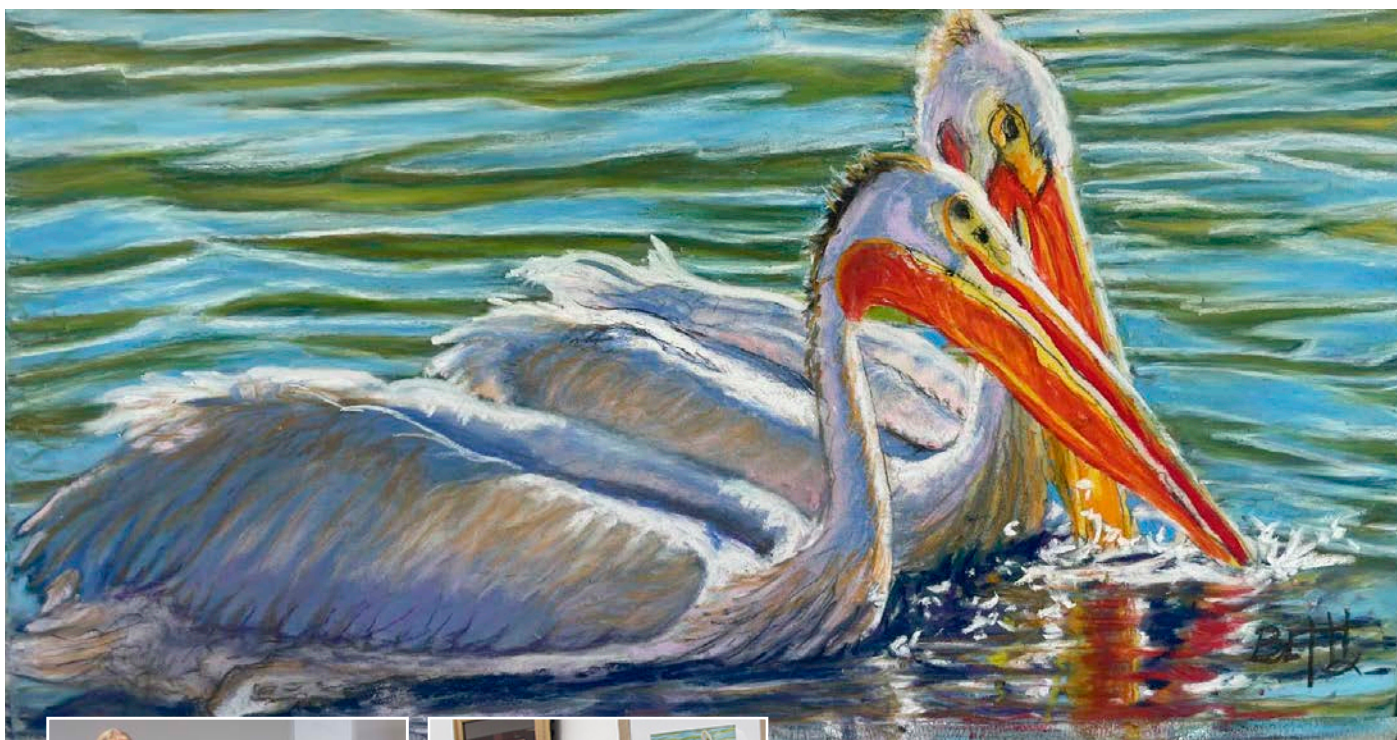
Honorable Mentions:

Blick Art gift certificate awarded to *Flower on a Desert Dune* by Jo Behrens

Blick Art gift certificate awarded to *Water Dance* by Marcia Ballowe

Blick Art gift certificate awarded to *Hydrangeas* by Katie Cassidy

Uart Paper gift certificate awarded to *June's Wild Roses* by Katerina Kostin



Terry Ludwig Best of Show:

Awarded to "*Pelican Pair*" by Beth Gramith

Wonderful placement of the subject, their heads are at the strong intersection of the thirds which strengthens the story and draws attention to their eyes. Nice use of complementary colors. Love the handling of the waves and water to make the foreground and background as interesting as the main subject.



First Place:
Awarded to "Makin' Waves" by Carey Pelto

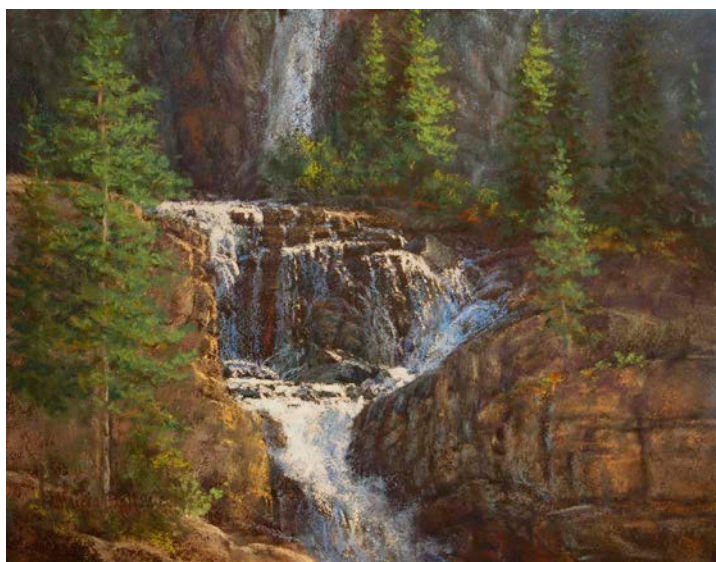
Wonderful handling of the figure. The pose is dynamic even though the figure is caught in mid-movement. Nice organizing the big shapes to draw the viewer into the painting and direct them around to finally end at the figure. Lovely use of a complementary color scheme to tie it all together.



Second Place:
Awarded to "Whale Hunt" by Patrick Kochanasz

Great use of space and directional lines to tell this dynamic story. The mark making reinforces the energy by combining the choppy fury of the foreground water with the calm, negative flat shape of the background sky. While the palette is almost monochromatic, the touch of orange at the horizon is a lovely complementary touch.

Our 2023 National Juried Show at Library 21c



Honorable Mention:

Awarded to "Water Dance" by Marcia Ballowe

Nice use of value and directional lines to move the viewer's eye from the foreground to the background of the painting. The texture on the central waterfall is lovely.



Honorable Mention:

Awarded to "Flower on a Desert Dune" by Jo Behrens

Beautiful mark making to convey interesting, subtle texture in the background and table. The glass vase of lovely. I really like the complementary color palette.



Honorable Mention:

Awarded to "June's Wild Roses" by Katerina Kostin

This painting gets its energy from the edges and values used to depict the texture of the flowers and leaves. Nice use of a subtle complementary color palette.



Honorable Mention:
Awarded to “Hydrangeas” by Katie Cassidy

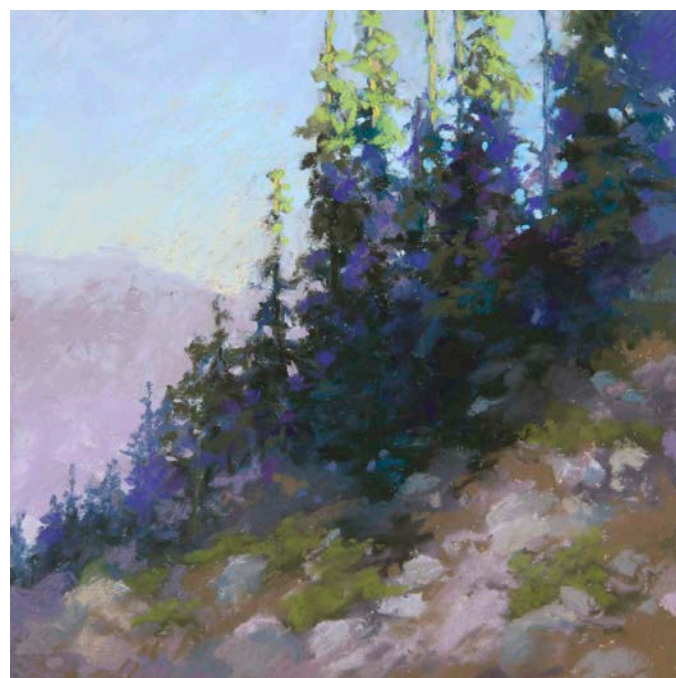
Wonderful complementary color scheme. The clean, bright color notes enhance the freshness of the subject. Good use of edges from the harder marks on the central flowers to the lost edges in the background. Lovely mark making throughout.



JUROR

Diane Fechenbach was our judge and juror for the National show. Diane is a Colorado pastel and oil artist who has been interested in art since she was a child. Diane has earned many pastel awards including, Master Circle pastelist in IAPS, Signature membership in the Pastel Society of America, Master Signature member of the Pastel Society of Colorado. She has been published in *Pastel Journal* several times, has been a guest pastelist in Gail Sibley's *How to Pastel*, and is the author of *Art Journey—A Celebration of Contemporary Art*, published by FW Media in 2017. She has won numerous First Place awards for her paintings, including in the IAPS Juried Exhibition, PSC's Mile High Show, Pastel Society of the Southwest, as well as others.

View her work at www.lightnshadowstudio.com.



Pastel paintings by
Diane Fechenbach

Above:
“Mountain Handoff”

Right:
“In the Potter's Studio”



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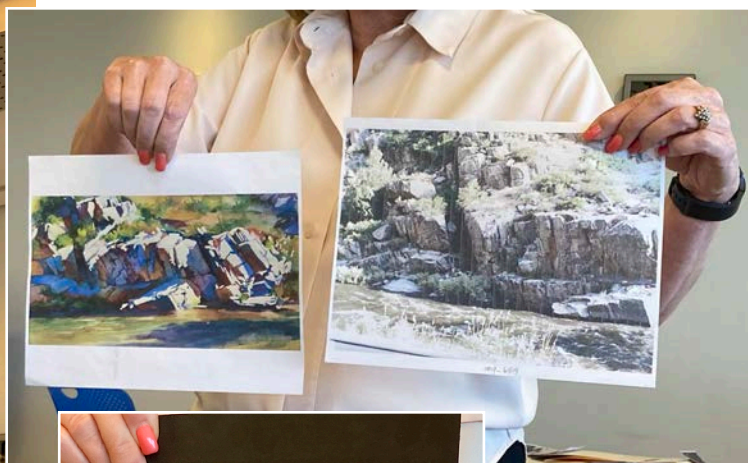


Diane Townsend
townsendpastels.com



Dakota Pastels
dakotapastels.com

Great Paintings from Crummy Photos with Diane Fechenbach September 2023 Workshop



Thi teen attendees had a great time together as they learned how to find painting subjects and learned the secret of coaxing wonderful paintings from the worst photo references. They folded, spindles and mutilated! The workshop was held at Library 21c. As Diane lives in the Denver area, she is a great, close-by resource for us.

*I learned more about composition
and manipulating photos than I
thought was possible.*

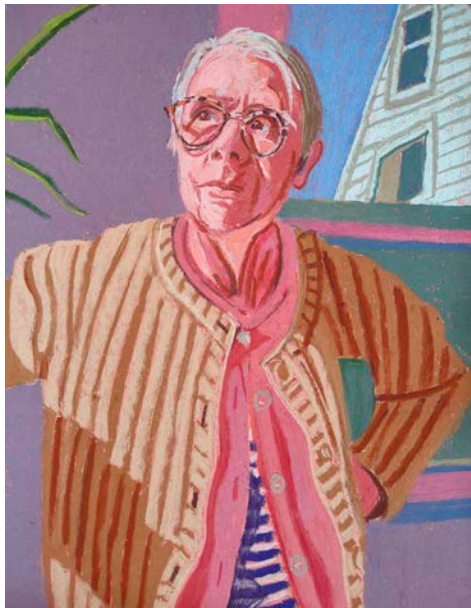
— Lyn Farrell



"Baked by the Sun", 8 x 10, Pastel

Susan Tormoen

Sue Tormoen has been a signature member of the Pikes Peak Pastel Society for 20 years. She is loved by many for her kind and gentle spirit. Sue is a prolific artist and loves to paint almost every day. Her unique approach to landscape paintings and the vibrant colors she uses make her artwork stand



Self Portrait in pastel

out. Her painting style is impressionism and slightly abstract. She is inspired by Cézanne.

While Sue was a young mother, she received her B.A. in philosophy from Lake Forest College in Illinois. While finishing her studies, she took a painting class and loved it so much, she never quit painting. Sue was an eighth grade teacher in Wisconsin. She also worked as a manager of a group home, and painted during her free time. For years, she concentrated on watercolor, and was honored with a place in the permanent collection of “Very Special Arts of Wisconsin” in both 1994 and 1998. When Sue’s grandson was born, she quit working and went to Chicago to take care of him.

After moving to Colorado in 2000, Sue became enamored with pastels after taking a workshop with Fran Dodd. It was then that spontaneity became a part of her style. She has always loved color and the way she can create with just a stroke of a pastel stick.

Several years ago, Sue rediscovered painting in oils. Currently, she works almost exclusively with oils, and a palette knife is always her instrument of choice. She says, “I don’t blend the colors completely — I like to have a few different colors on the palette knife with every stroke. I always do an underpainting — sometimes in red or purple. Lately, I’ve been using black canvas.”

“Garden of the Gods in New Colors” in oil

Article by Sharon Cartwright

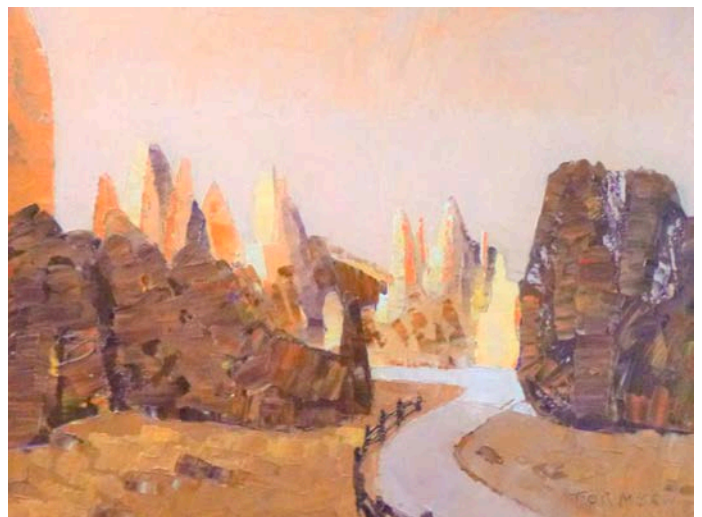
“I still love working with pastels a lot. You can do so much more with them than with a palette knife. You can draw with pastels, whereas it’s difficult to do that with a palette knife.”

Sue likes trying different techniques — like making dots with pastels on black paper, or making marks with the side of a pastel stick. She says, “From time to time, I like to create lines with pastels, such as all vertical lines. I use black Canson paper (not sanded). Sometimes, I like to tint sanded pastel paper with a color as an underpainting. Recently, I did some oil paintings in two colors, as shown in the painting, *Garden of the Gods in New Colors*, below. In the past, I have also enjoyed weaving tapestries.”

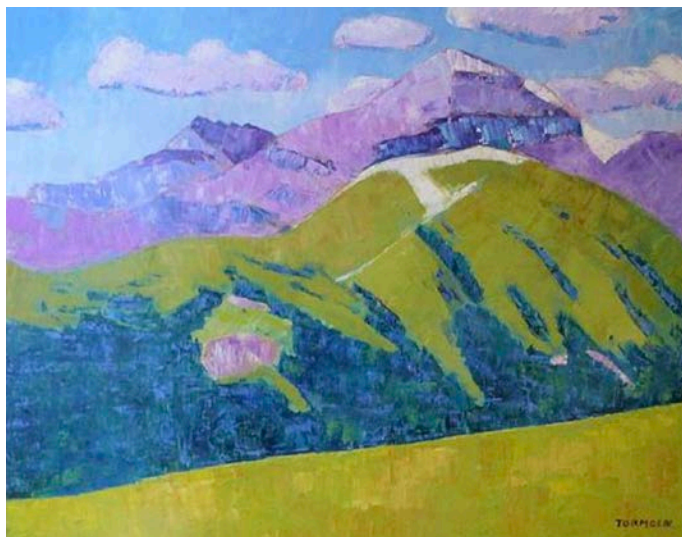
Sue has a studio at Cottonwood Center for the Arts in Colorado Springs, and loves interacting with all the artists there. She has paintings on continuous display at Poor Richard’s Restaurant, 320 N. Tejon St, and is also a resident artist at Platte Collections Art Gallery, 2331 E. Platte Pl.

Since 2015, Sue has posted almost all of her paintings on fineartamerica.com. She likes it and says, “I think it’s a good way to keep a record of your artwork for reference.” Sue is represented by Academy Art & Frame Co Gallery in Colorado Springs. She was the featured artist for an exhibit at the Manitou Art Center along with Pat Geonetta in March 2022. She has had many solo exhibits.

Sue has participated in many PPPS exhibits throughout the years, and has received numerous awards. She says, “I think it’s great the way our pastel society is growing and flourishing.”

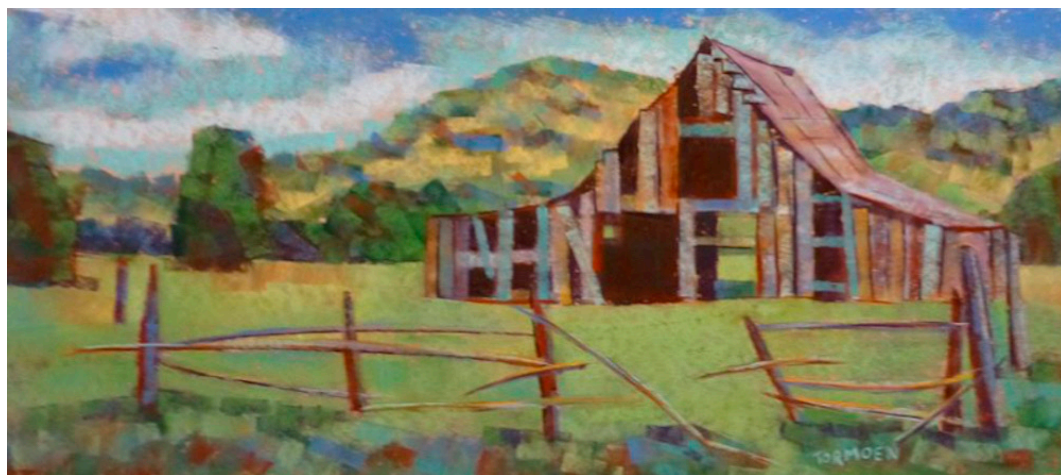


Sue enjoys staying connected with her family and her friends. She also loves painting with a small group of friends that meet once a week. Her beautiful paintings and passion for creating art are inspiring.



"Mountains on the Pass" in oil

"Rocks by the Shore" in pastel



"Old Barn in Pueblo" in pastel



"Palmer Park" in pastel



"River in the Purple Mountains" in oil

President's Brunch

Lyn Farrell, president of PPPS, held a brunch for members on Saturday, November 4, at her lovely home on Gold Camp Road. The Board members brought a variety of goodies, and a variety of amazing dishers were also provided by Brian Farrell, Lyn's husband. It was a delightful event and a wonderful opportunity to get to know other PPPS members. Spouses were welcome too!





Workshops at Bluebird Studios in Santa Fe

“Easy Plein Air Pastel Workshop” with Karen Margulis

Photos and article by Jo Behrens

I was able to enjoy a 3-day very hot and sometimes breezy workshop titled “Easy Pleinair Pastel Workshop” with Karen Margulis in September 2023. Each morning began with a brief demonstration/lesson and a list of expectations for the day. The participants then set up their easels and pastels outside, adjacent to the barn/workshop location a little southeast of Santa Fe, NM. Karen was able to walk among us and critique our work and offer encouragement. One afternoon we studied clouds and other days we painted trees and native plants. We were pushed to try something new and learned how important it was to work fast when attempting a plein air painting. I learned that most plein air paintings were a study and rarely became the finished product. Most get worked on back at the studio. I also learned to focus on one feature and allow the background to be blurry. The importance of value, not color, and composition was stressed.



Some New Mexico scenery!



“Celebrating Autumn in Santa Fe” with Liz Haywood-Sullivan

Photos and article by Margie Miller

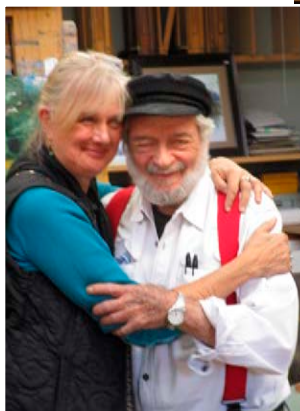
The first week of October found Mary Sexton, Lyn Farrell and Margie Miller excitedly heading south from Colorado Springs to attend a five day plein air pastel workshop led by Liz Haywood Sullivan. (lizhaywoodsullivan.com). Liz has attained the designation of Eminent Pastelist and is a former IAPS president. Her painting focus is the eastern US landscape, and includes expertise in painting skies and water in the Massachusetts area.

The workshop was also held at Bluebird Studios, managed by Beth Cooper and her husband Billy. (bluebirdstudiosantafe.com). Multiple meals were included in the workshop fee and class size was limited. There was the opportunity to go to several areas in Santa Fe, including a reception at Albert Handel's home studio. We also enjoyed an afternoon visiting some of the renowned Santa Fe galleries.

Liz provided individual attention and comprehensive critiques to all participants. Her demos helped Liz to stay focused on the daily pastel painting process. She freely shared her plein air tips concerning travel and materials, and her underpainting process. I would highly recommend signing up for the Blue Bird newsletter to be aware of the multiple workshops offered in all mediums.

Driving to Santa Fe and securing a VRBO for the week helped to keep our expenses down. It was fun to enjoy evenings together discussing the events of the day. We all agreed that another opportunity to join Liz in a workshop would be great, as she will be teaching at the IAPS convention in June 2024. To check out her teaching style, check out her YouTube offerings.

Liz teaching; some of her demos; Liz with Albert; and Margie, Lyn and Mary



Member News

We want to extend a warm PPPS welcome to new members **Geri Ashley, Carol Barber, Joyce Bonilla, Carey Peltó, Karin Toppel** and **Patricia Schneider**.

Member **Sharon Cartwright** won a set of Diane Townsend pastels at the November 18th meeting.

Do you enjoy or want to learn more about painting en plein air?

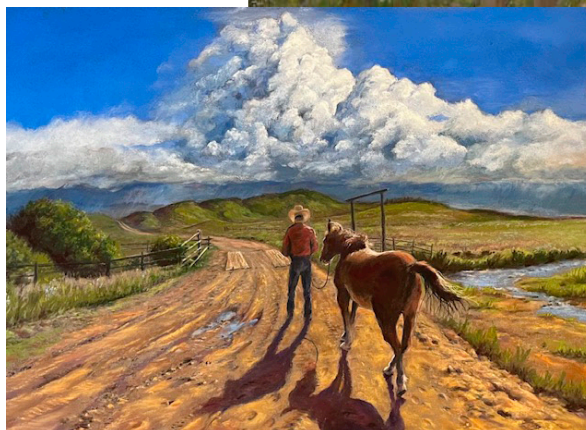
Member **Lisa Faherty-Vance** will be leading some weekend plein air excursions around the region in 2024! If you are interested, please contact her for ideas (some of your favorite scenic spots?) and more information. She will be watching weather forecasts for nice days and post plein air painting events on the PPPS Facebook page. Lisa@LisaFahertyArt.com or 719-694-6696.

Let's get out and paint together!!

Right:
"Here Comes the Sun"
by new member
Karin Toppel



Below: "Home Before the Storm"
by new member
Carey Peltó



Member Shows and Events

Member **Betsy Cook** was included in the Winter Show at Reserve Our Gallery in Woodland Park and she won the People's Choice Award for her painting *Beckoning*.

Member **Mary Sexton** had a painting accepted into the Pastel Society of Colorado's 2023 PSC *Small Works Show: Little Gems*; she participated in the Victor Celebrates the Arts plein air event in September and Florence's Paint the Town plein air event in October.

Member **Carey Peltó** participated in Victor Celebrates the Arts, Florence's Paint the Town plein air event, and won awards at both.

Member **Patrick Kochanasz** had a one-night solo show at Kinship Landing in Colorado Springs on November 3rd.

Member **Susan Morello** had a solo show in September.



"Beckoning" by Betsy Cook won the People's Choice Award in the Winter Show at Reserve Our Gallery in Woodland Park



"Turquoise" by Mary Sexton was accepted into the PSC Little Gems Show



"A Century of Entropy" won the June Bradley Interior Award

Please send Member News to Mary Sexton, marys@goodgraphicdesign.com for inclusion in the newsletter!

Member Benefit

Hang Your Art at Coutura Design

All Members are eligible to hang art in the hallway at Coutura Design Inspirations, 6380 Corporate Centre Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. The best times to hang artwork are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm. For more information visit: pikespeakpastel.org/membership.

All Members are ELIGIBLE to have an Artist Page on Our Website!

Our goal is to have every member sharing artwork on our website. Please email up to eight images of your pastel paintings (jpgs preferred) to Mary Sexton at info@pikespeakpastel.org or marys@goodgraphicdesign.com.

Informal Painting

Our next informal painting get togethers take place in the CreateSpace on the second fl or of Library 21c, 1175 Chapel Hills Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920.



IAPS Membership

Pikes Peak Pastel Society is a member of IAPS. Some of the benefits to our Members include:

- Attend the Biennial Convention at a discounted rate. Next convention will be June 11 –16, 2024 in Albuquerque NM. Several PPPS members are going, and you can still sign up!
- Participation at the Biennial Convention with workshops, exhibitions, demonstrations, etc.
- Individual members of member societies are eligible to submit artwork for the jury in all IAPS Exhibitions including – online, gallery, museum, and convention shows.
- Individual members of member societies may list IAPS membership on their resumes.

Visit the IAPS web site:

<https://www.iapspastel.org/>

View the most recent IAPS newsletter here: www.iapspastel.org/currentnews.php

View the 2022 IAPS Exhibition here:

www.iapspastel.org/exiaps_current.php

A Few Useful FREE YouTube Pastel Videos

Organizing Pastels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-irUOSMwtc>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ngrf3oCOdgU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ytNrP6l1i4>

Choosing Pastels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8534hUurG0>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DYXi_m36Go

Traveling with Pastels

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UKxfhSO8w

Storing Pastel Paintings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2FoIrOmo7s>

Painting Trees in Pastel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVcs0S5lkpg>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-e_WCRmv_gU
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJ6y9UeUG4I>

Portrait Painting in Pastel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmlxHMH38M>
<https://youtube.com/NRPg2Et-ghM>

Landscape Painting in Pastel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOl01DcsSkU>

Framing Pastels

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsGx1U4E4vc>
<https://www.tucsonpastelsociety.org/framing.html>

August 19 Meeting

The August 19th PPPS meeting was held at Library 21c. Lyn Farell, Margie Miller and Katie Cassidy each gave a presentation/demo about working with underpaintings. An underpainting kit was given out to all attendees. Supplies were provided for everyone to experiment with different underpainting techniques and materials.

At the end of the meeting, a boxed set of Rembrandt Pastels was raffelled off and Jo Behrens won the set.

*Many thanks to
Margie, Lyn, and
Katie for a great
event!*



November 18 Meeting

Our November meeting was held at a new venue for PPPS, the East Library at 5550 N. Union Blvd.

After the business portion of the meeting, everyone drew a number and were assigned teams for a paint-around. The four groups were led by Betsy Cook, George Hart, Mary Sexton and Katie Cassidy. The team leaders each started a painting and the team members then took turns painting.

The four paintings were auctioned by Lyn at the end of the paint-around. Betsy's team painting, *Buffalo*, went for \$12.00, bought by Nell Hauser. Mary's team painting, *Night Highway*, went for \$13.00, bought by Kris Olson. George's team painting, *Landscape*, went for \$10.00, bought by George Hart. Katie's team painting, *Still Life of Flowers*, went for \$25.00, bought by George Hart.

The raffle of a set of Diane Townsend Pastels was won by Sharon Cartwright.



Katie's team: Katie, Nell Houser, Linda Curell, Lisa Faherty Vance, and GERALYN HESS-UNDERWOOD



George's team: Sharon Cartwright, Katarina Kostin, Connie Cassani-Beard, Dan Rich, and George



Betsy's team: Margie Miller, Linda Menza, Jo Behrens, Pat Geonetta, and Betsy



Mary's team: Margot Ardourel, Ingrid Burnett, Mary, Kris Olson, Amy Davis, and Beth Gramith



Your Portable Pastel Palette

As tempting as it is to carry your studio with you, let the experience of one travel-savvy artist guide your palette picks.



The color is vivid and the lighting is dramatic in “The Crossing” (18x18), despite my limited traveling palette. This is due both to careful layering and the strategic choice in palette colors.

At some point in every pastel artist’s evolution as a painter, we wrestle with how to set up our palette. This is especially true for portable palettes—say, one you might bring to a class or workshop, or one you might use to work en plein air. Suddenly we’re faced with making choices. How do we choose which sticks to bring? We’re faced with the fear of not having the right color and that our painting will fail because we neglected to bring it. So, what do we do? We pack every conceivable color in every level of hardness that we think we might need. Add in an easel and paper, and we find ourselves with a mini-studio’s worth of equipment in various containers. When you add it all up, it’s difficult to move around and complicated to use.

Paring Down

There really is such a thing as too many pastels. If I count up each color used in any single painting I’ve made, I find that I’m typically working with 30 to 40 sticks. So why do I feel compelled to bring hundreds? When I evaluate my students’ palettes, I usually can pull out a handful of sticks that are the exact, or nearly exact, same color. This might be because one large pastel has broken into several pieces, or it might be the same color in numerous brands. Color repeats can creep up on you as you add more pastels to your inventory, but neglect to clean out older, broken ones.

The problem with a too-large selection that’s spread out over many containers is that it leads to



In a typical palette, you can usually find numerous pastels of the same, or close to the same, color and value, (see photo above). Often the same stick has broken into several pieces.

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Using a light-colored paper, sample your pastels by making small test marks (see photo at right). If two pastels are close in color and value, choose only one for your palette.

eye fatigue and frustration over the constant search for the right color. It wears you down when you can’t find what you’re looking for, and you might feel discouraged when faced with the task of putting away all those pastels at the end of a painting. All this frustration can be enough to dissuade you from using the medium, and sometimes it’s all that’s needed to turn you off from painting at all.

As an instructor, I see this struggle all the time and experienced it in my own evolution as an artist. After testing out a number of potential solutions, I’d like to share with you some good options you might employ to manage your palette.

“... in order to see your colors, take a deep breath and remove the wrappings from the pastels.”

Quality, Not Quantity

First of all, you should invest in one good box in which to carry your travel pastels. Eliminate all of the original cardboard boxes your pastels came in. Then, in order to see your colors, take a deep breath and remove the wrappings from the pastels. Trust me, this is very important. If you're worried about not finding the right color again, you can simply peel the wrapper back and break off half to travel with you. Save the wrapped half with its label back in your studio.

Next, you need to evaluate and select a reduced number of pastels to carry. Using a blank piece of white sandpaper, make a test mark of each pastel. Only select ones that don't repeat a similar color and value. When you're actually painting, you can always adjust any color by layering another pastel on top, so don't worry that you won't have the right color.

Larger pastels should be broken in half. This is a good way to increase the number of colors and values you bring. I bet you won't run through your pastels nearly as fast as you think you will. This process takes some dedicated time, but it's well worth doing.

Make sure to personalize your palette for the occasion. If you're traveling to an area where you know you'll need more of a certain color, like blues and whites for the waters and skies of Greece, just carry a separate box of extra pastels. I like to use harder pastels for the finishing stages of my paintings, so I carry a separate, smaller box since they don't fit in

my primary box. The bottom line is always to simplify and edit. And remember that on-location paintings are often studies, or paintings that are only started on location and can be finished in the comfort, and with the inventory, of your studio.

Artfully Arranged

Now that you've selected your colors, how do you arrange them in your box? Should blue run into purple and purple into red? Or should it go from blue to green to yellow? Where do you put the grays and browns? Some artists seem to do fine by mixing them all up, but I think it's easier to have a rational system in place. Creating your own system will make it easier to find the exact color and value you want, when you want it.

Consider one of three layout options. Each one uses the same pastels in a double sketchbook-size Heilman box featuring four dividers. This box has a carrying space of 12x16 inches, and it holds plenty of pastels—approximately 260.

By taking the time to set up your portable palette thoughtfully, you'll find the benefits are worth the effort. You'll feel as if you have all the pastels you need. You'll learn to layer shades to create any color you want and become more familiar with particular values and colors, making them easier to find. Wondering where that dark green cone-shaped pastel is? Your hand will go right for it. Arranging your sticks in color families makes it easier to search for a particular pastel because you're able to evaluate color and value against others next to it in your palette. Plus, cleanup is a breeze.



Option 1, Clockwise: Create color families by arranging the color wheel going clockwise, with one primary and one secondary color per section: yellow and green, blue and purple, red and orange (including brown), using the last slot for neutrals. Arrange colors from the lightest at the top to the darkest value at the bottom.



Option 2, Counter-clockwise: Going the opposite direction on the color wheel, create color families with one primary and one secondary color per section. This time, pair yellow and orange (and brown), red and purple, blue and green, and leave the last slot for neutrals. Arrange colors from lightest to darkest value.



Option 3, By Value: You could opt to group your pastels by value, with slots for light, middle and dark, keeping the neutrals separate. Slots can be arranged further by color families or just kept random.

This article originally appeared in the October 2018 issue of Pastel Journal. Used with permission.

Our 2023 Holiday Lunch





The PPPS Holiday Lunch was held at Edelweiss Restaurant on Friday, December 8. Art-related gifts were exchanged, and everyone enjoyed the Holiday cheer! Plan to come to the 2024 holiday lunch, date TBD!

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Special Thanks to Ingrid Burnett
for managing our mail.

Please Volunteer!

We need help with finding exhibit space, hanging shows, reporting for the newsletter, suggestions for programs and workshops, awards, kudos, showing opportunities, etc.

Please send stories, events, reviews and other information to the email address below for inclusion in the next edition.

marys@goodgraphicdesign.com

Any pastel artist interested in doing a live or ZOOM demo for the group please contact Margie Miller at m4miller@comcast.net. There is a small stipend involved for the hour demo. Some ideas include a studio tour, a demo of a small work, discussing pastels in plein air etc. Do consider this opportunity to add to your artistic vitae.

Pikes Peak Pastel Society P.O. Box 2443, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2443

Save the Date!

Two-day Workshop: Pastel Painting Interiors

Oct. 4 – 5th, 2024

with Desmond O'Hagen



Desmond's main focus is to explore the art of "Interpreting Light". He has a very hands-on approach to teaching, working individually with each student. His workshop begins with a digital slideshow of his pastels including step-by-step images of works in progress. His workshop is designed to help you reach the next level in your pastel painting.

Workshop demonstrations will emphasize composition, developing technique through a more painterly approach, and the importance of light, values, and contrasts.

Visit desmondohagan.com to see more of Desmond's art.

Fee: \$250 for Members, & \$350 for Non-Members
Location TBD



FREE Pastel Online Resources

Marla Baggetta

[youtube.com/channel/
UC9ad6jaguLLBrB46_coqyIg](https://youtube.com/channel/UC9ad6jaguLLBrB46_coqyIg)
marlabaggetta.com
paintinglessonswithmarla.com

Alain J Picard

[youtube.com/channel/UCWyF5C
vAv8c0oP4M5gWBaFA](https://youtube.com/channel/UCWyF5CvAv8c0oP4M5gWBaFA)
picardstudio.com

Susan Kuznitsky

youtube.com/c/SusanKuznitsky
susankuznitsky.com

Susan Jenkins

[www.youtube.com/channel/
UCqNhhFYP5f1G4IBhdZ
OGZ3g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqNhhFYP5f1G4IBhdZOGZ3g)
susanjenkinsfineart.com

Tony Allain Fine Art

Many videos on youtube
tonyallainfineart.com

Bethany Fields

[www.youtube.com/channel/
UCgBFh1UdOgSmTW_yVozJotQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgBFh1UdOgSmTW_yVozJotQ)
bethanyfields.com

Pastel Techniques, Tutorials, and Resources

artshow.com/resources/pastels

Emma Colbert

[https://www.youtube.
com/channel/
UCG-cKjqKzkysc-L_Q8b8Og](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG-cKjqKzkysc-L_Q8b8Og)
emmacolbertart.com

Liz Haywood-Sullivan

[https://www.lizhaywoodsullivan.
com](https://www.lizhaywoodsullivan.com)

Karen Margulis

[https://www.youtube.
com/channel/
UCvA1fsVyX78RcZuC-aFyw4g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvA1fsVyX78RcZuC-aFyw4g)
karenmargulis.com

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[https://www.youtube.
com/channel/
UCcvkVvNg68NM7VdUVlF-6eg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcvkVvNg68NM7VdUVlF-6eg)
gailsibley.com
howtopastel.com

Aaron Schuerr

Many pastel videos on youtube
aaronschuerr.com

25 free ebooks on painting in various mediums, including pastels:

[www.infobooks.org/
free-painting-books-pdf](http://www.infobooks.org/free-painting-books-pdf)

Master Pastel Artists

[https://www.youtube.com/@
masterpastelartists7206/videos](https://www.youtube.com/@masterpastelartists7206/videos)

Jackson's Art

[https://www.youtube.
com/channel/
UC_oSNIw9kNkdsLixb1_tZsw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_oSNIw9kNkdsLixb1_tZsw)

Dakota Pastel

Several pastel videos on youtube
dakotapastels.com

Pan Pastel Colors

[youtube.com/channel/UCzdPko
GU9UZ348xw53k1WHA](https://youtube.com/channel/UCzdPkoGU9UZ348xw53k1WHA)

Xrissart

[youtube.com/channel/
UCUGB-U1gh1CCsBa6PiQvONG](https://youtube.com/channel/UCUGB-U1gh1CCsBa6PiQvONG)

JVArt Resources

[https://www.youtube.com/c/
JVArtresources](https://www.youtube.com/c/JVArtresources)

Love Life Drawing

[youtube.com/channel/
UCA9o111IH1VD8Kxz0YLn8_A](https://youtube.com/channel/UCA9o111IH1VD8Kxz0YLn8_A)

Unmask Art

[youtube.com/channel/
UCc200efazooi-bz2TQ1_Nuw](https://youtube.com/channel/UCc200efazooi-bz2TQ1_Nuw)

Pastel Today Newsletter

pasteltoday.com/

Monet Café

www.susanjenkinsfineart.com/
[www.youtube.com/
monetcafe?withartistsusanjenkins](https://www.youtube.com/monetcafe?withartistsusanjenkins)

**Please let us know of any other FREE pastel or art online
resources and we will add them to the list!**



Passing Shadow by Becky Johnson

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