

the paper

SUMMER 2025



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by Leslie Trujillo-Batts



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the paper

SUMMER 2024

Message from PPPS President, Lyn Farrell

Why Do I Bother With Art?

Have you ever asked yourself why you keep working at improving at your art? I have. Drawing and painting can be frustrating and depressing; make you question yourself and your abilities like nothing I have encountered before. Many times I have left my easel after struggling with a painting saying to myself “why am I doing this; I am obviously not good at it.”

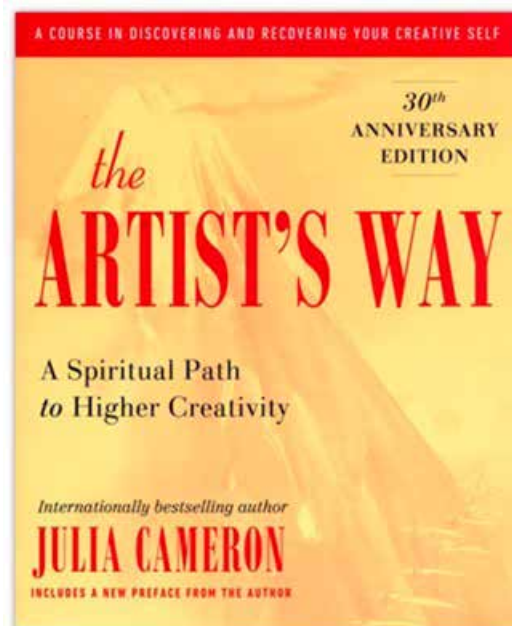
I started out dabbling in artistic things when I retired in 2018. It was the first time I had tried my hand at art since elementary school, a good 55 years earlier. I started out wanting to try something new—I spent my entire working life studying and applying governmental regulations as a banking attorney. I wanted something to do that was vastly different, more life enhancing. Art is about as far away from regulatory analysis as is possible.

I enjoyed art when I first started but, of course, I worried that it was not “good” or that I was “doing it wrong.” Those feelings still persist at times. However, I have taken some time to think about why I am practicing pastel art and what goals I want to achieve by spending so much time trying to get better at it.

I have no illusions—I have little chance of becoming a “great artist.” One of my art teachers tells stories of adult students who tell her that their ambition is to become “great artists.” She tells them outright that there is little likelihood of that happening; they should just try their best to become better.

Becoming rich selling art is also not a goal of mine. Realistically, a small percentage of people sell their art on a regular basis and a much smaller one make a living from it. Fortunately, I am at a place in life where I do not have to rely on selling my art to live. So if a piece sells in one of our shows, I am thrilled but it is not one of my goals.

I am also not trying to gain recognition through my art. Again, there are very few renowned artists in the world compared to all of the people who practice art.



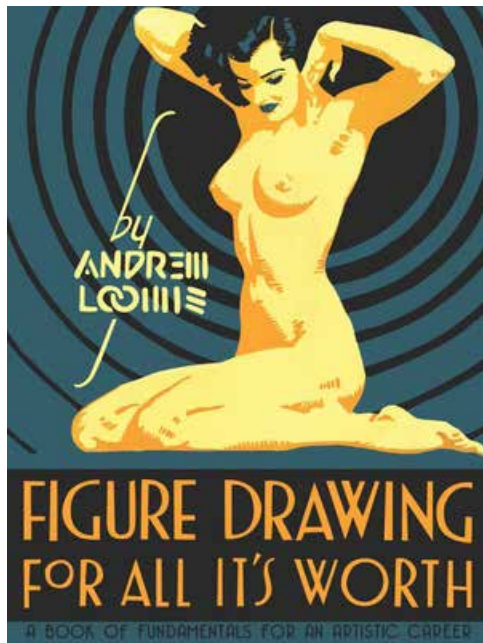
“The Artist’s Way” by Julia Cameron
I’ve read this multiple times.
It’s helpful in getting unblocked.

However, there are quite a few really good ones, and I love to look at good art. It is soul enriching.

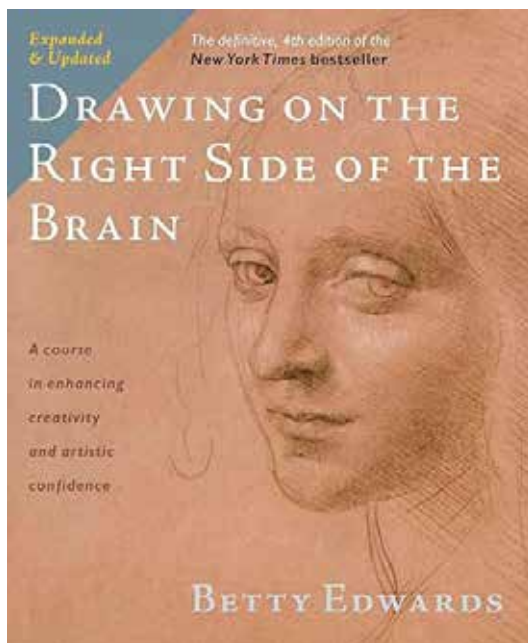
So why do I spend my time and brain power trying to become a better pastelist?

First, I want to paint well because it is a learning process that I enjoy. Learning new things has always been fun for me. I enjoy reading and watching instructional videos on artistic disciplines like composition, values, color theory, drawing and shape definition. Really understanding these various pieces of the artistic process is interesting and learning to apply them is a complex but satisfying activity. These artistic disciplines all converge in pastel painting, which is one reason I love it so much. I have lately added the study of art history—another fascinating part of art—to my learning regime. I am especially interested in the post impressionists and how their work has influenced

continued on page 2



“Figure Drawing for All It's Worth”
by Andrew Loomis
I love drawing and this book is so helpful
in drawing the figure



“Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain”
by Betty Edwards
Love this! Read it and took the in-person course.
So helpful!

modern art. I am intent on staying out of dementia in my old age for as long as possible and learning new skills (like drawing) and new things in general are helpful for that endeavor.

Applying the things I learn successfully to a painting gives me a lot of satisfaction. I do not always make the application successful on the first try but I continue to try until I am happy with the results. Truthfully, I am a much better artist than I thought I could be even though I have a long way to go, but the process is the fun part.

I am now focusing on finding and refining my own artistic voice. That knowledge only comes through practicing the things that I learn consistently and intentionally. I try to stay aware of what I like and the styles that appeal to me. By painting regularly (and I try to paint every day) I hope to hone in on my unique pastel painting style.

Painting can be a discouraging practice if one's goals are not clear. If my goal were to make a lot of money or gain recognition, I would be constantly disappointed. But since my goals are much different my painting practice is often joyful and life affirming. I have my discouraging and frustrating moments but those do not characterize my artistic practice.

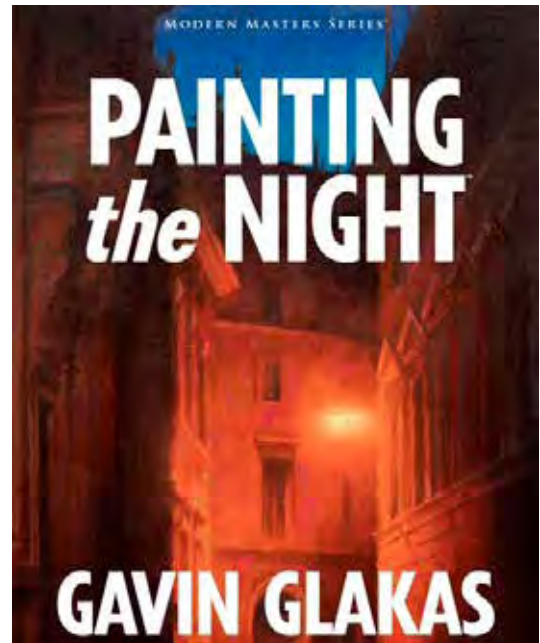
“One of the biggest joys in my pastel painting practice is being with members of our Pastel Society. Our group is warm and friendly and imminently encouraging to one another. I encourage all of you to join us in our activities and have artistic fun together.”

Lyn Farrell, PPPS President

*I love videos and can spend all day watching if I'm not careful.
These are a couple of my favorites — all are from Streamline Videos.*



William Schneider is a fantastic pastel and oil painter. His description of composition in this video is worth the entire video just by itself.



Gavin Glakas is one of the best painters I've seen. His descriptions of how he decides what color to put on next is the best reason for this video.

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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

Our 2025 Members Show at Commonwheel

The 2025 Pikes Peak Pastel Society Pastel Exhibition: *Rocly Mountain Revery* was held at the Commonwheel Artist Co-Op in Manitou Springs, CO. The exhibit began on June 4 and ended on July 1, 2025. The Artists' Opening Reception was held on Friday June 7, from 5 to 8 PM. Twenty pieces were sold!



Amy Davis and the purchaser of her painting, "Blue Lake at Quandry Peak" at the Artists' Opening Reception



Above: Caitlin Humphries & Rosalie Montgomery

Below: GERALYN HESS-UNDERWOOD, ROSALIE MONTGOMERY, LISA FLAHERTY, CAITLIN HUMPHRIES, AND JILL JOHNSON

We are always looking for places to exhibit the work of our PPPS artists. If you know a good location, please email info@pikespeakpasel.org, Katerina Kostin at k.kostin@comcast.net or Rosalie Montgomery at RJRmontgomery@gmail.com.



Clockwise from top: Caitlin Humphries, Rosalie Montgomery, Leslie White, Lisa Flaherty, Pat Geonetta, Betsy Cook, and Amy Davis; Jill Johnson & Geralyn Hess-Underwood; Caitlyn Humphries

Here Come Scammers

Reprinted with permission from John MacDonald's Summer 25 Newsletter.

The next newsletter wasn't scheduled to go out until September but I've been recently reading about the explosive growth of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and its largely unknown impact on our society. The general consensus is that it will be huge. Artists need to consider *now* how AI is likely to affect them and to begin to prepare for it.

Today, most of the discussions about how AI will impact the visual arts focuses on image generation—how anyone will be able to create any image of any subject matter in any style. Will it put artists out of business? Will artists be able to protect their style? Or will AI prove to be nothing more than another tool, similar to Photoshop? This is a complex topic and NOT the subject of this newsletter.

What most now concerns me now is how AI will give scammers an unprecedented ability to steal from us. It's going to become increasingly difficult to distinguish an email from a legitimate buyer from a scammer. The best advice? Follow the Boy Scout's century old motto: **Be Prepared.**



The Scammers.

As artists, we're not immune to email scams. We need to remain attentive and to keep up with how technological advances will change how scammers work.

In a 2018 newsletter, which briefly mentioned email scams, I included an example of a common scam that was targeting artists:

My name is Meagan Sardana from California. I actually observed my husband has been viewing your website

on my laptop and i guess he likes your piece of work. I'm also impressed and amazed to have seen your various works too, You are doing a great job. I would like to purchase one of your "Deep Winter Woods 12 x 24 Oil On Linen" as a surprise to my husband on our anniversary. Also, let me know if you accept CHECK as mode of Payment.

The language and phrasing is clumsy and clearly non-standard American English. The name of the painting (including media and size) was obviously simply copied from my website. This entire email shouted, "**SCAM!**" I deleted it. No doubt you've received many similar emails.

That was 2018. Fast forward seven years and I received this email last month:

Name: Michael Blend

Email Address: blendmicheal9@gmail.com

Message: *Hi John, I came across your artwork and was really impressed! I'm interested in purchasing your work. Could you please let me know your availability and rates?*

This email was short and concise and much closer to what could be a legitimate inquiry from a possible collector. Much more convincing than the 2018 email, I hesitated. Could it be real? No, it felt wrong. There were still some red flags.

He didn't introduce himself. There was no mention of where he saw my work or reference to any specific painting. There is a hint of awkwardness: the use of the word "artwork" rather than "paintings." If he knew my work, why not use the word "paintings"? The phrase, "please let me know your availability and rates" was awkward. I would expect something like "Please send me list of available paintings and prices." The email was a scam; but it made me pause. And that's what concerned me. For a brief moment, I thought it just might be legit.

Here Comes AI

AI is already here and it's improving at light speed. It's going to be a game changer for scammers. Soon, scammers will be able to send you an email that will be custom made, specifically targeting you. It will appear to be from one of your art contacts, a gallery owner or collector, using facts that you will suppose could only be known to the individual they're impersonating. They'll use with perfect, informal English. They may ask about your children or partner by name or mention a recent show

in which you've participated. **AI will allow spammers to create emails that will be indistinguishable from authentic emails from possible buyers.**

What Can We Do?

I'm no expert on AI or scamming. My research has been limited to reading articles, talking to a few other artists, and watching several YouTube videos. The videos were posted by artists who address scams and give advice about how to avoid falling for them. Consider viewing some of the videos, especially if you have a strong presence on social media. Scams on Instagram, Facebook, etc. are as prevalent as those that arrive via email.

Here are a few suggestions to help you avoid email scams.

Be Skeptical

The first and most important: *never blindly trust any email by anyone inquiring about purchasing one of your paintings.* Never rush to respond, never click on a link, never offer any personal information, and never offer to send any money. Pause before responding.

Take a deep breath.

No one needs to buy a painting immediately. Scammers will flood you with compliments about your work, stroking your ego and numbing your judgement and reason. Stop and Think. Don't do anything before you can think about their email and their offer. Every true collector enjoys connecting with the artists they buy from. If somebody truly connects with your paintings, they'll want to take time to converse with you. The more impersonal the email feels, the more likely it's a scam.

Ask for a phone conversation.

Because an authentic buyer, gallery owner, or show organizer will be as interested in you as they are in your work, they shouldn't refuse an offer to have a brief phone conversation. When I have any doubts about an email inquiry, I'll first respond by asking that we talk.

I'll send an email similar to this example:

Hello —, Thank you for contacting me. I greatly appreciate your interest in my work. When working with a possible buyer, I find a phone conversation to be extremely helpful. It allows me to understand the reason for your interest in my work and your tastes, so I can provide a painting that will most please you. I'll be happy to discuss the availability and pricing of my paintings. Please send me a phone number where I

can reach you and the best time to call. I'll call you at your convenience.

*Thank you,
John*

Notice I don't give them my phone number – I ask them for theirs. This email politely invites the buyer to tell his or her story and the reason they like your work. Scammers won't respond to this email. Those that do will ignore the request for a phone call, repeat their inflated compliments, then add some time pressure. There's no need to respond to those emails. Delete them.

Finally, go to the essential issue: money.

If someone responds with what seems like a legitimate reason not to have a phone conversation, I'll agree to continue via email but, in my response I'll mention that I follow the policies of galleries or online art sellers. I won't ship a painting until payment has cleared the bank. A legitimate buyer will understand that request but if it's a scammer, that stipulation for the sale will end the conversation.

A Summary.

Currently, most email scams can be detected by careful reading and consideration. But AI is going to dramatically change that. Continue to rely on your intuition but consider adopting a uniform response that will weed out the most clever of scammers.

1. **Be skeptical.** Don't let the excitement of a possible sale cloud your judgement.
2. **Pause.** Don't click links, don't send money, don't share personal information.
3. **Request a phone conversation.** A real buyer will be interested in talking to you.
4. **Money.** Politely mention that any payment must first clear your bank. ***This is crucial.***

Here's an example from a few months ago. The initial email was clearly a scam but I was curious how the scammer would respond if I requested a phone conversation.

Name: Frank Willis

Email Address: frankwillis808r@gmail.com

Message: Hello,

Your Artworks are truly stunning, and I'm deeply impressed by your style. I'm interested in purchasing your artwork and would like to know more about pricing, availability, and any other relevant details. Acquiring

these exceptional pieces for my personal collection is of great interest to me. I eagerly await your response. thank you.

The salutation is simply, "Hello." He loves my work but doesn't know my name??

My response:

Hello Frank,

Thank you for contacting me and for your interest in my work. I'd be happy to discuss the availability and pricing of my paintings. When selling work, I find a phone conversation the best way to ensure that I understand what you're looking for. Please send me a phone number where I can reach you and the best time to call.

Thank you, John

Name: Frank Williams

Email Address: frankwillis808r@gmail.com

Message: Thanks for your reply.

Actually the art exhibition is coming up soon and it will be online. So I'm collecting good 2D, 3D and environmental artworks for the exhibition. I came across your captivating masterpiece and I decided to contact you. I can attest to the credibility and uniqueness of your style and I want them as NFT. I wouldn't mind paying 2.4th each for one piece worth \$7,040.74 also don't mind acquiring more than one piece. I just want the digital copy, you can still retain the copyright. So I'm writing to know the availability and if you're ok with the offer.

His response is also full of **Red Flags**:

- In the first email, the name was "Frank Willis." Now it's "Frank Williams"!
- No mention of my request for a phone call.
- "the art exhibition is coming up soon." Adding time pressure.
- "Captivating masterpiece...credibility...uniqueness..." Stroking the ego.
- "NFT" = non-fungible token = not real money. **Never accept a sale with NFT.**
- "Just want the digital copy." A digital copy for a "personal collection"?

Future emails won't be so obviously a scam. And soon, maybe AI will allow scammers to convincingly fake a phone call. Ultimately, the only solution for artists will be to insist that payment clears the bank before any commission begins or painting is shipped.

You can see John MacDonald's artwork and/or sign up for his newsletter here: www.jmacdonald.com.

Advice from Other Artists.

Here are a few links to videos on YouTube that are worth watching. Copy and paste the URLs below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2rkwX6bTnE&t=2s>
(Highly recommended!)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2rkwX6bTnE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zxq3eDT-8Aw> (a rather humorous approach)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBMFxMJkrBI&t=25s>

Because I spend little time on social media, I'm more interested in how scammers use email than social media sites. For many artists, the opposite would be true. Below are some of the notes I took while watching the videos about scams on social media:

Red flags

1. Someone comments on your post asking you to DM—direct message—them with no other comments or interaction.
2. If they don't follow you or have never commented on your previous posts.
3. If they insist on their method of purchase and transfer of funds.
4. If they tell you how much they'll pay without first asking about your pricing, especially if they're offering much more than you would have expected.
5. If they're asking for a commission of a subject you don't or rarely do. For example, they want a pet portrait when you do only landscapes. If you accept commissions online, INSIST on 50% up front and don't start until the money clears the bank.
6. **If they ask you for a refund.** Usually, it's the result of them "accidentally" sending you more money than was agreed upon or they've changed their mind and ask for a refund. (Ignore any proof they send that shows the payment was made. It's always a fabrication.)

If you're dealing with someone on Instagram, be very wary of sending personal information: your full name, email address or phone number. Keep records of all communication (take screenshots). Get two-factor authentication (2FA) on all payment apps.

If you do happen to fall prey to a scam, don't be embarrassed or remain quiet. You weren't the first. Sharing your experience with other artists is the best response.

PPPS Meetings

January 11 at the East Library

Leslie Trujillo-Batts demonstrated her photo realistic pastel technique. She moved from using acrylics for portrait and figure drawings to pastel still life when she realized people were not interested in buying paintings of people they didn't know. Because of the accuracy provided by pastel pencils, she felt comfortable using pastels with her still life paintings of fruit adding a bug or two make her art unique and enjoyable to look at. She also was very busy completing a painting for the national waterfowl stamp competition. See more of Leslie's art at latbfineart.com.

A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Member George Hart for being a wonderful artist and champion of the art of pastel. He also received a set of Schmicke Landscape pastels.

The meeting ended with a door prize drawing won by GERALYN HESS-UNDERWOOD.



PPPS Meetings

February 15 at the Library 21c

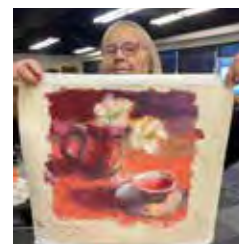
Jeanette Stutzman gave a presentation on using a color wheel to try different color schemes in pastel painting. Everyone gave it a try, following along with Jeannette.

Jeannette provided a simple composition to use as reference to paint along with her demo of quick, multiple color studies using a color wheel. Jeanette's favorite color wheel on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/hKC2vsY>.

She also imparted many good suggestions towards becoming a better artist:

1. Shadows or highlights can stand out but not both
2. You can paint a picture more than once
3. Make it simple
4. Hold your pastel along side the color wheel to learn it's true color
5. Practice painting a value scale
6. The area (the bridge) between the shadow and midtone holds the most color

Member Chad Green won the new member drawing for a \$50 Dakota Pastels gift card. Beth Gramith won the door prize, a set of Unison half-sticks, *Dark Skies*.

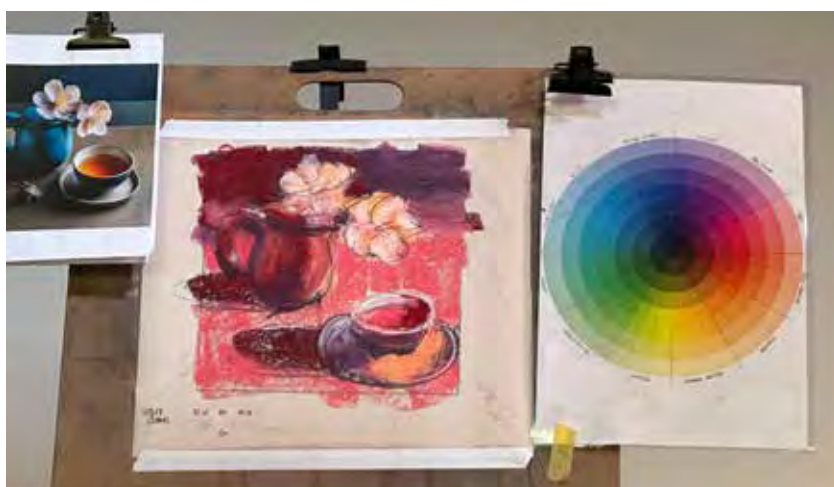
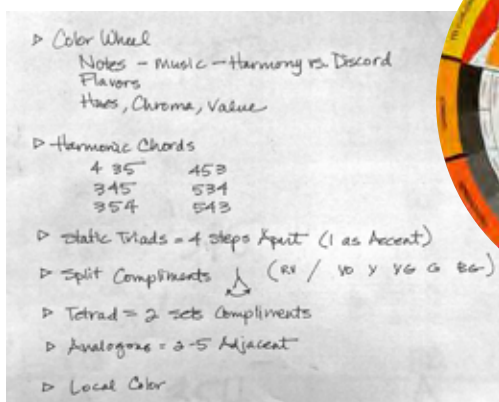
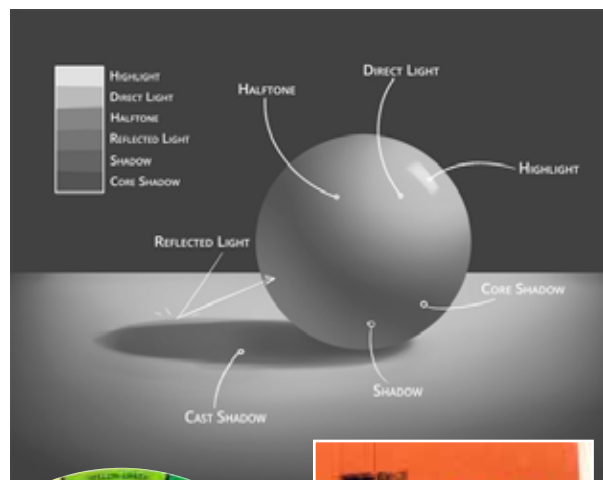


Using the Color Wheel to Plan a Variety of Color Schemes for Your Paintings!

Do you wonder where the magic is in USING a color wheel to plan palettes? Do you find yourself painting with the same palette too frequently? Do you get overwhelmed with the pretty colors of all of your pastels and find that your paintings lack color harmony? Would you like to go beyond just using a triad or a complementary palette?

Would you like some hands-on practice with guidance to understand the next steps?

All you need is your color wheel and supplies, your artistic license and a desire to explore the possibilities!



PPPS Meetings

March 22 at the East Library

Teresa Merriman gave a presentation on making leather-bound journals. She explained her choices of leather and paper used to create her journals, including watercolor papers, and the different tools she uses. She demonstrated how to attach pages into a leather journal.

Visit Theresa's web site for information on the craft shows she is participating in this summer, upcoming classes, and to purchase journals at artjournalavenue.com.

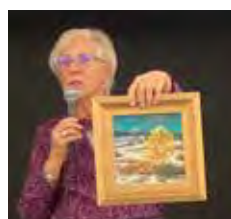
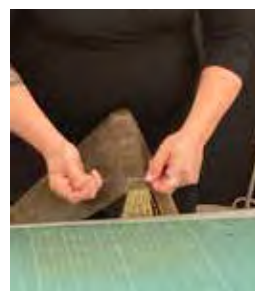
Member Lisa Faherty Vance shared her artistic journey and how she started painting with pastel. She has always been an artistic person and did a lot of art until high school when she turned to photography.

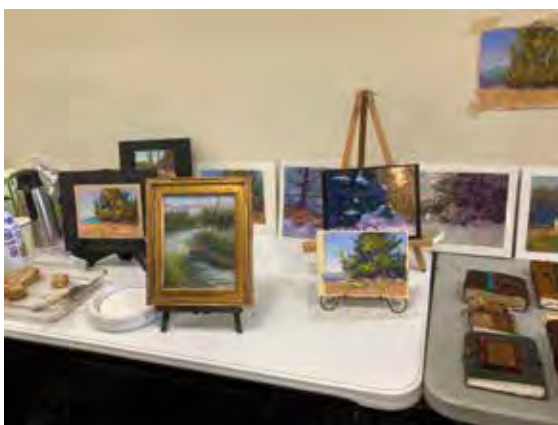
Lisa is now a proposal writer for a defense contractor. In 2015 she again became interested in art, and has taken many classes and studied art on-line. COVID allowed her the time to study with many different oil and pastel artists. She shows her art in Arts Alive Gallery, Frisco, CO. Her advice: It's never too late to start, make time to paint, take classes from great artists (great artists enjoy sharing), and use good frames with your art work. Visit lisafahertyart.com to view her art and workshops.

Several Book Club participants brought and displayed some of the artwork produced from the exercises in Barbara Jaenicke's book, *Painting the Poetic Landscape*.

Deb Bartos, a Colorado Springs artist, stopped by with her dog Snowy to donate some pastel supplies to PPPS.

Amy Davis won the door prize.





PPPS Book Club

Both the north and the south groups of the PPPS Book club enjoyed working through the exercises in *Painting the Poetic Landscape* by Barbara Jaenicke over the winter into spring. For the summer, the two groups have been working on the exercises in Mitch Albala's book, *The Landscape Painter's Workbook*.

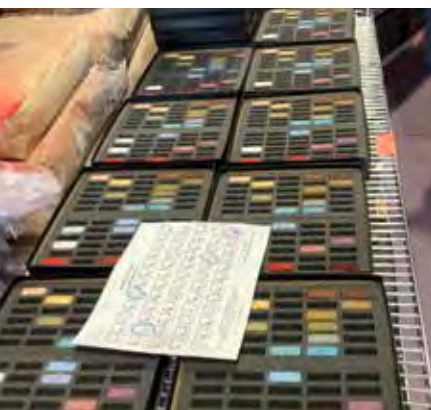


PPPS Events

June Visit to Terry Ludwig

A group of PPPS members carpoled to Terry Ludwig's factory in Littleton, CO on June 6. They enjoyed a tour of the factory to see the process of making the pastels (mixing, squishing, drying, sanding and boxing), the inventory room with their wonderful sets, and of course, the fabulous display of all the available colors.

You can visit Terry's by appointment only, and you will receive a 20% discount on any purchases you might make, either sets or individual sticks. Contact Terry Ludwig to make an appointment via email: customerservice@terryludwigpastels.com, or phone (303) 795-1232. They are open Monday thru Friday, from 9am to 4pm. The address is 12299 Mead Way, Suite A, Littleton, Colorado 80125. The web site is terryludwig.com.







“Marigold’s Masterpieces”

PPPS President, Lyn Farrell, frequently dines at Marigold’s, a very popular Colorado Springs restaurant. They are very famous for their desserts, so Lyn thought it would be a nice gesture for PPPS artists to paint the desserts and hang them at Marigold’s. She received permission from the owner, Ghassen (Gus) Nehme, Sr.

Nineteen artists participated in painting the desserts. Lyn’s husband, Brian, framed them beautifully. The paintings are now on display at the Marigold’s on Centennial.

To celebrate, PPPS had a dinner on July 10th at Marigold’s. Visit Marigold’s to see the permanent exhibit: Marigold Café and Bakery, 4605 Centennial Blvd.



PPPS Events

A Zoom Demo by Pastel Artist Janet Schwartz

PPPS offered a special treat to members in April. Janet Schwartz gave a zoom demonstration on Saturday, April 26 from 9:30 AM to noon.

“Using pastels, I guide participants to simplify what they see and capture the essence of their subject by focusing on the darks, lights, and mid-tones.”

As a practicing artist and art workshop instructor, Janet uses pastels, oils, and charcoal to explore the variation of light in nature and architecture. She is particularly drawn to the chaos and unexpected beauty of urban landscapes, traffic and, more recently, ships and the shoreline. Janet brings a very personal and unique viewpoint to her work, which dramatically captures the mood of her emotionally-charged subjects.

Janet has achieved the level of Master Circle Pastelist of the International Association of Pastel Societies, is a signature member, VP, and board member of the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod, a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, and has achieved Copley Artist status of the Copley Society of Art.

Visit her website: janetschwartzart.com.



“Snail Mail”, by Janet Schwartz

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=_UKxfhSO8Tw

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=FmlxHMhz38M>
<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>

A No Fail Way to Start a Pastel Painting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvQKBEFh6Ds>

Liz Haywood-Sullivan on Pastel Technique

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lc4NpKsLLTQ>

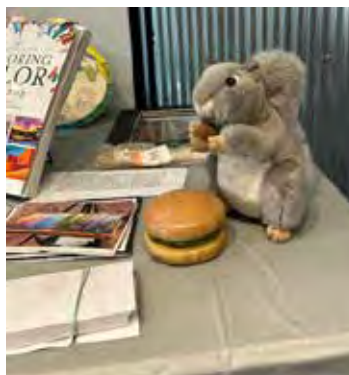
Morning Path – The Beauty of Pastel with Bethany Fields

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNrBfii85EU>

PPPS Events

Karen Margulis Workshop

Karen gave a two-day “Cooking with Color” workshop May 19 & 20 at the Woodmen Valley Chapel Worship Center, Rockrimmon Campus. She is a wonderful instructor, bringing toys, tools, and inspiration. Karen has many free tutorials on YouTube, and a Patreon group. Please visit: patreon.com/c/karenmargulis, karenmargulis.com, and youtube.com/c/karenmargulis

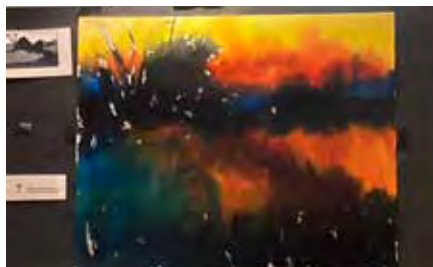


“An underpainting in monotone is like a ‘thread’ that holds the painting together.”



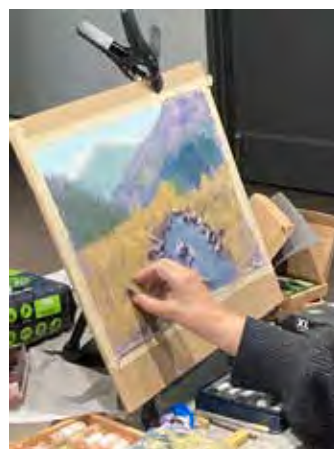
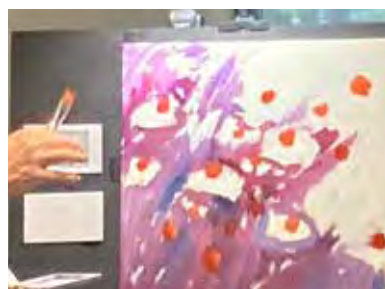
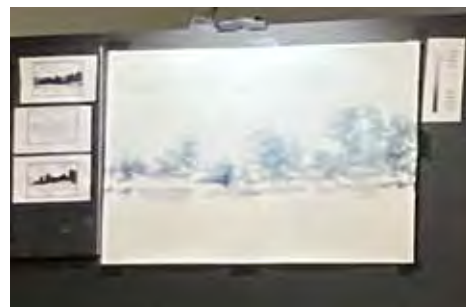
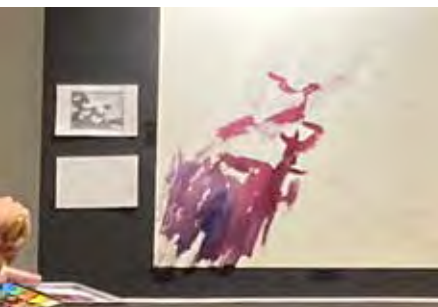


*"Pre-select your pastels
for more control in
your painting."*





“When painting flowers, suggest a few. Let the viewer fill in the rest. Do not ‘over-spice’. Make groupings. If I can count the flowers, they are too speckled.”



“Do not chase the photo. Let it take on its own voice. Make yours a better image.”



An Interview with Karen Margulis

by Nell Houser

The "Cooking with Color" workshop on May 19 and 20, 2025 prompted several of our members to ask the following intriguing questions.

1. Share how your early interest in art and your initial experience with pastel piqued your interest and passion for the medium.

"I have always been interested in drawing and painting, even as a young child. I would go to adult oil painting classes because there were no classes for children. I stayed creative while raising our family with sewing and photography as creative outlets. I got into pastels when my children were in high school, and I decided it was time to start painting again. I took a one-day pastel workshop at a local art center and fell in love with the medium. It was the perfect medium for me as I was working full time and could pick up a pastel and paint at any free moment without having to clean brushes!"

2. You are a fabulous teacher! Many great teachers struggle when creating a business around their art. How have you managed this aspect of your career?

"I did get my degree in elementary education and had a family childcare and preschool for 20 years. These experiences have helped me with planning classes and lessons and staying organized! As far as making teaching pastels a part of my business ... it happened organically when I was voted to take over the pastel class when our teacher wanted a break. I wanted to make a great experience for my peers!"

3. Do you think any other nontraditional disciplines or fields of study have assisted your art or your art business?

"I am not sure. I can say that being active online early on in my journey with pastels has been the best thing for my art business. I jumped on the daily painting bandwagon back in 2006 and started a blog. This is where I connected with many of my followers who are still with me today on Patreon. Being open to new platforms and technology has been very helpful!"

4. Please explain the role your spouse plays in your artistic career.

"My husband is a tremendous support for me. He is the one who prodded me to make more videos, and he is the videographer. We have always been a team with our businesses from our daycare to our pet sitting service to my teaching career. We work so well together, and each has our roles."



5. What is perhaps the most significant action that has affected your art career and propelled you to where you today?

"Well, I never intended to have an art career. I started painting in my 40s because I was looking for a creative outlet. I did, however, work very hard at getting better, which led to my daily painting and my blog, 'Painting My World'. I started to get recognition from my blog and then started a YouTube channel and an Etsy shop. Being involved online early in my journey with pastels is what turned a hobby into a career."

6. Was there a momentous AHA moment at some point in time, possibly after a break-through experience?

"I have had many AHA moments! I was fortunate to be able to take workshops from many wonderful artists and instructors – the 'who's who' in the pastel world! Each one of those experiences gave me my AHA moments and allowed me to become the artist I am today."

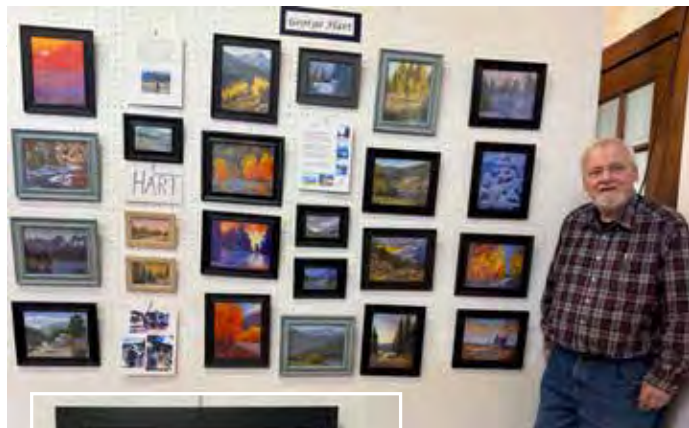
7. Share a current goal you are working to achieve.

"I would love to have time in my studio to do more abstracts. I have a side gig as an instructor on board cruise ships, so with workshops and cruises, I have a busy schedule. I also have it on my list to someday write a book. I am just not sure what direction the book should go!"

Hopefully these questions have provided direction and a way to experience Karen at a personal level.

Member News

We want to extend a warm PPPS welcome to new members **Karin Huxman, Karen Eiles, Anje Sorensen, Wendi Ladegard, Nancy Harvey, Caitlyn Humphries, Holly Miller, Betty Roush, Rita Bates** and **Bonny Anthony**, a returning member and former PPPS President.



George Hart at his one-man show



"Intimidation", Best in Show!

Member Shows and Events

Members **Sue Tormoen** and **Mary Sexton** had paintings accepted into the annual Auric Gallery show, "Gratitude". An article featuring Sue appeared in the March edition of the *Beacon* magazine. Members **Patrick Kochanasz, Leslie Trujillo-Batts, Chad Greene, Elizabeth Amacher,** and **Mary Sexton** had pastel paintings accepted into the Pastel Society of Colorado's Mile High Show. Leslie was awarded Best in Show for her painting *Intimidation*. See her painting on the Front Cover !

Member **Elizabeth Amacher** taught a pastel class during the spring at Cottonwood Center for the Arts. Member **George Hart** had a one-man show at the Pueblo Art Guild for the month of June. Members **Lisa Faherty-Vance** and **Mary Sexton** shared a booth at the Broadmoor Traditions Art Festival at the Colorado Springs School, July 4 – 6. That same weekend, member **Beth Gramith** had a booth at the Broadmoor Galleries Plein Air event. Members **Pat Geonetta** & **Sue Tormoen** participated in the Middle Shooks Run Neighborhood Association's Summer Fest, an annual July event set in Shooks Run Park.

Lisa and Mary had booths at the "Steamboat Creates" Art Festival in Steamboat Springs July 12 & 13. Lisa had prints showing at the Garden of the Gods Red Rocks Room for the month of July along with other members of the Plein Air Artists of Colorado (PAAC). Lisa taught her first pastel class, "It's not Chalk—a Beginner's Introduction to Painting with Soft Pastels" at Bella Art & Frame, Monument, CO, at the end of July. She also taught a beginners pastel landscape class



Clockwise from top left: Chad Greene's "The Mountain's Majesty"; "Road to No Where" by Mary Sexton; "Turn of Time" by Elizabeth Amacher; and "Canyon's First Light" by Patrick Kochanasz



Beth Gramith at the July Broadmoor Plein Air Event

Entering Juried Shows

An Interview with Lydia Pottorf

Why do you enter shows and competitions knowing you may not get in?

I like to support organizations by entering shows and online competitions. One never knows how a work will resonate with a particular judge so it's worth a chance.

What advice would you give to a novice pastelist about entering competitions and shows?

Don't be disappointed by rejection. Just keep trying.

How do you go about choosing a painting for a show? Do you already choose a painting you've created or do you create a specific painting for a show?

I do both. I generally spend a lot of time sourcing my image and choose the ones that I feel have a strong composition and theme. Sometimes the pieces don't turn out quite the way I want them to. And, sometimes a piece will turn out better than I expect. It's hard to step into the judges shoes so you just enter the pieces you feel strongly about. I've won awards for pieces that have been rejected in other shows. That has taught me that there is some merit to just sticking to what you believe is a good piece.

You can check out more of Lydia's beautiful paintings here on her website: www.lydiapottorffineart.com.



"Along Dallas Divide" by Lydia Pottorf was selected as one of the top 10 Winners of 'Artists Magazine's' 'Over 60 Art Competition' in March, 2025.



Pat Geonetta and Sue Tormoen showing pastel paintings at Shooks Run



Lisa Faherty-Vance at the Broadmoor Traditions Art Festival



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

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

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Susan Jenkins

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

Tony Allain Fine Art

Many videos on youtube
tonyallainfineart.com

Bethany Fields

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

Pastel Techniques, Tutorials, and Resources

artshow.com/resources/pastels

Emma Colbert

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

Liz Haywood-Sullivan

lizhaywoodsullivan.com

Karen Margulis

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

Gail Sibley

[youtube.com/channel/
UCcvkVvNg68NM7VdUVlF-6eg](https://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:

infobooks.org/free-painting-books-pdf

Master Pastel Artists

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

Jackson's Art

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

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Unmask Art

[youtube.com/channel/
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Let us know of any other FREE pastel or art online resources and we will add them to the list!

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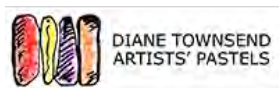
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"7th Symphony" by Katerina Kostin