



April 2015

April OPS Meeting to Feature Artist Patricia Ridge Bradley

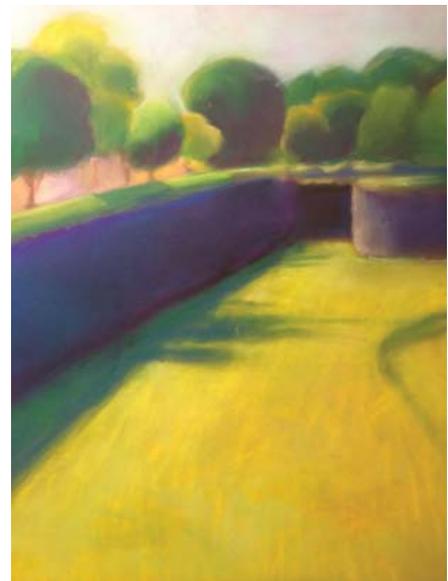
Patricia Ridge Bradley was born in Enid and earned her BFA from Oklahoma State University.

In 1980, Patricia apprenticed with Creative Director Jim Elmore of Davis & Nausser Advertising in Tulsa and launched her career in graphic design. Shortly after moving to Denver, she formed Bradley Studios and designed and produced print materials for nearly every major manufacturer of baby products, mainly Evenflo Company, Inc., Denver Rotary Club's Artists of America Exhibition and Sale, and Central City Opera. After returning to Oklahoma, she designed, edited and produced eight pictorial books for three different authors. "Capturing the Spirit in Bronze, The Journey and Sculptures of Rosalind Cook" is a finalist for the design/illustration/photography category of the 2015 Oklahoma Book Award competition. She continues to design and produce exhibition and membership materials for the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

In 2009, Patricia founded Creative Arts Enid, a non-profit organization that provides fine art experiences for all ages in Enid. She taught drawing for adults and teens and children ages 7-12, and founded a fine arts program provided by CAE for Enid's elementary schools. Although she is no longer affiliated with the studio, it is still thriving with a full schedule of fine art and American craft classes for all ages, and provides art education to the primary grades.

Patricia has returned to her roots and is pursuing a second career in fine arts, painting in oils and pastels and drawing in charcoal. She enjoys drawing and painting the figure, portraiture, still life, landscapes, cityscapes, and western themes, all in a (mostly) representational style. Her technique ranges from very loose and spontaneous to meticulously rendered. She generally works in the studio, working from live models and still life, using photography as reference. She has won three awards from the Oklahoma Artists Guild for her still life and figure drawings.

A life-long learner, Patricia has studied under Glen Thomas, Leslie Lienau and Mike Wimmer, brushing up on old skills and learning new ones. She blends her love of travel with plein air painting, and has taken solo trips to France and Italy to paint with oils and pastels. She is traveling to New Mexico this year to paint solo in the mountains of Taos in the summer, and the desert landscapes of Abiquiu with Kim English in the fall.



Message from OPS President Donna Branson

Dear OPS Members,

Our Spring Show was a huge success. Congratulations to our Best of Show winner, Jude Tolar, to all of our other awardees and to everyone who brought their art to the event. I was so proud of our group, the art was marvelous, the food was delicious and the reception/opening was very well attended. In fact, we sold six paintings and auctioned off two of our paint-around paintings, one of which was won by an individual headed to Russia! Imagine our six paint-around artists now have a painting hanging in a home in Russia!!



We all owe Linda a huge round of applause for all of the work that she did to plan and put on the spring show. The show banner she created was well designed and she coordinated it with the auction graphics that she created, just a superb job! Thank you Linda, thank you! Many thanks also to all who brought food for the reception, and to our judge, Dale Martin. Lastly, I want to extend a special thank you to Steve and Sharon Thompson for hosting our event and for working tirelessly to sell our art! If you have not seen the show, please take the time to do so, it is well worth it.

Debby Kaspari presented an outstanding March meeting for OPS. Debby, we loved seeing your journals, your paintings and hearing about your travels, and watching you demo was a real treat! You were fortunate to have a unique experience and we loved enjoying it vicariously. Thank you so very much. If you aren't following Debby's blog, Drawing the Motmot, you might want to check it out.

This month we are pleased to have Patricia Ridge Bradley as our guest artist. After a successful career in graphic design, Patricia returned to her love of fine art and began her second career, painting in pastels and oils. She will paint a still life for her OPS demo.

See you Monday, April 13th, 6:30 at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Donna
Donna Branson, PhD
President, Oklahoma Pastel Society



Spotlight on OPS Member Terry Ludwig

Where are you originally from? If you're a transplant, how did you end up in your current area?

I grew up in Calumet City, IL near Gary, IN, where my dad worked in the steel mills. It took only one summer of working there to know that wasn't going to be a career choice for me. I had always loved art, and it was my mother who guided me to follow that interest. I attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago. As we all know, a person does not receive an art education, and move forward from there to make a living. The only job I could find that used any of my skills was drafting box cars. Not what I wanted to do either.

After marrying, Marie and I moved to Minneapolis, MN and then to Minocqua, WI, where I worked route sales selling butcher supplies to butcher shops. Eventually we made the wise decision to live where it didn't snow quite so much and there was at least some sunshine, so in 1972 we packed up the kids and moved to Littleton, Co. Although I supported my family as an agent with Farmers Insurance Group for 25 years, I always enjoyed painting in my free time, and became involved in the art community in Denver, where I am a charter member of the Arts Students League.

Tell me about your family?

Marie and I have two children — a son, Geoff, and daughter, Kristen, both are very creative, and it shows in their careers. We also have a 10-year-old grandson, Whit, a real joy in our family. Both of our kids are married to great people, and we are fortunate to have them living in the Denver area. At one time, both Kristen and her husband, Bill, were intricately involved in Terry Ludwig Pastels, and some of you may remember them.

There was our six pound Schoodle (Schnauzer/Poodle) who had a very big personality. For several years, Noel was a "greeter dog" at Terry Ludwig Pastels, and many of our customers still ask about "that cute little dog that was purple." Noel has since gone to Doggie Heaven.

What style of art do you enjoy?

The style of my own artwork is Impressionistic Realism so, obviously, that is what I most enjoy. I appreciate the looseness of it; conveying an image that the viewer needs to fill in in their own way. Each little detail doesn't need to be added to the painting, and the viewer can appreciate it as a complete painting. Of course, I also enjoy many other styles as long as they read well.

How did you come to love pastels?

I was a happy oil painter for 35 years until one day I was plein air painting with my friend, Lorenzo Chavez, and noticed he was making scratching noises at his easel while I was busy working with my oil paints. When I asked him what he was doing, he said he was using pastels, and suggested that I try them, which I did. With almost the first stroke I was hooked. I liked the immediacy of the medium, the intensity of the color, and the way it laid down on my surface.



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When painting portraits, what results do pastels give you that are different from results when using other mediums?

Pastels are dry; therefore, they are not laying down flat like oils, and the facets of color are picking up the light making the results more interesting than other mediums.

How did you first have the idea to start making your own pastels, and did you think your pastels would be so loved worldwide?

Initially, I started making pastels for my own use because I was frustrated that I couldn't get the colors I was able to make when I mixed my oil paints. It was a long process of talking to many people. Each telephone conversation led me to another person who had another piece of the puzzle. Then, of course, there was trial and error in a little room in the basement.

I had so much fun making pastels; I assumed there were others who would like to know how to make them, so I put together a kit of materials and started teaching workshops on How to Make Pastels. Pretty soon, my students started calling me to make a particular color for them. My response would be "you took the workshop; you know how to make them." However, it seems they didn't want to take the time or make the mess that making pastels requires. So, I started making them for myself and my friends in my basement.

As I took over more and more of the basement with pastels on long tables, Marie said I had to get out of the house; well the pastels had to go, anyway. It was my son-in-law, who recognized that making pastels could become a business. So we moved the pastels out of the basement and leased a very small workshop in a light industrial area. Over the years, our business has grown immensely, thanks to our great customers.

I never had any thought that Terry Ludwig Pastels would become a real business, let alone become highly respected, but it is very gratifying. Today, the pastel medium has the respect and attention of the world.

What do you think put pastels on the map and gained the appreciation of art critics?

Although the history of pastels goes a long way back in history, today there are many new surfaces to paint on and a wider range of colors are being produced. As more artists have started to use pastels the excitement for the medium grows. There are also many new techniques that various artists are using and teaching which generates interest. The realization that pastels can be used as a wet medium as well as dry is an important new concept.

I believe Pastel Societies and the International Association of Pastel Societies have done a good job of promoting not only the medium, but also the education and encouragement of pastel artists. There is a unique sense of community in the pastel world. We encourage each other and celebrate the large and small successes of other artists.

Who are your favorite artists?

Of the old timers, John Singer Sargent is my lifelong favorite. When Marie and I took a trip to London, I was thrilled to "happen" upon a show of Sargent's work at the Tate Museum. It was amazing. As far as current artists, some of my favorites are Harley Brown, Lorenzo Chavez, Liz Haywood-Sullivan and Quang Ho. However, every day I see art by people that are well-known and those who are not-so-well-known, that I admire.

Many years ago while I attended the American Academy of Art, William Mosby was my instructor. He certainly was a big influence at that time and continues to be. He insisted that we learn the basics, which has been invaluable to my art as well as making pastels. Making those color charts was such a drag at the time, but it is what makes all of this possible.

What inspires you?

I love color, the combination of colors, and creating new colors. The play between warm and cool colors inspires me and sends me back to the workshop to work out yet another color. I am inspired by a new color that I see in nature, and by color I see in faces with character. Other artists inspire me. Helping them make better art makes me happy.

Which of your paintings is your favorite and why?

A number of years ago I painted Calla Lillies for a public TV fund raiser. I like the contrast of color and the use of soft edges. My favorite subject to paint is portraits because of the use of color, and the demand on my drawing skills. I appreciate the subtle changes in a person's face, and always carry a small pad of paper to sketch interesting faces that I see. You might find me sketching in an airport, in a restaurant, or even in church.

Anything else you'd like people to know about you?

There are many people who have been on this journey with me. Certainly, my family is the most important of them. Our kids have contributed in a number of ways, and Marie worked for 15 years to support us while I played with pastels. She has encouraged me and even pushed me forward when I needed to be pushed. In April of 2012 she "retired" from her job to join us at Terry Ludwig Pastels. As president of our business, she has proven herself to be pretty savvy in business and marketing, which cannot be said of me. Importantly, we have been fortunate to have wonderful, dedicated employees. They work hard to make pastels, ship them all over the world, and take care of the "business of pastel making" while maintaining great attitudes. Actually, we have a lot of fun doing what we do.

Debby Kaspari Shares Insights from a Stay in Copenhagen and Provides March Demo

Debby recently returned after spending several months in Copenhagen which is the capital city of Denmark. Denmark is one of the oldest countries in the world with buildings from the 1600's. She and her husband, Mike, lived in the Hans Christian Anderson House during their stay. Below are pictures from some of her sketchbooks of drawings and paintings made while she was there.



Notes regarding how Debby does her work:

- Debby did a pencil sketch first, then grid it onto Aubergine Art Spectrum with charcoal.
- She worked from a sketch rather than a photo or setups.
- She started with whites to establish lights, then darks, then mid tones.
- She used Ludwigs, Girault for browns.
- Used same color in several places and used a limited palette.
- Lightened cast shadows a bit away from the object.
- Smoothed with her finger.
- Warmer, lighter, brighter as it comes toward foreground.
- Lost edges with pinky finger, especially shadows.



OPS Spring Show a Huge Success

WINNERS

Best of Show:

Jude Tolar, Inks Lake, TX

Landscape:

1st Place, Pam Brewer, River Sunset
2nd Place, Donna Branson, Reflections
3rd Place, Jan Hutchinson, Grayton in June
HM, Linda Battles, Mission San Joes
HM, Janie Schmitz, First Snow

Still Life:

1st Place, Bob Kaiser, Pot and Pomegranate
2nd Place, Pam Brewer, The Rose
3rd Place, Becky Way, Sunday Best
HM, Becky Way, The Red Onion

Animals:

1st Place, Ronda Zenker, Rocky Mountain Winter
2nd Place, Bob Kaiser, Shore Watch
3rd Place, Ronda Zenker, Seamus

Portrait:

1st Place, Donna Branson, Jannell

Abstract:

1st Place, Janie Schmitz, The Flat Side



Congratulations to Jude Tolar who won Best of Show for her entry, "Inks Lake, TX."



Donna Branson won first place in the portrait category for her painting "Jannell."



Our October OPS meeting featured a Paint Around with six artists participating. It was patterned after the opening event of the IAPS Annual Convention where several artists start a painting and then after a specified amount of time, they move to the painting to their right and work on it until it's time to move to the next painting. They ultimately end up at the painting they started to finish it. Those participating were Bob Kaiser, Sue Ann Rodgers, Becky Way, Janie Schmitz, Pam Brewer, and Gary Sharp. During the recent OPS Show, those attending could buy raffle tickets in the hopes of winning one of the paintings. The winners were Olga Andreeva (left photo, second from the left) and Steve Thompson (right photo, third from the left). Olga's painting will eventually reside in her home in Russia.

Upcoming Events

OSU Museum of Art, Frank Lloyd Wright's Samara: A Mid-Century Dream Home; Feb 9-April 21, 2015; presentation by Scott Perkins, April 16, 12:00-1:30.

Painting on the Porch, plein air workshop with Clive Tyler, Rand Ranch, Buffalo Bill Art Show and Sale, Cody, WY; Sept 22 & 23, \$375; 888-598-8119.

Gilcrease Museum, Rendezvous 2015 Artists' Retrospective and Art Sale, April 16-July 12; Featured artists: painter, Andy Thomas and sculptor, Walter Matia. Master class with Andy Thomas, April 13-16, 9:00-4:00, Henry Zarrow Center for Art and Education.

Call for Entries

Pastel Painters of Cape Cod will host a national juried exhibition June 17-July 12; **April 15, 2015** is the submission due date; onlinejuriedshows.com.

Pastel Society of the West Coast 29th Annual International Open Exhibition; download prospectus at onlinejuriedshows.com; due date **April 22, 2015**.

Pastel Society of Colorado will host their 11th Annual Mile High International Pastel Exhibition; Entry deadline-**April 27, 2015**, onlinejuriedshows.com; Liz Haywood-Sullivan will have a 4-day workshop in Denver July 8-11.

Pastel Society of America 43rd Annual Open Juried Exhibition; download prospectus at www.pastelsocietyofamerica.org; deadline June 16, 2015.

Member News

Jude Tolar had a painting juried into the IAPS Convention Exhibition. The painting, which is called Trombetta Limoncello, is 9x12 on aubergine ColorFix paper in soft pastels.

Donna Branson was selected to participate in the 2015 Artist-in-Residence program at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Mike Wimmer to Demo for May OPS Meeting

Mike has been featured in an Emmy Award winning production of the television series "Gallery" which runs on OETA. He has produced artwork for some of the largest corporations in the world, including Disney, Proctor and Gamble, RJR Nabisco, and Kimberly Clark. His work has recently been seen on packages of Celestial Seasons Teas, and he has painted some 300 covers for almost every major publisher in the U.S.

*Thanks to Donna Connelly for providing snacks for our meeting.
We need two snack providers for our May meeting.
Let Jimi know if you're interested.*

**See you on Monday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. at the
Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City!**