



April 2014

Abstract Demo & Paint-Along

*Plan on attending OPS on Monday, April 14
when Becky Way will lead us in creating an abstract painting.*

If you are in the mood to have fun, the April OPS meeting is the place to be next Monday evening! Painting along with Becky Way you're guaranteed to have a great time and get rid of all your stress. Well, maybe not all of it, but we're betting you'll be a lot more relaxed after the meeting than you were when you arrived.

Using strong action lines based on a few of Edgar Payne's compositional rules, we will create some small, bright, colorful 5"x7" or 8"x10" abstracts.



If you would like to paint along, bring paper (red, blue or black), a few cool bright soft pastels, a few warm bright pastels, a few neutrals, white (soft pastel), black nupastel, table easel if you have one (an extra one to share, if you have it), plastic to protect your working space, paper towels, backing for paper, scissors to cut paper, vine charcoal, small trash sack, etc.

We won't have large working spaces on the tables, so don't bring ALL your pastels — maybe enough to fit in a cigar box. ;-)

You are welcome to just watch, if you prefer. Either way, a great time will be had by all!

Message from OPS President Donna Branson

Greeting OPS Members,

After being gone for a week, I came home to a glorious Oklahoma spring day! The blooming redbud trees are so special, I just love their delicate pinks dotting the landscape, and some daffodils are still blooming. Makes me want to get out in the garden and paint, and lucky me, that is exactly what I'll be doing this morning

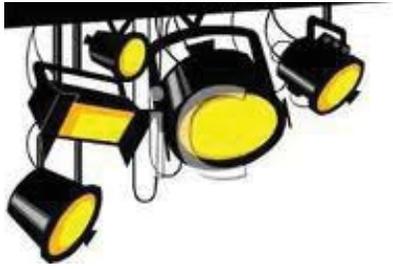
I want to thank Linda for spearheading all of the arrangements for our spring show. That's a big job and I truly appreciate Linda's willingness to take it on, so Thank You Linda for a job well done! I also want to thank everyone who participated in the show. Sometimes it can feel so daunting, the thought of putting one's art out there for others to see, that it is easy to understand an artist's reluctance to do so. But there is also a sense of accomplishment to see one's art framed and hanging on the wall with other artists' work. Karen Margulis once described entering shows "as a roller coaster ride, with both highs and lows." That seems like an apt description! But I believe that having an upcoming show helps provide that extra incentive to complete more art, at least, it works that way for me. Although I couldn't attend the reception, when I dropped off my paintings, I noticed that there were quite a few small works, so it appears that adding that category was indeed a great idea. Thank you to everyone who brought food for the reception and congratulations to all of the artists whose work was selected for awards. And a big shout-out to Pam Brewer for getting **Best of Show!** Way to go, Pam, we are all proud of you!



Ted Majka, our guest artist for March, painted a dramatic still life for our March demonstration and provided many helpful hints as well, and made it look oh so easy, but we know better! Thank you, Ted, for a truly unforgettable evening. This month we have a very different art experience planned for our meeting. We are honored to have Becky Way as our guest artist. She will demo and lead us in an **abstract paint-along extravaganza!** Doesn't that sound intriguing? Be sure to check the front page of this newsletter or the OPS website for last minute information on supplies to bring to the meeting.

The Wichita Center for the Arts is hosting two exhibitions that might be of interest to everyone. The Pastel National 2014 exhibition is in the main gallery and there are some wonderful pastel paintings. Also, about 10-12 Richard Schmid paintings are on display in another gallery. If you are a Schmid fan, you won't want to miss seeing them. The Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa is having their Rendezvous Exhibition featuring the work of Greg Beecham and Ross Matteson, April 10-July 13, 2014. Friday, April 11th, will include an evening with the artists and art sale. For additional information, visit gilcrease.utulsa.edu/rendezvous2014.

Hope to see you Monday, April 14th for Becky Way's demonstration and paint-along!!



Spotlight on OPS Member Lindel Hutson

How long have you worked in pastel? What drew you to that medium? What other mediums have you worked in? Have you always pursued painting or is this something that came about more recently?

Off and on, probably eight or 10 years. Like many others, I got into it thanks to Gary Lennon and his classes at Francis Tuttle. I love the variety of colors and the drawing aspect of the medium. I also do oils and worked in watercolors with Cletus Smith. I didn't mix well with watercolor.

I started in watercolor probably 15 years ago. I'd never had an art lesson of any kind previously. I shaped and grew bonsai trees for years. Bonsai is a challenge in Oklahoma because of the heat and temperature swings. By the way, despite what they tell you at the mall at Christmas, most bonsai will not grow indoors.



What is your favorite subject matter to paint?

I enjoy landscapes and I find still life both fascinating and challenging.



What kinds of experiences trigger ideas for your paintings?

I enjoy the outdoors and I'm especially drawn to mountains, streams, etc.



Where are you from originally? What is or was your career path, where did you work, and for how long?

I spent many years in the newspaper business, 37 with The Associated Press. I'm originally from Arkansas, and I've worked in New Jersey, Texas, Little Rock, New York City, Indianapolis and, for the last 25 years, OKC as state bureau chief for AP. We won a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the OKC bombing. I've interviewed Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, George Bush Sr., Bill Clinton. Others, but memory fades...

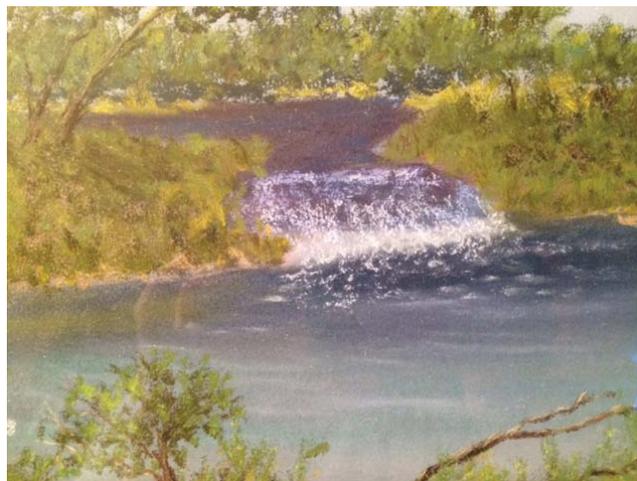
What is something that very few know about you?

I was a journalist in the Army, worked for NATO in Belgium and published a newspaper for military and embassy personnel in Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. I went to Arkansas Boys State with Bill Clinton.

(continues to next page)

Who is your favorite artist — who inspires you?

Too many to list and there are some really excellent local artists. I'm in awe of the talent in the pastel club. I'm afraid to start mentioning names for fear I'll leave somebody out. But Dennis Parker is awesome, and so is Gary Lennon. Cletis Smith produced some of the finest art I've ever seen. Jerry Yarnell, the Tulsa TV artist, is a great painter and teacher. So is David Dunlop, who has a program 'Landscapes through Time,' on PBS.

**Are you reading any good pastel or art books right now and, if so, what is the title and the artist and why specifically do you like about the book?**

There are some good pastel books out there, and I've tried to pick up something from all of them. I wish there were more. I'm hoping Desmond O'Hagan comes through with the book he said he was going to produce.

Family history – spouse's name and occupation, children, grandchildren, pets, etc.?

My wife, Eleanor, is from Cincinnati and has spent her entire nursing career working with preemie and critically ill infants. She is in charge of a program at Childrens Hospital for parents who are taking their recovering infants home for the first time. Daughter Sarah is lead chef for a small restaurant chain in Boston. Daughter Stephanie worked for several years with Dell Computer in Austin and is now working at a new company formed by some of her former Dell colleagues.

What do you do for relaxation other than paint?

I play with model trains.

Where did you go on your last vacation? Did you find any interesting subject matter to paint from your vacation?

Many vacations have been spent in Arkansas, Tennessee and Colorado visiting relatives. They are each beautiful locales, the Ozarks, the Smokies and the Rockies. I usually come back with a lot of pictures for painting inspiration.

Tips from Ted

A few take aways from Ted Majka's March Demo

- Lighting is important. Direct warm light on the still life setup, cool blue light on your painting. Cool light pulls color down and makes your painting stronger. When doing plein aire, use an umbrella over your painting so you don't get direct sunlight on your paper.
- Shadows are important. Light on left to read left to right like you would read a book.
- Do initial drawing in charcoal or hard pastel.
- Sketch in background loosely using one color and blend with a paper towel. Leave some of the background unfilled — gives a more painterly appearance.
- Hold pastel sticks at back end so you can be more loose.
- Use a little black pastel to sit objects down.
- Can use gray then add color to it to get a color you don't have.
- Put lightest light on to help gauge other values.
- Bright colors in front but lose intensity as you go back.
- Correct your drawing as you add colors around the objects.
- Place objects in a triangle shape.
- Relate size of shapes to each other.
- Nail the gesture, don't measure with brush or pencil because you can't get back in exactly same place where you initially measured. For instance in figure drawing, you can take size of head and measure on your paper if something is off.
- Use strokes in different directions to make your painting more interesting.
- Lay everything in then go across the form, usually with a darker color. Gives you more depth. Go across form in one direction then the other direction for shadows.



Upcoming Workshops & Events

Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod National Exhibition; jurors: Barbara Courtney Jaenicke and Stan Sperlak; judge of awards: Barbara Courtney Jaenicke; prospectus online at www.pastelpainterssocietyofcapecod.com. **Deadline: April 15, 2014.**

10th Annual Pastel Society of Colorado; July 14-Aug 30; juror: Albert Handell, who will also do a workshop July 10-13; prospectus at www.onlinejuriedshows.com. **Deadline: May 18, 2014.**

Pastel Society of Oregon 19th Biennial National Juried Show; Sept 2-27; juror/judge/workshop instructor: Barbara Courtney Jaenicke; workshop Sept 10-12; prospectus at www.pastelsocietyoforegon.com. **Deadline: June 16, 2014.**

The 42nd Annual Open Juried Exhibition: Enduring Brilliance, Nat'l Arts Club, NY City; Sept 2-27; jurors: Elaine Augustine, Aline Ordman and Duane Wakeham; Judge of awards: Marjorie Shelly; prospectus at www.pastelsocietyofamerica.org; workshop instructor: Richard Mc Kinley; Sept 23-25. **Deadline: June 16, 2014.**

Connecticut Pastel Society 21st Annual National Exhibition: "Renaissance in Pastels" Slater Museum in Norwich, CT. October 8th to November 9th, 2014. Over \$10,000 in awards. Jurors: Liz Haywood-Sullivan, PSA and Janet Cook, PSA. Soft pastels only, easy online submission opens June 1st. Download Prospectus from www.ctpastelsociety.org. **Deadline: August 6, 2014.**

Oklahoma Colors: Earth, Sky and Water

This solo exhibit is by OPS member Joey Frisillo, May 2-June 27, at the Performing Arts Studio, 200 S Jones, Norman. Opening reception is May 9th, 6:00-9:00 pm.

Steven Hill 3-Day Workshop

May 30-June 1, 2014 for \$275, in Springfield, MO. Contact Sherrie Davis (417-838-1385 or 417-742-3626) for more information.

Paint the Illinois River Competition

Entries must depict a scene in the Illinois River Watershed area. Entry deadline is Sept. 2, 2014. Juror is Manuella Well-Off-Man, assistant curator at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR. For show prospectus, see www.onlinejuriedshow.com, 2014 "Illinois River Salon" Art Exhibition.

*Thanks to Donna Connelly & Becky Way
for providing snacks for our April meeting.
We need snack providers for our meetings after the summer break
so let Donna or Jimi know if you're interested.*

*See you on Monday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.
at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City!*