

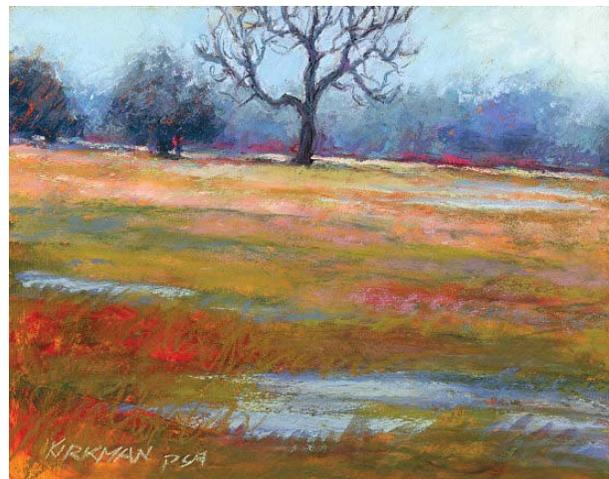
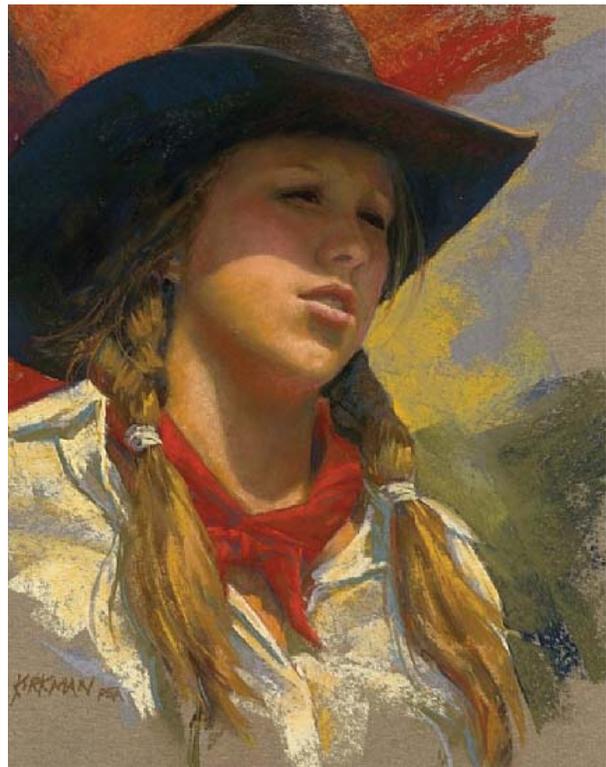


OPS Kicks Off 2014-2015 Season with Demo by Rita Kirkman

Rita Kirkman was born an artist. She has been using pastel since she was 11 years old and had her first paid portrait commission at 17. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1988. Meanwhile, in 1986 she began a 12-year career sketching quick portraits at amusement parks, and in 1988 she began a business drawing detailed pencil portraits from client photos. These days Kirkman still does the same quick portraits and caricatures at events throughout south Texas, but there's more to this talented artist than quick sketching.

Since 2003, Kirkman has improved her own style and technique with pastel through independent study and workshops with several renowned pastelists and portrait painters. This effort has been consistently rewarded with major awards in national and international competitions. Her work has been published in *The Artist Magazine* as well as others. She is a Signature member of the Pastel Society of America and a recipient of the Master Circle Award from the International Association of Pastel Societies. Her portraits and paintings are in private collections all over the world, including the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan and Australia.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend the September 8th meeting of the Oklahoma Pastel Society.



Message from OPS President Donna Branson

Greetings OPS Members,

I hope everyone was able to get some R and R during our unusually moderate summer, and maybe some painting as well! I am looking out at the Pacific Ocean as I write to you from San Clemente, CA. This is definitely a plein air artist dream location, and I sure hope to get some painting in tomorrow!

I also hope everyone was able to attend this year's Prix de West Invitational at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. This year's big winners were Jeremy Lipking who won the Prix de West Purchase Award for his incredible painting, "Silence and Sagebrush." I had the pleasure of meeting Jeremy and his wife at the exhibition, it was definitely a treat! George Carlson won both the Frederic Remington Painting Award and the Robert Lougheed Award (Artists' Choice). John Coleman won both the James Earle Fraser Sculpture Award and the Buyers' Choice Award. According to Kristin Hoerth (editor, Southwest Art), weekend sales totaled \$3.25 million as compared to last year's \$2.9 million. It was an inspiring show.



The Contemporary Art Gallery in the Paseo district hosted Oklahoma Art Guild's Small Works Show in August. Our own Linda Probst took home a big award for her pastel painting. Be sure and ask Linda about it, and congratulations, Linda! I was surprised to learn that I also won a small award for my abstract painting, "Just the Beginning," which I painted en plein air the morning after Becky's OPS demonstration on abstract painting! The show closes soon, so try to see it if you haven't yet.

We are planning another year full of pastel color, adventure and inspiration! Our kick-off demonstration will be given by Rita Kirkman, a well-known and respected pastel artist from Austin, Texas. Fortunately for us, we were able to have her extend her time away from family, to join us for our meeting and for a short workshop on Sept 7 and 8 (see the OPS website for more information). Her way of capturing light is exquisite. If you aren't familiar with Rita's work, please check out her website.

Hope to see you Monday, Sept 8th for Rita Kirkman's presentation, our first meeting for the 2014-2015 season!! You won't want to miss this one!

Cheers,
Donna

Donna Branson, PhD
President, Oklahoma Pastel Society



Spotlight on OPS Member Janie Schmitz

Janie Schmitz is one of the founding members of the Oklahoma Pastel Society and has served as treasurer the entire time of its existence.

How long have you worked in pastel?

I was introduced to pastels when I took Gary Lennon's class at Francis Tuttle which has been many years ago.

What drew you to that medium? Why do you prefer to work in pastels? Do you work in any other mediums?

I guess I'm just messy at heart, I love the instant gratification of color. Besides there is an endless array of brands. I must have them all. Just color for cake decorating is the only other medium. I have done that color for 50 plus years. Tried oil but it was a disaster.

Have you always pursued painting or is this something that came about more recently?

I started out doing calligraphy. I wanted to illustrate it and liked the sketching so much I soon dropped the calligraphy.

What is your favorite subject matter to paint?

My favorite subjects are buildings and landscapes.

What kinds of experiences trigger ideas for your paintings?

Photos and anything that requires straight lines which seems to be getting more difficult as time passes.

Tell us a little about life at Midwest Baker Supply.

Words cannot express about life at Midwest Bakers Supply. This is something that has to be experienced. It is a never ending life of trucks, boxes, color and chocolate. The last being my favorite. AND people. That is a whole different story. We are fortunate to have many customers who have been with us for years. They are a joy and make the whole mess tolerable.

Where are you from and how did you end up in OKC?

I was born in Union City, Okla. But grew up and went to school in El Reno. I came to OKC after high school graduation to attend Hills Business College. Guess you can say I'm a college dropout because I went to work at Tinker two months later. I wasn't much for the no pay of school.



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What is something that very few people know about you?

I have been around a long long time so don't know if there are any secrets. They were a luxury I couldn't afford. OH yes, I did play the cornet for a short time. Hollywood didn't call. Did a lot of school drama (anything to get out of class) taught piano for six years when I was in junior high and high school and could smoke more cigars than any guy I knew.

Who is your favorite artist? Who inspires you?

Anyone that I happen to be looking at. Sometimes I just can't believe the beautiful things that are created. I love Clive's work, Lorenzo's, Stephanie Birdsall's, Desmond O'Hagan is one of my very favorites. Becky Way, she is awesome.

What are some of your favorite pastel/art books?

Anything about buildings.

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

Paul and I have been married 56 years in September. He is retired and telling me how to do things. I don't follow instruction very good. We have five kids: Deb, Tom, Julie, Charley and Susie. Susie's husband Mike is like a son. A wonderful man, love him like a son. Deb is with Integrated Medical Delivery, Tom is a structural engineer for the Navy, Julie is with Hartford, Charley is a freelance graphic designer and photographer and Susie is the brains and brawn of Midwest Bakers Supply. They all put themselves thru college. Mike manages a horse ranch. All three granddaughters work for us when we are lucky enough to have them. We have three granddaughters, Emily who will be a junior at UCO this year, Hannah who will be a junior at Mount St. Mary's and Maggie who will be in the 8th grade at Kenneth Cooper. No pets.

What do you do for relaxation other than paint?

Chocolate and wine. My therapy is just being with my Sistas. Don't know what I would do without them. I also like to read.

Anything else you would like to share?

OPS has been a joy for all these years. Hope we can keep it afloat.

Notes from May Demo

Our May meeting proved to be a little different from our usual gatherings but our guest speaker, Mikel Donahue, provided some interesting insights and tips on painting none-the-less. Although he works primarily in colored pencil, he occasionally incorporates pastel into his paintings.

Here are few of the tips and insights he offered up during the meeting:

- Take notes regarding the pictures in your resource files. These become recipes for your paintings.
- If a photo looks good, it doesn't need to be painted. Use photos as a resource and use portions of them in your paintings.
- Do thumbnails first.
- Use tissue paper for sketches/compositions. Put together pieces and parts of tissue sketches to get design and concept.
- Next do a tighter 5x7 sketch, then a bigger 8 1/2 x 11 sketch and enlarge to finished size.
- He does watercolor underpainting and then uses Prismacolor over it.



Upcoming Events

2015 IAPS Eleventh Biennial Convention

A preview of the convention can be seen on the brand new IAPS website at www.pastelinternational.com. The preview runs from August 15 to September 15, 2014 and will allow you to review the schedule, classes, and instructors, and to plan your convention experience with your friends. Registration opens Friday, September 15 at noon ET. At that time you can sign up and pay for your selections and the hotels will also be available to take convention reservations.

Becky Way Demo

Becky is doing a demo at ArtWorks in Paseo on the first Friday in September which is September 5.

"More Crazy Birds in Pastel" Workshop

Conducted by Becky Way
September 12, 2014, 9:30 - 3:30 p.m., Paseo ArtWorks, 3005 Paseo, OKC

This workshop will be a "play-shop," pastel workshop, using birds of all kinds to create fun, bright art. All are welcome, from beginners to seasoned artists. Guaranteed to be fun (and no pressure)! Contact Jolene at 580-470-5031 to enroll or Becky at beckyway@cox.net. Limit 8 people.

Party Pear Workshop

Becky Way will also be doing a "Party Pear" workshop which is mostly for beginners or rusty pastelists at Paseo ArtWorks on October 19, as well as another Crazy Bird workshop on October 11.

Artists' Materials EXPO 2014 Creative Fusion

October 16 - 19, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Go to www.expoartisan.com for more information.
55 great instructors teaching 99 workshops, 68 art materials vendors selling at discount prices

The Artist's Magazine's Over 60 Art Competition

Entry deadline is September 2
10 winners, \$250 each

For complete guidelines and to enter visit www.artistsnetwork.com/competitions/over-60-art-competition.

Pastel 100 Competition

Sponsored by Pastel Journal magazine
For a complete list of prizes, guidelines, juror biographies, entry forms, or to enter online, visit:
www.artistsnetwork.com/pastel-journal-competition.

Pastel Society of the Southwest

Deadline: September 5, 2014

33rd juried exhibition dates November 5-28. Held at the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Grapevine, TX. Margaret Dyer, Judge, \$5,000+ in cash and merchandise awarded in 2013. Prospectus at www.juriedartservices.com or www.pssw.info.

Degas Pastel Society 15th Biennial National Juried Exhibition

November 1-30, 2014,
Garden District Gallery, New Orleans, LA
Deadline: September 6, 2014
Information at www.degaspastelsociety.org.

Audubon Artists Call for Entries

Deadline: September 6, 2014
Open juried exhibition October 26-November 7, 2014
Over \$20,000 in cash awards, medals, & merchandise.
Prospectus available at www.audubonartists.org.

Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club, Inc. 118th Annual Open Juried Exhibition

Deadline: September 19, 2014
National Arts Club, NY, December 2-19, 2014
Open to women artists. Submit entries at www.ShowSubmit.com. Download the prospectus at www.clwac.org.

*Thanks to Gary Sharp & Teresa Smith
for providing snacks for our September meeting.
We need snack providers for our October & November meetings
so let Donna or Jimi know if you're interested.*

*See you on Monday, September 8, 6:30 p.m.
at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City!*