



April Meeting to Feature Rick McClure Sharing Tips on Framing and How to Prepare for a Show

Finishing a painting may seem like the easy part when you get ready to select just the right frame that will enhance your artwork rather than overpowering it. What goes around a painting is almost as important as the painting itself, and since frames today are available in thousands of styles, the choices are endless.

Like the setting for a diamond, the frame around a work of art is the finishing touch, the element that completes and elevates a painting, presenting it to the viewer in its best possible light. Framing, however, is an art in and of itself, and just as a good frame choice can greatly enhance the appearance of a work, a poor frame choice can drastically diminish a work.



Not to worry! Rick McClure, an award-winning plein air painter and teacher, will provide us with a few tips and hints on how to select a frame that will put your artwork in the best possible light.

Rick will also provide some tips on how to prepare for a show which is excellent timing since OPS will have a show in June at Master House Art and Frame Gallery in Moore. More details about the show will be coming to your inbox soon so save the date and plan to participate in the show.

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Message from OPS President Lindel Hutson

Local artist Rick McClure returns for our Monday night meeting to talk about framing and how to prepare for a show. This should help as you prepare for the upcoming show in Moore.

If you have framed art work and want to let Rick critique it, bring it to the meeting. Rick will give you his opinion.

Rick is no stranger to most Oklahoma pastel artists. He is an award winning “Plein Air” painter and teacher who has been painting professionally for more than 25 years. He says his true passion is found in capturing both cityscape and landscape en plein aire. Many of his on-location gems stand on their own while others form the basis for larger studio works, all of which sparkle with spontaneity.

Rick has received numerous awards, including those from the “American Impressionists Society National Exhibition, the “71st Grand National Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club” and the Best of Show at the “Cincinnati Art Club’s ViewPoint 2003.” His free, painterly approach to recording locations in America and abroad is popular with collectors.

Linda Battles is again our chair for the show which will be at Master House Art and Frame in Moore. Categories are familiar: landscape, portrait/figure, animal, still life/floral, non-representational/abstract. The fee is \$35 for three entries. Any additional entries will be \$10 each.

June 4 is the date to bring your art to Master House, and the show opens with a reception at 1 p.m. on June 11. The show runs through June 25.

In order to help support the club, we’re looking for corporate sponsors to help with the prize money. And we would consider a raffle if enough people donate art.

Feel free to email me if you can help or if you know someone or a company that might want to be a sponsor: lh0722@gmail.com.

Local art supply store, Porch, is having a spring sale of Sennelier open stock. There are 180 pastel colors offered. Buy two and get the third one free. The regular price is \$3.96 each, or three for \$11.88. This promotional cost is \$2.64 each or three for \$7.92.



***See you on Monday, April 11th , 6:30 p.m.
at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City!***



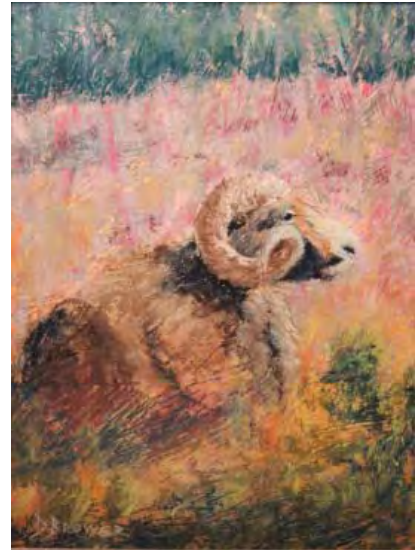
Spotlight on OPS Member Doug Brower

How long have you worked in pastel?

I have been aware of pastels for about four years or so. I have painted with pastels intermittently since then, but not as much as oil.

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

I have always, as an adult, appreciated art from a spectator's point of view. I have done some sculpting with oil-based clay, and enjoy doing that as well. I decided to take some oil painting lessons and see if I would be capable of and enjoy painting as I was planning for retirement at the end of 2012. Shortly after starting those lessons, a Paseo gallery was displaying pastel paintings by Clive Tyler, who also did a demonstration painting I was able to attend. He also was going to do a two-day workshop the following weekend. My wife bought a set of pastels and paid for me to attend the workshop as a birthday gift. That was the first time I had ever held a pastel.



Mainly I have pursued oil as a medium and have occasionally used pastels as well. A few years later, while on a road trip to San Antonio and the hill country in Texas, we visited a gallery where Joey Frisillo was doing a demonstration in pastels. I was very impressed with her painting skills, and while visiting with her, learned she had a two-day workshop scheduled in Tulsa. I attended and learned valuable structural components of painting as well as specifics related to pastels.



I also attended a two-day workshop recently at which Jude Tolar instructed on painting glass and reflective surfaces. She is also a great artist and instructor. Recently, I have been doing some experimentation with the things I learned.

Do you work on only one painting at a time or do you have several projects going at the same time?

I have worked on two paintings at the same time, however, I more often than not, work on a single painting.

What is your favorite subject matter to paint?

I have leaned toward landscapes, often with water of some sort included. I am now interested in trying some still life and floral type paintings, as well.

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What kinds of experiences trigger ideas for your paintings?

My wife and I are both early risers and enjoy sunrise and sunset and the enhanced beauty created by the light at those times of day. We enjoy traveling and we love rural or wilderness areas and the trees, rocks, water, and wildlife we encounter. I take a lot of photos during our travels and have used those as a basis for paintings. Group painting sessions and workshops I have attended and the subjects and methodology observed during those times have also created a desire in me to do more painting.

**What is or was your career path, where did you work, and for how long?**

I worked for approximately twelve years in federal law enforcement, two years in county law enforcement, and twenty-one years as a criminal investigator with the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. I don't have any desire to return to scheduled, paid work at this point because we enjoy visiting our children, playing with our grandchildren, and traveling or taking day trips here and there, and keeping up our home.

Are you originally from Oklahoma? If not, what brought you here and how long have you lived here?

My wife, Loretta, and I are both transplanted Texans. She is from Fort Worth and I am from San Antonio. Loretta attended and graduated from Oklahoma Christian University (formerly Oklahoma Christian College) and I graduated from Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University) in San Marcos, Texas. Loretta has lived here since her graduation and I moved here originally for a work assignment in 1975 and then returned in 1981.

Who is your favorite artist — who inspires you?

Albert Bierstadt, who is known to all, is by far my favorite artist. His landscapes are, to me, perfect reflections of God's glorious creation. I also became acquainted in the early 1970's with the paintings of a Texas artist, Dalhart Windberg. He creates landscape paintings depicting the everyday sights in his environment, but through effective use of light and shadow creates a mood or atmosphere which is almost palpable.

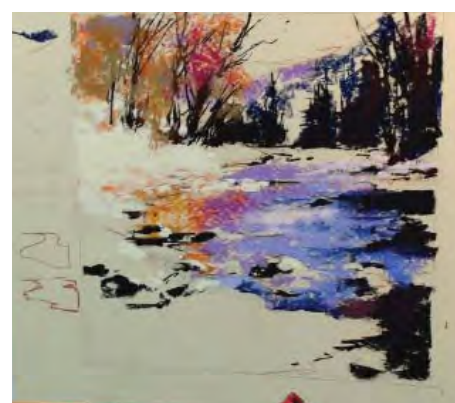
While I am awed by the ability of the artists I mentioned, I am inspired by the artists I have painted with in informal settings where knowledge and encouragement was shared freely. I am also inspired by those who give demonstrations and put on workshops so others, like me, can learn techniques to better their art and become more satisfied with their own work. I include both the members of the Oklahoma Pastel Society and the Madill Art Club in this category.

Family history?

My wife, Loretta, is my greatest encouragement. She got me started down this road and continues to make sure I continue the journey. We have two sons who live in the DFW metroplex, a daughter in Austin, and a daughter who lives in Oklahoma City. We have five grandchildren and we enjoy them immensely. Loretta retired from bookkeeping and not-for-profit work last year. We live on three acres in rural Logan County and enjoy working outdoors. We also enjoy Lake Texoma, fishing, camping and traveling. Loretta is known for her pies which she regularly makes and gives away. Volunteering and doing things for others is another of her pastimes. She also makes hand-made lace (tatting), and is very creative and talented in her designs. She makes a variety of items including earrings, necklaces, borders for various clothing items, etc. We have one dog, Doc, and many birds and deer who visit regularly.

Clive Tyler Tips & Tricks from OPS March 2016 Demo

- Clive doesn't blend with his finger, he only blends by skimming one pastel over another. He may tap an area with a finger just to knock it down or quiet it.
- He also does not use a fixative.
- He uses sanded paper — 800 grit UART mostly. He dry mounts the paper to gaterboard using tissue adhesive paper and uses a hot press to adhere it to the board.
- Framing — 1/8" spacer between glass and painting then another gaterboard behind the painting. Uses Lineco acid-free linen tape on the edges. Offset clips screwed down to hold the "sandwich" in place. Frames are from Omega which are museum sealed. Inside that he uses Larsen "Zen" frame like a filler.
- He likes a big frame for a small painting.
- Uses coated wire to hang the frame.
- Starts with a small study, then a bit larger but different format. Then larger like 24x36. If there's a story to tell, he'll then do a super-sized painting (30x40).
- Shipping — bubble wraps the painting, double-line cardboard, bubble wraps the whole box, double-lined cardboard on the outside.
- Clive's demo had the following compositions: falling leaf and S-curve. North-south — light on one side of the river and shadow on the other side. East-west — light goes up and down the river.
- Don't duplicate, create!
- Starts with black pastel, pushes it in with his finger so it doesn't pop off. Then he puts in the darks. Uses a red-brown to cover all the black.
- Next he puts dark blue over the black/red-brown areas. This looks richer than just using dark blue on the paper.
- Underpainting — puts in orange where there's strong sunlight — trees, snow, reflection in the river.
- Uses purple for shadows.
- Underpainting rule — lay down a color to best enhance the next color. Make sure the values of the underpainting colors match the values of the local colors.
- Lays in a cream for the snow. This gives him his "bookends" in value (black and cream).
- A miniature isn't just a small version. It needs to have strong composition and be figured out ahead of time.
- In his paintings, he always has some good points of interest.
- Dark brown with orange over gives a rusty brown that is unbelievable.
- Backpaints some to create, for example, a tree trunk. Instead of drawing a trunk, paint the background on either side. That will create a more interesting trunk than if you drew one.
- Roll a pastel to create branches which is more natural than drawing it.
- Always use a flat edge on a pastel. You can use it to quickly create a group of trees. Jiggle it up and down and then sideways.
- Tap a drawn area (e.g. tree) at top and bottom to give the feel of going in and out of light.
- As an artist Clive wants to start the story but not finish it. He wants to let the viewer finish it and connect with it in the process.



Upcoming Events

OPS Art Show, June 11 – 25, Master House Art and Frame, 223 S. Broadway, Moore, Okla. Receiving artwork on June 4, opening reception will be the afternoon of June 11th, show runs through June 25.

Artisan Materials Expo and Creative Ascension, Buffalo Thunder Resort, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Sept. 29 – Oct. 2. This event will feature over 114 art workshops and 68 vendor booths selling artist materials. Materials will be for sale at greatly discounted prices and the manufacturers' representatives will be on hand to answer all technical questions. This event is held concurrently with the 2016 International Balloon Festival in Albuquerque. For additional information and to pursue a reservation, please visit www.expoartisan.com.

Wichita Center for the Arts Pastel National
This event runs through May 8 and will be held at the Wichita Center for the Arts, 9112 East Central, Wichita, KS 67206. The gallery is open 1 – 5 p.m. Tuesday – Sunday, and admission is free.

Connecticut Pastel Society 2016 Renaissance in Pastels Exhibition Call for Entries

This exhibit attracts entrants from all over the U.S. who appreciate versatile and venerable medium of pastel painting. Judges Ed Chesnovitch, PSA and Diane Reed Sawyer will award over \$10,000 in cash prizes and merchandise. The exhibition will be held at the Slater Memorial Museum in Norwich, CT, and will be open to the public on Oct. 7th. The Artists Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, Oct. 23rd. The deadline for entries is Wednesday, August 3rd, 2016, at midnight. For more information regarding entries and shipping, download the Prospectus at www.ctpastelsociety.org.

Pastel 100 Competition

Sponsored by *Pastel Journal*, America's leading magazine devoted to pastel artists, this annual competition offers cash, prizes and publicity to its talented winners. Get rewarded for your finest work! Winners will be featured in the April 2017 issue of *Pastel Journal*. You must enter online. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit. For more information, log onto <http://www.artistsnetwork.com/art-competitions-preparing-your-entry>.



*For our May meeting
Becky Way will lead us in a paint along
so bring a few pastels and join the fun.*



*Thanks to Ronda Zenker & Rita Busch
for providing refreshments.
We need volunteers to provide refreshments for May.
Let Lindel or Jimi know if you're interested.*

*See you on Monday, April 11th, 6:30 p.m.
at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City!*

MASTER HOUSE
ART AND FRAME
223 S. Broadway
Moore, OK



04
JUNE
Receiving Art

Okla Pastel Society **ART SHOW**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

11
JUNE
Reception



CATEGORIES

- Landscape
- Portrait / Figure
- Animal
- Still Life / Floral
- Non-Representational / Abstract

25
JUNE
Show Ends

Watch for more details coming soon!!