



## *Ted Majka Set to Demo Still Life During March OPS Meeting*

Our March demo artist is Ted Majka who will do a pastel painting from a still life setup. He is a well-known teacher and artist whose excellent work is consistently accepted in jurored shows where it has won numerous awards. His use of color and the application of pastels are exceptional.

If you want to get in touch with Ted Majka, you better just pick up the phone and call him. He may not be up on all the latest electronic gizmos but he certainly knows his way around with a stick of pastels, piece of charcoal or a paint brush. In addition to pastels, he works in oils, charcoal, pen and ink, and watercolor. Pastels are a favorite medium because he can manipulate a painting, make adjustments immediately without having to wait for it to dry like he does with oils.

Although he didn't get serious about painting until the 80's, he's been dabbling in it long before then. Studying with many of Oklahoma's finest artists inspired him to stay with it. You would most likely recognize the names of some of those artists – O. Gail Pool, Sherrie McGraw, and Larry Layton to name just a few of those he has studied under.

It doesn't make any different to him what the subject is, if it catches his eye then it's something that he will try to capture.

Ted has noticed that many artists, some of whom are well-known, tend to get in a rut and don't move on, they become stale and lose their creativity. But not Ted, he likes to mix it up which keeps his work from going stale so that it remains fresh and new.

Ted is one of the many artists who practiced his craft at Geatches Studio, an active place where the classic tradition of working from life is practiced. He succeeded O. Gail Poole as resident teacher in 1991.



## *Message from OPS President Donna Branson*

Hello OPS Members,

Ah ... more snow, sleet and ice, what a start for March!! Although I am ready for spring and the glorious colors that it brings, these grey days are perfect for setting up a still life or pulling out one of your favorite photos and spending a few glorious hours painting, such fun and an awesome way to prepare for this spring's OPS show. I must admit, I couldn't resist painting a landscape today from a photo of two women fly fishing near Beaver's Bend, the fall colors were glorious!! But back to our show, Linda has secured a new venue and a Saturday afternoon opening/reception for the event. With the new Small Works category, and the ability to enter up to five paintings, we are planning to celebrate an outstanding collection of our members' artwork. So plan to participate and to attend the opening. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Battles, our show chair.



February's guest artist, Rosemary Burke, entertained and inspired us as she demonstrated using pan pastels on some of her fashion illustrations. We also were able to see a large sampling of her varied artwork spanning her highly creative career in the arts. Thank you, Rosemary, for a truly unforgettable evening. This month, we are honored to have Ted Majka as our guest artist. I still remember Ted's portrait of Brenda, which he did for OPS over four years ago. It literally took my breath away, so we are again in for a treat.

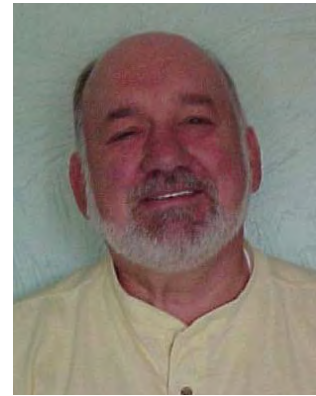
We are really fortunate to have so many art museums within a short drive, to see extraordinary art. I was reminded of that recently when I visited the Fred Jones Museum of Art. Although their extensive collection of Impressionist paintings was my motivation for the trip, the four large Fechin paintings on the second floor, stole the show for me! And I was told that they have more paintings and drawings in their Fechin collection that were not on display. What a treasure! If you haven't been to the OU Museum lately, it truly is worth a trip to Norman.

Hope to see you Monday, March 10th for Ted Majka's demonstration!!

Donna Branson, PhD  
President, Oklahoma Pastel Society



## *Spotlight on OPS Member Bob Kaiser*



*A long-time member of the Oklahoma Pastel Society, Bob brings his own special brand of humor to any gathering. He is well known for his ability to capture the essence of any critter he draws whether it's a wolf or a cardinal.*

**How long have you worked in pastel?** Since 2004.

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

Both Roseanna and I attended Gary Lennon's basic drawing class at Francis Tuttle and were subsequently encouraged to work in color. Gary suggested pastels. When I first picked up a pastel stick I was lost and frustrated, but with the help of Gary and many of my fellow classmates I learned some of the techniques necessary and common to working with the medium. I enjoy pastels because they are true to the eye and can be manipulated in order to draw ones visual attention. With pastels a stroke may be intentional or accidental and can cause magic to occur on the canvas. For the past two years or so I have been attending Dennis Parker's school of art and dabbling in oils.



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

I have always had a leaning toward art. I would occasionally sketch and draw and while in high school attended a semester at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan. After a brief time in college, five years in the Air Force, and during marriage, children and work, I attended several local adult classes in life and basic drawing.

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

I usually struggle with only one but occasionally will start one and set it aside to fester into something.

**What is your favorite subject matter to paint?**

I have in recent years been referred to as the bird man because I enjoy painting the colorful little buggers and vibrant pastels help render results pleasing to the eye. Recently I have been pursuing the rendering of old homes and barns in the local areas around OKC. Even if they aren't all that old I like making them appear so.



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**What kinds of experiences trigger ideas for your paintings?**

Light is my master trigger. It could be the most beautiful bird, an apple or a rotting board on an old barn. If the light is hitting a subject just so, I find the urge to try and render it.

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

After my time in the Air Force I went to work for a living. I drove for United Parcel, was a maintenance tech at Sinai Hospital, Detroit, did commercial office building maintenance. I was chief maintenance tech at the General Motors Training Center, OKC until it closed in 2000 and retired from Tinker AFB where I was Lead Boiler Operator at the Navy power plant. I guess you could say I had my head in the clouds and wet feet all at the same time, or not.

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

Roseanna and I moved to Oklahoma in 1997 to pursue her career as VP of Marketing, and expansion of her company interests both in Michigan and Oklahoma. We both enjoy the state and the friends we have gained.

**Anything else you would like to share?**

I like to say that I spent a lifetime preparing for retirement. This is due to the various artistic endeavors I have delved into. These include drawing, pastels, oils, woodworking, wood carving, clay sculpting, stone carving and stained glass. I even took flying lessons before I went to the doctor and he told me how I was truly feeling. Oh, and when I turned fifty I jumped out of an airplane several times, with a parachute of course. It was all on the up and up. They said I'd get a full refund if the darned thing didn't open.

**What is something that very few know about you?**

I was an altar boy. Can't you tell?

**What is your favorite artist — who inspires you?**

My inspiration has come from the workshops I have attended and continues to come from my instructor and the folks I attend class with. I am always amazed by the different approaches to tackling a subject.

**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?**

No. I have always been more of a visual learner. You know, monkey see, monkey do!

**Family history?**

Roseanna and I are both retired. We have four adult children living in Michigan and Florida, eight grandchildren and rescue dog, Niki (Noodle).

**What do you do for relaxation other than paint?**

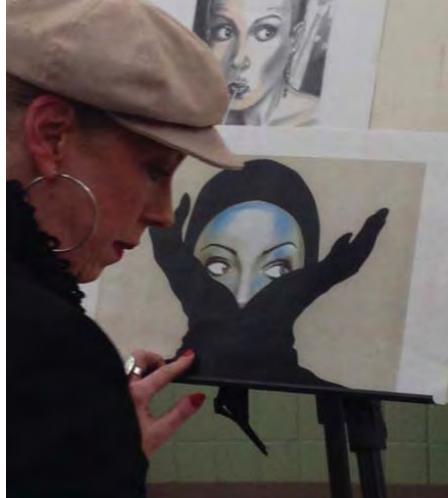
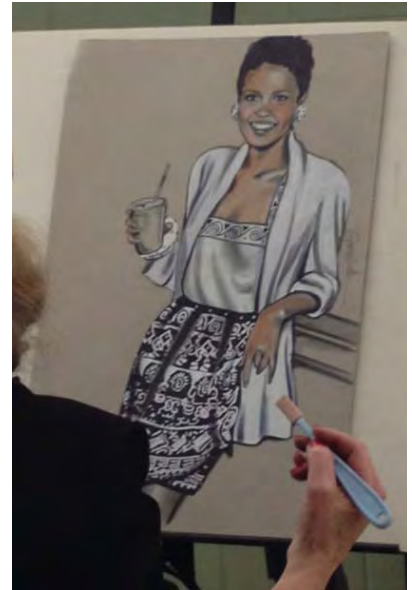
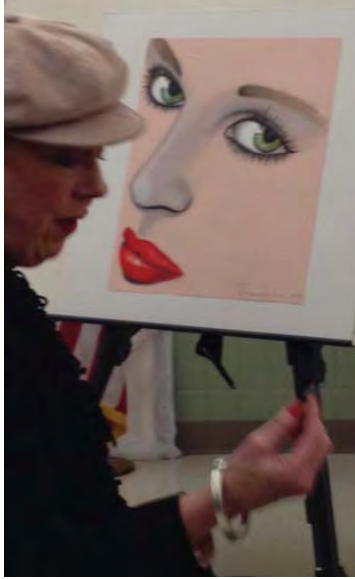
I enjoy the previously named pursuits. Jerry Yarnell's PBS series in acrylics is inspiring because he instructs as he paints and gives tips and suggestions from a fine artist's point of view. Although I do not consider myself to be a landscape artist, I like the Create channel "Landscapes Through Time." I have also discovered You-tube and enjoy the mini tutorials offered there. Oh yeah, and there is always yard work!

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

It really wasn't a vacation. Roseanna and I drove down to Texas to assist a friend who had surgery. She is fine. I was struck by the color of the soil as the late day sun reflected off of it. What a nice play on shades of ochre and gold. Might have to try sliding that effect in someplace sometime. That's the nice thing about art, you just never know!!



*Rosemary Burke Take Aways  
from our OPS February Demo*



## **Get ready for the OPS Spring Art Show!**

Gallery at the Masters House Art & Frame in Moore, Okla.

***Master House is giving a 15% discount on framing for the show!***

Opening and artist reception will be held on April 5th starting at 2 pm.

The show will run thru May 3rd. Mark your calendars and plan to participate.

Prizes and awards will be presented at the reception.

See attached flyer for all the details and entry forms.

## ***Upcoming Workshops & Events***

### **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](http://www.onlinejuriedshow.com), 2014 "Illinois River Salon" Art Exhibition.

### **Stillwater Art Guild Annual Spring Show**

Stillwater Community Center

Month of March, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A gallery talk, painting demonstrations, and awards will be given. All are welcome to attend.

### **Two-day Pastel Workshop**

Becky Way will provide this workshop in Stillwater on March 21 and 22. One-day attendance is accepted at a reduced fee. See Becky for other details.

Jude Tolar has four paintings accepted in the Grapevine's Consignment Sale which will be held March 8 & 9 at the Grapevine Gallery. This is a great shopping opportunity.

Donna Branson had two paintings accepted into the juried Pastel National 2014 Exhibition to be held March 28 – May 11 at the Wichita Center for the Arts. The opening reception is March 28, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

*Thanks to Bob & Rosanna Kaiser & Donna Branson  
for providing snacks for our March meeting.  
We need one more person to sign up for April  
so let Donna or Jimi know if you are interested.*

***See you on Monday, March 10, 6:30p.m.  
at the Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City!***