



Greetings from the president

Hello APS Members,

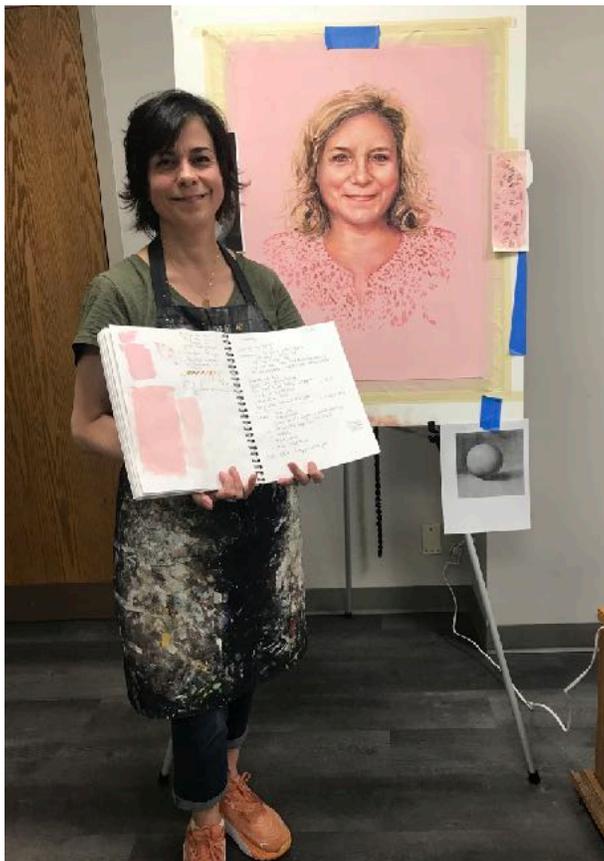
A shout out to the intrepid souls who tried to soldier on virtually through the equipment and logistic difficulties we had at our May members' meeting. Hopefully, we'll have things sorted out before our June meeting. Due to those connectivity and time issues, we did not conduct a business meeting. We'll discuss the unfinished business during our June meeting. Those members who were able to attend the meeting in person heard a very entertaining, informative and moving presentation by Virmarie DePoyster. She described her process of creating the portraits in her "Beyond Labels" portrait series. She also shared the moving stories behind each portrait. Virmarie's work will be on display this fall in Ft. Smith. Check her website, "virmarie.com" for further details.

If you have not had the opportunity yet to check out the renovation of the former Arkansas Art Center, now called the Arkansas Museum of Fine Art, I encourage you to do so. For the month of May, the teaching studios are hosting open house events every Tuesday and Thursday from 1 pm to 8 pm and Saturdays 1 pm to 4 pm. Come check out the studios, visit with instructors and see the new equipment purchased thanks to the Wingate Foundation. Our own Dominique Simmons will be teaching a pastel class this term. Consider signing up at arkmfa.org.

Valerie McNee
APS President



Virmarie Depoyster Presents April APS Meeting Program



Virmarie displays her sketch journal where she keeps a record of every picture she paints and the choices she makes such as background color, paper, and the colors in her pallet.

Virmarie DePoyster presented the April APS meeting program where she described her role as an artist as one of a story-teller. She discussed her upcoming exhibition “Beyond Labels” and how the artist and the subject went about deciding the story that would be told through their portraits in this exhibition series.

After being constantly mislabeled as a foreigner because of her accent and frivolous profession, Virmarie began to question how the labels and judgments others place upon us influence our identities. Her upcoming exhibition ‘Beyond Labels’ is a series of portraits. Each portrait is based on an interview between the artist and the subject where the person to be painted was photographed and asked to bring an item or to embody a persona which illustrated how they see themselves. During the interviews issues of identity and connection were explored through in-depth conversation regarding the labels others have placed on them versus the way they see themselves. The portraits in the series ‘Beyond Labels’ illustrate the selectivity we use in deciding which things about ourselves we choose to expose to those around us and which we keep concealed.

Virmarie’s hope is that through her portrait series she can tell a story that helps to inspire an appreciation for what makes each of us unique so we can learn to look beyond labels and truly see one another.

‘Beyond Labels’ will exhibit at the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum in November.



A portrait in progress for the “Beyond Labels” series.



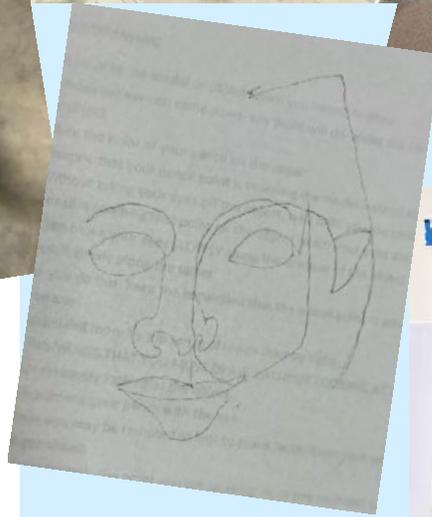
Virmarie presents the program at the May APS meeting.

APS Members Attend Virmarie's Workshop

On March 24, Caprise Cooper, along with Clarence Cash, took a one-day workshop with Virmarie DePoyster at the Art Group Gallery in North Little Rock.

Caprise stated, "The focus was on color and temperature. We covered a lot of ground in one day, from the study of how light casts shadows, values, layering color, creating texture with mark making, and much more. Also, going out of my comfort zone and painting part of the human anatomy! I learned two new techniques. Using an air duster (see photo) to remove pastels where I've made a mistake. In the past I would use a brush, however, I found this technique removes the pigment without pushing it into the paper and you can be very precise with the area you want to remove. The other technique was to draw the person across from you without looking at your paper or lifting your pencil. Start by staring at the top of their head until you are in a zone and then just draw."

You can find Virmarie's work at <http://www.virmarie.com>.



JUNE 3 PAINT OUT - PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

11:00-3:00

This is a FREE event

Plan to enjoy a day in this beautiful park painting. Come early for breakfast at Mather's Lodge if you want. Contact Susan Hurst if you would like to car pool or meet for breakfast. We will paint at Mather's Lodge for convenient parking and restroom accessibility. Pack a lunch in order not to take up valuable painting time. Discover why the Impressionist found nature the best instructor! Caprise Cooper has offered a tour of her studio should it rain.

Contact Susan Hurst at 501-960-6432 if you plan to participate in this event.





Entries Due June 9th for APS/OPS Non-Juried Show!

The Arkansas Pastel Society will hold their Non-Juried Members Show at the Thea Foundation Gallery June 27 - July 21. This year APS has invited the Ozark Pastel Society to exhibit with us. The reception will be held at the end of the exhibit on Friday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m. during the Argenta Arts District ArtWalk. The prospectus can be found at the end of this newsletter. Get your entries in by June 9th.

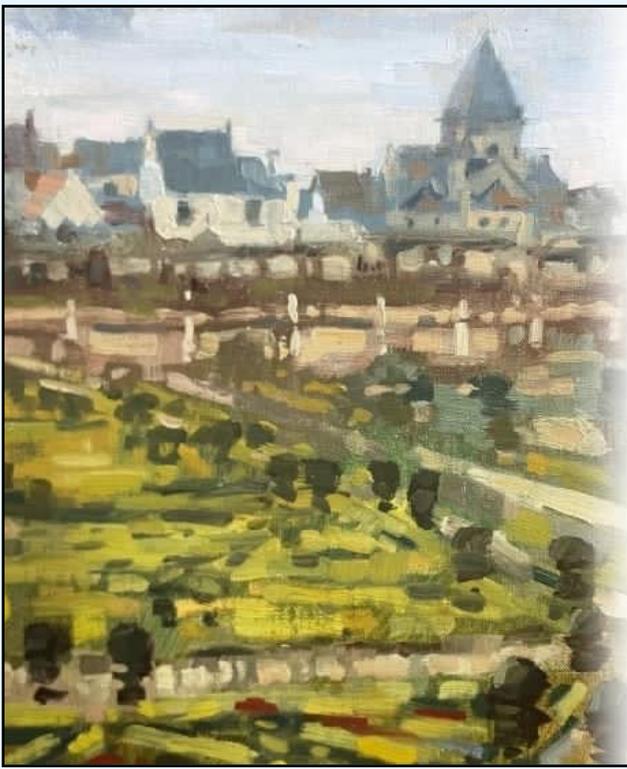
Cudos to Dana Johnson!



Last month's newsletter contained information about the Delta Arts Festival with an eye-catching poster included. Since the last newsletter it has been learned that the painting featured on the poster was created by APS member Dana Johnson. Congratulations Dana! The Delta Arts Festival is June 2-3 in downtown Newport, Arkansas. See the April newsletter for more information.

Keep Your Eyes Peeled for the 2023 National Show Prospectus!

The prospectus for the 2023 APS National Show will be out in June. This year's show will exhibit in the upstairs gallery of the Laman Library in North Little Rock. The reception is scheduled for Friday, November 17. Tom Christopher is the judge and will be leading the workshop that coincides with the show. Debbie Strobel, National Show Chair, says plans for the exhibition are going well. *Start working on your paintings now!*



France to Finish

Explore Plein-Air Works from
the Loire Valley

Opening Reception
Thursday, June 22nd
5:00 - 8:00 P.M.



Art Group Gallery
11525 Cantrell Road, Suite 910
Little Rock, AR 72212
Pleasant Ridge Shopping Center

Featuring Artists April Burris, Michelle Gunter Moore, and Holly Tilley; along with guest artists Beth Barger, Susan Hurst, Julia Hyett, Gary Moore, and Lisa Wright.

Susan Hurst Plein-Air Paints in France To Exhibit in 'France to Finish'



During her recent travels to France, Susan Hurst created this plein-air painting, 'Earth and Stone' which will be exhibited June 22, 5-8 p.m., in the Art Group 'France to Finish 23' exhibition. See invitation above.

'Earth and Stone'
By Susan Hurst

Burneta Venosdel Gets Honorable Mention While Painting Arkansas State Parks



Burneta Venosdel participated in the Heart of America Artists Association Plein Air Artists competition "Paint the Arkansas State Parks" last week in Hot Springs, Arkansas where she received an Honorable Mention award. It was a three day event with a large exhibition tent in conjunction with the ten day Hot Springs Area Cultural Alliance Festival! It was attended by a small group of plein air artists who painted the Hot Springs National Park as part of an ongoing event to paint the State Parks in Arkansas.



Mary Ann Stafford shares her painting, 'Sky and Water' with our group. This pastel landscape was actually the first one she painted in 2023 and she describes it as "a bit intense!"



Newest Members of Arkansas Pastel Society

The Arkansas Pastel Society would like to welcome our newest members who have joined our art group since the fourth quarter of 2022.

Annette Pettit

oldcotterbridge@suddenlink.net, PO Box 15,
Cotter, AR

I would love to network with other pastel artists to share, learn, and grow. I was an art education major for undergraduate and minored in English in 1975, which was not a good time to go into teaching art, with funding cutbacks. So teaching (and grading) English, going to grad school (in education), and raising three daughters did not leave much time for art. But periodically I took a summer workshop. In 2005, Arkansas decreed that all elementary students would receive 40 minutes of art a week from a certified art teacher. I made the leap from teaching senior English to First grade art. That drew me back into art, and I retired after 30 years total in 2010. I took a pastel workshop in 2014 and fell in love with it once I was introduced to sanded papers. Did a few a year until 2019, when we built a garage with a small art studio upstairs. I will be in the Art Odyssey tour for Mountain Home and the surrounding area this fall.

Beth White

bethwhite11@gmail.com, 402 Glenmere Rd,
North Little Rock, AR 72116

I began pastels in January 2020 through Life Quest online classes. It was my first ever art class of any kind and I have really enjoyed learning, but also have appreciated meeting wonderful people who are willing to teach and share their experiences.

Charles Peer

cpeerstudio@gmail.com, 203 E. Tahlequah
Street, Siloam Springs, AR 72761
www.charlespeer.com

Charles Peer is a signature member of the Ozark Pastel Society, the Pastel Society of America, and holds Master Circle status with IAPS. He leads pastel workshops nationally and internationally, and has served as both a Juror of Selection and as Judge of Awards for both national and international exhibits. He lives in Siloam Springs where he retired after teaching Visual Arts at John Brown University for 32 years. Charles has his studio in his backyard and welcomes visitors by appointment.

David Williams

rdwill1983@gmail.com, 105 Heatherbrae Ct.,
Sherwood, AR 72120

No bio available.

Carol Chiasson Rivas

rivasclomens1024@yahoo.com, 3597 Highway
178N, Flippin, AR, 72634

Carol Chiasson Rivas creates art using pastels, acrylics, watercolors, oils and inks. Creatively she is inspired by her hometown of New Orleans, architecture, Arkansas scenery, and people and animals. Her art is currently displayed at the Palette Art League Gallery in Yellville, Arkansas, and at the Delta Arts Festival.

Welcome!



There's A Whole Lot of Teaching Going On! APS Members Teach at LifeQuest

Several years ago Anne Parat visited an Arkansas Pastel Society (APS) meeting because she had heard about our art organization. Though she was there to learn more about pastels, she was also on a mission to recruit teachers art teachers for LifeQuest. Over time, Anne has recruited seven APS members, including herself, to volunteer sto teach art classes.

Members of the APS who have volunteered their time to enrich other's lives by sharing their art talents are Clarence Cash, Vic Mastis, Mary Ann Stafford, Debbie Strobel, Anne Parat, Shirley Anderson and Susan Hurst. Their unselfish act of volunteering has impacted their own lives and also brought new members to our organization. "I have really enjoyed working with the LifeQuest group to teach beginner pastel classes for several years now," stated Susan Hurst. "I usually share the class schedule with two or three other volunteers so it has only required two to three class preparations in a semester. I have found I benefit as much as the students do. It is very rewarding seeing others get excited about the medium and see them progress in their art journey. It keeps me painting and learning as well."



Clarence Cash

Debbie Strobel described her experience as a teacher, "When approached to teach, I was very hesitant. I had done demos for the Arkansas League of Artists and APS, but never really taught a class. I asked to take the first two classes because I like to give students an introduction to pastels. After that I basically just did a demo but last semester I realized that it would be much less work if I actually developed a standard class plan and handouts to use for those two classes, enabling someone else to teach in my place. It has been enjoyable to teach and see the students discover the beauty of pastels! But it has given me a greater appreciation of teachers, and the work they put in. It makes me very grateful to all those art teachers who have taught me through the years."

Shirley Anderson said, "I really enjoyed my time teaching at Life Quest. Most of the students wanted to have fun and learn about pastels in the process. As a result, the class was fun for me to teach. If I start talking about pastels, I can go on for hours so teaching the two-hour class each week was easy for me. I really appreciated how organized the process was as well as the support I received from the Life Quest staff.

This is a great program." Mary Ann Stafford added, "As far as teaching art to others, I always feel like I am using my abilities to help others improve their skills and to have fun as well."



Susan Hurst



Anne Parat



Mary Ann Stafford

LifeQuest of Arkansas is a nonprofit charitable organization that provides educational classes to adults of all ages, providing a framework through which adults can plan and create a more purposeful and rewarding life. Their educational classes are available to adults of all ages and is based on an open-university concept with no homework, tests, or grades. Four educational terms are conducted annually with both online and in-person classes. "The atmosphere at LifeQuest is much like going to a workshop," stated Anne Parat. "It is a time you have set aside to learn, share, and meet

people who are interested in similar subjects. The open and excepting tone of the classes allows one to freely create and learn. Whether teaching or attending, it is a great experience."

Even though our APS members taught art classes, there are many other topics covered at LifeQuest: art and hobbies, genealogy, digital learning, digital file management, yoga, tai chi, anatomy, cooking classes, geography, art history, current events, foreign policy, literature, languages, music and social topics, and even Mah Johgg. Currently there are more than 2,500 participants in LifeQuest from thirteen counties in central Arkansas, eight states and two countries.

There are many various affiliated religious congregations and corporate sponsors who support LifeQuest. Authorities in their respective fields volunteer as instructors. In-person classes are held at Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock, while online classes are available on Zoom, with most online classes recorded for later viewing. The eight-week registration fee is \$65 and the four-week summer semester is \$45 with some classes requiring an additional class fee for supplies.

To learn more about the programs at LifeQuest of Arkansas, visit their website: www.lifequestofarkansas.org. If you would like to teach, contact Anne Parat at anne.parat@gmail.com.



Vic Mastis

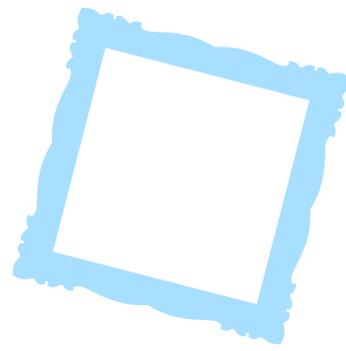


Shirley Anderson



Debbie Strobel

*Less Than Three Weeks Away
For Entries!*



APS/OPS Non-Juried Show at Thea Gallery

Hard to believe it is less than a month away. Entries are due June 9.

We have been invited again to exhibit our work at the Thea Foundation Gallery for the month of July. If you are not familiar with the Thea Foundation and their work, please visit their website theafoundation.org for more information.

We are excited to announce we have invited the Ozark Pastel Society to join us for this show.

This is an in-person event! The exhibition runs Tuesday, June 27 - Friday, July 21, 2023. APS and OPS Members please plan to attend the reception on Friday, July 21 beginning at 5:30 p.m. during the Argenta Art District's Art Walk.

Show Details:

Open to all APS and OPS members with dues in good standing.

- This is a non-juried show. We are working through the logistics to have the public vote for their favorites - more to come.
- There is no fee for entry.
- Works can be "not for sale" (NFS).
- All sales will be made directly with the artist.
- Thea will not be collecting commissions for any paintings sold during the show.
- All paintings must hang throughout the duration of the show, even if sold.
- Thea will provide the title cards.

Entry Requirements:

- Paintings must not have been exhibited in any previous Members Only show at Thea.
- Paintings must be a minimum of 80% pastel.
- Each member may submit up to two paintings.
- Each member will have at least one painting exhibited in the show, their second painting will be hung based on remaining space available in the gallery. Note: In years past we have been able to hang all paintings submitted.
- Entries must be suitably framed under glass or plexiglass and ready to hang with wire hangers.
- No sawtooth hangers.

How to Enter:

- Entries are due by Friday, June 9, 2021.
- Email CapriseCooper@att.net with the following information:
 - Name
 - Email
 - Phone Number
 - Painting Title
 - Painting Size
 - Painting Size Framed
 - Price
 - Order of hanging #1 and #2



Prep for Delivery of Work:



- Labeling your Work, adhere the following information to the back of your paintings:
 - Your name
 - Phone number
 - Painting title
 - Price
 - Hanging number - 1 (guaranteed to be in show) and 2 (will be in show if space is available).
- Hand Delivery
 - Drop off at Thea Foundation between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 20 through Thursday, June 22.
 - Address: 401 Main Street, Suite 100, North Little Rock.
 - Enter through the front door on Main Street.
 - If the door is locked ring the doorbell and someone will buzz you in.
 - The phone number at Thea Foundation is 501-379-9512 if you need to call.
 - Pick Up of Work: Between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 24 at Thea Foundation.
- Shipping
 - Email Nancy Martin at henson2martin@gmail.com that you will be shipping your work so she can ensure it has arrived.
 - Send using prepaid reusable crates with a PREPAID RETURN shipping label sent with the artwork.
 - Do not use foam peanuts for packing.
 - Insure for your own protection.
 - Artists should arrange for the shipping provider to do an indoor delivery.
 - Address: 401 Main Street, Suite 100, North Little Rock.
 - Shipped Entries Returned: Paintings will be packaged and returned no later than Monday, July 31.

Additional Opportunities: If you are interested in volunteering for the following activities, please email caprisecooper@att.net.

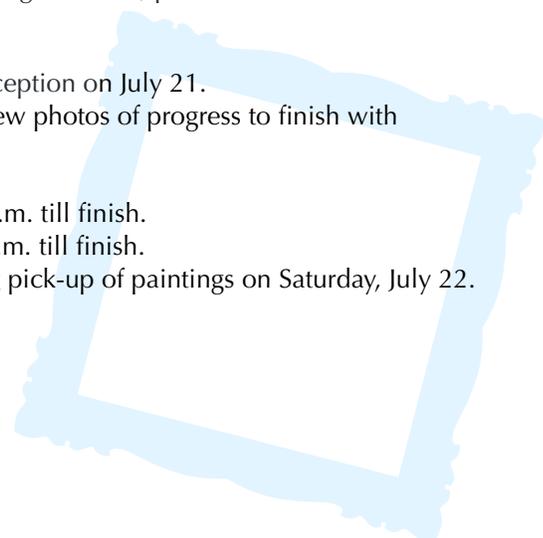
- Demonstrations: Demonstrating a painting in progress during the reception on July 21.
- Story Boards: Create a storyboard with your reference photo and a few photos of progress to finish with commentary. This board will be hung next to your painting.
- Hanging and Take Down of Show:
 - The show will be hung on Monday, June 26 at 10:00 a.m. till finish.
 - The show will come down Monday, July 24 at 10:00 a.m. till finish.
 - OPS Members Only: Charles Peer will be coordinating pick-up of paintings on Saturday, July 22.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Caprise Cooper

Exhibition Chair



Don't Forget Your APS Signature Membership Application!

Membership Chair Mary Nancy Henry says she is sure that there are members out there who have enough points to obtain APS Signature Membership. If you can't remember the shows and the show dates that you have been accepted into or won a prize in, Mary Nancy will be happy to help you figure it out. Print the Signature Membership Application found at the end of this newsletter, fill out what you can, and send it to Mary Nancy at mnhenry@sbcglobal.net who can help you fill in the information. The application is below.



Membership Levels and Signature Status Requirements for Arkansas Pastel Society

Name:	Date:	Total Cumulative Points:	
Year:			
General Membership:	Dues paid for current year (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)		
Gold Membership:	Member for one year (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)		
AND			
	Volunteer for one year as EITHER:	Committee Member (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) OR	
		Board Member (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)	
Signature Membership:	Gold Membership for one year (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>)		
AND			
	12 Points from the following:		
		Arkansas Pastel Society National Show:	One of top four awards (5 points)
		Arkansas Pastel Society National Show:	One or more painting juried in (4 points)
		Arkansas Pastel Society Juried Members Only Show:	One of top four awards (3 points)
		Arkansas Pastel Society Juried Members Only Show:	One or more painting juried in (2 points)
		Arkansas Pastel Society Non-Juried Members Only Show:	One of top four awards (1 point)
Point total for year:			
When requirements for Signature Membership have been met, send completed form to APS Historian:	MN Henry, 9 Nob View Circle, Little Rock, AR 72205	When requirements for Signature Membership are met, member should submit a letter to Arkansas Pastel Society Board for Signature Status award.	Top Four Awards: Best of Show First Place Second Place Third Place
Point System can be used over an extended period of time as long as membership is kept current.	With Signature Status, the member has earned the right to use this honor for promotional purposes.	In order to keep Signature Membership, member must keep general membership current and consecutive.	



Please email any information you have for the newsletter to Nancy Martin at henson2martin@gmail.com.

I would like to receive recommendations for art books or DVDs that you have reviewed (take a picture of them if you can), information on your art accomplishments, shows you have entered, awards you have received, activities in which you are using your art, exhibits you think members might be interested in, remarks on art products you have tried and why you would or would not recommend them, artists who have inspired you, or general information on APS committees you are working on. I would also like pictures of any APS activities you might like to share with other members, such as the “Denim Workshop” photos in this newsletter, and your artist bios.