

SWA Bulletin

Society of Western Artists
2625 Broadway Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94063
<http://www.societyofwesternartists.com>

March–April 2009
(650) 588-1154

President's Message—SFC

A hush falls over the standing room only crowd as Ferenc Besze begins his watercolor demonstration. We are crowded into a smaller room than usual for this event. The landlord has raised the rent on the Cafeteria beyond our means. And this is the best attendance we have had in a long time!

Ferenc takes it all quietly in stride. In his gentle way he informs us about his thinking as he lays out a few pencil lines on his paper. He has two photos (his own) that he will use for reference. He likes the composition of one and the active pose of a figure in the other. Just a few lines to show the major light and dark areas of the scene. He will not erase these lines.

As well as considering the large areas of light and dark at this point, he is considering the general color for the work. Warm or cool? I begin to be impressed with the fact that this artist is a master at two difficult tasks: One, trying to paint a good painting. The other, giving a running commentary on what the artist is thinking as he proceeds with the process, making many decisions along the way.

I know these two roles are in conflict. Have you tried to answer questions while you are considering what to do next with a painting? To stand back and describe it afterwards is one thing. But to play both roles at one time shows great skill and practice. Ferenc makes it look easy and natural.

Now, there are not a lot of lines on the paper, but they are important ones, as we will see. The edge of a building here, a lamp post there, a figure in the foreground. Not a lot of detail. Lines of perspective are laid in with clear understanding.

Now to the painting. A couple of favorite brushes. A simple palette of colors. "I like to mix the color on the paper, not on the palette. It is fresher that way," says Ferenc.

It is important that the painting be fun. Some things work and some don't. There are some disasters. But there is always another painting to try.

As he works along there is a rhythm, kinetic movement, like a dance. His brush darts across the paper touching down here and there, suggesting forms in the background. One thing he does not mention, but demonstrates, is an understanding of atmospheric perspective—values are paler in the background area. Then, finally, the figure in the foreground, a few more details and a dark swash of shadow across the bottom of the image. With a flourish he scratches a couple of lines down this fresh paint with the brush handle that give perspective to the pavement.

Ferenc holds the painting up with a mat. Applause! His work looks fresh, spontaneous, and fun.

Don't miss our demonstrations! They are great!

David McKean

General Meeting and Demo

Saturday, March 21, 1 p.m.
SWA Center, Redwood City

Clark Mitchell

Clark Mitchell grew up in the country outside Denver, Colorado, and at a very early age began sketching the beautiful local landscape. His father gave him a set of fine German pastels saved from his youth, and these launched the artist on his path to becoming a professional pastelist creating landscapes.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in art in the early seventies, Clark moved to Northern California to continue his art education, and relocated from the Bay Area to Sonoma County in 1982. This splendid region remains his main inspiration though he often makes painting trips around the country and abroad.

Over the years, Clark has studied with some of the best plein air painters, in pastels, oils, and acrylics. He has been designated a Master Pastelist by the Pastel Society of America and a Distinguished Pastelist by the Pastel Society of America.

General Meeting and Demo

Saturday, April 18, 1 p.m.
SWA Center, Redwood City

Laura Williams

Laura Williams began painting and drawing at an early age in Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a BFA in drawing and design and moved to San Francisco to further her education in commercial art at the Academy of Art College. She eventually became a landscape painter en plein air.

Laura's passion lies in finding the forms defined by color, light and tone. Combining being outside, the contemplation of nature, the beauty of sun and wind with the pleasure and challenge of capturing a moment in time with her passion for painting makes the art-making process a joy-filled, spiritual experience. She has exhibited at many shows and art centers throughout the state, including several one-person shows.

Welcome to New Members Tom Ayers and Dmitry Grudsky.

President's Message—SJVC

With the new year in progress, SWA is making plans for another exciting year of exhibits and showings. Get your paintings ready for the San Francisco Annual receiving on June 13, 2009.

Congratulations to three of our members, **Sheryl Lewis, Shirlee Rehart** and **Farshad Gohari**, who will receive their Signature awards at the Cantor Art Center, Stanford University Campus.

SWA finished holding Elections for New Officers at the January 24th 2009 meeting. Elections of new SJVC Chapter Officers:

Rudy Murrietta – President

Sheryl Lewis – 1st Vice President

Sally Moss – 2nd Vice President

Denise McGill – Treasurer

Shirlee Rehart – Secretary

Congratulations to our Committee Chair Persons: **John Wiens, Program; Dennis Lewis, Publicity; Ruth Dallin, Membership; Sally Moss, Librarian; Shirlee Rehart, Refreshment/Sales; Gloria Silva and Ruth Dallin, Telephoning.**

Following our Elections for New Officers, our dear and beloved friend Phil Johnson finished up the 2nd half of the “Art History Examined” slide show. Phil’s enthusiasm and knowledge really entertained and excited our members. Thanks to Phil for a wonderful afternoon.

Our deepest sympathies to our member Jacqui Semple on the passing of her husband. We at SWA would like to extend our love to you and your family.

Dues are now payable. Send to SJVC Chapter SWA P.O Box 3742 Pinedale, CA 93650.

Just a reminder to all our members that SWA has a new website. Go to: www.societyofwesternartists.com to check out our newsletter, current events and our members’ gallery on display. Please feel free to direct anyone interested in joining our prestigious organization. Applications for joining are available and ready to download (PDF) direct from the site.

Many thanks to our volunteers and members for your support through the years. Your support helps to make SWA SJVC chapter a major success. SWA only exists because of your support and your patronage.

Dennis Lewis

*Thanks to **Judith Puccini, Loretta Hawkins, Moira McShane Lukas, Diana Jaye and Carrie Drilling** for cleaning the SWA space.*

*Thanks to **Molly Griffin, Mary Huxley, Mary Mangan, Michelle Saintclair, Pat Suggs and Decker Walker** for donations to SWA.*

SWA Board

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Bulletin	Laura Johnson

Octagon Show: 2/2 – 2/27/09

Congratulations to Award Winners:

1st Place **Pat Kovattana** *Zhouzuang, China*
H.M. **Deborah Matlack** *Justine*

*Thanks to those who helped with the Octagon show: co-chairs **Moira McShane Lukas and Laura Johnson**; volunteers **Judith Puccini, Carrie Drilling, Phyllis Panelli, Will Hershey and David McKean**. Many thanks to our jurors, **Patt Suggs, John Zanoni and Suzanne Welch**.*

WATERCOLOR ART CLASSES IN MILLBRAE “ART FROM THE HEART”

Have fun painting watercolors from Award Winning Artist, Joyce Barron Leopardo, SWA

Classes ongoing on Tuesday Evenings from 6 pm–8pm

One of the best classes for the price!

Held at the:
MILLBRAE RECREATION CENTER
477 LINCOLN CIRCLE
MILLBRAE, CA 94030
(650) 741-8518

This bulletin is published 6 times per year (Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, Jul/Aug, Sep/Oct, Nov/Dec)

Advertise your workshops, classes, etc.

Rates: \$10 per ad per newsletter—50 word maximum; \$20 per ad over 50 words. Make checks payable to SWA.

Deadlines for ads and news is the 5th of Dec (Jan/Feb), Feb (Mar/Apr), Apr (May/June) Jun (Jul/Aug), Aug (Sep/Oct), Oct (Nov/Dec).

No brochures or printed matter accepted. Please type your ad and send with your check to: Laura Johnson, 3408 Beresford Ave., Belmont, CA 94002. You may send info to dollsinmin@sbcglobal.net. Check must be received before your ad can be published.

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SOCIETY OF WESTERN ARTISTS, INC.

Invites you to their 2009 Artist Demonstrations and lectures:

- Jan. 17** – Ferenc Besze – Watercolor – [www/besze.com](http://www.besze.com)
- Feb. 21** – Suzanne D’Arcy – Oil – [www/suzannedarcy.com](http://www.suzannedarcy.com)
- Mar. 21** – Clark Mitchell – Pastel – www.cgmitchell.com
- Apr. 18** – Laura Williams – Oil – www.laurawilliamsart.com
- May 16** – Ines Cosentino – Pastel
- Jun. 20** – Mike Kirschel – Oil – www.kirschel.com
- Sep. 19** – Karen Frey – Watercolor – www.karenfrey.com
- Oct. 17** – Myrna Wacknov – Watercolor portrait – www.myrnawacknov.com

Changes in programs may occur. For information, call Jeanne Nordness, 650-364-5709.

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SOCIETY OF WESTERN ARTISTS, INC.

Venues for 2009

- Octagon** – 2/2–2/27, receiving 1/10
- ANNUAL** – 7/24–8/29, receiving 6/13
- SWA Gallery** – May-June, receiving 5/2

If you need forms, please go to the SWA website (<http://www.societyofwesternartists.com>) and download them.

Pastel Workshop with Terri Ford, PSA, PSWC-DP

March 28 & 29, 2009; 9:30 – 4:30, 2625 Broadway Ave., Redwood City, CA

Tuition \$200 members; \$245 non-members

Join Terri Ford for a fun day of pastel painting. She will demonstrate various techniques she uses to create her award winning pastel paintings. She will also cover composition, value, color and thought process.

Terri is a nationally recognized award winning pastel painter. Visit her web site at www.terrifordart.com.

For more information, contact Jeanne Nordness at 650-364-5709. Registration form and info are available on the SWA web site.

Directions: From 101: Take the Whipple Avenue exit. Go west on Whipple and turn left on El Camino Real. Turn left on Broadway. **From South 280:** Take the Woodside Road exit. Go east on Woodside to El Camino Real. Go north on El Camino. Turn right on Broadway. **From North 280:** Take the Edgewood exit east. At Alameda de las Pulgas turn right. At Whipple turn left. Take Whipple to El Camino and turn right. Left on Broadway. 2625 is on the RIGHT side.

59th Annual Exhibition

Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica

July 24 – August 29

This year we have the opportunity of having our Annual Exhibit in the East Wing Gallery of the Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica. This is a larger space, with ample free parking, in a known artists' community. The gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 – 5 p.m. There will be an opening reception on July 24, 7 – 9 p.m. Even though the exhibit is listed as July 24 through August 29, we will have our normal Award reception on August 30, 1 – 3 p.m., with artists taking their paintings down at that time.

The Sanchez Art Center will include information of our exhibit in their advertising. They send out postcards and have an excellent relationship with Bonny Zanardi, San Mateo Times, who features their exhibits in her column. The Chronicle also lists exhibits in the pink section.

We will have an exhibit catalog this year. Please make a digital image of each painting in JPEG format. Each artist will be charged \$20 to be included in the catalog, no matter if it is one or three paintings. Please bring a separate check to the receiving, so it can be returned if the work is not used in the exhibit. Please read all the instructions in the enclosed prospectus and entry form.

Diana Jaye is having a solo exhibit of 20 paintings, “Primary Plus White” at her alma mater, Oklahoma State University, at the OSU Foundation, April through June 2009. The reception is April 2, from 5-7. If you are in Stillwater, Oklahoma at that time, please come!

Refreshments Needed: If you can bring cookies, cake, etc., for the March demo, please get in touch with Moira McShane Lukas, 415-468-2147. Any amount would be appreciated.

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WE'RE MOVING — PLEASE READ!

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Permit No. 9
San Bruno, CA

