



Newsletter

October 2017

Oct. Meeting:

**Thursday,
October 12,
Diane Grguras**
will be
demonstrating
**“Pastel
Landscapes”**

Next Meeting:

**Thursday,
November 9,
Gadi Leshem**
will be
demonstrating
**“Sculpture-
making”**



*Complimentary
snacks for our
October meeting
provided by:*
Nora Vogel
Bonnie Maybray
Kathleen Tetemanza
Norma Nicely
Maya Peel



Welcome Diane Grguras to the BVA!



The plein air experience... “It’s not always comfortable but so worth the sun, wind, rain, frozen hands, and hat hair. You meet people from all over the world because you’re doing something that speaks without words.”

Diane is an accomplished Pittsburgh pastel painter. **“Most of my paintings are expressions of how I see and feel about the natural**

world. I appreciate the beautiful diversity of the world, as well as its order and logic. I've been painting outside for about 13 years and it has increased my observation skills and also provided an awareness of the spiritual quality of the landscape. The idea that each person is unique and important is mirrored in nature among oaks and sycamores, winter and summer, and grasses and lilies.”

“Painting outside lets you see light and color in their true appearance and also the atmospheric feeling of a scene.

Artists whose work has been influential and continues to teach me... Andrew Wyeth, Claude Monet, Wolf Kahn, and the California Impressionists.”

Diane is a member of the Pittsburgh Pastel Artists’ League, the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society, and the North Hills Art Center.

Diane has a solo show in October at the Red Brick Gallery, Foxburg, PA. She is represented by Gallery on 43rd St, Lawrenceville, in Pittsburgh, PA. Her website: www.dianegruras.com



Art News

Message from the President.

I'm very sorry to say that we lost a good friend this month, **Irene Ackerman**. Our hearts go out to Irene's family. **I will miss Irene's cheerful nature, her willingness to always pitch in, her wit, and her talent.** Irene was an accomplished artist and long-time BVA member. She was always engaged in the local art community and eager to help out. Here are *some* of the things Irene did: Hanging Beaver Valley Artists shows, assisting with food setup for BVA meetings, being Treasurer of Cranberry Artists Network, helping with CAN shows and Cranberry Community Days, organizing snacks for Beaver Art Group meetings, and participating with BAG at Garrison Days. She also entered West Hills Art League shows, Saxonburg Arts Festival, Baden Applefest, and CELC art shows. Irene showed her lovely watercolor paintings throughout the area and won a prize in nearly every show she entered. She also enjoyed the CAN sponsored plein air painting group and life drawing group. **Basically, if there was art to be made, or work to be done in the art community, Irene was there.** Irene, we will greatly miss you! Jennie



Merrick News: Illumination - The Art of the Pumpkin Exhibit! The Merrick is having a decorated Halloween Pumpkin Show on **Sunday, October 22** to **Wednesday, October 25!** Carve, paint or decorate your pumpkins with a creative twist! All Halloween themed and non-Halloween themed pumpkins will be accepted in the show. Get an entry form from the Merrick or their website, and make sure it is turned in by **October 15**. The pumpkins must be delivered to the Merrick on **Saturday, October 21** by **4 pm**. Prizes awarded!

The Merrick is having an **Art Exhibition by Artist Alicia Stankay**. Opening reception is **Sunday, October 8**, from **1:00 - 4:00 pm**. As a writer and photographer, Alicia immerses herself in nature. Her photos include flowers, butterflies and colorful mushrooms. Alicia's landscape scenes provide the setting for her stories. The show runs through **Sunday, October 29**.

Enjoy Beaver's quaint Main Street at the **Beaver Art Walk on Saturday, October 7, 10 am - 4 pm!** Local artists will be showing and selling their work!

Cranberry Artists Network - Open Studio Life Drawing continues on **Tuesday, October 3**, and **Tuesday, November 7** from **6 - 8 pm**. Held the first Tuesday of every month at the Cranberry Township Municipal center. A \$10 fee pays for the clothed model. Bring your choice of art supplies. Members and non-members are welcome. CAN provides snacks/music.

Cranberry Artists Network is hosting a **Holiday Art Show from Tuesday, November 14 - Wednesday, December 20** at the Municipal Building in Cranberry Township at 2525 Rochester. This is members only, so you must be screened **Monday, October 16** to be included in the show! Drop off artwork **5:30 - 6:00 pm** and pickup at **8:00 pm**. You will be emailed within 24 hrs.

Due to limited space a *strict size limitation* of **16 in. wide x 20 in. high** (including the frame for paintings) will apply to all artwork submitted. These dimensions also apply for sculptures, ceramics, pottery and tapestries. Artwork that does not comply will be rejected. Only **one piece of art** may be submitted. Hanging of the art show will be **Monday, November 13**, from **4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**.

Opening Reception of the CAN Holiday Art Show will be held on **Wednesday, November 29**, from **6:00 - 8:00 pm** in the Municipal building lobby. Refreshments will be provided by the CAN refreshment committee.

The West Hills Art League's next meeting is on **Thursday, October 19**. **William Pfahl** will demonstrate his *plein air painting techniques*.

Elizabeth Asche Douglas is a participant in the "Women Look at Men" exhibition at MLPM Studio Gallery, Ambridge, PA. The show runs through **October**. She will also be giving an *Evolution of Jazz* lecture and performance at Geneva College on **Friday, October 20**.



Artist's Quote:

"It is my considerable experience, as a teacher and as an artist, that when people ask for creative help, they get it."

Julia Cameron

10 ways you can make the most of your next outdoor painting session.

by Courtney Jordan Online Editor ArtistDaily.com

- 1. Start with a good, long look.** Painting landscapes lets you create work that can take the viewer on a journey into a new environment. **To create a truly expressive work of art**, it helps to take more than a cursory look around and quickly set up shop. Walk around, sit a spell, and really soak in the landscape around you.
- 2. Focus your eye.** Whether it's a rocky cliff or a busy urban street, outdoor settings can offer a myriad of potential subjects. Sometimes, however, it can be too much to take in, leading to a painting that feels busy, cluttered, and lacking a center of interest. Massachusetts-based artist Nancy Colella starts every composition based on what she's visually drawn to. **She makes those elements the focal point of her painting**, and tones down everything else so that they come to the fore.
- 3. It's all about the light.** Light changes throughout the day, which makes accurately capturing it one of the biggest challenges of painting outdoors. The flip side, of course, is that when one is able to do this correctly, a painting is instantly elevated. **Observe the quality of light**, aiming for a spontaneous interpretation that still takes observation skills into consideration.
- 4. Don't paint a blue sky.** They rarely exist! California watercolorist Dick Cole acknowledges that landscape painting has enhanced his skills as a colorist and helped him to realize that the sky, along with many elements in nature, are **made up of a variety of colors and not just one pure hue**.
- 5. Strike a balance.** Spend as much time observing as you do painting. For artist Glenn Rudderow, this is a crucial part of his plein air practice. **"Nothing can take the place of direct observation - of being there, seeing, communicating, and expressing the spirit of one's subject,"** he says.
- 6. Go for awesome.** Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran of the Hudson River School produced paintings of the American landscape that were technically masterful, but most of all they were awe-inspiring. They created luminous paintings that seemed too bright to be true. **They amplified the elements of the landscape that inspired them most**, leaving the viewer with the same sentiments.
- 7. Don't bring your studio outdoors.** The thrill of working "en plein aire" is that you can shake up your routine and work differently than you might usually. **Use the change in location to try new techniques**, such as working on a smaller scale or focusing predominantly on light and other atmospheric qualities. And there is always the real compromise of doing an outdoor session very close to home, as in your very own yard.
- 8. Colors contribute to a sense of space.** When creating her landscape paintings, Kansas artist Kim Casebeer adjusts her palette in order to **accurately render atmospheric changes and a sense of space**. For example, she used red, orange, and yellow running through objects in the foreground, and blue, indigo, and violet for shapes that recede in the distance.
- 9. Go with the flow-of air.** Air moves objects. It ripples water, curls leaves, and sways limbs of trees. Use brush strokes and shading to **create movement** in your work.
- 10. Perfection isn't everything.** You can spend all day looking for a "perfect" composition that just doesn't exist. **Embrace the reality around you** - smog, power lines, even debris - and open yourself up to telling interesting stories with new subjects.



Membership Dues:

Individual: \$20 - Family: \$30

Due in September. (Note: Our dues go up to \$25 in January!)

Make checks payable to: Beaver Valley Artists.

Mail to: Mary Jane Hadley

124 Crossing Ridge Trail
Cranberry Twp, PA 16066

Send Newsletter submissions to:

Ruth Stone - 724-371-0681

1700 Tuscarawas Rd.

Beaver, PA 15009

ruthbeadlady@sbcglobal.net

Send Website submissions to:

Linda Headland - 724-775-1787

headland@beavervalleyartists.org