

## **Central Texas Pastel Society General Meeting April 15, 2023**

Jane Copeland, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00.

We had 11 attendees, and 4 Zoom attendees.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

- There is \$4,493.27 in the bank.
- Next year's dues can be paid anytime after our May meeting.
- CTPS does not prorate dues, therefore dues are accepted in May until fall.

### **CTPS Election**

Board election was voted on and approved unanimously. The positions follow:

- Jane Copeland will serve one more year as president. She would like to have someone serve as vice-president this year, so that when she steps down CTPS can make a smooth transition.
- Debbie Pridgeon, Treasurer
- Cynthia Bsaibes, Secretary and Membership Chair
- Jan Frazier, Exhibit Chair
- Kathy Meador, Program Chair
- Kathy Meador and Jan Frazier will work together as Workshop Chair
- Therese McHugh, Webmaster

### **Non-board positions**

- Esther Jones, IAPS Rep
- Julie Choate, Hospitality Chair and Librarian
- Carol Doherty, vendor solicitations/donations

Jane and Therese McHugh discussed that serving on the board and/or volunteering to help out when needed strengthens our organizations. It is a great way to meet fellow artists, and support one another. So come join the fun.

### **Challenge Paintings**

The theme was a backlit subject. Four paintings were shared digitally, and one painting was brought to the meeting. All were beautiful.

## **Tara Will was our demo artist.**

Here is her website if you would like to read about Tara, and see more of her work.

<https://www.tarawill.com>

- She paints the shadows first.
- Works on Sennelier la carte paper, using a full sheet. Dry medium only. If it does get wet, don't touch it. Let it dry, and that may save the painting.
- Sketches using a wax pencil or China marker. This keeps the colors clean as she paints.
- She barely touches the paper with the wax pencil
- She used a contour drawing technique, where she didn't lift the pencil.
- She doesn't spend a lot of time sketching because she finds that she is more likely to correct the drawing when she doesn't spend a lot of time on it. She said just because you spent a long time making a mistake doesn't mean you shouldn't correct it.
- Get the essentials drawn.
- Shadows first
- Darkest darks
- The darkness of the shadow is proportional to how dark the object is. For example, a red tomato will have a darker shadow than a white egg.
- Make marks in the direction you want the viewer to look.
- She looks for reflected light and puts those lights in.
- If you have difficulty with value, then a neat box of pastels arranged by hue and value would help.
- Keep your eye out for erroneous shapes, and patterns. For example, a face or a pattern that isn't there.
- Be careful to limit rubbing the pastels because rubbing destroys the reflective quality of pastels.
- She doesn't believe in focal points. "A focal point is a place for the viewer's eye to die."
- Make your marks to lead the viewer throughout the painting.

## **Directions of marks have meaning.**

- Horizontal marks are restful
- Vertical are attention getting
- Diagonal are movement
- Use the direction of the marks to move the viewer's eyes around the painting.
- In a painting you can ask the viewer to dance or rest. As the artist you make that decision with your design and marks.
- She usually completes paintings in 2 hours, one sitting.
- She does offer classes. Check out her website for details. Her classes are 3 hours and each class will focus on a skill. You will post your completed assignment, and she will critique it!

