



President's Message – February 2020

“To see, we must forget the name of the thing we are looking at.”

--Claude Monet

When Jo Allebach posted this quote on Facebook today it struck me as profoundly true. We live in a world that labels, assesses, quantifies, monetizes, and fabricates everything. On television, browsing social media, walking through the mall, driving down the street – we are bombarded with labels. It is as if the whole world wants to have the last word to penetrate our consciousness.

Most of you know that I do not paint. But after watching Julie and Elaine do critiques of other people's work, I have learned some things about painting. And I think one of the key takeaways for me is “See

the object you are looking at as it is – and not as you thought it would be before you got here.”

I think that is what Monet is saying. Do the hard work of forgetting everything you have preconceived about the horse, the barn, the landscape, the still life, the flower – and see it new.

In a highly polarized time, I think this is good advice for my whole life. Be vigilant to look beyond the labels other people put on our world, “...forget the name...” and see it new.

Grant Washburn



Creative Corner

FIXING PROBLEM PAINTINGS...HOW TO DO IT AND WHY DO IT!

By Elaine Waters

So, it is a New Year.... But maybe it is time to re-look at earlier OK paintings and see if they can be made better in this New Year. We all have some of these paintings. They are not poor, but they could be a lot better. Now that we are all better artists, we should revisit them and see if we can, in fact make them better. The hardest part is **making the decision** to rework problem parts of the painting.

If you are working in acrylic or oil, the reworking can be very easy. Study the painting and make decisions about what are the main problems with the painting. Is the composition good? Are the color choices OK? Are the light and shadows basically correct? Does the painting have impact, or does it seem boring? If the painting is boring, the problem is likely a **value** problem. Because values can so easily cause problems, it is interesting that they are also one of the easiest problems to fix. Study to discover where you can intensify the lights or “punch in” more darks. In your composition, look for large areas of the same value. If you do that, you can strengthen your composition. Please, don’t just add a lot of little objects, they will weaken your composition, rather than strengthen it.

Should you decide to rework a painting... you can paint on the current painting, or you can paint the same subject on a new canvas. No matter what choice is yours... find your **original Resource photo** and use that for your current resource. If you choose to paint on a new canvas... **DO NOT USE YOUR OLD PAINTING AS YOUR RESOURCE!** You would probably bring most of the same problems into your new painting. If you don’t have your old resource....do some thumbnail sketches.... Stress values, not details. More details or more colors seldom do anything to strengthen your painting . Improving the **value contrasts** can do great things to improve your painting.

Once you know that you can improve a weak painting, you will never be happy with it until you fix the problems. Don’t drop the price of a poor painting just to get rid of it. You will not be doing your customer or yourself a favor. Only put out for the public what you are proud of and makes you feel like you are really an ARTIST!



Demonstrator for February – Mark Christopher – Oil

Outstanding artist, Mark Christopher, is returning as PAG's demonstrator at the February meeting. As a refresher, his biography is printed below, and unfortunately a photo is unavailable. We all will be looking forward to seeing what Mark has in store for us on February 24th and please mark your calendars for it.

Mark Christopher was an artist before he ever claimed the name. His journey to creating and teaching art was a leap of faith that began in his hometown of Detroit, Michigan, where he originally planned to pursue a career in physics. In 2011, he followed his true calling to be a full-time artist into the Arizona desert. Since then, he's committed to his explosive passion for painting, drawing, teaching, and unbridled self-expression.

For Mark, art is as much about aesthetics as it is about supporting the well-being of his community. His soul-driven representations of people and nature are designed to infuse homes, workplaces, and other public spaces with the spirit of unshakable inner peace. As an art teacher, Mark honors each student for their individuality and their vision, while promoting a clear understanding of artistic technique. From novices to seasoned artists, Mark strives to inspire anyone with the desire to create.

Many of Mark's images convey a profound serenity that's hard to find in the modern world. Yet, his love for justice drives him to constantly think of ways to take the difficult but necessary journey of making peace a reality for those suffering from social oppression. He's currently planning ways to engage and elevate marginalized communities through non-profits, aiming to give them a voice in visual form while tracking issues such as greed, water shortages and poverty. His ultimate artistic goal is to re-connect viewers and patrons with what matters most: our true selves, our fellow human beings, and living in harmony with nature.

Mark's Web site is: www.markchristopherart.com

Happy Birthday!



February Birthdays

Sheila Bellinger Ashwini Bharathula
Katherine Kurgan Grant Washburn

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February

We will be collecting non-perishable canned or boxed (**not glass**) food.

We continue to collect eyeglasses for Lions Club. I will send out a package after November's meeting. They will take eyeglasses and sunglasses, adult and children's even if they are broken. They can reuse parts and refurbish old unused glasses.

Cindy Berg



Member Activities: from Joe Soltis

February Challenge: The challenge theme for January will be “**Still Life**” to include any medium not just painting.

Artist Happenings

Jean Morgan - sold “Tranquility” at the Glendale Arts Show

Sheila Bellinger – sold “Footprints in the Snow” at the Ascension Lutheran Show

Jo Allebach – Sold “Little Boat Dock” at the Ascension Lutheran Show
Sold “Sky’s the Limit” at the Glendale Arts Show



WAC – Washington Adult Center

Drop off – Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 2-4pm

Pick-up – May 4, 2020, 10am - 12 noon

Chair – John Mansour



for just \$25.00/ YEAR!

This includes one additional mid-year image exchange! Then you can change-out again. dues – how easy is THAT?!

Include it in your annual membership

We are increasing traffic flow and visitors to our site and piquing their interests WHEN THEY GET THERE!

Julie Frye is now your webmaster, (Chuck and Alika Kumar assisting) so get YOUR LINK on the PAG website and get these advantages WORKING for YOU!

Just send the following info. to Julie Frye, juliefrye381@gmail.com, or me- (chuckc1@cox.newt)

- A JPG (as least 300dpi) of one of your pieces
- The title of the piece
- unframed sizes, media
- Your name, email address, website link, (remember-link it back to PAG site, to increase traffic)
- organizations to which you belong

Chuck's Computer Corner:

Think twice about an All-In-One PC. - Four reasons to avoid going there:

Apple's iMac All-In-One- incorporating all of the computer's processing components inside a display; attractive; space-saving on the desktop, and reduced # of wires needed to make it work, led to more Windows-based copycats. - - - **downsides to consider are:**

Power Usage:

Though needed to make our toys work, it is also what makes them a bad idea. Order to get everything to fit inside these sleek displays, the manufacturers logically have to use less powerful processors and graphics chips because of the heat they generate. Heat dissipation is a major issue with any computer –more so when in little room for airflow. They tend to use lower-powered chips used in laptops, which are slower than their desktop equivalents. You'll wind up with what's essentially an oversized laptop that isn't nearly as portable and often not as powerful. Anyone into gaming should absolutely steer clear of all-in-one computers, as the graphics chipsets tend to be very low end.

Expensive Repairs.

Much higher expense, should you need to replace any of the major components. In order to get everything to fit inside the smaller enclosures, the manufacturers have created proprietary components. This means that when you need to repair the computer, one source for the replacement parts – which means much higher prices vs. standard components. Example: if your display becomes faulty, you're most likely looking at a replacement cost that is close to a new computer cost, it won't be cost-effective. With a standard computer with separate display, there are endless options less for less than \$100 if you need to replace the display.

Limited Upgrades

Very little all-in-one PCs can be upgraded – typically only the RAM and sometimes the hard drive – which means as soon any component isn't powerful enough for your needs, you will have to buy a whole new computer.

More Expensive: With all the listed limitations and downsides, the icing on the cake is that this type of computer is still more expensive than the type of computer is also more expensive than the alternatives.



“Seasonal Birches” Fused Glass by Nancy Byer

Meetings

4th Monday of Month
Arizona Artist Guild Building
18411 N. 7th Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85023

Contacts:

Grant Washburn– President

Alika Kumar – Membership

Membership \$40.00 per year/May-April



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