



# Phoenix Artists Guild

Volume 116

March 7, 2020



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – March 2020

### What price art?

Armand Merizon was a twentieth century American artist living in Western Michigan. He was raised during the Great Depression among Dutch Calvinists. They were "...stalwart, hardworking folks. In their view, painting one's house or fence was regarded as honorable work. Painting a wave or a field of daisies on canvas, however, was derided as a waste of time and money..."

As a child, Armand took his sketches into the affluent neighborhoods of Grand Rapids to offer them for sale. "One evening, after he returned home late for supper, family members scowled at his irresponsibility and wasteful sketching—until Merizon counted out the \$2.25 he had earned selling his creations. He offered the money to his father, Jasper Merizon, for family expenses. With his head lowered in his hands, Jasper muttered, 'Well, that's more than I've got.' For Merizon, that moment was 'the highlight of the Great Depression.'

Afflicted with epilepsy in childhood, Armand was asked not to return to school.

Eventually, "...Merizon was awarded a \$500 scholarship to the Vesper George School of Art in Boston, Massachusetts. He found the classes to be elementary and boring, and he often ditched class to roam the galleries of the Boston Museum of Fine Art, where he was inspired by the work of the great masters.

Eventually Merizon married and supported a family of seven with the sale of his art.

"At the height of his career, Merizon was diagnosed with macular degeneration. By the time he reached the age of 60, his central vision was disappearing fast. At 65, he could no longer read the newspaper or drive a car. Still, he was determined to paint.

"As macular degeneration unrelentingly took away Merizon's eyesight, he still was able to summon beautiful compositions from his keen sense of observation and acute memory.

"In 2010, at the age of 90, the artist passed away. Armand Merizon left his legacy to us, knowing that while he may have lost his sight, he never lost his vision."

Excerpted from "Armand Merizon: Painting A New Horizon" by Jan Keessen Jarrell in "Michigan History" magazine, January-February 2020.

Grant Washburn



# Creative Corner

## “Art as a second language – Learning to see in paint!”

by Julie Frye

In all our high schools and junior colleges, a class is offered to foreign visitors/residents – English as a second language. The major focus in these classes is learning to THINK in a language that is not our native tongue. This focus must manifest itself to each of us as visual artists to learn to THINK IN PAINT! So how do we do that? Well let’s explore a few ways.

If one wishes to become a writer, being a READER is pretty high on the list of how to achieve that goal. So it is with painting. Look at art – in museums, art books, artists magazines, look at paintings “recognized” by “experts” as good art. (Remember you are not always going to agree with the “expert” assessment- so feel free to make your own assessment!) That’s one way, and of course it should be the first step – a toddler one perhaps but it should continue as we progress towards thinking in paint!

Take a class – watch a video – thousands available on any subject or medium – all free! See how other successful artists have attained their goal. Watch it again, and yet again!

Become familiar with whatever medium you choose to learn. In ESL the first thing one learns is Grammar, tenses, pronunciation. So, in our case we must substitute that with the colors in the tubes (or paint pans, or pastel sticks). Are they warm or cool, light or dark, intense or muted? Brushes – a few of the best suited to the medium rather than pots full of cheapies. Painting surfaces, all that is available, eventually developing a preference.

Wrapping all of this learning our new language, the most important is of course learning to SEE. Many of us paint from photos – totally acceptable used in the proper way. Sometimes we get lucky and get to paint from life – plein aire or an indoor set-up, artistically arranged and dramatically lit in our studio. Our job is to discern: 1. What medium suits this best? Where is the light coming from – right now as I am looking at it – (if plein aire it will change in five minutes. Please, only one light source to a customer!) Key – that means high-key (predominantly light values) low-key (predominantly dark values) or a combination of the two which uses a fair amount of value changes within the painting to suggest form if you are thinking representational.

So, if we are choosing a subject, medium, mood, visual impact, focal point, composition, harmony, mixing/matching colors and on and on, we have a lot of THINKING TO DO! We told each of our 13 foreign exchange students that when they DREAMED in English they had mastered the language. When you endeavor to THINK IN PAINT, the mastery is in seeing, then translating what you see into visual art. Fluency take PRACTICE! (Also making mistakes!) Fluency takes EFFORT! Fluency of course takes TIME! Fluency creates beautiful visual art. How fluent are you?

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### *Meeting Agenda*

*Monday, March 23, 2020*

*6 – 6:45pm - Critique*

*6:45 – 7:15pm – Business Meeting*

*7:15 – 7:30pm - Social Time*

*7:30 – 8:30pm Demonstration Featuring Kelly Mattes*



## June Demonstrator – Kelly Mattes

Kelly is a New River, Arizona resident that has been painting on canvas and murals for many years. He has a wide variety of in-depth knowledge of animal anatomy, having also learned to appreciate taxidermy. Kelly uses this knowledge to paint portraits of loved pet owners' dogs and cats in addition to animals that live in the wild. Kelly spends much of his time exploring the outdoors in the Sonoran Desert oasis he calls home.

Kelly will be demonstrating the process and techniques he uses in painting pet portraits, and you can see more of his work at his website, [www.https://dodge/kelly](https://dodge/kelly)



As of this writing, the Alliance remains in transition. Lack of funding may be affecting Outreach programs. Veterans Programs are continuing since they are Federally funded.

The WHAM West Gallery "Interpretation "V" juried art exhibit and sale runs through March 28th.

Dr. Carl, PAG Rep

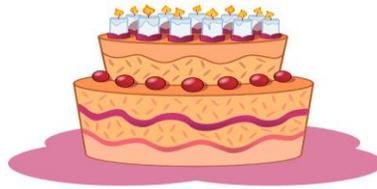


*Artist of the Month-February*

*A tie for 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Lois Miller & Gary Merrill*

## OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| President                                   | Grant Washburn |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (Program)    | Pat Washburn   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Show Chair) | Jullie Frye    |
| Treasurer                                   | Paula Sandera  |
| Recording Secretary                         | Jo Allebach    |
| Corresponding Secretary                     | Cindy Berg     |



**BIRTHDAYS – March  
No birthday's**



**March Collection – non-perishable canned or boxed (no glass) food.  
Ongoing – Used eyeglasses for the Lions Club**

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## Artist on Display

**Jo Allebach** – Jo Allebach is a Gallery Artist at the Herberger Gallery at the Arizona Center



**Thunderbird** pick up – March 14, 2020 - 9:30am – 10:30 am

### **Washington Activity Center**

Open house – April 4, 2020, 11:00am – 4:00pm

The City of Phoenix is promoting to the community our new show at WAC. We are planning on having members demo different media. Members can do Gift tables with 10% of sales to WAC and 10% to PAG.

If you would like to demo or have a gift table, please call Paula Sandera at 602-942-3717 to coordinate.

This is a great potential to promote PAG and get eyes on our artwork.



Members are asked for March to bring in art works with a “Rural” theme.

**Ways and Means: Check out the table. If you have cleaned out your art closet and want to donate to PAG this is the place. We are always looking for items to sell.**



**50/50 raffle will be done in May. So there is time to buy your raffle tickets.**



**For just \$25.00 a year!!!**

**This includes one additional mid-year image exchange!** Then you can change-out again. **Include it in your annual membership dues** – how easy is THAT?!

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 Alike 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](mailto:juliefrye381@gmail.com), or me- ([chuckc1@cox.newt](mailto: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 "TIPS":**

### **Be Prepared!!**

The fake tech support scammers pretending to be from Microsoft and it's because some people still fall for their spiel.

They may claim that you have a malware infection or a Windows upgrade/update issue, now that Windows 7 has been retired and is not supported.

What they are trying to do is keep you on the phone long enough to convince you to run a few tests of your own to prove what they are saying is true. If they convince you to run a diagnostic program, they will tell you to look for a specific word when the results are displayed.

The problem is that the specific word or words that they are having you look for are actually part of the Windows operation system and will always show up. If that convinces you that they are legit, they'll request remote access to help you clean things up. Needless to say, if you fall for this, they'll try to get you to give them a credit card number to cover the service or buy an annual protection plan.

Here's what you need to understand about the tech world - no legit company, especially Microsoft, is ever going to call you out of the blue to tell you that you're having a problem. Only allow remote access to your computer when you are the one initiating the request for help.

## **Webmaster's Corner – Julie Frye**

Here's an outline of the PAG website as it now exists (expect changes – it's still under construction!)

**HOME PAGE:** This has a brief outline of the organization, where we meet and when, as well as our Mission statement. Some of this information appears on additional pages for emphasis and clarity.

**ABOUT US:** This page contains details about our meetings, opportunities, outreach, information about membership fees and link to forms, Award information (Messana award). Contact us takes you to a map of our meeting place and link to my email.

**MEETINGS:** This page is updated monthly. It contains a calendar, photo gallery of past meetings/demonstrators/show receptions, etc. plus guidelines to Artist of the Month program.

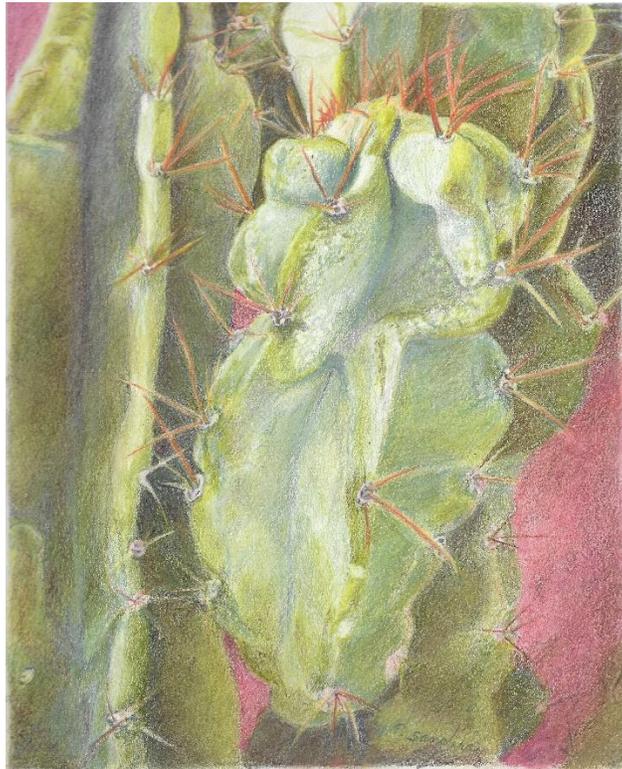
**OPPORTUNITIES:** This section has the schedule of shows, forms for upcoming shows can be downloaded by clicking the link download icon. This will be updated as new forms are generated. This also has information about sponsors and partnerships (AAA) etc.

**NEWSLETTERS:** This section contains links to the current month's newsletter and past publications back to 2014. You will receive email notice when a new newsletter is available for download.

**MEMBERS:** This page contains alphabetical listing of current members along with a photo of each. In the near future, I will insert a photo of artwork into each listing. (If you have not already sent me a photo of your artwork with title and medium, please do so! Please indicate that it is for this page.)

**LEADERSHIP:** This page shows our officers and committee chairpersons. If you click on "MORE" it brings down a page that shows our history.

I hope this information is helpful. If there is something you would like added to the website or have suggestions, I eagerly welcome feedback. I had big shoes to fill since Chuck has done a masterful job of creating and maintaining the website for many years. Alikea Kumar has also been a VALUABLE ally in teaching me the ins and outs of the new program. I still have lots to learn so be patient with me!



Desert Wonder by Paula Sandera

 **Arizona Art Supply**  
The largest Fine Art Supply Retailer in the Southwest  
Serving Arizona Artists for over 65 years.

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**PAG Members Receive 20% Off All Non-Sale Items!**

**[www.arizonaartsupply.com](http://www.arizonaartsupply.com)**  
**Phoenix—Tempe—Scottsdale—Sun City—Tucson**

Meetings:

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of Month  
Britt Chapel  
555 W. Glendale Ave.

Contacts:

Grant Washburn - President  
Alika Kumar – Membership

Membership \$40.00 per year/May-April