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From Chris Tanner: **Tom Trausch Two-Day Workshop in April**

On 20 and 21 April (Saturday and Sunday), Lake County Art League (LCAL) will host a workshop conducted by Tom Trausch on inserting people into landscape paintings.

The workshop will take place at the Antioch Township Center, on Deep Lake Road in Antioch. Following a few introductions on Saturday, the workshop will take place from approximately 9 am to 4 pm. Workshop time on Sunday is TBD.

NOTE: The deadline for registration has been extended to 23 March 2023.

Questions: Contact Chris Tanner at chrisetanner9@gmail.com





From Chris Tanner: Remembering Lee Radtke and His Abstracted People

Below is a memory of how one of our members, the late Lee Radtke, ultimately developed his own way of painting people quickly with his clever little abstractions. We of course understand that adding people can greatly enrich our paintings. Now, at the threshold of the 2024 plein air season, you can learn how it's done and then spend the summer developing your own style.



I probably painted 50 plein air landscapes and cityscapes with the late Lee Radtke, and immediately noticed how fast he would produce an oil painting. His procedures were very efficient: Find a man-made structure in a loose but recognizable setting, introduce a large dark shape to work around, build interesting contrasts, toss in a handful of people, and the next day add a few color accents in his studio. Energy and spontaneity came naturally from his speed, he sold a lot of paintings and he won a lot of awards. Lee loved to paint plein air, while I and others loved to paint with him.

If there was one thing about Lee that especially fascinated us was the way he used people in his work. They seemed real and natural, and they made the scene strangely familiar. Yet in his hands, these bodies were simply abstracted and deliberately obscured. Yet in our imaginations they almost seemed to move.

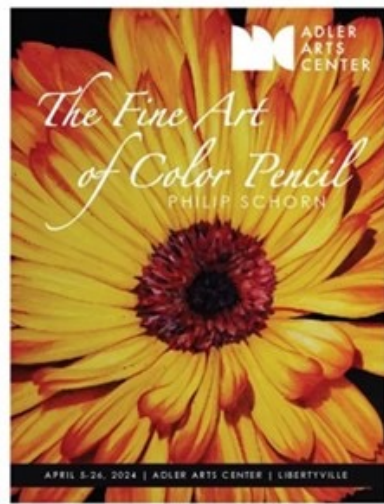
Above is a detail of one of his paintings of the shipyards in Sturgeon Bay, WI, and in the foreground are Lee's suggestion of busy yard workers. The clanging of metal and the smell of diesel exhausts is there. So, too, a distant shout or beep-beep-beep of a back-up alarm. You notice that your hands are dirty and make a mental reminder to wash up before lunch break. Then the spell breaks and you wonder: How on earth did Lee manage that?

There are rules of course, rules about perspective, proportions, point of view, relative values and so forth. It seemed to me that Lee didn't follow them very carefully, though. Mostly he created patterns to suggest the rhythms of human activity, the poetry of a gathering of people. He usually did that with a few thoughtful dabs of paint, just enough to trigger your imagination, and he did it *en plein air*.

Questions: Contact Chris Tanner at chrisetanner9@gmail.com



From Phil Schorn: **March News**



English Marigold, 24" x 24"
framed color pencil

It is finally March and we are 5 weeks out from my show at the Adler Arts Center (left). The last of the art is being framed. The show guide is being put together and will be available by mid-March. You will be able to see everything that will be on exhibit and to purchase before the show (all the art will still be on display for the entire April exhibit). I have worked very hard for the last six months in preparation for this show.

Upcoming Events in 2024

- "The Fine Art of Color Pencil", Adler Arts Center, April 2024, Reception April 5th, 7-9 pm. This is a show of only my art!
- I will have **2 other shows before summer**; details to come.



"Door County", 8 x 10,
graphite pencils

Even with shows, I still have been creating new art. I have been 'drawn' to graphite (sorry for the pun). I have always used this medium in some fashion and have taught a few classes. To the right and left are 2 pencil renderings.



"Door County", 6 x 6,
graphite powder and pencils



MNEWS

March 2024

I completed the 2 commissions below last month



A Kiss for Mom
9 x 6, white Bristol



Beer Bazaar
9 x14, black
Bristol

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From Phil Schorn: February News, cont.

Another medium I enjoy a lot is watercolor pencils (right), I have done several classes for beginners as well.



8 x 10, Mixed Media Bristol

Classes

Classes are going strong. There are still openings for beginner color pencil classes (see below). Links for information and registration are on my [website](#), under classes. Zoom is also available for my [in-person classes](#).

Kits and Videos

The kits have everything that you will need to create your own color pencil piece. I have the reference, how-to-video, drawing paper, drawing tips and the pencils. Projects include: Grapes, Flower, Fall Leaf, Butterfly and a Winter Cardinal. A great gift idea.

I have also put together several videos on color pencil techniques (see image above) and the step-by-step workshops I have written for Color Pencil Magazine. All are available for purchase/download.

Questions? Go to pschornstudio.com

P. Schorn
STUDIO



MNEWS

March 2024

From Ernest Schweit: **Featured in Highland Park Photo Show**



"Tumult"
limited edition, 24" x 16"
print on metal

I was blown away when I saw the quality of work at "Focus and Click," a wonderful photography show that opened Friday at The Arts Center (TAC) Highland Park. And just as honored to be part of it alongside 92 images from 52 photographers.

This marks my first show with TAC. Two of my images are included in the juried exhibition: "Tumult," (left), publicly shown for the first time ever at this show, and "Awakening," also a 24 x 16 metal print, presented in a custom mahogany float frame designed by master wood maker and good friend, John Hatelsted.

"Tumult" was made on a chilly winter morning along the shore of Fort Sheridan Beach, only 10 minutes away from TAC. I made "Awakening" at Cox Hollow Lake near Dodgeville, WI, on a foggy fall morning. Both are testament to my love of working in the natural world on days that would find many folks inside, days that often yield moody and dramatic work.

Three nationally known photographers, Susan Aurinko, Rose Blouin, and Paula Chamlee, served as jurors for the show; their work is also featured in the free event.

The show showcases and pays tribute to photography, "where it started and how it evolved." It succeeded wonderfully with an array of work from traditional black and white images on paper to colorful digital photos on metal.

The venue is impressive, with 3 museum-quality galleries displaying work of established and emerging artists, as well as space for classes, workshops and a gift shop.

**Make sure to see this show! It runs through April 6;
the [TAC](#) is located at 1957 Sheridan Road, Highland Park**

Also see my [website](#), social media accounts on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#); and my [blog](#).

Ernest J. Schweit
FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

Questions? Contact me at Ernest M. Fisher Studios;
847 609 8070; email: ernestjschweit@sbcglobal.net



From Ernest Schweit, cont.

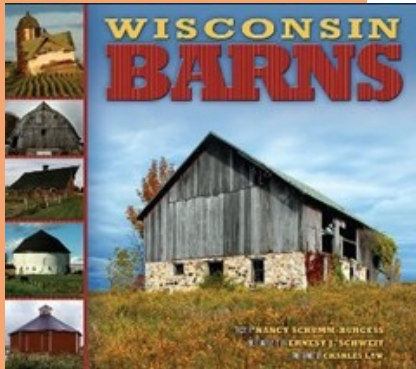
Barn book at TAC gift shop

If you stop by the TAC to see “Focus and Click” (see previous page), make sure to visit the center's gift shop. There you will find copies of my book, “Wisconsin Barns” (left).

The book features 107 images I made while visiting every county in the state over two years with author Nancy Schumm-Burgess. Nancy interviewed farmers throughout the state about the history of their barns and their love of the land, while I made hundreds of images.

Making a photo book is probably the dream of many photographers, but the experience of meeting so many people along the way and hearing their stories is what I'll always cherish.

Thanks to the TAC gift shop for putting it on their shelves.



Come see us at Positive Space!

If you didn't make to opening night of the ATC show, make sure to stop by [Second Friday](#), at Positive Space Studios in Mundelein.

My lovely artist wife, Maureen, and I have a studio/gallery space there and we'll be showing work this Friday, along with featured artist and fellow Grayslake Arts Alliance member, Sinead Carus, who crafts amazing illustrations, photos and surface art that combines the two mediums.

Gallery hours are 11 am to 5 pm Saturday and 11 am to 3 pm.

Don't miss it!



"Watson Lake"
on display at Positive Space studios



MNEWS

March 2024

From Clarese Ornstein: **Upcoming Art Shows**

Volo Bog Avian Art Show

You're invited! Spring is all about celebrating birds at Volo Bog State Natural Area and I hope you will join in the annual Avian Art show.

Attached in this email is an artist submission form. No entry fee!

Artists may submit up to three pieces for consideration.

Click here for the [application](#) form.



Barred Owl by Judy Arvidson



For the Birds logo

Blue Moon Art Gallery (18620 Belvidere Road, Grayslake)

I am also submitting bird pieces for consideration at the Blue Moon's [For the Birds](#) juried exhibition and competition.

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS -- A Juried Exhibition & Competition
Featuring Fine Art About Birds

Saturday, March 23, 6:00 PM to Sunday, April 14, 4:00 PM

Opening Reception — Saturday, March 23, 6-9pm

Guest Juror: Scot Jay Marr, Retired Scenic & Costume Designer,
Chicago Lyric Opera

On view through April 14. Gallery Hours:
Saturdays & Sundays 1-4pm.



Clarese Ornstein

Questions: Contact Clarese at 1-847-525-7823 socoro@comcast.net



From Clarese Ornstein: **Upcoming Art Shows, cont.**

2024 Art in the Shire – Call For Entries

The Shire Law Group, PC® and Culvers is making a call for entry for the Art in the Shire™ Exhibit to be held on May 7, 2024 from 5-8 pm.

This exhibit introduces local artists to the community. It's open to all artists and all media. The event will be held at the offices of The Shire Law Group, PC® located at 1 Overlook Point, Lincolnshire, IL.

SUBMITTING TO THE SHOW: Artists may submit up to 3 pieces. All artworks must be original. Two-dimensional work will also be accepted and must not exceed 36 inches in any dimension.

FEES: There will be no jurying fee, and no entry fee upon acceptance.

ENTRY DEADLINES: Final entry deadline is May 3, 2024. Accepted artists will receive shipping and drop-off instructions soon after they are notified.

GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENT: Submitted work must be suitable for public viewing. All participating artists must complete and sign the Exhibition Guidelines and Agreement Form.

Additional Information:

Artwork of student artists from Daniel Wright Junior High School will be displayed in a dedicated area. Free admission to the public. Culvers will offer a light dinner at the Exhibit (alcohol will not be served). Attendees are allowed to purchase displayed art.

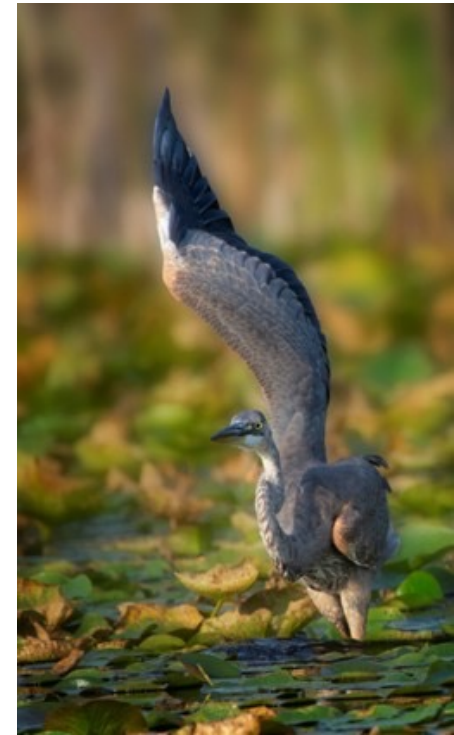
Questions and application form: Contact Clarese at 1-847-525-7823 socoro@comcast.net or, Renee L. Leonard, Shire Law Group, PC® renee@shirelawgroup.com

[Click here](#) to view last year's (2023) event.



From Jeff Harold

I will be teaching "Photography for Beginners" at the College of Lake County starting 6 April; the class, unfortunately, is already full. However, for anyone interested, I will be teaching this class and potentially a more advanced class in the fall.



I always enjoy sharing my work with friends and family.

If you have any stories, paintings or thoughts you would like to share with our members, send them to: Jeff Harold at artbydebbiek@gmail.com or Jody Bennett at jorbenn1@yahoo.com



From Jeff Harold, cont.: Telling a Story Part 2 – Composition

In last month's Mnews, I wrote about how a picture can tell a story and I used an example of one of my photographs compared to one of Tom Trausch's paintings. In my conversation with Tom on YouTube, we discussed how the story can depend on the medium used. But that's just part of how an artist can tell a story.

In the conversations I've had recently with different artists, the topic of composition has been a major point in how they create their work and what they find important. Something new to me was 'dynamic symmetry' that Michelle Byrne introduced to us in January. But even though this helps make the subjects of the work stand out and helps the viewer see what the artist wants the viewer to see, it doesn't always tell the story behind the scene.

As Paul Harvey would say, "And now, the rest of the story." One of the strongest tools in an artist's arsenal is composition. In most artistic works today, I have very rarely seen composition used to really tell a story. Composition can be used to make a "strong" image, which is what I teach to my photography students. I've seen Edward Hopper use composition to great effect in telling a story in many of his works, Renee Magritte in his abstractions, and many other artists who are experts in composition. But there is only one who I consider to be a master of storytelling through composition – Edgar Degas.

In his early years, Degas created an oil portrait of his aunt and her family, ("The Bellelli Family," right). Through the use of composition, he successfully told the whole story of the interrelationship of the family members. He used devices such as creating a wall between the father and the mother/daughters' group and using implied lines created by where each family member was looking. This to me was a "tour de force" in how composition can help tell the story behind the painting.



"The Bellelli Family" - Edgar Degas