



Sketches...

Official Newsletter of your
Lake County Art League

April 2022

Since 1934 LCAL.org 501c3

April presentation: Les Scott will demonstrate scratch art painting.

The moment came, as Les explained in a 2017 interview, when he was looking up at a beautiful moon against a very black sky. He knew of scratchboard, of course, and knew that in his hands the feel of the scratching stylus on a clay board would be like the familiar feel of pen on paper. But now he could see creative potential far beyond anything he would do with pen and ink. He could think of no better way to capture the beauty of the lunar shadow shapes against a bold black background of empty space.

Leslie “Les” Scott grew up observing the natural world. To make a living he had studied and became a graphic artist in the commercial world, but has now returned to those memories. Here he shares them using the little-known medium of Scratchboard. We



certainly see Les’ artistic insights, but more than that he wants us to sense the creative potential of the medium. Scratching black ink from the surface of a white clay board may seem as simply the reverse of penning black ink on white paper, but in Les’ hands that has yielded nuanced expression and opened doors for an artistic journey far beyond graphic arts.

In his early teens, Les recalls, he was “observant, just storing everything in my mind.” That started in earnest when he would accompany his truck driver uncle Walter and Walter’s dog Sport hauling furniture in an 18-wheeler from Chicago to Albuquerque and other areas of the country.

Our monthly demo will be Monday, April 18, 7-9:00 pm. It will be held at the State Bank of the Lakes in Grayslake, located at the corner of Center Street and Commerce Drive.

The pandemic is largely behind us and with this meeting we are returning to live demonstrations. It will be recorded for later sharing over the Internet. Bring whatever beverages you need. Snacks will be provided and individually wrapped, but beyond that common precaution no COVID restrictions will be enforced.

We will start with a brief business meeting, including the presentation of a slate of proposed officers (president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer). New officers will begin in September. A voice vote will be taken unless someone suggests an alternative officer.

Bring a friend. Remember our friendly monthly competition? **Bring a recent piece** to share and to be judged by the presenter.

Les went west again to attend Idaho State University. "I liked the idea of the West, the open spaces, the mountains and the Indian cultures." He went east to graduate school at Howard University, an historically Black college in Washington DC as he worked part time as an artist. Les ending up working as a graphic artist in Detroit, Chicago and finally Waukegan in advertising, publishing and finally doing pen and ink illustrations for Baxter Healthcare. Along the way he produced a cartoon strip for his college newspaper, and editorial cartoons for "The Chicago People's Voice" urban newspaper.

Waukegan is also where Les met and married Deborah, a schoolteacher, and he became a self-employed artist. Deborah introduced him to substitute teaching, so with that and other non-art jobs he was reasonably free to explore art beyond the confinement of graphics work. It was then that he discovered the medium of scratchboard, through which, says Les, "I learned what art is."

He also credits his artistic growth to the Lake County Art League, which has given him a broader art education and "a chance to see how other minds work." Forever a graphics artist, however, Les gave us a new logo in 2015.

Now Les is also a member of the Glenview Art League, and is showing his work in commercial galleries as well as art league shows. Most of Les' works are in private homes in Lake, Cook, and Kenosha counties, but also as far away as Missouri and Seattle, Washington. He has won numerous awards.

April 2 Spring Membership Show check-in continues at the Jack Benny Center.

Carol Otis and Tom Asma helped 19 members enter their pieces at the Saturday, April 2 check-in. Self-check-in will continue through noon, Saturday April 9.

The Jack Benny Center building hours are

- Monday through Thursday 3 to 8:00pm
- Fridays 4-7:00pm
- Saturdays 9:00am-12:00pm

A completed Show Release Form must be taped to the back of each submitted entry. Forms will be available at the Jack Benny Center reception desk.

After self-check-in the hours for viewing the show will be the same as above. The Spring Membership Show closing critique will be Monday May 16, 6-8:30, and the critique will be performed by Leisa Corbett, LCAL member and former president.

Interested in touring the Jack Richeson Company?

We are considering a LCAL group tour of an art materials company located in Kimberly, Wisconsin, near Appleton. From the Waukegan area it's about a 2 ½ hour (160 mile) drive. Interested?

The tour would be through Jack Richeson & Co, an international manufacturer and importer of professional art mediums, tools and equipment. Their facility also houses Jack Richeson's School of Fine Art & Gallery. You may not be familiar with their products, as they do not sell directly to painters, but you may have encountered their Richardson75 International Art Competitions. Learn more about this company at <https://richesonart.com>.

Specific plans for the tour have not been prepared, but we would like to find out how many of our members would be interested in such a tour. The tour would probably be planned for May, June, or July of this year. All those interested in such a tour please e-mail Val Brandner at isketchit@yahoo.com by **April 20, 2022**, and please make the subject your e-mail "Richeson Tour"

Phoebe Boyd and LCAL \$500 Scholarships to be awarded to CLC students

On Monday, April 4th, LCAL members Clarese Ornstein, Fran Isaac, and Jeff Harold reviewed the artwork of the emerging artists in the College of Lake County Student Show and chose students to receive this year's Phoebe Boyd and LCAL scholarships.

Rachel Jacobsen was selected to receive the Phoebe Boyd award for a graphite pencil drawing titled "Brass Beauty" and Niah Kuchenbrod was selected for the LCAL Scholarship for a ballpoint pen drawing titled "Blinded." Both students will also receive a one-year membership to the Lake County Art League.

Jeff Harold is planning to interview these students after they are awarded the scholarships, and we look forward to hearing from them and visiting with them in the future.

Thank you Clarese, Fran, and Harold for a job well done.



Rachel Jacobsen
"Brass Beauty"
Graphite Pencil

Niah Kuchenbrod
"Blinded"
Ballpoint Pen

And ...

The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June, meeting 7-9:00 pm on the third Monday of these months. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June include presentations, usually a demonstration. November and May meetings are the closing critiques for our popular fall and spring membership shows. Finally, we take a holiday break in December. After December our newsletters will be sent only occasionally to members who have not paid their dues.

If you sense there is new way to bring fine art to Lake County, or you know how to improve the advantages of membership, please share that. Contact one of the members below.

Elected Officers

President	Gail Gudgeon	gaile.gudgeon@gmail.com
Vice President	(vacant)	
Recording Sec	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Assisting CS	Anne-Marie Bracken	amabracken@gmail.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com

Directors

Art Festivals	(vacant until festivals again become viable)	
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Issac	fmisaac@aol.com
Librarian	Debbie Kalinowski	nyika1940@gmail.com
Membership	Betty Perri	bettyaperri@gmail.com
	Leslie Nauta	nautateam@comcast.net
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Publicity	Tom Perkowitz	perkowitz@mac.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Sketches	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Workshops	(vacant)	

Connection to the Art Community

Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com

Also

Past President	Oliver Merriam	omerriam@yahoo.com
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