

Artwork of the Month – May
Johanna Raupe “Danger Keep Out”

JULY 2020



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I Hope all of you are safe and well. It looks like our confinement will last a bit longer. That means we will have a zoom meeting on July 14 6 pm. I hope all of you will be with us. We are using a secure version of Zoom, supplied by Concerned Veterans Organization. Send me a note at mesaartonline@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

I recently read an article by **Malaka Gharib** on Goggle "Feeling Artsy? Here's How Making Art Helps Your Brain." which was from a **Life Kit podcast from NPR @Nprlifekit**. To recap things that we already intuitively know as artists: Creativity helps us remain healthy, connected to our self, connected to the world. It helps us imagine a more hopeful future. It activates the reward center of our brain. It lowers stress. It helps focus deeply. Different mediums engage different parts of us. It really doesn't matter what, but that we keep on creating. Have a wonderful, creative July.

Loralee



- 9 -

Danger Keep Out!
Photography - Size Will Post Later

Johanna Raupe notes this is one of my most mysterious, yet rewarding images to date. Let me explain a little about the image and you will soon see why I think so. One of the phrases I associate with this image is "Once you see it, you cannot "Not See" it."

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Upcoming Shows!

Vets at Holland in November 2020

Holland for MAL February 2021

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MESA ART LEAGUE EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, VETERAN CLASSES AND DISPLAY SCHEDULES ARE ONLINE DUE TO THE COVID 19 VIRUS

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Upcoming Shows!

Vets at Holland in November 2020

Holland -- February 2021

VOLUNTEER TO HELP MAKE THIS ONE OF OUR BEST SHOWS

If you are interested in helping out, send Loralee or Vivian a note.

We will also have a special Veteran Art exhibit in hallway that month.

MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP - Scholarships are available to MAL members for attending a special workshop or class. You can apply for up to a \$250 scholarship to help with the tuitions. Due dates to apply for 2020 are: Feb 29, May 31, Aug 31, Nov 30. See application at:

www.mesaartleague.com/_pdf/Membership/MAL-Membership-Scholarship-Contest.pdf

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Wilma Dilley in June & July



Join us on Zoom for the Monthly Meeting on July 14th – Send a note to mesaartonline@gmail.com

with June Zoom Meeting in the heading of your email – You will be asked to download Zoom and given a password to enter.

The meeting will begin at 6 pm.



Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight features **Brenda K. Jackson – MAL Secretary** who has been a member of the Mesa Art League since 2018. So many creative choices. Life's greatest challenge. In her book "Refuse to Choose" the great author and coach Barbara Sher wrote: "To Scanners [her word for people who are interested in a multitude of things] the world is like a big candy store full of fascinating opportunities, and all they want is to reach out and stuff their pockets." Drawing, painting, writing, playing bluegrass banjo, writing songs, clogging, square dancing, photography, wood carving & wood craft, leather craft, creative blacksmithing. Are just a few of the creative things vying for my interest & spare time.



Brenda with Cody, her dog



HATCH

Animals and the natural world have been the source of my art since childhood. I loved to draw Scooby Doo, Toucan Sam from the cereal box, and of course, horses! When they could afford it, my parents bought me leather project kits and I loved tooling designs on the change purses, wallets, key fobs, etc. (Unfinished leather smells heavenly--I love to go to the Tandy Leather Outlet just to inhale the leather scent.) In middle school shop class, we made leather and wood projects (fresh wood also smells heavenly). As a teen, I watched, mesmerized, as Bob Ross created gorgeous landscapes out of thin air.

Thirty-four years ago, I took a painting class at community college. I loved John Audubon's 1882 etching of Snowy Owls and attempted to recreate that in acrylic. In all the moves I have made since 1986, I have toted that Snowy Owls painting with me wherever I go as a reminder to get back to painting and continue to hone my skills.

My journey in art has been one of fits and starts, but I never give up. For me, art is the link between nature, emotion, and evoking the best in people. I began to sketch landscapes when I moved to the Blue Ridge Mountains in my twenties and continued to sketch when I moved to amazing Arizona.

Some of my art goals: To master drawing and painting Labrador Retrievers and the natural wonder that is Arizona. I'm currently planning to experiment on some throw-away food tins to see if I can paint a variety of Arizona settings. In 2019 I took a drawing class at a community college which has spawned an interest in mastering the art of drawing the magnificent moose, such interesting creatures.

Spotlight of the Month, Continued



Moose by Brenda K. Jackson



Snowy Owls by Brenda K. Jackson



Johanna Raupe, Artist of the Month for May

The setting is in a ghost town or in very close proximity to where the original town stood. The background overlooks areas where there were numerous conflicts between miners, settlers and Native Americans. *Danger Keep Out* was taken in the late evening at 7:16 PM, just after sunset when it is dark enough that you need some sort of a flashlight or other device to enable you to see safely where your next step will land. I can vividly remember shining the flashlight around to make sure I was not going to have any unplanned visitors, namely snakes.

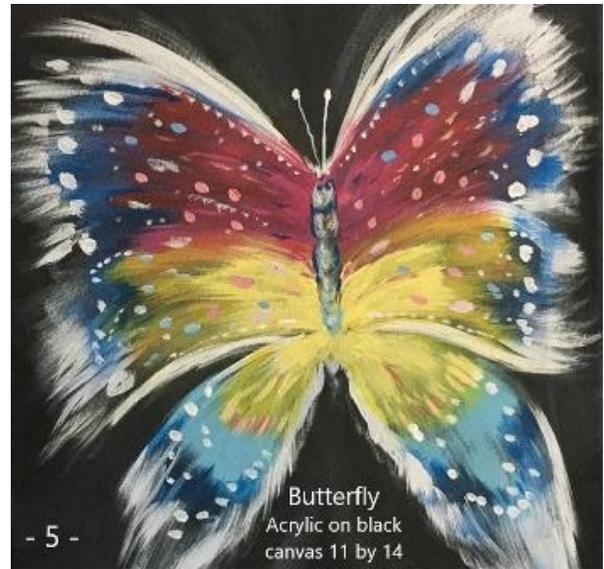
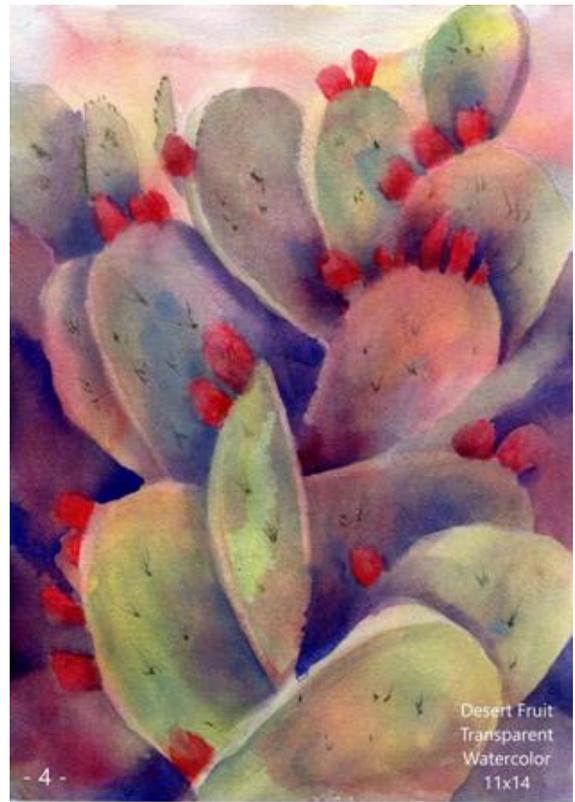
The technique used to create this image involves the use of non-traditional lighting devices to illuminate the foreground, while the long exposure would capture the stray light of the sky. The science and technique behind this type of image creation is called 'light painting.'

Before sunset, you need to get a good idea of the composition that you are going to use and then wait for the sun to go down and everything go black. Once black, you open the shutter on the camera and start painting the foreground with light, being especially careful to paint only the items that you want the camera sensor to see. It took me approximately three hours to get the right exposure and composition to create this image. Everything has to be just right for the whole thing to work.

But there is one more surprise hidden that I did not see while processing and I could not see it the night I was taking the picture, because it was pitch black. As the print was coming off the printer, I walked across the room and for some reason turned. That is when I saw it. Right in the middle of the image coming off the printer, there is the face of a Native American looking down over the entire scene. As I looked across the sky, I could see even more ghostly images, some human, and some wildlife. It is difficult to 'Not See' the face, once it has been pointed out to you. I always say, 'God was with me, when I captured this image,' because I truly believe that.



June Artwork of the Month



June Artwork of the Month



Images show best online –

Check them out at

Mesaartleague.com

You will be sending your vote to MesaArtExec@gmail.com,

Please put in the subject line:

For Website Art Challenge,

include the number of the art piece in the body of the email when you vote and please vote only once for one piece.

Artwork of the Month online!

MesaArtLeague.com

The pieces that are now on the website are the ones for the month of June...

Voting will start on July 1st.

Please send your vote to

MesaArtOnline@gmail.com,

One vote per member!

Votes will be counted after July 13th 12 pm

& results revealed

July 14th at the monthly meeting!

When you vote please put

in the subject line:

For Website Art Challenge

and include the number of the art piece

in the body of the email.

Winner will receive a free membership/renewal to the Mesa Art League.

Thank you from the Mesa Art League Board



July Artwork of the Month

Submit your piece for July Artwork

from July 14th, after our meeting,

to July 31st at 6 PM

at MesaArtLeague.com

Please take note of the following points:

1 Once you win in 2020 (January thru November, you are not eligible to enter another piece that year. But you are eligible to enter your winning piece into the 2020 Artwork of the Year contest in December.

2 It matters that you enter: it is an opportunity to exercise courage and learn to be a fearless artist. It also gives our members a chance to get the opportunity to evaluate different art pieces. This is a good art related skill. So, enjoy your art and send us something you enjoy!

3 Under these conditions, it's harder to reinforce rules with framing etc. However, because of the situation we will be more relaxed about framing for the rest of the year. Realize that if we meet before the end of the year the Board and Artwork of the Month Coordinator will make a ruling.

4 Please go to the rules online and re-read the requirements for submitting a work so that we are on the same page to make sure your entry is eligible for the contest. Only complete entries will be posted.

5 Please include the following information with your entry:

...An attached picture of the piece you are submitting.

...Your Name, phone number, address and email.

...The medium of your piece and size in inches.

...The Title (if you do not already have one, make it up. Or just call it your last name with a number.)

6 Please send your entry to:

mesaartonline@gmail.com from 06/10//2020 to 06/30/2020 at 11:59 PM AZ time.



LAURA HEHEL,

In the past few months, I have been honored to get to know many of you in the Veteran Art Program. Your art and how you live your lives continue to amaze and inspire me. You know me as Laura – a young(ish) Army veteran, CVA employee, and mother of three kids. Allow me to better introduce myself to you:

My name is Laura Hechel. I was born and raised in the frozen tundra of northern Minnesota, which is probably why I have moved to progressively warmer climates during my lifetime, finally settling on what is basically the surface of the sun in Phoenix, Arizona. I joined the Army right after high school to become a Signals Intelligence Analyst and Russian linguist. I met my husband (also an Army veteran) during training in Monterey, California. We dated in Texas, got engaged in Arizona, and were married in Vejle, Denmark, during my first permanent assignment with the “Big Red One” in Wurzburg, Germany. After my two years in Germany, I moved to Augusta, Georgia, to finish out my five year service contract. I got out of the Army in July of 2001, just months before the attacks that would radically change our nation and involve us in a conflict that continues to this day – nearly two decades later.

After the military, I earned my Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Masters in Business Administration...and left corporate America to homeschool my children. I have three children: Jonathan, who is entering his senior year of high school; Jadelyn, who is entering tenth grade; and Zachary, who will be in sixth grade. All of my children currently attend ASU Prep Digital, an online charter school created by, and directly connected to

Arizona State University.

I only recently returned to the workforce. I was very selective during my job search because I wanted to take a position where I could make a tangible difference in the world. When the Grassroots Engagement Director position at Concerned Veterans for America became a possibility, I was ecstatic. There are many non-profit veteran organizations in our nation that do incredible things to provide individual assistance to veterans in need. These organizations are valuable and necessary. But Concerned Veterans for America stood out among the others because CVA works tirelessly to effect change in public policy that helps veterans and military service members around the world.

As a veteran who has not always had positive experiences at VA Medical Centers, I am most passionate about our organization’s desire to improve veteran healthcare, so that our nation’s veterans consistently receive quality medical care in a timely manner. Concerned Veterans for America also works to end the endless wars that needlessly place our service members in harm’s way. But we can’t accomplish these objectives alone! We train and provide opportunities for veterans, family members, and civilians who support the military and our nation’s veterans, to speak up and affect real political change in our world. We have so many ways that anyone can be involved in our grassroots efforts – from at home volunteer opportunities to helping with events that raise awareness to speaking directly to politicians through digital letters and in person. Perhaps that is why I love working for CVA and why I enjoy the people in the Veteran Art Program with the Mesa Art League so much: In both groups, everyone is valued for their unique contributions. And those contributions, whether in art or politics, make the world an infinitely better place for others.



Member's Online Blog!

While each of us have joined the Mesa Art League for different reasons, one of the many reasons is to network, share experiences and learn from each other. Therefore, initiated at this unique time of Covid-19 that keeps members from gathering together in our customary way, we created a Website Blog, amongst other things.

Each week we post a new question for our members to address. We encourage members to share thoughts, tips, techniques and even ask questions of your own. We hope to slowly make this a learning tool by taking different media and inviting members that specialize in that medium to give tips, brief instruction and even answer questions?

Check us out on our Blog Page of Mesaartleague.com or on our Facebook Group Mesa Art League AZ. You could also send responses and questions to: sc.malmembership@gmail.com and we will post for you. Hope to hear from you soon.

Dear Members,

We are ready to start opening your own **Gift Shop...** Check online under MORE..

For SHOP - You set your own prices, decide whether to include shipping or price in into your item and handle your own sales and taxes!

We look forward to showing your art on your website!

The Mesa Art League Board

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VET CLASSES!

June 30th Japanese art form of CHIRIGI-E.
July 14th Junk Envelope Journal
July 28th Simple Assembly Flags

Please check out the website and Facebook for the details.

If you are interested in participating, send a note to mesaartonline@gmail.com with Veteran's class in the subject line.



AAA News - Go to the AAA website

for the latest news. <https://azartalliance.com>

Other websites:

<http://www.artresourcecenter.org/>

<http://www.brushandpen.com/>

<https://www.mesaartscenter.com/classes>

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-6056160>





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