

**Next Meeting April 24 6PM
Artist Critique 5:30**

Guest Artist: Phil Brunner

How I got into doing “Space Art”

I first started doing art work at the age of 13 . That was the point in my life that I became interested in astronomy. As a young lad with a vivid imagination I had begun to read science fiction. It was a crazy time smack in the middle of a century that had just begun to seriously consider travel outside the Earth. America had put captured German scientists to work on rocket propulsion and the Russians had their German scientists working on the same thing. A space race was brewing. Movies and paperback books surged into the sci-fi genre. What more could a boy want?

What made it real for me was a banker who lived in my town. Mr. E. D. Onstott had built a 24 inch reflecting telescope mounted in his attic so that it could view any part of the sky, sitting under that telescope we would hear him talk about planets, clusters, stars, galaxies and all the mysteries of the universe and we got to see some of these through the telescope too. I was hooked and have educated myself about much more.



President's Message

We had a wonderful exhibit and reception at the Arizona Broadway Theater. Several paintings sold and there were wonderful comments made about the artwork. It was great exposure for the PFAA. The reception was a special experience with piano music in the background. The cheese and crackers and free drinks were very nice. Thank you to all who participated.

We have some big decisions in the days ahead of which we'll discuss at the meeting on April 24th.

It has been a wonderful two years as your president in that I got to know you better and saw what wonderful people and artists you are.

I really appreciate all the help that Richard Meidl extended to me. I got him away from his projects in the shed many times with phone calls and he was very gracious in still sharing his expertise. A big thank you to Patti Hartley who way always there to listen and provide feedback. A big thanks to Jane Brown who was there for every board meeting and a strong encourager for us. Diane Shepherd was a wonderful secretary and faithful to keep us documented.

It's time to turn over the gavel and assist anyone who will lead us for the next two years.

Mary Ellen Hawks

How to be a Better Artist!

Painters Need to Use Basic Drawing Skills, understand Basic Perspective and Plan Early On for Shadow and Light Value Areas.

As a painter, and an instructor, I plan "perspective" in ALL of my paintings because it is so important. However, more basic and important is the actual drawing of three dimensional objects. In watching my students and observing many inexperienced artists, I see that many are not using the simple tools of drawing basic shapes correctly. Anything we paint HAS A SHAPE.

SHAPES are circles, squares, or triangles. Now, three dimensionally, these shapes take FORM and become spheres, cubes, pyramids, cones and cylinders. These forms put together make the basic shapes of ALL OBJECTS in our paintings. Sometimes an object will have only one form such as an orange, an apple, or a basketball, a bush or a flower, but more often the object will use two or more different forms such as a tree, a building, a lighthouse, a chair, a boat or a human figure or an animal. If we consider the basic FORM of objects it is easier to put different shapes together to make more complicated objects. For instance, a complicated church structure, would probably use a square (cube) as

the basic building structure, then with another smaller cube as a side building, then an elongated cylinder for the bell tower, and then even a cone shape for the roof. Top that all off with a steeple and the job is done. If you think of these shapes while “building” your church building, the structure is easy to draw and then, of course, easy to paint. Well, of course, there are other tricky issues to consider. They are the planning of the light and shadow areas of the building and the placing of the object (church) perspectively correct in your composition.

There are easy ways to approach complicated paintings. If you plan shapes, forms, perspective, and of course light and shadow values, putting them together in a great composition, your painting will be a success. I realize that this sounds complicated, but rather, it is an EASY way to approach the start of a painting and having a good start, you will have a much greater chance of making a great painting.

Special information to those who attended the Critique last month.

Considering the light and dark areas of your painting. Plan these values at the START of your painting. DO NOT THINK THAT YOU WILL SUCCESSFULLY PAINT THESE AREAS UNLESS YOU PLAN EARLY ON.

“ The lightest lights in your shadow areas should NEVER be lighter than the darkest areas in your light areas.”

We will discuss this a little bit at our next critique. EW

Artist of the Month

Artist of the Month Guidelines

This event is held monthly, September through April, and Open to all members of PFAA.

- Limit is *one framed work of art* object each month.
- Artist awarded Artist of the month are not eligible for further competition in the yearly cycle.

Member News

- Each month someone in attendance is drawn for a \$25 gift certificate to Arizona Art Supply.



- Please be sure to Support Arizona Art Supply since they support us with generous gift certificates and prizes.
- Each meeting 50/50 Raffle tickets are available from Jane Brown.

Contact Mary Ellen Hawks (mhawks22@cox.net) for now.

- To list a class that you teach or have taken that might be of interest to other members.
- To update our members on your sales and shows.
- To list a current show or event in the West Valley.
- To submit a biography of yourself we want our members to get to know about each other.

WEBSITE

<http://pfaa-az.com>

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