



Artists United

Newsletter — September, 2020

Next Month's Meeting

Tuesday, October 6
Still on ZOOM!

PROGRAM

To be announced

ARTWORK OF THE MONTH THEME

Dreamscapes.

SNACKS

Hemlock and nightshade salad from your
Halloween garden

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Dues are Due!

Annual dues for our club are due this month.
\$35 (same as last year). Please send a
check to Artists United Club at
PO Box 66902
Burien WA 98166

We are not able to take credit card and
please do not mail cash.

As always, our honored members of 25 or
more years of membership do not pay
dues.

Survey Woes

I recently sent out a survey asking for your
opinion on program content and meeting
time. If you have already responded to the
survey (only 17 have), **thank you!** The sur-
vey will only remain open until September
11 so if you have not responded, please
do!

Something I don't understand happened and
some members did not get the survey. If
you did not, please email me at [artistsunit-
edclub@gmail.com](mailto:artistsunit-
edclub@gmail.com) — ronh

Since 1949 — Seventy years of promoting art and encouraging artists.



Artwork of the Month

September Theme, School Daze

Upcoming themes, from Patricia Layden, are:

October --dreamscape

November --harvest

December --childhood

January--One (1) color

February--in the house

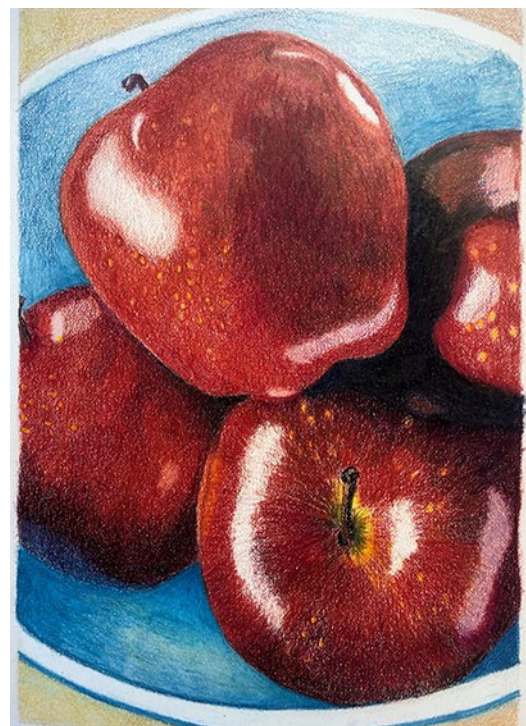
March--Wind

April--out my window

May--eye candy



Debra Valpey – Raggedy Ann
Preparing Herself for Home Schooling.



Karen Smith —
Apples for the Teacher.



Donna Cheeseman – Seattle Ducks in a Row



Ron Hammond – First Day of School

*Tim Layden, art professor,
surrealist, and synesthetic artist*

While you may have heard of surrealism (picture Dali's mischievous mustached grin) fewer of you are likely to be familiar with synesthesia, which is the condition of having one's sensory receptors "crossing over". For example, one may hear colors, smell sounds, and see musical tones. Tim Layden is an art instructor living outside London who has used his condition of synesthesia to create (and teach) art in a non-traditional manner, one aspect of which is automatism, or creation of art without conscious thought while accessing material from the unconscious mind as part of the creative process. Sounds interesting? Maybe we all do this to some degree, and many artists are likely to be gifted with some degree of synesthesia. Tim sees shapes when he hears certain tones; then those shapes become the basis for his paintings. To learn more, please visit Tim's web site at: theshapeofsounds.com or his personal web site tblayden.com to learn more. Here are a few examples of his work. (all © Timothy Layden)

Debra Valpey





A message to you from me

Hi there. Here we are again, still living with various degrees of isolation, separation, and—concurrently—opportunities to catch up on neglected projects and goals. I sincerely hope you are all doing as well as you can while keeping your spirits up and reaching out to friends and family in safe ways.

We had a stimulating gathering last week at our monthly membership meeting with Tim Layden as our guest. He spoke on synesthesia (which he lives with) and surrealism, which he enjoys exploring through his art. Please see the separate article about his presentation and enjoy the attached images. His presentation is a great invitation to begin working on your Artwork of the Month for October on the theme of “Dreamscape.” See where it takes you on your journey as an artist. We artists are likely all on the spectrum of synesthesia so “have at it and have fun.”

Our club is in need of a new Program Coordinator. Clare’s work schedule makes it impossible for her to continue. I held this job previously and have a large “juicy” resource binder to share. I am happy to assist you should you be willing to take this opportunity to further our club’s education and inspiration. Please call, email, or message me if you are interested, so we can talk about what the position entails.

As you likely know by now, our Fall Art Show is cancelled (due to covid) but we plan to offer TWO art shows in 2021 in addition to one or two juried art shows. So please support Artists United and secure your position to participate in these shows by kindly sending your 20-21 dues in as soon as you can. They are due at the

end of September. Your dues support our operations, guest presenters, and more. Your support is vital. Please, also, take note of our survey (see page 1) We need your input! Should the club go in new directions next year? Only WE can decide, and we need your voice. Additionally, please read all your emails from your board, committee chairs, and fellow members. It is our common way to communicate until we can be together in person.

I want to take a moment to address our need for community. As the late great psychoanalyst Carl Jung once said “The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances; if there is any reaction, both are transformed.” Imagine the implications for artists....everyone we meet, be they artists, farmers, laborers, or lawyers, become part of OUR individual stories and contribute to who we are (and vice versa!). So find ways to nurture our AU community by being open to influence from many sources and by sharing of YOUR own personality for the good of the larger community of fellow artists we know and those we have not yet met.

Please take care of yourselves, and each other and plan to join us on October 6 at noon, on Zoom (let me or Ron know if you would like help accessing Zoom) for our October General Meeting (speaker to be announced). If you wish to attend our Board Meeting on Sept 21, 4 PM, on Zoom, let me know so you receive the email link.

Finally, what dreamscape will you create as your Artwork of the Month in October?

Fondly, *Debra*



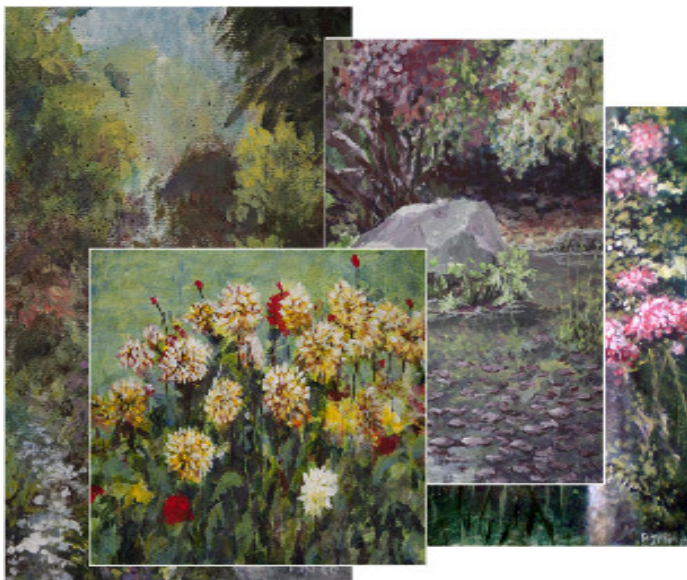
Paint the Changing Seasons

When: Tuesday September 9 - noon

Where: Highline Botanical Garden

Join Paul Illian as he hosts an outdoor painting session. As an added bonus, Paul will be filming an instructional video on how to get started with painting outdoors.

So, read his "A quick guide to enjoyable outdoor painting" and join the paint gang. It is on the blog on our website artistsunitedclub.com



Art Talk

On Organizing Art Supplies

Most artists I know have a secret second passion besides art – (shhhhhh!) collecting Art Supplies! For me, it manifests when new brands of colored pencils are released, or when a fellow CO artist recommends a brand of paper I haven't tried. (An artist I admire does most of her work on Fabriano Artistico White Hot-Pressed 300 lb. Watercolor Paper. I bought 5 full sheets of it. Have you looked at how expensive it is?) (I've used it a couple of

times and it's really great for colored pencil.) Or when a particularly attractive sale wafts past.

Because I buy most of my supplies on-line, my email box is bombarded with ads for Big Deals! Clearance! Back-To-School Bargains! Of course, I always read them – I mean, art supplies! I've been pretty good at resisting. For the time being, I am planning a field trip to Daniel Smith when the virus eases up.

But I've got a ton of supplies already and am struggling to organize them. Let's start with Paper.

Mostly I get paper in pads, but none of them are the same size. I've got pads as small as 6X8 and as large as full sheets of watercolor paper! The perfect solution would be shelves that would accommodate the largest but allow storage of smaller pads of paper. It would be nice to organize them by Brand: Stonehenge, Pastelmat, Bristol, Newsprint, Drafting Film. Or by color: Black Stonehenge/Bristol, Mi-Tientes colored paper for Pastels, Toned paper for drawing. I could also organize it by Purpose – what the surface was designed to support: pastels, Ink, watercolors, colored pencils, graphite pencil, charcoal or Conte crayon.

You begin to see the problem.

Moving on to pencils. There are a lot of companies manufacturing colored pencils now. After the big craze of Adult Coloring books (don't knock them until you've tried them – very therapeutic, coloring) companies upped their production and the versions of pencils. There are basically three 'grades' of pencils. First are the kind you buy for kids in grade school. These include Crayola pencils and Jolly-



Good Xtra Big pencils specifically designed for smaller hands. Not much pigment, hard leads, not sure why kids would like them. Oh, well. Then come Student-Grade pencils. Most manufacturers make some version of these. More pigment, better color saturation. They are much less expensive than the third category of pencils – Artist Grade. I counted 45 different choices at Dick Blick's web site last time I visited it.

I have at least 10 of those different Artist Grade Pencil sets. They come boxed in lovely flat boxes (usually metal, sometimes cardboard) The number of pencils ranges from 150 to 10. Of course, none of the containers are the same size – that would make storing them too easy. And don't forget the pencils you can buy one at a time from open stock. Don't get me started. No handy dandy containers there – oh no. What to do? I've tried several solutions – none of them quite works as well as I'd like them to. Empty jars, empty soup cans (washed out!), zippered pencil pouches, expandable notebook-like things designed to hold pencils or brushes, wooden drawers that hold up to 25 pencils in each drawer. These stack neatly. But I have close to 800 pencils. I'd have stackable drawers everywhere!

Of course, there are all those accessories you need. The tabletop easel. The three dozen different erasers (including an electric one I haven't located in months). Bottles of ink; pens for that ink; fine tip markers; wide tip markers; blending tools; embossing tools; scraping tools – I've got way too much stuff! And I use it all! Rolls of artists tape. Drawing boards (I prefer Gatorboard brand). Mat board – cut and uncut. AARRGGHHH!

If I had unlimited funds, I'd get a stack of drawers/shelves for my various papers. I'd have shelves fitted with spaces for plastic holders and put all my dark greens of one brand in one holder, Cerulean blues in another – I'd have a set for each manufacturer's pencils, plus a separate one for my watercolor pencils (3 sets of these). I'd have little drawers for various erasers and pens. There'd be attractive spots for my pencil sharpeners – hand-held, battery operated, plug in, crank types. Oh it would be wonderful.

If I had money. And space. You see, a proper artist should have (or so I've been told, and I very much am a Proper Artist) a Studio! I have a portable Kitchen Island from Crate and Barrel that I inherited when I bought my house and my Kitchen Table. Sigh. 'Tis a puzzlement.

Regardless of your medium, you should be organized. I keep telling myself that. And portable, if possible. Watercolorists have brushes, paper, tubes of paint, palettes, containers for water. Oil and Acrylic painters have the same, plus solvents for washing/cleaning bushes, rags to wipe brushes, canvasses or canvass board, cradled boards, slabs of wood, pencils and chalk for sketching on the canvas, gesso or something like it for prepping the canvas, fixatives – and on and on and on. Aprons and easels and paints! Oh, My!

Next time I'll tell you my current solution for organized storage of my (last count) 8,964, 211 ARTicles of supplies currently occupying – or possibly overtaking – my house. Now, back to sorting pencils.

Karen Smith



Some of the World's Rarest Colors

I got this from another artist's group newsletter but they don't mind sharing. —

Karen Smith

More than 2,700 pigments, including some of the world's rarest, are housed at The Forbes Pigment Collection at the Harvard Art Museums in Cambridge, MA. Charlene Briggs, a receptionist for the Art Study Center, relishes the chance to talk with visitors about the collection and to introduce new stories about individual pigments. "It's one of those topics that, once you learn a little bit about it, it hooks you right in and you want to learn more."

For more information here are links to an article:

<https://www.harvardartmuseums.org/article/pigment-collection-colors-all-aspects-of-the-museums>

And to a short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8aVfqDKxIU>



By comparison, there are only about 1000 (still a lot) of "pantone" colors. Pantone colors are a set of very carefully specified and tightly controlled colors used in the printing industry. If an artist specifies a given pantone color it can be printed by nearly any quality print shop in the world and produce the same hue. There are only a couple of companies in the world producing the CMYK inks used to blend pantone colors. These inks, to be sure, are VERY tightly specified. ronh

POETS CORNER

Creative Battles

Paintbrushes stand at ease,
my reliable soldiers of fortune.
Which among the rank and file
will win favor in this war of attrition
an ongoing, terrifying battle of nerves.

I slowly uncap each tube
of promising pigments
who offer mercy to me—
their reluctant commander—
as they commence to allay my fears.
while canvas or cold press paper
compete for selection
clamoring to earn my favor.
I the decision maker
martial their fates
with stoic hesitation.

Though officer in charge
my judgment again succumbs
to private sensations
of doomsday as I
quietly tremble anew.

I squeeze pigment onto
a naked and hungry palette
then attack the no man's land
of canvas or paper
knowing that I am worthy
of the power to fail or succeed
in capturing the image
of my imagination
before I sneak back
into my fox hole.

by Debra Steckler Valpey



CLASSIFIED—BUY, SELL, GIVE AWAY, TRADE:

(let Ron Hammond know if you have additional art-related items for this section)

Free to a good home: brand new glass covered jewel display case (about 14 X18 inches.)

AND awesome computer “motherboard” pieces for 3D art projects. Contact Debra at debravalpey@gmail.com or phone me (my # is in your roster)

Display easel, about 5' high \$19

Ornate traditional frame. Laura Scheuffele, art.escapes@comcast.net



Artists United Club

Our goals are to encourage artistic development and to bring art into the local community.

Meetings are at **NOON** on the first Tuesday, September through June (except) when they aren't) at:

Normandy Park Cove, npcove.org
1500 SW Shorebrook Dr
Normandy Park, 98166

During the pandemic closures they are conducted on Zoom.

Artists United

PO Box 66902
Burien WA 98166

artistsunitedclub.com

<https://www.facebook.com/ArtistUnitedClubSouthKingCounty/photos>

2019-2020 Artists United Officers & Chairpersons

- President: Debra Valpey
- Vice-President:Karen Smith
- Secretary: Kits Morgan
- Treasurer:.....Jann Volk
- Membership:Paul Illian
- Programs: Clare Parfitt
- Juried Show: Doug Early
- Art Fair (Cove Show): Tom Fletcher,
- Newsletter: Ron Hammond
- Website Doug Early
- Facebook Page Tom Fletcher
- Storage:Tom Fletcher, Anita Corby
- Artwork of the Month:..... Patricia Layden
- Hospitality/Kitchen:Linda Logie

To contact any officer or chairperson, email artistsunitedclub@gmail.com