



Artists United

HOWLER

November 2020

December Meeting

Tuesday, December 1 — NOON
On Zoom — Debra will email the link
before the starting time.

PROGRAM

We will begin with an extended check
in for everyone.

Instead of our traditional Potluck,
please share a favorite food or reci-
pe from your childhood. Ideas in-
clude cookie recipes, weird snacks
you liked to concoct, holiday ethnic
favorites, etc. Show off your treat
and offer a short tale about why it
mattered to you as a child.

If you would like a kind yet construc-
tive critique of one of your art pic-
es, send a jpeg to the club's email
address. Our president will lead and
tread softly in a discussion of each
piece.

ARTWORK OF THE MONTH THEME

Childhood! We all had one; some of
us wish we could go back there and
some are grateful that we even sur-
vived.

DEADLINE FOR ARTWORK OF THE MONTH AND CRITIQUE

November 28. Send your jpeg to the club's
email: artistsunitedclub@gmail.com

In This Issue

December Meeting	1
Highline Museum Closure	1
President's Message	2
FANFARE: Sharon Hitt	2
Venues	3
What's a Critique	3
Garage Sale	3
"Color" a Podcast Review	4
Opportunities	5
Art Talk: about the pandemic	5

Highline Heritage Museum (alas) Closed Again

Sadly, we must let you know that Highline
Historical Museum has closed its doors
once again in response to virus restrictions.
Our monthly member showings are on hold
again.
The closure will last at least until December
14 and likely much longer.

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



A Message of Gratitude from Debra

I am thankful for the opportunity to know you, to learn with you, and to create with you.

As the holiday season approaches, I wish for you personal peace, comfort and inspiration. Whether you celebrate in traditionally Christian, Jewish, Hindu, earth based, or purely humanist manners, I know that it might look and feel different this year. I hope you will flow with the differences, focus on that which matters most to your own well being, reach out to others to give and receive support and understanding, and do something kind for yourself.

Our December General Membership Meeting will be fun and just a little “different.”

Our finances are in acceptable shape, thanks to the generosity of the Layden family in storing (at east for now) our club equipment. The savings really helped balance our books, and enables us to keep offering honorariums to our outside presenters.

There are still a number of you who have not paid your dues, and you will be hearing from us. Please help support Artists United by paying your fair share. It is only \$35 and it really helps us meet expenses and offer professional presentations.

Today I leave you with two ideas to ponder as we enter this year’s very strange holiday season. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “In art, the hand can never execute anything higher than the heart can imagine.” So listen to your own heart and mind and remember that the light you seek is likely being emitted by your own inner lantern of hope and love. Finally, I ask you to ponder this one from *Think Like an Artist and Lead*

a More Creative, Productive Life by Will Gompertz; “It is the artist’s job to pay attention to prompts, to trust their feelings and instincts.” Yes, when we look within, we find all sorts of treasures.

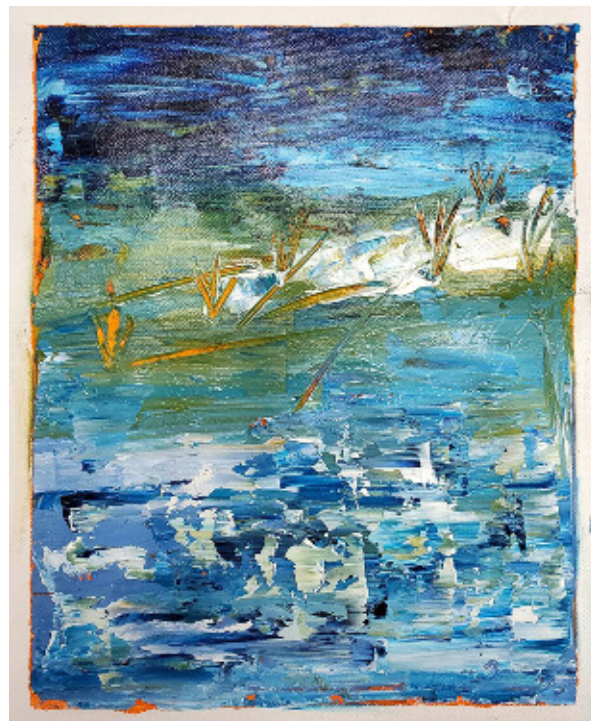
I look forward to seeing you on December 1.

Yours with appreciation,

Debra



Sharon Hitt at University Business Center



High Water, acrylic on canvas

Sharon’s paintings will be showing through December at the
University Business Center,
4500 9th Ave NE, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98105



VENUES

If you have been creating a boatload of new artwork during this last year, you may want to know what venues are hanging artworks. Many participate with the Burien Art Walk. Contact "*Discover Burien*" to see if those places receive help from Discover Burien to find artists. Or you can get to know the local Burien Businesses personally. There is a Burien art walk map you can also obtain to see which businesses participate.

Some venues::

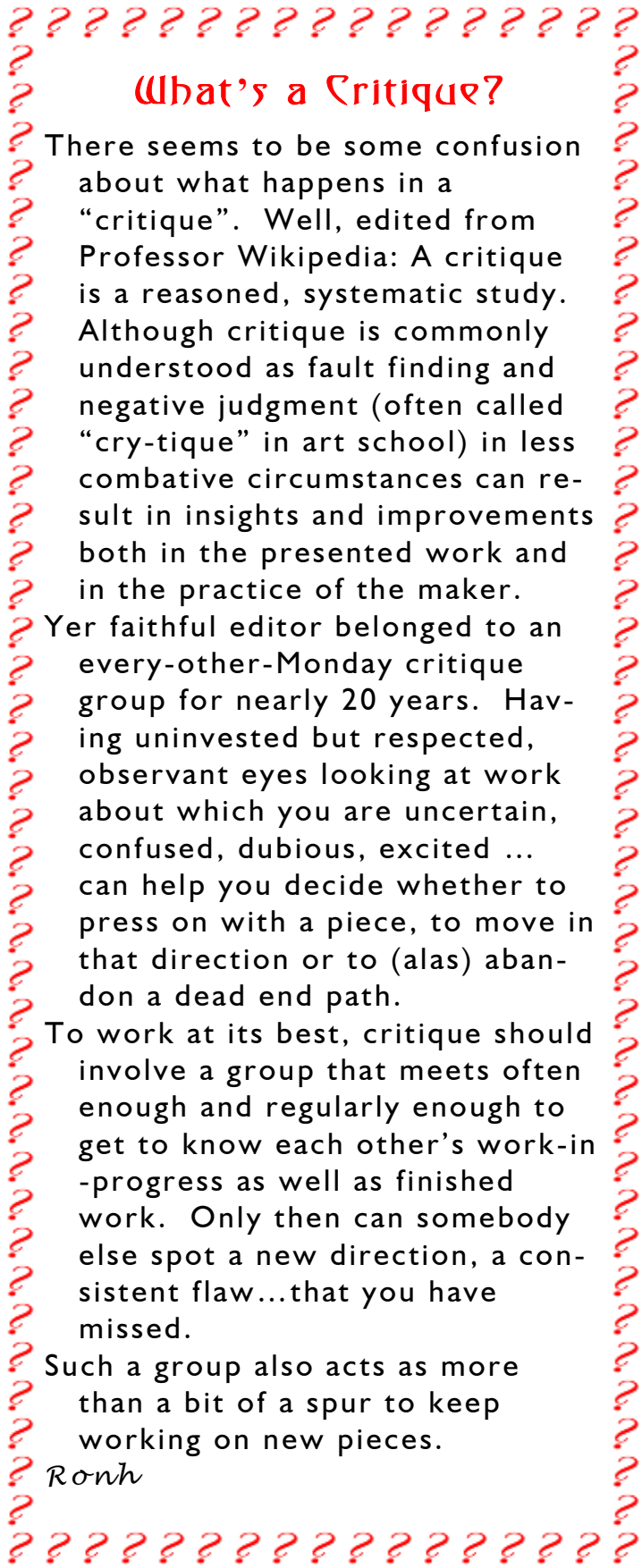
- The Burien Press and Art Gallery (Coffee Shop on 152nd)
- Scarlet Ibis Art Gallery (inside Phoenix Tea)
- Salmon Creek Cafe
- Sitka Living/Glass Expressions (maybe ask if you can sell your cards or other creations there).
- The Barber Shop (Near Angelo's)
- The Oilerie
- Pickled and Preserved
- Liberty Cafe', in Renton
- Page Two Books

Tom Fletcher

Garage Sale

If you have items for our garage sale, send jpegs to Debra by Nov 28.

Debra will also have some giveaways (mostly mats and brushes) compliments of late member Betty Vacca.



What's a Critique?

There seems to be some confusion about what happens in a "critique". Well, edited from Professor Wikipedia: A critique is a reasoned, systematic study. Although critique is commonly understood as fault finding and negative judgment (often called "cry-tique" in art school) in less combative circumstances can result in insights and improvements both in the presented work and in the practice of the maker.

Yer faithful editor belonged to an every-other-Monday critique group for nearly 20 years. Having uninvested but respected, observant eyes looking at work about which you are uncertain, confused, dubious, excited ... can help you decide whether to press on with a piece, to move in that direction or to (alas) abandon a dead end path.

To work at its best, critique should involve a group that meets often enough and regularly enough to get to know each other's work-in-progress as well as finished work. Only then can somebody else spot a new direction, a consistent flaw...that you have missed.

Such a group also acts as more than a bit of a spur to keep working on new pieces.

Ronh



Podcast Review

Color. It's part of art like sugar is part of cookies. Except for our photographer friends who shoot only in black and white, color is integral. (*Yer faithful editor takes exception to this statement! If a photographer isn't conscious of how colors will reproduce in black and white there will be a lot of bad language in the dark-room.*) In fact it's part of why we do art. But, what is color? What was it that Newton discovered that afternoon when he was quarantined at home because of the plague? Where does color exist? Is it in our brains? Or in our eyes? Color is an awesome and mysterious thing.

I recently listened to a series of podcasts on Radiolab (<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab/episodes/211119-colors>) about colors. The first of the series, called Rippin' the Rainbow A New One, discusses how we see color – all cones and rods in our eyes. The podcasters compared dogs (2 cones), people (3 cones), a sparrow (5 cones), and a mantis shrimp (16 cones) and how each would see a rainbow. The discussion is so intriguing.

The second podcast – The Perfect Yellow – takes up the question of a woman who is a tetrachromat – (“Most people, as well as other primates like gorillas, orangutans, and chimpanzees and even some marsupials only see color through three different types of

cones. This color visualization system is known as trichromacy (“three colors”). But some evidence exists that there are people who have four distinct color perception channels. This is known as tetrachromacy. Tetrachromacy is thought to be rare among human beings. Research shows that it's more common in women than in men. A 2010 study suggests that nearly 12 percent of women may have this fourth color perception channel. Men aren't as likely to be tetrachromats. Men are actually more likely to be color blind or unable to perceive as many colors as women. This is due to inherited abnormalities in their cones.” From an article on Healthline.com) Additionally intriguing.

Podcast number three is called “Why isn't the Sky Blue”. Why is blue not mentioned in Homer's Odyssey? Or early Chinese texts, or early Icelandic texts? Why is blue the last color that people see? You'll enjoy these three podcasts and you'll learn a lot about colors, how we perceive them, how we make them. It's worth a listen.

Karen Smith

Yer faithful editor can't resist adding a PS to this excellent column. What happens after the information leaves your eyes is equally mysterious. Light and dark goes to one area of the brain, hue to another — and there is a tiny bit of difference between the two in the time it takes to get there. This gadget inside our heads is a strange and wonderful device.



OPPORTUNITIES

Paint 'n Sip

... is scheduled again for December 11 at 5:30. Debra will send out a link shortly before the gathering. Honey B. suggests a theme of "snow" which we all know to be a lot more than just frozen water.

Debra's Thursday "Art-In"

As always, you are all welcomed to join me on Thursdays at 12:30. Just let her know you would like to attend.

New Medium-Focused Groups

At our recent Board Meeting we explored ideas on how to collaborate in additional ways around our focus on art and artistic expression. One way is to ask members to host medium focused gatherings in our Zoom account — informal on-line gatherings featuring a host who will give some very basic primers on their chosen medium and/or host others who are accomplished with that medium but want to explore going in new directions with it.

Debbie Horn has agreed to host an oil-painting Zoom gathering and Karen Smith has volunteered to host a colored pencil Zoom gathering.

Details on these new groups will be in the next newsletter.

How about you? What might you share in an informal manner?

Art Talk

Our modern plague – Coronavirus, Covid-19 – has turned our lives on their heads. Masks, hand washing, no face touching, no hugging or hand shaking or visiting friends. And the newest spike in cases of this disease threatens to screw up the seasonal holidays. For me that's Thanksgiving and Christmas. The virus has changed how I grocery shop. I haven't "seen" my family for 9 months. Of course, Zoom, FaceTime, Skype – these technologies have saved me. Sort of. I do get to "see" my family on my computer.

The same goes for my cello lessons. Virtual. My son is working from home and spends a lot of time in Zoom meetings. My grandchildren are learning virtually on their computers. And we artists, we spend time on Zoom interacting with other artists. It saves us. But how does Zoom and the virus change our art?

Well, zoom meetings are a different experience. For some groups, and here I'm thinking of my Colored Pencil group, zoom meetings allow members too far away to drive to local on-site meetings, to join in with artists they don't normally get to interact with. This is a benefit. Another benefit is you can attend meetings in your jammies and bunny slippers! Sharing your recent WIP? When you've got a talented guy (Ron Hammond) who can take your photographs and put them into a presentation format so everyone can see them well, that's a great thing. It encourages discus-

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

sion about the art as well as providing the artist some friendly critique.

Personally, I rather like the Zoom format. I have taken several art classes via Zoom and a workshop with a well-known Colored Pencil artist. The charge for these learning opportunities are discounted because they aren't "live" and in person. So that's good. It means I have more \$\$ to spend on art supplies!

One thing I have found, though, with all this time inside, is that I don't produce any more art. I'm not sure what that's all about. I've organized my art supplies. Sorted my colored pencils. Categorized my watercolors. Made sure my pastels are dusted. Ordered my pads of paper by size. Sharpened all my drawing pencils. But,

while I have lots and lots and lots of ideas for paintings, drawings, colored pencil pieces – and time to do them! – I don't seem to get them done. And I think I've sussed out the reason: too much time spent watching/listening to news programs (which I could do just as well while I'm arting!) and then being stressed about the news, the weather, the virus.

And this is another benefit from having Zoom meetings. Seeing all of you and listening to your news, seeing your work, brightens my day and improves my spirit. Thank you.

Karen Smith

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 - 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

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

2019-2020 Artists United Officers & Chairpersons

- President: Debra Valpey
- Vice-President:..... Karen Smith
- Secretary: **OPEN**
- Treasurer:..... Jann Volk
- Membership: Paul Illian
- Programs: Linda Logie
- 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