



Artists United

Newsletter — January 2021

February Meeting

Tuesday, February 2

12 noon — on your computer with Zoom

PROGRAM

Ray Pfortner will discuss smart choices in creating and marketing greeting cards, photographs and other forms of artwork and will discuss what is involved in setting up and drawing visitors to your website

FEBRUARY ARTWORK OF THE MONTH THEME

One Color

Patricia says “one color” means anything in the FAMILY of that color. Red might include peach, fuchsia, scarlet, red violet etc. Blue could include indigo, turquoise, blue violet, slate blue etc. Personally I’m working in colored pencil in brown and am using 16 different “brown” pencils.

Also remember that the “theme” for Artwork of the Month is for artists to challenge themselves if they so desire. It doesn’t mean you MUST follow the theme; it’s just a fun exercise to try if you want to.

DEADLINE

Submit your jpeg for Artwork of the Month to the club email address

artistsunitedclub@gmail.com

By Sunday January 31

In This Issue

February Meeting	1
Artwork of the month	throughout
President’s Message	2
Fanfare: Doug Early at Page2	3
January Paint ‘n Sip	3
Patricia’s January Program	4
Editor’s Opinion (crank letter)	4
Patricia Layden on Needle Felting	5
Poetry Corner	6
Classified	7
Who’s Who	7



Patricia Layden



President's Message

Musings on the importance of art

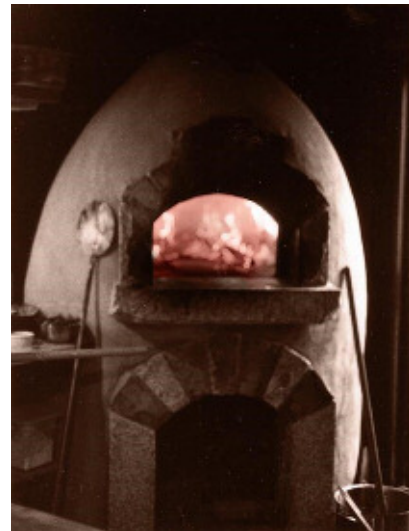
As our quarantined lives carry on, I have become more aware of how hard it may seem to devote time to art when the world as we know it is NOT AS IT SHOULD BE. In that spirit I googled “*Art in Difficult Times*,” which introduced me to Julia Bausenhardt, an accomplished illustrator and nature sketcher. I shared a quote of hers at our General Meeting that emphasized how important art is to us while we are isolated as its practice and focus gets us out of our minds and connects us with others. Contact me if you would like the full quote. I encourage you to visit her on line and join her newsletter. there are awesome perks available when you do such as a free ebook on watercolor, tips for sketching, a guide for drawing birds, a bird painting video demo and her current watercolor palette layout.

She also goes on to say that she sees “... *that for almost everyone of us, art is also an integral part of our lives, something to hold on to – often in the form of spending time with a book, a movie, or a piece of music, or actually doing something creative: taking a photo, painting, singing, writing. Making art is not just passing time while you wait for the catastrophe to happen, it gives us meaning and connection (to each other, to the world), it inspires us and can take our thoughts into so many different directions. In a way, art is like the little junctions that keep cells interlinked; it can bind the different parts of our lives, our thoughts, our communities, together.*”

(Continued on page 3)



Sharon Hitt — Stella's Place



Ron Hammond — Beehive Oven



Rachel Baker — Aussie, Waiting



Artists United FANFARE

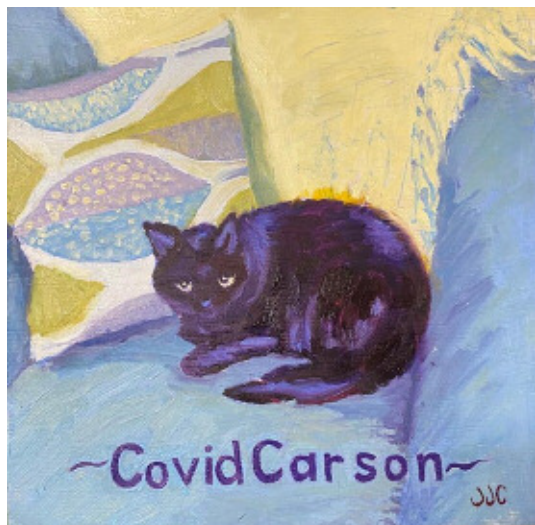
Doug Early at Page 2 Books

Doug's photographs (He says "*I managed to have some smaller size prints to hang as well as some greeting cards.*") are showing at Page 2 Books on 152nd and 6th in Burien during January.

OPPORTUNITY

January Paint 'n Sip

Paint 'n Sip with Honey Bee Barker on Zoom, Friday January 15th, 5:30 PM. The theme is "flight." Debra will send out the link on Friday the 15th at about 5:15.



Jacque Carroll – Covid Cat

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

I was happy to see a robust number of us at our Membership Meeting on January 5 (Remember that visitors are welcome at these meetings.) We spent extra time checking in with each other and sharing the "art of our lives." I would like to do more of this, especially sharing our artwork that may not fit our monthly themes. If you photograph your artwork and send Jpegs to me I can do simple screen sharing. If you are interested in doing this please let me know your availability and I will set it up and join you. BTW Artwork of the Month on "inside the house" is featured in this newsletter, and if you would like a printout of Patricia's felting demo instructions, just let me know. (You can also copy it directly from the newsletter and paste it into a file or your computer.)

I hope you will join us Friday, Jan 15, at 5:30 via Zoom for Paint 'n Sip with Honey Bee Barker on the theme of "Flight", and consider joining our Thursday 12:30 zoom gatherings (ask Debra to put you on her Thursday link).

We are still planning a juried show (which Doug Early will be coordinating), at least one art sale and are working toward presence at Burien and/or Des Moines Farmers' Markets. Let me or Tom Fletcher know of your interest, especially with regards to the Farmers' Markets opportunity (details were in our last newsletter.)

In the meantime, don't let your pens, pencils, brushes, needles, or ? gather any dust....and PLEASE read your newsletters and howlers (posted in Web Site under Members Only; let me know if you have trouble accessing them)

Debra



Patricia's January Program

Our own club member, Patricia Layden, demonstrated the artistry and technique required in needle felting to create lifelike animals and objects.

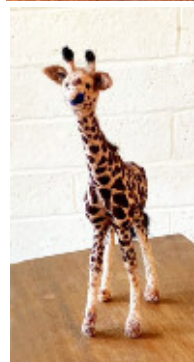
Patricia began by describing and then demonstrating the materials best suited for this purpose, along with her personal recommendations regarding the quality wool and materials to be purchased.

With a minimum of materials, in this case three colors (red, green and yellow) and a felting needle, she showed how she would craft a charming strawberry pin.

Part of her demonstration included photos of the many animals she has created and then showed the actual felted animals including an amazingly detailed camel, giraffe, zebra and elephant.

Patricia sent us a summary of her presentation for those that might wish to pursue the art of needle felting.

Linda Logie



Editor's Opinion

(crank letter department)

Why do I do this anyway? That's a question I often ask myself when I look at the shelves full of print boxes, negative binders, the lie-flat and mounting press under my work surface (and, in fact, the work surface itself), the mat cutters on the wall, the "cozy" darkroom in one corner of our garage.

I barely make enough money from my photography to pay for my materials. One wall in my lair has room for seven prints that I have made in the previous weeks. I score an occasional show that allows me to claim that somebody other than my wife and me have seen my work.

So what?

Ted Orland in the book **ART AND FEAR** explains it: *"...there must be fates worse than to stop producing art. ... but (stopping) is an existential fear ... fear that some part of you dies when you stop making art. And its true! Non-artists may not understand this, but artists themselves ... understand it all to well. The depth of your need to make things establishes the level of risk in not making them."* (emphasis mine)

My photographer friend Monika says that her husband can always tell when she isn't getting enough darkroom time because that *"makes her sad"*.

I understand that all too well.

ronh



Needle Felting

(After the January meeting program several people asked for further information about needle felting. Here is Patricia's reply.)

Felting is basically tangling the scales in wool in such a way as to make the wool very very dense. Dry Felting is done by stabbing the wool with very slender barbed needles; wet felting is done with soap and water and agitation.

What I do is dry or needle felting. Needle felting requires roving, which is washed and carded and usually dyed wool, very slender needles with barbs on the end (felting needles), and some sort of cushion or pad for a base. Also useful are needle holders, and at least in the beginning, finger protectors.

The basic process is to roll up a small amount of roving, stab quickly and shallowly, turning and stabbing over and over. You will add more roving where needed, sculpting with roving and your needle until your piece is the way you want it and is fairly firm. This all takes quite a bit of time depending on how large your project may be. A good way to start is by finding a kit on a reliable felting site (or Etsy!) and following the instructions. Kits come with an inexpensive pad, a needle, instructions, and the wool to make your project.

The best wool for needle felting is Romney, Icelandic, or Corriedale. Felting or (sometimes) yarn websites can be useful for finding the roving you want. It usually comes in half to 1 ounce packages which should be under four dollars. Know that

as you stab away the wool will felt down to about a third of what you start with, so be sure to have enough, though 1 oz. is actually quite a lot.

Felting needles are wicked sharp and have barbs on the end of them, hence the need for a pad underneath your project and the invention of finger protectors. It is important to stab straight in even at an angle since needles will break easily if bent. I find the best starting needle to be a size 36 star shape.

There are a number of different sorts of cushion or pad: dense foam, rice filled close weaved burlap bag, brush, or 100% wool mat. I prefer the 100% wool mat, which can be more expensive than foam or burlap but is eco and user friendly and long lasting.

Needle felting can be like sculpting or like painting. One of the ways to paint with wool is to find an old wool sweater for a base and use your roving to make a picture on top of it, stabbing designs of roving into the sweater (on top of the pad of course). I've made needle felted necklace pouches this way.

If you google "needle felting" you will find a lot of information about websites, YouTube videos, books etc. Bear Creek Felting Academy has a lot of good information. Lincolnshire crafts blog is also a good resource. Wistyrria wool roving is a resource for good wool as is Bear Creek. Craft stores have roving and other supplies, but going to a reputable felting site can be less frustration in the long run by providing the best quality materials.

Patricia Layden



Poetry Corner

sending us light

without our asking
this silent sun sends us light
a signal each day

each day as we rise
our thanks never expected
may we pause and breathe

breathe blessings today
for unsolicited gifts
air, water, fire, earth

earth who calls to us
inviting all to notice
as she always cares

cares and sustains us
planting, feeding, watering
payback time is nigh

nigh to affirm life
humans, horses, and hippos
tadpoles to bullfrogs

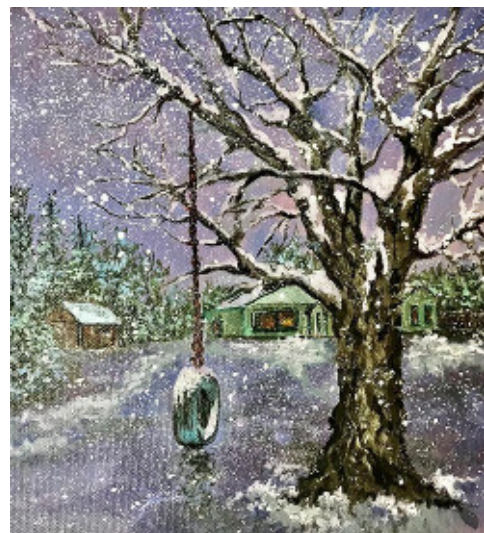
bullfrogs in disguise
Jeremiah a true prince
horses young girls' dreams

dreams of future light
for growing, crying, laughing
with lives wrapped in love

draft, by Debra Valpey, 11-24-20



Debra Valpey — Scotch on the Rocks



Linda Logie — Snow Tires



CLASSIFIED

Easel \$40, excellent condition
 Rack for 5x7 cards, \$20
 New frames \$5 each
 Field easel \$40
 5x7 Plastic card and envelope sleeves 100 in pack, 3 available for \$5 each
 Tabletop spinning card rack for 4x6 cards, \$10
 Metal display easel \$9
 Call or text
 Laura Scheuffele
 425-286-4994



11x14 Mats

Debra Valpey still has large white cut mats to fit an 11 X 14 piece. from the estate of Betty Vacca, a now "passed on" long time member of Artists United. Please contact her if you would like a few.

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

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: 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