



# Artists United

## HOWLER

January 2021

### February Meeting

February 5, 2021

#### PROGRAM

Ray Pfortner will share his business knowledge and expertise regarding licensing, teaching and marketing. He will also 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. See his bio on page 4.

#### 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 she’s working in colored pencil in brown 16 different “brown” pencils.

If you don’t want to tackle the theme but have a new(ish) work to share, send that along too. (See Patricia’s article on page 4.)

#### ARTWORK OF THE MONTH DEADLINE

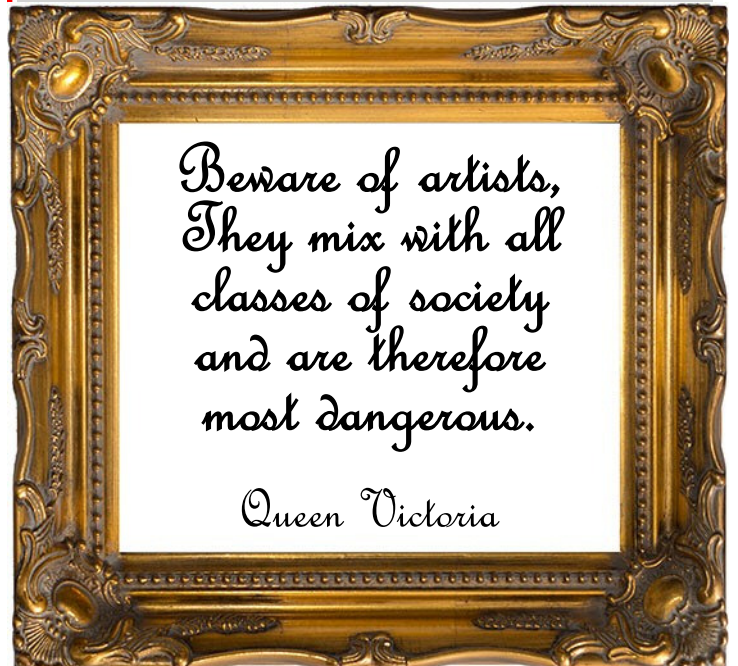
Send your jpeg to the club’s email:  
artistsunitedclub@gmail.com

**by Sunday February 3**

(with thanks from yer faithful editor to those who do so earlier!

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## President's Message

Greetings. I have been thinking about inspiration lately and some of my art and creative writing friends have bemoaned its occasional elusiveness.

Here are a couple of very different perspectives on this dilemma: "*The Soul should always stand ajar, ready to welcome the ecstatic experience.*" (Emily Dickinson)

"*You can't wait for inspiration; you have to go after it with a club.*" (Jack London)

Which fits your style better? Are you more likely to settle yourself in a comfortable position and relax while ideas and visions visit you and invite you to create? Or do you go on attack mode as you lock yourself in a studio or chain yourself to your dining room table, utter a few well placed expletives, and get down to business? As you can imagine either is honorable, and there may be times when you flip from one to the other. I know I do. Sometimes deadlines help, and there may be some of you out there who, like me, might, on occasion, simply relish the whooshing sound they make as they fly by (white noise anyone?)

When we gather on February 2 at noon, on Zoom, for our monthly meeting, I invite you to share what inspires you to get creative. Then, get ready for another informative and inspiring visit from Ray Pfortner on the topic of the business of art, including tips on setting up your own website.

As soon as we hear from the Cove about their reopening we will let you know. A team of Karen Smith, Tom Fletcher, and I are meeting very soon to outline plans for a proposed **Burien and/or Des Moines Farmer Market presence** so you can sell

your artwork and promote Artists United Club. Watch for details in the February Newsletter.

Please remember that any member may ask to have a Zoom meeting opened for them (just ask me or Ron Hammond to do so for you) so you can host an art themed gathering (media specific, art chat, art appreciation, or ?) Also, Paul Illian has offered to restart **plein air painting** gatherings (contact him if you are interested.) I continue to offer Thursdays 12:30 (via Zoom for now) for **general "arting"**; just contact me if you would like to be added to that contact list. Honey Bee Barker will host another "**Paint 'n Sip**" on Friday, February 12, 5:30 PM over Zoom. The theme will be "air." Next Board meeting is February 16; let me know if you would like to attend.

We have expanded our Artwork of the Month theme options based on member input; please see details on page 4.

And, finally, I need to let you know that any members who have not yet paid their 2020-2021 dues have now been dropped from membership and their artwork removed from the Gallery pages of the web site. However, they may continue receiving the Newsletter, hoping it will inspire them to return to active membership. The password for the Members Only page of the website has been changed. I invite paid up members to contact me if they would like to have that new password. Doug Early has listed a number of "calls for artists" there.

I look forward to seeing you on Feb 2, noon, via Zoom, for our next monthly meeting.

Yours, *Debra*



## Strathmore Workshops

Karen Smith alerts us to the FREE 2021 Online Workshops from Strathmore Papers. She notes “*The price is right, why not take all of them?*”

Strathmore’s Online Workshops feature free video lessons and downloadable instructions created by experienced artists. Follow along in the online classroom as instructors guide you through various art topics. This year they lined up a total of 4 series for 2021! That’s more workshops than they’ve ever done in a year!

<https://www.strathmoreartiststudio.com/>



Yer faithful editor is pleased to note that a local collector acquired a copy of my 30 print portfolio “*The Face of the Market.*” You can see it on my website: [www.ronfstop.com](http://www.ronfstop.com)

There will shortly be a small book of these photographs. I should see a proof of it any day now.



Also, WILD UP, a Los Angeles modern music collective, licensed my portrait of composer Julius Eastman and three other photographs for the cover and booklet of their CD release of a selection of his music.

## Art Talk: Fun with “One Color”

I’ve made one pigment and limited palette paintings for a long time as value studies, for fun, or because the instructor assigned them.

Eric Wiegardt does those a lot, and one of his take home assignments was to paint five of them. That was fun.

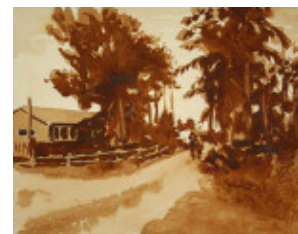


Nancy Bogni included at least one limited palette (Velasquez palette) project in her series of classes so I have a few of those too, not shown here.

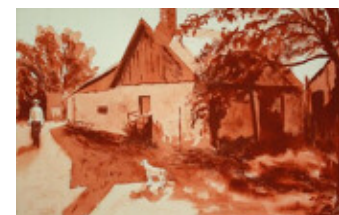
I reworked these two as finished paintings.



This one also done in full color, but not “finished”.



The last one, I tinted a bit years later. If I had to pick one, maybe it would be the Venetian Red house, little dog and cowboy. (that you will see in *Artwork of the Month* — ronh) Don Zimmerman





## Artwork of the Month: Why Themes?

We decided to start themes for Artwork of the Month in order to challenge ourselves. There are a number of sketchbook challenges on various art websites to, I assume, get people to sketch every day so as to improve.

When you have a particular focus for your work, it makes you think. To stretch ourselves we need to try things that we wouldn't ordinarily do. Having a theme for Artwork of the Month invites us to do that stretching.

I had never tried anything in just one color and I probably wouldn't have tried watercolor, a new medium for me, unless I was challenged to do that. Sometimes it's a nuisance to challenge ourselves, but it always invites us to take one step further.

When we meet in person we have two tables, one for Artwork of the Month and one for other work that we want to share or to have people critique.

For those of you who choose not to participate in the theme for a particular month, I suggest offering new work. Let it be something that you are working on now, not something from the past. That way we are all stretching together

*Patricia Layden*

## Ray Pfortner



Ray Pfortner now living on Vashon Island, has worked in photography - as an educator, stock photography agent, photo editor, consultant and photographer - for over 25 years,

Ray teaches

throughout the NW, from colleges to art supply stores, focusing on creative camera settings, on how to design compelling photographs and on the business of all art mediums. He is a frequent speaker for camera clubs and art organizations throughout the Northwest, on how to do more business with your art, including exhibiting, pricing, selling online, and licensing.

Ray offers up to 10 photography camps for teens each year. He founded the summer photography camps for teens at the University of Washington. He also leads visual artists workshops for WTE, visiting China, Croatia, Cuba and the Czech Republic.

Ray's own photography focuses on nature and environmental issues and is often used to support conservation. He received the Emma Award from the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust in 2003 for a decade of supporting Island conservation with his images.



## Poetry Corner

## A New Year

twenty twenty one  
I will soon turn seventy  
sporting more gray hair

hair I've freed to grow  
frizzy ends fringe my shoulders  
I twirl them in sleep

sleep that teases me  
I have so much to finish  
ambitious old crone

crone pride sustains me  
no longer missing my youth  
embracing freedom

freedom to resist  
no more chasing old dead dreams  
just loving today

today I promise  
a patient companion  
you and me secure

secure in friendship  
no angry wolves at our door  
build a fire hold hands

*Debra Valpey, 2021*

In the haunted house of life  
Art is the only stair  
that doesn't squeak.

Tom Robbins  
(in the novel SKINNY LEGS AND ALL

## Crank Letter Department

## Jensen's Rule

Brook Jensen is editor of *Lenswork*, a high-quality photography journal. Highly opinionated, one of his rules has to do with the size of an artwork. It goes like this:

*Stand across the room and look at it.*

*Move closer and look again. If you see more than you did before...*

*Move closer and look again. Repeat until you no longer see more than the last time.*

*If your nose isn't on the surface of the piece — it is too big.*

I don't always agree with him and there are some obvious exceptions to this rule — Monet's *Water Lilies* being the best one I can think of offhand — but this one I kind of like.

How does Jensen's rule apply to an image on a computer screen? I guess the *zoom* button is the equivalent of moving closer.

What set me to thinking about this is a link my son sent me to a 10 billion pixel image of Vermeer's *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. If you keep zooming in on it you soon reach the "nose on the surface of the piece" level of detail. The beauty of the piece is lost. The ability to admire Vermeer's brush work is lost. All you can see is the cracking of the paint — well before you run out of the ability to look closer. The piece itself isn't too big. The resolution of the image of it is!

Here's the link:

<https://www.micro-pano.com/pearl/index.html>

*ronh*



# CLASSIFIED

Field easel \$40  
 Card display for 5x7 cards \$20  
 Frame, 18x24, \$5 Frame 12x42 \$40  
 Mini card or miniature painting display,  
 3 inch widths, \$12 each  
 Laura Scheuffele [art.escapes@icloud.com](mailto:art.escapes@icloud.com)  
 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 Debra if you would like a few of them.



This space intentionally left blank.  
 But now that I've written this  
 It is no longer blank.  
 Sometimes life is such a puzzle.

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:artistsunitedclub@gmail.com)