



# Artists United

## HOWLER

April 2021

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### A Few Quick Words from Debra

Greetings, fellow artists and spring-a-philes (yes, I just made up that word, but I trust we all love spring with its promises for warmer weather, flowers, sailboats, and longer evenings.

You will note that Ron has sent a ballot via Survey Monkey so you can vote for our new Board Members, who will take over September 1, but spend the next few months being oriented and mentored by our current board. You may vote for a write-in, but, please, clear it with them before you do so (haha).

We have a dynamic presentation set for May 4. Bring on the Three dimensional with Amber Raven! You won’t want to miss this.

Please let me know right away if you wish to display at the Highline Heritage Museum as I am finalizing the schedule. Also please let me know if you would like to display and sell your work at the Burien Farmers’ Market. We can fit one or two more in in May (when the club foots the bill) and June and July is open. We also encourage you to approach local merchants on your own, and, when things open up a bit more, we will form a task force to do that for us.

Our current plan is to have an on-line

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### May Meeting

Tuesday, May 4 12 noon — on Zoom

#### MAY ARTWORK OF THE MONTH THEME

#### Eye Candy

Send your jpeg for Artwork of the Month to our email address  
 artistsunitedclub@gmail.com  
 by Sunday May 2.(earlier appreciated)

#### PROGRAM

Our Artists United presenter for the May 4th meeting will be Amber Nicole who will construct a 3 dimensional functional art object during her presentation.

Whenever possible Amber chooses to use natural elements that can be found in any neighborhood and in her art there is often a message encouraging conservation of our modern world.

*Linda Logie*



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monthly meeting in June and to gather on first Tuesdays outdoors (locations still being finalized) during July and August, for plein air painting with advice and support from Paul Illian. Please do plan to join us! You can draw, photograph, paint, do fiber work, or just gather with us to compose a poem.

Keep tuned in (via email) for future plans around art shows, juried shows, and Paint 'n Sip dates. Spaces ARE opening up, but not as quickly as we all wish for. Sigh.....

Don't forget to send Ron your Artwork of the Month entries by May 2. Theme for May is "Eye Candy" (have fun with that one!) and June is "June Bug" (another opportunity to get creative). The Board decided that active members may send in ONE entry for the "monthly theme" and, if desired, ONE for "new and Interesting." Let's share our creations. We are artists, after all.

I close with this quote from the fashion icon Colette, "*You will do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm.*" Now, ponder eye candy and June Bugs.....

Fondly, *Debra*

## Vote!

By now you should have received the link for an online ballot for our upcoming board election.

Please vote even if you choose to abstain!

We need a quorum of our members to vote. Also remember that if there is any other survey attached to our ballot you do not need to respond to it in order to vote — just click the "done" button and you are, in fact, done.

## Plein Air Painting Resumes

Spring is here and the flowers are beginning to bloom. Paul Illian invites you to join other Artist United members for outdoor art Tuesdays 9-12 in the Highline Botanical Garden ([highlinegarden.org](http://highlinegarden.org))

Bring your own materials; Any media is welcome. Just come in, find a spot and be an artist. Paul will offer tips as invited. .

If there are any questions just drop Paul a note at: [illcon@msn.com](mailto:illcon@msn.com)

COVID precautions are in effect

Paul also notes that his classes at Scarlet Ibis Gallery will resume "shortly". What "shortly" means is still under discussion.

## Editor's Opinion

(crank letter department)  
Thinking about portraits.

I think about camera portraits a lot – thinking about them is a lot easier than doing them. It's easy to take a photograph of somebody – click, a wash and brush up in a photo editing program and you're there. Making a portrait with a camera is a lot harder. The great Henri Cartier-Bresson said that "*Portraits are the most difficult. You have to try and put your camera between the skin of the person and his shirt, which is not an easy thing.*"

A drawn or painted portrait (from a live model not from a photograph) contains time. The sitter and the painter see a lot of each other and the result is not an instant in time. A photograph is – sort of. The idea of time in a portrait came to me

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several years ago at Bumbershoot; when Bumbershoot was really an umbrella for all kinds of art and performance. Gage Academy sponsored a “drawing slam” – bring your own materials, they supplied several models and their faculty was roaming about giving advice as requested. I wandered through the drawing slam and was drawn to one of the models, a not-young-but-very-attractive woman in sort of Italian peasant costume. She was present – beyond the literal sense. Perhaps better described as “belonging” to where she was and why she was there. She was there to be seen. A drawing or a photograph of her would have been a portrait. Sitters like that are few and far between. I have worked with perhaps three.

What brought this to mind recently was a presentation by Robert Kalman, a photographer who does “tintypes” (more accu-

rately wet-plate collodion) portraits. The exposure time for a tintype is 4 to 10 seconds depending on the light. Nearly nobody can hold the “say cheese” expression for that long. Before the photographer opens the shutter the sitter has time to become rigid and suspicious or to become composed, relaxed, and present. Kalman’s portraits contain, to my eye, the same feeling of time that a painted portrait carries. One of his sitters told him it was the only picture she had that “looks like me”. A tintype is a mirror image; what the sitter sees when looking in a mirror.

I recently did a portrait of a lovely 12 year old girl. I sent her two prints one of which was reversed left to right to make it a mirror image. I asked her and her mom to tell me which one looked more like her. Mom chose the “normal” but the girl chose the “mirror image”. I’m still figuring out what to do with that bit of insight..

*ronh*

### 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

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<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)