



Artists United

HOWLER

May 2021

June Meeting

June 1 at Noon — on Zoom

PROGRAM

TO BE ANNOUNCED

ARTWORK OF THE MONTH THEME

JUNE BUG

DEADLINE FOR ARTWORK OF THE MONTH IS MAY 30

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

In This Issue

June Meeting.....	1
President's Message.....	1
AU at the Farmer's Market.....	2
Crank Letter Department.....	2,3
Classified.....	3
Opportunities	3
Yer Faithful Editor is Retiring	4
Cast of Characters.....	4

President's Message

Hi fellow Art Lovers and Art Makers,
Just a short note this time, because by the time you read this I will be traveling home from a week "off the grid" rafting the Colorado River. I expect to have a really great time, a few scary moments, and to get really dirty and stinky. Life is a series of package deals, eh?

Please join us June 1 for our meeting. As I write this, (May 11) we are still fine tuning our program, but I guarantee it will be worth your time and energy. Watch your email for any last minute changes. Maybe we will even plan something outside?

Our monthly board meeting moved to the 25th, so, if you would like to attend, just send me an email.

Paul Illian is teaching at Scarlett Ibis. Several

club members, including me, have taken his classes; Paul approaches his teaching with passion and insight. Contact him if you have questions.

I leave you with this quote from Paul Gauguin, which summarizes, for me, one perspective on making great art. He said, "*In art, one is either a plagiarist or a revolutionary.*" My only addition to that is that when you plagiarize, do it selectively, humbly, and resist the urge to make it your final product. When you are revolutionary, let 'er rip wide open. What's the worst that can happen? You will either be celebrated or ignored, and YOU can handle either.

See you at our June 1 meeting with your "June Bug" art.

Yours, Debra

Since 1949 — 72 years of promoting art and encouraging artists.



Artists United at the Burien Farmers' Market — June 13

Rachel and Tom both reported good sales — including an original for each. If you are interested in participating, send Debra or Tom an email.

Crank Letter Department

Debra's quotation from Paul Gauguin set me to thinking. When Van Gogh fused the color dots of the pointillists, the short choppy strokes of hatching on etchings, the graphic simplicity of Japanese wood block prints — that was revolutionary for sure! There is also the issue that he had "good chops" — he could draw and paint in the then conventional styles including, to my surprise, the Impressionists.

Revolutionaries: Mozarts, Van Goghs, and Picassos are not exactly thick on the ground. These are the people known in the world of jazz as "horn changers" who show how to use their instrument in a new way. Louis Armstrong and Miles David changed

how the trumpet was used. They were revolutionary!

Then there are people who take what was revolutionary, blend it into the existing canon, and take it to new heights — You can hear the voice of Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis in Winton Marsalis' trumpet but he sure does it better. (A little value judgement there. Forgive me.)

And then there is the rest of us.

I read an article recently in which the author surveyed the career paths of several hundred very accomplished people — athletes, musicians, artists, doctors, mathematicians, engineers. The author's goal was to see how many of them had zeroed in on

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

their career path early and never deviated. Answer: not many, Yo Yo Ma knew from age 4 or so that he was destined to be a cellist. Ansel Adams was well on the way to a career as a concert pianist before seeing Paul Strand's prints and making a right angle turn into photography.

Even more common is the athlete that excels in several sports in succession before becoming a major league soccer star. Or the musician that begins on piano, switches to violin, then winds up on French horn in the Berlin Philharmonic.

The author of this article concluded that, with a few exceptions, excellence is often achieved by first trying things out. I believe that is what is called "finding your own voice".

I can sing in my own voice and strive for excellence. I know that I will never be as great a photographer as, say, Édouard Boubat but, as Robert Bly noted "*It is sweet to desire it.*" Deciding to be a revolutionary — not likely. A local photographer once told me that he was seeking something that would make him famous. (As of this writing he hasn't.)

Photographer Edward Weston (a revolutionary) said of an artist friend: "*He doesn't have to try to be different. He is different.*"

ronh

CLASSIFIED

Field easel \$40, Floor easel \$40
5 foot tall card rack for 5x7 cards \$30
Mini card display, 16 inches high with 3 inch openings. \$12
Contact Laura Scheuffele at art.escapes@comcast.net



OPPORTUNITIES

Paul Ilian notes that outdoor painting continues Tuesdays 9 - noon at the Highline Botanical Garden.
Art classes have picked back up at "Scarlet Ibis Gallery." Class times are available Mondays & Wednesdays
Contact the gallery for details
Phone Number: 206.453.8374
E-Mail: info@scarlet-ibis-gallery.com



Yer Faithful Editor is Retiring

This is the last Howler that I will edit for our club. The able Karen Smith is assuming the role of communications czar. She and I will do the June newsletter together and then it's her ball! I have urged Karen to keep my edict to you all: *"If you don't meet a deadline for something in the newsletter I'm likely to make something up."*

I have enjoyed editing the club's newsletter, but a job like this can become permanent if you aren't careful. The previous one I edited hung on for 19 years. I should live so long as to do another one like that.

I hereby extend my sincere thank you to Patricia (the Relentless Remover of Ragged Ramblings — the Unceasing Uncoverer of Ungrammatical Utterances — the Persistent Pursuer of

Proper Punctuation — the Meticulous Mender of Mangled Mutterings) Layden who has proofread both Newsletter and Howler during my tenure. I'm not a good proofreader but she certainly is! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Yer nearly ex-faithful editor — *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
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