



Artists United

Newsletter — June 2020

Next Month's Meeting

Tuesday, July 7

12 noon — Location Still Unclear

Program — to be announced

(apart from these two items everything is nailed down)

July Artwork of the Month Theme

Choose a favorite book of yours from any time, childhood to the present. Create an illustration based on some piece of the book. Be prepared to share what book it's from and what the illustration depicts.

June Artwork of the Month

Once again, since we have no convenient way of voting, all entries in the Artwork of the Month are declared winner. They are scattered through the newsletter.

The theme is "*Paint or draw like your favorite artist — or spoof your favorite artist.*"

The "Cove Show" Has a New Name

Your board voted to change the name of our annual show and art fair to the:

Artists United Art Fair

to make it more clearly identified with our organization. Everything else remains the same: venue, dates (**November 7 and 8**) and format.

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This is more like it!

Editor's Note: A newsletter about art should have a lot of art!

I like very much putting all the work submitted for AOTM in the newsletter.

Even after we return to "real" meetings, please send a jpeg of your entry to me if possible.

Moreover, the text should not only have information about club activities but actual writing *about* art!

This is the first issue since I have been editor that I feel has had substance beyond club news.

Let me know if you agree (or don't).

Ron H

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

Art Talk

[editor's note: "ART TALK" is our club's new weblog (blog) currently written by Karen Smith. In addition to being a newsletter/Howler feature it is available on our website artistsunitedclub.com in the "MORE" tab at the upper right of the entry page.]

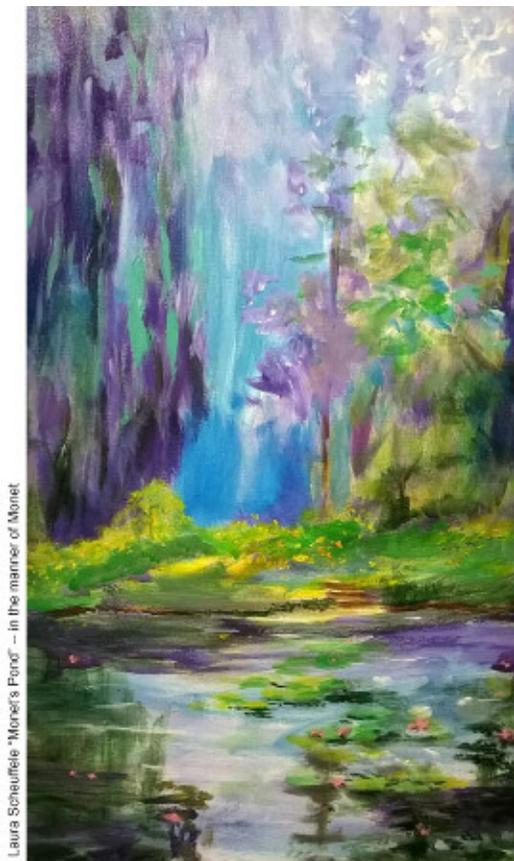
After my first blog post about How to Jumpstart Creativity in the Now Times, I have a partial answer: friends, other artists, a calendar. I am an Artist. Before I retired, I was an Executive and my life ran by my calendar and my cell phone. It worked rather well, keeping me employed until I decided I didn't want to be any more.

Being retired gave me a lot of free time and I used it to kick start my art which I had put aside when I moved to the National Capital Region, e.g. Washington, D. C. Getting back to the Pacific Northwest and the fresh air and water all around was one of the better decisions I've made. Getting back into Art was another outstanding decision.

Being under House Arrest/Isolation has also given me time since none of the groups I see are meeting and the friends I have coffee with are also housebound. I've been slacking off, art-wise. My calendar has cleared. So, I figured if scheduling meetings and interviews and meetings and lunches and meetings (there were a LOT of meetings) kept me on track in my office maybe the same thing could work for my Art. And, guess what? It does!

I belong to a couple of Art groups, including Artists United, so there are those meetings – coming to a computer screen near me via Zoom - to put on the calendar. Check. Then there are board meetings for those art groups

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Laura Scheufler "Monet's Pond" – in the manner of Monet



Patricia Layden -- "Self Portrait with Yellow Lilies" – spoof in the manner of Natalia Gorchakov



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as well (You guessed it. Computer meeting via Zoom). Check. Then I have invested a few meager coins in some on-line classes and these go on the calendar. Check. I support a couple of outstanding artists on Patreon and they do on-line and sometimes live presentations and tutorials so, again calendar. I think you can see where I'm going with this.

One of the first things I did was review my folder of "To Be Completed" projects. There are several. Most of us have a variety of UFOs* around the studio. I've decided to put those in order and actually finish them! Astounding, I know. But necessary. I have a thing about buying art supplies and I refuse to buy more with unfinished things sitting around yelling at me to finish them. And I'm running out of a particular kind of paper I especially like. So, in order to pry the coin purse from my tight fists, I need to finish these projects.

And, hence, the calendar. I enter a start date and an approximate completion date. I make sure I have the supplies I need – since these projects are already 'begun', I do have the supplies. Then it's a simple matter of opening up the calendar and setting to work. Tomorrow. I'm going to begin to finish one tomorrow. I can do this.

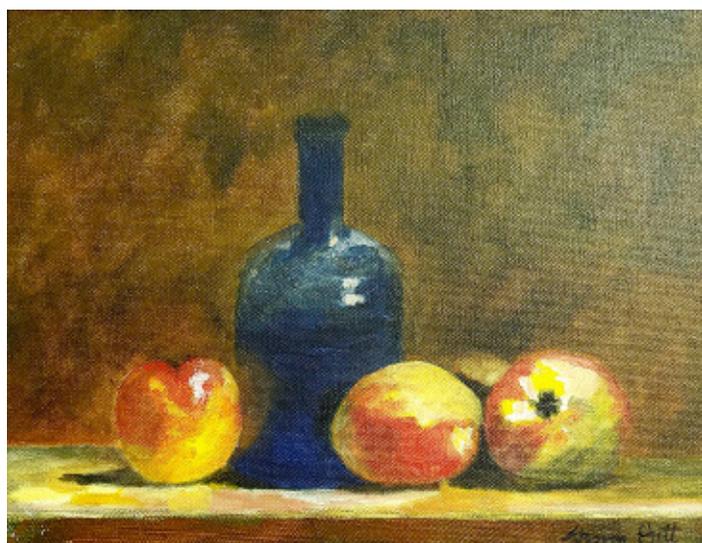
After all, I am an Artist.

Karen Smith

*Un-Finished Objects d'art



Linda Logie "The Spring of Covid 19"



Sharon Hitt – in the manner of Cezanne



June 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

18 members attended, no visitors or newcomers.

Board Member and Committee Reports

- a.) President: Debra reminded us of the importance of reading our emails. Current plan is to continue meeting during the summer. There is the possibility of meeting outdoors (with masks) in local parks (depending on King County openings). We now have a battery microphone so we will be able to hear each other. If we meet outdoors, we may be able to reschedule our spring presenters.
- b.) Communications and Web Site: Doug Early is making great progress on the website. Member gallery and member only pages are coming.
- c.) Membership Updates: no new information here.
- d.) Treasurer Report : We stand at about \$1,900. Jann is still investigating bank fees (they seem too high and are not itemized). Alyssa is our contact at Umpqua Bank. Budget task force (Jann V, Paul I, Debra V. and Danny B) is still looking into alternatives for storage of show materials.
- e.) Program Update: Clare has three presenters lined up for us assuming we meet this summer. Otherwise they will be scheduled for fall.
- f. New Venues; Tom F. asks us to let him know of opportunities. And consult the newsletter.
- g.) Secretary report : Debra took notes and asked for information on any member facing special challenges (illness, loss of loved one, etc.) so she

can send a card.

- h.) Vice President/Blogging: Karen S will continue writing blogs for the next several weeks and welcomes comments and suggestions.

Artwork of the Month: We had twelve pieces shared (awesome!) with comments by the artists. All will be included in the newsletter. Next month's challenge is to draw or paint a scene from a favorite book. (see item on page 1)

Artwork to share and/or critique: Rachel B. shared and received feedback.

Virtual "Garage Sale": Debra bought some paints from Linda J. , will arrange to receive them and will send \$10 to treasurer. Debra had one give away (glass topped jewelry display case) and an art journal book, but had no takers yet. Please bring items you would like to sell to our next in-person gathering.

Power Point presentation by Ron Hammond on Sabine Weiss—It was great! Would you like to prepare a PP artists presentation for a future meeting? If so, contact Clare P or Debra V. Ron also suggests reading *ART AND Fear* by David Bayles and *THE VIEW FROM THE STUDIO DOOR*, by Ted Orland.

Next Board Meeting is Monday, June 16, 4 PM, via Zoom. Let Debra know if you want to attend.

Closing words were from Salvador Dali.
Affectionately submitted,

Debra Valpey, substitute secretary.

[Debra didn't send me the closing words so I'm adding my favorite Salvador Dali quotation] *"It is sad that so little that could happen, does happen. For instance, in all the times I have ordered lobster in a restaurant, I have never been served a telephone book that is on fire."*



OPPORTUNITY

HAVE SPECIAL SKILLS or TALENTS?



World BEYOND War is hosting a global skills exchange in support of abolishing war.

Would you like to donate your talent and time?

bit.ly/globalskillssharing

World Beyond War is an anti-war organization with chapters and affiliates in about two dozen countries. The organization bills itself as "a global nonviolent movement to end war and establish a just and sustainable peace." It is opposed to the very institution of war and not just individual wars.

See their website (above) for more information about this opportunity.



Don Zimmerman -- in the manner of Paul Cezanne



Don Zimmerman -- in the manner of Andrew Wyeth

President's Message

Meanderings from Debra

What a great Meeting we had on June 2!

After briefly conducting some needed business, we delighted each other with our "in the style of" or "my spoof on" a favorite artist. You can view these right here in the newsletter. Then we did a bit of sharing and critiquing of current art endeavors, conducted a brief on-screen "Garage Sale", and concluded with another of Ron's awesome Power Point presentations on an artist most of us had likely never heard of (we can't say THAT anymore) named Sabine Weiss, who herself said "I am not an artist"; I would love to debate that with her. Our plan is to continue monthly Membership Meetings through the summer and our hope is that we might be able to conduct our next one (masked of course) outdoors. Stay tuned through the Howler to learn details when we get closer to that date.

We are making great strides in the expansion of our Web Site, thanks to Doug Early.

Please check it out at your earliest oppor-

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tunity. He welcomes your feedback. You can also find Karen Smith’s blog on the web site and she also welcomes your feedback and suggestions. Soon we will be able to update our on-line gallery and develop a Members Only page where we will keep minutes and calls for art.

Our next Board Meeting is on June 15, 4 PM, either on Zoom or (possibly) at my house. Let me know if you would like to attend so I can send you a link.

I hear folks bemoaning a lack of inspiration these days. This may be due to the impact of isolation or the time of year, or anything which saps the soul. So, in that vein, I offer you the words of the great Leonardo Da Vinci, who once said “*It is not to be despised, in my opinion, if, after gazing fixedly at the spot on the wall, the coals in the grate, the clouds, the flowing stream, one remembers some of their aspects and if you look at them carefully you will discover some quite admirable inventions. Of these the genius of the painter (and I add artist here, two OR three dimensionally minded) may take full advantage, to compose battles of animals and of men, of landscapes or monsters, of devils and other fantastic things.*”

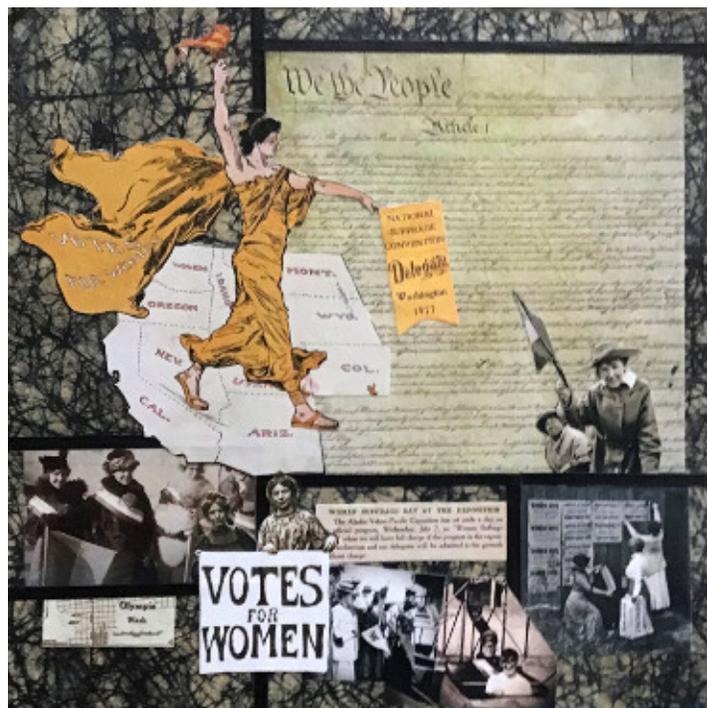
So, take heart, my friends, and find inspiration in the ordinary as you continue art-ing.

With affection and a (virtual) hug,

Debra



Liz Simpson’s mixed media collage, "Those Were the Days" is in the 'Washington Suffrage Centennial' exhibit at the WA State History Museum in Tacoma. The show runs until November 8th, and is online *now* at: <http://www.washingtonhistory.org/visit/wshm/exhibits/>. The museum itself is expected to reopen to the public in the first week of August.



Editor's Opinion
(really crank letter department)

"I am not an artist."

The subject of June’s program, photographer Sabine Weiss, stated “*I am not an artist.*” She did so, at least partly, because in her time and place photography was not accepted as art.

The acceptance of photograph as art is a

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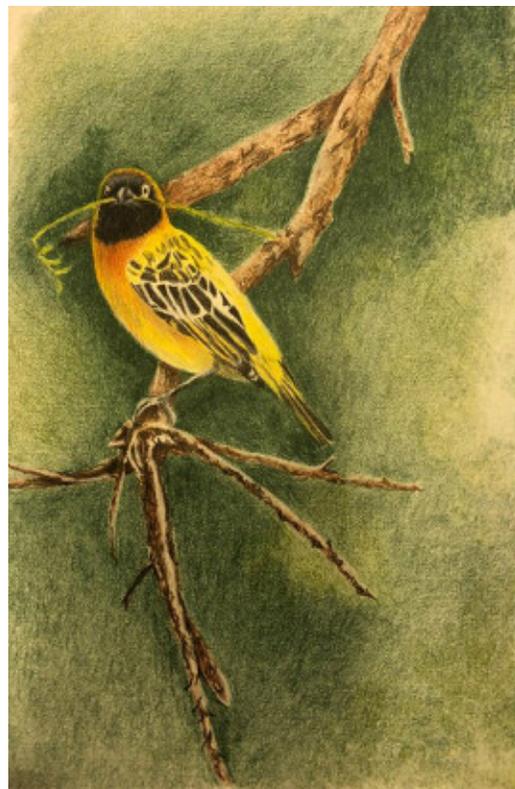
relatively recent notion — the Portland Art Museum being an exception since they began purchasing and showing photographs in 1905.

As late as the mid 1990s a curator at a regional museum in California tartly informed me that *“We do not regard photography as art.”* For once in my life I had a ready answer *“Oh, I agree. Neither is painting or sculpture art. But some painters are artists, some sculptors are artists, and some photographers are artists.”* She sniffed and walked away from our conversation.

Weiss declared herself *“not an artist”* partly because she was a working photographer; providing photographs for magazines and newspapers, portraits for clients, weddings. That tainted all her work with commercial motives — but Rembrandt’s portraits for clients do not taint his work.

If someone asks me if I am an artist I say *“I am a photographer. That is a statement of fact. I take photographs, I print photographs, I sell photographs. Sometimes what I produce can be regarded as art. Sometimes as product. Most of the time it is rubbish — just like a worker in any other medium.”*

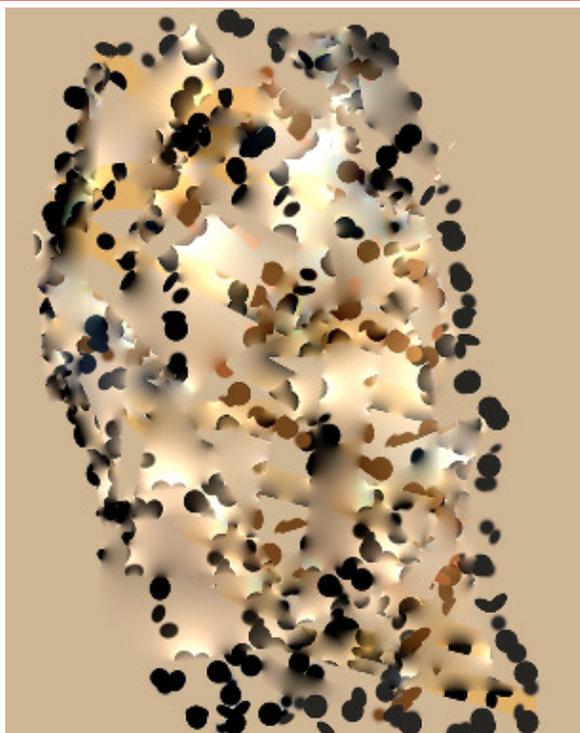
Finally, Sabine Weiss denied being an artist because (my opinion) she was repelled by the snobbish, hyper intellectual art world of her day. That has not completely gone away either — as an attempt to read ART WORLD magazine will verify. An easel painter friend, local person of considerable skill and reputation, and I were talking about this issue. She finds the writing about art “challenging” and laughingly stated that *“Yeah, we painters are the biggest snobs you can imagine. It took me years to admit that I often paint from a photograph.”*



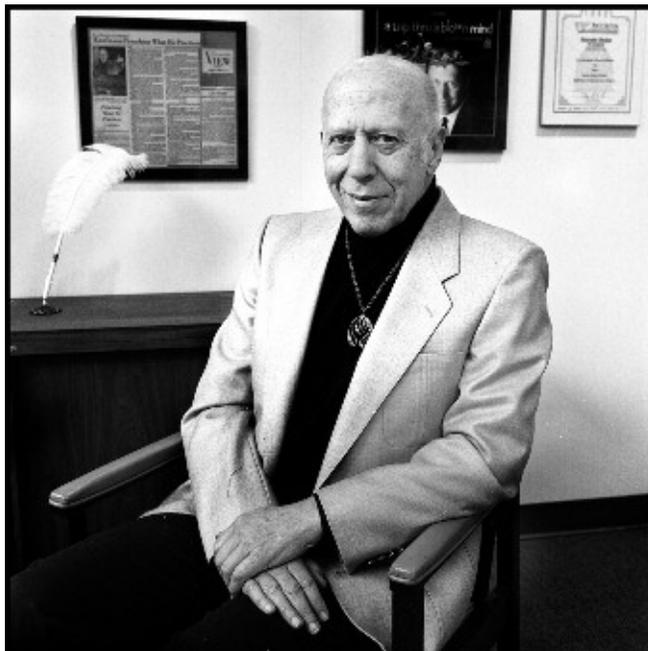
Karen Smith -- in the manner of John James Audubon



Debra Velbey -- "Go Fly a Kite" -- in the manner of Picasso



Chris Gonvers



Ron Hammond "Rev. Dr. Robert Kauffman" in the manner of Arnold Newman

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, All year in 2020 at:

Normandy Park Cove,
1500 SW Shorebrook Dr
Normandy Park, 98166
npcove.org

During the Corona Virus pandemic our meetings are by ZOOM.

Artists United
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artistsunitedclub.com



Patricia Layden — spoof in the manner of Catherine King's flowers and Craig Allan's little people