



Brush Strokes

The newsletter of the Suburban Rochester Art Group
July 2015

Wednesday July 15th.

**Program: Meeting starts at 6:00pm. For social time.
Business meeting starts at 6:30pm.**

**7:00pm. Nancy Lane will present a program on Illustrating Childrens
Books**

About Me: Picture Book Illustrator Nancy Lane

I was born and raised in Webster, NY. As a child, I drew and painted constantly— mostly horses-- because I was told I couldn't have a real one! My parents read to me often. I spent long hours reading and looking at illustrated books. I guess it's natural that I decided to become a picture book illustrator.

I graduated from Maryland Institute, College of Art and worked briefly as an art director in Texas. After my daughter was born, I began working as a freelance illustrator for children's publishing. I also began to illustrate my first story, *Buster, Where Are You?* Eight years later, in 1994, after moving back to New York, I found a publisher for it. Since then, I have illustrated 23+ books for children.

I currently live south of Canandaigua. I'm a member of The Rochester Art Club and Genesee Valley Plein Air Painters. Though I still illustrate books, my work has expanded to include teaching, commissioned paintings, and personal paintings that focus on the same themes as many of my books: the relationships between people, animals and the natural world.

My talk on July 15 will be about my process of illustrating a picture book. I look forward to meeting you all and answering your questions!

My website: www.nancylanestudio.com

July 2015 ART Show At Barnes & Noble

Juror's Feedback by Brian O'Neill

General Impressions:

Each time I have been asked to judge an art show it is always an honor and a privilege. One of the greatest tools in my growth as a painter has been feedback from others and the willingness to be open to other points of view. I offer these thoughts and opinions as a way for the artist to see how another artist views their work for the positive as well as the areas that may need growth or consideration. My overall impressions of the collection presented were that the artists enjoy what they are doing and creating which is paramount to any level of success. The styles and subject matter had a great deal of variation, which for a group show is very important and creates a richer experience for the viewing public. I always place high emphasis on presentation of the art; it is just as important as the work itself and helps the artist communicate to the viewer by having a conversation with them and about who they are, what they do and why they do it, even if they don't actually speak. Many of the pieces were appropriately framed and matted as needed, however, I did see some work that had scuffs on the matt and the framing did not do justice to the work and in some cases distracted from it as opposed to showcasing the artwork. I understand that framing can become costly but I always suggest, simple, clean, neat and neutral and you can't go wrong and making sure the frames have no dings or scratched on the corners.

AWARDS : with comments on each painting, by the juror.

Best in Show

"Velvet Ribbon" by Colette Savage. Pastel

When I jury a show, I take a first walk through and see what stands out in the crowd. I was immediately pulled over to this beautiful pastel painting. The artist clearly has an intimate knowledge of the material and the handling of it was confident, subtle, bold and deliberate. The composition and color harmonies are delightful as is the placement of the small white house in the distance, which draws one in and suggests a journey and a destination for the eye. I thought the choice of classic, simple frame and absence of matt was a good decision and greatly augmented this beautiful small painting that has great presence. There is not much I would change about this piece and I would only suggest that if the artist is not already focusing on other work with this level of compositional interests and converging angles that she do so and see how far that can be pushed in unexpected ways.

First Place

“Leaving the Dock” by Ed Howe. Oil

A wonderful example of an atmospheric painting that has mood, stillness, movement and a very strong composition. The canoe cuts through the space and leads your eye to the ore and out of the painting creating very good positive and negative spatial relationships. The muted values are made very effective by the complimentary values of the orange and blue on the boat. I would love to see what the artist would do with this subject matter in a much larger scale and would've preferred a lighter color frame so that mood of the piece is not interrupted by the sudden boundary created by the black molding.

Second Place

“Fifield Point” by Diane Bellenger. Acrylic

A strong piece that has contains many areas of interest to sooth the eye and invites the viewer to visit this beautiful location, which the artist has presented in a clean and professional way. The choice in size of the piece having the width greater then height always makes for a dynamic landscape. The simple float frame does what a frame should do, allow you to see the painting first. I would like to see the artist focus on softer edges in the background and allow the lovely soft sky and horizon line to merge a bit more. The beautiful shadow tone of cool violet, purple, blue to the left of the piece is very effective especially adjacent to the yellow green above it and would've liked to have seen it repeated in subtle ways a bit more through the foreground rocky areas.

Third Place

“Blue Beard’s Ghost” by Jan Davidson. Encaustic Wax

A square shaped painting is always a standout in a group simply because you don't see it very often and with this piece it is even more effective to contain the swirling and very alive feeling of the work. I love the abstract qualities that lend themselves to the natural world that suggest mineral, stone, water, and an underground environment brought to life in a contemporary way. If the artist hasn't already, I would like to see work on a larger scale and perhaps diptych's and triptych's. The simplicity of the frame is a great choice but I found the black to be a bit heavy for this small piece and that it closed in on it rather then opened it up as the composition very much wants to do.

Honorable Mentions:

“Sedona Vision” by Anne McCune. Mixed Media

This innovative piece is a very nice contemporary landscape that is beautifully matted and framed. The artist has done a good job adding texture to the painting in a sculptural way that is very effective. I would like to see a greater range in values and perhaps the white background could use more broken edges washed across it so that it is no so 'segmented'. I can sense some hesitation in the handling of the medium and with continued exploration and playing, I am sure she will develop this idea in a very positive direction.

“A Bright Spot on a Cloudy Day” by Eugene Pizzoli. Watercolor

This piece has a great sense of drama that we often see in our Rochester skies and is very well presented. The artist has done a nice job of composition with varied shapes and lines. The ‘pop’ of the yellow car works very well with the grey stormy sky, as does the warmer tone of the brick building. Overall, this piece has nice abstract qualities within a representational work. I would suggest some attention to edges and allowing value to interact a bit more without becoming ‘muddy’. The areas that ‘outline’ the building shapes where the paint stops is a bit disruptive to the piece and finding ways to merge those two will help to create shapes that are part of the environment as opposed to appearing separate from each other.

“Crinum Lily” by Deb VerHulst-Norris. Colored Pencil

The genre of botanical illustration has a very rich and important history and the artist has done a nice job honoring that. The composition is strong as is the choice of matt and frame which are perfect for the viewer to focus on the drawing and also helps its ‘sale-ability’. I would suggest the artist work on drawing with “value” within the line. Meaning, try to work in many different directional changes, which will give a cleaner overall finish. Some of the objects go a bit ‘flat’ and the artist would greatly benefit from exercises that focus on rendering a full range of values to promote believable form.

“Fruit & Flowers” by Christine Whiting. Pen and Ink

The simplicity and absence of color in this piece is very effective within the larger context of the group show environment. This pen and ink is very well matted and framed and serves to showcase the piece. I very much liked the whimsical approach that has a nod to textile design and still life all in one. I would suggest the artist focus on stronger geometry especially in the ellipse’s of the colander. Even when we are making work that is ‘stylized’ the drawing needs to be strong and when these types of shapes go a bit off it takes away from the other very nice areas of the piece.

“Little Bird” by Karen Arieno. Alcohol Ink on Yupo

I wasn’t familiar with this medium before seeing this piece and the artist has done a good job at introducing me to a new form of expression. The artist also clearly has a consistent voice, which is apparent in the other pieces she had in the show. I loved the vibrant colors and how they looked a bit like stained glass and yet had a very painterly quality. As with other pieces in the show I was distracted by the choice in matt color and found the black to be too heavy and dark for the happiness and lightness of the piece. Additionally, it is not necessary to hand write the artist name, title and medium on the double matt border. This is distracting to the piece and takes away from a professional presentation. I could easily see this artist having success with this work in the form of illustration and storytelling.

.Sales:

Congratulations to Karen Arieno, she sold two paintings at the Barnes & Noble Show.

Painting outside “Paint Together Tuesdays”

A few Artists are trying to bring together anyone wanting to paint together on Tuesday evenings outside. No membership, no rules, EVERYONE WELCOME!!

Paint, sketch, or just bring your camera!

We hope to keep locations near Charlotte, Summerville, Durand, the river, the lake etc.

This is not a SRAG project so please pass the word to all your artist friends. Enjoy, but don't paint alone outside!

Thanks, Pat Bushart.

SRAG Clothing

Anyone wishing to have clothing with our SRAG embroidered logo can go online to; LamontAwards.com or call 352-0640 or stop in at the their store in the back of the Plaza off Union Street in Spencerport. There will be a new 2015 catalog at the Spring Show if anyone wishes to browse through it. The embroidery is an added cost and you can have our logo put onto any garment you wish.

EXHIBIT: MONET TO MATISSE

The Age of French Impressionism

This exhibition is being held at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute

310 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502

The show is on now until November 29.

Take the NYS Thruway East to Exit 31. Take Genesee Street to Cottage Place (which will be on the right). The Institute is right there.

This is a worthwhile exhibit. The Institute is open 6 days a week...closed on Mondays.

From Rochester to Utica takes about 3 hrs.

Colette Savage will be teaching several classes this summer through Irondequoit Community Education. Pastel Painting I and II will be starting the week of July 20th and will run for 5 weeks. She is also teaching a beginner's plein air painting class which will be held for 2 weeks and starts on July 18th. Contact Colette for more information at cmsavage31@gmail.com

Colette Savage has 4 paintings on display at Hicks and McCarthy Restaurant, located at 23 S. Main St., Pittsford, NY 14534 along with several other members of the Pastel Society of Western NY.

Colette Savage will be teaching a day-long workshop at the Coonley-Ward Community of Artists in Wyoming NY on August 5th. The focus of the workshop will be on the use of underpaintings. Please contact Linda Metcalf at [\(585\)591-2406](tel:5855912406) for more information or to register for the workshop. Colette Savage will be participating in ARTsPARKed at Art Park in Lewiston, NY on August 15. Vendors at this outdoor show will sell their art out of the trunks of their cars! Come and join the fun!

Karlene Van Deusen will be at these shows the rest of the year. Please stop by to say “HI”:
until JULY 31 - A Gust of Sun Winery, 5324 W. Ridge Rd. Spencerport
AUGUST 8,9 - Brockport Art Festival, 10-6 in front of DUNN'S furniture, on Main St

AUGUST 15 - ARTsPARKed, 11-7 Artpark Lower Park (enter at 4th St.)
 SEPT 4-27, Pastel Society of western NY at PTribastone Gallery, Main St, Canandaigua PSWNY's
 Founding Member Exhibition-Wine Walk Tour
 SEPT 19,20 - Quaker Arts Festival, 10- 5 at Orchard Park Middle School at the corner of Route 20A and
 S. Lincoln Ave, Orchard Park,
 AUGUST, SEPT & OCT - Spencerport Trolley Museum, at the canal in Spencerport
 NOV 20,21,22 - 45th Annual Holiday Bazaar at Rochester Museum & Science Center, East Ave.,
 Rochester
 DEC 4,5 - Candlelight Christmas Show at the Morgan-Manning House, 151 Main St, Brockport, on
 Friday 10-9, Saturday 10-5 in the living room.

Calendar

Dates:	Event:	Location:
July 15	Nancy Lane - Illustration and Fine Art	Greece Town Hall
July 29	Paint out or paint inside. Depends on weather.	Location to be announced
August 12	Gia Conti paints bright and beautiful watercolors	
August 26	Paint out or Paint inside. Depends on weather.	Location to be announced
September 9	Brian O'Neill paints realism with abstract elements	
September 23	Work night. Paint using Brian O' Neill's techniques.	
October 14	Karen Arieno using Alcohol Inks	
October 28	Karen helps us paint with alcohol inks on YUPO	
November 4	Painting on Eggs at Aggie Windig's home. Sign up will be necessary at a later date so Aggie can prepare for us. There are NO meetings in the Town Hall in November.	

Officers for 2013-2014

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Karlene Van Deusen and Barb Case at Hammondsport



Award winners at Barnes and Noble



Diane Bellenger



Anne McCune



Colette Savage



Deb Verhulst-Norris