

BrushStrokes

The newsletter of the Suburban Rochester Art Group
May 2019

All the meetings are held in the Greece Town Hall, meeting room "B" on the second Wednesday of the month unless specifically stated on our group calendar. General meetings are open to the public and start promptly at 6:30pm. The evening's scheduled program begins at 7:00pm.

Board members:

Board meetings are held at 5:45pm. Room B. prior to the general meetings.

May 15th. General business meeting 6:30pm.

Program starts at 7:00pm. Debra Cooper, Demo, Still life in oil.

Many of you are familiar with Debra's work, skillfully painted still life studies of fruit that is almost edible. This is her second demonstration for us, back by popular demand. She has won awards in all of our shows including best of show last fall and the recent spring show.

Barnes & Noble Summer Show

The dates for the summer show have been set:

Set up Monday July 1st. at 9:30 am

Reception Sunday July 7th at 7:00 pm

Takedown Wednesday July 31st. at 9:30 am

Entry form for this show is attached to this newsletter

Calendar Town Hall approved dates, Meeting room "B" for 2019.

June 12 Picnic at Brooks's house

***July 17** Plein-Air ? location tba.

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

* ***These dates are not the second Wednesday***

Spring show 16 members participated, 10 of whom sold 26 pieces of art for a total of \$1836.20 (\$195.80 for Journey Home)

Spring Show evaluations by judge Kevin Indovino

Best of Show: Debbie Cooper "Game Pieces"

I really liked the bulk of her work, very detailed, precise techniques with light reflection and shadows. I chose "Game Pieces" because of the unique subject matter. (Versus the fruit in bowl theme). Her precision on this piece wasn't quite as sharp as the other pieces, (the detail on the pencil, seemed to be a little rushed) but I love the arrangement of the objects and the subtle tones she used on the playing cards. The detail work on the wallpaper background is a nice contrast to the whimsical nature of the objects and gave the overall piece a sense of continuity, energy and life.

1st Place: Karlene Van Deusen "Eric"

I was attracted to the use of subtle sepia / flesh tones in this piece. Some really nice layering of colors, giving the illusion of some transparency, enhancing the depth of colors. The young boy slightly justified right gives the overall piece a nice balance within the frame, particularly with the basket in his hand. I like the contrast between the overlay of black outlines and the underlying colors. I had to look closely to recognize it was pastel and not pen/ink.

2nd Place: Terry Brooks “Tides Out”

Some really nice work with ink and watercolor on this one. Often, you'll find watercolors that have been overworked with too much color use; I think Terry is right at that threshold, but there is still a nice balance of color use in this piece. Some nice layering of colors. Terry really captured the mood of the moment. One could almost feel the gentle breeze, hear the sea birds, smell the wet sand. I think the placement of the two boats works well, drawing you immediately into the subject, but still leaving room for your eyes to explore the rest of the composition.

3rd Place: Juanita Link “Ohio Park”

I'm a sucker for paintings with brooks, creeks and streams – and there was certainly a few to choose from in this show. I selected this one in particular because of the generous use of color, capturing a vibrant moment, presumably at the climax of the fall season. I love the gentle curve of the creek, leading you into parts unknown. The looseness and playfulness of the brush strokes, particularly in the trees, gives the piece a burst of energy that just invites you to explore the moment. Often times, for me, I like to see the artist in the piece – and here – I can almost see Juanita bursting with energy –having a lot of fun attacking the canvas with each brush strokes.

Themed Work: David Braun “Tranquility”.

The scene that David sets up I feel hits the theme right on target. A gentle sail on the lake, calm waters. I get the sense of early morning. His choice of colors also lends to the sense of tranquility – calming – Nice balance of tones. Nice layering of colors, not overworked. I like the positioning of the sailboats – just slightly off center – but yet the whole piece feels completely balanced with the extra weight of the hills on the left.

Honorable Mentions:

Richard Thomas: Sunflower series. In particular: “Moonlit Sunflowers”. I think for most people, the dark, muddy colorations would not be appealing. But for me, I found them very intriguing. There's a sense of mystery there. What's going on in the composition? What is the artist trying to convey? Moonlight Sunflowers stood out to me among the others because I really liked the juxtaposition of the flowers in the foreground against a muted/abstract, indistinguishable background, more so than the others in the series. It gave the piece a bit more of a mystical feel and more depth than the other pieces; almost as though he went just a little too far with the other pieces. Sometimes less really is more.

Dave Braun: “Garden Stairway” I almost put this up in the prize category, but I chose not to for two reasons. Though I really like the composition – it's something I've seen a thousand times: so a few demerits on originality. I really like his play with light and shadow. I like my eyes being led up those stairs – I want to know where they lead to. I think his choice of colors and balance of colors is really good except for the flowers in the urns. For me they stood out just a bit too much in contrast to the rest of the composition. I think he could have pulled back just a bit on how much color he chose to use with the flowers. With some nice detailing in the stone work, the shadows from the railings and even some detail in the bushes – the flowers just seem to pop out as

unfinished blobs of color. This is very subjective, but I'm thinking the piece would be just as interesting and appreciated with no flowers in the urns at all.

Christine Whiting: "Antiques for Sale" This one stood out to me, among her other works because it seemed to be a bit more playful and free flowing in her technique. When looking at her other pieces, I got a sense that she wasn't quite sure where she was going with her technique: more detailed? More free flowing? Almost like she was stuck between the two. I found the lean toward a slightly abstract approach in the "Antiques for Sale" piece to more inviting / engaging me as a viewer. The sign in the left side of the picture seems to be a bit out of place, technically and composition-ally. It feels like it pulls focus a bit too much. Not sure if it's because of a slightly different brush stroke or coloration or the perspective seems to be a bit off. Again, not entirely sure – but it leaves me wondering if that sign really lends anything at all to the balance of the composition. But with that said... I actually really do like the piece.

Barbara Case: "Stoney Brook" I really like Barbara's technique with pastels. There were a couple of pieces where she was able to execute a nice sharpness in her use of the media. "Stoney Brook" seems to be the best example of this. There're some nice sharp / crisp edges among the flowing water and rocks – very hard to accomplish with pastels. My guess is she's working on black colored paper, as it appears that it's the black undertones that are allowing her to achieve the desired effects. And I like her composition, her use of crayon strokes and color choices, all complimenting each other for a nice balance.

Additionally I really liked Barbara's piece "Dusk" Great color choices. I liked the contrast between softer pastel strokes against the more refined strokes of the trees. It almost appears like the trees were done with pen/ink –but I don't think they were, giving this piece even more appreciation. Overall just a really nice piece with a really good sense of time and place..

Collette Savage: "Reflections" As with Barbara – I liked her technique with pastels. A bit more free flowing, a bit more 'impressionistic'. I think she captures the reflection off the water quite well. I like the way she conveyed the reflective properties of the water, more so to do with the direction of the crayon strokes along with a very intentional choice of color. The less detailed, more abstract background gives the piece a nice balance.

Anne McCune: "Irish Green" What I love about this piece is even though it's more of an abstract piece, you immediately get sense of time and place; up for many interpretations. I love the contrast of the vibrant colors of green against the more muted, cooler colors of blue. The majority of imagery is horizontal across the palette but then you have this swoosh of green coming in from bottom left that brings you right back into the piece; a nice sense of movement and composition.



Game Pieces Debra Cooper

Eric Karline VanDeusen



Tide's Out Terry Brooks

Ohio Park Juanita Link





Reflections Colette Savage



Garden Stairway Dave Braun



Irish Green Anne McCune

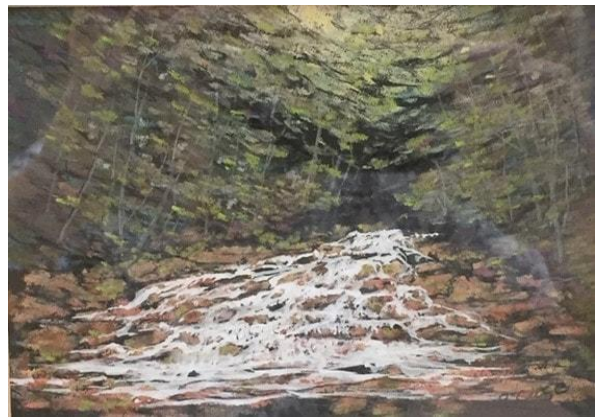


Moonlight Sunflowers Richard Thomas



Antiques For Sale Chris Whiting

Stony Brook Barbara Case



Theme winner

Tranquility Dave Braun

Members:

In the 2019 Central Adirondack Art Show held at the View in Old Forge, NY, Diane Bellenger was awarded first place in the open awards Painting Division for her painting "Adirondack Memories".

Eleanor Milborrow's painting "Early Morning Sunrise" was awarded the Master's Division

. The show is being held now through June 9.

Art stuff available

I am downsizing again and must get rid of 8X10 (about 40 pieces) and 11X 14 (about 80 pieces) framing glass from Quadrant. I also have oil paints, brush cleaner and mediums. Please contact me at 424-4327 and leave a message. Also please plan on picking it up at my house in Henrietta. Thanks. Nina