

BOARD MEMBERS**President:****Roxana Caples****Vice President:****Cal Capener****Secretary:****Nicki Weber****Cora Morley Eklund****Treasurer:****Tony Lirette****Past President:****Richard Thompson****Next Meeting****January 15, 2015****Meeting:****3rd Thursday of the month****Location:**

**VFW Post 318
2902 Martin Way E
Olympia, WA**

6:30 p.m.**Socializing / Art Display****7:00 p.m.****Business Meeting****7:30 p.m.****Speaker Demonstration****8:30 p.m.****Socializing / Discussion**

Nikki McClure of Olympia is our January speaker. She is known for her painstakingly intricate and beautiful paper cuts. **Armed with an X-acto knife, she cuts out her images from a single sheet of paper and creates a bold language that translates the complex poetry of motherhood, nature, and activism into a simple and endearing picture.**

Her work depicts the virtues of hard labor and patience, which is inherent in her process as well as in the images themselves: weathered hands washing dishes, people sweeping, mothers caring for their babies, and farmers working the land. But there is also a large element of celebration, of taking the time to roll around in the grass and get wet from the early morning dew. The need for all of us to lay down on the ground, grab hold of the earth, look at the stars and dream. She magnifies the importance of simple things, like the change of seasons, slowing down the world for a moment so we can actually taste it.

Nikki's images exude a positivity that revolves around community, sustenance, parenting, and appreciating both the urban and rural landscape, undoubtedly influenced by her home in the Northwest and specifically Olympia. As one of the more prominent visual artists involved with Olympia-based record labels K and Kill Rock Stars, as well as the Riot Grrrl movement in the early nineties, Nikki's work still embodies the fiercely independent fire that fueled the passion and creativity of that time period.

She regularly produces her own posters, books, cards, t-shirts and a beloved yearly calendar as well as designs covers for countless records and books, including illustrations for magazines the Progressive and Punk Planet. She is a self-taught artist who has been making paper-cuts since 1996. Her work can be purchased at www.buyolympis.com and her artistic website is: www.nikkimcclure.com





TOM ANDERSON

SPEAKS AT OLYMPIA ART LEAGUE

by Becky Knold and Mia Schulte

Tom Anderson was the guest speaker at our November meeting. He generously shared his art (illustrated with slides), his experiences of entrepreneurship, and stories of his life (growing up the son of a jazz musician, graduating from TESC in 1973, co-founding Mansion Glass Studios, and establishing his own studio in 1990).

By all standards, Tom is recognized as a local treasure and an integral part of our community's cultural/artistic development. In fact, if you live in the Olympia area, you most certainly have seen Tom Anderson's artwork. It's everywhere - the Park of the Seven Oars (Olympia's Westside), Providence St. Peter Hospital, Panorama City, St. Martin's College, and Olympia City Hall. Additionally, Tom's mixed media pieces can be seen in galleries in Olympia, Portland, Issaquah, Palm Desert, and Hawaii. His work is in more than 1500 public and private collections worldwide. In addition to sculptures, mixed media works, and glass works, he has created a unique series of vintage, refurbished guitars.

Those in attendance at the presentation by Tom Anderson last month were inspired by his art, his professionalism, and his lifelong commitment to improving the artistic community which we all share.

Thanks, Tom!!

Out of Sight!

Fine Art Postcard Exhibition

Jan. 12 - Feb. 20, 2015

Join us for the opening and closing receptions,
Friday, January 16, 6 – 8, and Friday, February 20, 6 – 8pm.

For the 2015 Fine Art Postcard Exhibition, artists of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, were asked to submit up to 3 postcard size original artworks inspired by this year's theme "Out of Sight." 100 artists responded, using a wide range of materials, and producing a variety of outcomes. The resulting exhibition serves as an amazing cross-section of the region's creative spirit.

Many OAL members have contributed donations of art to the annual postcard exhibition. Please support South Puget Sound Community College and local artists by attending this show and bidding on postcard art. It's Outa- sight!

The Gallery

Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts
2011 Mottman Road SW
Olympia, WA 9512

The Gallery is open Monday – Friday, 12 – 4pm, excluding holidays.



South Puget Sound
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ROXANA CAPLES

Call me... Amateur Artist!

There are a million art blogs on the Internet waiting to suck up your free time. Some are worthwhile, others not so much. Recently I stumbled across an article about amateur artists that resonates with my way of thinking and would like to share SkinnyArtist's ideas with you.



Why do we freak out about being called an “amateur”?

Mostly we fear not being taken seriously. It is hard enough dealing with our own fears and self-doubts without constantly having to worry about what our friends and family may think of us.

We want to be taken seriously as a creative artist so we do the things that we think a profes-

sional should do. We set impossibly lofty goals for ourselves and then we beat ourselves up after we fail to live up to our own unrealistic expectations.

Modern day usage defines amateur as being not quite good enough, inept or unskillful, unpaid, pretender, wannabeBut the word “amateur” actually comes from the root word “amāre” which means “to love”. It has nothing to do with your level of talent or your “seriousness” about your chosen art form. It simply means that you create your art because it’s what you love to do and not because it brings in loads of money. We do it because we enjoy doing it. We love the act of creation, even if it’s only for ourselves.

There is a great deal of freedom that comes from being an amateur. There is also a lot of happiness to be found when we decide to create our art because it fulfills us, and not because it pays the bills. Many people have discovered that creating for themselves can ease the pressure and free the creative imagination to explore and experiment.

Amateur artists can be just as dedicated to their craft as any professional artist while not having to deal with the pressures of

audience expectations and deadlines.

We’re certainly not alone...

Emily Dickinson wrote over 1,800 poems, but had less than a dozen published during her lifetime. J.K. Rowling had her first book about a boy wizard named Harry Potter rejected by 12 different publishers before it was finally accepted for a token print run of 1,000 copies. Vincent van Gogh is the poster boy of an “amateur” artist having created over 2,100 hundred different artworks during his life and selling only one. These are three famous examples, but there are millions more of us out there who continue to create our art simply because it’s what we love to do!

It’s not about the money, the fame, or how many followers you have on Twitter — it’s about choosing to live the life you

love. Be true to yourself. *Roxana*

Meet me for tea at Traditions!

Olympia Art League makes me smile! I am very excited about the many new members who have joined and are sharing their art and learning from our wonderful established artists. I am delighted with the line up of future speakers (Nikki McClure, Chris Maynard, Nancy Bogni, Ann Elizabeth Scott). I am pleased that workshops and art lessons have evolved from our monthly meetings.

But, I have another goal for OAL. We need to be more social. Our evolving internet makes face-to-face contact more difficult. Would you like to get to know our members and turn them into art friends. To make this happen I would like to introduce Second Tuesday Think Tank. I was hoping we could gather available members to share a cup of tea or coffee at a local cafe and take time to visit, share art information, contribute ideas that would make our art league more useful and get to know each other better. If you are looking for art friends please let me know you are interested. **We will begin on January 13th. Meet me at Tradition's Cafe at 2:00.** If we grow too big to fit, we will Think Tank another option.

I know some of you will be sad about the 2:00 because you actually work and earn money....but a later time means dark driving and late dinners, so for now I am going with 2:00. Maybe we can organize another group for the working artists!?

I am looking forward to sharing a cup of tea with you.

“Roxy” Roxana Caples

Bye Bye Butterfly!

The Last Picture Show for Butterfly Butterfly Gallery
January 8 - 12 Reception Friday, January 9, 6 - 9 pm



Robin Levin



Brydon Stewart



Diana Fairbanks

421 Water Street S.W.

Olympia, WA 98501

360-943-0553 and 360-754-9019

Mia Schulte

www.mia-artist.com

Art Exhibitions: January and February

Burien Arts Gallery "Mixed Media"

826 SW 152nd St., Burien, WA 206-244-7808

Jan 2– Feb 1 Reception Jan 2 5-8PM



Burien Gallery



WPW Gallery



Larson Gallery

Women Painters of Washington Gallery "Habitat" 701 Fifth Ave, Suite 310, Seattle 206-624-0543 Dec 9– Feb 28

Larson Gallery "Visual Voices" Yakima Valley Community College, Yakima, WA

Jan 15th–Feb 21



**T-Shirt Drawing at the
January OAL Meeting
Food Bank Fundraiser**



Don't miss the January meeting! **Bring at least one item for the Thurston County Food Bank** and your name will be entered in a drawing to be held that evening.

Prize: Official Olyphant T-Shirt (Size—Large)

Volunteer to help kids! As an artist I help children have a voice using their art and present it in the courtroom and meetings pertaining to them. I have been trained and volunteer with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Thurston Co. Also, I am on an art committee under Commissioner Indu Thomas for Thurston County. If anyone is interested in being a featured artist, on the art committee or being a CASA, please contact me, Teresa Marie Staal Cowley. Venue is: Family Juvenile Court at 2801 32nd Ave SW, Tumwater. The CASA offices are in the court and my CASA supervisor is Sunnie Slenes at 360-709-3139.

New Year's Resolutions— Easy to make; Hard to Keep

We all know how hard it is to keep the Resolutions we make late in December. You know the Resolutions to lose weight, or exercise every day, or write those friends or relative you haven't contacted for years and you have your own list of Resolutions you've made in the past, but haven't kept. Let me suggest several that will not only be easy to keep, but fun too.

1. I resolve to start a new piece of art that I've been thinking about for some time but haven't started for a variety of reasons.
2. I resolve to attend all the OAL meetings and to bring a friend (come on, we know you have friends).
3. I resolve to sign-up to participate in the Thurston County Fair, both as a worker and as an artist displaying my work.
4. I resolve to show my art at the Bonsai Teriyaki Restaurant this year. The next opportunity is for the show that runs from March 7th to May 2nd. It's easy and you might even sell a painting.

Richard Thompson



The Butterfly Effect

On Dec 15 an art reception for the permanent artwork created by children in this county called "The Butterfly Effect". It is made from over 500 upcycled juice pouches, and consists of a large butterfly chrysalis, with hundreds of tiny butterflies swarming around it.

Also included was the Diana Fairbanks "Rivers of Washington" and the artwork of children in foster care that I advocate for with CASA. One of my selections "Voices of Children" is on display along with the work of the children who are and have been in foster care. A child I advocate for attended the art reception with her foster parent and a friend from her group home. She was awestruck and validated by meeting and talking with Diana, Becky & Myrna from our OAL/ Arts Olympia group and showing them her art on display.

Teresa Marie Staal-Cowley



Canvas Art Workshops

I am teaching Canvas Art Workshops at Saint John's Episcopal church on Capitol Way SE near downtown Olympia on Saturdays 1/10, 1/17, 1/24 and 1/31 from 9AM-Noon.

The workshops are downstairs in the Atrium/Sunday School room. The workshops are \$50.00 each and cover all materials. The first class will be on placemats, the second on table runners, the third on floor cloths and the fourth on art banners. In between drying times we will decorate canvas shopping bags.

I will also be teaching Saturdays in February at the same location, time and cost. This is also to help raise funds for community outreach at the church. Advance registration is required and I can be contacted as listed below.

Teresa Marie Staal-Cowley

360-480-9955 Cell 360-866-1512 Home

www.teresamariestaal.com teresamarie4art@gmail.com

**ANN BRECKON
WATERCOLOR**

For 2015, Ann Breckon Watercolor Classes will be focusing on all the *watercolor skills and techniques* you need to know in order to easily and successfully paint beautiful art: Washes, Glazing, Wet-in-Wet, Textures, Negative Painting, Pouring and Puddling and much more!

Students have the option to just relax and *create a fabulous handbook* practicing and illustrating all these skills, or follow step-by-step demonstrations as you *paint a finished piece of art* using the same skills. If you are willing to do a little homework, you may be able to do both!



The subject matter will vary between landscapes, still life, florals, birds and more. The theme will be *Paint the State of Washington*, so we will do the coast, the mountains, the wheat fields, the state bird with grape vines, the rainforest, an Andrew Wyeth inspired still life with the state fruit (or vegetable: onions!), twelve different and interesting paintings in all. **CLASS Schedule in Olympia, Washington** Mondays: Jan 12 & 26, 12Noon-3PM First Christian Church

OAL member Mark Holland is exhibiting in this show:

Found Photographs



What: "Found Photographs" exhibit Where: The Gallery at TCC (Building 4)

When: Jan 5 - March 20 Reception: Jan. 14, 4-6 p.m.

Exhibit Hours: noon – 5 p.m., M-F on days the college is open

What's the story behind that old photo found in a drawer? What can vernacular photographs tell us about the personal and social history of America? Will viewers see a 50-year-old print differently after an artist spins it into something fresh? Local artists work with "found photos" in a new show that opens with the start of Winter Quarter. Some artists create paintings or sculptures inspired by vintage photos. Others mix images with other artifacts -- framing a vintage photo in an old sardine tin, for instance, or pasting images on a dressmaker's pattern. Some artists take on social issues; others take the opportunity to explore family history.

Members of the public are invited to participate. Bring "found photos" to The Gallery for inclusion in a mural that will be completed over the course of the exhibit.

Cal Capener Oil Painting Art Class Sat., Jan 17

When: Saturday, January 17 10AM-3:30PM Where: Diane Fairbanks studio at 1230 8th Ave., S.E. For new students, it is 3 blocks off of Plum on 8th. You may park in front of her house and walk back to the studio directly behind her house. We will be reviewing color mixing with some innovative techniques; brush work, knife work, and composition. We will focus on "block-in" techniques and building on the painting from there. (If you have a photo of a painting, and you would like a brief demo on how it was painted, bring it along.) Bring all your brushes and try to include a #4 and #6 bright, and a #6 or #8 filbert or flat. Also bring a 12"x16" (or larger) canvas. For new students, I will provide those brushes and other materials unless you already have them. If you have some materials, bring them and I will supplement as needed. I will also provide photos of landscapes for your use if needed. Brown bag lunch - half hour.



Reverse Ekphractic, an art exhibit

The Washington State Department of Commerce's "Reverse Ekphractic" art and writing show is in progress through January 31. Ekphrastic refers to a form of writing, usually poetry, wherein the author describes another work of art, usually visual. Reverse Ekphractic, envisioned by Maitri Sojourner for a unique exhibit, is art inspired by poetry or prose. Five artists gave 'on the spot' impressions of original poems and prose by eighteen writers as they were read aloud in a December open house. (Also, some pieces were completed prior to the event.)

Maitri, Community Liaison for WA State Dpt. of Commerce Art Committee, said, "It went fast and furiously, and I am really proud of all the visual artists who rolled up their sleeves and went to work! I think the writers all enjoyed hearing each other's works and are fascinated with the visual response."



'Pear Examined' by Shirley Stirling. It is based on a poem by Billie Mazzei entitled 'Stickers'.

The five artists are **Jan Hansen, Shirley Stirling, Claire Thompson, Diana Fairbanks, and Maitri Sojourner**. The art is now exhibited alongside the prose and poetry at the Department of Commerce (corner of Plum & Union, Olympia) during business hours (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm). Please call 360-725-4000 and ask to speak with an Art Committee employee (Cheryl Bayle, Trisha Smith, Phyllis Cole, Susan Stiltz, Mark Anderson) to arrange a viewing time. The facility is secure and you must be accompanied by an employee.

Hart James, Visual Artist - WA Center for the Performing Arts



512 Washington St. SE—Olympia.

Dates: January 7 - March 7 Reception: Jan 16, 2015 6PM

They have stood on this earth before the human species arrived to the planet. Trees have born witness to the rise and fall of civilizations, survived climate change and still stand tall as they struggle to persevere our industrialization of the planet.

Hart's paintings invite the viewer into the practice of reverence of 'The Ancients.'

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Vice President: Cal Capener
Secretary: Nicki Weber / Cora Morley Eklund
Treasurer: Tony Lirette
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Programs: Linda Parisi / Roxana Caples
Refreshments: Kay Tolles / Teresa Cowley
Meeting Set Up: Mike Scheurich / Les Fosmire
Website: _____ / _____
Website Gallery: Christi McGinley (non-member)
Com Outreach: Teresa Cowley / Jean Van Dorn
OAL Juried Show: _____ / _____

Members Only Show: Karen Crate/ _____

Fair Art Show: Diana Fairbanks / K Tolles / E Cholски
Bonsai: Dick Thompson / Rita Parten

Capitol Chiropractic: Lone Moody

Paint Out: Jane King / Karen Crate

Paint In Day: Karen Crate/ Paint In Night: Jane King

Recruiter: Roxana Caples

Buddy Patrol Areas:

NW Cooper Point/Mud Bay
(98502 & 98506)

Irene Boldt

SW Black Lake/Little Rock/Tumwater
(98512, 98501)

Karen Crate

NE Lacey/ N. Marvin

(98503 & 98516, 98509)

Karen Bush

SE Yelm Highway (98513)

LaDonna Kruger