

Tips from members...

Staying Connected and Engaged with Art in Trying Times

With all its monthly activities, OAL offers camaraderie, inspiration and fun. It's what keeps many of us engaged in the practice of art. While we are doing our part as an organization to keep ourselves, families and community safe, it is hard to be disconnected from an important part of our lives. As many have said, "social distancing doesn't need to be social isolation." When the call went out for tips on how to stay connected, here are some of the first submitted.



Sign up to get **Bob Blasts** from Robert Burrige, a highly regarded artist working primarily in acrylic, who offers an archive of fun and inspiring YouTube videos full of tips about how to set up your studio, daily warmups, design and various techniques.

<https://robertburrige.com/weekly-bobblast-archive/>

Google's Arts and Culture offers a compilation of hundreds of museums and galleries around the world. You can view famous collections from New York's MoMA to the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and beyond.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner?hl=en>

A quick search on your browser will yield a wealth of free **YouTube** instructional videos on just about any medium or technique you can imagine. And many paint suppliers such as **Golden, Liquitex and Grumbacher** offer great YouTube video demonstrations on how to use their products.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GoldenPaints>
<http://grumbacher.chartpak.com/tutorials/>



See more tips on page 2

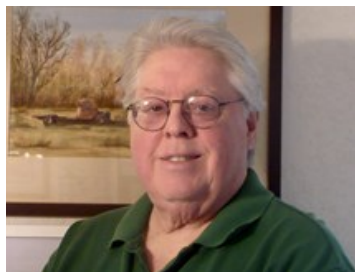
The only thing we have to fear is fear itself -- nameless, un-reasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt



APRIL ACTIVITIES CANCELED

Due to the corona virus outbreak, the OAL monthly membership meeting, support groups, Think Tank Tuesday, brunch club and morning and evening paint ins are canceled for April. The paint out schedule will be delayed while we look for venues that allow for social distancing. In addition, Arts-Walk and the Peninsula Art show have been canceled. OAL leadership is closely monitoring the situation and will resume meetings when we can ensure the safety of our membership. To get the most up to date info on each group, check out the activity leads listed on page four and use our new directory (available to members only) to get added to group e-mail lists.



Troubling Times

These are troubling times, indeed. The Coronavirus has caused business after business to close. It has forced the Governor to limit and enforce the size of groups, making 'Social Distancing' the new catch phrase. All of this means that our Olympia Art League is no longer able to meet and share our art. With the majority of our members in the at-risk group, not having meetings of any kind is a safe and prudent thing to do. The last thing we need to do is to become the problem and make things worse.

The restrictions that the Governor has now put in place means we probably will not have meetings in April and May. After that, it's a wait and see situation. I have been looking into other means for our members to stay connected. There is Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Skype and YouTube. Using one of or several of these social media companies we would be able to share our art and keep the challenges going. It's not perfect and it's not the same as being together sharing our art, but it is a responsible and safe way to go. Your input is important and if you have any ideas about this, I would like to hear them.

I am also thinking about making changes to this year's Paint Out schedule. It is not a good idea to go to some places, including private homes and businesses. I think we could still paint out in public areas where we are able to maintain proper distances. Places such as parks, marinas and other open areas. It will still mean a reduced and limited schedule.

Until we can be together again, keep yourself safe, continue to create your art and let's stay connected and share what we are creating.

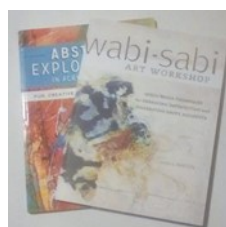
Rick

More tips...

Zoom is a videoconferencing and meeting product that many organizations and churches are using to keep members in touch and connected when you can't meet face to face. All you need is a computer with a webcam and speakers or a smart phone. Over the next couple of weeks several support groups are going to do test runs to see if we can keep meeting in this time of social distancing.



If interested in participating in a test run let Linda Selsor know at lselsor@msn.com. Zoom offers free individual accounts so it can also be a great way to keep in touch with family and your artist buddies.



Now is a good time to check out all the art books you bought at our auction in February. Try some of the techniques suggested and keep a journal of your attempts and how they worked for you so you can try them in a larger work.

South Sound Urban Sketchers

Date & Time: 2nd Saturday of every month 10:30 AM —12:30 PM, next meet up is **April 11th**.

Location: Lady of the Lake on Offut Lake. 4005 120th Ave SE, Tenino. Just off Old Way 99.

Contact: Cheryl Wilson at cwilson3250@gmail.com to make sure we can meet and assure social distancing.



CAL CAPENER OIL PAINTING CLASSES

Time: Saturday, April 25th, 9 AM – 3:30 PM (half hour break for lunch)

Cost: \$60 with your own materials --\$65 if you use Cal's

Location: Class is held at the Diana Fairbank's Studio, 1230 8th Ave., SE, Olympia.

Contact: Get in touch with Cal Capener at 360-491-0704 or cccnac@msn.com to register and make sure the class has not been canceled.



A Little More History...

OAL at the Fair

The first Thurston County Fair was held in 1871. The Columbus building downtown on 4th Avenue housed the first celebration with a bird and poultry exhibit upstairs and food, dancing and socializing downstairs. Over the next century and a half, the fair had an interesting evolution with multiple locations (once even held in Lewis county), several interruptions including a decade hiatus, and innumerable exhibit make overs.

For those interested, Ann Shipley, fair historian, has written a book titled "Memories: History of the Thurston County Fair". Art work appeared only sporadically and was included in "Home Crafts" until 1969 when the OAL became affiliated with the Fair. Due to the fast growing section reflecting the interest of the community, the Arts division was created, separating the artwork from "hobby" crafts. The Arts division was supervised by OAL members: Mrs. Viola Rushforth, Mrs. Cle McCoy, and Mrs. LaWana Phillips.



FAIR SUPERINTENDENTS READY THE ART DISPLAY AREA
From Left: Cle McCoy, Agnes Spear, Viola Rushforth
Illustration photo by not named

Art To Spark Cultural Aspect of Fair

The art show was divided into several categories for that first year. There was a non-competitive exhibit for artists who worked as professionals and one for those artists who wanted to share their work who did not reside in Thurston County. One division consisted of OAL members "to be judged separately as to not intimidate non-OAL artists with less experience." Another division was for Panorama City artists of 75 years of age or older, and various age divisions were for Thurston County residents.

By 1971 the Arts division had become much as it is today, an open class art competition with nominal cash premiums for the top works and an exhibition for the pleasure of fair goers. A "B" section was open to professionals and non-professionals who were not residents of Thurston County for exhibition without awards.

OAL members were at the fair "for on- the-spot demonstrations of their art creations, to answer questions about their art medias, and to act as tour hostesses for those who wished to know more about the various art submissions."



Prepared for several weeks of hard work preparing for and directing the Thurston County Fair arts and crafts divisions, are (standing, left to right) Mrs. LaWana Phillips, Mrs. Rod Dresser, and (seated) Mrs. Viola Rushforth and Mrs. Cle McCoy. The eloquent scene in the foreground was painted by Mrs. McCoy. See it again at the fair!

It's Fair Time For Artists

Volunteering to help at the fair has been a long standing and fun aspect of OAL history. If you have never volunteered, sign up when the call goes out this year. Bring your art supplies for your own on-the- spot show and enjoy the fair goers of all ages. After all, who doesn't like to watch an artist work?

Contributed by Candy Feris



GETTING ACQUAINTED

Introducing...

Deborah Cornett

After attending the Acrylics Support Group for several months at the library, Deborah discovered that it was part of a larger group. "I joined right away and have been a member for about three years. My interest is abstract painting inspired by landscape, music, poetry and current events. Landscape is my favorite topic. I also enjoy creating collages and abstract drawings."



Deborah's interest in art has been lifelong, "although I started learning to paint and draw when I was 55—a slow starter I guess. I've never shown my work, but I may at a local coffee shop. Outside of art, I enjoy opera, birdwatching, camping and hiking." The painting shown is entitled "The Sixth Extinction."



Contributed by Lindsey Ford

OAL Board & Committee or Activity Leads

President: Rick Drescher

Vice President: Heather Simons

Secretary: Anne-Marie Brown

Treasurer: Tony Lirette

Members at Large: Karla Fowler, Ruth Fuller, & Jan Hansen

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Correspondence: April Works

Community Outreach: Teresa Marie Staal-Cowley

Recruiter: Roxana Caples

Art Workshops: JoAnne Sanford

Meetings:

Name Tags: Ruth Fuller

Phone Reminders: Jean Van Doren

Refreshments: Heather Simons

Meeting Set Up: Mike Scheurich

Reverse Mirror: Jean Stewart

Artistic Advice Basket: Carolyn Long

Website Gallery: Rick Drescher

OAL Sponsored Shows:

Members Only Art Show: Heather Simons

Arts Walk Juried Show: Canceled

County Fair Art Show: Diana Fairbanks, Kay Tolles

Local OAL Art Show Venues:

Bonsai: Anne-Marie Brown

Capitol Chiropractic: Lone Moody

Cooper Point Public House: Rick Drescher

Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court and Sutton Chiropractic and Massage:

Teresa Marie Staal-Cowley

TRA Medical Imaging: Jan Hansen

Painting Get Togethers:

Paint-Out: Rick Drescher

Paint-In Day: Karen Crate

Paint-In Night: Karen Bush

Support Groups:

Abstract: Lindsey Ford

Acrylic: Karla Fowler

Drawing: Rick Drescher

Watercolor: JoAnne Sanford, Ruth Fuller

artist|TRUST

SUPPORTING ART AT ITS SOURCE

SUPPORTING ARTISTS DURING COVID 19

The Artist Trust is working hard to support artists impacted by COVID-19. They have generated a growing list of resources for artists. Because they are intensely motivated to act in support of artists in the wake of COVID-19, they have created a survey that will help them understand the impact of COVID-19 and what resources artists need during this time. Please share this survey with your networks so that Artist Trust is able to act quickly and sufficiently. Here are the links for the resource list and survey...

<https://artisttrust.org/covid-19-resources-list/>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AT-Covid-19-Response>



Support our sponsors...

OLYPHANT OFFERS ART SUPPLY DELIVERY TO LOCAL ARTISTS

Olyphant Art Supply located at 119 5th Ave. SE, Olympia is open for business. If you are self-quarantined, email your basic art supply orders to olyphantart-supply@gmail.com WITH YOUR PHONE NUMBER ATTACHED and they will process and deliver your order in a few days. Please keep your orders to Thurston County. There is a \$20 minimum on delivered orders. If you have questions, check out their website <http://www.theolyphant.com/> or give them a call at (360) 481-7643.

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Monday, April 20th

Please send your articles, photos, announcements & ideas for the **May** newsletter to Linda Selsor. Please include suggestions for how we can stay connected to art and each other when we can't meet in person.

lselsor@msn.com. **Questions?** Call (360) 491-0377

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