

OAL Artists' Response to the Pandemic

Artists around the country have been posting their responses to the COVID 19 pandemic on the internet. Several museums (the Getty in LA and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam) asked patrons to duplicate their favorite work of art and send them a photo—some with hilarious results. Have you seen the copy of a Rembrandt portrait with the ruff made out of toilet paper roles? That was one of many featuring toilet paper. Now we know where it all went. At the end of March we put out a call for OAL artists' take on COVID 19, being in the midst of a pandemic and social distancing. Much of this newsletter will feature our local response. It has been thought provoking, inspiring and sometimes almost whimsical. Keep your images coming in.



Pam McKinnie shared art created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “A month or so ago (it seems like it’s been a year) I began to paint in a style that is new for me. I created four new abstracts based on nature images. I didn’t know why I had painted these images or exactly where I wanted the art to go. So, I posted them on my Facebook page asking for a gentle critique from my Facebook friends. Then at 3:00 AM a couple weeks ago, I woke up with words to match the paintings. Fortunately, I had the presence of mind to get up and write the words down. The result is the four posters shown. I hope they bring some measure of hope and comfort in these uncertain times.”



She is making these Giclee, fine art posters available for a donation of something more than her fixed cost. She has formatted the posters in a 20 x 30-inch and an 11 x 14 inch sizes. You can order the posters in two styles: mounted on foam core or as a fine art print to be framed. In keeping with our social distancing protocol, the posters can be shipped directly to you. If anyone wants to talk with Pam about ordering a poster, please contact her at ConceptsUnlimited@estreet.com.

See more next page



MAY ACTIVITIES CANCELED

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, OAL monthly membership meeting, Think Tank Tuesday, brunch club and morning and evening paint ins are canceled. Most support groups will meet via Zoom. The paint out schedule is delayed while we look for venues that allow for social distancing. 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.



Stay Safe, Stay Home.

As we move through these tough days, it is more important than ever for us all to remain vigilant, thereby, keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe. It is increasingly hard for a social organization like the Olympia Art League. It is also hard to stay motivated. Spending time creating our art is a great way to get away from all the bad news. It doesn't make the news stay away, but it does keep our minds and spirits in a good place if only for a little while.

We all miss seeing our fellow artists and sharing our art. With the availability of virtual meeting apps like Zoom, it makes the isolation a little more tolerable. A couple of our groups have used Zoom to get together, share art and see each other. We are looking into Zoom to determine if it's to our benefit to purchase a monthly subscription as opposed to using the free version. The free version allows 3 people or less to video chat for an unlimited time, with larger groups having a time limit of 40 minutes. It is not hard to reconnect to the same meeting again for another 40 minutes. I'll let everyone know what we decide about purchasing a subscription to Zoom.

Of all the things we looked forward to when growing up, I don't think we ever dreamed of something like this global pandemic happening in our lifetimes. There will come a day when we are all able to get back together, continuing with all the events and gatherings to which we have become accustomed.

I miss you all. In the meantime keep creating your art. Stay Safe, Stay Home.

Rick

More from OAL artists...



Sherié Balko Nation's artistic take on the pandemic includes two paintings so far. The painting at right features bright, vivid circles spaced apart. It reflects how colorful the COVID 19 virus is under a microscope yet its beauty belies its deadly menace requiring social distancing. Her second piece at left illustrates Sherié's flare for detail and the watchfulness associated with social distancing.



During the pandemic's self-imposed quarantine, **Deborah Cornett** has been missing the wide-open spaces and outdoors she loves. Deborah went through her archives and found a photo of a brilliant yellow canola field. This is her abstract take on the memory of being in that seemingly endless field of warm yellow.

Anne Marie Brown found a 30-day sketching challenge while people were quarantined. There were rules and a suggested theme for every day for 30 days. So she started the daily sketches and challenged herself to make each one better and more detailed. "Now every day, I wake up, get a cup of coffee and look around for the next thing to sketch."



Check out "The Thirty Day Urban Sketching Challenge" from Urban Sketchers London #uskathome.

Even more...

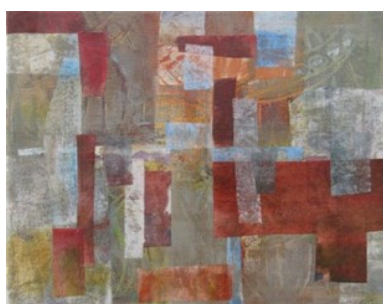


Even more...

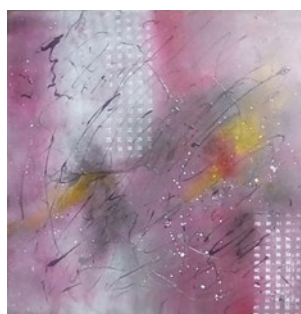
Cynthia Walker's scraps series has been created since the Covid-19 stay at home restrictions began at the end of March. "These are collages made from scraps of watercolor and acrylic painted and stamped paper or cloth...all gathering dust in my studio. Maybe I created one a week. But like the hours, days and weeks during this lockdown, the paintings and the timeframes are foggy and overlapping."



"WHY SCRAPS? Scrap definitions. Noun: a fragment of something. Verb: fight or to quarrel. We must fight this virus and try not to quarrel too much with one another. Scraps 2 reminds me of a Crazy Quilt...for these crazy times we are living right now."



Carolyn Burt put her art on hold and has been busy sewing and making protective face masks. As of the end of March, she'd made three dozen for Garden Courte Memory Care for the staff, provided six for some home health workers, and another dozen and a half for her daughter and co-workers at St. Joseph Hospital in Tacoma. That's how she's keeping busy helping out during this pandemic.



Linda Selsor tried to capture the sense of being caught in that amorphous time between what we knew before and the unknown ahead, being in the fuzzy now. "This piece may not be done; we are not done. It's a work in progress. I think I may call it *The Space Between*."

Support Groups Meeting Via ZOOM

In April the Abstract, Acrylic and Watercolor Support Groups met compliments of Zoom. Members attended introductory sessions where they learned how to join a Zoom meeting, navigate menu options and share photos of their artwork. Then they put their training to the test in April. Despite some initial glitches, it proved to be a great way to share art and catch up.



Support groups in May will again be conducted via Zoom. To receive a meeting invitation, please check in with the support group lead (listed on page 4).

If you'd like to try Zoom and learn how to navigate the program, contact Linda Selsor at Lselsor@msn.com or (360) 491-0377 and she'll set up an introductory session.

Bonsai Wok Teriyaki restaurant was robbed on April first. None of the OAL art was stolen or damaged but many items were stolen. They have hosted OAL art shows for over 15 years. Please support this small, locally owned business located in the Safeway shopping plaza at the intersection of Cleveland and Capital Way. They are open for takeout; call (360) 753-0719.



South Sound

Urban Sketchers

Date & Time: 2nd Saturday of every month 10:30 AM —12:30 PM, next meet up is **May 9th**.

Location: Vernetta Smith Chehalis Timberland Library, 400 North Market Boulevard, Chehalis. Tour maps and a smart phone app will be available. Bring your mask!

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

OAL Board & Committee or Activity Leads

President: Rick Drescher

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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 Wok: 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

360-481-7643



**Taking orders!
12-4 Tue-Sat**

Keep local business alive...

OLYPHANT OFFERS DELIVERY AND PICKUP

Olyphant Art Supply, located at 119 5th Ave. SE, is open for business and taking orders. Email your art supply order to olyphantartsupply@gmail.com WITH YOUR PHONE NUMBER ATTACHED; they will let you know when it's ready for pick up. 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.

Teresa Marie Staal-Cowley is raising money for our own local art supply store, Olyphant Art and Media, through the sale of her ArtsAliveEncinitas banner shown in at right. To place a bid call 760-473-5164 on banner number 14 until June 12th. You can see all the banners online at ArtsAliveEncinitas.com. All bids start at \$150.00 with 50% going to the 101 Artists Colony for costs and the remainder to the artists. Teresa will donate her share to Olyphant.



OlyFed | BANKING THAT'S MUTUAL

And a shout out to... Olympia Federal Savings and Loan Association for their generosity.

When we returned their sponsorship check for the canceled ArtsWalk, they sent it back saying please keep the donation. "We hope this support helps your organization in these trying times." THANK YOU

JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Wednesday, May 20th

We don't usually have a newsletter in June but, this year will be an exception. Hopefully we can schedule our usual summer events like the Paint Outs and sign up to help out at the Thurston County Fair. This special edition newsletter will be our chance to catch up as we emerge from social distancing.

Please send your articles, photos, announcements & ideas for the **June** newsletter to Linda Selsor.

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

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