



A cheery collage from
 Karla Fowler



Ruth Fuller's delightful scene
 chasing bubbles



Two of our chocolate themed takes on "Joy"— left Ruth Fuller's
 and right Martha Trupp's.



Pizza brings Martha Trupp
 joy.



At right, Linda Selsor's
 abstract whimsy

Finding Joy in Scary Times

Each month the Acrylic Support Group paints a challenge. The challenge for the month is drawn from a bag of ideas submitted from members. We all kind of groaned when the challenge for September turned out to be "Joy." How do you paint joy when it seems in such short supply of late?

Our members rose to the challenge and had fun while they were at it. Turns out food, particularly chocolate, was the favorite theme. And, we could find joy and laughter despite all the uncertainty surrounding us.

The challenges keep us on our toes and can provide motivation when we're feeling stuck. We may not have any other paintings to show the group, but at least we can share our takes on the monthly theme. Themes vary from the realistic to conceptual—we've painted everything from bunnies and birds to boundaries and time-outs.

Stepping outside our normal subject matter and trying something unique and different can create the space to play and enjoy the process perhaps even more than the product. It can be very liberating. We don't critique our challenge paintings, but we do get a kick out of seeing all the different approaches artists can take on the same theme.

Karla Fowler is the lead for the Acrylic Support Group. If you'd like to join us, contact Karla at nwnxart@comcast.net.

Where do you find Joy?

Since many OAL members aren't part of a support group, we thought it might be fun to offer a monthly challenge to all OAL members. The holiday season is typically a time of celebration and joy so we thought it would be fun to see how other members are finding joy. You'll have two months to work on the theme. Submit your Joy paintings to lselsor@msn.com by the January newsletter deadline—Dec. 21st. We'll share your joy paintings on the OAL Facebook page and add a new feature to the newsletter showing some of your paintings. Have ideas for a monthly theme? Submit them to Linda and she'll draw one each month.



Ramblings

Do we control our art, or does it control us? I'm obsessed with creating art almost every day—from sketching in my sketchbooks, to seeing what my next painting will be. Then, I'm on to creating those paintings and videotaping them.

When I chat with those that participate in the support groups, I listen to what they have to say about their art experiences. Monthly art challenges keep us engaged and give us something to work on if we find ourselves staring at a blank piece of paper or canvas. For most of us art is a hobby, but some of us want it to be more. I think this is where our art controls us.

During this time when we are encouraged to stay home and be safe, depression can creep in and take inspiration from us. This is a great time to take control of our art and try to produce even if it's just a simple sketch. From this tiny seed of inspiration something bigger can grow. This can lift us out of depression and into a better frame of mind. I know that I fight depression every day because of the inability to meet my art friends and family of the Olympia Art League in person. I encourage those of you who are able, to consider joining one of the Zoom group meetings. If you are not sure how to do this, we can help. All you need to do is ask. This is one of the best things about our Olympia Art League, the willingness to help one another. These groups uplift and energize us.

I would like to remind you we are in our membership drive season. With the money from the membership dues, we plan to purchase a nice audio/video system to replace the old reverse mirror to improve the guest speakers' demonstrations. And, everyone in the audience will have a better view.

In the meantime, stay safe and create art. I miss you all.

Rick



Don't forget...

It's Time to Pay OAL Membership Dues

Beat the rush; renew your OAL membership before the end of the year. The cost for a year's membership in the Olympia Art League is only **\$30**. Membership is for a calendar year, so your current membership will expire at the end of 2020. Please mail your check to: Olympia Art League, PO Box 404, Olympia, WA 98507, ATTN: Tony Lirette.

Inspiration in Small Things

Ruth Fuller is a fan of author and blogger Domingue Browning. She's been following her since her days as editor of *House and Garden* magazine. She found this particular quote very meaningful for this time in our lives.

"I find I am less and less drawn to 'spectacular nature'—landscapes on a large scale, whose power I recognize, but whose grandeur does little to move me. I'm not often in spectacular nature—you have to fly there, or drive there or climb there, or sail there. It is usually out there, over the horizon, beyond an ocean, up on a mountain, beyond my time frame. I'm glad it is there, but it doesn't mean that much to me in my daily life.

"I am more drawn to *small nature*. Everyday nature, in our backyards, or along median strips on highways, or in vacant lots in derelict neighborhoods. Small, but spectacularly beautiful. Nature right in front of us...nature that beckons: just notice, and fall into love. Somehow I think it is small nature that becomes most meaningful to us; small nature that leads the way into cherishing the large world."



Dominique Browning

To learn more about Dominique Browning, her inspirational blog and books, check out her website:

<http://www.dominiquebrowning.com/about.html>



GETTING ACQUAINTED

Introducing...

Sally Davis

Sally describes herself as “a newish member of OAL”, although, as she says, “I have been in the art game for nearly 70 years. About 12 years ago I moved from the Chicago area, where I finished a BFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago some 30 years after an art history major in college. Since I am no longer a painter, I hesitated to join OAL, which was a big mistake.”



“I can thank technology for finally enabling me to realize my vision of merging pieces of reality within an abstract idea. I think of my work as visual music, where the elements of the piece merge into a whole which can work on more than one level. For many years I tried to make this concept of excavating form work in many media, but only the computer makes all the pieces I need available to me.”



When asked about her technique, Sally said, “It is a blended photo image with some drawing and color layers. I think there are parts of about seven images

in there. I do use my own images--I don't feel right about stock images for my work.”

Sally is a welcome addition to the Abstract Support Group. Her images and creative process are stunning and unique.

Contributed by Lindsey Ford

Support Group Meetings Via zoom

The abstract, acrylic and watercolor support groups meet monthly via Zoom. To receive a meeting invitation, check in with the support group lead listed on page four and consult our new directory for their contact information.



South Sound Urban Sketchers

Until further notice all of the meetups for the Sketchers are suspended. We will be issuing a challenge each month for the second Saturday (our normal meeting day) to everyone to post a sketch that relates to the Urban Sketchers' manifesto and keeps to the challenge theme.

Instagram or post your sketches to the Facebook page or the Google Group for South Sound Urban Sketchers and check out what everyone else contributed while you are there.

Contact: Cheryl Wilson at cwilson3250@gmail.com



FUTURES RISING

A Celebration of Black Artists in the Olympia Community - Curated by Theresa "Momma Tee" Yost.

October 5th - December 11th, 2020

The Leonor R. Fuller Gallery is very pleased to present this timely and poignant exhibition on display in the Leo Fuller Gallery. Artist portfolios and live streamed artist talks and performances will post to the Leo Fuller Gallery exhibition webpage until December 11th.

The exhibition and all streamed content will be archived on the Leo Fuller Gallery webpage. **Contact the Leo Fuller Gallery Monday through Friday 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm:** sbarnes2@spscc.edu or call (360) 596-5572. Gallery visits available by appointment only. Check the website at <https://spscc.edu/gallery>



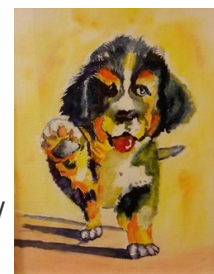
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OAL Sponsored Shows:
Members Only Art Show: Heather Simons—Canceled
Arts Walk Juried Show: Canceled
County Fair Art Show: Diana Fairbanks, Kay Tolles—Canceled
Local OAL Art Show Venues:
Bonsai Wok: Anne-Marie Brown
Capitol Chiropractic: Lone Moody
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: Vacant
Paint-In Night: Karen Bush
Support Groups:
Abstract: Lindsey Ford
Acrylic: Karla Fowler
Drawing: Rick Drescher
Watercolor: JoAnne Sanford, Ruth Fuller

Check Out Workshops and Classes Available Online...

Internationally known artists and art instructors are putting on numerous on-line courses these days. OAL member Martha Trupp has been taking full advantage of the opportunities and “highly recommends them.” She is in the process of taking some from Tom Lynch who has three, three-hour classes each month. He concentrates on various watercolor techniques for landscapes. The total cost for these is about \$150.00 or \$65.00 each.

Martha also plans to sign up with the Mendocino Art Center to take classes with David Lobenberg who does watercolor pet portraiture in the California Vibe Style. She has recently taken one of Robert Burridge’s courses focusing on acrylic loosening up. And she is also looking into courses offered by Birgit O’Connor.



Martha points out that “online courses are a real advantage cost-wise because you don’t have airline fare, motel and meal costs. And the classes cost less than the normal three to five-day workshops. There are advantages for the instructor and the student—the instructor can teach more students at once, and the student can do it from home.”

“If you can afford it and want to learn, it’s a great opportunity to get help from an expert in a certain area of art and have your own art evaluated too. It might be one way to get revived and stay motivated to do art.” Check out the links below:

- Mendocino Art Center —www.mendocinoartcenter.org/classes
- Robert Burridge—www.robertburridge.com/Workshops/schedule.html
- Tom Lynch—www.tomlynch.com/internet_classes.cfm
- Birgit O’Connor—birgitoconnor.com/online-courses

Paintings produced in online classes and article contributed by Martha Trupp

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE **Monday, December 21st**

Please send your kudos, photos, announcements and ideas for the **January** newsletter to Linda Selsor via email—lselsor@msn.com. If you have questions give her a call at (360) 491-0377

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