



Ann Breckon Presents... Gouache Resist Technique

Ann will demonstrate the gouache resist technique—the whole process—explain secrets to the technique, and answer questions. Her enthusiasm is bound to be infectious. Ann says, "For this presentation we will be playing with this intriguing watercolor technique. It is so fun! White gouache is used as a removable masking medium over which black India ink is brushed. When the gouache is washed off, distinctive black edging, intriguing textures and a striking background are revealed, and then you paint!"

Ann began watercolor study in 1982 as a break from tending her infant twins, but art in many other forms has always been an important part of her life. Beginning watercolor was the only class being taught at the local community college, so Ann continued being a "beginner" for more than two years. Aside from those classes she has never studied formally, saying, "I learn from every book I read, every painting I study, from my artist friends, at the demonstrations held at society meetings, and from the great students in my classes. Also, every painting I do has something new to teach me. The adventure never ends."

Her serious focus on art began in the Fall of 1993 when her art was accepted into local galleries and shows. Since then, she has participated in numerous solo and group shows and both local and national exhibitions. Ann has won many awards, juried shows, teaches workshops, and is a signature member of both the National Watercolor Society of America and the Northwest Watercolor Society.



To learn more about Ann and her art, check out her informative webpage, complete with tips. Here's her contact information:

Email: annbreckon@gmail.com
Website: www.annbreckon.com
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/annbreckonfineart/>
Facebook: [Ann Breckon Fine Art](https://www.facebook.com/AnnBreckonFineArt)

Don't miss our first live demo via Zoom!



Want to attend the Zoom monthly meeting?

The invitation to the meeting on the 18th will be sent by email to those on our membership distribution list. New to Zoom or just want to pick up some tips on extra Zoom tools you can use in larger meetings? Contact Linda Selsor at lselsor@msn.com to schedule some time together.



February's speaker....

Barbara DePirro

We all know Barbara as the N.W. representative for Golden Artist Colors. She has shown us the magic of using Golden's mediums, gels, and paints. This month, Barbara shared some of her personal art with us. She disassembles ordinary things and reassembles them into sculptures based on her love of nature. She uses recycled plastic jugs, bags, bottle caps, reclaimed paper, wire, and acrylic paint. Barbara uses milk jugs cut into ¼" wide spirals which are formed into long hanging kelp. Beautifully painted paper is cut into petals, bonded with mesh and crocheted onto wire backing to create petal wreaths. Plastic bags are twisted, reinforced with wire, painted, and shaped as vines. There is no glue used in her processes; pieces are reinforced and shapes are formed with crocheted wire. Each piece can take hundreds of hours to create.

Being Creative During the Lockdown

It's been a long time since we've all been able to get together in person. Being with other artists helps fuel our artistic drive. Using the Zoom app to meet and share our art is great, but it is not a substitute for physically being with our friends.

I know for some it's been a difficult time staying inspired and creating art. But, it's also an opportunity to really put ourselves into our art. Being creative has a lot of benefits and the biggest one, at least for me, is the way it helps battle depression. I think I've become even more obsessive with my need to create my Strange Critters. Not that I needed the extra incentive.

The joy I have in my creations is greatly increased by how much joy they bring to others. For most of us we paint what we like and if we are happy with our art that is great. But when others like our art, it's a fantastic boost to our morale. Nothing brings me as much joy as hearing that I brought a smile and a laugh to someone when they viewed one of my Strange Critters. I do paint other subjects and I enjoy them just as much.

If you need a boost or a gentle nudge with your art, please think about joining one of OAL's many support groups and check out the new groups starting up. I will leave you with one of my Strange Critters; I hope it makes you smile.



The finished pieces are displayed indoors and outdoors, temporary and permanent. One temporary installation was a sculpture of vines carefully wound around live trees. One of her 20-foot-tall sculptures was mounted on a light post outside Bellevue's Art Museum (shown above). Her sculptures have been displayed in museums, galleries, sculpture parks, art centers and public art organizations.

Barbara teaches workshops and can be reached on her website <https://DePirroStudios.com>. Also see her work at: <https://www.facebook.com/DePirroStudio> and <https://www.instagram.com/DePirroStudio>. You can contact Barbara at depirroart@gmail.com.

Contributed by Ruth Fuller

Share Your Art at the March Meeting!



Artist: Sherie Balko Nation
Title: Moonlight Sway
Medium: Acrylic
Size: 16" by 20"

The slide show of OAL member art was a big hit at the February meeting, but we would love to see even more member art in March. To participate simply send a photo of the work you would like to share along with the title, medium and size to [Linda Selsor](mailto:Lselsor@msn.com) at: Lselsor@msn.com by **Monday, March 15th**.

Art Appreciation Book Group Forming

Game for talking about art and artists? Martha Trupp is organizing an art book group for OAL members. The organizing meeting will be Wednesday, March 10th at 7 PM. Contact Martha for the Zoom invitation (360) 438-5913 or email her at: marthdt@comcast.net.



During the first meeting we'll talk about how we want to structure the group, themes, and select book titles. Do we want to read based on monthly themes? Do we want to choose monthly themes for the year? Do we want to concentrate on biographies? Do we want to find our own books? What day and time of month is good? Bring your ideas to the first meeting. Interested in abstract, impressionism, modern, women artists, cubism, sculpture, Asian, German, Dutch, colonial, or whatever; over time we can cover it. Martha already has a couple of recruits.

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FRIDAY, March 19, 2021

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



Calling all pastel artists!

Whether you are a beginner or advanced, studio painter or plein air painter, you are invited to our new group of five painters and growing! Our next meeting is **Wednesday, March 3rd at 9 AM via zoom**. Our topic is viridian green...paint anything you like; just use some or a lot of viridian green. Marz Doerflinger will facilitate our sharing and suggestions. Contact Lorna Sheveland at lsheve@comcast.net for more information. The photo shown is of Lorna bundled up when she and some intrepid friends were plein air painting when it was really cold!

Support Group Meetings Via

zoom

The abstract, acrylic, drawing, pastel 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 directory for their contact information.



Want to keep hearing from us?

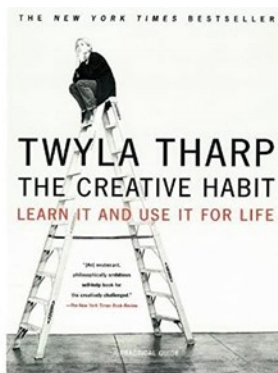
The deadline for 2021 OAL membership dues has passed. We'll update the membership list. Only current members will continue to get the newsletter and regular announcements. To maintain your membership and stay on the OAL mailing list, please mail your **\$30** check to: Olympia Art League, PO Box 404, Olympia, WA 98507, ATTN: Tony Lirette.



OAL Board & Activity Leads

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Website Gallery: Rick Drescher
OAL Sponsored Shows:
Members Only Art Show: Heather Simons—Canceled
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
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: Linda Selsor
Acrylic: Karla Fowler
Drawing: Rick Drescher
Pastel: Lorna Sheveland
Watercolor: JoAnne Sanford, Ruth Fuller
Zoom Manager: Linda Selsor

Art Book Review...



The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It for Life by Twyla Tharp

Do you ever complain that you just can't get started on an art project? Or, you get started, stop and then let your project languish until you put it on the discard stack? If those blocks and others happen to you, The Creative Habit might have some answers.

Twyla Tharp's premise is that, "Creativity is a habit, and the best creativity is a result of good work habits. That's it in a nutshell." The book is loaded with 32 practical exercises based on what the author has learned in her 50 year career. The exercises are fun, accessible and doable for both the beginning and advanced artist.

In "Where's Your Pencil?" Tharp reminds you to observe the world and get it down on paper. In "Coins and Chaos," she gives you an easy way to restore order and peace. In "Do a Verb," she turns your mind and body into coworkers.

A personal note: I read this book in 2009 when I first ventured into art and have used pieces of it in my work since then. Today, the book speaks to me again and I plan to read it with a new eye. Her latest book is Keep It Moving: Lessons for the Rest of Your Life, 2019.

Review provided by Lorna Sheveland

If you have a favorite art book that you'd like to share with the group let Linda Selsor know at lselsor@msn.com.

2021 Southwest Washington Regional Juried Exhibition Submission Deadline: May 7, 2021



The Southwest Washington Juried Exhibition is organized by The Leonor R. Fuller Gallery at the Kenneth J Minnaert Center for the Arts on the campus of South Puget Sound Community College. Artists working in all media and residing in Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, or Wahkiakum counties are invited to submit an entry for consideration. For the prospectus and more information about the show go to:

[Leonor R. Fuller Gallery](http://leonor.r.fuller.gallery) | [South Puget Sound Community College \(spscc.edu\)](http://SouthPugetSoundCommunityCollege.spscc.edu)

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