

**February OAL Monthly Meeting Presenter is
 Judith Gebhard Smith**

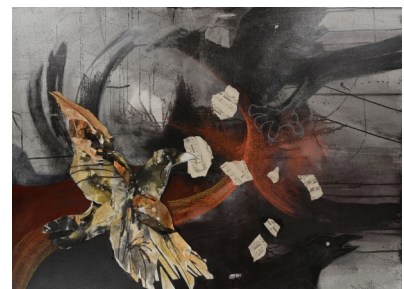
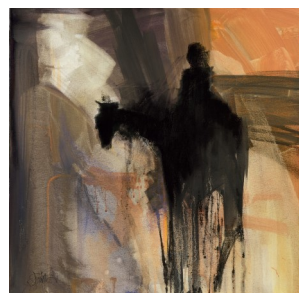
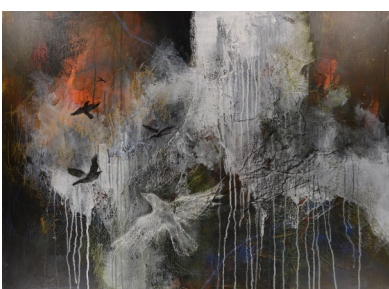
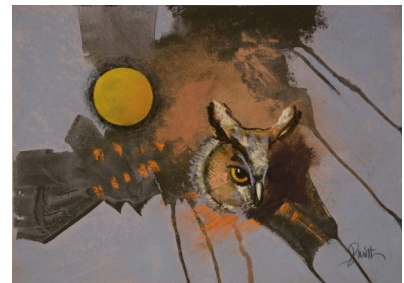
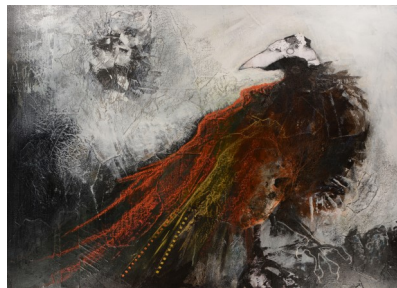
Judith Smith will be our February OAL presenter. She will present a pastel demonstration live at our meeting. For those confined to home, you will be able to watch her demonstration through Zoom.



Judith’s educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Art History from the University of Pittsburgh, and a graduate degree in Art as Applied to Medicine from the University of Toronto. She began her professional life as an artist in 1965, as the medical artist for the Faculty of Medicine, McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. This first career included black and white illustrations for books, journals, and various teaching materials for medical residents. It also encompassed now antique analog animation techniques for the creation of medical teaching films, as well as design and construction of traveling medical exhibits. A strong interest in the pairing of art and science projects led her to spend almost twenty years exploring all aspects of printmaking. Health concerns caused her to find another avenue of interest. She turned to neon sculpture with found objects. Then, approximately fifteen years ago, searching for something that might be more marketable to support her studio, she discovered pastel, and more recently – encaustic, which have become more satisfying both for her soul, and her creditors.

Judith is fortunate enough to enjoy a lifestyle suffused with activities that include river running, backpacking, scuba diving and world travel, which bring her into close contact with the wild creatures that she loves, and offers her the opportunity to celebrate them in pastel.

Judith holds signature membership and “distinguished pastelist” status in the Northwest Pastel Society, and signature memberships in the Pastel Society of America, Pastel Society of the West Coast, and Knickerbocker Artists, New York. She also maintains juried membership in Women Painters of Washington and The Society of Animal Artists, New York.



President's Message

Hello and happy new year.

Hopefully you have all managed to find time to create during the holidays.

The Members' Only Show is coming soon. The drop off is at Fieldstone, 810 Fieldstone Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502 on January 29th from 11:00-1:00. The show opens on Monday, January 30th.

OAL wants to thank Sherie' Balko-Nation for arranging this show for us and also to Karen Bush and Birdie O'Neil for offering their help on the intake of your art.

Remember this is a people's choice show and the Fieldstone residents greatly enjoy their part in the process and we appreciate you for participating by showing your art.

The awards will be presented at our February meeting. First place is \$100, second place is \$50 and third place is \$25. Good luck!

Pick up is Sunday, February 26th from 11:00-1:00, outside Fieldstone's door as before with the drop off.

Next up is the juried show in April. We don't have any specific dates as of yet. This show requires a lot of planning and quite a number of volunteers to be successful. Thankfully, we have Roxana Caples and Nicki Weber at the wheel so we are in good hands. Please remember to help them out and volunteer wherever you can. Volunteers keep OAL functioning and vital.



Heather McDougall



GETTING ACQUAINTED

Introducing- Melissa Ward



I am a mom and Registered Nurse. I have lived in the Olympia area most of my life.

Before I joined the Olympia Art League, I had never known anyone else who painted. It has been such a blessing to have a group of passionate artists to share ideas and knowledge with. I joined OAL in November of 2022, after searching for a community of artists in the Olympia area for years.

I have drawn since I was a child. I started painting with oils in 2017 and immediately fell in love! My favorite subjects to paint are portraits and animals. I find inspiration from my kids, my friends, and art from the renaissance era, especially da Vinci's portraits. I often use my camera to capture images for reference and consider my style to be more realism or traditional. Joining a gallery and creating a website are my goals for 2023.

- Contributed by Lindsey Ford





OLYMPIA ART LEAGUE NEW WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED!

[Membership](#)

[Activities](#)

[Member Gallery](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Resources](#)

The new OAL website has launched. Much of the same information is available from the old website. The beauty of this new site is that it has new photos with a clear and colorful interface and is easy to use and access. The URL for the OAL website will remain the same and can be accessed at:

www.olympiaartleague.com.

We would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to Christi McGinley for historically maintaining the old website and working so hard to create the new Squarespace website. Christi is stepping down as Webmaster. We are so grateful for her years of service in this capacity. April Works has temporarily volunteered to maintain the website along with Karla Fowler as her backup until a new Webmaster comes forward.

We are asking for volunteers to maintain the website. If you would like to help out in this capacity, you will be trained. It has a user friendly interface and is easy to use. A job description for Webmaster will be coming soon. For more information on this, please contact April Works at aprilworks@gmail.com.



Olympia Art League Monthly Hybrid Meetings!

Olympia Art League will be hosting our 2023 Thursday, February 16th monthly meeting beginning at 6:30 pm, at the Lacey Community Center. It is located at Woodland Creek Community Park. 6729 Pacific Ave. S.E. Lacey, WA.

The meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom, which will allow people to come to the Lacey Center or stay at home and attend via Zoom if preferred.

Bring your paintings to share at the Community Center and/or send photos of your art work by February 11th to Cynthia Walker at clwalker@comcast.net to have your work included in the PowerPoint presentation.



January's OAL Meeting and Guest Speaker's Review With Lian Quan Zhen



Lian Quan Zhen was our January featured artist. He is a well-known artist and teacher of both Chinese watercolor and standard watercolor materials and techniques. His art is influenced by his Chinese art background. His work is in many museums and private collections, and he juries shows internationally. He has published several instructional books. He also teaches classes and holds workshops on Zoom. A full list of materials is on his website. Also, in his book *Journeys* many of the techniques of Chinese painting are described.

When it is completed, Lian Quan Zhen will generously give OAL the watercolor painting of grapes, which was started during his demonstration.

WATERCOLOR: First, Lian demonstrated the watercolor techniques using only three colors: Antwerp Blue, Winsor Yellow, and Pyrrole Red. Winsor Newton and M. Graham are the main brands used. He only uses these three colors throughout the painting, mixing them as needed for secondary and tertiary colors. The specific blue, yellow or red may change, but not this combination. For example, he may substitute phthalo blue for Antwerp blue, yet always keeping to the primary color format. Lian prefers Arches 140lb Cold Press Watercolor Paper.

Initially he finger-painted the shapes and moved color on the paper to form grapes. He splashed other colors for the stems and leaves. He suggested using paints without heavy metals as a safety measure. When adding the colors, he doesn't mix them very much, letting the colors blend on the paper. Instead of "pushing the colors around" on the paper, he guides the color using a brush, adding water, or tilting the paper. "Colors are like teenagers. The more you push them around, the more they resist acting as you want them to." He then splattered paint onto the paper, introducing some purple and green mixed from the original three colors. This step added depth and value to the work.

Next, the grapes were defined first using the negative painting approach. He used watercolor to define the form, shape, and space of the individual grapes. Remember that some grapes are in front, and some behind the forms. Think in terms of layers and let each layer dry before continuing to paint. Then, for the leaves, he used blue and green, improvising the shapes. He defined some of the vines. "It is not necessary to put in the whole shape." Suggest edges using more color and brief strokes."

CHINESE WATERCOLOR: Subjects are primarily fish, birds, other animals, and landscapes. The paints are used very liquid and resemble a cross between opaque gouache and transparent watercolor. These paints are not as transparent as watercolor, but more transparent than gouache. Many colors are used in Chinese painting. He uses rice paper. Rice paper readily absorbs the paint.

The subject was three rabbits in honor of the Chinese New year, the year of the rabbit. In Chinese painting, the essence of the subject is the focus, instead of an exact likeness or portrait of the subject. The forms and shapes are suggested, not exactly defined.

First, he very lightly sketched the image onto the paper. He used the lower and upper sections of a Chinese brush loaded with two colors to create lines and strokes forming the bodies of the rabbits. He painted the eye first on each rabbit, then added lines and used strokes to further define the shapes. He painted the rabbits one at a time. With a few deft strokes, each animal appeared.

- Contributed by Deborah Cornett

Kudo's

Cynthia Walker's artwork "Vermillion Cliffs" has been accepted into a juried show of Washington artists at the Collective Visions Gallery in Bremerton. The show can be viewed online or in person through February 24th. The link to the on-line show is:
[The 2023 CVG Show](#)



Birdie O'Neill's artwork "Sea Anemone, Red" has also been accepted into the juried show of Washington artists at the Collective Visions Gallery in Bremerton.



Mia Schulte's painting, "Next Journey" was also accepted into the Collective Visions Gallery juried exhibition.



**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2023
NEWSLETTER
IS SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 2023.**

Please send your kudos, photos, announcements and ideas for the **NEXT** newsletter to Terri Johnson via email—mtjpublishers@msn.com. If you have questions give Terri a call or text at (360) 280-4617



Pastel Group Leader: We are in need of a lead for the Pastel Monthly Group. Contact Lorna Sheveland at lsheve@comcast.net if you are interested in doing this. She can tell you what the job entails.

Webmaster: Receive artwork from members wishing to post on OAL website. Convert photos to acceptable requirements. Keep website current with updates. Contact April Works for the Webmaster job description details if you are interested in volunteering, aprilworks@gmail.com.

Program Chair: Arrange monthly OAL presentations

New venue search:

Search out new venues for our members to hang their work.

Please, consider volunteering,
 Heather McDougall OAL Acting President
 Contact: 360-742-4667
2stannheather@gmail.com



Think Tank Tuesday

Think Tank is the second Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. at Haggan's Grocery on the westside. All are welcome to attend. Put your thinking caps on and join us to socialize, talk art, and think up terrific ideas to make OAL a more amazing art club.

OAL Membership Renewal is Due Now for 2023!

The League is accepting renewals for the calendar year 2023. Send a check for \$30.00/person and/or \$60.00/couple to: OAL, 700 Sleater-Kinney Road **Suite B331**, Lacey, WA 98503. Please indicate any change in address, phone or email. If you have questions about membership renewal, please contact Lindsey Ford at lindsey4d@comcast.net.

OAL Artist Support Groups

Join one of OAL's support groups via Zoom. Bring a work for gentle, constructive feedback and try your hand at the month's challenge. We'll teach you how to share a photo of your work on Zoom or you can simply hold it up in front of the camera. We also talk about classes, books, artists or teachers that have inspired us. All experience levels are welcome. All mediums are welcome in the Abstract Group. Regular meeting times are listed below. Check in with the contact person to get added to the group's e-mail list and the Zoom invitation to the meetings.

Abstract Group

Date & Time: Meets the *third Monday* of each month. The next meeting is February 20th from 1:30 to 3:00 PM via Zoom.

Contact: Linda Selsor via email at selsor@msn.com if you would like to be added to the group's invitation list.

The challenge for February is "Orange".

All mediums, beginners and curiosity seekers are welcome. Join us and bring your challenge and another painting to share. We will be meeting via Zoom until otherwise noted.

Shown: January "in the pink" challenge by Anne-Marie Brown



Watercolor Group

Date & Time: Meets the *second Friday* of each month. The next meeting is February 10th from 1:00 to 2:30 PM at the Lacey Fire Station, 6500 Mullen Road SE. Those confined to Zoom only may use our Forever Zoom Room at the same day and time we meet at the Fire Station.

Contact: Heather McDougall at 2stannheather@gmail.com

The challenge for February is "Texture".

Shown: January "sailboat" challenge by Dennis Gough



Acrylic Group

Date & Time: Meets the *fourth Friday* of each month. The next meeting is February 24th from 1:00 to 2:30. The group has voted to continue with Zoom meetings for now.

Contact: Karla Fowler at nwnx-art@comcast.net for questions or to be added to the invitation reminder list.

Shown: January "flower arrangement" challenge by Anne-Marie Brown



En Plein Air is Coming Back

Jane King and Jean Stewart volunteered to organize our fair weather paint-outs. This year we are planning for Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. We are asking members to submit YOUR IDEAS FOR LOCATIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO PAINT. We will make the arrangements, including your suggestions, if possible. Access to a restroom at or close to the place is very helpful. Send your ideas to Jane King and Jean Stewart to jeanmstewart@comcast.net no later than March 15th.



OAL Board & Activity Leads

Acting President: Heather McDougall

Acting Vice President: Sherie Balko-Nation

Secretary: Anne-Marie Brown

Treasurer: April Works

Members at Large: Karla Fowler, Jan Hansen & Martha Trupp

Communications Chair: Ruth Bravetti

Graphic Designer: Jan Hansen

Membership Chair: Lindsey Ford

Newsletter Editor: Terri Johnson

Nominating Committee: Dennis Gough, Veronica Kessler & Annabel Kirschner

PowerPoint: Cynthia Walker & Terri Johnson

Program Chair:

Zoom Masters: Melissa Ward, Terri Johnson, Dano Carver

Web Master: April Works, Karla Fowler

Juried Show Mentor: Roxana Caples

OAL Sponsored Shows:

Members Only Art Show: Sherie Balko-Nation, Karen Bush, Birdie O'Neil

Arts Walk Juried Show: Collette Mason, Kathleen Guest, Roxana Caples

County Fair Art Show: Dann Morris, Dennis Gough, Terri Johnson

OAL Local Art Show Venues:

Bonsai Wok: Anne-Marie Brown

TRA Medical Imaging: Jan Hansen

Painting Get Togethers:

Paint-Out Day: Jean Stewart & Jane King

Paint-Out Night For Summer: Karen Bush

Paint-In Night: Karen Bush

Support Groups:

Abstract: Linda Selsor

Acrylic: Karla Fowler

Pastel :

Watercolor: Heather McDougall



ARTISTS' GALLERY

Welcome The Artist Gallery's newest member and treat yourself to hand weaving at its best. Julie uses the highest quality materials such as cashmere, alpaca, linen ,bamboo and silk to weave beautiful capes and scarves. She is also an abstract painter and graduate of The Rhode Island School of Design.

Visit your local artists

Artist Julie Simpson has joined The Artists' Gallery

360-357-6920
Info@theartistsgallery.com
www.theartistsgallery.com

@the_artistsgallery

OPEN
Wed to Sat from 10:00pm-7:00pm
Sunday from 12:00pm-5:00pm

The Artists' Gallery

Capital Mall Promenade 2505 4th Ave W, Suite 105 Olympia, WA 98502

Olympia Art League Newsletter

*"An official publication of the
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Editor: Terri Johnson

Contributors: Members of the Olympia Art League

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