

Inspirational Column

As an artist, have you ever said I just can't do this, or this is just too hard, and I will never get better. Sometimes we are the hardest on ourselves and don't give ourselves enough credit for our progress. This edition of the newsletter shows the wonderful progress of our art league members trying and succeeding in their artwork. The following is a short story of an artist who had shoulder surgery recently but still wanted to paint. Read her short story and be inspired. Who knows, it may also happen to you. You don't have to quit. Try doing your artwork with your non-dominant hand or your toes or your mouth. Just don't give up, work hard, and move ahead. You will be successful.

This is Susan Turley's short story.

"This summer I had surgery on my right shoulder and could not paint as I am right-handed. So, I decided to experiment painting with my left, non-dominant hand. I found it freeing, fun and informative. It brought out my inner child as I began to remember painting at a young age with my mom. She taught me how to draw and paint. It was fun feeling the lightness of childhood again this summer. Here are three of my left-handed paintings." - Susan Turley



"Sun Behind Trees"



"Flowers"



"Butterfly in Motion"

President's Message

Summer went by way too quickly! I know that is a trite statement, but it is so true. It's already time to kick off another season for the Olympia Art League. Thursday, September 21st will be the first monthly art league meeting after our summer hiatus. We will once again be at the Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Ave. SE Lacey, WA, starting at 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm. Remember to bring your art to share.

Because we have not had any volunteers for the Zoom Master Chairman, we will not be providing Zoom at the September meeting. The OAL board will be addressing this issue at our next meeting on September 11th. Then we can discuss it together at the OAL meeting on the 14th.

Also at the September monthly meeting, we will be nominating a three-member nominating committee. This committee will be nominating OAL officers for 2024. The offices that are open are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. They are all two-year terms and will begin in January 2024.

We will be discussing other OAL chairs that need to be filled and our need for volunteers from our membership.

At our October monthly meeting the committee will announce the nominations. We will hold the elections at our November meeting. Please, consider volunteering.

We want to give huge kudos to Dann Morris for chairing our Thurston County Fair Art Show this year. He did a wonderful job. Diana Fairbanks mentored him through it all and it was a great success. Thank you, Dann and Diana. Thanks to all the many OAL volunteers that came out to help with the art show. These events can happen when we have volunteers.

We have a new Peoples' Choice art show venue. Tumwater invited us to hang a show during their new Tumwater Fall Festival. Artwork will be displayed at the Tumwater Library from September 18th through September 29th. The library is located at 7023 New Market St. SW, Tumwater, WA.

We are all looking forward to another eventful OAL season but again, we can't make it happen without you as volunteers. Please, consider volunteering.

Heather McDougall



Zoom Help Wanted: OAL needs a volunteer or 2, that will take over setting up the zooming at each monthly meeting.

The job entails use of the OAL laptop, linking it to the center's sound and projector system, monitoring Zoom connection during the meetings and custody of the equipment.

The new volunteer(s) will be mentored, and the Lacey Community center's staff is capable and willing to help.

Please, consider volunteering for this position.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Heather McDougall at 2stannheather@gmail.com.



Heather McDougall's Koi—watercolor on canvas was displayed and sold at the Thurston County Fair.

WHEN WE LAST MET - AUCTION PHOTOS



Thurston County Fair Recap

Many of our Olympia Art League members took part and were successful in winning awards at the Thurston County Fair Fine Arts Show. The following art works were submitted to the newsletter to share in their success.



“Clearing Skies Over 4th Avenue” watercolor by Dennis Gough won Best in Class.



“Cape Disappointment Lets Live Here” watercolor by Roberta Berger won first place.



“The Sly Fox” watercolor on canvas by Heather McDougall won second place.



“Splügen Pass Italy” watercolor by Nicki Weber won third place.

“Point-Counterpoint” pastel by Karen Bush won first place also Karen’s “Tumble 4 U” pastel won third place. No photos are available.

Thurston County Fair Recap



“Cat Nap” watercolor by Heather McDougall won Peoples Choice.



“Digital Art Horse” by Divina Clark won Best of Class.



“Space Odyssey” oil painting by Maryann Mathis won Peoples Choice.



“Young Kimba” pastel by Janette Stiles won Best of Class. No photo available.

Thurston County Fair Recap



"Organic Blast" watercolor by Rick Drescher won Honorable Mention.



"Surfing Twigg" watercolor By Terri Johnson won Honorable Mention.



Tango, In a Blue Dress acrylic by Anne-Marie Brown won Honorable Mention.



"Two Hens" acrylic by Dann Morris won Honorable Mention.



"Who's a Good Boy?" Pastel by Anne-Marie Brown won Honorable Mention.

Kudos

Cynthia Walker's mixed media collage "Against the Tide" was accepted into a juried show at Umpqua Valley Arts. The 2023 Artworks Northwest Biennial Exhibition was on display in July and August. Kudos Cynthia.



Derek Stinson had five paintings accepted for display in the Shelton Civic Center gallery this fall from September 5th through November 30th. Two paintings are shown below. Kudos Derek.



"Chimney Rock"



"Mt. Ellinor"

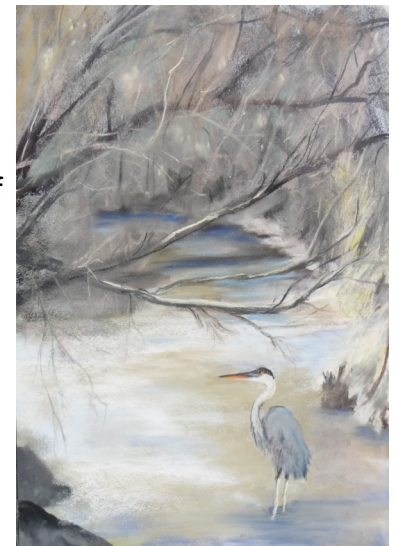


Dennis Gough's painting, "Surf King", was accepted into the Northwest Watercolor Society "2023 Waterworks" online show earlier this summer. Kudos Dennis.

This year has been a year of "Firsts" for **Divina Clark**. Below are photos from her first Fashion/Art Show at Gallery B612 in Seattle this past June. Kudos Divina.



Ellen Cholski's pastel "Waiting Wader", sold this summer at a juried art show, The Power of Pastels, at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona. Kudos Ellen.



Kudos Continued

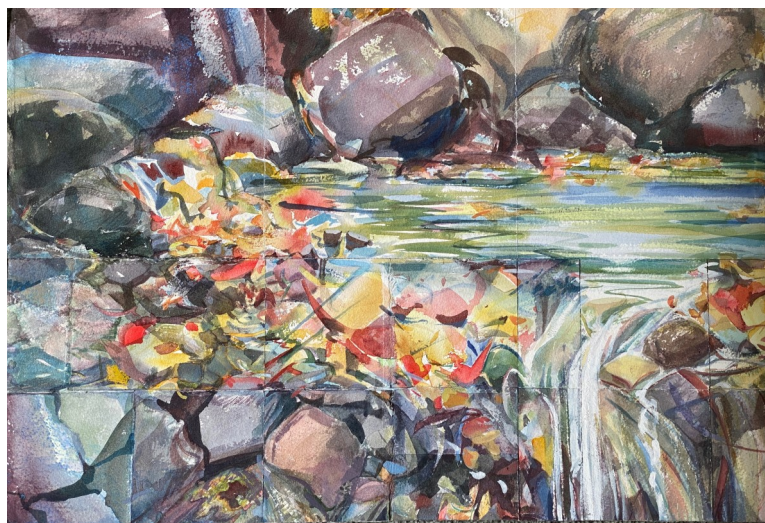
Amy Fisher has six watercolor collages in the “Restructured” show at Childhoods End Gallery through September 24th. Childhoods End Gallery is located at 222 4th Ave W Olympia. Their website is www.childhoods-end-gallery.com. Kudos Amy.



Amy also received a Merit award in June at the SW WA juried exhibition at the Leo Gallery SPSCC. Merit and purchase award winners will have a show there in March of 2024.



Shifting Ground series—“Yellow Stone” watercolor



Shifting Ground IV #3 watercolor collage



Karla Fowler created the illustration of the historic tugboat Chippewa for the Olympia Harbor Days logo. The logo is featured on event promotion materials, plus buttons, shirts, and hats for the Harbor Days Festival at Percival Landing on Labor Day weekend (September 1-3). Karla has also just completed two large (24”x36”) paintings of Chippewa, commissioned by the tug’s owner. A wooden tug, Chippewa is 85 feet long and was built in 1943. Kudos Karla.

The Artist Gallery Voted Best of South Sound!



We are thrilled to be voted #1 in the Art Gallery category in the **Best of South Sound!**

This year, *Best of South Sound* had over 2,000 businesses, organizations, and individuals competing to be named in the top three spots of 209 categories.

During voting, more than 164,000 votes were cast, an amazing response and a testament to how customers, fans, and friends feel about their favorite local businesses and the pride they have for the South Sound. We are so grateful to our loyal customers, artists, and visitors who cast their vote for us!

Thank you.
Mia Schulte

DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Send your kudos, photos, announcements and ideas for the **OCTOBER** newsletter by September 23rd to Terri Johnson via email—mtjpublishers@msn.com. If you have questions give Terri a call or text at (360) 280-4617

Olympia Art League 2023 Day Paint-Outs

Here is the schedule for the remaining paint-outs.

Meet at 10:00 a.m.; share your work with other artists at 12:30 p.m.

AUGUST 31 - PERCIVAL LANDING

Meet at Olympia Ave. NE near the Percival Landing Park, behind the parking lot across from the Olympia Center, paint on the boardwalk behind Bayview Thriftway, 516 4th Ave W, Olympia.

SEPTEMBER 7 - MUD BAY

Meet across from Buzz's Grill at 4935 Mud Bay Rd. NW From Highway 101 WEST, take 2nd Ave SW Exit. Sharp RIGHT onto Mud Bay Rd NW. Views of Mud Bay or walk up to Randall Preserve if it's hot. You can also paint at Fun Junk or Jay's Farm Stand, or across the freeway near the metal cows, a church, or a barn. Meet together for lunch at Buzz's or bring your lunch.

SEPTEMBER 14 - BOSTON HARBOR MARINA – 312 73rd Ave. NE

Take East Bay Road 6.9 miles and turn onto Boston Harbor Rd, then in .2-mile turn onto 73rd Ave. NE. In another .2-mile the Marina will be on your right. Scenic Marina with boat, beach, and Puget Sound views. Get some coffee and a breakfast sandwich and sketch or paint in a covered outdoor area.

SEPTEMBER 21 - RUTLEDGE CORN FARM STAND - 302 93rd Ave. SW.

The produce stand at Rutledge Corn Maze features fresh corn picked daily. They make regular trips to Eastern Washington to bring in quality produce like delicious tomatoes and watermelon.

SEPTEMBER 28 - CAPITOL CAMPUS - THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

We will meet on the edge of the Capitol grounds where you can see Budd Bay. Bring your stool or camp chair. Drop off your gear and then find parking. You may choose to paint or sketch anywhere on the Capitol grounds.

For more information or questions please contact Jean Stewart. <jeanmstewart@comcast.net>

OAL Artist Support Groups

Join one of OAL's support groups. Bring a work for gentle, constructive feedback and try your hand at the month's challenge. 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 more information about the group you are interested in. If you are an Olympia Art League member, watch for emails for group reminders.

Abstract Group

The Abstract Support Group meets the third Monday of the month from 1:30 to 3:00.

Our meeting this month is September 21st from 1:30 – 3:00 at the Lacey Timberland Library off College and 6th/ Abby Way.

Our challenge for the month of August was "Texture." As shown, Linda Selsor's piece "Second Take" was done in response to the challenge.



For more information about the group and to find out about our next challenge contact Linda Selsor at lselsor@msn.com or give her a call at (360) 292-2574.

Watercolor Group

Date & Time: Meets the *second Friday* of each month. The next meeting is September 8th from 1:00 to 2:30 PM at the Lacey Fire Station, 6500 Mullen Road SE.

Contact: Heather McDougall at 2stanheather@gmail.com for questions. The September challenge is "Lost Edges".

Shown: August "fog" challenge by Annabel Kirschner done in a workshop conducted by Ann Breckon.



Acrylic Group

Date & Time: Meets the *fourth Friday* of each month. The next meeting is September 22nd from 1:00 to 2:30 PM at the Lacey Fire Station, 6500 Mullen Road SE. Our Acrylic Meetings will be held at the Lacey Fire Station for the rest of this year.

Contact: Karla Fowler at nwnxart@comcast.net for questions.

The September challenge will be sent via email when it is determined.

Evening Paint Ins

Diana Fairbanks has invited OAL members back to her studio for Evening Paint Ins. These will start on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 pm. The studio is located at 1230 8th Ave. SE, Olympia, in the building behind Diana's house. Any art medium you can safely work with indoors is welcomed. Participants contribute \$5 per Thursday to help with utilities. Come join a fun group of artists!

Karen Bush
Cell: 206-595-3317

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 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

Communications Chair: Ruth Bravetti

Graphic Designer: Jan Hansen

Membership Chair: Lindsey Ford

Newsletter Editor: Terri Johnson

Nominating Committee:

PowerPoint: Cynthia Walker &
Terri Johnson

Program Chair:

Zoom Masters: Melissa Ward,
Terri Johnson

Web Master: Veronica Kessler

Web Master Backup: April Works

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

New Venues Chair: Jennifer Livingston

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

Paint-In Day: Karen Crate

Support Groups:

Abstract: Linda Selsor

Acrylic: Karla Fowler

Pastel :

Watercolor: Heather McDougall

ARTISTS' GALLERY

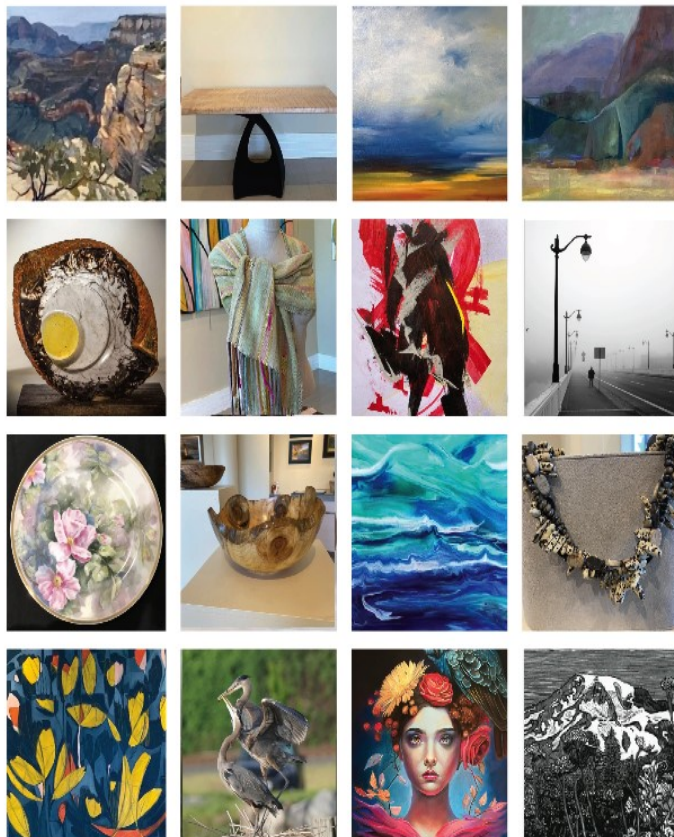
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Olympia Art League Newsletter

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