

President's Message

By: Kathy Strohl



Hi Fellow Artists!



Congratulations to the Iowa Artists Board and the Regional and State Show Chairs for successfully making our spring shows happen! And to our members for being flexible and willing to participate in the regional shows, whether they were in person or online. Everyone worked really hard to provide members with the opportunity to share their artwork and we all benefited from it. To all of you – THANK YOU!

Showcasing the regional and state shows online has given the galleries around the state an opportunity to see our work. The galleries hosting our traveling show are looking forward to showing off our work. We had 27 members enter 52 pieces.

De is working very hard to set up workshops in every region this fall. Read about the workshops she has set up elsewhere in this issue and watch <https://www.iowaartists.us> for more information about upcoming workshops.

This is a great time to think about trying plein air painting if you haven't already. Photographs are great for capturing a moment in time but until you've actually sat outside observing and painting

a scene, you have no idea how many rich colors you can find in even the deepest shadows. A photograph can only show so much because it flattens everything into two dimensions and compresses the value range. Observing scenes in person and working to find the colors to express them will bring a new excitement to your paintings. It is important to pack light but there are a few important items to pack. Don't forget your water, hat, sunscreen and small sacks for garbage. You might find it useful to use an umbrella to shade your easel. Lastly, because your light source is moving, take a picture when you love the light the most and use that in the studio to touch up the final painting.

Keep painting and creating! You never know when you might need that latest painting for a show you find out about at the last minute. Who knows? One of the galleries might see your work and ask you if you're interested in having your very own show with them!

Happy Creating!

Kathy

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Regional Fall Workshops

Watch your email for workshops in September and October in all regions! We are bringing you some great teachers in many different mediums. Most workshops will be limited to 15-20 people.

Iowa Artists members whose dues are current will have first chance at reserving a spot before being opened to the public, so watch your email and watch the website! Check out what has been scheduled so far on page 14.

“Life is too short, so go after your dreams...”

Denice Peters stated once, so she did – she chased her dream of becoming an artist. This dream started when she was a young child, but it wasn't until her adult years that she actually turned it into reality. Her previous jobs before becoming an artist took too much out of her, so when she lost both parents and her job within 7 months, she felt she had to pursue her dreams. Prior to going full time as an artist, Denice had worked in a frame shop for 4-5 years, had been a print setter and also had created ads in a graphic arts position.

Denice is a self-taught artist. She wasn't interested in art history and didn't want to be restricted by what a teacher would want, so she didn't go to college to study art, although she did try one semester of college but found the professor lacking, so she decided to end her college aspirations as she was engaged and soon to be married.

If you've seen any of Denice's paintings, you'll notice her realistic approach to life using pastels. She had tried oil painting early in her adult life and as a child drew all the time using pencil, graphite and charcoal. Her one experience with oils at a plein air workshop hooked her on using pastels in the studio. She attended a 3-day plein air workshop. The temperature was 100 degrees, the sky was hazy, and they were in the middle of a cow pasture. Being artists, I'm sure you can visualize this composition! At the moment she experienced bugs flying into her paint and getting stuck, she told herself she was never doing this again! That's her ah ha moment that pushed her into pastels.

Denice has been a member of Iowa Artists since the 1980s, with the exception of a one-year move to Nebraska. Some other art societies that she has joined include the Mid-America Pastel Society (MAPS) where she holds Signature Status, Pastel Society of the West Coast, Pastel Society of America, the Missouri Valley Impressionistic Society, and lastly, Denice is the current Vice President of the Pastel Society of Iowa. Just last fall she had 2 artworks accepted into the Colorado Pastel Society's International Show, which she was very excited about.

With COVID shutting everything down last year,



Denice was asked to teach using videos. Pre-COVID she taught in-person workshops, but now that things are getting back to normal, she is starting to hold in-person workshops again. But to keep artists learning during the pandemic, Denice learned how to make a teaching video. She stated, “You never stop learning,” and learn she did. Denice researched how to use the proper lighting for a video and how to set up the camera to capture just the right angle to show the techniques she wanted to teach. Just this year she completed her first video in her studio. It teaches one how to get depth and atmosphere in a pastel landscape. Her video is streamlined, so a person doesn't have to download it. As long as one keeps the access code, they can watch the video over and over again. Her video “Let's Get Dusty,” can be found at <https://www.denicepeters.com/videos> and is 1 hour 11 minutes long for \$59.00.

Free attendance at Iowa Artists-sponsored workshops is just one perk to membership in Iowa Artists. Unfortunately, last spring Iowa Artists had to cancel Denice's very popular pastel workshop in Region 5, but we are anticipating being able to re-schedule it this fall along with other new workshops in other regions across Iowa as things are safely opening back up. Be sure to watch the website and your emails for these workshop opportunities and a chance to learn from some great artists. After all, “you never stop learning,” and according to Denice, “Life is too short, so go after your dreams!”

Iowa Artists 50th Anniversary Traveling Show Hits the Road!

"Iowa Artists' 50th Anniversary Traveling Show" is getting ready to hit the road! Barb Vaske, retired art director at the Ankeny Art Center, recently made her choices of the art that will travel across Iowa to 5 galleries starting August 1, 2021, and ending February 28, 2022. All entrants have been notified, and the Iowa Artists Board is currently putting together the final touches for this exhibit. We had members enter art in almost every medium category, so the show will highlight the best of all mediums.

Members whose work was juried into the show include: Marcia Kruse – R3, When Spring Arrives, Get Out the Bubbles; Susan Kuennen – R3, Purple Coneflowers and Zen Stones; Mary Mello-Nee – R4, Urvogel-First Bird; Marcia Anderson – R5, In The Fields; Mary Johnson – R5, Cora and The Misty Mississippi; Diane Liepa – R5, Life is Good and Some Things Don't Change; Deanna Skokan – R5, Booneville Tracks; Doyle Wilson – R5, Beauty Released; Danna Fruetel – R6, Grace; Will Hildebrandt – R6, This Could Be the Last Face You Ever See; Laura Lengling – R6, Pub and Pediment; Stephanie Swilley – R7, Moments Between; Pamela Hiatt – R8, We Got the Blues; Laretta Kelley – R8, Baileys Harbor; Bob Peterson – R8, Marionettes; Leela Bruner – R9, Spectacular Sunrise in the Loess Hills; Kathryn Roe – R11, Winter Marion County and Red Sunflower; Care Connect – R12, Moon Halo; Laura Goldman-Weinberg – R12, Energy; and Pamela Lander – R12, Plein Air Painters and Our Lady of Compassion.

The Traveling Show will start at Witter Gallery in Storm Lake for the month of August and then proceed on to the Sanford Museum in Cherokee for the month of September. Next, it will travel east to Newton where during October the public can view our members' artworks at the Maytag-DMACC building. In November and December, the Traveling Show will take a longer stop at the Art Haus in Decorah. Rounding out the art tour in January and February 2022, the Traveling Show will make its final stop at the newly renovated Art Experience in Maquoketa. Please support our partnering galleries and check out the show when it comes to your region – I'm sure you'll be as impressed as our judge, Barb Vaske, was.

Let's hit the road and enjoy viewing some great artworks, Iowa Artists Members!

by: Deanna Skokan

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The show must go on! It's a popular phrase when things don't always go the way you want them to, and due to COVID, the Iowa Artists Board adapted that phrase and put it into practice with holding an online State Show this year. Even though the majority of the 2020 Regional shows had to be canceled last year, there were a few regions which were able to award Blue Ribbons. Those 2020 winners joined the Blue Ribbon winners of 2021 at the Online State Show this year.

According to David Boelter, our 2021 State Show judge, choosing the winners of the show this year "was a difficult task, but only because the work was very good." David really enjoyed participating as this year's judge and viewing

all 48 entries from the 12 Regions. David's critiques were also very helpful and informative to not only the winners but our other members as well. Congratulations to those who won at State! Your award is well deserved!

For those of you new to Iowa Artists, each region holds a Regional Show, and all of the Blue Ribbon winners proceed on to the State Show. At the State Show, ribbons, along with a monetary award, are chosen for the top 3 prizes – Best of Show, the Richard Heggen Award and the Doris Franzen Award. Also, for every 10 entries, just like the Regional Shows, ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and Honorable Mention are awarded. Since we made sure the show went on by going online, rib-

bons and awards were mailed to the recipients.

In addition, all Regional Shows, including the State Show, are posted on our website for all members, family and friends to view. The Regional Shows are posted under the Awards and Recognition tab and the State Show is posted under the State Show tab. Just go to <https://www.iowaartists.us> to view all of the entries.

Hopefully, next year all shows will be in person again. Even though we had to quickly adapt to venues closing due to the pandemic and the need to keep everyone safe and healthy, Iowa Artists used their artistic creativity to hold this State Online Show. After all, the Show must go on!

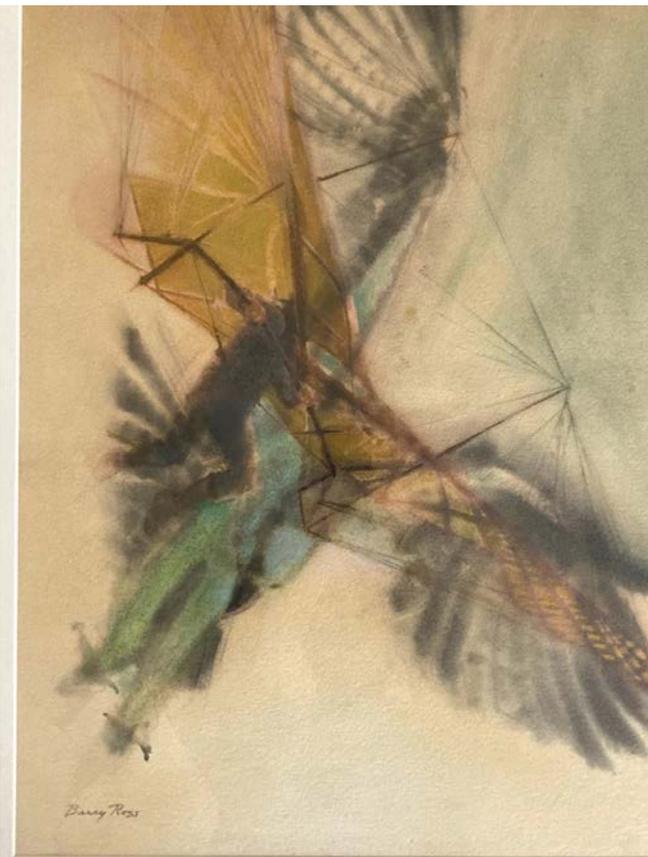
Best of Show: Lilienthal Glider

By Barry Ross

Watercolor

24"x18

"Lilienthal Glider" is a very intriguing and powerful watercolor image. It is modern with a nostalgic feel, a blend of naturalism and abstraction, and an example of humanity and nature coexisting. The image is both expressive and active, with the layered media adding to the depth and active movement of composition. The unification between mark-making, color, media, and subject makes this a very powerful image."



●●●Visiting Iowa Galleries●●●

Art Center of Burlington

www.artcenterofburlington.com

INTERVIEWER: DANNA FRUETEL

INTERVIEWEE: TAMMY MCCOY - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I have been traveling the state of Iowa visiting galleries and art centers. I was completely surprised by the gem I found in Burlington. I feel the art center has a little something for everyone and every age group. If you should happen to visit the area make sure you check it out.

How do artists apply to show in your gallery?

- Artists can apply to show in our gallery by emailing me. tammy@artcenterofburlington.com or calling the Art Center (319)-754-8069
- What percentage of sales does your gallery take?
- The Gallery takes 25% of sales.

What do you consider to be your strongest asset as a gallery?

- Strongest asset as a Gallery is the large front windows making the artwork very visible from the street and sidewalk. I would also say another asset is that we have what we call Gallery Lounge every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month with live music, charcuterie boards, wine, and beer for sale which brings in more people that are exposed to the current exhibit.

Please tell us a few other things that you would like our members to know.

- During the Gallery Lounge nights (5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

we also have an art class for kids called Art Hop from 5:30-7:00 where parents can drop their children ages 3 through 12 off for a craft, story, and snack for \$10 while parents can go enjoy the live music in the Gallery or even go out for dinner.

- Gallery exhibits change every month
- We host numerous other events throughout the year including Snake Alley Art Fair, Battle of the Brushes, Celebrity Battle of the Brushes, Miracle on Jefferson Street, Plein Air Art competition and Artt Artt Golf which are all open to anyone (some events require that they purchase a ticket)
- We offer a variety of classes to all ages, summer art camps, ArtScapes (art as therapy) for special needs adults and children, and the elderly in nursing homes.
- Our Artists Market sells a large variety of original artwork from local and regional artists.

As you can see this gallery offers a lot of fun activities. I will definitely be visiting again and making it a yearly stopping place for me. It has been a wonderful experience driving around the state and meeting so many art minded people. Next time you take a road trip be sure to visit a gallery and help support the art industry.





Richard Heggen Award:

White on White

By Beppie Weiss

Oil

18"x4'

"White on White" is a very inviting rural farmscape. The spectacular detail and pockets of strategic-placed color bring life to a scene that you may not have ever been to, but you feel that you know. The strong horizontal composition benefits the feeling of rural expansiveness. The water-tower almost touching the top edge adds to its scale, and to its symbolic and identifiable nature. Through and through, a remarkable painting.



Doris Franzen Award:

Old World Sparrows

By Robert Richardson

Watercolor

20"x16"

"Old World Sparrows" is a complex image that is simultaneously aggressive and serene. The colors are warm and inviting, while at the same time, hot and subtly threatening. The abstract expressive tendencies of the background are a wonderful contrast to the gentle naturalism of the sparrows and brush

in the foreground. The image appears very intentional in the hierarchy of its layout, and this adds to its well-received intimidating qualities. The mix of decisive detail with the subjective environment makes this painting powerful."

2020 Blue Ribbons



Corn and Beans in all Their Glory-Fall Colors

By Hans Olson

Oil

40”x 30”

“Corn and Beans in all their Glory” offers up a refreshing balance of cool and warm colors, sky and earth, and rough and smooth textures. This balance is livened by the slightly diagonal composition. The extraordinary use of vibrant color

truly catches dusk in the Midwest, and this is further reinforced by the warm light catching the tops of the field and trees. There is much confidence in the use of repetitive brushwork in painting. This brushwork also brings forth a surface that is almost sculptural and life-like. stability of rural communities.

Also Peoples Choice for 2020



South Side of the Square

By Margaret Ertz

Acrylic

20”x 48”

This is a very delightful rural townscape in which it is very easy to focus on the historical narrative or nostalgia of small-town life. In “South Side of the Square,” the stores have evolved in name, but the buildings remain a faithful time-capsule. The pattern brought on by the repetition of geometric shapes emphasizes this narrative and reinforces the staunch

2020 Second place



Bajara Jaya - Going to the Bazaar, By Leela Bruner
Oil, 12"x12"

"Bajara Jaya – Going to the Bazaar" is an exciting little painting due to the strong diagonal composition and reinforcing brushwork. The composition is balanced and unified through the confident use of green. There is also strong realism in consideration of gravity and pose, which show in the weight of the load that the woman is carrying. The contrast between chore of the figure and the faint cityscape in the background allow the viewer to contemplate and invest in the woman's journey.



Ivy, By Carol Gunn
Pastel, 18"x24"

"Ivy" is dynamic and energetic. The tornado-like composition, in collaboration with the juxtaposition of warm and cool colors, helps generate this energy. The sweeping lines, jagged leaves, and entangling forms further emphasize the dramatic energy of the work. The intense shadows, the choice of colors, the depth in the layers of color, and the precision in their application, help make this such a dynamic work.

2020 Third place



River at Lansing, By Marcia Kruse
Oil, 12"x 24"

"The River at Lansing" is a dynamic landscape. It is a peaceful, but the grandeur of the landscape is also intimidating. The strong horizontal composition and the modestly implemented township both add to this grandiosity. The naturalism in color is balanced by the character of the brushwork. This painting will bring recollection to those individuals who have had the privilege of seeing this area in person.



Lean on Me, By Robin Fisher
Pastel, 15"x20"

There is an admirable amount of technical ability shown in the rendering of subjects in "Lean on Me". The directionality in the gaze subjects was a nice implementation. It provides the opportunity for the viewer to join the two subjects in their survey of the landscape beyond. The reddish-brown color scheme is nostalgic and adds a secondary layer to the narrative. The multiple horizontal lines that dissect the center of the painting work as a very nice binder between the three receding levels of landscape and sky.



The View
By Cathryn Layer
Watercolor
9.5"x12"

"The View" is just a really strong little painting. The composition of the work is fantastically powerful. The slightly diagonal door verticals lead your eye to the subject and add to the dimensional naturalism in the depth of the work. The chosen color palette and gentle textures provide a nice contrast to geometric nature of the painting. It is easy to become curious about what the young sitter is looking at, whom she may be playing with, or what she may be thinking about.



Leaves on Rocks
By Christine Laue
Watercolor on gessoed paper
9"x12"

"Leaves on Rocks" is very impressive in its technical rendering and color choice. The painting is technically masterful in its representation of the natural world. The contrast between the abundance of the multicolored rocks and the fragility of the soft-toned leaf is simply wonderful.

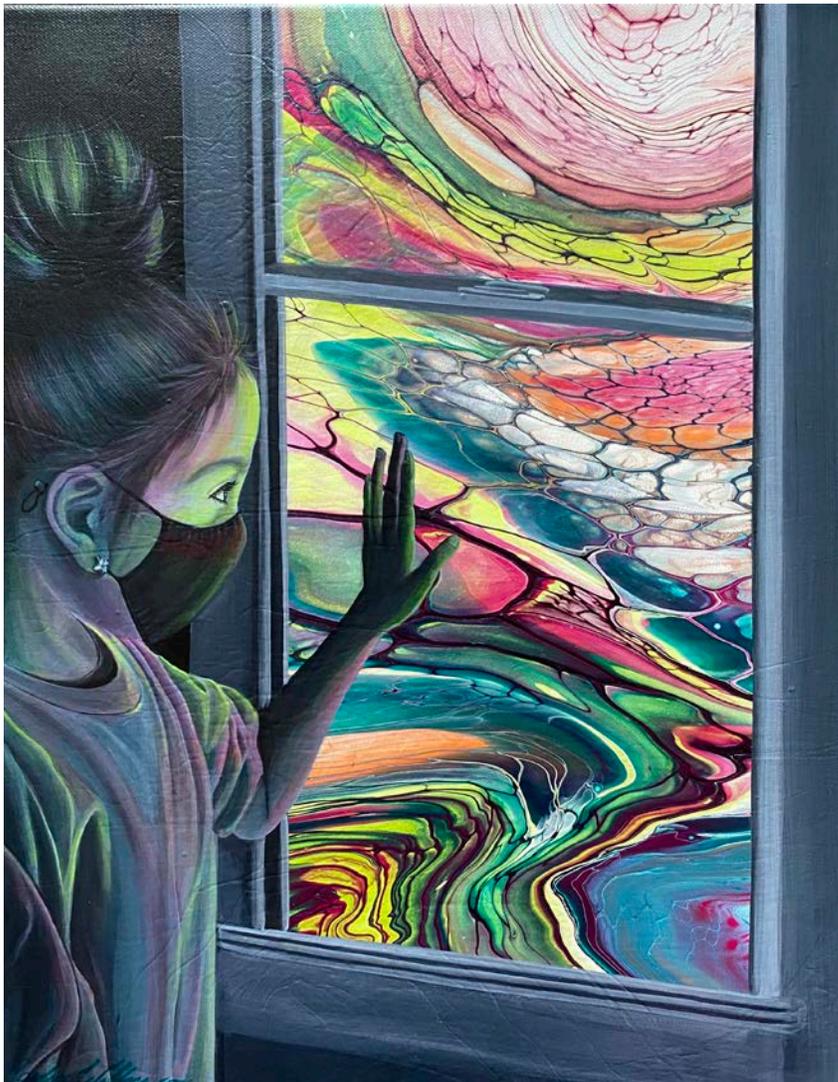
2021 Blue Ribbons



Vintage Marbles
By Nanette Catigbe
Pastel

18"x13"

The theme presented in "Vintage Marbles" is a playful trip down memory lane. The playfulness is brought forth through the complex representation of the marbles in superbly rendered antique glass vessels. The joyful color variations and details of the marbles are a very nice contrast to the softness of the wood in the background. The strong diagonals in the composition add even more excitement to the painting.



Keeping Her Safe
By Carolyn Wallace
Acrylic
16"x20"

"Keeping Her Safe" is an image that will hit many of us very close to home. The subject is one that is reflective of our experiences from the last year and a half. The world outside has become abstract and distant world. The dark interior environment where the young girl resides, juxtaposed against her brightly colored vision of the window are reminiscent of the world we have become familiar with. This theme is brought forth by the use of strongly considered color and skillful rendering.



**Pups, By Sandy Rittgers
Colored Pencil, 8"x10"**

"Pups" is a very impressively rendered colored pencil work. The naturalistic detail is so highly skillful and amazingly accurate that it becomes a predominate focal point in the drawing. That said, the character and friendly nature of the dog is not lost. The skillful precision of the tongue, the nose, the eyes, and the rest of the features of the dog make this drawing super impactful. It is difficult not to look upon the drawing without amazement.

**Runoff Creek, By Cathryn Layer
Oil, 9"x12"**

"Runoff Creek" finds the beauty in an otherwise unpleasant scene. This is an intriguing work that almost forces the viewer to see beauty in an old, discarded tire and a murky creek. This play on definitive beauty is further reinforced by the disparity between controlled detail and loose brushwork, the dreary greys and the inviting blues of the water, and the standing view from the rugged footbridge in the bottom left removing the viewer from the creek itself.



**To Be Homeless, By
Bruce Litterer
Colored Pencil, 12"x24"**

The brightly colored "To the Homeless" is a lively and energetic drawing. The vivid colors and fine detail bring new life to the rusty, aged, and discarded automobiles. For many people automobiles are identity and for others, a symbol for industrial America. In this case, the title is a very nice addition to the overall



concept or metaphorical nature of the work. The skillful and meticulous detail of the work are very impressive and further add to its visual power.

**Farmers' Market Mas
By Barbara Arnold-Heitzman
Oil & Cold Wax, 12"x12"**

"Farmers' Market Mask" is lively and compelling little painting. The dynamic colors, headed by the brilliancy of the large red umbrella, provide an almost perfect image of a summer experience. The textured surface and active application of materials give the painting life and energy. The choice of darks for the woman's attire, along with the complexity of the flowers that she holds, are a wonderful balance to the large areas of color at the top of the image. The mask that the woman is wearing will act as a timestamp, but also as a symbol for the perseverance of the time.



2021 Third Place



Superior Shoreline, By Will Hildebrandt
Pastel, 30"x20"

It is very easy to be drawn into the aggressive mark making of "Superior Shoreline." The media is controlled but remains loose enough to keep an almost hypnotic amount of movement and energy. This energy is further brought forth by amazingly naturalistic and accurate use of colors and values. A person can almost smell the water and hear it hitting the rocks. The layering of the color adds to the very remarkable depth to the work. Each little area of the work becomes a newly discovered experience.



Coneflowers, By Bonnie Bishop
Colored Pencil, 8"x10"

The almost photorealistic naturalism shown in "Coneflowers" should amaze anybody who sees it. The amount of technical skill and meticulous detail involved in this colored pencil drawing goes far beyond impressive. The life-like depiction is strengthened by a very well thought out compositional arrangement and repetition of shape and color.



Field Flight, By Deborah Baughman
Oil on linen, 30"x30"

The neutral tones of "Field Flight" are a wonderful and accurate representation of the attributable season. The horizontal bands of line, color, and texture add much naturalistic depth to the scene. The subtle use of violet and red throughout the work is exciting. It also brings warmth and establishes a wonderful unity to the composition. The loose brushwork adds excitement and unification. The implied movement and placement of the birds brings needed contrast to the vastness and weight of the landscape.



Fractured, By Will Hildebrandt
Pastel/Mixed media, 25"x23"

"Fractured" is an aggressive work. It is provocative due to its grimacing surface, dark tones, and cryptic message. The girl on the swing seems playful and unbothered by the unpleasantness of the world around her. The orange light around her peaks through, as if it is over-powering or repelling the dark area around her. This contrasting textures and colors provide a nice supporting parallel to the concept of the work. The unorthodox materials add really nice depth and guide the work into a more sculptural realm.



Honorable Mention

Sculpted Brown Tones

By Susan Kuennen

Fiber, basket weaving

The sculptural asymmetry of this work is really gratifying. It is a fun object to look at for a variety of reasons. The subtle imperfections of the light bands rounding the object help to define the form and give it character. The connectedness and unification of the handle make this such an enjoyable work.



People's Choice for 2021

Flower Child

By Barbara Floyd-Campbell

Mixed (pencil & colored pencil)

11"x14"

No critique given

Correction :

In the last news letter we mistakenly attributed Pam Hyatt to Joan Sullivan's work. Very sorry for this mistake.



2021 Workshops

These workshops are low cost or free to all current members. If you have questions, please email Delayne Segar at iowaartistofficial@gmail.com Membership questions to Deanna Skokan at: fineart@deannaskokan.com

Region 1 Watercolor

Ever want to try watercolors?

On October 16, 2021, Barbara McGee will be teaching a watercolor workshop at Arts on Grand in Spencer, Iowa, from 1-4 pm. It is free for current Iowa Artists members. Non-members can attend for \$25. Bring your own supplies. Suggested items include: 140 cold press watercolor paper, basic watercolor set, watercolor brushes, water container, paper towels and board and tape (optional). Members can reserve their spot before this workshop opens to the public on 7/14/21 by emailing De Sager at iowaartistofficial@gmail.com. Class size is 20 max.

Region 6 Scratchboard

Introduction to Scratchboard Art in Newton on October 23, 2021.

Danna Fruetel will be teaching the 3-hour workshop from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at The Center for Arts and Artists, 501 W 3rd Street N, Newton, IA 50208. Artists attending the workshop will learn what scratchboard is and will create a 5"x5" piece of art during this workshop. Please bring a #2 pencil and an eraser. All other materials will be provided along with a reference photo to use for your piece. Cost for Iowa Artist members is only \$5 for supplies. Please pay at the workshop.

Please contact Danna Fruetel at dfruetel@gmail.com. Please list your name, region, email, and phone number.

Region 9 Basic Figure Drawing

September 25, 2021, from 10 am-1 pm at Iowa Western Community College's Art Room (Council Bluffs), Reagan Puffall will take the mystery out of drawing figures by exploring three ways to draw the human figure. This class is great for not only beginners but intermediate and advanced artists as well.

It is free to current Iowa Artists members. Out of state or under 18 artists may attend by paying \$25 fee. Reserve your spot today with De Sager at iowaartistofficial@gmail.com before it opens to the public on September 14, 2021. Seats will go fast for this class.

Class size: 25 max and 5 min

Region 3 3-D workshop using clay and plaster.

Saturday, Sept 18, 2021 Elissa Wenthe, McCosh Professor of Fine Art, Dean School of Arts and Sciences, will be instructing a 3D workshop at Upper Iowa University in the art studio in Building 55. (parking lot D)

Time: 9a.m. to 12 a.m.

Class size: 25 max and 5 min

The Professor suggests wearing an apron and prepare to get dirty.

For more info email Delayne Segar iowaartistofficial@gmail.com

Region 7 "The Figure in Painting"

Thinking about strategies when incorporating the figure in your compositions. I will display and discuss various ways this is done and send attendees an assignment to facilitate and hopefully individualize the practice.

Sunday, Oct. 3rd, 2021 Kim Behm will be instructing at Hearst Center for the Arts, 304 West Seerley Boulevard, Cedar Falls, IA from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sign up by calling Hearst Center at 319-273-8641.

Class size: is 20 max and 5 min.

Region 10 Water Color

Instructed by Mayela Fonseca, a talented watercolor artist and experienced instructor. This workshop is being held the same day as the Creston Arts Festival and the Creston Balloon Festival.

This water color workshop will be September 18, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Creston Arts Center located at 411 W. Adams St. in Creston, IA. Topic: Watercolor

Creston Arts Center is generously offering to supply paper, paint and brushes! Artists may bring their own supplies if preferred.

Class Size: 15 max and 5 min