



Minnesota Artists Association March 2015

“Can I fix this?” How many times have you asked yourself this question? Or been told you can't correct a work because the medium (such as watercolor) is just too finicky? Or, conversely, in the heat of painting or drawing or sculpting, you just tried something on the fly and found to your amazement that, hallelujah! – it worked! Come to our March meeting at the Bloomington Theater and Art Center at 6:30 on the 17th and share some stories of your “saves” with us. Bring two paintings or drawings, one of which shows how you fixed a problem and another one where you are stuck and need some help from our members. If you don't want to bring anything, come anyway! We are all bound to take home some techniques that will come in handy sooner or later.

By the way, our SPRING JURIED SHOW will be at the Bethesda Hospital Cafe Gallery, April 2 - May 28. Please see the entry form sent with this newsletter for all the details. You may enter 2 original artworks that have not previously been shown in one of our MAA exhibitions. We are going to have some People's Choice awards in addition to the traditional awards. Hope you will all be able to join us for the reception. Mark your calendars: Wednesday, March 25, entry form and check due. Wednesday, April 1, 10 a.m. to noon, drop off your paintings at Bethesda, using the north side door on Como Ave. Tuesday, April 21, 6-8 p.m., reception and awards. Friday, May 29, 10 a.m. to noon, pick up your paintings.

All About Us!

Results of Our 2015 MAA Membership Survey

A big thank you to all who responded to our membership survey. Here's what you said collectively about us:

The main reasons most of us joined the MAA was to enjoy and learn from interaction with other artists and to enter the juried shows.

How we ranked our programs: One result that particularly stood out in this survey was that the majority of respondents ranked juried shows as what they like the most. After that, it's difficult to analyze the rankings for our other programs because a few of us did not rank their favorites by number, but just marked an “X” next to their preferences, so it's almost impossible to do an accurate statistical analysis. But here is a guesstimate:

#1 Juried shows

#2 Potlucks and show & tells

#3 # 4 Painting and Demos (the results were too close to show we clearly preferred one over the other)

#5 Open studio painting time (but three of you ranked this as your first or second most favorite.)

The good news is that a fair number of us would be willing to serve on a committee, but not lead it. Also, only one person would be willing to be a board member. (Reasons: busy with other obligations, having already served, serving on other boards)

Finally, suggestions for show places included the Hopkins Art Center, Minnetonka Art Center, Banfill-Locke Art Center, Frameworks, Ames Center, Edina Art Center, Thrivent Financial (formerly Lutheran Brotherhood), Silverwood Park, Hennepin County Medical Center, the new Union Depot in St. Paul, libraries and government buildings. Marjorie Moody suggested one or two in the outer suburbs, but in the past members have objected to the locations being too far to travel.



Karen's Demo of Abstract Collages at our February Meeting

By Terrie Christian

Karen Knutson brought many materials and gave an inspiring demo on how to start an abstract with watercolor and develop it with collage. The most important concept she says, is the design of the painting. She recommends figuring out dominance whether it be color, or value that will be the foundation of the work. In good design, it is important to repeat and vary. For example if you have a horizontal line, repeat the line vertically, but vary the length or width.



Figure out what the center of interest is and begin the collage around that to enhance the design.

Start with the darkest collage paper you will be using and build out, overlapping papers. Karen uses a paper called Chiri at the very edges. It is light and somewhat transparent to fade into the design edges. She overlaps pieces about one quarter inch each.

Matte medium is her glue of choice and she paints it onto the watercolor paper then lays down the collage paper and paints more over the collage paper. You can use non-archival papers including newsprint because the matte medium seals it in and is archival.



One of the ways she begins the watercolor portion is to use a palette knife to apply PEBEO drawing gum which protects the white portions of the painting. Allow it to dry before you paint. It can later be removed with a gum rubber eraser. A way to make texture within the mask is to rub your finger over it after it is dry before you apply paint. The palette knife allows both wide and very narrow strokes for beginning your variety. It also creates skips which increases variation.

Many of the papers she uses for the collage are recycled from mail, re-use of tissue paper, designer napkins, and if she finds something with a pattern she particularly likes she will scan it into her computer and keep it for making future papers. She brought a piece of tissue that was scribbled on with permanent marker. When doing this, use 2 sheets and you will get a prominent one and a ghost one. She also uses palette sheets she keeps after painting with acrylics for bright pops of color. Mostly she tears collage papers unless she wants a straight line such as in black and white checkers or other line work.



After she applied her collage papers around the center of interest she did some more development of the painting with paint.

Other materials she used were metallic foil papers (easier than gold leaf) which can be found at joggles.com as well as Tulip dimensional fabric paint and Caran D'Ache watercolor crayons. (Continued on next page)

These things are all used in the finishing touches. The dimensional fabric paint was an especially fun touch! You can apply foil with double stick tape applied to the surface then rub it on.

Next month we are having a session at our meeting for fixing paintings. One of the things I do is tear up old paintings and collage with them. Or collage on top of them. Some of my favorite results have started with a painting I did not like.

Come and apply some of Karen's lessons with us next month! You can find Karen at www.karenknutson.com and www.karenknutson.blogspot.com

Editors Note: Did you take photos during Karen's demo? She would be most grateful if you would share them with her by e-mailing your jpegs to her at karen@karenknutson.com

Members' News and This and That

Welcome new member Valorie Amendola! It was nice to see you at our February meeting.

Sonja Hutchinson's watercolor painting, "Seaworthy," earned the 3rd place award for watercolors in the 2015 Art in Harmony Show.

The studios of Emmy White (321), Tom Dimock (183), Rita Corrigan & Marjorie Moody (392), Laurie Salmela, Mandy Sadler & Rebecca Dudley (425) will be open for First Thursday at the Northrup King Building (1500 Jackson St. NE Mpls) on Thursday, March 5, 5-9 pm.



Emmy White has an exhibition of her watercolors at Stephen's Lutheran Church at the SW corner of 84th and France Avenue South in Edina. The show runs through April 15. It's in the room directly to the right of the main chapel. Stop by for a look-see, if you can!

The Bloomington Center for the Arts has a call out to artists for their 2017 Exhibition Program. All proposals must be received by March 31, 2015 to be considered. For more information, go to https://www.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=2389&sortby=fair_name&apply=yes

The Outdoor Painters of Minnesota invite you to become a member of OPM and participate in a show on August 13-September 19, 2015 at the Ames Center in Bloomington. Artists must provide one large studio or plein air painting (with a minimum width of 40 inches) plus 2-3 smaller supporting plein air pieces. Deadline for entries must be postmarked by April 1, 2015. Contact ctierneyartist@aol.com for the show prospectus and membership application (a PDF file).

Our ELECTIONS are coming up in May. We need someone to act as vice-president this time. Please consider running for this office! (All other offices are filled and continuing into the next two year term.) We also need someone to be our program chair (possibly the most interesting of all the positions because it gets you out there meeting new people and discovering opportunities in the vibrant culture we have here in Minnesota!). We also need a co-chair for Exhibitions. Let's keep our wonderful association, with all its many opportunities, inspirations, and friendships strong. Please consider volunteering your talents, know-how, and time to the MAA you count on for being there for us all!

KEEP IN TOUCH! Please send news, announcements, and low res.JPGS of your latest work to Jeanne Emrich, your newsletter editor, at jemrich@aol.com or by snail-mail to Jeanne Emrich, 6566 France Avenue South, #508, Edina, MN, 55435). The deadline is the 20th of the month.