

December Meeting

We are having our **Holiday Potluck on Tuesday, December 18, 6-9 p.m.** Eleanor McIntosh has kindly lined up the party room where she lives for us again. The address is **6600 Lyndale Ave. So., Richfield, MN 55423**. You can take the Crosstown (MN 62) to the Lyndale Ave. exit and it is less than a mile south from the exit. We will also have **Show & Tell** so bring a piece of art along with your favorite dish to share. Hope you can all join us!

The Style Development of Nancy Carney by Terrie Christian

The November MAA meeting hosted Nancy Carney as our demo artist. While she was painting her demo Nancy told the story of how her own style has developed over the years.

First, learning the medium you have chosen is like learning the scales. It takes a long time to develop your own style. When you take a class, it is good to practice painting like the teacher and each one will help you modify what direction you ultimately take. You need to accept where you are right now and then yes, you are on your way. **It is good not to care what others think!**

Nancy does a lot of planning for her paintings. She keeps a small notebook in her purse and does sketches, drawings and paintings. She also keeps an "Ideas File" that includes photos, magazines, and a catalog of fine art of artists that she admires. She also reads art history and refers back to the book *The Artist's Way* by Julia Cameron. Years ago, Nancy invited me to a group she put together to study and practice what was in that book, so I know this is a long time "Juicer" for her art inspiration. She recommends going somewhere inspirational. Nancy uses her photos and also other people's photos but she makes significant changes to all photographs, so that even if it is another person's original, the finished product would be unrecognizable. She says, "don't copy others, but you can be inspired by them!" She also uses her imagination and her sketches as a springboard for a plan for her next painting. She often writes down a goal and will many times give a painting a name BEFORE beginning! An example would be "I want to do a painting in blue and gold, or brown and purple", etc.

Her method is to trace from a 4x6 photograph and edit as she goes, leaving some of the elements out and changing the spaces between elements. Next she does a series of line drawings to figure out her final design and then does a value sketch. When this is done, she takes it to a copy machine and blows it up. Her final sketch on her art paper is done with oil pastels using a big light box and she uses the value sketch to help her decide her colors.

She gave a quote from the old masters: "Life is short, we are all rotting". I think Nancy is giving us permission to use whatever methods get us there, and there are many and all are valid. Tools such as cameras and light boxes are all good!

Even in imagination paintings she does drawings and works out placement, values, etc. all on 4x6 designs and works it out so that all her people touch somehow. Nancy says

that if you don't like your painting and there is nothing left to lose, **THAT IS THE BEST TIME!** Get really creative. She never throws it away. Gesso it, cut it up, book marks, etc. I am like Nancy! Some of my favorite outcomes have been these "failures". This is where I get out the Caran D'Ache, ink and metallic pens and the glue for collage! Give yourself permission to get outside the box. She says **DO SOMETHING BOLD!**

Some other tips from Nancy:

Her tracing is usually very light. It could be blue oil pastel. Water color eventually can cover most of this so you don't see the drawing and then she embellishes with oil pastel. It leaves a textured edge. She uses cold press Arches 140# paper. She works on dry paper and uses a lot of paint so colors are bright. Nancy stands and works flat with watercolor. Acrylics are done upright.

She seldom mixes paint on the pallet instead letting it mix on the painting. To do this she works fast so it must be worked out in advance. Larger paintings start small. If it is a big painting she must use canvas and acrylic. Her paper is taped to a board. She paints mostly using flat brushes rather than rounds and under paints everything but white. Certain edges are very carefully rendered.

Nancy paints directly and as dark as it needs to be based on the value sketch. This includes starting with background integrated to the rest of the painting. In her example it is yellow and then red and she works from large to small images.

She discovered the color naphthol red to liven up figures.

She does all of one color (like color by numbers we did as a kid). You can warm up in oil with cobalt violet but this is hard to use in watercolor.

To neutralize blue in places she adds sepia.

Thick paint on dry paper with oil pastel outline works to control against any running.

You can lay down color on one day and other color on another day for refining and details. Waiting makes sure that your paper is truly dry to get the effect you want.

Caran D'Ache picks up white and dark edges and contributes to loose effect. This is a water soluble crayon that many watercolor artists use.

Ink tenfe can also be used to finish. This is sold as pens at Utrecht.

To sum up Nancy's style: It is colorful and bold, her figures tell a story or many stories that one can imagine. The paintings speak in the excitement of the color choices she uses as well as the design quality. Knowing her process helps to see how she creates so many successful paintings. MAA hopes that her demo has inspired you to create your own style!

Member News

Emmy White (321), Tom Dimock (Studio 183), Judy Lieber (Studio 185), Rita Corrigan & Marjorie Moody (392) will be open for **First Thursday** at the Northrup King Building (1500 Jackson St. NE Mpls) on **Thursday, December 6, 5-9 pm.**

Tom Dimock is showing with OPM (Outdoor Painters of Minnesota) Members show 2012, November 10 thru December 29
FrameWorks, 2022A Ford Parkway, St. Paul 55116

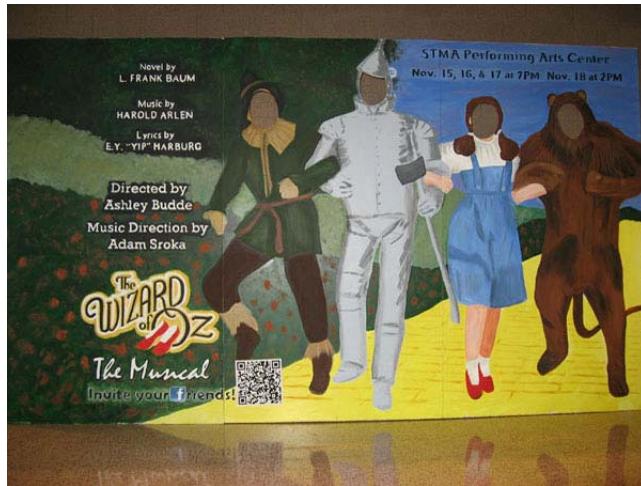
Richard Mittelstadt is having a solo exhibition at the Robbin Gallery January 3-31, 2013. The opening reception will be Friday, January 4, 2013, 5:30-8:30 pm. Please see the attached flyer.

Ron Wilson has an exhibit at the Richfield Community Center, 70th & Nicollet, through mid-January.

11 artists participated in the **Plymouth Arts Fair 2012** in the MAA booth and collectively we made \$521! **Rick Mittelstadt** and **Terrie Christian** each sold a painting, **Donna Triska** sold a giclee, **Nayla Yared** sold a handpainted card, and several of us sold cards. We all had a good time visiting with the public, talking about art and getting to know each other better. We handed out a lot of brochures for MAA and 3 new people came to our November demo as our guests. We are hoping they will join our group! Hopefully more of you will join us next year! Many thanks to **Nayla Yared** for giving us this opportunity!



Congratulations to **Diane Gilbertson** (our fine treasurer) who did a 12' x 8' mural for a musical of the Wizard of Oz.



Other Information & Opportunities

Nayla highly recommends **Plymouth Framery**, 14350 27th Ave. N Plymouth, <http://www.plymouthframery.com/>. You need to call David or his wife for an appointment: 763-550-0445. Nayla says they have been in the business forever and their prices are **unbeatable!**

To display your art in Plymouth (one month at Plymouth Creek Center and one month at City Hall refer to <http://plymouthartscouncil.org/enjoy/art-display>). You can contact Travis for more details.

Travis Karlen City of Plymouth Liaison

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Some people have expressed the desire to **car pool to the meetings**. If someone would like to figure out a way to arrange this, please let me know. Otherwise, if you need a ride to the meeting let me know and I'll try to hook you up with someone in your area. Some people already car pool and it is so helpful for those who cannot drive at night anymore and still want to come to meetings. Thanks for your help!

Eleanor McIntosh thought it would be a good idea to have a list of places to have individual exhibitions. If you know of exhibition space please let me know and I'll compile a list for the next newsletter. Please include contact information if possible.

I'm always looking for group exhibition space also so any ideas will be appreciated! Our **2013 exhibition schedule** includes **FrameWorks Gallery in April** and **Bethesda Hospital Cafe Gallery in October & November**.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!