

**April, 2020**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

### ***Annual Degas Pastel Paint Out***

Dear Degas Pastel Society members,

We were very disappointed we had to postpone our annual Spring Paintout with Carol Peebles at Longue Vue Gardens. It was going to be a great event. Hopefully, it can be rescheduled in the fall.

It's amazing how much the world has turned upside down in the past few weeks because of the threat of the Wuhan Coronavirus. The economy is practically shut down, galleries closed, art classes, workshops and exhibitions cancelled. People are nervous about their health and future and told to stay home and away from people. Not a pretty picture.

However, on the bright side, we are artists! We are independent, we are used to being home and alone, and we always have something interesting to do. We are the lucky ones. Let's hope and pray we can get through this crisis as soon as possible and we come to have a better appreciation of the many blessings we have as Americans that we sometimes have taken for granted. Stay safe and best wishes,

*Alan Flattmann*

President, Degas Pastel Society

### ***Degas Pastel Society 2020 National Show***

The National Show is going to be November 2 – 30, 2020 at the New Orleans Art Center, 3330 St Claude Avenue, New Orleans. We are excited to have Lyn Asselta as juror/judge. The opening reception will be November 7.

This year there will be a **minimum image size of 9x12, as well as, a maximum image size of 48x48**. Start painting now and be ready to submit your best work.

Lyn will also conduct a 3 day workshop in conjunction with the show. The workshop will be at David Art Center in Metairie, LA November 4, 5 and 6, 2020. Darlene Johnson will be chairperson for the workshop. Further information will be in our next newsletter or you may contact Darlene at [darlenejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:darlenejohnson@yahoo.com).

### ***Introducing Our Juror/Judge for 2020***

**Lyn Asselta** has been involved in fine art and fine craft for the past 25 years. Her extensive backgrounds has included elementary school art teacher, draftsman, calligrapher, workshop instructor, and creator of award-winning fine-art gourd vessels.

At one point, she opened an old box of Grumbacher pastels and never looked back. Pastel, as a medium, seems to be a perfect metaphor for her relationship to landscapes... vibrant, expressive, exuberant and tactile; pastel allows Lyn to hold a piece of color in her hand and to capture the essence of the wild, untouched beauty she finds in the world.

Lyn is a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America (PSA), an International Association of Pastel Societies (IAPS) Eminent Pastelist, a member of the Salmagundi Club, the Eastern League of Professional Artists and American Women Artists. She is the founder of the First Coast Pastel Society (FL) and is a Member of Excellence of the Southeastern Pastel Society. Her award winning paintings have appeared in shows and exhibitions throughout the United States, and in invitational exhibitions in France and China. In 2009, Lyn had the honor of being an Artist in Residence for the National Park Service at Acadia National Park in Maine. Her work was featured in the February 2016 issue of *Pastel Journal* magazine and her painting "Blue Morning, Crescent Beach" appeared on its cover. She has also been featured in *Pratique des Arts* magazine and *Plein Air* magazine. In 2018, Lyn published her first book, *Seeing the Landscape*,

a collection of her paintings and prose. Lyn travels extensively to teach both studio and plein air pastel landscape workshops.

Now living in a small town in midcoast Maine after 35 years in Florida, Lyn is inspired daily by new landscapes and changes of season. Her work is represented by Cutter & Cutter Fine Art, St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra, FL, and by Gleason Fine Art Gallery in Boothbay Harbor, Maine.

She is a Unison Colour Associate Artist, representing Unison handmade pastels. Lyn also has developed four signature pastel sets for Jack Richeson & Company, which can be purchased through links available on her website [www.lynasselta.com](http://www.lynasselta.com)

## National Pastel Exhibition Opportunities

### ***6th Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition: Call for Artists***

David Francis, PSA-MP, the national exhibition chair for the Adirondack Pastel Society, has announced the 6th Annual Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition which will open July 8 through August 15 at The Shirt Factory Gallery in Glens Falls, New York. The Shirt Factory and the Adirondack Pastel Society are accepting entries through [ShowSubmit.com](http://ShowSubmit.com) now through May 17, 2020. The juried competition is open to all adult artists working in the medium of soft pastel.

Karen Isreal, CPS, IAPS/MC, PSA-MC, will be the Juror of selection and awards. Over the years Karen's work has won many awards, most recently the Gold Medal of Honor with the Audubon Artists Association and Best in Show with the Pastel Society of the West Coast. Lise Fuller, Adirondack Pastel Society President notes, "The Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition is the established premier pastel exhibit in the Adirondack region of New York. The APS is pleased to be presenting the exhibit for its sixth year, partnering with The Shirt Factory Gallery." To enter go to [ShowSubmit.com](http://ShowSubmit.com).

### ***MIDAMERICA PASTEL SOCIETY 2020 National Exhibition***

Adventures in Pastel October 16 – November 12, 2020 . Prospectus / Call For Entries at [www.midamericapastel.com](http://www.midamericapastel.com). Online entry at [www.showsubmit.com](http://www.showsubmit.com). Deadline August 31, 2020. The exhibition will be at The Urban ArtHouse 8001 Newton Street, Overland Park, KS 66204. 913.283.7091

Juror of Selection and Awards **Richard McKinley** is a Pastel Society of America (PSA) Master Pastelist, and was inducted into the PSA Hall of Fame in 2010. In 2012, he was honored as the Pastel Laureate of the Pastel Society of the West Coast. McKinley was appointed a governor of the PSA board in 2015 and elected president of the International Association of Pastel Societies in 2017. He is a contributing editor and member of the editorial advisory board of the Pastel Journal.

Contact: Beverly Amundson, Show Chairman, [amundson.artist@gmail.com](mailto:amundson.artist@gmail.com), 913-593-7489.

## ***24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Juried Exhibition "For Pastels Only on Cape Code"***

The Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod's annual exhibition celebrates the pastel art form and features works by contemporary artists from across the country. It provides past artists a distinguished opportunity to showcase and sell their work to hundreds of Cape residents, visitors and art collectors. Over \$6,000 in cash and merchandise awards. Opening Reception June 20, 2020. Deadline for submission: April 12, 2020 at [www.showsubmit.com](http://www.showsubmit.com).

Jeri Greenberg, IAPS-Member Circle, and Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America, Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod and Pastel Society of New Jersey will be Juror of Selection. [Jerigreenbergart.com](http://Jerigreenbergart.com)

Tara Will, IAPS Master Circle and Signature Member of Maryland Pastel Society will be Juror of Awards. [Tarawill.com](http://Tarawill.com)

## ***News of Our Members***

**Shoshanna Ahart**, Ahart Atelier, Am Graben 34, 85072 D-Eichstaett, Germany. Here in Eichstaett (Bavaria), Germany we too are confined to our homes except for groceries, banking and medical emergencies. People are to distance themselves from one another and keep about 5 feet apart --say in the bank or the grocery store. Although the governor of Bavaria has encouraged people to get out and exercise alone -- walking, running, biking, hiking etc. People may exercise with one other person from the same household. For example, my husband and I did get out and go hiking this afternoon, which was very relaxing. Eichstaett sits in the center of one of Germany's largest nature preserves (the Altmuehltal) and we are able

within minutes to hike into the woods or up onto bluffs overlooking the Altmuehl river and it's valley.

As for my own artwork, I am painting. At this time I am allowed to go outdoors to paint. I started a pastel on March 20 in a park just 5 minutes from our house. No one bothered me, but a cellist set up his instrument in the main pavilion at the back of the park and played his cello for almost two hours. It was wonderful to paint with the beautiful music in the background. I returned yesterday to the park to finish the pastel and then worked a bit more on it in my studio this morning. My studio is in our house, which is convenient. I am attaching photos of the pastel after day one in the park and finished.



The sketchbook is small, but I have wonderful light in my studio and my cat likes to be with me while I work, which helps. I am also taking this *gift of time that we have been given* to try to slow down and attend to some things that I have put aside for quite awhile--in particular, re-designing my website. I am also taking a look at art books from my collection--ones that I've purchased in the last year or so, but never "had time" to really sit and study--to gain new perspectives/inspiration/knowledge.



I teach painting at the university here in Eichstaett, but the university is closed and I don't know yet what the plan is for the summer semester, which is supposed to begin on April 20th. Normally I would teach a plein-air landscape course. I sent out an email to some of my students saying the following:

**Artists are very fortunate because as long as we have a pencil and paper we can create. It is hard for all of us to distance ourselves from one another and remain at home, but each of you has the power of creativity to help you during this time. Pick up a pencil or a brush and draw or paint...sketch, whatever resources you have at home can help you pass the time and ease the stress.**



I do think that as Artists, we are fortunate because we can't "retire" or get fired...we can always create as long as we *want to*. I hope that all of us can use the *gift of time* to be inspired and to be creative in whatever we choose to do. The cellist in the park was an amazing example to me of finding strength and beauty in these challenging times.

I have also been doing watercolor sketches regularly indoors--sort of a visual journal. I equate it to zen meditation and find it very calming. (attaching two of those too!)

May each of us find a sparkle of joy in each day. My best regards to you and all the members of DPS.



**Rebecca Browning.** I have just completed 'Country Meadow' 25"x19". This inspiration was from a reference photo of perennials that grew in my garden last May! I loved the vibrancy of so many colors next to each other! I had watched a video of Karen Margulus demonstrating an underpainting using baby wipes and thought I'd give it a try!



**Sandra Burshell** was one of a small handful of American Women Pastellists will be celebrated in a special exhibition, "Pastels of the World in Bourbonnais", at L'Orangery of the Castle of La Louviere, sponsored by Les Amis des Arts, April 25– June 1, 2020 in Montlucon, France.

**Brenda Delle** says Covid 19 brought with it a mandate to remain at home in Louisiana. This is not an easy task for the fun loving, social people of this state and especially the city of New Orleans. We are only leaving the house to pick up groceries ordered online, go to the bank or pharmacy.

My studio is in the city. Even though I feel it would be safe to work there, I have temporarily moved my studio to the back porch. It is pleasant to have cool breezes and sunshine surrounding me. Bird songs have replaced cds. The thoroughbred horses and their people are the inspiration for my work. With the tracks closed, I am using photographs taken earlier.

My husband and I find a walk along the Mississippi River levee a refreshing escape. The ships and tugs along the river are interesting to watch. My husband worked his way thru college working on ships so he provides a running commentary of how things work on the water. The egrets and ducks are beautiful and I suspect they will be finding their way into some of my paintings soon. Perhaps this slower pace will turn out to be a blessing in disguise forcing us to slow down, smell the flowers and see life in a new way.

**Alan Flattmann** will have an article in the July/August issue of Pastel Journal titled "Treasure Island". It's all about plein air painting in Crete, Greece.

**Darlene Johnson's** pastel "Woods" received an award in the Terrebonne Fine Art Guild. Juror/Judge Michael Williams, Professor of Art, Nicholls State University.

As I stay in self quarantine, I have time to finish projects, paint and watch art videos. One of my projects that I have always wanted to do, was to change the dust covers on the back of paintings in my collection. I only see how bad the paper has become on the backs of the paintings when I dust them.

My next challenge, trying all the new techniques that I have learned from workshop teachers. This has been exciting and such an eye opener to me. So many projects!

I escape the scary news at dinner time, serving food on china, having candlelight, music, flowers and lets not forget the champagne/ wine. Now the world has become beautiful again and I am recharged to paint.

**Dawn Koetting's** pastel "Resplendent" received one of two Best Use of Pastel awards at the Terrebonne Fine Arts Guild Spring Show. Also, a plein air piece entitled "The Bend" received a second place award. Dawn has escaped to the Hill Country of Texas to paint bluebonnets while practicing strict social distancing - by miles and miles!

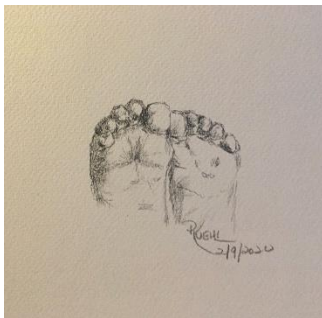
**Cosette Kosiba** reports that she live in Florida, near Sarasota in a Del Webb community designed for people 55 and older. We know of one resident who tested positive for COVID 19 and subsequently died. It is a difficult time for everyone. I find it challenging to walk the fine line between panic & prudence. In a previous life, I spent 35 years as a registered nurse, the last ten in infection control. So, I have a great deal of respect for infectious & communicable diseases. Still, this makes it no easier to deal with the restrictions or the consequences.

I have a painting in transit to Sedona headed to an exhibit that was cancelled. The two woman show I was a part of in Sarasota scheduled for April/May has been postponed. I couldn't bring myself to stand before the easel for over a month. Then, it occurred to me just how freeing all of this was. All too often I forget that painting is about the process, not the outcome. I found myself working without any extrinsic motivation, painting just for the love of it. It is the only thing that so concentrates my mind, focuses my attention that I loose track of time. It is one of the few things that makes my heart sing.

I'm certain I'm not alone in this feeling. We are so fortunate as artists to have this refuge. Here's what's on my easel ... I think I'll call it "Distancing".



**Paula Kuehl** reports "Here is how I survive during the virus thing. A couple of pictures are attached. Painting and drawing is my lifesaver during these times. And when it gets warmer ( I live in northern Illinois north of Chicago), working outside - gardening planting. Here are a couple of things I have done. Thx and love to you all -- Happy Paintings.



**Nancie King Mertz** reports that we packed 60 sets of the pastels in our car to drive down to 3 workshops, and the Forgotten Coast 10-day Invitational, only to find as we drove further south that 3 of the 4 events were cancelled. So I have all these pastels that Richesons entrusted me with for the FL palette and no students to sell them to. Bless my workshop students in AL that wanted to forge-ahead and learn, since we were a small group, and we dubbed ourselves the "Pandemic Painting Pals" as we painted all day and gathered for dinner and discussions at night It fed our souls and helped us escape

all the bad news whirling around us. If we can lose ourselves in our work, it can be the best mental salve to get us thru this.

**The Jack Richeson Company** asked Master Pastelist, **Nancie King Mertz** to select 2 more signature sets of 80 pastels each, that capture the coastal palette. "Stunning Water & Skies" offer the brilliant hues of sunset. Fifty-two of the color choices in the set were used to create the cover image. "Lush Coastal Landscapes" focuses on the greens that are often lacking in other sets, along with the pop of floral color needed. The sets are \$175. or both for \$315. (list is \$279. each) and can be ordered by calling 773-458-3205.

**Xia Yuansheng** from Shibe District China says I'm really busy recently because of my work. As a painting enthusiast, I will never give up this skill. I will definitely produce works when I have time. Finally, thank you very much for your letter

*I emailed Degas members to ask them to share their experiences with the virus.*

#### **A Final thought on Covid 19**

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed." ~Kitty O'Meara

#### **Workshops**

**Margaret Dyer's** workshops teach traditional pastel or oil painting techniques. Working with a live model, students will explore composition, proportion, value, color and pastel or oil application. Emphasis will be on developing form using light and shadow using her easy step-by-step method. Bring your digital cameras, iphones or ipads for a photo session with the model. Her workshops are for those who are bewildered by color want to speed up and become less tight in their work.

**Booth Museum, Cartersville, GA, 4/8-10/2020, \$425 for members and \$450 for non members.** Contact: Kent Mullinax <https://boothmuseum.org/guild> or 770 387-1553.

**The Art Loft, Dahlonega, GA, 8/20 – 22/2020, \$425.**

Contact: [Aelder1@windstream.net](mailto:Aelder1@windstream.net) or 706 429-6008.

**Hudson Valley Art Workshops, Greenville, NY, 8/31 – 9/4/2020, \$720 day student or 5 day package \$1,722 - \$1,890+ service charge and tax.** Contact: Kim LaPolla at [artworkshops.com](http://artworkshops.com) or 888 665-0044.

**October, 2020, Greece, Price to be announced. This is a joint teaching workshop with Susan Parges. Oil and pastel plein air painting.** Contact: [Margaret.dyer@icloud.com](mailto:Margaret.dyer@icloud.com).

### **Alan Flattmann**

**Abbey Art Works 3/10-4/28/2020 and 5/5-6/30/2020, \$360.00, St. Joseph Abbey, Covington, Louisiana. Tuesdays, 10am to 1pm. These workshops have been canceled until the Abbey reopens.**

Basic guidelines for painting landscapes, cityscapes and portraits with pastels and oils will be presented in these classes. Alan will concentrate on landscape/cityscape painting the first month and portrait painting in later classes. Basic principles of composition, drawing, color and technique that apply to any style of representational painting will be stressed. Students may choose to paint landscapes or portraits only or both using pastels or oils. Photos will be supplied, but students can work from their own photos if they prefer. Alan demonstrates often and will help students individually to improve their work. Contact: Lynette Kendall at [clc@sjasc.edu](mailto:clc@sjasc.edu) 985-327-1021

**Art Guild of Louisiana workshop at Baton Rouge, Louisiana scheduled for 3/27-29, 2020 has been canceled. It will be rescheduled at a later date. For additional information, contact Dee Dee Wilbert at 225 954-3754 or go to the website at <http://artguildlouisiana.org>.**

**PAINTING IMPRESSIONISTIC LANDSCAPES IN PASTELS & OILS, June 15-19, 2020 at Cloudcroft Village, Cloudcr-29, of, NM 88317.** The workshop will concentrate on painting in an impressionist manner using broken color and loose brush strokes. Contact: Cloudcroft Art Workshops Registrar at [caw@cloudcroftart.com](mailto:caw@cloudcroftart.com) 915-490-5071.

**Venice Plein Air, 10/10-17, 2020. We know October seems like a long way off, but we need to sign up at least 8 people over the next several weeks to make the trip a go. So, if you are interested in 7 days of plein air painting in a beautiful historical setting, enjoying delicious cuisine, wines and the camaraderie of fellow artists,**

**then come join us for an engaging and memorable trip to Venice.**

October remains historically the best time to visit Venice. It might also be the best opportunity to visit one of the most historic and beautiful cities in the world while there is still time. My program in Venice has been carefully planned by Il Chiostro, a tour company that specializes in tours for artists in Italy. Our first activity remains an orientation on arrival day followed by dinner with the group. The week's activities are organized around the workshop with all participants enjoying meals and events (i.e. guided walking tours, et al) together. At the conclusion of the week, the artists will stage an exhibit of their work sharing their visual impressions of Venice.

The cost is \$3,295 for artists, \$2,995 for non-artists; the single room supplement is \$475. Contact Linda Mironti at 800-990-3506, email [info@ilchiostro.go](mailto:info@ilchiostro.go) to [www.ilchiostro.com](http://www.ilchiostro.com)

### **Albert Handel**

Plein Air Convention May 2-6, 2020 in Denver, CO. Albert has been asked to be a Faculty Member once again. He will demo using watercolor over pastel. No it isn't impossible and yes it creates some great effects.

**Steamboat Springs, Co., Thurs. July 9 –Sun July 12, 2020. Workshop Enrollment Limited – Tuition \$750.**

Sedona, AZ Monday Nov. 16- Thursday Nov. 19, 2020 at the Gandolfo Studio, 220 Goodrow Lane,

928-961-6535. To register please contact the Handell office directly: [ALBERTHANDELL@MSN.COM](mailto:ALBERTHANDELL@MSN.COM) or CELL: 505-603-1524 or Studio: 505 983-8373.

### **Marcia Holmes, PSA Master Pastelist IAPS Master Circle.**

Discover the Abstract Artist in You! **MAKE YOUR MARK! Have Fun** learning how to layer mark making and paint with artistic techniques that “break the rules”! Easily loosen up with multi media under painting exercises that propel you to a new freedom in painting. Marcia will introduce you to multiple approaches to create expressive pastels! Give yourself permission to play, take some risks, “see” abstractly and explore your innate abilities.

**April 24-25, 2020, New Orleans, Louisiana – UART. This workshop is being rescheduled for the fall.** Contact: <https://www.uartpastelpaper.com/uart-workshops-marcia-holmes/>

**June 4-6, 2020, Santa Fe, New Mexico. If this workshop is rescheduled, an announcement will be sent by May 3.** Contact: Beverly Todd, [www.btoddarts.com/santa-fe-artist-getaway](http://www.btoddarts.com/santa-fe-artist-getaway) For more information: [www.MarciaHolmes.com](http://www.MarciaHolmes.com)

**Nancie King Mertz PSA-MP, CPP-MP, IAPS-MC, EP.**  
Pastel DVDs "Urban Painting" from Streamline Publishing & Lilledahl. [www.NancieKingMertz.com](http://www.NancieKingMertz.com) or 773 832-4038.

**October 5-9, 2020, 5 day destination workshop sponsored by PSA.** Contact: [NancieKingMertz.com](http://NancieKingMertz.com)

Nancie also has numerous workshops available throughout the year listed on her website [www.NancieKingMertz.com](http://www.NancieKingMertz.com).

### **Carol Peebles**

**Carol Peebles See year-round drawing workshops in which you can use pastels at [BlueEaselClub.com](http://BlueEaselClub.com).**

### **William Schneider**

The following are available from Amazon: DVD and Digital Downloads: "Composition Secrets for Figure Painting in Pastel Painting" and "Pastel Painting Secrets of Nicolai Fechin", William Schneider Workshop Kits which include pastels and work surfaces

**Did you know? Degas Pastel Society has a Facebook page. *Visit it* and *like it* to keep up with the latest news.**

*Do you have news? To share your workshops or awards news, please send it to Brenda Delle, Editor, Degas Pastel Society Newsletter at [bdelle@gmail.com](mailto:bdelle@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.*