

www.pikespeakpastel.org

Membership meeting

Thursday, July 31
Noon

at Cottonwood
Artists' School
25 Cimino Drive
Colorado Springs

Brown bag lunch

Program

Judy Steininger
takes your questions
and talks about the
computer and art

The Paper

News of the Pikes Peak Pastel Society

July, 2008

Letter from the President/Editor:

Dear Pastel Friends:

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer and for you plein air enthusiasts I hope you're getting out in nature to paint as much as possible!

Allan and I just returned from a 10 day visit to our little mountain home at 8500 feet in the Sangre de Cristos and it was a delight. Although I've been painting up there for over 20 years, there always seems to be a spot, viewpoint, vista that I missed and I take special joy in painting my impression of it.

I've been involved in a couple of projects you may find interesting. One is the Pinon Canyon Expansion Opposition Coalition in Southeastern Colorado. Pinon Canyon, of course, is the military site that is looking to expand to adjoining private ranches, against the will of the ranch owners. A group of over 30 artists have been invited to paint these ranch sites, many of which are breathtakingly beautiful with canyons, rivers and red rock formations. We are doing a collection of paintings which will be exhibited later this year, location still to be determined. But I am honored to be in the company of wonderful artists such as Michael Untiedt, Tim Diebler, Eric Michaels and others.

The other project is the Palmer Land Trust which will have its second exhibit in Colorado Springs this Fall. This is the second year an exhibit will be held of paintings representing some of these protected lands. This year Mariya Zvonkovich will also be part of the

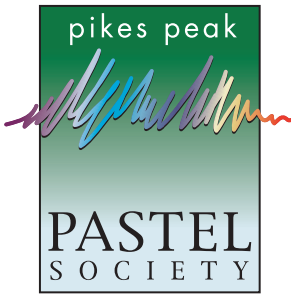
group. We travel to various beautiful sites that have enjoyed protected status in Southeastern Colorado but at any time are vulnerable to takeover for development or industry destroying open space, historic, scenic, natural lands including its habitat and wildlife. It's a privilege and a joy to paint these beautiful areas and to be part of this worthwhile endeavor.

The Pikes Peak Pastel Society exhibit at the Warehouse Gallery and Restaurant was a fine example of the wide range of talents of our Society's artists. There was diversity of subject matter and style, which is typical of the Pikes Peak Pastel Society. Certainly we would have wished for better sales, but it was good to have many viewers on hand to see and appreciate the beauty of the pastel medium and individual talents of our members.

Our next and final exhibit for the year will be in October at CSU-Pueblo in their large, attractive gallery. This exhibit will be juried. Look for details within.

Our first plein air paint-out of the season at Fountain Creek Regional Park was on May 22nd. The day started out lovely, but mid-morning the winds came up and by 11 a.m. most of us gave up and packed up! I waded into a pond with my pants rolled up to retrieve a favorite 30 year old straw hat that had blown off. Fortunately it got hung up in some cattails and didn't get very far! Well, wind has been pretty much a challenge this summer, but we'll try again and hope for calmer weather!

Happy painting!
Fran



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Thoughts on Ramon Kelley Workshop

By Eve Espinosa Buchanan

Regarding the Ramon Kelley workshop; what a great experience that turned out to be. When I first learned that it was to be a demo on still life, I almost withdrew my reservation and was willing to forfeit the fee to the Society. Still life was the least of my interests and definitely not something I wished to paint. My artist daughter pointed out that it would be a lesson to be learned. She found props, packed a lunch and said "Go play nice," so off I went with a more positive frame of mind.

Ramon's method of pushing the pastel on that paper with all his fingers was absolutely fascinating. His fearless use of black with a vibrant shade of red next to it created magic. Lifting color with the kneaded eraser to place somewhere else in the composition was a new twist that I had not seen before. Changing the elements, by removing the spout on the kettle, and keep the colors clean was almost unreal. He actually mixed colors and as he commented, "you just have to practice and practice, no one can show you".

Ramon's wife Mona was a tremendous assist. I could not hear all of his comments. She was standing next to me, was very astute in noting audience reaction and softly explained much. My respect for our demonstrator went up several notches when he commented that he did not do a workshop without her.

I was so amazed by Ramon's colors in an ordinary lemon that I announced "now that was MY painting." Someone behind me pointed out the prices of the numerous works on the wall and my heart sank. At the end of both demos, the pieces were up for bid beginning at \$1000. Since two or three hands went up I placed mine a little higher and said a quiet prayer. Nothing happened for what seemed an eternity, then a tap on the shoulder from Mona. I was elated that it was my lucky day. I am the proud owner of a Ramon Kelly and now 'you know the rest of the story.'

I came away from this lesson with a different attitude toward still life which has formerly just left me "still." I no longer am so ambivalent about this form of art and will take Ramon's advice to heart. "If you really want to draw, practice with still life."

Da Vinci influences 21st century Church?

Any time art is appreciated as a medium of communication and inspiration it is worth a small celebration. For the past few years our church has embraced this long forgotten tradition and has turned to artists for creative visual interpretations. Our forward thinking pastor understands that people relate to many different types of messages; auditory, musical, visual, tactile, experiential.....and is trying to create a church environment where such a variety of messages are being offered.

The way it works is he prepares his sermon series months in advance and then calls together a meeting of artists of all types who would like to participate in this effort. He spends some time talking about the direction he plans to go with his teaching, what material or scriptures he's working from and then he throws it open to the artists. After some discussion, we leave and over the next few months create work that is inspired by these thoughts. The art is displayed in the church and is often used in publication material or as slides during the teaching. What began as a small group of six has grown to well over 20 artists, sculptors, quilters, etc., several of whom are also members of our organization.

In a time where art continues to face the guillotine in our schools, it's exciting to be part of a process that recognizes it's powerful ability to communicate, inspire, and unite.

Marlene Kort

Board of Directors

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Pikes Peak Pastel Society
P.O. Box 2443
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The Paper

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October Exhibit at CSU-P

I think this will be an excellent opportunity for our Society and I'm excited about it. I'd like to thank Starr Miller and Merlyn Jones for making the initial contact at the gallery with follow-up by George Hart.

The gallery is large, walls white, clean and spare. The University is doing virtually everything for us including invitations and reception. However, we are being asked to hang it ourselves with help provided by them. I have asked Roy Sonnema once again to jury this show and he is delighted to do it. He actually said he's honored! He is now Dean of Humanities. His background is strong in art history and he was previously Chair of the Art Department.

Intake and jurying: Monday, September 29 (hours to be determined)
Installation: Tuesday, September 30 (time to be determined)
Reception: Wednesday, October 1, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
Take-down: To be determined – probably 10/29

I will provide further details as soon as I can include the number of paintings the gallery can accommodate.

I'm happy to inform you that after discussion with the gallery director, she agreed to cancel the theme "The Environment." Her sole concern is having the highest quality work we can offer. I felt the theme presented obstacles to some of our artists; especially our portrait, figurative and still life artists and I wanted everyone to have the opportunity to submit work to this show. So there will be no theme. The Board is mulling over some possible titles, but it won't have any bearing on the subject you want to paint. So go for it – the sky's the limit!

Fran

TERRY LUDWIG

2008 Pastel Workshops at Terry Ludwig Pastels Teaching Studio, Littleton, CO

Terry Ludwig PORTRAIT Workshop, October 18 and 19

2 full days, \$195.00 + model fee

Terry teaches people in context with their surroundings, working from live models. The class will include drawing techniques with an emphasis on obtaining an accurate likeness. Terry brings a welcome sense of humor to his workshops and emphasizes starting any painting with a thumbnail and using correct values – not always the correct color. The workshop begins each day with an entertaining and informative demonstration where each student will learn new techniques to apply to all forms of artistic expression.

Terry Ludwig PORTRAIT Classes

Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

4 sessions \$133.00 (includes model fee)

Lessons as described above nearly every Tuesday evening through September 2008. Pro-rated prices available for students who cannot attend a total of 4 sessions or wish to attend more.

Web: www.terryludwig.com

Phone: 1.888.795.1232 or 303.795.1232

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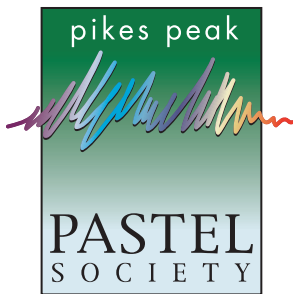
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Jury Panel

Fran Dodd
Mariya Zvonkovich

Historian

Pegi Ballenger



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Hi All - I've been monitoring the weather in Terni, Italy, these past two weeks - same time frame as the La Romita workshop I will be conducting next year (6/27-7/11). It's been almost like Colorado Springs, down and up the 80's, with a couple days at 78 and 79 degrees (and, for the sake of truth, one at 90); 60's at night. A little bit of rain. I can only hope the weather is as perfect in 2009.

Edmund, the concierge at La Romita, sent a report on the beautiful late spring colors in the fields and gardens, the Umbrian architecture, and of course the silvery greens of the ancient olive trees. All I can say about the region is that I was totally unprepared for the incredible beauty of Italy during my first visit. For further information, go to www.laromita.org and check out the video sketch of a recent workshop. 2009 brochures will be ready in the fall. I will certainly keep everybody posted -

Mariya Zvonkovich

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Members' News

Rayann Orr has joined a group called Visual Artists Pueblo to promote art in Pueblo. They had a group studio tour in May and are planning another in October. Her last two studio open houses went well and she had a guest artist at each one. "This has been a great way to share the work, collectors and made for a very enjoyable open house." The Visual Artists' goal is to unite artists in the community and offer promotional opportunities throughout Colorado. Membership is open to anyone creating visual art within the Pueblo region. Visit www.visualartistspueblo.com for information.

Fran Dodd had three paintings juried into the Plein Air Artists Colorado (PAAC) exhibit held at Abend Gallery in Denver. July 11-26. Three paintings will be exhibited at the Palmer Land Trust Invitational exhibit Friday and Saturday, 9/26,7 - Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, 315 E. Costilla Street, Colorado Springs. She will be teaching a plein air one day workshop in pastel and oil for the Fremont Center for the Arts at the Canon City Riverwalk on Saturday, 9/27. Call Mary Hammer, Executive Director for information. 719-275-2790. Five of her paintings will be shown at the invitational Representing the West show at the Sangre de Cristo Art Center 9/21 through October 26.

Fran and fellow Pueblo artist Lynn Stenzel, will be the featured artists for a month at Gallery Two-Ten, 210 East Cimarron Street in Colorado Springs. "Earth and Sky" will open with a reception on August 16th from 4 - 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Dodd will do a pastel demonstration during the reception. The show will run through 9/16.

Fran Dodd will once again be offering a weekly class in pastels and oils at her studio in Pueblo West. Focusing on concept, color, composition and values. Helping you to make your paintings stand out from the pack - making them your own! Every Thursday starting October 2 through -----? 9 - 11 a.m. Call 719-547-0165 for info.



Queen Palmer Butterfly. Pegi Ballenger painted Queen Palmer's image on a background based on a real Colorado butterfly called the Queen butterfly.

Jean Houghton and **Pegi Ballenger** have been part of a Colorado Springs Rotary Club project to raise money for the art program at Queen Palmer Elementary School. Super large butterflies have been painted and are on exhibit throughout the Springs and will be sold in the Fall. Pegi's Butterfly can be seen at the Main Street theater on Powers Blvd. and Jean's is at 2516 W. Colorado Avenue, Old Colorado City.

Kris Olson, Marlene Kort, Lynn Chapman, Starr Miller, Merlin Jones and **Fran Dodd** all had paintings juried into the Pastel Society of Colorado exhibit which will be at the Sangre de Cristo Art Center in Pueblo 9/18 through 10/24:

Marlene Kort finished a series of eleven paintings from her trip to Italy with her sisters. These paintings will be featured in Arati Gallery through the end of July and will travel to Bella Art and Frames in Monument for their artwalk from mid-September through October.

Larry Swanson had two pastel portraits accepted into the Sunny Vista show, juried by **Mariya Zvonkovich**. One painting won 1st place and the other took an honorable mention, both in the pastel division.

Judy Steininger, Mariya Zvonkovich and **Pegi Ballenger** participated in the invitational LIW Cargo Annual plein air paint-out in Manitou Springs.