

MVAL

Art & the Artist

September 2020

Newsletter for the Mid-Valley Arts League



Armando Ruiz

Coming together while still distancing!
MVAL exploring new means of communicating.

MID-VALLEY ARTS LEAGUE 2020- 2021 BOARD OFFICERS

President ----- John Byram
First Vice President (Programs)
----- Elana Goldheimer
Second Vice President
(Membership) ----- Deanne Ruiz
Third Vice President
(Exhibits) ----- OPEN
Treasurer ----- Lee Johnson
Recording Secretary - Heidi Fintescu
Corresponding Secretary
----- Pam McGuern
Parliamentarian ----- Armando Ruiz

Membership in MVAL:

Membership is open to artists and art lovers of all levels.

If you are interested in membership
contact: Deanne Ruiz - 626-331-8270
deanneruiz@verizon.net

WEBSITE:

Midvalleyartsleague.org

or MVAL.org

Website Editor: Kimberly Michael

Art & the Artist Editor:

Joyce Nunamaker

All articles and announcements

to be included in the

Art & the Artist may be sent to:

253 Windsong Court

Azusa, CA 91702

626-334-1646

E-mail: janunamaker@verizon.net

Deadline is the first Wednesday of the month. If you have an event that takes place in the first half of the month - be sure to get it in the month before.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"I hope everyone is well and had a great summer!"

The famous Green Bay Packers Coach Vince Lombardi used to say, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." In that same spirit, it's vital for MVAL to stay connected during this time of tribulation. So, how about digitally?

Thanks to our own Julie Crouch and her generosity and expertise, MVAL is now able to provide both our General Meetings and upcoming Workshops via ZOOM on the computer. Please see the invitation here in the newsletter for all the details.

Also inside is the slate of officers for 2020-2021. MVAL will hold our formal vote and seating when conditions permit. Exhibits Chair and a Finance Committee Chairperson are open so, please see Deanne or Armando if you would like to volunteer.

We will miss Walter McNall, Joan Engman and John Miller. Our thoughts are with their family and friends.

Finally, a big thank you everyone for your membership response and for the donations we received. This allows MVAL to continue its mission and provide scholarships during these difficult times. I don't know about any of you, but I'm a bit tired of being part of an "unprecedented historical event." Nevertheless, the messages of gratitude, acts of generosity, and words of encouragement that I have heard folks giving each other are a powerful affirmation of brighter future to come.

So here's to keeping together, working together ... and, most importantly, staying safe,

John Byram
President

MEETING DATES

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

ZOOM MEETING

September 16th, 2020
7:30 PM

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The October Board Meeting will be held
Wednesday, October 7th - 7:30 PM
Virtual meeting

DEMONSTRATION

INTRODUCTION TO VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETINGS WITH JULIE CROUCH

The MVAL Board of Directors has decided that in order to continue to be with each other and continue to learn during these trying times of COVID, we will take the big leap into the virtual world of ZOOM. The September general meeting will be held on Zoom. Before the meeting date, Julie Crouch will send an email blast to all MVAL members with a Zoom invitation for the meeting on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m. The email will give instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting with your device of choice (your computer, iPad or smartphone). Then, in the meeting, Julie will explain what you will need to know about Zoom in order to attend a MVAL meeting or workshop. She will also do a quick watercolor demo so you can see that watching a demo on Zoom is like having a front row seat at the demo!



We are all learning about this process together, taking baby steps as we go. Have patience with the MVAL board as we all explore this new adventure!

All your feedback is welcome! - editor's note

THURSDAYS IN PLEIN AIR

"Thursdays in Plein Air" has been cautiously going out to paint. They are keeping the group small and distancing. Locations are determined on a weekly basis as gathering in a location may not be allowed from week to week. Check the Facebook Page or contact Lynne Fearman to find current plans.

If you are on Facebook, join the "Thursdays in Plein Air" Facebook Page. The Facebook page will keep you updated on any changes and connected with the other painters!

NEW MEMBER

Beatriz Tamp Huntington Beach, CA

MA in Education, majored in art at Fresno State.

She attended Art Center for one year.

"Watercolor is my medium."

Beatriz is a member of Huntington Beach Art League, Hunting Harbor Art Association. She began seriously painting when I retired 10 years ago from her profession as an elementary school teacher.

Beatriz enjoys painting portraits, landscape, still life, and wild life.

Beatriz enjoys watercolor painting and sewing quilts.

She is joining MVAL because she enjoys seeing what other artists are doing and lately looking for opportunities to take online art classes.

CLASSES

Paint with Oils - Instructor: Rosina Maize

Learn to Paint Still Life

New Schedule:

Thursdays from 4pm - 7pm

Join this How to Paint a Still Life class that will meet on Thursday evenings from 4pm until 7pm starting in January. You will receive 30 minutes of instruction followed by two and a half hours of guided painting time.

Beginners and intermediate painters welcome. Others may opt for uninstructed studio time to paint the subject matter of their choice.

Learn the basics of drawing with paint, using value to define shapes, color theory, and composition. Instruction will include introduction to safe and economical use of oil paint, brushes, painting surfaces, and easel options. Materials list provided with registration, or bring what you already have.

\$20 One-time registration fee

\$20 per class, no contract required

\$15 per uninstructed session

Location: BMAI Studio

2228 Florencita Dr., Montrose, CA 91020

Email Rosina to get more information and to register for this class. RMaize@earthlink.net

FINAL SLATE OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2019-2020

Dear Members: Here is the slate of new officers and directors for the current term: it's a time of turmoil and too many changes, but we will fight the good fight and hope for the best. Please note MVAL needs the following positions filled: Exhibits Chair, Artist of the Month, AV/Technology person, Finance Chair, Raffle Chair and nine Directors. Consider that there will be no in-person meetings for awhile. Lot's of creative adjustments underway. Thank you to the large number of positive responses to our membership renewal; it's sign of hope in the future. If any questions contact Armando Ruiz. 626-331-8270

President	John Byram	Guest Host	April Drew Foster
First V.P. (Program)	Elana Goldheimer	Inspiration	Mary Gilman
Second V.P.(Membership)	Deanne & Armando Ruiz	Photographer	Linda Salinas
Third V.P.(Exhibit)	Need Chair	Property	Rick McGuern
Treasurer	Lee Johnson	Publicity	Mark Wood
Recording Secretary	Hedy Fintescu	Raffle	Need Chair
Corresponding Secretary	Pam McGuern	Refreshments	Tomiko Higuchi & Jim Brestcher
Parliamentarian	Armando Ruiz	Masters in the Park	Mel Peters
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		Scholarship	Kate McDaniel & Susan Gutschow
Artist of the Month	Need Chair	Video Library	Glenn Yoshida
Editor, Art & Artist	Joyce Nunamaker	Website	Kimberly Michael
Mailing, Art & Artist	Fred McCall	Workshops	Carol Ling
Archivist	Jan Wright		
AV/Technology	Need Team	DIRECTORS	
Banquet	Dormant	Directors to 6/2019	
Directory	Julie Crouch	Directors to 6/2020	
Finance	Need Chair	Directors to 6/2021	
Gallery	Jeannine Savedra		

TEACHING OPPORTUNITY

Santa Clarita Public Library is looking for professional artists to teach an online art class!

Here are the details:

Lesson Topic: Any lesson that can be enjoyed by the general public (Artist's choice)

Medium: Artist's choice

Audience: Teens and Adults (including, but not limited to teens within the Santa Clarita Valley). Participants should live close enough to pick up supplies from our library.

Alternatively, a person living farther away can participate if they have their own supplies.

Class size: 30 participants maximum, registration required

Audience skill level: beginner, intermediate

Date(s): We would like you to commit to one or two sessions, to be scheduled between September 2020 and February 2021

Lesson duration: 1 hour

Fee: Free to the public.

Compensation: The artist will be paid and the rate is negotiable

Location/Platform: Zoom meeting

More information: These art lessons are being proposed as part of a California CARES Recovery Grant (more grant information here). These lessons are intended to support and heal our community, recognizing the challenges they have faced in the past year (including the Saugus High School Shooting, massive fires, and covid-19). The art instructor need not address these challenges directly in the lesson, but be aware that the lesson is intended to be a relaxing, joyful, and safe place to be creative and expressive along with fellow community members.

What we need asap:

Your interest in teaching at least one session and specifically what supplies each participant would need to have for the lesson. This is important so that we can plan the budget and prepare "grab and go kits" for those who register. Please note that we have not been awarded any grant funds at this time. We are currently applying for the grant.

Please contact me if you are interested or have any questions.

crhazelton@santa-clarita.com

WALTER MCNALL in memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report that MVAL Lifetime Member Walter McNall passed away on July 22nd. Walter had been an Honor Court member since 2011.

Born in Camden, New Jersey on April 29, 1925, Walter McNall's art education began at the Philadelphia Fine Arts School (under the auspices of the W.P.A. Program in 1940) and continued to The Art Center College of Design in Pasadena from 1946 through 1949. He studied with admired greats the likes of Virginia Legakes, Bernyce Polefka, Kaminski, Fidleson, Stan Reckless and Ham Quick. In addition to his work as a fine artist, Walter had a long and successful professional career as Design Engineer for Aerojet General, illustrator for Hycon Corporation and Ralph M. Parsons, Art Director for Welsh Graphics Corporation and eventually as Vice-President of Welsh Graphics in San Diego.

During World War II, Walter served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific area aboard the USS Converse (destroyer) in the famous "Little Beaver Squadron". Among his many duties, he was inspired to paint the war as he saw it. The Aegis Cruiser USS Cape St. George carries his painting of the "Battle of St. George" in the captain's stateroom.

As a fine artist in both watercolor and oil, Walter has won awards from such organizations as the California Art Club Gold Medal Shows, the San Gabriel Fine Arts Shows, the Pasadena Presbyterian Church Show, the Mid-Valley Arts League Shows and the Annual Sequoia Foothill Art Shows.

After his greatest love, his lovely wife Martha, Walter's next love was painting en plein air. For many years he was the guiding force behind the "Thursday's in Plein Aire" group.

Walter was an artist member of the California Art Club, the San Gabriel Fine Arts Association and the Mid-Valley Art League. Walter was an MVAL member since 1992.



JOHN MILLER in memoriam

John H. Miller passed away on June 5th. A message was received from Roxanne Skovira, John's daughter. She said her Father loved his water colors and would like to acknowledge him in some way in A and A. Roxanne sent a photo of her favorite painting (attached). When she was spoken to, she was having a difficult time talking. . . she doesn't know when they will be able to have a memorial for John. She wanted to compose something to honor her Father but not able to do it at this time.

Condolence cards can be sent to
Roxanne Skovira and the family c/o John's address -
6122 N. Primrose Avenue, Temple City, CA 91780.

John had been a member of MVAL since 1998.



JOAN ENGMAN in memoriam

Joan Marie Engman
February 22, 1931 - May 21, 2020

Joan Marie Engman lived a full and beautiful life. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She slipped gently and gracefully into eternity with John by her side, just as he had been over the past 65 years.

She was born in Chicago, Illinois. Along with her mother, Marie, and her father, John, Joan moved to San Antonio, Texas and later to Huntington Park, California where she met and married the love of her life, John Engman. Joan was an operating room nurse and stopped working when Joan and John started their family. When their children were nearly grown she went back to school earning a Bachelor's in Nursing and a Masters in counseling. When their children were out of the house, Joan and John enjoyed the adventures of traveling the world. Joan became a talented watercolor artist.

Joan was much more than her accomplishments, which pale in light of her character. She cultivated a loving relationship with John. Her children were fortunate to witness and learn from their parents' 65 year love relationship and marriage. Their marriage provided a wonderful example of steadfast faithfulness and devotion to each other.

Joan chose to be a stay-at-home mom in order to raise her 6 kids. She was selfless and engaged, encouraging her children in faith, independence and strength of character. Joan's hospitality was far reaching as neighbors and friends always found their home to be a welcoming gathering place.

Joan's aquamarine eyes saw beauty all around her and she exquisitely captured that beauty in her art. She found such gratification in cultivating her artistic talents, pouring her heart, soul and spirit into her heartwarming drawings and paintings. Joan enjoyed creating beauty, even through her last days.

She was soft, thoughtful and resilient, always ready with a kind word and smile. Joan always made you feel loved and listened to. Her words were careful and seasoned with grace. Throughout her life, each obstacle or challenge encountered was met with grace, compassion and love. Joan's beautiful qualities and unique giftings are a legacy that will live on through us into future generations.

Joan took great delight in her family, as they were her pride and joy. Joan was loved by all, cherished by her children, and adored by her husband. She will be dearly missed.

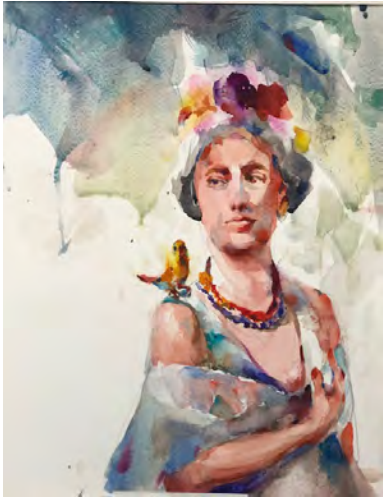
Words are inadequate to describe how deeply grateful we are to have had our lives touched by Joan's unceasing love. She will be cherished forever in our hearts.

Joan is survived by her husband, John; children, Jim, Tom, Catherine, Christine, Jeannie, and Sharon; grandchildren, Melody, Michelle, Jenica, Matthew, Jordan, Kyle, Chloe, Andrew, Kyla, Christopher and Evan; and great-grandchild, Sofia.

Joan had been a member of MVAL since 2000.

CAROLINE CHENG

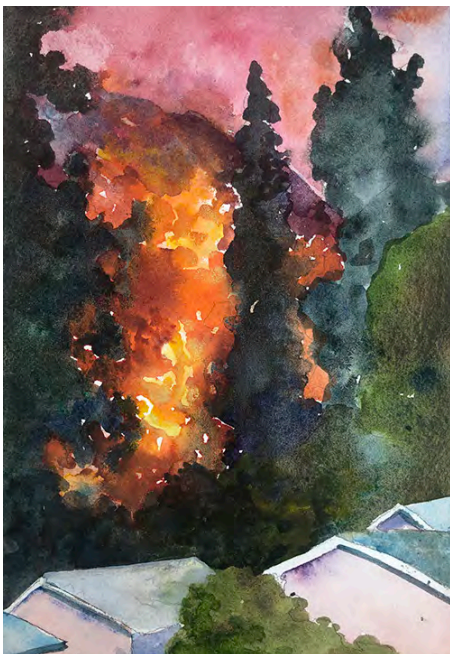
Here are three samples; I am still working on two more.
It usually takes at least 2-3 trials for one particular project.



APRIL FOSTER

"Fire Near the Suburbs" WC.

I have always been fascinated and terrified at the same time with the images of brush fires and have tried to capture their power many times



EMMELINE LIU

This pandemic & staying at home time made me continuing to pursue my passion in watercolor paintings from Zoom classes and self-learning and practicing daily. Truly therapeutic and relaxing in both mind and soul and making me think how human beings can be so adaptable to unforeseen circumstances and yet find their own courses...



ON THE COVER

"Light"

painted by Armando Ruiz

I thought this might be appropriate because a lot of us are looking for this at the end of the tunnel! - editor

STAY CONNECTED MVAL ON-LINE PRESENCE

Due to the great work of our Website Editor, Kimberly Michael, MVAL has a beautiful website. Be sure to check it out. If for some reason you are missing a newsletter or want to check a back issue, you can find it there.

The website is a good reference to refer other artists to, friends that may be interested in joining the group. You can find all that info on the website.

Midvalleyartsleague.org
or MVAL.org

Kimberly has also set up a Facebook Page under MVAL Midvalley Arts League.

This is YOUR page. "Like" the page so that you will get posts in your FB newsfeed. You can also share your artwork there.

Lynne Fearman manages a page for Thursdays en Plain Aire. That is a great group to join even if you aren't able to go on the paint-outs. The painters involved in that group often post what they painted for the week and it's just fun to see such great paintings of local sites. The location schedule is also posted under "files".

Any one is welcome to go paint with that group at anytime, you don't need to make a commitment to be there every week, go when you can or when the location appeals to you. Social distancing and masks are being used at present.



Just a picture of our quarantine project, gaining trust from a feral cat we have adopted. She appeared hanging around in our yard in January, we started feeding her. Just in the last month we can pick her up. She will come in the house but doesn't like the door shut. We call her "Pooka", which is an Irish Faerie.

- Joyce Nunamaker
Editor

MEMBERSHIP

Beginning our 2020-21 Year, MVAL membership stands at 182 members.

We know things have not been normal, if you forgot to pay your membership you can still do that.

If you have any questions about membership contact Deanne Ruiz at deanneruiz@verizon.net.

NEWSLETTER MOVING FORWARD

After March we made up for not meeting in person by having a couple of really fun newsletters filled with photos of what people were doing during shut-down. Here we are, after our 2 month summer break, still shut down. I received a few submissions (featured on proceeding page) during the summer, but not enough for a special summer issue of the newsletter.

I would like to continue to put this kind of sharing in the newsletter, at least until a time when space is taken up again with posts of live art shows, classes and events.

Please continue to send me stuff! A few pictures, an inspiration, tell us what you are doing. I also need cover art and may choose something from your sharing submissions to use.

email info to: janunamaker@verizon.net

- Joyce Nunamaker
Editor *Art and the Artist*

MVAL COOP DURING COVID-19

Motivated artists don't let a pandemic stop them from creating if they can possibly help it! So in March, when the City of El Monte notified us that they were closing the facilities at Zamora Park until further notice (where COOP Monday sessions are held), we jumped into action. Each week, a different artist takes responsibility for the week's "lesson." More often, since we can't get together these days, it's just a prompt rather than a lesson. After COOP artists complete the lesson, they can upload their work to a Dropbox file online to share with other COOP artists. Other COOP artists can then view and comment on the uploaded work. It's been a fun way to stay connected during these disconnected times.



Julie Crouch Online Workshop

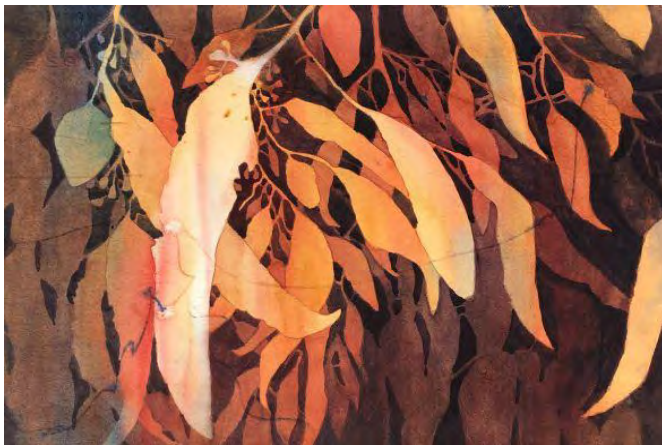
Negative Painting with Watercolor

2 Fridays, October 23 and October 30, 2020

Learning to paint negative shapes (in other words, the spaces around and between the positive shapes in your painting) is the quickest way to take your watercolor painting to the next level. This fun workshop will help you understand what to look for to paint negative shapes and how to create depth in your paintings. Julie's demonstrations and exercises for you to practice will reinforce what you've learned. You will be amazed when objects "magically" appear as you learn to paint what is NOT the subject of your painting.

In this online workshop hosted live on Zoom, you will be able to view the other students in the class on your screen (smartphone, iPad or computer) as well as having a bird's eye view of Julie's demonstrations. The workshop is being held on 2 Fridays. Take advantage of the week between the two sessions to practice what you learned and come to the second session armed with your questions for Julie.

New to ZOOM? No worries! We will hold a brief INTRO TO ZOOM session during the week prior to the workshop.



Julie Crouch Online Workshop

Negative Painting with Watercolor

This two day workshop is for beginners to advanced intermediate. A workshop supply list will be sent when Registration is received.

You must have a PC desktop/Laptop/iPad/smartphone with webcam and Internet connection

Dates: 2 Fridays, October 23 & October 30, 2020
9 AM to 4 PM (Zoom will be open 8:30 AM- 5 PM)
One-hour for lunch, 2 breaks

Fee: \$185 MVAL Members / \$205 Non-Members.

No refund after October 10, 2020



REGISTRATION

(Check payable to: **Mid-Valley Arts League**)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

**Julie Crouch Negative Painting Workshop, 2 Fridays,
October 23 & October 30, 2020**

Enclosed is my check for: \$ _____

Check one: ☐ MVAL Member ☐ Non Member

Online Registration: mval.org

Mail to: MVAL c/o Carol Ling, 4715 Lasheart Dr., La Cañada,
CA 91011.

Questions: (818)-636-3770/carol_ling@sbcglobal.net



Julie Crouch Online Workshop

October 23 & October 30, 2020

www.juliecrouchart.com

Julie Crouch is a graduate of UCLA and Loyola Law School. When she retired from practicing law in 2002, she started taking watercolor classes and hasn't put her brushes down since. She has studied with Don Andrews, Gerald Brommer, Frank Eber, Tom Fong, Frank Francese, Linda Kemp, Fealing Lin, Barbara Nechis, Carl Purcell, Brenda Swenson, Mel Stabin, Joseph Stoddard, Christine Sullivan, Chris Van Winkle, Frank Webb and many local artists.

Julie teaches watercolor classes at Creative Arts Group in Sierra Madre and Mid-Valley Arts League.

Julie is currently on the Board of Mid-Valley Arts League and has also served on the Boards of National Watercolor Society and Watercolor West. She is a Signature Member of Watercolor West and Western Colorado Watercolor Society. Her work has been juried into several national and international exhibitions. She received the Valley Watercolor Society Top Honors Award in their 2012 and 2015 juried exhibitions. Julie lives in La Canada with her husband of 40 years, Chuck Crouch.

