

MVAL

Art & the Artist

March 2025

Newsletter for the Mid-Valley Arts League



Jennifer Zapp

Demonstration by Lorena Massa
Lorena Massa Workshop

MID-VALLEY ARTS LEAGUE 2024 - 2025 BOARD OFFICERS

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Membership in MVAL:
Membership is open to artists and art lovers
of all levels.
If you are interested in membership
contact:
Mary Archibald
archibald.m@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
Midvalleyartsleague.org
or MVAL.org
Website Editor: Jennifer Zapp

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

Dear Members,

As we continue to rise from the fires that have devastated a large part of our communities, my hope is that our resilience has ferried us beyond the immediate and given us the courage and the means to rebuild, lend a hand or provide resources. Hope our members who were impacted by the fires are doing better and reaching out as needed.

As I stated in my last message, spring means longer daylight hours and more time outdoors and this has led me to share the following thought:

The pandemic years stimulated plein air painting around the world as the outdoors were the place to be. My recent travel to India highlighted that urban sketchers have really taken off in the subcontinent of over a billion people! When I was growing up, there was no concept of painting outdoors but recently I spoke to a group of sketchers in Bangalore who were really jazzed about the camaraderie in coming together to paint. Not surprisingly, watercolors are amongst the most favored of media. Amit Kapoor, the watercolorist whose fame can be attributed to Instagram during closures (IG @amitkapoor_watercolors) has created an international society for watercolorists and invites master artists to his OlympiArt conventions. Not only is his work spectacular, but his mission to make watercolor accessible to the common man is really commendable.

Our demonstrator this month, Lorena Massa, is also from another land - Italy. She will be showcasing her work via Zoom on March 19th at our general meeting and subsequently holding her workshop on March 24, 25, and 27th. Please check the information on the attached flyer and sign up! The workshop recording will be available to attendees after the three day workshop.

Our annual auction is coming up in April. Be prepared to bid on some great work!

Lastly, thank you members and board members for your time and commitment to making this organization a success! And thank you Elana, for filling in for me while I was traveling. Kudos to all!

Sincerely,
Dilmit Singh
MVAL President



MEETING DATES

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

IN PERSON and ZOOM MEETING

March 19th, 2025 - 7:30 PM
Church of the Good Shepherd
400 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA 91007-6819

APRIL BOARD MEETING

April 2nd, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Zoom.

MARCH DEMONSTRATION

LORENA MASSA

- via zoom.

I have been painting since I was a young girl because I have always felt the need to express myself through colors and painting. As the years went by, the momentum to pursue my passion gained strength, and I became eager to learn the different painting techniques. After following many art classes, I decided to undertake academic studies.

I graduated in "Restoration and conservation of cultural heritage" in 2005, and in 2009 I graduated in Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cuneo.

During my journey to the discovery of the various painting techniques, I run into watercolor.

The freshness, transparency, and those unique nuances coming from the water astonished me. Watercolor painting welcomes me, and let me play with its colors, the magic of water, and the texture of the paper—it allows me to create a unity among purpose, feelings and actions.

The most interesting part of painting a portrait is to be able to represent the subject's soul, personality, and dreams. This is a challenge that fascinates me incredibly. After making the drawing, I always start painting the eyes to create a bond. The gaze must be alive, transparent, luminous and, by looking at it, the viewer should perceive the subject's thoughts. When I succeed in representing this magic, I get deeply moved. It is as if a unique indissoluble bond was created between us. I become aware that the subject allows me to read its intimate feelings, and while painting I give to my subject a part of myself.



ZOOM MEETING

For those preferring to stay home. You will receive an email before the meeting telling you how to log on ZOOM to attend.

The meeting will be open for log-in starting around 7pm.

IN PERSON MEETING

Church of the Good Shepherd
400 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA
91007-6819

ART OF THE MONTH

Art of the Month is going back to being in person, at the meeting only.
Work may be framed or matted so that it can be displayed on an easel.
If you have an easel, floor or table style, PLEASE bring it.
WINNER RECEIVES A RIBBON!

All subjects are welcome.

Nikki Thomas
Art of the Month Chair



February 1st place
Gail Poulson

SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE

This month's Scholarship Raffle paintings
The Scholarship committee has several donated paintings by Daryl Bryant and Peter McDonald. There will be tickets available at the meetings - \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and a painting will be raffled off at the general meeting. The possibility of getting a beautiful painting for \$1 should be a great incentive for you to come to the meeting **IN PERSON!**



auction painting by Daryl Bryant



last months winner
Dawn Keshishian

ON THE COVER

Even Tiger Lilies Fade

Cover Art this month was painted by **Jennifer Zapp.**



Pam McGuern
winner of wc by demo Pete Roberts

THURSDAYS IN PLEIN AIR

To confirm or ask questions Call Lynne Fearman cell: (626) 372-6077
Bring lunch or take a chance there will be a place to buy.

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!

Meet at the designated location at 9:00am and paint till 12:00.

At noon we gather for lunch and sharing of sketches and paintings. After lunch is the critique/share.

The critiques are informative and instructional. In the event of rain the paint-out will be canceled.

We have done our best to give accurate directions.

Since we are based in San Gabriel, our directions stem from there.

It is each person's responsibility to carry a map, GPS, or double check direction.

Bring a folding chair, hat, bug spray, and umbrella if you have one.

We will cancel in case of rain or very high heat.

MAR 13th - Hahamongna Watershed Park

4550 Oak Grove Drive. Pasadena, 91103

Take the 210 Fwy north. Exit 22A Berkshire Place turnoff. Turn right onto Berkshire then left onto Oak Grove Dr. Follow up past high school. At intersection, turn right into park entrance and then take road left down into the lower parking area. Bring lunch.

MAR 27th - Walt Disney's Carolwood Barn,

near Travel Town 5202 Zoo Drive,

If not open meet at travel town. Los Angeles 90027 Go on Ventura Frwy 134 west. Take Exit 4 / Forest Lawn Dr. Turn left onto Zoo Dr. Turn left again. Go past trains in Travel Town short distance, then turn right off Zoo Dr. at LALS Parking road. Red barn to the right.

APR 3rd - La Casitas Del Arroyo

177 Arroyo Blvd, Pasadena 91105

Exit 134 Fwy. at Orange Grove. Go thru intersection to Holly St. Turn left on S. Arroyo Blvd. Head south under bridge. Go past Westminster Dr. Find street parking near Westbridge Pl. Small building on the right. Restrooms available further down at Lower Arroyo Park near the Casting Pond. Bring lunch.

APR 10th - Monterey Hills Overlook

4501 Via Marisol St. 90042 in Monterey Hills.

Wonderful views of mustard flowers on Elephant Hill Open Space as seen from Via Marisol street overlook. Park on the right side of the street. Bring lunch. No restrooms.

APR 17th - The Old Mill,

Opens at 10:00 am. 1120 Old Mill Road, San Marino, 91108. Historic building with gardens & gallery. Park along street. Walk up drive way. Gate entrance on right. Bring lunch.

APR 24th - Descanso Gardens

1418 Descanso Dr, La Canada, Flintridge, 91011 Botanical garden. Opens at 9 am. Fee at entrance gate. Open to paint anywhere inside. Meet later & have lunch at patio/cafe around 12 noon.

MAY 1st - Desiderio Neighborhood Park.

10 N. Arroyo Blvd. Pasadena, 91105

Exit 134 Fwy at Orange Grove. Go thru intersection to Holly St. Turn left on S. Arroyo Blvd. Park is located on the left side right under Colorado St. Bridge. Parking & restrooms inside. Can also park on Westminster Dr. and enter on the south end. Orange Poppies are a favorite to paint.

MAY 8th - LA Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Blvd, Arcadia, 91007.

LA County Arboretum & Botanic gardens. Fee at gate. Meet at Peacock Cafe at 12 noon for lunch.

MAY 15th - Arlington Gardens

275 Arlington Dr, Pasadena, 91105

Exit 210 or 134 Fwys at Orange Grove. Travel south to Arlington Dr. and turn left. Park along street. Garden is on the corner of Arlington Dr. & Pasadena Ave. Portable toilet on grounds.

MAY 22nd - Lacy Park

1485 Virginia Rd. San Marino

From Huntington Dr. turn north on Virginia Rd. Park entrance on left. Meet near Memorial around 9 am. Bring lunch

MAY 29th - Tournament of Roses House

Wrigley Mansion 391 S. Orange Grove Blvd. Pasadena, 91184
Exit 134 Fwy at Orange Grove and turn south. Historical mansion and rose gardens. Park along street.

“Interpreting Portraits: An Artistic Process” An Online Watercolor Workshop with Artist, Lorena Massa

March 24, 25, & 27, 2025

The instructor in this workshop is international artist, Lorena Massa. In this workshop Lorena will present her approach to interpreting portraits. Her intent is to show her artistic process. She will explain how she chooses her subject, why she uses certain colors, and the characteristics of facial features. Seeing these features correctly would result in a good portrait.



The workshop will follow these stages:

- **Drawing:** Participants will receive the reference image some days before, to independently prepare the drawing prior to the workshop.
- **Color testing:** Lorena will explain how to create accurate skin tones (the colors of complexion) with a fresh appearance. We will explore main color mixes and the characteristics that the colors must have to achieve this, e.g., transparent and opaque, which colors to avoid.
- **The Face:** We will try to obtain soft layers by painting on wet paper. We will learn to see shadows and paint them in the right places to arrive at a three-dimensional face.
- **Study of facial features:** Eyes, nose, mouth—we will learn some useful tips to make these features more expressive and natural, as well as what common mistakes to avoid.
- **Painting hair:** Lorena will show us how to paint thin strands of hair that are soft and natural.
- **Painting the background:** This can be challenging in a portrait painting. Lorena will help us evaluate which colors can contribute to the expressive force of the painting and create a unity between the subject and the background.
- **Final analysis and last touches:** We will assess the portrait and make final adjustments to assure that there is harmony in the composition

Workshop Artist Instructor: Lorena Massa



Lorena Massa, from Italy, has always loved drawing and painting since she was a child. This led her to pursue studies in the arts. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Cuneo, Italy, receiving degrees in Restoration and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in 2005 and, later, in Painting in 2009. Along her artistic journey, she realized that watercolor was the medium she felt most connected to, and she was especially drawn to portraiture.

In 2014, Lorena proudly became a member of the prestigious Italian Watercolor Association (Associazione Italiana Acquerelli). In 2021, she became the Leader of the Italian Group of FabrianoInAcquarello, which is an important international watercolor event. That same year, she was designated a Brand Ambassador for Daniel Smith, which has been a fruitful and inspiring collaboration.

Lorena has received numerous awards, both nationally and internationally, and she has participated in exhibitions and competitions in various countries around the world.

During the past 20 years, Lorena has been organizing painting courses, which is an aspect of her work that she deeply loves. In recent years, she has begun teaching online courses in collaboration with national and international associations.

Lorena's studio is in Cuneo, a little town on the slopes of the Alps, in the north of Italy, where, nourished by the beauty of nature that surrounds her, she works in watercolor.



REGISTRATION

Please use this form to register for the workshop.

Lorena Massa Online Workshop, "Interpreting Portraits: An Artistic Process"
MARCH 24, 25, 27 (Mon, Tue & Thur), 2025,
8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (PST); includes a half-hour noon break

This three-day workshop is for all levels, but experience with the watercolor medium is highly desirable.

PC/iPad/Phone and Internet access will be needed.

Fee: \$225 MVAL Members /
\$255 NonMembers
No Refunds after March 20, 2025

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ZIP

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Enclosed is my check for: \$ _____
Check one: MVAL Member Non Member

Mail to: MVAL c/o Liza Carrillo, 418
Charleston Dr., Claremont CA 91711

Questions: lzcarrillo418@gmail.com