



HIGHlight

December 2015



From the President...

Dear Fellow Artists and Friends,

It's hard to believe 2015 is almost at an end. It has been a great year, with many fascinating opportunities for our members, including MasterWorks, IAPS and our 24th Annual National Pastel Painting Exhibition with their exhibits, associated workshops and demonstrations. These, in addition to the many New Mexico Art League workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions make living in, or visiting, New Mexico a virtual artist's Mecca.

The election of 2016 Officers was held in November and I'd like to thank you all for voting me in for my second term as President, and for electing Lee McVey as Vice President, Vicki Leahy as Treasurer and Betty Tichich as Secretary.

We've made several strides in 2015, especially in regard to our monthly demonstrations. By projecting the image of the artist's work in progress onto the wall, all those present can see the artist's mark-making from any seat in the house. Voice amplification has also been added when needed. We also began video recording these invaluable demos and have uploaded them to the web and made them available to anyone directly from the Video link on our website (www.pastelsnm.org).

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Monthly Meeting at the Albuquerque Museum

Saturday, December 12 • **10-NOON**

Annual Holiday Potluck, plus Art Raffle & Officer Installation!

PLEASE NOTE

Different Meeting Room

***Ventana Salon, Special Events Room
(east side of building, opposite front desk)***

You are cordially invited to attend and contribute a special treat to the party. Spend time socializing with fellow PSNM members and sharing in the festive food you've all contributed.

Induction of 2016 PSNM Officers is also scheduled for this meeting.

Many members have asked for a "garage sale of art-related items", so please bring items clearly marked with your name and sale price. Place them in the designated area when you arrive.

When Jeanne Weitz passed away earlier this year, we learned she had kindly bequeathed all her pastel paintings to PSNM to benefit our Scholarship fund. Those paintings will be at this event and we'll be selling raffle tickets for them – \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Several of the paintings are quite beautiful, and with as many paintings as there are, chances of winning at least something are pretty good, plus your purchase of tickets will fulfill her wishes of helping PSNM. There will also be a few other items, not related to Jeanne's paintings to add to the raffle.

Be aware that we must have everything out of the room by 12:00 noon!

Time to Renew your PSNM Membership! Everyone (including you) MUST complete the online Membership form!

- Go to www.pastelsnm.org
- Click on **Membership** in left side column... then
 - **To pay by credit card**, click where indicated.
 - **To pay by check**, you must complete the online form and then mail your check according to instructions on the form.

PSNM Officers & Committee Chairs

President	Nicholas Tesluk
Vice President	Mike Mahon
Treasurer	Walt Viney
Secretary	Pat Oliver
Past-President	Natasha Isenhour
Communications	Nicholas Tesluk
Corresponding Secretary	Betty Tichich
Evaluation	Gaye Garrison, Margi Lucena Lee McVey
50/50	Julie Maas
Librarians	Judy Skaar, Marie Fritz
MasterWorks Rep	Ann Lewis
Membership	Gaye Garrison
National Show	Nancy Silvia
Newsletter	Marilyn Drake
Programs	Ann Lewis
Program Review	Pat Oliver
Publicity	VACANT
Refreshments	Donna Aldrich, Audrey Minard
Signature Membership	VACANT
Small Works Show	Louisa Roberts
Website Manager	VACANT

To communicate with people on this list by email, go to www.pastelsnm.org then click on Contacts.

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Thus, an artist can view, and review, any one of the recorded video demonstrations at any time for inspiration and guidance. We will strive to improve the experience even further in the coming year.

I know I've said it before, but the caliber of the people in the Pastel Society of New Mexico and their willingness to help others advance their artistic knowledge and technique are what make all of our volunteer efforts worthwhile. Thank you!

~ Nicholas

2016 Volunteers Needed

As of now, openings for the following year-round Committee Chair positions will be available for 2016:

Publicity (*place listings in local media to promote PSNM*)

Refreshments (*for local member(s) who can oversee food contributions by other members for the general meeting*)

Signature Membership (*preferably for a current Signature Member*)

50/50 (*requires being in attendance at meetings to handle raffle tickets - great way to meet PSNM members*)

If you are interested in Chairing these, or any other Committees, (or would like to assist), please email Nicholas at your earliest convenience: psnm.pres@gmail.com

Member News

(upcoming receptions & demos highlighted in red)

Letty Roller will be included, with seven tapestry weavers, in the exhibition titled State of the Art: Tapestry in the 21st Century, the Fine Art Tapestry of Eight Southwest Masters at the Jonathan Abrams MD Art Gallery, UNM Hospital, 5th floor, 2211 Lomas Blvd., NE, Albuquerque. December 7, 2015 - February 19, 2016, Open weekdays: 8 am- 6 pm
Artists' Reception Friday, December 11, 2015, 4 - 6 pm

Katherine Irish is honored to have received the PSWC award at the 2015 Renaissance in Pastels Exhibit hosted by the Connecticut Pastel Society for "Morning Joy" (shown here). Also, she will be part of a group exhibit at the Placitas Artists Series at the Las Placitas Presbyterian Church. **The opening is December 13, 2015.** Katherine is honored to have "Confluence" purchased by the New Mexico Arts, Art in Public Places 2015 - 2016 Purchase Initiative.



Albert Handell won awards for two oil paintings at the Oil Painters of America's 2015 Eastern Regional Juried Exhibition held at Eckert & Ross Fine Art, 5627 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, IN. "Woods Interior, Point Lobos" (shown at right) and "Chamisa".



Lyle Brown, Marilyn Drake and **Donna Van Leer** were all award winners in the "Seasons" themed exhibit at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts, 251 Main St. SE, Los Lunas. Lyle won 3rd place, Donna took 1st place, and Marilyn got "Best of Show". **Bud Edmondson**, who won "Best of Show" last year, was one of the jurors of selection and also served as one of the award judges this year. The show will be on view through Wednesday, Dec 30.

Lyle Brown received 2nd place in the pastel category at the NM Veterans Art Association Show held in the Fine Arts Building at EXPO NM. Also exhibiting work in this show were PSNM members Wanda Portee and Mack West.

Walt Bowron, a member who continued to support PSNM by paying his dues every year, even after he moved to San Jose, CA., passed away in early November.

Marilyn Wightman will be participating in the Eldorado Arts & Crafts Association Holiday Art Showcase, **Saturday, Dec 4 from 10am - 4pm**, at the Agora Shopping Center, 7 Ave Vista Grande. (I-25, Exit 290 for 285S)

November Program Review

by Pat Oliver

“Black Magic” Demo by Betty Lehnus

Betty Lehnus is an award-winning artist who studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, the American Academy of Art in Chicago, and the Torpedo Factory Art Center outside Washington, DC. She is a member of the New Mexico Art League, the Portrait Society of America and PSNM.

“Let’s talk about black,” Betty began. “Black has meaning. It’s instant drama.” She uses three kinds of paper as the surface for her paintings – the first two are available in black: Canson Mi-Teintes Touch, which is not heavily sanded; and Arches cover stock (a printmakers’ paper with a soft textured surface). When using rough watercolor paper (400lb or more), Betty coats it with black acrylic gesso. She noted that cover stock will not hold lots of pastel layers, and the watercolor paper won’t give as clean an edge as the Canson Touch.

Her tools include a flexible kitchen spatula, color shapers in lots of sizes, an oil painter’s soft palette knife, cosmetic brushes, Styrofoam packing, packing peanuts, bits of foam core, and black erasers (for black paper).

Painting a Peony

Betty’s reference photo was a pink peony. She said that before she starts a flower painting she thinks about shapes. A peony is like a ball on a plate, a daisy is like a flat plate, tulips are like cups, etc. She had pre-selected the pastels for the subject – greens for leaves, a variety of pinks, purples and reds, and more than a dozen “near-whites” for the flower itself. She uses Rembrandts, Holbeins and a few “super softies,” usually for the last layers.

“To start,” she said, “go light to dark. With black paper, the dark is already there. There’s only one direction I can go.” “Generally,” she said, “I start in the middle of the subject.” She started expanding around the center to establish the basic shape using rapid, back and forth strokes in the general direction of the petals.

Question: Are you using the side of the pastel?

Answer: The pastel is kind of at an angle.

After a few strokes, she said, “I would say this is the basic shape of this peony.” Then she began to blend with her fingers.

Question: Do you use water or alcohol for underpainting?

Answer: For landscapes, I might, to tone it. But not for these. Not with black paper.

She said, “One of the beauties of pastel is that it is an opaque medium.”

Betty began working on the bottom petals using a dark pink and blending. Then she started to look for softer lights in the upper petals. She used cosmetic foam wedges to change the shapes of the light outer petals and color shapers to remove

pigment and “bring the edges back to black,” saying, “There are plenty of places where you want to take something away, not just add and add.” When using color shapers she said they should be wiped clean every time you use one.

Betty then moved back to the bottom of the flower, using dark red-burgundy to create depth. This was followed by blending “not random, but moving away from the edge.” She said, “You have to have enough pastel on the surface to push around.”

To create the scalloped edges of the petals, Betty twisted and turned the pastel. Then she softened the scallops with her finger.

She said, “I’m making a painting, not a peony.” Pointing to her photo and then to the painting, she said “This is a photo. This is a painting. Neither one is a peony.”

Continuing to work on the scalloped edges, she pointed to a ragged edge and said, “This is a beautiful negative space. In a real peony, there is an infinite variety in all these little bits – not like an artificial flower.”

Referring to her photo, Betty noted that, after going through the camera and into Photoshop, the colors are relatively faded and so she uses the “saturation” function in Photoshop to restore the color intensity.

She paints negative shapes behind the white edges to make them stand out. She said, “I’m trying to make my strokes move the same way the petals are moving.” She returned to the top of the peony, making brighter edges with a near-white. She said, “I haven’t filled in the grain of the paper, but I’m not just skimming over the surface.”

For the leaves, Betty started with an “almost army-green” Terry Ludwig pastel. She pointed out that she was not painting a leaf, but just a suggestion of greenery. Using her fingers, she blended the leaves. Then she used a very dark green at the top of the leaves, blending down. “Again, I’m not going to draw the leaf shapes.” She took a kneaded eraser and pinched the edge to create random shapes. Then she pressed the pinched edge against the bottom of the “leaves” to create random leafy edges.

Betty noted “black paper is not as black as you think it is. You can use a true black pastel when you need absolute ‘killer black.’”

Question: Would you add other colors in the leafy parts?

Answer: Yes, it needs oranges. Just play with the shapes.

Question: Do you introduce grays, or complementary colors into the flower?

Answer: Not much, maybe a little.

Question: It’s a complicated flower. Not showing every petal, just get the general concept and let that carry you?

Answer: Yes, exactly.

Reflections

Betty gave us a quick tutorial on reflections. She said, “I’ve been trying to paint eggs for 5 years and they looked like rocks.” Then she showed us a technique that works, using blue-grey for the egg shape and white for a highlight. After

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painting the egg, she used a hard black eraser and pulled the edge straight down to pull some of the color from the egg. "This creates the egg's reflection." Then you can shape it and, if there's a highlight on the object, there should be a highlight in the reflection, but it's not as bright.

She used the same technique for a painting of cherries. She told us she pulled the color down from the cherries. "The color is duller, but it is the same color."

Betty showed us a number of paintings with reflections that all had subtle horizon lines, saying "The horizon line grounds it."

For more information about Betty Lehnus, visit her website: www.bluechairsstudio.com

Supply list:

All the art supplies listed below are generally available online from: Blick Art Materials (www.dickblick.com), Jerry's Artarama (www.jerrysartarama.com), Cheap Joe's Art Stuff (www.cheapjoes.com) and Utrecht Art Supplies (www.utrechtart.com). Amazon also carries some.

Papers: Arches cover stock (black), Canson Mi-Teintes Touch (available in sheets or boards)

Acetate: Grafix Biodegradable Clear (in various sizes of sheets and rolls to cover and protect paintings before framing)

Color shapers: available in sizes up to 3" wide. White are softer tips, black/grey are stiffer.

Fixatives: Krylon Workable Fixatif and/or SpectraFix Degas Pastel Fixative (odor free)

Black erasers: office supply stores, as well as art suppliers

Black polished granite tiles: 12" x 12" about \$7 ea. Good as reflective surface. Tile stores, Lowe's, or similar retailers.

Call for Entries

Dave Bown Projects - 11th SemiAnnual Competition

Deadline: Saturday, Dec 5

Prizes: \$10,000 (1 artist will receive \$5,000 and 5 artists will each receive \$1,000). In addition to cash prizes, Dave Bown Projects will be buying works of art from artists as submissions are received.

Jurors: Katherine Pill, Curator of Contemporary Art, Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL

Ron Platt, Chief Curator, Grand Rapids Art Museum, MI

Kelly Shindler, Associate Curator, Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, MO

Prospectus: davebownprojects.com

Any questions about submissions, contact: Dave Bown

+1 (917) 365-5265 or info@davebownprojects.com

(This listing came through Art Deadlines. For information, on other shows, visit: www.artdeadlineslist.com

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Thank You

For the second year in a row, dear Diana Farris has offered to help PSNM with our equipment needs. Her generosity will enable us to purchase a Fender Passport Conference Portable PA System for use at all future meetings to broadcast and amplify our speaker's voices. This should be a valuable addition to our equipment arsenal.

The funds Diana donated last year were used to purchase two Sony video cameras (with flash memory for both, tripods and cables) to project the painting images of our monthly demonstrations and film them simultaneously. There are now eight video demonstrations posted to the PSNM website. They can be seen by using the "Videos" button located in the "navigation" column.

We have a great Society with people who give willingly of their time and ideas, techniques and tips, and, in cases such as these, their benevolence in monetary form. It is hoped everyone knows the Board and general members certainly appreciate it.

National Show

Some years ago, Bud Edmondson started counting the subject matter of paintings in our show. He did it simply out of curiosity and to get a feel for the subjects people chose to paint.

The results, over the years have been very enlightening. Landscapes seem to dominate in every show. Flowers, have been a perennial second place, but now have now dropped to third behind figures.

Bud has done the same poll for other societies and the one thing that has jumped out to him is that pastelists, basically, do not do abstracts. In the NMWS watercolor show this year, Abstract and Semi-abstract were the second largest group behind landscapes.

The other interesting fact is that over the years, figures have become a lot more popular.

Subject count of 2015 National Pastel Show

Landscape	82 (including 11 Skyscapes)
Figures	24
Flowers	19
Still-life	7
Animals	8
Abstract	4
Semi abstract	4

Subject count of 2015 Small Works Show

Landscape	47
Figures	3
Flowers	12
Still-life	1
Animals	3
Abstracts	0
Semi abstract	1

MasterWorks of New Mexico 2016

Deadline for Standard Fine Art Division:

Friday, January 22, 5pm

Deadline for Miniature Artwork Entry Forms and all shipped Miniature Artwork :

Saturday, March 12, 5pm

Exhibition: April 2-29 • Tuesdays-Sundays 10 am-5 pm

Opening Reception: Apr. 1, 5-8 pm

Hispanic Arts Center at Expo NM, Albuquerque

Open to NM residents only.

Standard Fine Art Officials: Judge - Chris Morel

Jurors - Brian Cobble, McCreery Jordan, Pietro Palladini

Miniature Fine Art Officials: Judge - Lyla Garcia

Jurors - Lea Bradovich, Jan Jardine, Janice St. Marie

Prospectus available on the MasterWorks website:

www.masterworksnm.org

New Mexico Arts and Crafts Fair's 55th Annual Summer Event

Deadline for registration: January 31, 2016

June 24, 25, 26, 2016

Go to www.zapplication.org to set up a profile & password

Open to New Mexico Residents ONLY. Must be 18yrs & older to apply.

Please call or email us any further questions. Our phone number is 505-884-9043. Our office is open on Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10am-2pm.

To get prospectus, go to: <http://www.nmartsandcraftsfair.org/artist-information.html>

1st International Pastel Biennial at Sanary and 5th International Pastel Biennial of Lyon

Deadline: Saturday, April 2, 2016

July 1 to Aug 31 at L'Espace St. Nazaire rue Joseph Courrau in Sanary and from Sept 7 to Oct 14 at L'Orangerie du Parc de la Tête d'Or in Lyon

It is compulsory to participate in both events. Works must be 60% minimum dry pastel. Copies and reproductions are forbidden.

Entry fees are in Euros, as are all other expenses.

Exhibition frames the art works, which must absolutely correspond to the following size frame - 100cm X 70 cm or 70 cm X 50 cm.

Artists must be present for at least one day at both events.

You can find the extremely complex prospectus at:

www.artdecoeurdelart.com

(Click on the image of the British flag to read it in English.)

Mile High International Pastel Exhibit

Deadline: Saturday, April 9, 2016

Pastel Society of Colorado's 12th Annual Show

July 10- Sept 8, 2016, Denver, CO. Over \$4000 in cash

Workshops & Classes

LISTING POLICY: All new announcements will be published with as much detail as space will allow. Repeat listings may be shortened. Deadline for submissions is 15th of month preceding next issue.

Please send your listings for classes, workshops, events, or news via email to: psnm.news@gmail.com

Workshops and classes held in **Albuquerque, Santa Fe, or other NM locales are indicated in Red.**

TAUGHT BY PSNM MEMBERS

Michael Chesley Johnson Workshops

Fall/Winter • Sedona AZ

Plein Air painting with Signature Member of AIS, PSA, MPAC, PSNM. Workshops are limited to a maximum of four students, so you will get plenty of personal attention. Michael will also gladly create a custom workshop (think "pastel-only"!) if you can get four people. Paint half the day and explore or paint on your own the rest of the day! Sedona has wonderful weather in the winter - pleasantly cool and sunny.

Price is only \$300/person for four half-days.

For full details, visit www.PaintSedona.com

Buy Michael's new book "Outdoor Study to Studio: Take Your Plein Air Paintings to the Next Level" on Amazon.com

Albert Handell Workshop

Dec 7 - 10 • Wimberley, Texas

Held at Creekhaven Inn Bed and Breakfast, 400 Mill Lane. www.creekhaven.com

To register, please contact Bill Appleman 512-847-9344 or 512-757-9040

For questions about other workshops, call: 505-983-8373, email: alberthandell@msn.com, or go to: alberthandell.com

Bill Canright Workshop

July 15 - 24, 2016 • Kingdom of Fife, Southeast Scotland

Please refer to the October issue of HIGHLIGHT for details.

awards, including \$1200 Best of Show, plus thousands more in merchandise.

Juror and Judge: Kim Casebeer (who is also teaching a 3-day workshop).

Entry fee: up to 3 paintings \$35 PSC members; \$45 non-members; all entrants pay \$10 per add'l entry up to 5 total.

Download prospectus: <http://pastelsocietyofcolorado.org/shows.php>

Questions? Contact Virginia Unseld at: vjunseld@aol.com