



# HIGHlight

November 2015



## From the President...

Dear Fellow Artists and Friends,

When you read this message, our 24th Annual National Pastel Painting Exhibition will be in final preparations for the opening day celebration on Saturday, October 31, from 2 - 6 p.m. This is always a wonderful, month-long, event and this year's artwork is stellar.

Congratulations to all who had painting(s) selected for our National Show. All the thought, design and labor of creating the work of art, entering the show, the stress of waiting for the jurors' results, and finally the process of either getting it framed, or framing it ourselves, is now behind us and it's time to display the work for all to see.

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## Monthly Meeting at the Albuquerque Museum

**Saturday, November 14**  
**Black Magic and More**

Betty Lehnus will walk us through the use of black papers/ substrates during her demonstration. Very dark surfaces help pastel painters create dramatic effects, but there are some special techniques that make that drama easier to achieve – for example, reflections of objects sitting on smooth surfaces. Betty will show us how she uses erasers, packing peanuts, color shapers, and other improvised or unconventional tools to create a distinctive “look” to her still life paintings. In addition, she will also demonstrate and talk about how the character of dark papers made by different manufacturers is likely to affect the outcome of your work.



*White Peony*  
by Betty Lehnus

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## YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

### 2016 PSNM Officers Ballot

**Votes will be counted at the November Meeting!**

- Nicholas Tesluk, President
- Lee McVey, Vice President
- Vicky Leahy, Treasurer
- Betty Tichich, Secretary
- Write-In: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Print*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### To Vote for 2016 PSNM Officers:

- 1) Print this page of HIGHlight;
- 2) Fill in the ballot above;
- 3) Sign and date ballot where indicated;
- 4) Cut it out;
- 5) Bring it to the November meeting.

#### OR

Mail the completed ballot to:

PSNM, PO Box 3571, Albuquerque, NM 87190

**(Must arrive before Nov. 11th for tabulation)**

## 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	<b>VACANT</b>
Refreshments	Donna Aldrich, Audrey Minard
Signature Membership	<b>VACANT</b>
Small Works Show	Louisa Roberts
Website Manager	<b>VACANT</b>

**To communicate with people on this list by email, go to [www.pastelsnm.org](http://www.pastelsnm.org) then click on Contacts.**

*continued from page 1* - **From the President...**

After viewing the digital entries for weeks, while preparing our Show Catalog, it is always a real treat to see the actual paintings arrive at the Hispanic Arts Center. As Doug Dawson, our Judge from 2014, pointed out when seeing a few of the same paintings in person which he had only months before juried from digital images for the Pastel Journal's "Pastel 100" Competition, there are so many factors that can change when seeing the framed painting. The digital image is just the image with nothing surrounding it but the background of the computer application. Seeing a framed painting for real can change the look, the contrast and the entire feel of the painting. If the chosen frame or mat is distracting or poorly cut that can make a difference negatively. If the frame complements the artwork it can take the image itself to greater heights. Plus, seeing the image on the computer screen can't convey the true size of the work. Even if the size is marked, it is often difficult to envision how the true painting will appear when seeing it "live".

It is an honor to have your painting selected for this show and if it wins an award from Liz Haywood-Sullivan, our Judge this year, that's frosting on the cake. Best of luck to all of you!

~ Nicholas

## Member News

*(upcoming receptions & demos highlighted in red)*

**Ann Gladstone, Annie Roberts, Denali Brooke and Panola Lisle** of Flowering Sage Artists Studios invite you to their **fifth annual Fall Open Studios, Sunday, November 8 from 2 - 5pm**. Come visit with the artists and see their newest artwork. The studios are located at 2800 Eubank NE, one block south of Candelaria on the east side of the street. For further information contact Panola at 505-299-9137 or [plisle@lislecc.com](mailto:plisle@lislecc.com)

**Depy Adams, Donna Aldrich, Barbara Clark, Iva Morris, and Paul Murray** will have work on display at the Albuquerque Museum "Miniatures & More 2015" exhibit. The exhibit runs until Sunday, Dec. 6.

**John Philbin Dolan IAPS-MC, PSNM, PSA** won the New Orleans Art Association Award in the Degas Pastel Society's Member Show for his painting, "Tara". <http://philbininc.com/works/1483252/tara>

**Lyle Brown and Marilyn Drake** will have works in "Seasons", a themed exhibit at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts from Nov 7 - Dec 30. Bud Edmondson, who won "Best of Show" last year, was one of the jurors of selection and is also serving as one of the award judges this year. **The opening reception is Saturday, Nov. 7 at 2 pm at the Museum, 251 Main Street SE, Los Lunas.**

**Janice St. Marie** has been named one of the three jurors for the Miniatures Division of the 2016 MasterWorks of New Mexico show, which will be held from April 2 - 29 at EXPO NM in the Hispanic Arts Center. See the Call for Entries below for more details.

## Call for Entries

### 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](http://www.masterworksnm.org)

# October Program Review

by Pat Oliver

## “Mail Art” Demo by Gail Murray

*Gail Murray graduated from the University of Northern Colorado and spent 17 years in her early career in advertising and graphic design. She has been involved in paper art since the 1990's and has shown her work at Amapola Gallery in Old Town, the Weyrich Gallery, and the New Mexico Arts and Crafts Fair. She has been a member of the Santa Fe Book Arts Group since 2008 and received the Creativity Award in MasterWorksNM in 2012 for her miniature books. Gail's husband, Paul, who is a Distinguished Pastelist member of PSNM, assisted her with the demo.*

Gail defined “Mail Art” as making and sending a piece of art through the U.S. Postal Service. She introduced the plan for her demo as techniques in pastel, how to make an envelope without a template with minimal cutting and gluing, and showing Mail Art.

She started years ago with a Book Art group. She saw that you could bind things such as cards to create books. Initially she began by making Christmas cards and then other cards. For Mail Art, Gail generally uses the standard 4" x 6" postcard format, which allows you to send a tiny piece of art through the mail.



*Question: When you do, for example, 80 cards by hand, how long does it take you?*

*Answer: Paul helps, and it takes about 20-30 hours.*

*Question: What is the process from drawing to card?*

*Answer: There is no process.*

*It's all by hand. It's what you come up with. Don't use a computer.*

Paul added that there is a way to take type from a laser printer so you can make a negative-reading copy and it comes out right-reading when applied to another sheet. Gail said it's very labor intensive.

*Question: Do you add type after the art?*

*Answer: Yes, put the type on last. Then maybe you can add gold leaf, etc.*

### Postcards made using Pastel

Gail demonstrated how she applies pastel onto inexpensive 9 x 12 card stock purchased at Hobby Lobby or Michaels. To

make the design on the card, she used the side of the pastel and began making streaks all over, then used a different color and applied strokes in different directions. Then she blended the colors by rubbing the surface of the card with a Kleenex, after which she added additional layers in the same way. This created the background on which Gail began to add a design, making “very scrawly” marks in several colors. Finally, she added some black marks. The design was very abstract. She said she likes to take a pastel stick and drizzle it around lightly. Paul added that micaceous iron oxide can be added to make the paintings sparkle.

For a second pastel card, Gail began with a yellow-green pastel, applied in a broad scribble. This was followed by blue, and then blending with a Kleenex. Gail said she only uses 4 or 5 colors for smearing. For the foreground, she added black marks in a variety of shapes. She said, “Use the hardest pastels that you can.” Then she added purple markings “like a bug crawling” on the surface.

*Comment: Artisan has a new spray with a glitter effect.*

With the designs completed on two cards, Paul took them outside to spray them in order to seal the surface. She likes to use a Valspar clear gloss sealer purchased at Lowe's.

Gail said “Good Mail Day” is one of the great books about Mail Art. Other recommendations were “500 Handmade Books” and “The World of Donald Evans”.

*Question: Do they (the cards) sell on E-Bay?*

*Answer: Mail Art isn't made to be sold, but to be sent through the mail. The basic ground rules are: every piece you receive should be acknowledged, do not charge money, and collect the Mail Art, do not return it.*

Paul returned with two card sheets, which had dried and Gail demonstrated how she cuts the sheets into 4" x 6" postcards. She used a self-healing cutting mat that had a grid printed on it to make the measuring easier. She used a metal ruler and an X-Acto knife and cut 3 cards from the sheet. She saves all her scrap pieces to use in making other projects.

*Question: What about business cards?*

*Answer: One sheet can yield 10 cards, and the sheet can be printed on the front and back if desired.*

### Handmade Books

Gail showed an example of one of her handmade books.



Another had a fanfold with caves and bats on opposite sides. To make it, she folded and cut the paper for an accordion effect. She used 70 pound paper for the cover.

*Question: Tell us about your matchbox books.*

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Answer: Gail pulled a tiny accordion-folded book from an actual matchbox. She said 3" x 3" x 6" is the maximum in the miniature book realm. She used "arty stamps" on the pages and paste paper to cover the box.



### Envelopes

Next, Gail demonstrated making envelopes without a template or having to measure. She makes envelopes using colorful pages taken from magazines and puts her Mail Art inside. She also said scrapbooking papers can be used. She begins by placing the item to be mailed on the paper and folds the paper to fit it. The next step is to "cut away anything that is not an envelope." It doesn't have to be precise. No measuring is involved.

She folded the envelope back over the insert and used a glue stick for the sides that close; then she seals the flap. She said to use the flap side for the address label and stamp.

Another technique for making an envelope is to position the paper at an angle to the insert and then fold up around the insert. There's no need to cut this type and you can glue it shut at one spot. Gail also mentioned a CD envelope based on a square CD shape, and another with circular lobes based on a template.

### "Arty" Stamps

To make "arty" stamps, Gail uses perforated paper or uses a sewing machine with no thread to perforate plain paper. The website [www.stamps.com](http://www.stamps.com) has a lot of good information for stamp makers. The stamps can be decorative, or your art can be made into real postage stamps as described on [stamps.com](http://stamps.com). Gail said to always put a return address on every "Mail Art" piece you send, and when you buy postage stamps, buy artistic or commemorative ones.

### Discussion

*Question: What is the trick for making your other mailer?*

Answer: Perforating. Use a straight edge to score and fold the card stock in half to 6" x 9". Then open the sheet and use the perforating tool to perforate 1/2" from the edge on each side. (You can use a pattern wheel from Joanne's). Apply glue around all the 1/2" margins using a glue stick and press to seal. It is helpful to write opening instructions on the edges of the sealed mailer. "Tear along perforations", or something to that effect should be sufficient.

*On April 24, 2016, Gail will teach a one-day workshop on "Making Miniature Books" at MasterWorksNM. Details about the workshop can be found at: [www.masterworksnm.org](http://www.masterworksnm.org)*

## 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](mailto:psnm.news@gmail.com)

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

### TAUGHT BY PSNM MEMBERS

#### Mike Mahon Workshops

**Nov 10 - 12** • Rockport, TX - *Plein Air*

Learn step-by-step painting procedure which gives renewed control of your painting and will spark the spontaneity for which Mike is famous. Learn how to gain control at any stage of your painting and know from the beginning it's going to be a success! Techniques provided to critique your work using objective principles.

Unless otherwise noted, all workshops cost \$395

To register for any of the above, or ask questions, contact Mike at: 505-795-4639 or by email: [art@mmahon.com](mailto:art@mmahon.com)

#### 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](http://www.PaintSedona.com)

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

#### **NEW!** Albert Handell Workshop

**Dec 7 - 10** • Wimberley, Texas

Held at Creekhaven Inn Bed and Breakfast, 400 Mill Lane. [www.creekhaven.com](http://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](mailto:alberthandell@msn.com), or go to: [alberthandell.com](http://alberthandell.com)

#### Bill Canright Workshop

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

Please refer to the October issue of *HIGHLIGHT* for details.