



WILD ONION

from the president's corner

This year is the beginning of a new decade for the Chicago Pastel Painters. We finished our first decade with the 5th Biennial Members Show (Strokin' V!) and will begin the new decade with the 5th National Biennial Show (Pastels Chicago 2015).

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2015 begins the second
decade of the Chicago
Pastel Painters
.....

In the last decade we have seen many changes—pastels have become more popular among artists, more popular among collectors. The number and quality of pastels has increased, as have surfaces and other materials we use.

As the number of pastel artists increases, it will enlarge our circles of friendship. There will be more work to see and admire. We will be excited, we will be inspired, we will be challenged.

Good luck to all in the coming year with your artistic endeavors. May this new decade be full of milestones for all of us.

-tatijana

SAVE THE DATE

Reception – Friday,
October 2, 6:30 to 9:00

Pastels Chicago 2015
Fifth Biennial National
Juried Exhibition

THE ART CENTER
HIGHLAND PARK
1957 Sheridan Road
Highland Park, Illinois 60035

*(See the prospectus on page 4
for submission details)*

Welcome New Members

*The following have recently become
CPP members:*

- Gail Faber, Rockford, IL
- Adrianna Hewings, Chicago. IL
- Shari Hohl, Geneva, IL

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

1/30/2015

Art Institute Prints and Drawings
Viewing Event

Friday, Jan. 30, 10:30 – 12:00

MARCH

3/1/2015

Submissions open
for Pastels Chicago 2015

JUNE

6/2 to 6/6/2015

IAPS Convention, Albuquerque

JULY

7/1/2015

Submissions closed
for Pastels Chicago 2015

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Pastels Chicago 2015
Fifth Biennial National
Juried Exhibition

SEPTEMBER

9/28 to 10/2/2015

WORKSHOP FULL

Richard McKinley 5-Day
Plein Air and Studio Workshop
Names accepted for wait list.

*Dates still to be determined
for the following:*

- Framing and packing seminar
- Plein air events
- Critiques

Nancy Miller's Meet the Member JUDY SKULBORSTAD



“Positive, energetic, passionate, focused and fun” describe Judy Skulborstad! Although her career began only ten years ago, the seed was planted very early on. Judy can’t remember a time in her life when she wasn’t interested in art. Her aunt, who was an artist, “lit the artistic fire” under her and her mother “fanned the flames!” The flames went out, when Judy’s mother died...

A French class trip to the Art Institute, to see a Renoir exhibit, “ignited the fire again.” Judy sought art classes in high school, and, fortunately, her school had an excellent art program. Her most valuable lesson from high school: “Art is about seeing, not just putting pencil to paper and making an image.” She began to train her eyes to see the edges, shapes and lines all around her. She absolutely loved it! While planning for her upcoming art career, she got the “You Will Never Be Able to Support Yourself as an Artist” speech, so she took other college classes instead, giving up her dream of attending The Art Institute.

Judy had another love—horses! She said, “I have loved them my whole life! After I got married, we had horses at our home for 25 years. Enjoying that passion and raising our two children with my husband, pretty much occupied all of my time.”

“In 2005, after my oldest left for college, I was determined to pursue my other life-long passion—art!”

Judy took a drawing class at Kaleidoscope, an art studio near her home in Barrington. It was a defining moment for her. Wanting to push herself a little more, she decided to take a pastel class. It was love at first stroke! She practiced, took more classes and got better and better. In one class, she did a pencil portrait of an Ethiopian woman, decided to paint her in her pastel class and then sculpted her in a sculpture class—an exercise she highly recommends.



“Taking a Break” Woods Landing, Wyoming, 18 x 24 Pastel

During this time, she also participated in a Member’s Sketch Class at the Art Institute. The Art Institute remains one of her favorite places on earth!

Then in 2009 Sally Strand offered a Color of Light workshop in Chicago. Taking advantage of the opportunity to study with such an amazing artist, and being able to take her education to another level, was another career-changing experience for Judy. Two years later, she took two back-to-back Sally Strand workshops in



Michigan. Sally contacted Judy in 2012 about her first workshop in France, scheduled for 2013. Studying and painting in France was a “bucket list” item for her, and painting with Sally Strand in France made it an

.....
Art is about seeing,
not just putting pencil to
paper and making
an image.
.....

opportunity not to be missed. Judy decided to go, even though both of her children were getting married that same year! She met many amazing artists, including the accomplished German artist, Astrid Volquarsden, who has been instrumental in helping Judy with her career.

Judy has also taken a Dawn Emerson workshop and was inspired by Dawn’s horses, colors and energy. Currently, Judy takes a class in Old Town with Kathleen Newman. Not only does she give tremendous kudos to Kathleen but to the other artists in the class. During winter road



Judy with Sally Strand at Haut Baran, France; and painting en plein air

Meet the Member **JUDY SKULBORSTAD** continued

construction and “iffy” weather, Judy stays closer to home for classes and paints with dear friend and wonderful artist Peggy Drury at her studio in Barrington called “Art on the Prairie.”

Judy loves to travel. Whether to Europe, North America or a far-flung adventure to the Philippines, there is always so much to paint from the wonderful memories/experiences and photo references! Fly-fishing is a family favorite and the streams and rivers are delightful subjects, as are mountains. “We love the outdoors!”

Last year, Judy Skulborstad had her first solo show at the top of the Santa Fe Building. She loved being in that historic, intimate space, overlooking the Art Institute and Lake Michigan. Judy feels very blessed to have had that experience. She was also lucky enough to have one of her paintings displayed at the Palette and Chisel in Chicago.

Judy is in awe of the talented people that she has met at CPP. She has felt very welcomed and encouraged by all of you. She recently joined the Pastel Society of America.

As I was finishing this article, I found a new email from Judy. In it she said, “There has been no turning back, since reconnecting with my ‘old friend’ and I can say, as difficult as it is, I love creating and the challenges that come with it! The more I paint the more challenges I find!”



Judy's first show of pastels, oils and sculpture brought many art lovers and well wishers to the historic Santa Fe Building (also known as the Railway Exchange Building) on Michigan Avenue, last October 4.



*Left to right: “Wyoming Vista,” 9 x 12 Pastel;
“Crane” Boca Grande, Florida, 16 x 20 Pastel;
“Plein Air Flower Pot” Haut Baran, France, 10 x 14 Pastel*



BEST OF SHOW 2013 National Exhibition
Moving in Accord, Colette Odyia Smith, PSA, IAPS-MC

PASTELS CHICAGO 2015

Fifth Biennial National Juried Open Exhibition
2015 Prospectus

SEPTEMBER 11 - OCTOBER 31, 2015

THE ART CENTER HIGHLAND PARK

1957 Sheridan Road
Highland Park, IL 60035
www.theartcenterhp.org

2015 CALENDAR

Submissions open **March 1, 2015**

Submissions closed **July 1, 2015**

Jury Notification the week of: **August 1, 2015**

Shipping: To arrive **August 24 - 29, 2015**

Hand-Delivery: **9 am - 4:30 pm, September 2, 2015**

Opening Reception and Award Ceremony

Friday, October 2, 2015, 6:30 - 9 pm

Pick-up Hand-Deliveries

9 am - 4:30 pm, November 2, 2015

Return of Shipped Work will start the week of
November 2, 2015

JUROR OF SELECTIONS

Judith Carducci, PSA

www.judithcarducci.com

Listed in *Who's Who in American Art*, Judith Carducci has received international recognition as one of today's best portrait painters. Her work has been shown in such venues as The National Arts Club and the Salmagundi Club in New York City, the Cahoon Museum of American Art, and the Butler Institute of American Art.

JUDGE OF AWARDS

Richard McKinley, PSA

www.mckinleystudio.com

Richard McKinley has been a professional working artist for 38 years and has over 35 years of teaching experience. In 2010 he was inducted into The Pastel Society of America's Hall of Fame at the National Arts Club in NYC. An avid plein air painter, he is a frequent contributing editor for the Pastel Journal Magazine.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all U.S. artists, 18 years and older. All work must be original, created, and produced by the artist within the last 3 years, without class, workshop, or any other supervision and have at least 80% of the image area in soft pastel. No oil pastels. Compositions taken from published material will not be considered original. Work produced under supervision is ineligible. Work previously exhibited in any CPP Exhibition is not eligible. CPP reserves the right to refuse any painting that does not meet these professional standards. Return of such paintings will occur at the artist's expense. All accepted work must remain on exhibit for the duration of the show. All work must be for sale. Once prices are submitted, they are final.

SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Artist may submit up to 3 images. All entries for this exhibition are digital, submitted online through ShowSubmit, and may be linked online at www.ChicagoPastelPainters.org beginning March 1, 2015.

LIMITATIONS

No size limitations. All work must be professionally framed and ready to be hung. No screw eyes. No sawtooth hangers. Plexiglas strongly recommended for shipped works. Glass at artist's own risk.

SALES

The Art Center of Highland Park will receive a 30% commission and CPP will retain a 10% commission on all sales. Artist will receive 60% of sale.

ENTRY FEES

Current members: \$35.00, up to 3 images. Non-members: \$45.00, up to 3 images. No refund of entry fees.

AWARDS

Best of Show - \$1,500. Cash and Merchandise awards will total approximately \$8,000.00. Winners will be announced at the opening reception.

DELIVERY

Accepted artists will receive detailed information about hand-delivery, shipping and handling, and exhibition labels. A minimum handling fee of \$40.00 per container will be charged to shipped work.

AGREEMENT OF ENTRY AND LIABILITY

All reasonable care will be taken with paintings and submissions. However, the **Chicago Pastel Painters**, its officers or volunteers, and the **Art Center Highland Park**, its officers or volunteers, will not be responsible for loss or damage. CPP suggests that participants carry separate insurance for loss or damage in transit. CPP reserves the right to reproduce accepted artwork for publicity purposes. All accepted work (no substitutes) must be delivered or shipped as specified in this prospectus. If accepted work is not available for the exhibition or for the entire time of the exhibition, the artist may be prohibited from exhibiting in future CPP shows. Artist will release the **Chicago Pastel Painters** and the **Art Center Highland Park** from any liability by entering this exhibition.

WORKSHOP

In conjunction with the exhibition, Richard McKinley, PSA-M, will conduct a five-day workshop September 28 - October 2, 2015. Visit www.ChicagoPastelPainters.org to be placed on the waiting list.

QUESTIONS

Mike Barret Kolasinski, PSA, IAPS-MC, CPP-M
mbkolasinski@earthlink.net

Entering Online Shows Pay Off

CPP's *Wild Onion* asked Nancie King Mertz the "hows and whys" of the article of her work in the Feb. 2015 issue of *Pastel Journal*. She hopes this will serve as "an encouragement to all of you to enter your best work in some of these shows that require an image only—no shipping required!"



It began by entering their annual show last Spring and winning a couple of finalist awards. Soon Anne Hevener, editor of Pastel Journal, sent an email asking if they could do an article on my work. Of course, I was elated and had to assure them that I would keep it a secret until publication time.

They asked for 20 images to select from and any step-by-step pieces I might have documented in photos. Fortunately, I had taken a few photos of the very large "Neighborhood Gem" piece that was in our last CPP show, simply to look for problem areas as it progressed—it was too big to stand back from in my small studio! In addition, I purposely created a demo for them of "Under

Angle," the pastel that is featured on a link to Artist's Network online. www.artistsnetwork.com/medium/pastel/nancie-king-mertz-pastel-tutorial

In August, John Parks, the author of the article, called for a phone interview to get material for publication. He is a very kind Brit, a wonderful artist, and we had a great chat, talking about work and processes. It was an honor to read his take on our discussion.

Keeping "mum" about the article for months was a good test, and they did notify me that I could order extra copies on December 15 that would be shipped at the end of the month. That day I logged-on to place an order and was shocked to see "Enchanted Forest" on the cover! Actually, I was in such a state of disbelief that I pulled it up on my website to verify that the images were a match. I quickly sent an email to one of the editors to thank her for the cover-surprise, and she said, "Oh! I forgot to tell you!"

It's been such a treat to hear from artists around the country who have read the article and noticed the cover. The owner of the painting has been just as thrilled as I, and makes it a point to share the cover with his barbershop clients!



The February issue of Pastel Journal takes us step-by-step through the making of Nancie's "Neighborhood Gem"

CPP Holiday Party, Food, Friends, Fun

Thank you to Arlene Tarpey, Terry Niccoli and Tatijana Jacenkiw for their part in facilitating the CPP Holiday Party, held on Sunday, November 30. To kick off the holiday season, members and guests gathered in the charming private room on the second floor of caffe DeLuca in Forest Park. A delicious buffet was served and many plans for the upcoming year were discussed. We hope to be back in the summer for another gathering. Stay tuned...

Want to get your art online but don't know how?

Let CPP create your web page for you and showcase your talent to the world.





A Book Review

by Lauren Peterson

In the introduction of her book, *Daily Painting: Paint Small and Often To Become a More Creative, Productive, and Successful Artist*, author and artist Carol Marine states, "Early in my painting career, a professional artist I admired advised me to paint every day. I promptly ignored his advice and continued to coast as a starving artist for years. But in 2006 all that changed."

As the title indicates, that was when Carol started painting daily, although she makes clear that daily doesn't really mean daily, just often, and small doesn't necessarily mean small, though most artists find it easier to paint more often if they are painting smaller.

A lot of artists are jumping on the small, daily painting bandwagon, many of which are selling their paintings on the eBay-like website Carol and her husband created, www.dailypaintworks.com.

But the book is much more than a plea to pick up your brush more often. While she covers the usual topics—materials, subject matter, value, and composition—she also offers great insight into the business of art, which she has clearly mastered. There are chapters on how to photograph and edit paintings, ways to generate web traffic to your blog or website, tips for better online sales, and advice on dealing with galleries.

Although I have to admit I don't always like her paintings, I certainly can't argue with her success. Her paintings are selling as fast as she can paint them and her book appears to be doing well, too. Of the 124 reviews on Amazon, 118 were 5-star and the other six were 4-star. It's worth a look.

Union Street Hosts Side-by-Side Demos

During the 2014 CPP Biennial Members' show (Strokin'V) at Union Street Gallery in Chicago Heights, two of CPP's Master Members presented an afternoon of pastel painting. Demonstrating their techniques in side-by-side presentations, Carol Strock Wasson (CPP-M) and Nancie King Mertz, CPP-M, PSA, IAPS-MC each took paintings from start to finish while answering questions from a fascinated crowd of about 45 attendees. For two hours the artists worked from easels set up on tarps in the center of the two-story gallery with viewers watching from seats set up around the painters and even from the balcony above. Most attendees moved around to watch as each of the artists progressed through their work.

As they worked Carol and Nancie talked about techniques,

started a second piece. Carol set up a photo reference on her iPad and several boxes of well organized pastels to create a landscape painting. She kept her pastel sticks clean by placing them in a container of cornmeal while she worked.

Union Street Gallery has a large exhibit space on the first floor, a balcony exhibit space above that and studio spaces for 16 artists on the first, second and third floors. There is also an active USG artists' guild with about 25 members who do not have studio space at the gallery but are regularly



Nancie (above) and Carol (left) demonstrate their different approaches to pastel painting.

involved in meetings, shows and educational events.

Judging by the enthusiastic crowd, viewer questions and conversations, this demo was a very successful event. Thank you, Carol and Nancie. And a special thanks to Carol for driving hundreds of miles to and from the demo!

material and subject matter. Each artist used different methods in starting, working and completing their paintings. Nancie demonstrated a wash underpainting with her first piece, blocking in with pastel then using a solvent to wash the color into the paper. While that dried she

by Mary Ann Trzyna

Announcements

Tobi Abrams had four large pastels juried into the Highland Park Village Hall in a show titled Art in City Hall. January 26 to May 15.

The Fremont/Mundelein Public Library show runs from January 3, to April 22 featuring plein air paintings from the southwestern United States. She also has a pastel painting titled Clashing of Clouds in the members' show of the Highland Park Art Center from January 9 to January 31; and two plein air pastels, *Crab Tree Nature Center Lake* and *Delightful Purple Flowers*, at The Garlands in Barrington, from January 9 to February 28.

Last fall **Ted Fuka** won a third place award from the Pastel Society of North Florida's *13th Biennial National Show*; and the Art Spirit Foundation Dianne B. Bernhard award from the CN Pastel Society *Renaissance in Pastel 2014* show; and an Honorable



Delightful Purple Flowers
by Tobi Abrams



Winter Road by
Brian Sauerland,
12" x 16"

Mention in *Pastel Journal* 2015 Pastel 100 competition.

Julie Skoda is teaching pastel painting at the La Grange Art League www.lagrangeartleague.org

Julie Skoda's painting, Chicago Harbor, received an Award of Merit from the Pastel Society of the Southwest's 33rd National Juried Exhibit, and her painting, Aviana Sunset, was a finalist in the Landscape category of *The Artist's Magazine* 31st Art Competition

Nancie King Mertz

Nancie's work is featured in the *Pastel Journal* February 2015 issue on pages 30–37, and a large pastel of Ireland is on the cover!

Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, OH is hosting a select show of pieces through March from the PSA show last fall. One of Nancie's pastels is included.

Awards were received this fall at the Degas Society Pastel show in New Orleans and also the Pastel Society of the Southwest in Texas. Margaret Dyer was the juror.

"Pastels are Perfect for Plein air" is a destination 2-day workshop that I will teach in the Panhandle of Florida the end of April. For info, go to www.pleinairfl.com

Terry Niccoli is having a show at the Woodridge Library, February 2–28. Reception will be Sunday, February 8, from 2–4 pm. Terry lives in Woodridge, and this will be her third solo show at the library.

Brian Sauerland received an Honorable Mention in the *Pastel Journal* 2015 Pastel 100 competition for his painting, Winter Road.

Members, please send us your announcements. We will only print the ones submitted by our members, and we don't want to miss your events and achievements.

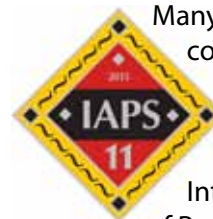
Deadlines for Submitting Information to Wild Onion

April 15

July 15

October 15

January 15



Many of our members will convene this June at the 2015 IAPS Eleventh Biennial Convention in Albuquerque. The International Association of Pastel Societies convention is a "pastel party" that's full of demonstrations, workshops, pastel materials, exhibitions and gatherings. The response was overwhelming this year, and the registration filled up quickly. So, don't miss the next IAPS Convention in 2017.

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BIG THANKS to John Markese for offering to help our webmaster Randy Karey with the execution of our website.

CPP Membership

Are you looking for CPP signature status?

If you are working toward your CPP "letters," it's important not to let your membership lapse. Good for one year beginning each January, your membership, may be renewed at any time.

only \$35 for the year!

Please mail your check, written to CPP, to:

Pat Hagle
8300 Callie Avenue, #107
Morton Grove IL 60053

It's Your CPP— Speak Up!

Great Opportunities for CPP Volunteers!

To get involved, visit the CPP website, www.chicagopastelpainters.org. You'll learn about upcoming member outings, workshops, shows and awards. Newsletter submissions may be emailed to editor Dotty Carringi at dotdesigns@comcast.net. Questions, comments and ideas may be emailed to info@chicagopastelpainters.org. Or, just give a fellow member a call, brainstorm a project and take the lead—CPP welcomes your creativity!

As always, CPP is looking for suitable locations (libraries, studios, restaurants, etc.) around the Chicago area and suburbs for holding critiques and other CPP activities. Member input is needed and much appreciated.

Please forward suggestions to info@chicagopastelpainters.org.

Description of Membership Designations

Signature Status – CPP

To receive CPP Signature Status, an artist must be a member in good standing and be juried into three different CPP exhibitions, either Member or National.

Distinguished Status – CPP-D

To receive CPP Distinguished Status, an artist must be a member in good standing and receive three awards in three different CPP exhibitions, either Member or National.

Master Status – CPP-M

To receive CPP Master Status, an artist must be a member in good standing and receive three awards in three different CPP National exhibitions.

Honorary Status – CPP-H

To receive CPP Honorary Status, an artist must be selected by CPP's Board in showing their achievement of advancing the merits and goals of CPP.

Thank You

**to all who contributed
photos, stories, ideas
and time to this issue
of Wild Onion.**

chicagopastelpainters.org