



**BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

**January – February 2023**

**Website: [www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com](http://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com)**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Member Meeting**

Fri., Jan 13, 2023  
In Person and Zoom Meeting &  
Program – Tuckahoe Library  
1901 Starling Dr, Henrico, VA 23229  
12:30 pm – Business Meeting  
1:00 pm – Glen Maxion Virtual  
Demo – Life’s a Beach

### **MAPS Board Meeting**

Feb. 23, 2023  
1:00 – 3:00 pm

### **Exhibits**

Glenmore Yoga and Wellness Center  
Henrico, VA  
March 8 – May 10, 2023

### **Upcoming Workshops**

Tara Will - Pastels: Immediacy and  
Color - January 27-29, 2023

Tony Allain - Mood & Atmosphere  
with Fresh Eyes May 12-14, 2023  
(Workshop #1- Three days in person)  
and May 15-16, 2023 (Workshop #2 -  
Two days in person).

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

Happy New Year, MAPS Members!!!

I hope everyone had time to make special memories with those you love! This was my first year, in many, to get back to my extended family in Indianapolis, see so many nieces and nephews and to meet all of the new grand nieces and nephews. We did battle the winter snow and below zero weather while traveling. What an adventure that was! I look forward to adventures of a different kind in 2023.

I am a quarter of the way through my second two year term as president of MAPS. A big shout out to "my" board members. They are a phenomenal group and commit their time and energy to keep this pastel community engaged and inspired. I want to encourage you to reach out to any of the board with ideas, suggestions and even to volunteer your time to help with some of our activities.

Speaking of activities, we have so much coming up this year.

Tara Will is giving a three day virtual workshop and the end of the month. That workshop, as is the trend for our group, filled up within a few hours of it opening. (If there is an upcoming workshop you would like to attend, be alert to emails announcing the upcoming registration dates so that you don't miss out). ;)

The Glenmore Yoga exhibit registration deadline is coming up. If you have been hesitant to exhibit, this is a terrific location to begin. More information can be found on our website under Exhibits.

A big highlight will be a May visit to our society by artist - Tony Allain. He will be teaching a two and three day workshop as well as doing a live demo for our members.

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## MAPS PROGRAMS

**MAPS Friday, January 13, 2023 Program: Glen Maxion Virtual Pastel Demo - Life's a Beach: An Organic Approach to the Figure –In-Person Location Tuckahoe Library Meeting Room/Zoom  
1901 Starling Drive, Henrico VA 23229 Tuckahoe – Henrico County Public Library**



Glen Maxion, well-known for his figurative beach paintings, will be doing a virtual demo for MAPS!

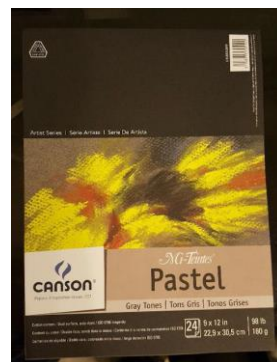
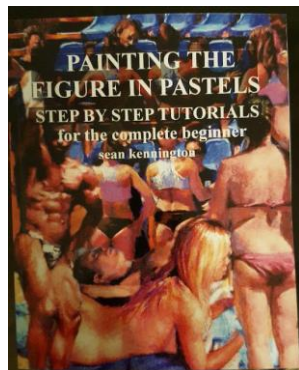
I have always loved being at the beach. It is indeed my Happy Place and a natural place for me to go for inspiration for my artwork. I find that inspiration in the gestures and shapes created by beachgoers and the space around them, the cool rhythms of the ocean and the warm sunlight. My paintings are not of lofty subjects. They are of small common experiences. Working from a photo reference, I will be demonstrating and discussing my approach to drawing and painting the figure in pastel, from image selection and initial drawing through final stages. Learn more about Glen at his website [www.glenmaxion.com](http://www.glenmaxion.com).

**Door Prizes** – Two members participating in our in-person or Zoom program will have the chance to win the following:

**Painting the Figure in Pastels: Step by Step Tutorials for the complete beginner by Sean Kennington**

**A 24-piece pad of Canson Mi-Teintes Gray Tones paper – 9 x 12 - Similar colors used by Glen Maxion**

**25 Glassine Sheets 9 x 12**



## Emily Christoff-Flowers

**(From the MAPS Newsletter archives May 2017) Emily is currently recuperating from a broken shoulder. Let's keep her in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery so the world can once again enjoy her beautiful works.**

I am not sure what motivates most artists, but what has motivated me for most of my adult life after art school was simply drawing my booty off to support myself. I was a portrait machine. I made most of my income as a street artist, drawing 5 minute profiles in pastel, which explains my comfort with the medium. I averaged 100 or more faces on a good day when I was younger. I also worked from photos drawing pets that I thought would please my clients. Regardless of my degree and earlier ambitions this was all that I did. I only worked for extrinsic rewards.

I didn't draw often outside of work primarily because many of my 1980s art professors were highly convincing that the only art worthy of hanging in public was non-objective work. I liked realism. I was harshly ridiculed for wanting to draw like a realist in school by both professors and fellow students. It was so humiliating. Realism was dead they explained. As a result of these experiences I hid all my future studio work in bulging portfolios tucked away in the back of the garage. I know that sounds horrible but before you go and judge me let me explain a few things first. You need to bear with me for a few more paragraphs before you can understand why I am now motivated much differently.

First let me answer the easier question about why I love pastel. I adore the feel of the dust on my fingers and the way that the medium moves over the tooth of the paper. It never "dries" so you can come back to it any time you want. I also think that working with pure pigment without the hassle of a brush getting in the way is great fun. A judge told me once that another good motivation to focus on pastel is that there are not nearly as many pastel artists showing in art festivals as there are artists working in oil, acrylic or watercolor. That was good to know. Even if my work was lousy I had a better chance of getting into shows someday. Cool!

My artistic motivation is a much more complicated issue. A few years ago, I started searching for some sort of inspiration to create work that had some deeper meaning for me other than just a making a copy of a person's face. I was nearing 50 and had never entered a single competition or did one art fair. I began spending hours reading and studying other artists in between my craft classes that I was teaching at that time. I drew every day. I even sent up prayers asking for signs to aim me in the right direction but all I could do is draw what I thought people wanted to buy since that is



## MAPS PROGRAMS (continued)

### **MAPS Saturday March 11, 2023 Program: Having Fun with Pastel Painting Exercises - In-Person/Zoom at Bon Air Library - Chesterfield County Public Library, Bon Air Large Meeting Room Combined A and B, at 9103 Rattlesnake Rd. Richmond VA 23235.**

We will explore a variety of quick pastel painting exercises. We will watch live demos by various members and then in-person attendees will engage in these exercises on UART and Canson paper. Those who wish to Zoom in can watch or participate in the activities at home with provided photo references. You can try some of these quick exercises with your own photo references ahead of time and send Shavon Peacock 1-2 photos at [shavonandrew@verizon.net](mailto:shavonandrew@verizon.net) if you wish to share your efforts. Activities may include painting with only 5 or 10 colors, using 10, 20 to 30 strokes, color mixing to match a specific color, using black/gray/white to make a three-value painting, using prismatic, muted colors, chromatic grays, complementary and/or analogous colors, painting warm and cool and invented colors paintings, using different types of mark making, and playing with edges.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **MAPS Thursday May 11, 2023, from 6-9 pm. Live evening with Tony Allain (2 Demo's!) - In- Person Location TBD. Each member will be able to invite one guest**



Tony Allain will be in Richmond, VA to demonstrate his amazing pastel painting st, confident and colorful strokes! More to come later on his demo.

“Tony Allain is a Scottish based artist. He is an award winning painter, instructor and author and has been painting for over 50 years. A member of the Pastel Society of London, and a member of the Royal Society of Marine Artist among others. A painter of color, light and movement with a complete understanding of his surroundings. His work is regularly featured in The Artist Magazine, the Pastel Journal and the Practique Des Arts.” - from *About the Artist, Tony Allain Fine Art*.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued)

Other plans are to host a hands-on framing workshop in June. More information on that to come.

Our judged exhibit this fall will be at Crossroads Art Center. Jacob Aguiar will judge the show as well as, teach a three day studio workshop.

Wishes for a year filled with the joy of creating!

Joan Dreicer  
MAPS President

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (continued)

all that I had ever done. I was just a robot, or at least that's how I felt. I was very confused and had hit rock bottom art-esteem.

One day as I was crying into my coffee over my frustration I remembered that when I was a kid I used put on headphones and doodle to music to ease my teen anxieties. I came from a musical family and studied classical music as a kid, so music always whisked me away to a better place. When I combined music with drawing it was almost magical. I didn't care about the end product back then, I just needed to stay calm and it worked. I would fill pages with swirls, squiggles and patterns wrapped around cartoonish looking faces and floating eyeballs. (Today they call this "Zentangle", which I find highly amusing.) I think I forgot about this experience over the years, but it suddenly came back to me. So, desperate for any form of relief from my mid-life anxieties, I put on headphones and just let it go. The experience was highly meditative. I had absolutely no ambition to please anyone. It felt so good. My technical muscles were still flexing out of habit, but the music took over and I just drew how the music made me feel. It was not a portrait of my kid, but more of an autobiography. It was better than meditation and far cheaper than a shrink. Heck, it was even better than alcohol!

I created many drawings after that based on music, choosing of course the medium that I was most familiar with, which is pastel. Perhaps a better description would be that the drawings chose me and began to flow and ooze out of my head. Eventually I became more concerned with research, pre-drawings and all that boring but necessary stuff that realists are required to do, but the most important change was that I stopped trying so hard to please the world. For the first time as an adult I was drawing for myself and only for myself. I didn't really care how anything turned out because I was not working for clients. My pastel work became an auto- biography of my own grief and about how music calms me. I entered in competitions and shows to keep me on my toes, but I never expected to actually win anything. Oddly enough galleries and judges started to notice me. I am still astonished when I get an award.

I soon realized that by combining tight photo realism with pattern brings the viewer into a deeper state of consciousness, just as listening to music brings me into a deeper meditative state. The pattern that twists about the figure represents the music. If folks don't get it, eh, oh well.

My advice to other artists and my students (I teach fine art now instead of crafting), is to just stop caring what the world thinks and draw what you love and work however you want. If you are required to make art for your living as I still am, set some studio time aside for yourself. Use the materials that make you happy and start having fun with what you are creating instead of thinking about the extrinsic rewards. Your work will glow with your own spiritual energy if you work for intrinsic reasons. That is the truest motivation of all.

P.S. After writing this I was about to send it off for your newsletter and I just received notification that I have been juried into the very prestigious International Guild of Realism. Ha! Take that art school professors!

Happy pastelling!

Emily Christoff - Flowers

## MAPS MEMBER MAKING ART

Congratulations to our November winner of a \$25 Dakota gift certificate - Julia Lesnichy, as well as our December winner, Judy Leasure whose work is now featured on our MMMA Facebook page. Our theme for January 2023 is Paintings that make us feel joyful.

We encourage you to use our theme to inspire you but anyone that posts a painting during the month is eligible for the raffle. I encourage you to share your work with us. There is no danger of harsh criticism, just lots of kudos from our members.

## MAPS MEMBER EXHIBITS

Spring 2023 Exhibit Registration Now Open!

Registration for the Spring 2023 exhibit, Serenity and Meditative Works, is now open. This exhibit will be held at Glenmore Yoga & Wellness Center in Richmond from March 8 through May 10, 2023. Artists may enter up to two paintings. There is no registration fee for this exhibit, but you must be a paid MAPS member for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to enter. All works must express calm, peaceful, serene themes. Glenmore Yoga will handle all sales, charging 30% commission on sales. [Register here](#) to enter this exhibit!

## UPCOMING MAPS MEMBER EXHIBITS

- Spring 2023    Glenmore Yoga & Wellness Center, Mar. 8 - May 10, Henrico County, VA.  
(The prospectus for Glenmore Yoga will be ready in November, 2022.)
- Fall 2024        Crossroads Art Center, Annual Judged Exhibit, Sept. 6 -Nov. 5, Richmond, VA  
(drop off is Sept. 6 although Crossroads will advertise Sept. 15 as opening when  
they hold their official reception)
- Spring 2024    Cedarfield Retirement Community May 1 - Aug. 30, Richmond, VA
- Fall 2024        Purcell Gallery at Louisa Art Center, Annual Judged Exhibit, Sept. 28 - Nov. 23,  
Louisa, VA

## BOARD HAPPENINGS

From our December board meeting –

We would really like to encourage more members to participate in exhibits and had a lengthy discussion regarding what might discourage members and ways make participating more enticing. We will talk about this at our next member meeting to gain input from you.

We also plan to organize a framing workshop in early June, with materials and experienced members on hand to instruct and give participants the opportunity to frame a painting on their own.

## UPCOMING MAPS WORKSHOPS

Tara Will's workshop takes place at the end of the month. Those participants should have received a recent email from me to remind you of the dates and times and to reacquaint you with Tara's supply list.

May 2023 - Tony Allain is coming!!! Tony will not only be demonstrating his beautiful process in creating spectacular paintings, but will be teaching two workshops for us. There will be a three day and two day workshop. We will limit everyone to register for one or the other until the workshops fill. Keep your eyes peeled for future announcements regarding registration. This workshop will fill very quickly. Most of our workshops fill within the first few hours of opening, so once the registration opening date is announced mark your calendars.

October 2023 - Jacob Aguiar will be teaching a three day workshop for us in October. If you are unfamiliar with his work, look him up with this link: [Jacob Aguiar](#)

I am in contact with some other artists for our 2024 year and look forward to sharing those names with you as we get closer and firm up details.

Joan Dreicer  
President and Workshop Chair

## MEMBER NEWS

**MAPS members**, Patti Jeffries and Elizabeth Hood, will be showing in the JRAL Gallery at Crossroads in Jan-Feb



James River Art League Gallery at Crossroads Art Center  
January/February 2023  
Opening Reception ~ Friday, January 20th, 5-8pm



*Hermosa* by Stella Jones ~ In Memoriam



*One Leg to Stand On* by David Cheatham



*Southern Magnolia* by Dale Berry



*Sunny Spot* by Patti Jeffries



*If it Itches* by Elizabeth Hood

2016 Staples Mill Road, Richmond, VA 23230  
804.278.8950 | [www.crossroadsartcenter.com/collections/jral](http://www.crossroadsartcenter.com/collections/jral)  
[www.jamesriverartleague.com/jral-gallery-paintings](http://www.jamesriverartleague.com/jral-gallery-paintings)



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



“If I create from the heart,  
nearly everything works;  
if from the head,  
almost nothing.”

Marc Chagall

## 2022/23 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### OFFICERS

President: Joan Dreicer  
VP/Program Chair: Shavon Peacock  
Treasurer: Elizabeth Hood  
Secretary: Judy Leasure

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Patti Jeffries  
Workshops: Joan Dreicer  
Exhibits: Carol Cullinan  
Technology: Sheila Chandler  
Newsletter: Vickie Knick

## ART RESOURCES LINK ON WEBSITE

Check out the page on our website with links to art resources of interest to MAPS members:  
<https://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com/art-resources.html>.

## MEMBER NEWS

Have something artfully newsworthy you wish to share, please email Vickie Knick @ [vknick30@gmail.com](mailto:vknick30@gmail.com), or see link on our website, [www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com](http://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com).