



BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY – JUNE 2020

Website: www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Member Meeting

Crossroads Art Center,

Classroom #2

2016 Staples Mill Rd

Richmond, VA

Friday, Sept. 11, 2020

12:30 – 3:30 pm

(if in-person meetings are permitted)

MAPS Board Meeting

(To be determined)

Exhibits

Uptown Gallery

4th Annual Judged Exhibit

Oct 1 – Nov. 28, 2020

Workshops

Rita Kirkman

Pastels That Glow

November 6 – 8, 2020

**Stay
Safe!**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

“MAYHEM” is not just for Allstate commercials anymore! Covid-19 has caused mayhem for MAPS plans this spring. First, we cancelled the March meeting after Governor Northam limited gatherings to 10 or less. Then we cancelled the Sally Strand Workshop that was scheduled for April. **And now we have cancelled our May 8 meeting, due to continued concerns over the virus.** I can assure you that these decisions have really disappointed your board members and we know they disappoint you as well.

So, what are the plans for MAPS going forward.

MEETINGS: We have signed a contract with Crossroads Art Center to continue holding our meetings at their location next fall. We will be planning the 2020-2021 MAPS programs over the summer, and our board has also touched on the possibility of holding meetings online if that is the only way we can resume them in September. We will continue to explore how that might work and will send more information to you as we research that possibility.

EXHIBITS: We have signed a contract with Uptown Gallery for a fall judged exhibit. The show will run from Oct. 1 through November 28, 2020 and will be judged in early November by Rita Kirkman. A prospectus for that show will be released in May.

WORKSHIPS: Rita Kirkman will be teaching a workshop Nov. 6-8 called Pastels That Glow, where she will show her unique underpainting methods and help attendees focus on the importance of daily, small paintings. See more details on our website.

<https://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com/workshops.html>

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued)

In the meantime, enjoy this issue of our MAPS newsletter, with articles from board members about how they are spending their time and what they are creating. The good news is that we all have more time to paint right now and creating is a great way to lift your spirits.

Stay Well,
Carol Cullinan, President

“To be an artist
Is to believe in life.”

Henry Moore

IDEAS AND VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM COMMITTEE

We are already starting to think about our programs for next year! MAPS members can contribute in two ways.

First, we want ideas and suggestions from all of you for program topics and also the innovation that might be needed to get together under possible restrictions for gathering as groups. What topics would you like to see covered? What pastel or art-related problems have you faced that you want help with? What subjects might spark your creativity? What do you want to learn about pastel supplies, surfaces and innovations?

Second, we need a few members to volunteer to be part of the Program Committee. Members of the committee will help sort through ideas to formulate programs for our meetings next year, source program speakers, and help with physical meeting needs. Committee members can help with all or just some of these needs, depending on your availability.

Email Elizabeth Hood at elizabethhood@comcast.net with your ideas and/or your willingness to help as a member of the Program committee. Thank you!

From Carol Cullinan, President

With all of my normal activities cancelled, I have found more time to read, paint, cook, assemble puzzles, and plant flowers. My latest pastel is called “Ribbit” and is currently on display at the Crossroads Art Center as part of the James River Art League’s “Small Things Large” exhibit. I really loved painting Ribbit because of his lively colors and wonderful expression. I’m particularly pleased with his eye. This painting measures 18 x 24 inches, so quite a bit bigger than Ribbit’s normal size of 1 ½ inches!



Reminding myself of Virginia’s geography and history was a focus for the 1,000 piece puzzle of the state that I finished last month. It looked like this.

And lastly, I believe that working in other media besides our primary focus is a great way to learn new things that apply to all media. For me, that meant working with oils and really having to focus on mixing colors. While that’s still a time-consuming activity for me, I have learned a lot about how to make many different colors. With pastels, there is always that luxury of just reaching into the box and picking up what looks right, but with oils you also don’t have the situation a pastel painter has of not having the right color regardless of how many you own!! This one, of a beautiful chapel on the beach in Mykonos, is almost finished.



As Artists we spend a great amount of time in our Studio. We are all feeling the seclusion of this pandemic. Even though a majority of my time is spent alone in my studio, I miss the interaction with other artists and my students. I thought it would be a good time to clean out my studio, organize and toss out some old frames and paperwork etc.

I came upon my old textbooks and notes from my Art Classes while I was in School. I had a exceptional professor teaching Classes at the University. My notes were taken in April of 1972 it was our final lesson before graduation. We all got this paper, it thrilled me to find this since at some point he said you will come to a time in your Art career where you will have to conquer Mediocrity in your Art Work. This is what to do and remember.

Build on 7 Foundational Truths:

- Drawing Skills
- Squinting
- Positioning the centrality of focus
- Value
- Color
- Edges
- Paint manipulation

5 Build Blocks:

- Paint for yourself, not with sales in mind
- Tap into your passions
- Interpret you feelings, don't just copy your subject literally
- Experiment with any or of the the 7 Foundational Truths
- Solve your problems up front so you know how you are going to say what you want to say

His last words to our class were: "Some might say that capturing the physical beauty of a subject is enough but remember there should be a total interaction between spirit, soul and subject. Literal copying parallels the factual while the interpretive births the poetic."

Stay Well and Create
Janet Visser

From Sheila Chandler, Treasurer

As you may know, from Carol's article, the MAPS board members have been asked to write a newsletter article describing what we have been doing during this pandemic. So, I am going to tell you about an art project I finished and I am not going to tell you about the things that have not gotten much of my attention; think cleaning house.

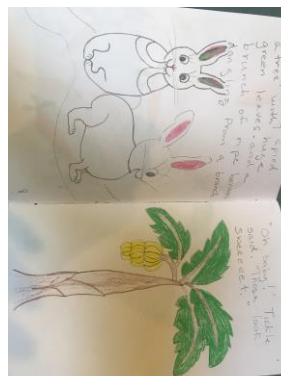
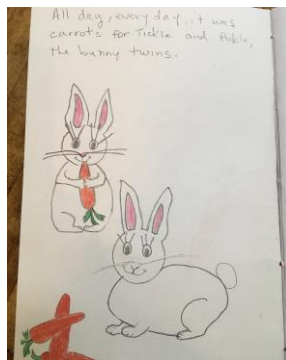
When the "Stay at home" order was issued I was enrolled in the "Intermediate Drawing for Botanical Illustrations" class at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. I had previously completed the Introduction classes and had taken two of the four Intermediate classes when the pandemic hit. These classes included some of the best basic drawing lessons I have ever had. The teacher, Hazel Buy, is excellent and has created her own manual to go with the class; in addition, we purchased "Fundamental Graphite Techniques" by Katie Lee. The skills learned in this class can be applied to anything I am drawing not just botanical illustrations.

Since my husband and I are social distancing from everyone, we have not been able to watch or visit our grandchildren. One grandchild (age 5) we have seen from a distance twice and the other two (age 10 months and 4 years) we have not seen in person in six weeks. However, it is amazing, and wonderful that my four-year-old grandson Facetimes me every day so I can read him a story; truthfully sometimes he reads me a story too – although he does not yet know how to read.

I read an article in the Washington Post by children's author Mary Amato in which she challenges children to finish a story she had started. (https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/kidspost/two-bunnies-need-an-end-for-their-story-so-hop-to-it/2020/04/10/7cb04364-7515-11ea-a9bd-9f8b593300d0_story.html) I decided to finish writing the story and do illustrations to go along with the story. The botanical drawing class was a big help in successfully doing this. While the drawings are basic, I was able to create details to the carrots, banana tree and banana's in a way I could not have done without the botanical drawing class. All the illustrations were done with graphite and colored pencils.

I then took a free 1 1/2-hour online class taught by Kathryn Sullivan called "Visual Journal" through the Glenn Allen Cultural Art Center. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-J9LUcnxhQ&feature=youtu.be>). In this class I learned how to make and bind a small journal.

And putting it all together, I made a cover and bound the completed and illustrated story to create a twenty-two page book for my grandchildren. And, yes, I am reading that book, via Facetime, to them. I also made extra books and mailed



From Kathy Green, Secretary

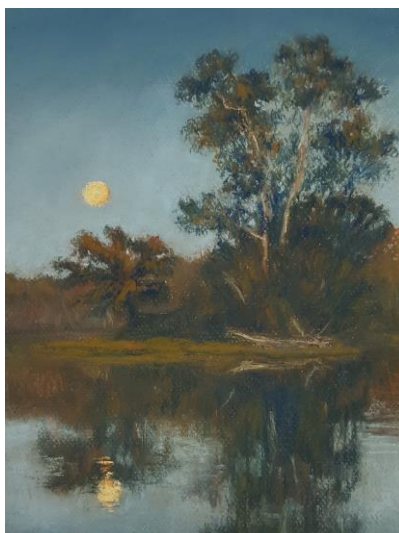
Hope everyone is healthy during these trying times. Like most of you, I have been trying to keep myself busy while sheltering at home. After a few less than stellar pet portraits, I decided to switch mediums and moved to fabric. Fortunately, I'm a better seamstress than artist. I started out sewing a few face masks for family and friends, but as the need grew I branched out to batches for the power company. While it is sad that we all must wear masks for a while, may you find some joy in seeing everyone's unique face art!



From Shavon Peacock, Membership Chair

Super Moon over the James River is a painting I did in my VMFA art class on an 8.5" x 11" Canson Mi-Teintes gray toned paper with primarily Rembrandt pastels just before it was cancelled in March. The photo reference is from my husband's excellent photo of a 2017 Super Moon we saw rise over an island in the James River. I tried to emulate the style of Kawasi Hasui's moonlit woodblock prints. See this link for some of his prints. <https://www.artic.edu/artists/35220/kawase-hasui>

It was too cloudy to see the recent Super Moon, but I got some excellent reference photos instead of the sunset over the James for another future painting! I feel lucky to be able to walk daily along this wonderful iconic Richmond river and see the change of the seasons - and what a beautiful spring season it is! I hope you are spending more time painting, as am I.



From Joan Dreicer, Workshops Chair

The Coronavirus has had an affect on everyone. In my case, my daughter, a physician at UVA, and her husband made a decision to send him here with their one-year old son, Gryfinn. She sees COVID patients and they were concerned about the health of my grandson. It has been wonderful to spend every day with Gryfinn, but it is also heart-wrenching knowing that my daughter has made such a tremendous sacrifice. He keeps me busy for part of every day. He is so much fun. We walk around the yard together and watch the flowers begin to take on new life. He marvels at the plants and trees. He loves my dogs. Recently we did some “finger painting” with colored sweetened condensed milk. My son-in-law is easy to have around and it is wonderful to see how he interacts with Gryfinn. He is a terrific dad.



I spend afternoons cooking for us all. I try new recipes and make a little extra to take to my daughter. I love to cook, and cooking for more than two makes it so much more enjoyable. As pastel artists, many of you are familiar with Alain Picard. He came to Richmond and taught a portrait workshop a couple of years ago. He is a delightful person and great teacher. He posts many free videos on YouTube, very generous in sharing his expertise. Last month he posted a challenge for artist to do 30 paintings in 30 days. #Create30challenge. I decided it was something I was going to do. I usually last a couple of days participating in these challenges and then allow life to get in the way. I was determined to meet this challenge. Every evening after the household is retiring, I go out to my studio with my dogs and create a small 6x8 inch study. Most studies have been related to the emergence of spring and photos taken in my neighborhood when I am on my afternoon walk with my grandson. I have been experimenting with underpainting, different color schemes, and unusual color combinations. I am happy to say that I managed to paint for 27 of the 30 days. He has now extended the challenge for the month of May. I am determined to keep it going.



I hope this finds all of you well and happily creating in some way. We have been given an unusual opportunity to grow from this pandemic. Joan Dreicer - Workshop Chair for MAPS

From Elizabeth Hood, Technology Chair

What I Did on My Virus Vacation, by Elizabeth Hood

Like many during this stressful time, I found staying busy was the best medicine to help me get through the challenges of the day. Besides working on my procrastination chore list of deep cleaning and organizing cabinets and cupboards, I was able to do art-related activities too.

I signed up for a two online drawing classes with Robert Caldwell, a local Richmond artist and instructor who is nationally known and recognized for his wildlife art in graphite and oils. For a long time, I've wanted to learn Robert's graphite techniques but never had the time. Robert uses Zoom to lead classes; in each class, I completed sketches of a bird and a giraffe, using his sketching techniques. This one is a tufted tit-mouse, using just one HB pencil on 110 lb. drawing paper.



I also gathered together several pastels for an exhibit with James River Art League at the JRAL Gallery at Crossroads Art Center, to be on display May-June, with a Virtual Exhibit Opening Tour by the gallery owner, Jenni Kirby, scheduled for Friday, May 15. In that show, I included my pastel, "Marsh Morning". I had started this pastel while in a Maria Reardon class in 2018, and then came back to finish it after taking our Marla Baggetta workshop last May. Both Maria and Marla's teachings really helped make that pastel the best it could be.



The unexpected gift of time also allowed me to spend quite a bit more time with my husband in the woodshop, where we collaborate on woodworking projects. He runs most of the power tools and I do the design, detail work and finishing on our projects. As time passes and we get older, our projects have progressed from larger furniture to smaller objects. Right now, we are working on cheese and cutting boards like this one we did last year.

I hope all of you and your loved ones have been able to stay healthy and have been able to find similar helpful activities to help you get through.



From Regina Tune, Hospitality Chair

Your feedback is needed! Our hospitality budget for this year will have about \$150 that we did not get to use because of the need to cancel our remaining meetings. How would the group feel about donating this money to a local charity? I was thinking FeedMore but we can decide after members give feedback. Contact Regina Tune: rosemanart@gmail.com with thoughts.

Hospitality committee.

From Vickie Knick, Newsletter Chair

What the past weeks have given me is the time to slow down and appreciate what I have – my faith, family, health and blessings.

I have had time to read, sew, paint, organize my thoughts and life. My house is cleaner than it's been in a long time! I've reached out to friends and family I haven't talked to in a while.

This is a little painting I finally took the time to finish of my grandson. I miss seeing his zest for life but technology has allowed me to see and talk to him online.

I also started a series of simple little butterflies that I shared online with my friends to be a pleasing and visual blessing to others.

Make the most of each day my friend!



2019/20 EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS

President: Carol Cullinan
VP/Program Chair: Janet Visser
Treasurer: Sheila Chandler
Secretary: Kathy Green

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Shavon Peacock
Workshops: Joan Dreicer
Exhibits: **“Volunteers needed”**
Hospitality: Regina Tune
Technology: Elizabeth Hood
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, or see link on our website, www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com

