



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Member Meeting**

Virtual Zoom meeting  
Friday, Nov. 13, 2020  
12:30 pm Business Meeting  
1:00 pm Dakota Pastel Warehouse  
Tour and product showcase

**MAPS Board Meeting**

TBD

**Exhibits**

Uptown Gallery  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Judged Exhibit  
Oct 1– Nov 28, 2020  
Rita Kirkman, Judge

**Workshops**

**Rita Kirkman**  
Nov 6 – 8, 2020  
Workshop will be on Zoom  
platform

**Tony Allain**  
Feb 6, 2021 10:00-4:00 pm  
“Creativity Untamed –  
From Sketch to Frame”

**Laura Pollock**  
May 21-23, 2021  
“Abstracting the Landscape –  
Getting the Glow”

**FROM THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER**

Hello fellow pastelists! Not sure about this but here goes. The last time I wrote an article for a newsletter, at that time an editor, was 31 years ago. Sounds so crazy!

This year has been a struggle for most of us. In addition to the challenges that come with just everyday living, the virus has left many of us isolated and living with lots of limitations. I have to be honest I have found it messing with my creativity and motivation to create art.

If you are painting away with some new found “freedom”, good for you and please share your tricks. If you are feeling as I am, these are some of the things I have been doing to get my creative juices going.

- Painting with a different medium.
- Cleaning out my studio, getting rid of old still life props, craft items I haven’t used for several years and reorganizing my paints and pastels.
- Taking online workshops and classes which got me into my studio and interacting with other artists. I did not find it as gratifying as a destination workshop but the camaraderie and feedback was motivating.
- Following favorite artists on social media; ones whose work I admire and would like to emulate. I study their work and try practicing some of their techniques.
- Making color charts.
- Working with a limited palette. I had not given much thought to how many combinations of red, yellow, blue I could play with to create some beautiful harmonious colors.
- Working on small daily studies. Alain Picard has a great list of thirty-day painting inspirations to help keep the practice going.

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## MAPS PROGRAMS

### Friday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> **Dakota Art Pastels Warehouse Tour and Product Showcase**

12:30 pm - Zoom Business Meeting for members

1:00 pm - Virtual Tour via Zoom of Dakota Art Pastels Warehouse/Product Showcase

**One lucky member who joins in for the Zoom meeting will win our meeting door prize, which is a \$100 gift certificate to Dakota Art Pastels!**

MAPS Members will take a virtual Zoom tour of the Dakota Art Pastels warehouse in Mt. Vernon, Washington and see some of Dakota's best new available products. Dakota Art Pastels is one of pastel painters' best art supply resources since they specialize in art products for the pastelists, and also conduct workshops with many of the pastel world's best artists. In addition, they are now sponsoring a quarterly virtual pastel painting competition, judged by nationally known pastel masters.

Dakota Pastels will give MAPS members a special 10% discount code that will be valid for one time use from Nov. 13 through the end of the year, and we'll send that to everyone at the time of the program.

Learn more about Dakota Art Pastels at [www.dakotapastels.com](http://www.dakotapastels.com).

There will be a short Zoom business meeting before the demo, with important information about MAPS plans for the coming year for programs, workshops and exhibits.

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### Friday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> **Mike Beeman Pastel Demo**

12:30-3:30 PM – Zoom Business Meeting for members and Demo

Mike Beeman will be doing a live 2.5-3-hour demo via Zoom. He will demo preparing gator board for pastels, doing an underpainting on the prepared board, then the actual pastel painting (subject tbd, but most probably a still life or a bird). He will also have a short discussion/demo on framing passé partout. Members will be able to ask questions via "chat" during the demo.

"Mike Beeman of Cheyenne, Wyoming, works in pastel and oil, in studio and on location, to paint a variety of subjects, including landscapes, still life and figures. He is a signature member of the American Impressionist Society, Pastel Society of America and a Master Circle artist in the International Association of Pastel Societies. His work has appeared in numerous juried exhibitions and competitions and has received many honors, including the Pastel Journal Silver Award in the 14th Annual Pastel 100 in 2013." - *from About Mike Beeman, www.mikebeeman.com.*

We will have a short Zoom business meeting before the demo, with important information about MAPS plans for the coming year for programs, workshops and exhibits.



## Judy Leasure

I never planned to be an artist, though I always loved art. In Middle School, I even received a scholarship to attend the Delaware Art Museum's Saturday program where we had an opportunity to try out all sorts of things. The only thing I remember from that experience is an oil painting of a Dachshund (based on one of those stuffed autograph hounds) standing on a golf course.

I took a few art classes in High School and did a lot of craft projects outside of school. My great love was music. I received my undergraduate degree in Music Education with a major in voice from the University of Delaware and set out to be a music teacher. I taught high school and elementary school music in Delaware and in Maryland and I continued my vocal studies and recital work. Then, my husband and I took a two-year contract to teach at the American School in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He was responsible for the instrumental program and I started out as a classroom aid and moved into the vocal and general music position in our second year. After our return when it was not possible to find two jobs in the same field in the same place, so I did other things. I started an arts council in Elko, Nevada. I worked for a research project at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. I ended up being a facilities manager for an environmental research firm in Baltimore. I even sang in the Baltimore Symphony Chorus. All the time, I enjoyed art, we collected art, but I was not an artist.

When we moved to Northern Pennsylvania, I saw an adult ed class in watercolor and I jumped at the opportunity. I loved it and continued to take lessons with the instructor after the class ended. I had found my love and I was never going to do anything but watercolor. But I still wasn't an artist. I thought of myself as a painter, but I couldn't bring myself to say, "I am an artist."

Fast forward through decorative painting with acrylics, oil painting, colored pencil and teaching the mediums I used. I was teaching at a retreat in Boardman, Ohio, and I took a pastel class. It was a painting of a Shitzu painted in black and white and red. That class prompted a wintertime painting-a-day project. I decided that I was going to figure out if I really liked pastels. By the end of the month, I was hooked. I had found my hearts home and somewhere along the way, I realized that I felt like I could finally say, "I am an artist."

I am a studio painter and I work fairly small. I don't enjoy Plein Air and I don't generally paint landscapes, even from photos. I paint still life and animals in a realistic style. I love the challenge of using value, shape, and color to create the illusion of the 3-dimensional object. The personality of an animal speaks to me in a way that I am able to translate to a painting. At the end of the day, my work is all about light and using value to express the light as it moves around the painting.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued)

Isolation has made way for so many new opportunities. With the uncertainty of what lies ahead, at least for the next six to nine months, the best thing I can do for myself and my art is to focus on these new opportunities and take advantage of them while other distractions are unavailable to me. I hope you are finding contentment and fulfillment in your art practice.

Don't forget to stay connected to MAPS. We have wonderful programs and new workshops planned. The programs are innovative and free. The workshops are more affordable without the added expense of the artist's room and board.

The last several weeks have been beautiful and I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Sunny autumn days with the colorful leaves and the cool crisp air - take it all in and be well.

Joan Dreicer  
MAPS President

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (continued)

The Covid-19 lockdown has not had much effect on me. I have been able to continue teaching students and have even been able to continue my Classical Guitar lessons over Zoom. I feel just as busy as I was before but have tried to make extra time for my own painting. I have been working on a series of paintings from photos I have taken at farmers markets and grocery stores. I call them cluster paintings because I don't know what else to call them. It is an interesting challenge to bring a pile of produce to life in a painting. My Oranges received an award in the annual member show at the Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center this year and my Eggplants has been juried into the Degas Pastel Society Show. Even with the inconveniences, it has been a good year.

## Paint-Out at Pony Pasture Park, Richmond

On October 24<sup>th</sup> several members had a beautiful day to paint at our paint-out at Pony Pasture Rapids Park on the James River'



**FOURTH ANNUAL JUDGED EXHIBIT – UPTOWN GALLERY**

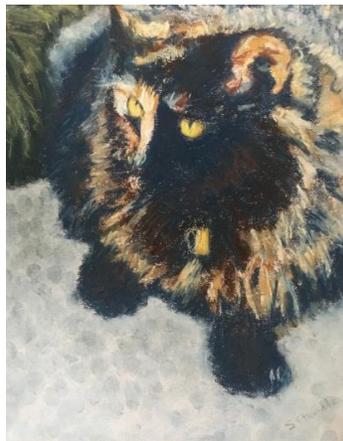
**Uptown Gallery**  
**1305 West Main St**  
**Richmond, VA 23220**

**Nov. 28: Exhibit closes**  
**Nov. 30: Pick up art from Uptown,**  
**11 am-1 pm**

*Our Fourth Annual Judged Exhibit was judged by Rita Kirkman. Congratulations to our members who received awards!*



**First Place**  
**Emily Christoff**  
**“BLM”**



**Second Place**  
**Sheila Chandler**  
**“Pet Me”**



**Third Place**  
**Maria Reardon**  
**“Pathway To The Light”**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Terry Atkinson**  
**“Fascination”**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Julia Lesnichy**  
**“My Cat”**



**Honorable Mention**  
**Mel Neale**  
**“Please Don’t, My Love”**

## RITA KIRKMAN WORKSHOP

### Rita Kirkman Workshop

(via Zoom platform)

November 6, 7 and 8



**Registration is full.**

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, this workshop will be virtual using the Zoom platform.

#### About Rita Kirkman

Rita Kirkman has been using pastel since she was 11 years old and had her first paid portrait commission at 17. She began her working career sketching quick portraits at amusement parks and then began a commission business drawing detailed pencil portraits from client photos. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1988.

Kirkman has improved her own style and technique with pastel through independent study and workshops with renowned artists each year. This effort has been consistently rewarded with major awards in national and international competitions. Her work has been featured in the Pastel Journal and the Pratique des Arts Special Pastel and published in many others. She is a Signature member of the Pastel Society of America and an Eminent Pastelist with the International Association of Pastel Societies. Her portraits and paintings are in private collections all over the world, including the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Europe, Japan, Africa and Australia.

Rita has published two books of 100 miniature pastel animal portraits, "Cows, etc." Volume 1 and Volume 2, and was recently featured in the Pastel Society of the West Coast's Spring 2020 magazine.

See more about Rita at her website: <https://www.ritakirkman.com>.

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### Tony Allain Workshop

Feb. 6, 2021 10:00 – 4:00 pm

**Creativity Untamed - A one-day Zoom workshop designed to help you go beyond your photo reference in your painting**



"Have you ever wanted to bring a looser and more painterly feel to your work loaded with juicy colour and flooded with light? Join me and I will share some of my working methods concentrating on painting landscapes, seascapes, figures and still life subjects that delight you and excite the viewer. Using ... sketches and thumbnails along with our reference material we can bring some fresh colour and a more painterly feel to our works." - Tony Allain

Registration opens for **Members only** - November 14th

## CLASSES AVAILABLE

**Linda Wolitz** would like to share her 90-minute You-tube video created for her class on PanPastels. If you would like the link please email Linda @ [llwolitz@gmail.com](mailto:llwolitz@gmail.com).

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**Emily Christoff** is offering Zoom classes on **Drawing with Pastels**. The focus of these classes will be on materials, techniques, design, subject matter and personal expression using pastels. You can take one or all 8 of these classes since each is unique. She is also offering **Freestyle Mentoring**. Call Emily @ [757-856-3855](tel:757-856-3855) if interested.

## CLASSES AVAILABLE

**Judy Leasure** is offering live pastel classes on request over the internet using Skype. Prerequisites are a Computer with webcam, high-speed internet and a Skype account. Payment via Paypal. Contact Judy @ [leasure.judy@gmail.com](mailto:leasure.judy@gmail.com)

## MEMBER NEWS

Members **Terry Atkinson and Carolyn Velletri**, along with their friend Jean Kleeman, are exhibiting at the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen in November. The exhibit, "Escapades of Three Friends", opens November 1 and runs through November 30. The three artists first met taking a pastel class from member Linda Wolitz at the Cultural Arts Center and have painted together ever since. The show's reception will be on Thursday, November 12 from 6 to 8 pm. Masks are required.

## MEMBER NEWS

"A Variety Show" is the title **Linda Leah Wolitz** has chosen for her solo exhibit at the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, beginning November 12<sup>th</sup> and running through the first week of January 2021. The paintings will be pastels in a variety of genre, from portraiture to her newest work featuring clouds. The opening reception will be 5-8 p.m. on November 12<sup>th</sup>.



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**Emily Christoff** has been selected by the National Association of Women Artist, Inc for the medal of honor for the painting of her daughter, Elly Matish.

. The show can be viewed at <https://www.thenawa.org/>.



## 2020/21 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### OFFICERS

President: Joan Driecer  
VP/Program Chair: Elizabeth Hood  
Treasurer: Sheila Chandler  
Secretary: Judy Leasure

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Shavon Peacock  
Workshops: Joan Driecer  
Exhibits: Carol Cullinan  
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](mailto:vknick30@gmail.com), or see link on our website, [www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com](http://www.midatlanticpastelsociety.com)

## 2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual MAPS membership dues are due September 1 for the 2020/21 year. Please send a dues check for \$25 made out to MAPS to:

Shavon Peacock  
7669 Rockfalls Dr.  
Richmond, VA 23225

If you know other pastel painters who are not already a member of MAPS and may be interested in our virtual programs wherever they live in the world, please encourage them to join at the link below.

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