



MPAS Demo Schedule

Meeting Time: 2:00- 4:00 PM
(first Sun of each month)

Jan 3, 2021

Artist: Melinda Morrison, oil figure
Refreshments: Ann Glaess, Deborah Carr
Sm Gallery: Velda Williams

Feb 7, 2021

Artist: Mary Jean Davis, pastel (still-life)
Refreshments: Marty Graves, Velda Williams
Sm Gallery: Donna Monroe

March 7, 2021

Artist: Barbara Hack – Oil Head Study
Refreshments: Diana Williams and Paula Hodge
Sm Gallery: Linda Hardy

April 11, 2021

Artist: Cecy Turner – Oil
Refreshments: LaVerne Arnette
Sm Gallery: Sueretta Todd

Cecy's Oil Workshop
April 12, 13, 14, 2021
\$350

We will be learning to paint snow !!!



Jan 2021

Mt Pleasant Art Society Newsletter

Guest Artist: Melinda Morrison

As a young woman, her B.A in fine arts from the University of Texas at Tyler took a backseat to the corporate world for many years: advertising exec; graphic designer and director of her own company; and later corporate and executive recruiter. Not surprisingly, she was recognized in national competitions for her print design and annual reports, but shortly after her move to Denver in 1994, the satisfied extrovert began to hear from the starving artist. She says she "felt like her soul was drying up". An oil-painting class at the Art Students' League of Denver rained water on that desert ground.

Over the next five years, Melinda studied painting at the League under the guidance of master painters like, Quang Ho, Kim English, Kevin Weckbach, and Ron Hicks. As her passion and skill grew, so did her dream to paint full-time. She made the leap in 2003 and brought years of corporate skills into the new and intricate dance of a full-time professional art career. She hasn't looked back.

Since that decision, Melinda has participated in over 8 one woman shows in Santa Fe and national and regional shows in the Southwest and Southeast gaining recognition for her figurative paintings. Her work is collected among collectors across the US and internationally. Melinda has been featured in major articles in national and regional magazines and newspapers such as Southwest Art, American Art Collector, The South African Artist Magazine, The Santa Fean Magazine, and the Albuquerque Journal (where she received a three, full-page article on her work). She has been chosen several times as a finalist in the national Boldbrush art contest and over 20 times as FAV15%. As a sought out teacher, she offers professional studies courses as well as offering workshop instruction from other nationally known artists.

Melinda is currently represented by Alexandra Stevens Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM; Beck Fine Art, Wilmington, NC; Texas Treasures Fine Art, Boerne, TX; and OA Gallery, Kirkland, MO. She is a member of Oil Painters of America and the Portrait Society of America. She has won awards of excellence and honorable mention in OPA online and regional shows and recently Best People, Award of Excellence in NOAPS online showcase.

President's Letter

Greetings Everyone!

The New Year is upon us! My new year's resolution is to make 2021 a better year in every way! That includes putting more art in my life! The Mt. Pleasant Art Society is a good start for that! We are lining up workshops and demos for the next year already. We have the opportunity to display our own artwork coming up this March in our annual membership show. It will be held at the Whatley Center on the NTCC campus. The show runs March 6 through the 25th. However, it is closed for Spring Break March 15th through the 19th. You may enter as many as 4 paintings and more details will come later in our meetings. It's time to start thinking about what you want to enter now. Our membership show chairman is Michelle Greene and she is on the ball getting this ready for us. Thanks Michelle for all your work on this.

Our demo artist for December 2020 was Charlie Bullock and he painted an oil scene of the Grand Canyon. I was there in spirit but my body was experiencing a common cold that kept me from seeing it in person, but I'm told that he did a great job and handles some colors differently than most. He is best known for his western art and the work that I saw was very interesting and colorful. I have heard from several people he was very friendly and personable and willingly shared some of his secrets for making his artwork unified with 2 unusual colors that he uses to draw his subject matter. He is currently studying landscapes and began his demo with a detailed drawing, something we don't see too often. His picture with the horse and rider wading through water was probably the most impressive to me that I saw on his website. I loved how he painted the water and was fascinated with the realism and colors that provided depth.

I want to thank Linda Pepper and Steve Corbell for the refreshments in December. I'm told the table was set up beautifully, but you expect that with 2 serious artists in charge. Our refreshments in January 2021 are provided by Ann Glaess and Jan Switzer. Our Small Gallery Artist is Velda Williams for the upcoming meeting. I didn't get a sneak peek at her work but I know you will enjoy seeing her art. She mostly paints in acrylic and paints what she wants with or without a reference picture! Kay Thomas displayed her wonderful work of animals last month. Great love for animals shines through in her work. We really have some very talented members!

I have some business to discuss with you. I need to appoint a committee for nominating our officers for the next year. I am asking for any volunteers or anyone who wishes to serve on the committee for our 21-22 year. Please let me know if you will be willing to serve. You have one duty and that is to get nominations for officer positions. When that is completed, your job is finished. Easy committee!!!

I would like to meet briefly with all committee chairs and officers after our meeting on January 3rd. I have an idea that will streamline our job duties for incoming officers and chairs so the learning curve is not steep and hopefully we can get more members involved. After all, this is our art society and we should all have some input at the level we desire.

I also need to ask if anyone is interested in scheduling the workshops for the following year, 2021-2022. We generally work at least a year ahead. We have one workshop already scheduled so we would probably just need a second one. Anyone interested in taking this on, please see me or talk with Donna Monroe. She has been doing this for a while and will be invaluable help to someone coming into the position. We need to rotate more frequently so someone does not get burned out in the job! I appreciate your interest in this position and hope you will seriously consider taking this on. I want to thank Donna for her willingness to do this for the society and her willingness to train a new person coming in. Next, I know that we are all getting tired of wearing masks and there is a vaccine on the way to our local areas, but we can't stop protecting ourselves and others just yet. This is a reminder that we should not become complacent about wearing masks and distancing ourselves when we are inside. I want us to stay healthy and feel safe at our meetings. Besides, I got a new mask for Christmas and I'm ready to show it off and get out of the house!!!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the January meeting.

Sincerely,
Shirley Clay

Backroom Artist: Velda Williams

I was born in a small town and farming county about 55 miles Northeast of Lubbock, Texas. I am the only child; however, I am very close to my Mother's family. We lived there until I turned 12 and we moved to the Dallas area. We lived in the Dallas area until the early 1973.

I attended Garland High School and while in my senior year I had my first real experience with the art. I had a fantastic teacher, Florence Gray. I was so glad I chose to take this class because I needed one credit to fill my schedule in my senior year and Miss Gray introduced me to all forms of art, my favorite was oil painting. This class opened my eyes to a whole new world. However, after graduation I got side tracked working and raising children. I didn't get back to painting till the late 1970's.

I signed up for an oil painting class in Garland and took lessons from Sarah King for about four to five years. During this time, she introduced me to watercolors and pastels. I also took other classes for various oil teachers.

Sarah King, myself and others started the Garland Art Guild. Through the Art Guild I had the opportunity to take many workshops. Oil, watercolors, and pastels: however, oil remains my favorite to this day.

Approximately 1985-86, I started teaching oil classes twice a week. One class was in my home and the other was in Garland at Kings Art, the business the Sarah King and her husband Don owned. I did this for about a year. I worked as a Court Administrator in Collin County and I was teaching all over the state other court clerks' new laws and basic skills on being a court clerk. My schedule got so busy I had to stop something so I dropped the classes I was teaching, and I eventually stopped painting about 1993.

I didn't paint any during this time until 2016. At this time, I moved to Mt Vernon from Wylie, to take care of my mother after my Dad's death. That's when I heard that Efton Edwards was teaching classes at the Art Center in Mt. Vernon and I knew this would be a way to get back to painting.

It was about two years later when I found out about MPAS, became a member and have really enjoyed the experience. MPAS has encouraged me to keep pushing myself to learn from other artists and basically to keep painting. I look forward to each meeting and each class and I'm pleased to be a part of the great group of people.

April 2021 Workshop

Cecy Turner will be doing our Spring workshop this next year. We will be attempting to paint snow. I don't know many instructors that even attempt teaching it but Cecy's snow scenes are just great.

Workshop Dates: April 12, 13 and 14.

Fee: \$350 with a \$100 deposit.

Limit: 15