



DuPage Art League School & Gallery

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Members Wanted for Board Positions

Hello DPAL members! The time to elect new board members fast approaches. We need to fill several important positions. For the 2020-2021 board we need the following:

- President (Must have already served at least one year on the board)
- VP Education
- VP Exhibits: Gallery 1 and Gallery 2 (VP Exhibits will be a shared position)
- VP Office Management (very possibly a shared position as well)

I will post descriptions of these board positions in both classrooms and also leave a set at the front desk. If you do not feel you can commit to a board position, please try to volunteer in another way such as staffing the reception desk, helping with receptions, or assisting any of the board members with tasks.

Election of officers will be held at the April Monday night program. Your first board meeting will be May 14, 2020. Board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 9:15AM and usually last about an hour and a half.

Please let me know if you can help or have questions. Email me at diamitc4@aol.com

Thank you for volunteering!

Diana Mitchell
President Emeritus | Board Nominations Chair

Gallery 1 News

Sue Jurkus | VP of Exhibits

Thank you to everyone who participated in our January exhibit. The exhibit theme for February is "My Favorite Thing". The pick-up dates for your January artwork and drop off dates for your February artwork is February 5 and 6. Many of the pick-up/drop off dates for the 2020 Exhibits occur at the end of the month rather than the beginning this exhibit year. Please review the schedule for your future reference which can be found in the 2020 Activity Schedule.

I would like to mention again the need for volunteers not only with Gallery 1, but with other functions of the art league. We truly appreciate your contributions as they assist us in accomplishing the many tasks required for a smooth operation.

If you haven't volunteered before, please consider doing so in 2020. Let's make 2020 an even greater year for the DuPage Art League!

Don't forget to renew your membership!

If you have not paid your 2020 dues, this will be your last newsletter. Don't miss out on the benefits of membership!

The DuPage Art League does not discriminate nor tolerates harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, national origin, genetic information, or any other characteristic.

Muse with A View

Have You Become Proficient at Being Mediocre?

By Mary Dorrell

Ten thousand hours of “deliberate practice” are needed to become proficient in any field. Deliberate practice is practicing in a way that pushes your skill set as much as possible. The reason world-class artists are so successful is they’re experts at practicing – they push themselves to the limit of their skillset and thus expand their abilities day after day. So it is more than just painting the same way 10,000 times.

Deliberate practice is about **how** you practice.

1. Schedule time everyday to work at your art. Even 10-20 minutes a day is enough to build muscle memory.
2. Schedule time each week to be inspired. Do something that brings fun and inspiration into your life. Visit museums, gallery openings- see what others are doing.
3. Attend artist’s receptions! Support and learn from their efforts and victories.
4. Attend art classes that offer opportunities for your own growth.
5. Paint your idea, then paint another and another and another. Keep creating!
 - a. Ask yourself what can I learn with this piece of artwork. Explore that aspect.
 - b. Let go of the expectation of a specific outcome, or the idea that this one will be a showstopper,
 - c. Paint with abandon, (you can always make another one!),
 - d. Once completed, evaluate: Learn to honestly evaluate your own work looking for areas you need to learn more about. This comes with study, practice and trust. The more you do the more you trust yourself.
 - e. When you seek evaluation from others, are they qualified to give you constructive feedback? Often well meaning friends and spouses don’t understand what you want to do, or create, and they may evaluate from a less informed perspective, which can be more destructive than helpful.

In *The Art of Being and Having a Mentor* (FASO, 1-13-2020) painter Rick J. Delanty offers an insightful excerpt: “In the book *Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise* (2016), co-authors Anders Ericsson and Robert Pool discuss in-depth the basic realities of human development. It expands the concept of the 10,000 hour rule to include three key factors.

- One is time spent in practice, of course.
- The second factor is that this time in practice is spent in a well-designed progression system meant to build skill or knowledge from simple to more complex.
- And the third is to have that organized practice watched over and criticized by one who has mastered the elements of the given field of study...

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Gallery 1 January Awards

Best of Show

Dale Olsen, “Morning Light 2”, Acrylic

Best Theme

Joan Kalmanek, “In Their Element”, Photo

Special Merit Awards

Robert Pennor, “Aspens”, Acrylic

Marge Hall, “Here’s Looking at You”, Oil

Robert Kapustka, “Red and Green Harmony”, Oil

Merit Awards

Judith Horsley, “City Skating by Cloud Gate”, Photo

Jesse Lee, “Canal House”, Watercolor

Kerry Mark Leibowitz, “Winter Picnic”, Photo

Sue Thomas, “Pemaquid Point Lighthouse”, Pastel

Diana Mitchell, “Taos Winter Slopes”, Pastel

Robert Koch, “South for the Winter”, Oil

Jesse Lee, “On the Rocks”, Watercolor

Sue Thomas, “Horsin’ Around”, Pastel

Judith Horsley, “Cross Country Skiing”, Photo

Lisa Vargo, “Old House”, Photo

Mary Dorrell, “Early Snowfall”, Oil

Peter J. Grass, “Star of Wonder”, D. Photo



Dale Olsen, “Morning Light 2”



Robert Pennor, “Aspens”



Marge Hall, “Here’s Looking at You”



Joan Kalmanek, “In Their Element”



Robert Kapustka, “Red and Green Harmony”

Monday Night Open Programs

Sarah Rehmer - Encaustic Collage Artist

Feb 17 | 6:30-8:30PM at Wheaton Library (meeting room "A")



Encaustic painting is a mixed media technique using heated beeswax and colored pigments. Encaustic paints and mediums are a versatile binder for collage and assemblage. Artist Sarah Rehmer has been working in the materials for 16 years and teaching for the last 11. For this demo she will show a number of ways of working with encaustic and paper

to create works with optical depth, luminosity, and a bit of sculptural depth to the surface.

From the Library

Barbara Grabowski | Library Volunteer



I'm very pleased to report that 200 books were checked out of the Library during 2019. That's 58 more than in 2018 and 93 more than in 2017! The numbers once again show what a wise move it was to

relocate the library to the main floor. And our instructors have said how convenient it is for them to quickly get a book or two to show their students in class.

The library volunteers continue to inventory different book sections as time allows. Books are reviewed for their condition, timeliness, and relevancy to the needs of our instructors and students. In 2019 the painting, watercolor, and part of the drawing sections were reviewed. 71 titles were withdrawn. These were offered for sale to our members at nominal cost.

The VHS Transfer to DVD Project continues and is nearing completion. Soon you will be able to check out DVDs that reflect the history of DPAL and feature many of our members.

Thanks to Suzanne Massion and Georgiann Foley for their work and dedication to the library.

The following titles have recently been added to the Library. You may find them on the "New Titles" shelf:

- Dvorak, Robert. *Experiential Drawing*. (Drawing)
- Harris, Nathaniel. *The Masterworks of VanGogh*. (Biography)
- Johnson, Cathy. *Watercolor Pencil Magic*. (Watercolor)
- National Gallery of Art. *Johannes Vermeer*. (Biography)
- Parks, Carrie Stuart. *Secrets to Realistic Drawing*. (Drawing)
- Pissaro, Joachim. *Camille Pissaro*. (Biography)
- Simblet, Sarah. *Sketch Book for the Artist*. (Drawing)

Enjoy!

Board Notes



- The Treasurer reported that Yuletide Treasures sales were a little lower than last year probably because access to our front door was limited with the closing of the sidewalk. On the bright side there is a reduction in maintenance expenses since we are no longer responsible for the building across the street. In addition, the classes are picking up and Fall and Winter was up over last year.
- We are having some problems with messy floors in the classrooms, and the teachers will be asked to try to ensure things are kept a little cleaner particularly in the kids classes.
- Mary Dorrell presented a privacy policy to go on the website which was approved by the board. The security policy is much more complex and is still being developed.
- There was a discussion on how difficult it is to get enrollment for classes by new teachers and what could be done to encourage more people to sign up. The expense of supplies may be a barrier for students new to the medium. It's also hard for someone to know whether they're going to like a medium they're unfamiliar with or a teacher they don't know. The board will continue to wrestle with this issue. If you have any creative ideas along this line, let a board member know.

DPAL Board 2019-2020

President: Kay Wahlgren

Secretary: Sally Hines

Treasurer: Patricia Thorson

VP Activities: Sue Thomas

VP Building & Grounds: Chuck Showalter

VP Education: Nancy Anderson,

Workshops - Jen Schwab

VP Exhibits: Sue Jurkus/Marguerite Paris

VP Finance: Dan Anderson

VP Membership: Open

VP Office Management: Ann Johnson

VP Publicity & Promotions: Mary Dorrell

President Emeritus: Diana Mitchell

Yuletide Treasures: Sherry Theilgaard, Liesl Mann,

Yvonne Thompson

Newsletter: Valerie Lorimer | vlorimer@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTERS/E-BLAST SUBMITTALS

vlorimer@yahoo.com

To submit email blast information and newsletter articles, send your information to: vlorimer@yahoo.com and [copy sallyhines@comcast.net](mailto:sallyhines@comcast.net) by the 15th of the month.

Acceptable formats for submissions include Word documents or PDF files for text and 300dpi JPG for images). Please proof/verify your information before submitting. **Use minimal formatting; send photos, flyers, images as attachments to your email (not as part of the email body).**

Results from Yuletide

Yvonne Thompson | Show Co-chair

Thank you everyone who created so many wonderful items for our customers. Any items that didn't sell are in Gallery 2 awaiting your (hopefully) prompt pick up by Jan 31. We have no place to store anything not picked up, so leftovers will be donated.

Also, a big thank you to everyone who helped with the break-down and packing up of the show. I have a personal "thank you" to Susan Jurkus, Sherry Theilgaard, Wilda Kemp, Marge Hall, Ann Johnson and crew, who cleared the gallery and windows of props as I'm injured once again (It is becoming a Christmas habit I want to break!).

Although we were missing some of our regular Yuletide contributors this year, it was still a great looking and profitable show. Many customers were still first timers, but were so in awe at all the wonderful home made items, they vow to come

We made just over \$10,000 in sales and 35 artists got checks from this show!

Following are our "Top Ten" sellers in alphabetical order:

Sue Dix | Barbara Hollow | Wilda Kemp | Kathi Kuchler
Vicki Liszewski | Valerie Lorimer | Liesl Mann
Linda O'Connor | Marguerite Paris | Yvonne Thompson


Thank you ladies. Looking forward to seeing you all in Yuletide 2020 and remember it is never too early to start making things for next Christmas!

Muse with A View

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Without an organized or deliberate approach to practice, one is more likely to merely become increasingly efficient at doing something mediocre, rather than developing greater skill and a deeper knowledge. And having consistent criticism from a proven source serves to bring awareness to elements of knowledge one is unlikely to discover on their own."

Create daily, keep seeking guidance, feedback and support!

 February 2020 Newsletter | Join us on Facebook

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