



NEWSLETTER



Departments

News from the President p.1

In this section President Robin McCondiche provides updates about the club.

Meet Our Members p.2

This is an opportunity for members to get to know each other. Please submit the member questionnaire to marienwt@aol.com so that you can be included in this section.

Upcoming Events p. 2

This section provides information about and links to workshops, artist opportunities, gallery events, etc. If you are aware of any events, please send your information to marienwt@aol.com

Pastel Articles pp. 3-6

This section provides information about artists, techniques, or any topic that might be of interest to our members. If you are interested in writing an article, or if you have a suggestion for a topic, please email marienwt@aol.com and write "Newsletter-Article" in the subject.

Member Tips/Accomplishments p. 7-12

This is a section to celebrate the accomplishments of our members, or to provide photos, tips or suggestions. If you have been featured in a gallery, have won a recent competition, or have a tip, please send the information to Marie Costanza at marienwt@aol.com

Newsletter Editor:

Marie Costanza

marienwt@aol.com



A note from our President, Robin McCondiche

It's late August and I miss seeing everyone and sharing about our art! We will need a huge art gathering when gathering becomes viable!

I sincerely hope each every PSWNY member is finding his/her way in these unusual times. For me, the garden has demanded a lot of time and attention. I DO always feel better when I have some studio time.

Denise's postings of your new pastel pieces is inspiring. PLEASE keep sharing! Connecting in whatever manner possible is important. If you have watched online demos, have viewed YouTube postings or have read books that sparked your creativity, PLEASE share them.

Jay is organizing another Paint Out —information will be going out soon.

We are still scheduled for a show at Barnes & Noble next April.

Stay well. Feed that creativity! Continue to share your work and ideas with the other members.



2020 PSWNY ONLINE EXHIBITION

For information, click here:

Online Exhibition

CALL TO ARTISTS:

The State of the Art Gallery Annual December Juried Show

For information, click here:

STATE OF ART DEC SHOW

Members Virtual Gallery

To view, click here: [Virtual Gallery](#)

To participate, email a photo to Denise Rizzo drizzo28@gmail.com

You may only participate if you have paid your 2020 dues.

Upcoming Workshop:

Plein Air Painting Autumn Colors in the Fingerlakes with Kevin Feary

October 2-3, 2020

For more information and to register, click here:

<https://www.artscenteryatescounty.org/bookings-checkout/painting-autumn-colors-in-the-flx-full>

Aline Ordman
April 30- May2, 2021

To view her website, click here:

<http://alineordman.com/>

UPCOMING PAINT OUTS

See page 11 and page 13



MEET OUR MEMBERS

Featuring: Denise Rizzo

Denise has been a member of PSWNY since its beginning. As the club has grown, she has been impressed by the quality of work, as well as the supportive and positive

attitude of the members.

Denise has been interested in art throughout her life. She earned an undergraduate degree in studio art, and she also has taken many workshops and classes. She has experimented with drawing, watercolor, stained glass, mosaic glass, jewelry, chainmail jewelry, smocking, quilting, knitting and photography. She always has a project in progress. Denise says that her workshop experiences were key in her development as a pastelist. Additionally, having conversations with other pastelists has also been beneficial.

Denise enjoys painting anything that has interesting light. She paints in her studio at home where she has good lighting and a lovely view out the window. She likes painting plein air, but says that it takes time to set up. She says that she paints pretty slowly and often the light has changed before she gets too much down; thus, the pieces become good studies for her. Her most common subjects include flowers, animals and landscapes, especially with water. She says it's hard to pick one type of pastel as a favorite, but she does like having a choice of when to use harder or softer pastels depending on the texture that she is envisioning. Typically, she tends to use Sennelier, Mt. Vision, Ludwig, and Girault. Her go-to paper is Uart because she knows it best and can more quickly get the texture she wants in her paintings. Denise also likes using Pastel Premiere and in the future wants to experiment with her own texture painted on with ground.

The most rewarding aspect of painting for Denise is when she focuses on a painting, and all other thoughts drift away for a time. She enjoys seeing what she remembers on paper. Her favorite pieces are paintings she has completed more recently. She says that it is nice when she can see the growth in her work.

Denise says that there are some challenges of being a pastelist; for example, the dust! She also says that the care of finished paintings and the framing can be challenging also.

Some of Denise's resources include *Pastel Journal* and subscribing to her favorite artists' blogs and newsletters.

Denise has won several awards. Some highlights include winning Best Show at 2018 PSWNY Exhibition and 2nd Place in the Northeast National Pastel Exhibition in Old Forge in 2019. Recently, she has had paintings accepted in the 2019 Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition, Pastel Society of the West Coast 2020 Online Exhibition and the 2020 Adirondack National Pastel Exhibition. She is proud of these and several Honorable Mention Awards that she has won also.

Breathing Life into Paintings

Should we Draw Every Detail of Work with Freedom

By Rebecca de Mendonca

Source <https://rebeccademendonca.co.uk/>



I want my paintings and sketches to be full of life, to capture energy, and for the viewer to feel like they are there, in the moment when I saw my subject. It might be a fresh day up on the moors, or an old horse standing peacefully in the sunshine, or the moment when a child finds a shell on the beach; whatever, whenever, I want to convey what it felt like to be there.

People often comment that my paintings look 'real'. But the more I paint, the more I wonder what we mean by 'real'. The temptation is to go really detailed, to paint every hair on the horse's head, but whatever I draw and paint actually looks more 'real' if it isn't all filled in and finished off.

How is it that leaving part of it unfinished or smudged makes it seem more real than a photograph full of detail?

We have to ask ourselves; what is 'real'? What do we mean by this?



Is this about conveying more than just what it looks like? Do we need to tap into our other senses to feel that energy, and not just the visual? What can we do to connect with the emotion of the moment? And even more interesting, how can we connect the viewer to that feeling?

I know that to connect myself to the emotion, I have to relax while I am drawing and painting, and 'let go' of that need to copy everything. I think of it as 'tuning in' to my subjects, but as I'm really not sure how I do this, it can be difficult to achieve!

I work a lot of the time from photographs, but I am increasingly needing to have taken those photographs myself, because they are only part of the process of inspiration and connection. What also informs my painting process are the memories of what it felt like to be there. Was it cold and windy on top of that hill? Or hot and noisy in that street in Barcelona? How bright was the light? What sounds could I hear? If I am painting a portrait, what mood is the model in?

One thing I do know though, is the need to focus on what is important, and the story that I want to tell. A photograph will capture all the detail of the scene in the same way, whether it is important to the story we are telling or not. In real life we focus on something, specifically what is important at that particular moment. If, in our work we can emphasize what the focus of the moment is, we can heighten the sense of reality. When in conversation with someone we tend to concentrate on their eyes and perhaps their mouth. We aren't really bothering about their hair, ears or chin, or what is behind them, so on our drawing or painting we can soften those features slightly, and sharpen the contrasts and colors of the eyes and mouth. Just by varying our mark making we can change where the focus is.

So, to be more practical, my favorite way of working is to start my pieces in a loose and flexible way, and then gradually heighten the detail on the area of focus, which will draw the eye in. Years ago, when I used to paint theatre scenery, we called this the 'Lost and Found' technique. This is

fundamental to my whole approach of making something look real. I think that part of the reason this seems to work, is that the areas that are loosely drawn and 'suggested', are areas that the viewers 'fill in' with their own imagination. This means that the viewers connect with the painting as they see what they want to in it. So these areas of suggestion are as important as the detailed focal point. Each needs the other. It's as simple as that! I must forget the orders of my 1970s junior school teacher who told us to "color it all in."

I must say though, before I finish, that this is not every artist's approach, and there are photorealist artists out there whose work I absolutely love, particularly Linda Alexander. However, although Linda paints every detail in her exquisite paintings, she also has areas of peace and calm, which balance the areas of focus.

So, if you are an artist, think about how much you need to fill in with detail, and what the story is that you are telling. If you are a viewer of art, notice from now on what work you connect with and the balance of detail and looseness within it.



If you would like to write an article about a pastel technique, or if you would like to share information about an article that you have read, please email the article to marienwt@aol.com and write PASTEL ARTICLE in the subject line.



Meet the Artist: Rebecca de Mendonça

Editor's Notes: I had the pleasure of communicating with Ms. Mendonça, who is a fascinating pastelist from England. She shared with me that she thought it was nice that clubs exist in America specifically for pastelists. England does not have the same following for pastels that America has; thus, pastel specific organizations do not exist. Ms. Mendonça shared the following biographical information.

Training many years ago in Theatre Design at Wimbledon School of Art started Rebecca's lifelong love of atmosphere, movement and drama.

Pastels are her perfect medium, allowing her to simultaneously combine drawing and painting; making marks with energy, fluidity and precision.

In all of her work, Rebecca is interested in conveying what it *feels* like to be there, not just what it looks like. She loves to paint horses, and the people who work with them, as well as dramatic landscapes, animals, people and street scenes.

In her early career in London, Rebecca worked with designers Kevin McCloud and Maria Bjornson, on many projects ranging from Harrods Food Hall to Phantom of the Opera. Portrait commissions included West End actors and English National Ballet.

In 2011 she moved her family to the rural county of Devon, which opened up a whole new range of subject matter and a fresh outlook on life! Since then she has become an Associate Member of the Society of Equestrian Artists and exhibited with the UK Pastel Society in London.

Rebecca is never happier than when sharing her love of pastels, by teaching, writing and giving demonstrations and workshops in the UK and Italy, as well as now by live video demonstrations. She is an Associate Artist with *Unison Colour*, writes for *Leisure Painter* as well as *Paint and Draw* magazines, and her book *Pastels for the Absolute Beginner* was published by Search Press in 2019.

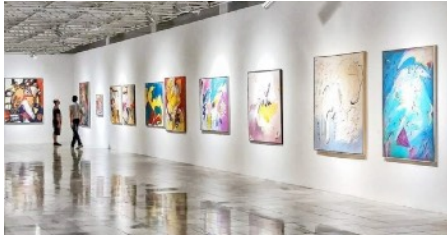
If you would like to learn from Rebecca, take a look at her online pastel courses on her website. You can also see more of her work there, and find out about her book. She is happy to answer any questions about her work and teaching, and she invites you to contact her.

CONTACT REBECCA USING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

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MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS and PAINT OUTS



Farm Bouquet, by **Karlene Vandeußen**



Heirloom Peonies, by **Karlene Vandeußen**



View from 17 Mile Drive, by **Donna Hale**

Karlene VanDeußen's *Heirloom Peonies* was awarded 3rd place at the New York State Summer Art Show. It was 1 of 3 paintings accepted into the Adirondack show from July 30-September 25 at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts. *Farm Bouquet* was selected for inclusion in the Arts Center of Yates County Juried Show. The Juried Show is presented in the Flick Gallery, Arts Center, Penn Yan from August 28-September 25. To view the online show, click here: <https://www.artscenteryatescounty.org/current-exhibit-juried-show>. Karlene also had two pastels hanging in the Anthony Road Wine Company Annual Plein Air Show during August. Karlene has a a plein-air pastel in Paint Pittsford! Art Show on September 3-30 at the Pittsford Fine Art Gallery.

Donna Hale is in the Members Showcase 2020, a virtual show at the River Art Gallery in North Tonawanda. She has two pastels included in this show: *View from 17 Mile Drive* and *Nursery, Last July*.

During the month of August, **Suzi Zefting-Kuhn** was a guest artist in the Pittsford Fine Art Gallery, where 12 of her pastels were hanging. Several of Suzi's pieces received awards.



Hmmm received a Merit Award in the RAC Signature Member Show



Little Miss Furia received a Juror's Award at the Pittsford Fine Art Gallery.



Jazz Hands IX received a Juror's Award



Jazz Hands I received a Juror's Award at the Pittsford Fine Art Gallery.



The Wanderer by **Kathy Houston**

Kathy Houston received an Honorable Mention for her mixed media *The Wanderer* on display in the Wayne County Council of the Arts Members Show. She painted this on Japanese Masa paper by using the following process taught by Judy Soprano at a recent workshop: Place an x in a corner in pen on the shiny side. You will not paint on this side. Wad the paper up and crinkle it until you have the effect you want. Dip the paper in clean water to soak it. Spread the paper on some paper towels on your board. On the side without the x, make washes of clean color over your paper. Leave some white spots. Dry completely. At this point you can draw on your paper and continue to carefully paint on it and mount it or you can mount it first. Mount the dried painting on watercolor paper or canvas. Make a mixture of 2 parts mat medium or white glue to 1 part water. (This is MAT MEDIUM, not gloss.) Spread the glue onto the watercolor paper, just slightly larger than the masa paper. Place your painting over the glued paper and press down. Put some wax paper over the masa painting and using a brayer or other pressure, roll over all of it to seal to the wax paper. Air dry until you no longer feel glue around the edges. Press the painting between two boards lined with butcher or wax paper and weigh down completely until dry. Draw on your sketch. Some people draw on light box or graphite paper so that they don't have to have erasures on the masa paper. Paint using whatever method works for your painting.



Amazing Grace by **Kathy Houston** won an Artistic Merit Award in the Wayne County Council for the Arts Anything Goes Show.



Kathy Houston by her Honorable Award winner, *The Wanderer*



Bubuska, juried into the Yates County Council of the Arts Show in Penn Yan.



Lori Capron Galan's set up for the Canandaigua Paint Out.



Lori Capron Galan next to her pieces at the P. Tribastone Fine Art Gallery in Canandaigua, NY.



Lori Capron Galan's *Hazy Summer Day on Canandaigua* included in the Greater Rochester Plain Air Painters Show at the P. Tribastone Fine Art Gallery.

Lori Capron Galan participated in Paint Outs in Canandaigua and Mendon Ponds. She had five pastels on display at the Greater Rochester Plain Air Painters Show at the P. Tribastone Fine Art Gallery in Canandaigua.

Mendon Ponds Paint Out



Late Summer at Mendon Ponds by **Lori Capron Galan**



Lori Capron Galan's set up



Kirt Lapham, Jay Costanza and
Melanie Rinn Martinek (GRPAP)



Jeannette Pikturna

Linwood Paint Out September 5, 2020 10:00-4:00

The Linwood Gardens Organization is asking for a \$20 cash donation upon arrival at the entrance. Donate what you can. The money goes towards garden preservation. Zinnias are blooming. They have beautiful Genesee Valley views over fields and trees, exciting shapes and foliage colors in the Italian garden and the perennial bed has phlox, the end of the acanthus, crocosmia, purple fennel, ornamental grasses and hostas—lots of textures to explore. We will be social distancing and wearing masks when appropriate. Bring your mask, lunch and of course your art supplies. If you have any questions, please contact Jeannette Pikturna at 716-474-1229.

Please register in advance by clicking here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/linwoodgardens/407669/>

Bathrooms and food are available at Speedy's Travel Plaza; 3705 Main Street; Piffard, NY.

Pal-Mac Acqueduct Paint Out



Colette Savage and Kalene Van Deusen



Lori Capron Galan and Jay Costanza



Colette Savage



Karlene Van Deusen



Jay Costanza



Kathleen Hanney

MEMBERS VIRTUAL GALLERY and MEMBERS FORUM AVAILABLE FOR PSWNY MEMBERS

The Members Virtual Gallery is where our Members Only slideshows are kept. The purpose is to be able to share our art with each other, so it also may include works-in-progress. It is password protected so only our members can see it. The Members Forum is designed for you to be able to post recent work and ask for feedback, post information about techniques you are trying or tips you've found. You can also post links to interesting articles, blogs or websites. It is also password protected.

To go to either of these pages, go to <https://pastelsocietyofwesternnewyork.com/> and click on the page in the menu to the right.

Please take a look and start posting to see if we like how this works. If you have any problems with the page, please email Denise at drizzo28@gmail.com

A Note from the Editor, Marie Costanza

The next newsletter will be published in November. In order to celebrate you, the members of the Pastel Society of Western New York, please continue to send me information about your pieces that have been in a show, on display in a gallery (online or live), or have won an award. Additionally, if you would like to share information about a technique you have used, a resource that has been helpful, images you have from recent Paint-outs, or anything else that you believe might be of interest to other members, please email me at marienwt@aol.com. If it is easier for you to mail me the information, my address is 1611 Loughrea Terrace, Webster, NY 14580. My cell phone number is 585-749-1138. Please send me information any time over the next two months, but no later than the next deadline listed below.

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE: OCTOBER 25, 2020

UPCOMING PAINT OUTS with links for directions 10:00-4:00

- 9/5/20 Linwood Gardens: <https://www.linwoodgardens.org/location>
- 9/11/20 (for those who don't work) Webster Arboretum <http://www.websterarboretum.org/explore/>
- 9/12/20 (for those who work) Webster Arboretum <http://www.websterarboretum.org/explore/>
- 9/13/20 RAINDATE Webster Arboretum <http://www.websterarboretum.org/explore/>

18th Great Worldwide Artist Paint Out: International Plein Air Painters Organization

September 11-12-13, 2020 Click here for additional information or to order t-shirts, etc:

<https://ipap.homestead.com/paintout.html>