

November Meeting

Our next meeting is **November 20, 6:30-9:30 p.m.** at the Bloomington Art Center. Please join us for a demonstration by **Nancy Carney**. Nancy's work is very colorful & often figurative with very interesting compositions. Check out her website: www.nancycarney.com. Social time at 6:30 with coffee and goodies and the demo will begin at 7 pm. About 20 people attended and enjoyed last month's program. Thanks to Terrie Christian for the following report! Thanks to Judy Lieber for her sketch during the demo and thanks to Jeanne Emrich for the photos of Michael Schmidt and his painting!



Experiment and Have More fun! (A report on Michael Schmidt's Demo) By Terrie Christian

For those who could not attend the Michael Schmidt demo at the October 16th MAA meeting, we thought you might like to hear what we learned. Michael grew up in Canada and acknowledges being strongly influenced by the Group of Seven. They were artists who bucked the ideas of their day and began a new style.

Michael started out by talking about paint and color. He uses high quality paint that is pure color and mixes colors from these primaries and also black and white. He uses a warm and a cool version each of red, blue and yellow. The brand he uses is Gamblin He also uses a cold wax medium made by Dorland or Gamblin to mix with his paint and then a little poppy oil instead of linseed. The wax causes his paint to spread very smoothly and have a somewhat translucent effect sometimes, but the wax also speeds up drying time. The poppy oil slows down drying to give him enough time to get the painting done. Because he uses the wax, he does not have to varnish his oil paintings later. Because he mixes all other colors from the limited primary palette, all the colors on his paintings end up having a unified color.

He started out his painting life using brushes and making detailed drawings. He now uses palette knives and makes a simple drawing. His style has moved from more realistic to representational abstraction with some pure abstract. He said he is having a lot more fun with where he is now. He said it took a long progression of experimentation over years to get to his current state and he does not have one influence on this change but many.

Michael mixes the 3 ingredients (paint, cold wax, poppy oil) on his palette and then does some mixing of the 3 to make new colors also on the palette, but he likes to leave them only partially mixed to apply to his canvas. The partial mixture of, for example, red and yellow give a more exciting and varied orange than fully mixed which would create a somewhat dead, uninteresting color. He prefers painting wet into wet and usually finishes a painting in two days. Before putting his palette to bed between days, he squirts just a little more poppy oil over the paint and covers it with plastic wrap.

One of the exciting things to Michael of his current style is that he will take little bits of paint and place them around in a very small amount where another color is to give a jeweled highlight effect. He also scrapes off paint in some areas to expose some of the color that is below and leaves little places where the white of the canvas shines through for highlights.

The use of palette knives of many different sizes gives a variety of effects much like different brushes and he demonstrated how he uses them to create some line work as well as the broad strokes of color.

Michael recommends breaking rules and experimenting with new ways that come to you for a style all your own to be the artist you are meant to be! He has a studio at the Northrup King Building if you want to go visit him and also will be offering a workshop at the Bloomington Art Center soon. He also has a website at <http://www.michaelschmidtstudio.com/portfolios.html>. Check him out!

Member News

Judy Lieber & Susan Novak are now officially members of a beautiful gallery at the Northrup King Building called, "**Layers - Studio 185.**" Judy says, "It's a really nice space...first floor....right near the elevator....easy to find. I'll finally get to participate in First Thursday, Art Attack & whatever else the NKB does for artists. This is a big step for me! It will be so nice to see familiar faces at these events! Y'ALL COME!"

Emmy White (321), Tom Dimock (Studio 183), Rita Corrigan & Marjorie Moody (392) will also be open for First Thursday and Art Attack at the Northrup King Building (1500 Jackson St. NE Mpls) on **Thursday, November 1, 5-9 pm, Friday, November 2, 5-10 pm, Saturday, November 3, 12-8 pm, & Sunday, November 4, 12-5 pm.**

11 MAA artists will be participating in the **Plymouth Arts Fair 2012** with a double booth on **Saturday, November 17th, 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, November 18, 12-5 pm.** Plymouth Creek Center is located at 14800 34th Ave N., Plymouth MN 55447. The event features sales of original artwork, live music, food and free children's art activity area. We will be promoting our organization along with selling our artwork. Please stop by our booth and join in the fun! **Richard Mittelstadt** is having a solo exhibition at the Robbin Gallery January 3-31, 2013. The opening reception will be Friday, January 4, 2013, 5:30-8:30 pm. More information will be in the December newsletter.