

MuseLETTER

Minnesota Artists' Association since 1937

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 17 6:30 PM
Social time, 7 PM Marie Panlener presents a slide show of portraits followed by hands-on portrait sketching at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, Room 2020.

Tuesday, December 16 6 PM
Annual holiday potluck and show and tell at Jeanne Emrich's condo party room at Point of France

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 6:30 PM
Social time, 7 PM Oil still life Zoom demo by Gary Carabio.

Thursday, February 26 6-8 PM
Spring Juried Exhibition Reception at Hopkins Center for the Arts.

Tuesday, March 17 6:30 PM
Social time, 7 PM to be determined.

Tuesday, April 21 Como sketch on site in the conservatory.

Tuesday, May 19 6 PM Potluck and show and tell at JuliAnne Jonker's home in Apple Valley.

November 2025 Meeting is a Portrait Party



Marie Panlener will present with a keynote presentation of portraits that starts with a look at the Australian national portrait competition, the Archibald Prize. This will be followed by some VIP portraits, then a variety of different interesting styles of portraiture, including some done by the late Jerry Rudquist, an art professor at Macalester College in St. Paul.

The presentation will finish with a basic description of the Loomis method of drawing a head.

Then we're going to have a portrait drawing session set up like a speed dating event. We'll arrange ourselves so participants will sit directly across from each other, then loosen up with a couple of very short sketches, followed by 5-minute sketches. At the end of each session, one group will shift to the next chair, and we'll start again. It's important to have a sketchbook or clipboard in order to hold your paper up at an angle so each of you can draw your person with their head up.

Materials needed: Sketchbook of your choice, something that suits your drawing materials, whatever size suits you, 12x9" is good if you don't have a preference. Drawing materials: pencils, eraser.

There will be no show and tell portion of the sketching sessions.

Heidi Nelson's Shares Tips to Paint Glowing Watercolor Portraits

Heidi primarily uses Winsor Newton colors and, before starting her painting, squeezes fresh paint out of tubes and mixes them according to a specific formula to



achieve the desired colors. She emphasizes the importance of understanding the low strength of yellows and the precise proportions needed to achieve the intended effect.



Here are some of Heidi's color mixes:

Red-Orange: Equal parts of Perylene Maroon and Permanent Alizarin Crimson.

Orange: Blick Crimson Gold one part to 1/2 part Winsor Newton Quinacridone Gold.

Blues: Winsor Newton Perylene Green, Winsor Newton Ultramarine, and Winsor Yellow.

Shadows: 1 part Perylene Maroon, 1 part Winsor Newton Permanent Alizarin Crimson, 2 parts Winsor Newton Ultramarine Blue, and a tiny amount of Winsor Yellow.

In addition to these, Heidi uses Cobalt Blue, Winsor Blue Green shade, Winsor Violet, Winsor Cadmium Red, and Winsor Cadmium Scarlet.

Heidi advises using bold colors with high intensity. She exclusively uses Arches 140# cold press paper.

Heidi also uses masking for certain areas and cautions against using 100% cotton rag paper, as the mask may not come off or may tear the paper when removed. To protect her brushes, she uses soap in them. She buys TEAR MENDER from the hardware store as her masking agent and then uses BESTYNE to clean the mask from the brush.

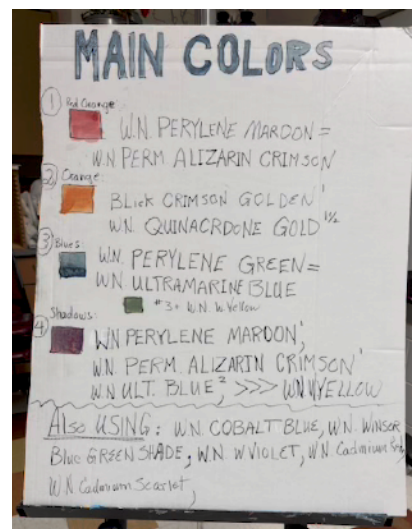
When starting a portrait, Heidi lays down blues first to capture the shadow shapes. She then allows the paper to dry completely before beginning the layers. She usually has multiple paintings going at once to accommodate the drying time. After the blue layers, she starts the red layers.

The moisture levels of the paper are crucial. From puddles to shiny, which is less than puddly, then satin, which is losing its shine. Humidity in the air plays a significant role in this. This is particularly important when



working on the second color on a wet page. Excessive water can cause a backwash. During the satin phase, you can soften the edges. Masking wet surfaces can also achieve soft edges.

She emphasizes color choices to convey emotions in her painting. Red is a prominent color. She uses permanent rose in the nostrils.



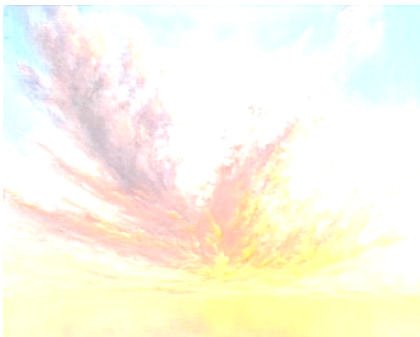
Blonde hair is a combination of raw umber and ultramarines. Also, she uses the shadow color mixture. When painting hair, wet the paper just where the lines are before putting color down.

By Terrie Christian with help from JuliAnne Jonker's notes.

MAA Members Gather in Wausau, Wisconsin

MAA artists Sushila Anderson, Marjorie Moody, Kat Nottingham, Doug Seim, Diane Scully, and Susan Solomon had work accepted in the ANJE 2025 Juried Exhibition at the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art. All six artists went to the reception in Wausau on Thursday, October 2, where JuliAnne Jonker spoke about the show and the award-winning artworks. She said they were all finalists. Marjorie won an honorable mention. They had a marvelous time at the reception and then went out to dinner with about 25 of the artists. The next day, many of them enjoyed the Birds in Art exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum.

By Marjorie Moody



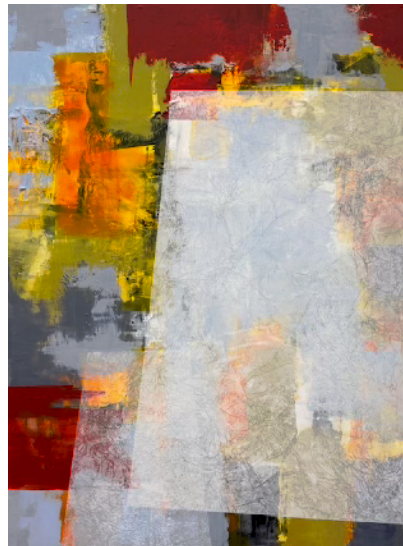
Kat Nottingham, *Cloud Burst*



D H Seim, *Transitus Mariae*



Susan Solomon, *Night Fence*



Diane Scully, *IR Series: Loss*



Sushilla Anderson, *The Crow and the Butterfly*



Marjorie Moody, *Wonderings*



Diane Scully, *In the Field*



Sushilla Anderson, *Johnny Cash as Frankenstein*

MAA Member Doug Seim Makes a Long-distance Friend

On August 19, 2023, Russia fired a cruise missile into the center of Kharkiv, Ukraine. The missile exploded, and a piece of shrapnel killed a very pretty and innocent 6-year-old girl, Sofia Holynska, as she was walking with her mother. Her mother, Olha, survived but was completely grief-stricken that her only child had been killed. The father is in the army, and his status is not known. I saw a picture of the little girl on Twitter and thought to myself that she was quite pretty and that I wanted to paint her. So I simply saved her picture on my phone.

Time went by, and I decided to buy a handmade frame from Ukraine. I did this with the idea of doing the portrait and to support artisan shops in Ukraine. I found a beautiful and ornate frame on Etsy.

A year went by, and I did not act on doing the portrait. In my head, I was thinking, "What am I going to do with this?" The answer came to me... I would try to find the mother and give her the painting.

I did the portrait, and it turned out beautifully. It was only 5x7 and fit the frame, but when I got done with the portrait and was happy with it, I needed to take the next step. I posted the painting on both Twitter and Facebook, told the story, and said I wanted to find the mother. A friend of ours saw the post, did some research, and let me know that the mother was doing some online therapy with a Ukrainian psychotherapist based in NYC. I found her through a NYC publisher who had done an interview with her. She agreed to



put me in touch with Olha and gave me her email address and phone number. I sent her an email, right away, but did not write in Ukrainian. A couple of weeks went by, and I sent a follow-up email, this time translated.

In a few days I got a Facebook friend request from Olha. This happened a couple of months ago. After that, it was smooth sailing. I used AI to translate and was able to converse with Olha on FB Messenger. She was thrilled about the portrait of Sofia and very excited that I wanted to send it to her. Then, the next challenge was finding a way to ship it. I found an international shipping company (Meeden) that was doing a great job shipping into war-torn Ukraine. Olha was no longer in Kharkiv but had moved to Kiev, making it easier. It took five weeks to get the painting there, and I checked its status nearly every day.

Finally, it arrived, and Olha sent me a number of pictures with her and the painting, the painting with

flowers, and the painting at the grave of Sofia. Olha was overjoyed and said to me that it helped so much that she knew someone was thinking of her and cared. She told me that she used to wake up in a depressed state, but now she wakes up, looks at the painting, smiles, and carries on with her day. Olha has since become a good friend.

I've noticed a real change with her also. She is actively contributing her time to orphanages, helping other small children who have lost their parents in the war. She recently had a portrait photographer do a number of shots of her, and she is radiant. I think the key point is that she has resumed living, and though there is always grief, there is now more of a balance.

For myself, I feel good about the whole situation. There was no one step that was particularly challenging. Really, there were about five small challenges, and it was more of a matter of just taking the next step and having a bit of faith and persistence.

So often, we take lives for granted that are a long distance from us. They become statistics. But when you meet them, they are just like us. Their lives are just as precious. Sofia is an angel. She was a bright, loving light here on Earth and was taken too early from a mother who loved her dearly.

By Doug Seim

Member News

Don Aggerbeck has a watercolor included in the following exhibitions: Minnesota Watercolor Society Fall Members Exhibition at Studio Pintura in the Northrup King Building, November 1-22, Artistry Members Juried Exhibition in the Inez Greenberg Gallery, November 8-December 1 and the 30th Annual Extremely Minnesota Juried Exhibition at Robbin Gallery, November 1-December 7.

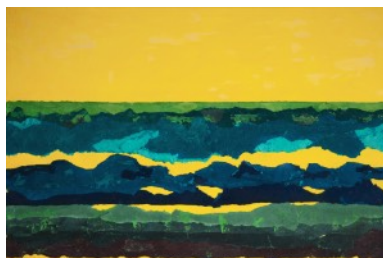


Sculptural artist **Stephen A. Born** curated "Body of Work, a celebration of the human form" at the Robbin Gallery. Featuring his own wall mounted wood sculptures, the exhibition also showcases the work of photographer Erik Saulitis' silhouetted dancers against stark white backgrounds, and photographer Nicole Houff's whimsical dioramas of Barbie and Ken dolls in ultra-stylized retro environments of the 1950s and '60s. The show runs through October 26 in Robbinsdale.

Andrea Canter invites you to two open studio events in November: November 8, Second Saturday at

Casket Arts, 11-4 Studio 218 will have some new work, notecards, and even more older work! It's also a preview for our fall event, Open Casket November 14-16. With several of the other studio buildings open throughout NE Minneapolis, it's like a small Art-a-Whirl, with smaller crowds, easier parking, few if any brewery parties. There will be lots of open studios, live music, food trucks and a basement speakeasy raising funds for the NE Minneapolis Arts District, Friday 5-9 PM, Saturday Noon-8 pm, Sunday Noon-5 PM. 681 17th Av NE Mpls.

Andrea is pleased to have her new mixed media work, *Iowa*, accepted for the annual juried show at Artistry (Bloomington), October 24-November 30.



Mary Anne Kinane's painting, *Alpha & Omega* was chosen to be in the 3rd International exhibit, Spirituality 2025, it is also displayed on Artsy.



Marjorie Moody & Michael Zaccardi are hosting an art show in their home. Please come and bring a friend! Sunday, November 2, Noon-6PM, 1220 Pascal St. North, St. Paul, MN 55108, (651) 644-0068. They live in an old brick church that has been renovated into a combination living space and studio. From Hwy 94, go north on Snelling to Como Ave. Go east on Como two blocks, north ½ block on Pascal. Refreshments will be served! They hope to see you on Sunday, November 2. <http://www.marjoriemoody.com>



"Narrative Portraits And Other Stories - Solo Show of **Dan Petrov**," Plymouth Community Center Art Gallery, 14800 34th Ave N, Plymouth, MN 55447, October 24 to December 5. Reception: November 5, 6-7:30 PM. Dan Petrov Art Studio and Plymouth Community Center's Art Gallery present over sixty new
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Mission

The mission of MAA is to educate, encourage, and inspire visual artists of all mediums and skill levels, offer fellowship and a supportive environment for creativity, and be a vital presence in the community through our programs and exhibitions.

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[http://
www.minnesotaartistsassoc.com](http://www.minnesotaartistsassoc.com)

Member News continued

oil paintings by Dan Petrov. Most of the large and medium format paintings are portraits and figures in specific interiors or open spaces. These narrative portraits treat different aspects of the human condition where professional and found models relate the aspects of individuality or social connections of our contemporaries. A few still life oil paintings are there, too, for more traditional collectors of Dan's work. Come to the opening night for art chat, wine, and hors d'oeuvres

Becky Trossen was pleased and surprised to receive an award at the Plein Air show this summer at the White Bear Center for the Arts, Best Acrylic, 2025, for an acrylic on canvas entitled *Joyful Entrance to Matoska Park*



Ken Valentas received the award for best historical painting at the Grand Marais Plein Air competition in September.



The Minnetonka Center for the Arts has accepted **Peggy Wright's** two paintings for their holiday show and sale, Oct 24 to Dec 20. The Burl Gallery has accepted her work for their Tiny Art Expo, Nov 28 to Dec 28.

