



Maryland Pastel Society Winter Newsletter

In This Issue

[From the President's Easel](#)

[Next Meeting](#)

[Membership Renewal](#)

[Exhibitions](#)

[Shades of Pastel](#)

[Workshops](#)

[Featured Artist](#)

[Member News](#)

[More Opportunities](#)

[Inspiration Corner](#)

[Past Events - Fall Meeting](#)

[Past Events - Fall Workshop](#)

January 2017

From the President's Easel

Happy New Year!

Wow! Have we got an exciting year ahead! Maryland Pastel Society celebrates its 40th year in 2017. Did you know, we are the oldest state pastel society in the country? We stand upon the shoulders (or should I say along side the easels?) of many great pastel artists who have shared their love of pastels through membership in the Maryland Pastel Society. To celebrate this legacy, your executive board has planned some great activities for you this year.

First, we have three new board members: Kim Stone, Joyce Turk, and Tara Will. Please welcome them. Take some time at our meetings to introduce yourself and get to know them. Also, if you have ideas or want to help with MPS activities, please let a board member know. There are lots of opportunities for members to get involved!

We have some terrific demos and learning opportunities lined up for 2017. In January, former President [Deborah Maklowski](#) will do a pastel and multi-media demonstration at our winter meeting. In the spring, [Mary Pritchard](#), well known for her rural landscapes and farm buildings, will be our guest artist. At the summer meeting, we will have a fun hands-on pastel painting extravaganza. Lastly, the fall meeting will feature another former MPS president, [Chris Powell](#), who will demonstrate how to take an unsuccessful painting and turn it into a beauty.

We'll also be preparing for our Biennial National Juried Exhibition - **Shades of Pastel**. A prestigious show that draws pastellists from across the country, the SOP is a wonderful opportunity for you to experience a top-notch exhibition. [Desmond O'Hagan](#) will be the juror.

Our Signature Show opens February 9th at the [Columbia Art Center](#). The reception is Sunday, February 12th from 2-4pm. Come out and enjoy the show!

MPS Board & Volunteers

President: Mary Boeh

Vice President: Kim Stone

Treasurer: Mary Anne Warner

Recording Secretary: L yn Laviana

Corresponding

Secretary: Joyce Turk

Membership

Chair: Kathleen Risk

Workshop Chair: Joyce Lister

Exhibition Chair:

Susan Gleason

SOP Chair: Tara Will

Web: Mary Boeh,
Kathleen Risk

Planning Calendar

Jan 21: Winter Meeting
at the Gary J. Arthur

Community Center in
Glenwood

Feb 1: Deadline for
membership dues

Feb 9 - Mar 5: Signature
Members Show

at Columbia Art Center,
6100 Foreland Garth,
Columbia, Maryland

Feb 12: Signature
Members Show

Reception, Columbia Art
Center

Mar 18: Executive
Board Meeting,
Glenwood

Mar 29-31: Jeanne
Rosier Smith Workshop

Apr 22: Spring
Meeting at Gary J.
Arthur Community
Center at Glenwood

Jul 22: Summer
Meeting at Gary J.
Arthur Community
Center at Glenwood

Oct 15 - Nov 17: SOP
National Show,
Glenview Mansion,
Rockville, MD

Oct 28: Fall Meeting at
the Gary J. Arthur
Community Center at
Glenwood

Directions to Glenwood

[Directions to our
meetings at the Gary J.
Arthur Community
Center at Glenwood](#)

We will also have three MPS workshops this year. In the spring, [Jeanne Rosier Smith](#) is teaching her Color Confidence workshop. In the Fall, we will have workshops with Desmond O'Hagan and Richard McKinley. Planning for the fall workshops is still underway, but keep watch for future MPS emails and newsletters for more information.

Finally, for the first time, we are offering on-line membership renewal using PayPal. Details have been sent to you, and you'll find a link to the web page renewal information below.

Looking forward to an exciting year,
Mary

Next Meeting

As noted above, our Winter General Meeting is January 21st. Deborah Maklowski will do an abstract pastel-mixed media demonstration. Deborah will talk about her inspiration and design process, as well as the early stages of the painting process. Then, she will demonstrate how she combines pastel with the mixed-media foundation to create beautiful and dynamic abstract paintings.

Many of us know Deborah for her pastel plein air landscape paintings, but in recent years, she has been exploring abstract design. She explains, "My primary focus is on composition: combining shape, line, value, and color to draw the viewer into and around the picture plane, creating the illusion of three dimensional space in my representational works or simply a visually pleasing arrangement of patterns in my abstract works. I never have a "message": I create art for the challenges inherent in the process, for the satisfaction of learning to master the materials, for the fun of occasional happy accidents, and mainly for the sheer visual and physical joy of it, seeking to share with the viewer the beauty I find in the world all around me, in forms both natural and man-made."

Visit Deborah's web page deborahmaklowski.com.

And, as always, please remember to bring

- lunch for yourself.
- food to share so you can put your name in the box and perhaps win a prize.
- samples of your recent work.

See you on Saturday, January 21st at Glenwood! ([Click here for directions to the Gary J. Arthur Community Center](#))

Membership Renewal

NEW THIS YEAR - OPTION TO PAY ONLINE!

Our annual membership renewal drive has begun. You should have received a letter in the mail and an email with details. If the letter hasn't arrived yet, it should arrive soon. This year, you have the option

to renew and pay online. Please follow the instructions that were sent to you, or visit the [MPS Membership page](#).

Please renew your membership on or before February 1, 2017.

Upcoming Exhibition

Signature Members Show

The Maryland Pastel Society will hold a Signature Members Show at the Columbia Art Center, 6100 Foreland Garth, Columbia, Maryland, from February 9 - March 5, 2017.

The opening reception is Sunday, February 12, from 2-4 pm.

The [Columbia Art Center](#) is located in Long Reach Village Center in Columbia, Maryland. The Columbia Art Center has been a functioning art school since 1987 and offers year-round art classes, rotating gallery exhibitions, a gallery gift shop, summer art camp for children, studio rentals, a Japanese Garden, art and life enhancement lectures and more! The gallery space is wonderful and has been recently updated to include new flooring and lighting.

We look forward to seeing you at the reception!

Shades of Pastel 2017

Planning for our Biennial National Show is Underway!

Every two years, the Maryland Pastel Society hosts the **Shades of Pastel** National Juried Exhibition. **Shades of Pastel 2017** will be held October 15 - November 17, 2017 at the [Glenview Mansion in Rockville, Maryland](#). Glenview Mansion is an elegant 1926 home included on the National Register of Historic Places. Located in the 153-acre Rockville Civic Center Park, it is a lovely location for our exhibition.



We are excited that **Tara Will** has volunteered to be our SOP chair. **Shades of Pastel** is a premier event for our society, drawing national and international attention to the Maryland Pastel Society. It requires a lot of planning. Tara is looking for volunteers to serve on a committee to help. This is an excellent opportunity for you to learn what

it takes to organize a national-level show -- great skills for any artist to have! If you would like to help, please contact Tara at sop2017info@gmail.com.

The Call-for-Entries and prospectus will be emailed to you by spring and will be posted on the Maryland Pastel Society web page.

Upcoming Workshops

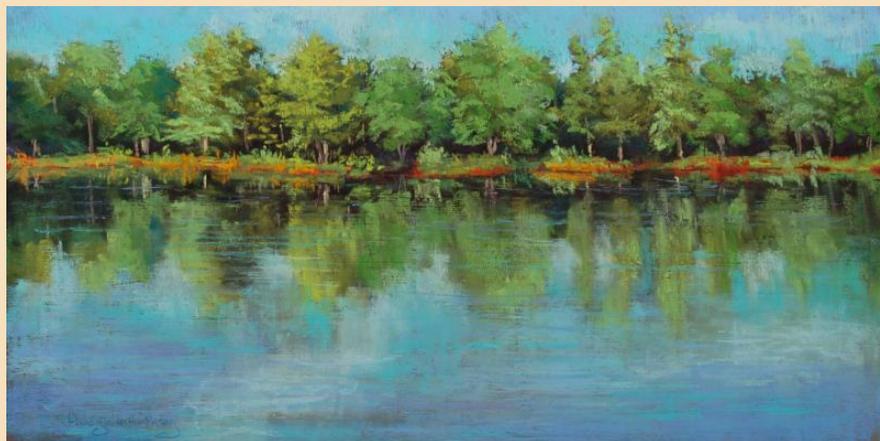
Spring Workshop - Color Confidence with Jeanne Rosier Smith

In March, the Maryland Pastel Society is hosting Jeanne Rosier Smith for her "Color Confidence" Workshop at the Artists & Makers Studios 2 in Rockville, Maryland. The workshop is March 29-31. If you wish to be added to the waiting list, please contact Joyce Lister. Details are posted on the MPS [Workshop web page](#).

Jeanne is an excellent and very supportive workshop instructor. Generous with information and help, she provides students with a great deal of individual attention.

Jeanne is a Signature member of the PSA, the Connecticut Pastel Society, and the Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod, and she is also a member of the Master 's Circle of IAPS. Her work has been included in the Pastel Journal's Pastel 100 for the past three years. Jeanne is known for her dramatic wave paintings and she has won awards in numerous significant exhibitions, To learn more about Jeanne, please visit her web page www.jeannesmithart.com.

Featured Artist: Ann Guidera-Matey



Summer Reflections

Ann Guidera-Matey's work begins with an emotional connection in nature. A sunset over a coastal marsh, a sky reflected in still water, or an early morning shadow crossing a field inspires her. "The memories and emotions of these particular moments outdoors motivate my painting," she explains. The Eastern Shore of Maryland, New Jersey Shore, the Brandywine River Valley and Hudson, New York are some

of her favorite places to draw inspiration. Recently her work has been energized by trips to Ireland, France and Italy.

Ann describes her work as simple and direct, using simplified shapes and strong colors in her landscapes to convey emotion. She loves the immediacy, vibrant color and portability of pastels.

Ann loves plein aire painting, and when painting outdoors, she typically uses UART 400 paper with a pastel and alcohol wash underpainting.

Most of her work, however, is done in her studio at Heron Crest Studios in Aston, PA. In the studio, Ann does thumbnail sketches to work out composition and values. She then transfers the sketch to a gator board panel which she prepared with an acrylic underpainting with a pumice gel mixture to provide texture.

Visit Ann's web page to see more paintings: AnnGuideraMatey.com.



Georgetown Canal



Turquoise Barn at Dusk



Eventide



Reeds and Water

Signature Members may sign up to be a Featured Artist by sending an email to mdpastels@gmail.com. You will need to provide a write-up and images upon acceptance.

Also, Signature members, if you would like to update your images on the MPS web page gallery, please contact Joyce Lister by email lijsterstudio@comcast.net.

Member News



Spring Thaw by Michael Gaudreau

Michael Gaudreau was awarded the "Art du Pastel en France" award at the 44th annual PSA show at the National Arts Club in NYC for his pastel "Spring Thaw"(18x26). He also received the Kenneth B Spaulding award at the 83rd Hudson Valley Art Assoc. held at the Salmagundi club. An oil painting of his also won 2nd place at the Maryland Maritime Museum in October.



Light Touch by Barbara Berry

Barbara Berry's pastel "Light Touch" won the Outstanding Pastel Award in the BoldBrush painting competition. It was also accepted into the 29th IAPs Juried Exhibition - the 2016 Webshow! "Light touch" is a self-portrait Barbara painted on 27x21" Uart 280 paper.



Gayle's pastel mural to be featured at BWI.

Gayle Mangan Kassal was recently honored to be among a select group of artists for the new BWI Concourse D Gallery. The artwork will be displayed in six month rotations for the next few years, enhancing the BWI airport's new concourse D/E Connector. Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan served as chairperson of the panel. A total of 581 entries were received during the contest and 28 pieces were selected for the exhibition space.

Rebecca Yates Shorb was the recipient of the Best Of Show award given by the Art Downtown Gallery-Hanover, Pa. at the opening reception of their 48th Annual Fall Show. This image was chosen by the juror from 90 submissions. She was also selected to participate in the Hanover Arts Guild Invitational along with three other artists.

Jean Hirons will be teaching all levels of pastel painting on Mondays from 10:00-1:00, Jan. 23-Mar. 27 at Artists and Makers Studios 2, 12276 Wilkins Ave. in Rockville. The fee is \$300 for 10 classes, paid by check to Jean. If you are interested, please contact her at: jeanhirons48@gmail.com or 301-340-3198.

Desiree Holmes Scherini will be teaching several classes at Maryland Hall in Annapolis beginning January 10. For more information about Desiree's class offerings, visit <https://www.marylandhall.org/course-categories>. To register for classes, visit <https://www.marylandhall.org/course-categories>.

More News and Opportunities

CHESTERTOWN RIVERARTS 7th ANNUAL "PAINT THE TOWN": A PLEIN AIR EVENT THAT IS FUN FOR EVERYONE

This is a great event on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It's the RiverArts Seventh Annual Paint the Town, four-day plein air festival, from April 28-May 1. Visit the web page for registration information: <http://chestertownriverarts.org/paint-the-town/>

Call for Artists: Juried Painting, Sculpture and Contemporary Craft Exhibition, RiverArts

Exhibition Dates: March 3 - April 1, 2017

Entry Due Date: January 20

Artist Acceptance Notification: January 29

Drop Off: February 26, 1- 3 pm & February 27, 10 am - 1 pm

Pick Up: April 2, 1- 3 pm & April 3, 10 am - 1 pm

Opening Reception & Awards Ceremony : Friday, March 3

Curators & Jurors: Rob Glebe and Mary Pritchard

Judge: Susan Levi-Goerlich

For information visit: <http://chestertownriverarts.org/2017-exhibition-schedule/call-for-artists-juried-painting-sculpture-contemporary-craft-exhibition/>

IAPS Call for Entries for the 30th Juried Exhibition

The show will take place June 7-10, 2017, at the IAPS 2017 Convention, Albuquerque, N.M. **The entry deadline for entry is January 26, 2017.** Visit www.onlinejuriedshows.com to enter.

CALL FOR ENTRIES - NATIONAL JURIED SHOW

A new national juried all media show entitled 'Bringing Beauty Back' at the Cecil Byrne Gallery in Charleston, SC. Jeanne Rosier Smith, PSA, is this year's judge of awards. The deadline for entry is February 1st, 2017. Please see the prospectus here: <https://onlinejuriedshows.com/Default.aspx?OJSID=9735>

Arizona Pastel Artists Association 2017 Open Juried Pastel Exhibition

April 13 - April 25, 2017, Sedona Art Center, 15 Art Barn Road, Sedona, AZ 86336 [Click here for prospectus.](#)

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.

Pastel Painters Society of Cape Cod National Juried Show

The PPSCC national juried exhibition will be held June 24 - July 17 at the Cultural Center of Cape Cod in South Yarmouth, MA. **Entry deadline: April 18.** To see prospectus visit: <http://www.onlinejuriedshows.com/Default.aspx?OJSID=6554>

Please check our website for other local activities. They can be found under the Artist Opportunities section of the MPS web page.

Membership News

Maryland Pastel Society is delighted to welcome the following new members:

Tamara Lewis
Helen Wood
Tracy Rajkowski
Larry Witham

Inspiration Corner

Pastel artists often bristle when they hear someone mention "chalks". Ah, but one of our members recently had a fun opportunity to work with chalks.

Gayle Mangan Kassal, has distinguished herself as a mural painter who works in pastels. Last month, a real estate agent was looking for an artist to "help make a kid's chalk wall better to sell a house." Gayle answered the call. She had only three hours to paint while her daughter was in pre-school. Well, she delivered. Here's a photo of the chalkboard wall she painted with chalks (not pastels). Gayle had a lot of fun, but now owes her daughter a full replacement set of sidewalk chalks!



Do you have an inspiring story? A fun pastel challenge? Let us know.

Past Events - Fall Meeting

Fall Meeting: Maria Made the Colors Sing!

By Mary Boeh



Maria Marino with her finished painting from the Fall meeting demonstration.

MPS members who attended the Fall meeting enjoyed a real treat as Maria Marino demonstrated her joy for painting and her passion for impressionism.

Maria briefly explained her process: first, she would block out the initial composition using a charcoal pencil, then she used watercolors to lay down the underpainting.



"It's saturation. I'm trying to create as much depth as I can... You want to feel the mass. When I use watercolors, I mass in the shapes. I want volumn," Maria explained.



Once her underpainting is laid down, the fun begins. Maria dons her ear buds, and begins to apply pastels as she listens to music. The audience is captivated! As Maria tap, tap, taps to the music, the colors emerge. A gentle touch, a twist of her wrist, a scratch-scratch, and the foliage begins to emerge. It is a joyful process. Every stroke has meaning. Every color is rich and strong.



Though we cannot hear the music, we feel it and see the notes emerge as Maria paints. Maria takes a break to answer questions. She explains how she feels when she paints, "It's just having those colors sing! That's it."



And, sing they did!

Visit Maria's web page, mariamarioart.com, to see more of her work.

Past Events - Fall Workshop

Fantastic October Workshop with Nancy Nowak

by Mary Boeh

Photos by Barbara and Roger Tinius, Mary Boeh

A four-day plein air workshop with artist [Nancy Nowak](#) is like having perfect warm, sunny weather on an autumn day! Indeed, we had four wonderful days with a terrific instructor!

Nancy Nowak is a Master Circle member of the International Association of Pastel Societies, a Signature Member of Pastel Society of America, and a Member of Excellence in the Southeastern Pastel Society. Originally from New Jersey, Nancy now resides in the Atlanta, GA.



The MPS fall workshop was in October 2016 in the New Hope area of Eastern, Pennsylvania. The region is well known for its beautiful scenery which has drawn artists for over a century. The fall scenery was nothing less than inspiring!

On the first day of the workshop, the group met at the historic Thompson-Neely House at Washington's Crossing. As Nancy prepared to begin her first demo, she explained why she finds plein air painting so alluring. First, she enjoys the fact that there are all sorts of light to master: warm, cool, filtered. The light is constantly changing, so when you paint on location, you can capture a sense of time and place. Secondly, Nancy emphasized that it is important for artists to do field studies. "Work on your observational skills," she noted. "Think of these [plein air paintings] as field studies. It's gaining that much more experience for that next painting."

Most importantly, Nancy reminded the crew to have fun. "It's all about the process. It's all about the journey!"

When Nancy chooses a new location, the first thing she does is look around using a view finder. "I find that my viewfinder is my best friend!" As she scans the area through her hand-held viewer, Nancy explains that the viewfinder can help you focus and zero in on a subject that catches your interest. "Narrowing your focus and having one intention, zeroing in..." Nancy points out that it is important to learn to simplify and, if needed, concentrate on little bits at a time - chunk a larger problem into bits to learn to tackle the problem. "The mantra of this workshop is: simplify and edit," she notes.

This strategy of breaking problems into bits, setting specific goals, and focusing on small chunks at a time, is a strategy Nancy has used to cultivate her artistic skills and talent over the years. "There's power in that! Have mini-goals," she advises. Nancy was inspired by the book, **The Talent Code**, by Daniel Coyle. This book describes certain methods of training and motivation that help individuals develop talent.

As Nancy begins to survey the location through her viewfinder, she tells us she is looking for a big shape - one dominant shape. Once you identify the dominant shape, the other smaller shapes will fall into place. Back to that idea of breaking problems into chunks, she suggests one strategy some artists use is to break the scene into five shapes. Think shapes. "We're not painting objects, per se. We're painting shapes." She squints, noting that she wants a subject with three distinct values - light, medium, and dark. Using the viewfinder, you can narrow down, focus, and find a good composition.

The focal point - What's your Intention?

As Nancy chooses her subject and makes decisions about the composition, she explains that she decides on her focal point before she begins. Usually it is the point of greatest contrast, but she asks us to think about why we choose a subject. "What's your intention?" she asks. What motivates you to choose the subject? That's your intention. That's your focal point. She advises us to determine our intention up front. It's what drew you to the subject, why you want to make that painting. "Have an intention. It's what you want to focus on...the story you want to tell."

Nancy finds value studies an important step in her painting process. "Value studies are so important! It's the blueprint for the painting." This is where you block out the composition and initially describe your intention. "It's even more important than the painting."



Nancy's Composition Value studies

As she begins the demonstration, Nancy states, "My intention is the shape of that tree and the negative space [around it]." She begins by dividing the surface into thirds, lightly marking out a grid. The points of intersection are often the best spots to place that focal point. Again, she reminds us to simplify and focus on shapes, "I'm not thinking trees. I'm thinking shapes... are my shapes interesting? The negative space and sky shapes - are they interesting?"

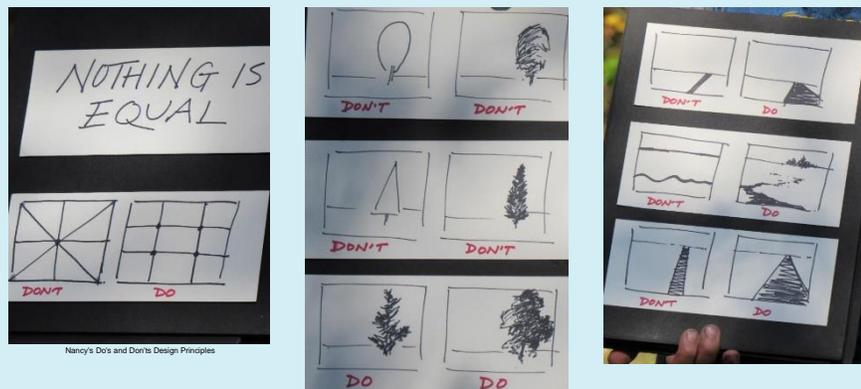
"The painting is more important than what you see in nature."

As Nancy works, she points out that you will need to make decisions in order to develop a sound composition and an interesting painting. "I used to think I had to copy what I saw, but the painting is more important than anything else." Sometimes you have to move a tree or

change the shape of the sky, or mass small shapes into a larger shape to make the composition more effective and interesting to the viewer. She reminded us, that if you have a long line in your composition, break it up. For trees, change the width, change the angles, and vary the spacing. "Your eye likes to see balance, not symmetry," Nancy advises.



Nancy taught the group to include a visual entry point and path into the painting - one entry point that leads the viewer in. Then, include "a stopper" - an element that causes the eye to pause before being pulled through to another point in the painting. Nancy uses colors and shapes to stop the eye and then draw your eye through the painting. Also, she uses these same design elements to unify the painting. "If I put [a color] one place, I always try to put it somewhere else for color harmony".



She explained, "painting is all about relationships." As she develops her paintings, Nancy points out examples of managing those relationships: warmer or cooler, lighter or darker, intense or duller. "You can layer warm and cool" to create vibrations. As she works on these relationships, she will apply pastel layers lightly, just skimming, and barely touching the surface. Nancy saves her bold strokes for the end, when she wants to strengthen what is already there. At that final stage, she announces, "Now I'm going to start making more confident strokes."

She steps back, checks to see if she is effectively leading the viewers eye through the painting as intended, causing them to pause at the right points, while maintaining a harmony that supports her original intention when she began.

Throughout the four-day workshop, Nancy provided one-on-one guidance and encouragement. At the end of the day, the group was eager to gather back at the hotel for daily critiques and discussions with Nancy. Everyone produced beautiful paintings and had a great time. Just check out all the smiles!



During the week, the group painted along the Delaware River, at Washington's Crossing, and in New Hope. Here is the group gathered together after a day of painting in New Hope.

To learn more about Nancy, visit www.nancynowak.com. Also, visit [Nancy's blog](#) to read what she wrote about the MPS workshop.

Get Involved!

We are always looking for members to get involved. This newsletter is sprinkled with ideas on how you can volunteer. We need people to help with the SOP show, write for the newsletter, or plan activities outside of quarterly meetings. Maybe you're interested in plein air painting and are looking for other painters to paint with you? Please contact a board member if you are interested in volunteering.

Parting Thought:

"Impressionism is the newspaper of the soul."

- Henri Matisse

Maryland Pastel Society | mdpastels@gmail.com | <http://www.marylandpastelsociety.com>

P.O. Box 54

Riderwood, MD 21139

Copyright © 2017. All Rights Reserved.