

Sebastian River Art Club NEWSLETTER

The Sebastian River Art Club encourages the artistic talents of its members, while supporting the community. It fosters an appreciation of the arts through public art shows, public and private exhibits, charitable donations, and civic involvement.

RICHARD GILLMOR, President

JUDITH McNAMARA, Vice President

ALICE RUSSELL, Publicity

JUDY BURGARELLA, Secretary

MARY E. RAHMIG, Treasurer

1245 MAIN ST (PO BOX 780534) SEBASTIAN, FL 32976

www.sebastianriverartclub.org



CLUB NEWS...

Congratulations to all SRAC members who entered work into the recent *Art by the Sea* exhibit held in the Vero Beach Museum, and hosted by the Vero Beach Art Club. The following members were rewarded by selling their paintings: Peni Baker, Maureen Fitzpatrick, Richard Dougherty, and Richard Ramirez. Hopefully, we did not omit anyone's name.

SRAC SHOW NEWS...

We finally had a beautiful show-day in the Park on January 28, and some of us were even lucky enough to sell one or more paintings. There was a definite increase in the number of strollers, and those actually interested in viewing and enjoying the works of art. We feel this increase was directly attributed to the pull-out advertising insert that we placed in the *Press Journal* the day before the show. We can gage the increase because the insert was a double-sided ad, with the show on one side, and an invitation to visit the art center on the other. We also had an increase in people walking through the Art Center following the ad, which the visitors told us they were coming because of seeing the ad.

The Art Center is a great resource for the City, and we urge you to constantly tell people that we are located on Main Street, and are open Tuesday and Thursdays from 11 AM – 3 PM, and also on Saturdays, if there is a special exhibit.

The February show in the Park is scheduled for February 25th, and we are strongly urging more members to get involved with showing their work in the Park. We seem to be stuck at 22/24 exhibitors

each month, and that just isn't big enough to attract the attention that is needed to promote a good show. The Park is large, and the club membership is large, let's try to make February a very large show! If you need help getting started into showing, please contact Beve Bruffey, show chairlady, or one of the other seasoned exhibitors, who will gladly help you.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN PLEIN AIR PAINTING, LEE G SMITH REMINDS US OF THE FOLLOWING DATES:

FEB 16, 17, 18 – PLEIN AIR RENDEZVOUS,
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER
FEB 22, 29 – JAYCEE PARK, OCEAN DR.,
VERO BEACH
MARCH 7, 14, 21 – SEXTON RANCH

MORE THINGS TO DO...

Marlene Mayfield has advised us of a photography contest with an exhibition of Wildlife, Landscape & Macro Photos to be held on Saturday, March 17th at Riverview Park, Sebastian. This event is being held in conjunction with the 20th annual Pelican Island Wildlife Festival.

Entries are to be submitted digitally, and entry forms may be obtained at www.firstrefuge.org. Deadline for entries is March 1, 2012. Student and non-student categories in four classes.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

KEEPING OUR HEADS IN THE CLOUDS...

Last month we talked about stratus clouds, this month it's how to paint Cumulus clouds. Think of the strong winds that whip up these clouds, and try to translate this action into brush strokes. Work fast and energetically not slow and painstakingly meticulous. Resist the temptation to make these clouds simply white with dark shadows. Clouds reflect colors and may include reds, mauves, yellows, grays. Concentrate on the shadows, which give the clouds shape. **Suggested colors:** alizarin crimson for pink tints; yellow ochre and cad orange for golds; Payne's gray or burnt sienna mixed with one of the blues used in the sky, for shadows.

And finally, Cirrus clouds. These are feathery clouds very high up in the atmosphere, swept along by high winds. Be light-handed to capture their wispieness. If they're pure white, consider lifting off the blue of your sky to reveal a white *ground* rather than painting with an opaque white, trying to leave parts white, or using masking fluid. **Suggested colors:** alizarin crimson for pink tints; yellow ochre, and cad orange for golds.

GETTING A FEEL FOR LIGHT DIRECTION – ESPECIALLY IN LANDSCAPE PAINTING

One of the most crucial aspects for getting a landscape painting to look authentic or realistic is to have the direction of the light consistent across all the elements in a painting. Actually, this 'rule' applies to any subject you're painting, unless you're a Surrealist perhaps. When you are still at composition stage, you need to decide which direction the light is going to come from as this influences the shadows, contrasts, and colors. If you are plein air painting, this means waiting for a particular time of day for the sun to be shining the 'right' way.

So what are your options? Simply put, there are five:

1. Side or Low lighting;
2. Back lighting;
3. Top lighting;
4. Front lighting;
5. Diffused or Overcast lighting.

(It can get more complicated than this if, for instance, there's light reflecting off a surface. But let's stick to the basics.)

It is very helpful to actually play around with an angle-poise lamp (daylight bulb, if possible), and a simple still-life setup to really get to grasp light direction and shadows. Move the lamp to the side, back, front, and into an elevated position. Put a sheet of paper over it to diffuse the light. Sketch the various scenes, taking particular note of where the shadows, and where the highlights are. Look at the colors and how the different directions of light influence this, and the appearance of the objects.

This knowledge will enable you to apply a light source consistently and effectively when painting (and it's still relevant even if you're painting from your imagination). It also helps interpret what you are looking at when you are painting a landscape and to be aware of how the light changes.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

KRISTEN BECK
CYNTHIA BLUEWATER
ANN DEGOTES
CHARLES DEGOTES, SPOUSAL
CARMIE EDWARDS
LOIS EDWARDS, SPOUSAL

JUDY McNAMARA WILL BE OFFERING A
WATERCOLOR CLASS AT THE CLUB
6 WEEKS, FEB 21 THRU MAR 27
TUESDAYS – 9 AM – 11:30 AM
TWO PAINTINGS - \$150
SIGN UP WITH JUDY TODAY
321-258-0987

HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY