

May OPS Meeting to Feature Artist Mike Wimmer

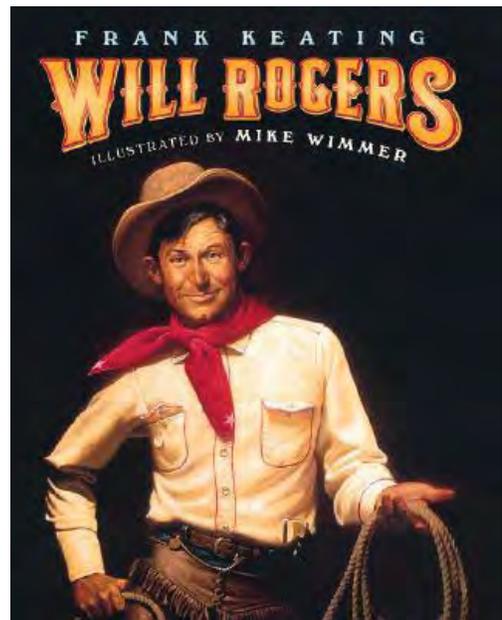
Mike Wimmer was born in Muskogee and received his BFA from the University of Oklahoma and had the opportunity to study with Don Punctatz at The Sketch Pad Studio in Arlington, TX. Mike later completed his MFA at the University of Hartford in Hartford, CT. Mike currently serves as the Chair of the School of Visual Arts in the Petree College of Arts and Sciences at Oklahoma City University. He currently lives in Edmond with his wife Jime, an Art Educator at Edmond Memorial High School. Together they have four children and one grandchild.

Mike has been featured in an Emmy Award winning production of the television series “Gallery” which runs on OETA. He has produced artwork for some of the largest corporations in the world, including Disney, Proctor and Gamble, RJR Nabisco, Kimberly Clark, and has had the honor of painting the portraits of some of America’s most prestigious citizens. His work has recently been seen on packages of Celestial Seasons Teas, and he has painted some 300 covers for almost every major publisher in the United States.

Mike’s goals have remarkably stayed the same throughout his career: “The details help tell the story.” The details are not only found in his paintings, but in his life as a teacher, a husband and a father. These goals are wrapped up in his personal motto; “Learn It, Live It, and Teach It.”

Don’t miss the opportunity to learn from this phenomenal artist.

***See you on Monday, May 11, 6:30 p.m. at the
Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City!***



Message from OPS President Donna Branson

Dear OPS Members,

Hope everyone has had a chance to see the April issue of the Pastel Journal. This special issue includes the results from the Pastel 100 competition. With several thousand entries, the jurying process that included multiple judges eventually resulted in the selection of the top 100 pastel paintings from all the submissions. It is truly fascinating to see the diversity of “brushstroke,” technique and composition of the winning entries. I especially enjoyed reading how the various winning artists approached their paintings, their thought processes, their evolutions as artists, as well as the nitty, gritty details of the materials they used. The articles are so informative as well as inspiring.



Patty Bradley presented a marvelous April meeting for OPS. Patty, we loved seeing your slides, your paintings and hearing about your Italian travels! Your travel experiences were hilarious, thank you for sharing. We're delighted that you've become a member of OPS. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and hearing more about your art journey. Thank you so very much.

This month we are pleased to have Mike Wimmer as our guest artist. Mike is a superb artist with an astounding list of accomplishments, and an inspired teacher. You will not want to miss this meeting!

See you Monday, May 11th, 6:30 at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Donna
Donna Branson, PhD
President, Oklahoma Pastel Society



Spotlight on OPS Member Bill Denney

How long have you worked in pastel?

I started painting in pastels 10 years ago after they were recommended by a friend at the Cowboy Hall as a way to get away from the odor of oil painting.

What drew you to the medium, why do you prefer to work in pastels, what other mediums do you work in?

I took a workshop class with Becky Way several years ago and the immediate results with no odor or drying time hooked me into using pastels.

Have you always pursued painting or is this something that came about more recently?

I started painting in oils at the age of five when my artist uncle gave me a small set for my birthday. My mother always said that I was born with a pencil/paintbrush in my hand because I was always drawing/painting on anything I could find.

Do you work on only one painting at a time or do you have several projects going at the same time?

I usually have three or four paintings in different stages going on at the same time.

What is your favorite subject matter to paint?

The beauty of nature is my favorite subject to paint which is why I love to paint landscapes where there are boundless subjects available to paint.

What is, or was, your career path, where did you work, and for how long?

After my time in the U.S. Navy, I completed a Psychiatric RN degree and was employed by the Colorado State Hospital Children's Treatment Center as a supervisor for adolescent boys. I was appointed as a deputy warden at a reform school. We moved to Oklahoma in 1976 when my wife completed her masters and was employed by Tinker Air Force Base. I am currently a retired Child Welfare Social worker.



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What is something that very few know about you?

The thing that very few know about me is that I love to cook, which is a good thing since my four grandkids who live with me like to eat.

Who is your favorite artist, who inspires you?

My all-time favorite artist is Fred Harmon who inspired me to keep drawing and painting during my recovery from polio and his young side kick, Joe Toledo, who was the original Little Beaver.

Are you reading any good pastel art books right now and, if so, what is the title and the artist and why specifically do you like about the publication?

The Pastel Journal is my favorite magazine to read, with its great articles on pastel artists and their methods of painting with pastels.

Family history?

My wife's name is Cheryl she is a computer scientist at Tinker AFB. We have been married for 53 years and are blessed with five children and 19 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. We also have a 90 pound Doberman who is a big pussycat, five horses, 12 show pigs and a goat that beats up on the dog on sight.

What do you do for relaxation other than paint?

My favorite way to relax is to hide out from everyone and listen to old time jazz or opera while I paint.

Patricia Bradley Shares Tips & Tricks During April OPS Meeting

Patricia Bradley painted a pastel landscape, working from a reference photo she took in Italy.

She usually uses 400-grit UArt sanded paper, on which she had drawn her composition with a sepia pastel pencil.

She began with hard NuPastels and/or semi-hard Gallery pastels. Her first goal was to cover every speck of white. She likes to fill in all the little bits of paper but not TOO heavily so she'll still have grit left on the paper. She sometimes uses the end of the hard pastels to block in, and also sometimes uses a brush to scrub/scrape/lift off a bit of the pastel.

Patricia began with the sky, making it brighter than in the photo, using one big solid area of dark blue. Her photo was of a cloudy day, but she painted it as a sunny day. She likes to start at the top of the paper and work downward, so dust doesn't contaminate. She taps the painting often with the top end of a brush, to knock off extra dust.

Next she worked on the bell tower, layering while letting a little of the darks show through. Then the foreground.

Once all was blocked in, she worked again on the sky, layering with periwinkle Senneliens, using the end of each stick. She used a scribbly method with a stick and then blended just a little with her finger, left a bit of dark showing, and left gaps in the scribble for that. She works dark to light.

At this point she began to pay attention to edges. Thinks ahead about edges, as they can't be controlled as much later on. She softened some edges in the background NOW, for atmospheric perspective. She layered lighter values and colors on top.

Patricia likes the geometric shape of buildings, so she paints them somewhat flat. This contrasts with how nature is so beautiful with its shapes.

She also likes thick and juicy color. If it's too much, she just scrapes off some with a brush. She tries not to use black.

Words of wisdom:

Very seldom do you do something perfect right off the bat.

Squint a lot and step back a lot.

Pay a lot of attention to values.



Upcoming Events

Painting on the Porch, plein air workshop with Clive Tyler, Rand Ranch, Buffalo Bill Art Show and Sale, Cody, WY; Sept 22 & 23, \$375; 888-598-8119.

Call for Entries

Pastel Society of America 43rd Annual Open Juried Exhibition; download prospectus at www.pastelsocietyofamerica.org; deadline June 16, 2015.

Chicago Pastel Painters 5th Biennial National Juried Exhibition; deadline July 1, 2015; prospectus at www.chicagopastelpainters.org.

*Thanks to Janie Schmitz & Sue Ann Rodgers
for providing snacks for our meeting.*

*We need two snack providers for our
September, October & November meetings.
Let Jimi know if you're interested.*

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