



January OPS Meeting Features Presentation by Rick McClure

For our January OPS meeting, local artist Rick McClure will make a presentation on, “Everything I haven’t forgotten about painting.” He will cover concept/composition guidelines, painting principles, and landscape painting answers. He will use some of his paintings as examples and there will be handouts.

An award-winning “Plein Air” painter and teacher, Rick McClure has been painting professionally for more than 25 years. Throughout his career he has enjoyed success with a variety of media including contemporary watercolor and large acrylic figurative works. However, his true passion is found in capturing both cityscape and landscape en plein aire. Many of his on location gems stand on their own while others form the basis for larger studio works, all of which sparkle with spontaneity.



Rick has captured numerous awards including those at the “American Impressionists Society National Exhibition, the “71st Grand National Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club” and the Best of Show at the “Cincinnati Art Club’s ViewPoint 2003”. His free, painterly approach to recording locations in America and abroad has become popular with collectors nationwide.

He is a signature member of the Oil Painters of America, the The National Academy of Professional Plein Air Painters and the American Impressionist Society. His work is part of numerous corporate and private collections and he is represented by Wells Gallery, Kiawah Island SC, Kennedy Gallery, Raleigh NC, Howell Gallery, Oklahoma City, OK, Greenwich House Gallery, Cincinnati OH, and Rick Reinert Fine Art, Blowing Rock, NC.

Rick currently divides his time between painting, travel, and teaching plein air workshops throughout the United States.

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Message from OPS President Lindel Hutson



We're off and running for a new year with a mini-workshop at the Monday meeting featuring local artist and art teacher Rick McClure. Bring a notepad or camera and follow Rick's guidance and you will return home with new ideas and new inspiration.

Rick has a degree in art education from Southwestern University in Weatherford and spent many years teaching art at Lindsay High School and Putnam City North High School. He is an accomplished artist and recently concluded a successful show at the Howell Gallery in Oklahoma City. Some of his work and a bio is available from their website: <https://howellgallery.com/rick-mcclure>. Rick was also featured last year in Southwest Art magazine.

Rick opens a year of strong demonstrations for our monthly meetings. Thanks to Jan Hutchinson for all the heavy lifting to make these programs happen.

At the meeting on February 11, club member Mitsuno Reedy returns. Mitsuno's demonstrations — portrait, still life or landscape — are always a treat so mark your calendar now. www.mitsunoreedy.com.

Jude Tolar, our resident floral and glass specialist, is scheduled for the March 11 meeting. Jude is holding a workshop "Fresh Flowers" February 7-9 for the Arizona Pastel Artists Association. She's also doing a demonstration for that group on February 10. See her work at www.judetolar.com.

On April 8, long-time club member Patty Bradley will demonstrate. Many of you have seen her excellent work at our shows the past few years.

It is time to pay dues. The dues remain at \$35 per year, which is an incredible bargain considering the programs we are offering. Most of these programs would cost at least that much if you paid the artist at a workshop.



Spotlight on OPS Member Greg Stone

How long have you worked in pastel?

I began working with soft pastel in 2004 and painted for just a couple of years before I took a full-time teaching position and soon after went to earn my Ph.D. from the University of Tulsa. I didn't paint for a decade, but after finishing school I felt the need to be creative, so I started painting again at the beginning of 2016. I've been painting and learning as much as I can about pastels and landscape painting ever since.

What drew you to that medium? What do you like about working in pastels? What other mediums do you work in?

I met a wonderful artist named Julie Miller through church, and she invited me to visit her studio. I decided to take private lessons with her, and she was the one who introduced me to the medium. I loved the immediacy and brilliance of the colors. Before then, during my teens and early twenties, I painted in oils from time to time (mostly following the Bob Ross method), but since picking up a stick of pastel, I haven't worked in any other media.

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

I loved to draw and paint as a kid, and as I mentioned I painted some in my teens and 20s, but only since 2016 have I seriously pursued painting.

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

I prefer working alla prima, so I tend to work on only one painting at a time. I have been making myself step away from a painting for at least a few hours (if not a day or two) in order to assess it and make any revisions before calling it finished, but I don't usually start a new painting in the meantime.

What is your favorite subject matter to paint?

I love painting landscapes. My academic background is in early and nineteenth-century American literature, and I often remind myself of something Henry David Thoreau once wrote in his notebook: "I love nature, I love landscape, because it is so sincere. It never cheats me. It never jests. It is cheerfully, musically earnest." That sums up why I love painting the landscape.

What kinds of experiences trigger ideas for your paintings?

I try to take a lot of photographs with my iPhone when I'm exploring a new place, and I will often go back through them to look for inspiration. But sometimes I'll see a beam of light or a shadow that just strikes my imagination, and I get this urge to explore all of its colors and values and variations. I also like to paint landscapes to capture the feeling



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of places I've been. It's a great way to savor memories and keep them alive.

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

My first career was in print journalism. After college I was a reporter and later editor for a daily newspaper in my hometown of Sapulpa. But then I went back to Northeastern State University to graduate school to earn a master's in English, and I began teaching English at Tulsa Community College in 2006. In 2014, I moved into an administrative position, and now I'm the provost (senior administrator) of TCC's largest campus. I love working with students, I love teaching, and I love that our college provides opportunities for people who, for many reasons, may not have any other way into higher education. I'm proud to go to work every day.



Are you originally from Oklahoma? If not, what brought you here and how long have you lived here?

I was born in Tulsa and grew up just a few miles away in Sapulpa. I've lived in Tulsa now for a number of years, and I love seeing how the city continues to grow. It's a great time to live there.



Anything else you would like to share?

I really enjoy getting to learn from other artists and painters, and I wish that my schedule and the drive from Tulsa made attending monthly OPS meetings a little easier. I really enjoyed the Dale Martin workshop that OPS held in October 2018, and I look forward to future opportunities to get together with other members. Hopefully I can do more of that this year.

What is something that very few know about you?

This is a tough question to answer — I'm pretty much an open book. But I guess I would say that most people don't know that one of my favorite movies is *Clue*. I recently rewatched it (I do a couple of times a year), so it's on my mind. It's a silly, slapstick comedy, but it's been one of my favorites since I was a kid.

Who is your favorite artist — who inspires you?

Like so many other pastel and landscape painters, I really admire the work of Richard McKinley. I'm also a fan of Dale Martin and Barbara Jaenicke. Their work is poetic in nature, and their styles and techniques really inspire me. In terms of classical artists, I would say that Claude Monet, Albert Bierstadt, and John Singer Sargent really inspire me. The one thing all of these painters have in common is that they make me want to enter their paintings and wander through their landscapes. I love that feeling.

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

I just finished Mitchell Albania's *Landscape Painting: Essential Concepts and Techniques for Plein Air and Studio Practice*. It's one of the most thoughtful art instruction books I've read. I also keep Robert Henri's *The Art Spirit* handy for inspiration.

Family history – spouse's name and occupation, children, grandchildren, pets, etc.?

I'm single and don't have any kids, but I do have four nephews (ages 2 to 12) whom I love spending time with, as well as my other family and friends.

What do you do for relaxation other than paint?

I love reading and cooking, and a leisurely stroll is a great way to relax, unwind, and look for painting inspiration.

Painting Tips from November demo artist Dana Lombardo

- Hard pastels and pencils are the workhorse of the portraits — a favorite is Caran d’Ache because they have nice flesh tones
- Start with an outline drawing of your subject followed by darks and then mid tones.
- Colors are not as critical as values. The base was purple but sometimes uses blue or green as a base — doesn’t begin with a flesh tone.
- Uses black and white photo because it allows you to see values which is critical. For native American paintings uses a lot of Edward Curtis photos which are in the public domain at the national archives.
- Considers the underpainting the soup and then will use some soft pastels as the garnish.
- Be sure to put more Chroma than you think you will need to begin since it tends to make the figure more alive. Elbows, cheeks, nose and hands need more chroma to bring them to life. It never hurts to have more color as the underpainting since it enlivens the final painting.
- Layers colors mostly in the mid range of values.



Upcoming Workshops

- **Lorenzo Chavez**
March 28 – 31, Tubac, Arizona. Contact: Leslie 520/398-2589, www.tubacschooloffineart.com.
June 4 – 9, 2019, Albuquerque, IAPS Convention 1-dayworkshop&demo.Contactwww.iapspastel.org.
- **Jacob Agular**
June 4 – 9, 2019, Albuquerque, IAPS Convention 1-dayworkshop&demo.Contactwww.iapspastel.org.
- **Doug Dawson**, PSA, Master Pastelist, PSA Hall of Fame, April 25 – 27, 2019, Ingram, Texas, Hill Country Foundation. Contact Shelby Ligon, 830/367-5130

Member News

Jude Tolar:

- I participated in Holiday Pop Up Art Shops at Prairie Arts Center (Stillwater, OK) in December, and also painted during Final Friday Art Crawl at the Guild Gallery at Stillwater Community Center on November 30.
- I also contributed two signed pastel prints to Prairie Arts Center's Flood the Streets with Art event December 15. Many artworks were hidden around downtown Stillwater to be found and taken home. Flood the Streets with Art is a nationwide event, giving anyone a chance to own a free piece of art. One of my pieces was found; did or will the other one also find a new home?
- I'll teach a three-day floral pastel workshop in Phoenix, AZ, for the Arizona Pastel Artists Association, Feb. 7-9. On Feb. 10 I'll give a floral pastel demo at the APAA's monthly meeting.

We also want to share news of what you've been up to so please email your information to jimiathome@cox.net.



Thanks to Debbie Gauger, Jan Hutchinson and Pam Brewer for providing refreshments for our January meeting. We need volunteers for February, March, April & May let Lindel or Jimi know if you're interested.



**See you on Monday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.
at Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City.**

Current & Upcoming Exhibits

Oklahoma City Museum of Art:

- **Masterworks of British Painting**, runs through Feb. 24, 2019
- **Off the Wall: One Hundred Years of Sculpture**, runs through May 12, 2019
- **Ansel Adams and the Photographers of the West**, Feb. 1 – May 26, 2019
- **Van Gogh, Monet, Degas, The Mellon Collection of French Art from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**, June 22 – Sept. 22, 2019

National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center:

- **American Indian Artists: 20th Century Masters**, runs through May 12, 2019
- **Horseplay**, runs through July 14, 2019
- **Cowboys in Khaki**, runs through May 12, 2019
- **The Bison Exhibit**, Feb. 8 – May 12, 2019

Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa:

- **Albert Bierstadt: Witness to a Changing West**, runs through Feb. 10, 2019.
- **Americans All!**, ongoing

Dues are Due!

Our membership term runs January through December each year. To join OPS or to renew your membership, mail a check in the amount of \$35 to Oklahoma Pastel Society, P.O. Box 75696, Oklahoma City, OK 73147. Or you could just give your check to OPS Treasurer Janie Schmitz at the next meeting.