

Colorspots

OCTOBER 2013

Newsletter of the Calvert Artists' Guild



CALVERT ARTISTS' GUILD
P. O. Box 602
Prince Frederick, MD

The newsletter is published every other month. The next scheduled newsletter is due out around December 1st. Please submit items to the newsletter editor by November 15th. If you are participating in a show, have won an award, or have any other information to share, please send it to baronvonsmoogle@netscape.net and we'll include it in the newsletter. Thanks!

Prez Notes

As I write this I am sitting in the Salt Lake City airport waiting on my connecting flight to Boise, ID. The sun is playing peek-a-boo with the clouds as it sets over the mountains. It's almost as pretty as it was at the Friday's Creek Winery Paint Out. Six members showed up and painted or took photographs. The wine was pretty tasty as well. I would like to thank all those that participated. Now we are looking forward to PRAD. We only have about three weeks to go as I write this. I hope that we have great weather, lots of customers, and lots of participation from our members. If you have a tent, please think about loaning it to CAG for the weekend. This is a short note this time since they are calling for boarding. I hope everyone enjoys themselves between now and when I see you next because I know I will!!!! See you in elk camp!!!!



2013

Calendar of Events

Mark Your Calendar !

Unless otherwise mentioned the contact persons are:

Lonnie Harkins, 410-326-7199, baronvonsmoogle@netscape.net; or

Gerry Wood, 301-863-9663, gbwood2@verizon.net

OCTOBER 12-13, 2013

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Annual P.R.A.D. (Patuxent River Appreciation Days)

Show, Solomons, MD., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

NOVEMBER 2, 2013

SATURDAY

Scratchboard Workshop, Instructor: Carmelo Ciancio, Mt. Hope Comm. Ctr., Sunderland, Md., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

DECEMBER 14, 2013

SATURDAY

Annual Meeting & Program, Asbury-Solomons Clubhouse; Solomons, MD., 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.

Don't forget the Annual December Meeting coming up on Saturday, December 14th at Asbury-Solomons. The meeting will be held in the Clubhouse from 10am to 12pm. Drop off your snack/goodies and passengers at the Clubhouse entrance and driver proceed to the Visitor/Overflow/Event Parking area. We will discuss the 2014 Calendar of Events and hold election of officers for 2014. Following the business meeting, the program will be: "Colored Pencil Techniques" by Diane Nargiz.

Announcements:

* Art classes being held by members?

Gerry Wood is holding her Fall Watercolor Classes beginning Oct. 7 - Nov. 14

Please contact Gerry for information, 301-863-9663, gbwood2@verizon.net

* CAG Treasurer's Report: Checkbook balance: \$1,663.61; savings \$5,259.03



- * Prez Notes
- * September 14 paint-out report & photos
- * December Meeting Announcement & Program (see below)
- * "Colored Pencil technique" article by Diane Nargiz (December program)
- * 2013 Calendar of Events
- * Featured Artist
- * Gee's "Tricks of the Trade" column
- * Kudos (if any) - Gee Freeman had a "kudos"
- * Art classes being held by members? --- Gerry Wood is holding her Fall Watercolor Classes beginning Oct. 7 - Nov. 14
- Please contact Gerry for information, 301-863-9663, gbwood2@verizon.net
- * CAG Treasurer's Report: Checkbook balance: \$1,663.61; savings \$5,259.03
- * November 2nd Workshop announcement - Carmelo Ciancio & photos
- * PRAD Announcement - October 12-13, 2013 - need tents for loan (see below)
- * PRAD Entry form (see below)
- * November Workshop Entry Form (see attached)
- * Welcome new members list:
 - Jason Powell
 - Mechanicsville, MD 20659
 - Jen Poteet
 - Sunderland, MD 20689
 - Change of address & info. - update your roster
 - Mary Ann Scaggs, 26824 Baptist Church Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659: telephone number is: 301-884-6142.

WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 2

Scratchboard Workshop

Saturday–November 2,
2013

Join artists in the art room at Mt. Hope Community Center, Sunderland, for a scratchboard painting workshop with Carmelo Ciancio. The workshop will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2013 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. Workshop Fee: CAG members' \$35.00, \$45.00 non-guild members. Carmelo will furnish all supplies. If you've never tried scratchboard, you won't want to miss this workshop! Contact person: Gerry Wood, 301-863-9663, gbwood2@verizon.net.



Registration Form

Scratchboard Workshop

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

\$35.00 enclosed _____ (CAG Member)

\$45.00 enclosed _____ (Non-Member)

Make check payable to:

Calvert Artists' Guild, Inc. and mail with this form to:

CAG

P.O. Box 602

Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Featured Artist

Carmelo Ciancio

The binoculars slide into Carmelo Ciancio's grasp automatically as he sports a flurry of color just beyond the deck of his Huntingtown, Md home, a panoramic haven for nature lovers. A male wood duck touches down on the pond, its rainbow of feathers glistening like jeweled threads. Subconsciously Carmelo registers the lustrous curve of green at the crest, the bright orange-red of the bill, and the chestnut and yellow on the chest and flanks. Like so many scenes from this rural backdrop, it will appear in all its vivid detail on a masterful scratchboard painting done in his glass-enclosed studio, which looks out upon a lily pond and the gently sloping acres of woodland. In this setting his subject matter – from screech owls to raccoons, from songbirds to foxes – is a mere arm's length from his sketchpad. "I know the wildlife that reappears in work so intimately from watching them right here," he says gesturing to the acres of sloping forest spreading from his wide windows in his studio. "I've seen every kind of wildlife back here – from songbirds to deer to bald eagles."

Before residing in Huntingtown, Carmelo and his wife, Linda, lived in Laurel, Md, adjacent to the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. Both homes have been rich settings for his wildlife artistry, which he creates with startling reality.

"My home is like the place where I grew up in Italy," Carmelo says. In the mountain orchards around Francavilla, Sicily, Carmelo first fell in love with his natural surroundings. The temperate climate and rich foliage of his native country made an indelible mark on him as a boy, who as long as he could remember loved to draw and paint. Carmelo moved with his family when he was ten, settling in the Maryland suburbs of Washington D.C. where he found a rich store of natural beauty. "I went through many phases in my experience as an artist, heavily influenced by Salvador Dali and Caravaggio," Carmelo explains. "During college I tried a number of artistic subjects and styles and even specialized in portraits for a while." It wasn't until years after studying fine art at American University that he began to paint wildlife art. An avid interest in bird watching has fueled Carmelo's



growing interest in wildlife art. Though he sometimes uses photographs to plan a composition, Carmelo isn't interested in reproducing his subjects with unwavering scientific accuracy. He is intent instead on capturing a mood and creating a feeling about a scene. "Art comes first, the subject matter second," says Carmelo. "I don't care if the exact number of feathers on a wing is off by one or two. I'm an artist first, a wildlife artist second. I'm looking for a certain character, an attitude to come through in my work," he adds. The oils and watercolors Carmelo was producing gradually gave way to a challenging new technique, which he has truly developed from scratch. That's because he's created his own style, his own tools and his own special techniques for the uncommon medium of scratchboard. The reverse of a normal black on white drawing, scratchboards are stiff white boards covered with indigo paint. Carmelo imports a high-grade board from London to enhance the quality of the white composition on

“There were no instructional courses in this technique,” Carmelo says.



a coating of velvety black. Carmelo first sketches a soft pencil outline on the painted board as a rough guideline. He uses exacto knives to etch hundreds of minute lines to carve complex patterns in the inked surface. Cutting and scraping the ink from the scratchboard results in an almost three-dimensional image adding subtle shading and

One of only a half dozen artists who have mastered color scratchboards, Carmelo loves the total control the medium provides him and its unusual effects. With painstaking attention to detail, Carmelo adds layers of color to the scratchboard, which seem to sparkle in the light like little diamonds or jewels. By trial and error he has developed his own trade secrets for mixing color and types of paint. “There were no instructional courses in this technique,” Carmelo says. If the popularity of Carmelo’s

works is any indication, his contribution to wildlife art is bringing aesthetic pleasure to many wildlife enthusiasts. The demand and popularity of his work have grown to the extent that his originals are rarely seen before they are sold. Donations of his art have raised over \$250,000 for various conservation groups.

Carmelo’s biggest artistic goal is to take scratchboards to the limit. Some think he already has, as he is often considered one of the best in the field, but Carmelo expects more from himself. Carmelo claims he’s not even close to what he hopes to ultimately accomplish, as his work continues to reach new heights in artistic excellence. Carmelo Ciancio’s success story provides something of an inspiration to those of us with grand reveries: Every swan that so dreams, someday spreads its wings

Opening Soon!

THE COX ART CENTER

We are pleased to announce to the art community a new venture that will focus on providing art education to the southern Maryland community. This facility is located at 32 Cox Road in Huntingtown, MD (Calvert) and has 1800 feet provide classrooms and some studio space for the display and sale of both 2D and 3D art.

We are recruiting artists who would consider teaching as our first priority and invite you to preview the space on Saturday October 19, 2013 from 1 to 4 pm. Come by and learn about the plans for the art center.

DIRECTIONS:

FROM ANNAPOLIS: Route 2 south to Huntingtown. Just past Huntingtown High School, turn left at the traffic light intersection of Cox Road.

FROM WALDORF: Take Route 231 east to Prince Frederick. Turn left at Route 2/4 to Cox Road in Huntingtown. Turn right on Cox Road. Building is on the left.

FROM SOLOMONS ISLAND: Follow Route 2/4 north to Cox Road in Huntingtown. Turn right on Cox Road. Building is on the left.



The followings tips were sent in by Gerry Wood who does mostly watercolor. Some of these tips can be used with oil paint as well.

- To get added texture, apply paint straight from the tube. That, of course, puts you back in the oil technique.
- Drybrushing creates texture in a simple way. Just drag a brush loaded with paint and very little water over the surface, either as an under painting or on top of dry watercolor.
- Scumbling is close to drybrush. When you rub one color over another in scumbling it comes over thinner and more muted.
- Salt application is usually the first texture technique learned in watercolor class.
- Texture can be obtained in watercolor paintings by using tools other than brushes. Try a little paint on a palette knife in a swipe across a tree trunk, road bed, or other still life objects. Instant texture!
- To achieve texture try dropping masking fluid for stripes, circles, dots and other items on your paintings. When removed, the mask leaves white paper on which you can splatter paint, drybrush or get subtle color with a mouth atomizer.
- Toothbrush splattering. Try splattering paint on your painting with a toothbrush for tree leaves, flowers in grass, pebbles, snow or sand textures. Try these suggestions, see if you can come up with other ways that may combine some or personalize some textural techniques. Just remember a little can go a long way.
- Try using a damp Q-tip to lift color in unwanted areas or to soften dark colors. Great as a paint “eraser”
- Saran Wrap. Use saran wrap or plastic wrap on your wet paint and flatten with a book on top. When dry, remove the plastic wrap and see the different textures produced.

“Painting should be a happy experience, not a pressured activity. No artist can paint a masterpiece every time he paints.”

~Lian Quan Zhen

image: Orchids (Chinese ink and color on mature Shuan paper, 22x16) by Lian Quan Zhen



Calvert Artists' Guild Contacts

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Welcome New Members

Jason Powell
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Jen Poteet
Sunderland, MD 20689



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