

# Flourish

EAST VALLEY ARTISTS'  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

BY CAROLE CAMERON

It's here. Finally. Our first annual show and sale in a looong time. We have good participation and thanks to social media and a lot of work from the board members, the word is getting out. It is going to be great. Epic, I think. George Rivera is our juror. This is my first time participating and I'm excited. I expect all EVA members to come and see. I mean, it's mandatory, right? Well, no, not really, but we would love to see all your beautiful faces and share the work we are so proud of. EVA is growing and we have lots of new members and I couldn't be happier.

A big shout-out thanks to Shelly, Sarah, and Julie that have done all the heavy lifting to get this show to happen. Thank you.

I will see you all,  
Carole



*EVA member Dang Pham at the Annual BBQ  
photo by Hadi Aghaee*

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# ARTIST OF THE MONTH ONLINE

*Congratulations to our AOMO winners for the month of August!*

Entries for the AOMO contest should be emailed to us at [eastvalleyartists@gmail.com](mailto:eastvalleyartists@gmail.com) by 8:00 pm on the third Wednesday of each month.

September AOMO entries are due on September 20th!

## FIRST PLACE



Sarah J.L. Nguyen - Grimes Farm  
Watercolor, 6 x 8

## SECOND PLACE (TIE) AND MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF NEGATIVE SPACE



Carolyn Meredith - The Question  
Digital Photo, 10 x 10

## SECOND PLACE (TIE)



Wendell Fiock - The Quest  
Charcoal, 15 x 18

# ARTIST OF THE MONTH ONLINE [CONTINUED]

## THIRD PLACE (TIE)



Carole Cameron - Joseph D. Grant in Snowy Winter  
Acrylic, 24 x 24

## THIRD PLACE (TIE)



Shelly Woollvin - Birds on a Fence  
Glass

# FOURTH CATEGORY: TOWARD EXCELLENT DESIGN AND COMPOSITION

BY JULIA CLINE

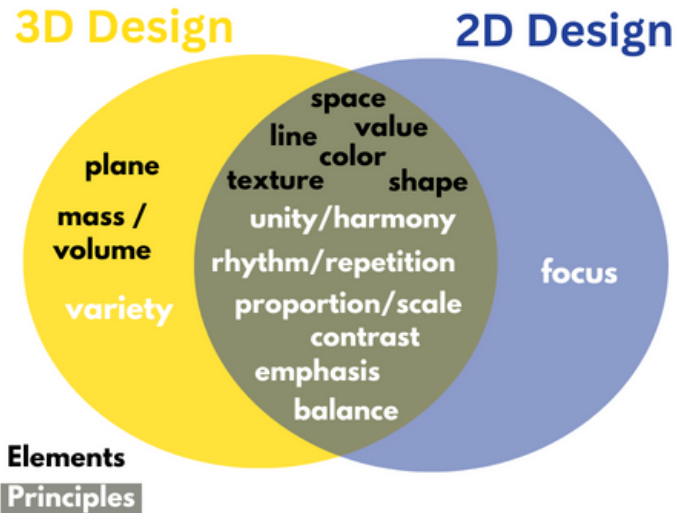
For most of us, it takes a good while before we can start up our creative engines and fire on all the cylinders that are included in the glossary of terms textbooks associate with excellent composition (See Venn diagram).

Years ago, my husband handed me a study that compared the efforts of beginners and experts in fields such as engineering, architecture, athletics and the arts. The researchers concluded both beginners and experts can produce top-of-the-line work. The difference between the two groups was that experts made fewer false starts. Experts made choices producing favorable outcomes earlier in their processes than did beginners.

Think about children walking. A 10-year-old is basically an expert. A 10-month-old is not. The 10-year-old will make it across the living room to the birthday cake without any trouble and may even break into a run. In contrast, the 10-month-old may trip over a bump in the rug, stumble into an adult's leg, be run over by the family dog, or all of the above. If the toddler speeds up, a face plant may result without any encouragement from a bump in the rug or a family pet. You can bet money, however, both kids will get to that cake.

At our club's annual show many years past, a member exhibited a sprawling watercolor landscape depicting the hills near San Jose. Hawks soared, oak trees cast shadows, some deer and a few cows grazed. It won a ribbon. As I stood before the landscape with a friend whose critique I often sought, she commented "I would have had a hard time awarding this painting a ribbon--the technique is not very good." I looked closer. Lines were wobbly, the paint was splotchy, yes. But the sweeping vista, the centers of interest, the overall construction and scope of the painting--its composition was compelling. Hence, the judge had deemed it

## Terms Associated with Design and Composition



*That many terms are associated with both 3D and 2D design is not surprising because 2D compositions are often representations of 3D subject matter.*

worthy of an award. Its painter, like the 10-month-old, stumbled across the living room and made it to the cake. Not only did the painting score a ribbon, someone bought it.

At a workshop in Saratoga, I watched Claire Verbiest, a master of both pastel and watercolor, paint fallen leaves. Using only 3 or 4 colors, she leaned over a quarter sheet of watercolor paper, softly dropping pigment from her loaded brush into a wet section of the paper. Those few colors mingled into at least 16. Claire moved her brush from her palette, back to the paper and returned to her palette to reload, working with a steady rhythm. I was mesmerized, soothed--but it was not so for everyone. I recall a horrified traditional watercolorist challenging her:

## COMPOSITION, CONTINUED

"And you always paint just like that?"

"What do you mean? Like what?" Claire asked.

"You haven't even taped the paper down."

It was difficult to tell whether the woman's question was actually a question. It felt much more like a rebuke.

"Well, yes," Claire responded. "I find it easier to turn the paper around when I need to."

Indeed, at intervals, Claire had been turning the quarter sheet, looking at her work from every angle.

"But the paper is bent upward," the challenger protested. "That doesn't bother you?"

"Well, no," Claire was calm. "I'll flatten the piece before I frame it."

Claire went on to point out that turning the paper allowed her to work with her hand's natural pattern of movement.

All of this, the way Claire loaded her brush, her turning the paper so her hand applied the paint in easy strokes, dropping a few colors to allow them to mix into scads of colors--all of this was technique. We weren't even talking about composition yet.

"You can turn a board that way too," the woman was not giving up.

"Yes," Claire agreed and she went right on painting and turning the warped paper. When she finished, the leaves were so real-looking, a child might have tried to gather them for pressing between the pages of a book.

Although I had enjoyed watching Claire paint in the moment, by the time I arrived home, I was blind to any merit in my own work. Confronted



*Claire Verbiest - pastel*



*Claire Verbiest - mixed media*

## COMPOSITION, CONTINUED

with Claire's stunning success, the traditionalist at the demo had lashed out with hollow criticisms, like a soldier blowing spitballs at a tank. I, on the other hand, wilted. Neither of these behaviors was going to get us any birthday cake.

Psychologists point out two ways of thinking about intelligence that we artists might be wise to co-opt for our own use. Some people believe that intelligence is a finite commodity: we are born with a certain amount of intelligence and it stays the same throughout our lives. Others see intelligence as mutable: through learning, practice and experience, we can increase our intelligence. Studies have demonstrated that people who adhere to an incremental theory of intelligence, those who see intelligence as mutable, try harder to learn things, so they do. They also tend to be more successful at achieving their goals. The same studies show those who adhere to an entity theory of intelligence, those who see intelligence as meted out in unchanging amounts, give up sooner and achieve less.

Defensiveness like that of traditional watercolorist at Claire's workshop and my own

despair imply an entity-based outlook: Claire possesses something that I may not have--or I may not have "enough"of--I can't change that. Doubt creeps in and, as a result, I may feel intimidated and get snarky, or I may give up. The painter who entered the rambling, ribbon-winning landscape into our annual show presents a different outlook. She had developed an excellent sense of composition despite the shortcomings of her technique. She was not fearful or despairing by what she did not know--yet. She stumbled across the rug to the cake, leaving her watercolor technique to catch up with her compositional prowess at a later date.

What I've read suggests that on the way to becoming masters of composition, among our flops, we can look forward to moments of excellent performance. And, to help us advance toward a higher frequency of success, it's a good idea to ditch any tendencies we have to view our creativity as entity-based. Believing that learning increases our creative abilities leaves us free to be energized during demos by masters like Claire. We can use other artists' successes to suss out where we want to end up and to glean the tools to get there, rather than wasting time in despair or spewing spitballs.

Cake, anyone? ■



*Claire Verbiest - pastel*



*Claire Verbiest - pastel*

## UPCOMING EVA 23 EVENTS



# Annual Show & Sale

We hope to see all members at our biggest event of the year. Show your support by attending, working a shift, and/or shopping!

### SEPT 22 ANNUAL SHOW SETUP

8:00 - 10:00 AM - Juried Show setup in Fellowship Hall  
 10:00 - 11:00 AM - Juried Show art intake  
 3:00 PM - Jurying  
 6:00 - 8:00 PM - Non-Juried Art table and canopy setup in courtyard and rooms 8&9

### SEPT 23 ANNUAL SHOW - DAY 1

8:00 AM - Non-juried art setup in courtyard and rooms 8&9  
 10:00 AM - SHOW OPENS  
 5:00 PM - Saturday overnight closing

### SEPT 24 ANNUAL SHOW - DAY 2

11:00 AM - Sunday morning opening  
 4:00 PM - People's Choice Award tally and presentation  
 4:00 PM - 10% of sales due for church fee - cash or check - give to Show Coordinator  
 5:00 PM - Art removal and takedown - all artists or their designated helper must assist with takedown.



Foothill Presbyterian Church  
 5301 McKee Road, San Jose

**Saturday**  
**9/23**

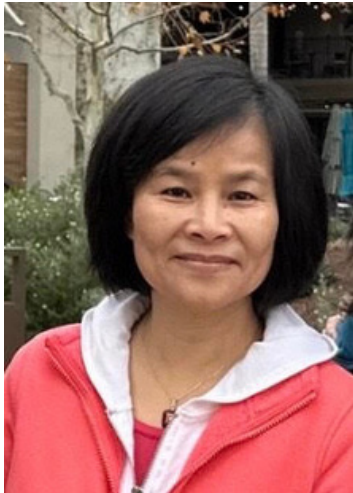
**10am - 5pm**

**Sunday**  
**9/24**

**11am - 4pm**

**UPCOMING EVA 23 EVENTS** [CONTINUED]

**OCT 8 GROUP OUTING TO CANDY YU'S SOLO SHOW**



Join us to support Candy at her solo show. Email us to carpool or meet us at the library. We will have lunch at a nearby restaurant after attending the show.

**When:** Sunday, October 8 at 11:00 am; lunch following

**Where:** 13 S San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, CA 94022



**OCT 20 GROUP OUTING TO OLIVE HYDE ANNUAL SHOW GALA**



Several EVA members will have art in Olive Hyde Art Guild's 39th Annual Holiday for the Arts Show & Sale. Let's get dressed up and attend the gala together! We'll enjoy hors d'oeuvres, sweets, wine, and the first viewing and sale of art. Tickets are available in advance (starting September 12) or at the door. [Purchase your tickets here.](#)

**When:** Friday, October 20, 5:30 - 9:00 pm

**Where:** 123 Washington Blvd Fremont, CA 94539

**Cost:** \$20





# ART DISPLAY OPPORTUNITIES

BY SLOANE PERROOTS

Hello all EVA members. Here's a reminder of the hanging opportunities with EVA - we are currently overdue for a change to the FPC Church Lobby. Watch for an email with date and time info for a church lobby art swap - please think of participating - we need pieces there till early Dec. Also, if you know of a place that would like to display EVA's art, please contact EVA or myself and we can schedule a site visit.

## 1. THE COFFEE CUP

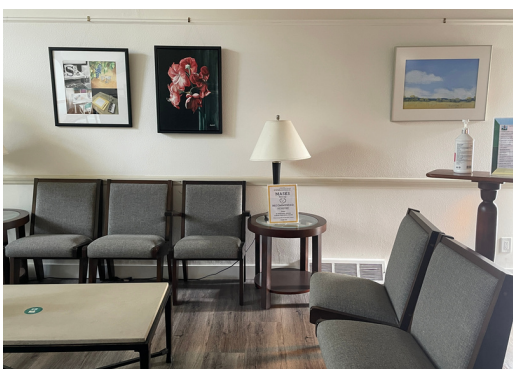


The COFFEE CUP is a small but mighty coffee shop with coffee, croissants & other wonderful goodies right here off McKee & Toyon.

- 6-10 pieces (depending on size) 2D only at this time.
- 3 month rotation - Jan - Mar / Apr - June / July - Sep / Oct - Dec
- \$40.00 fee to participate - payable to EVA (then we compensate coffee cup)
- Artist is responsible for hanging, sales & removal of all work.

- \* To sign up please e-mail EVA and/or Sloane Perroots
- \* We do currently have a waiting list. Jul-Sept 2024 is next available.

## 2. FPC CHURCH LOBBY



The FPC CHURCH LOBBY is a group display that is part of our agreement with the church to decorate the lobby in exchange for a lesser fee to use the facilities for meetings and the annual show. THIS is VERY important to EVA's relationship with the church.

- 5/6 month rotations. (Not during December)
- Unlimited pieces accepted with 2D & 3D
- Often theme decorated & hung by EVA volunteers



# ANNUAL EVA BBQ

BY HADI AGHAEI

Each year, the East Valley Artists members come together for a memorable BBQ hosted at the home of one of our generous EVA members. It was that time of the year again. A delightful event filled with delicious potluck dishes, good company, and breathtaking views, making it an unforgettable gathering for all.





## MEMBER NEWS

Here's what our members had to share this month.

What's happening in your creative practice? Send your news & photos to [eastvalleyartists@gmail.com](mailto:eastvalleyartists@gmail.com). We'll include it in next month's Flourish.



### HADI AGHAEI

Sept 9: I will be at Cupertino Fall Fest, part of FALC juried art show

Sept 16: I will part of Luna Park Chalk art Festival at Backesto Park in San Jose

Weekend of Sept 23: I will be joining the rest of the EVA artists for the annual Juried Art Show.



## OPEN CALLS FOR ART

The Belvedere-Tiburon Library Art Gallery is hosting a **Contemporary Watercolors Exhibition**.

Submissions accepted through Sept. 16.

[See submission guidelines here.](#)

# MEMBER NEWS CONTINUED



## SCVWS FALL MEMBERS' SHOW

EVA Members Candy Yu and Carolyn Meredith will be participating in the Santa Clara Watercolor Society's Fall Members' Show, "California Color" at the Saratoga Library (13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA). The show runs from September 1st to October 31st, 2023.

Come join us for the reception on Sunday, September 10, 2023, from 2:00 - 3:30 PM to enjoy some food and drink. Check out all paintings from our members and vote for your favorite. More from Carolyn and Candy, below.



### CANDY YU

I have entered 2 paintings, "Young Buki" and "Saratoga Heritage Orchard" into Santa Clara Valley Watercolor Society (SCVWS) Fall Show "California Color" at Saratoga Library.

I will also have a solo show at the Los Altos Library in October, which runs from 10/1-10/31, 2023. More details coming soon.

### CAROLYN MEREDITH

I have entered a painting, 'California Calm' into the SCVWS Fall Show "California Color" at the Saratoga Library.

I will also be a part of Naglee Park Open Studios on October 8th from 11 am to 5 pm. It will be my neighborhood show.



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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Inside Toyon Center  
 438 Toyon Ave • San Jose

**ARTIST PANELS FOR RENT**

Rent EVA's panels for your next art show.

Contact a board member for details or email us at: [eastvalleyartists@gmail.com](mailto:eastvalleyartists@gmail.com)



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✉ **SARAH J.L. NGUYEN**  
 sjl.nguyen@gmail.com

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 Newsletter: Sarah Nguyen  
 Demo Scheduling: Hadi Aghaee

## CONTACT US

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