



Chaparral Sketch

March 2022

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Inside this issue

President's Palette	1
General Meetings	2
Board Meetings	2
Group Outings	2
Gallery Displays	3
Previous Exhibit	3
Upcoming Exhibit	3
Artists of the Month	3
Art On Display	4
Chaparral Collage	4
Green as a Subject	4
Recent Desert Discoveries	4
Finding Your Niche	5
Ongoing Invitation to Share!	6

Chaparral Artists, a non-profit organization, is one of the oldest artists groups in the Morongo Basin.

President's Palette

Greetings Everyone,

I want to thank Julianne and Raini for their 'show and tell' at the general meeting last month. It is always nice to see their works of art and photography. We at Chaparral want to offer you the opportunity to share and teach us more of the artistic style you create. How you got started. How your favorite memories surround your art. Photographers, I don't want you to feel left out. Many of us that paint are not

photographers. We would love to hear your thoughts on the basics that help you take great good pictures.

Thanks also to Joan Scott for sharing her art during the meeting!

I need demonstrators for May and June, so I would love to speak with you about the logistics of what you can present to us. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer. We would all love to see where you are showing your art presently and if you are teaching art, where are you teaching?

We want to encourage you to invite guests to our meetings who are interested in connecting with other artists. We all have the opportunity to learn so much from each other.

More of you feel more comfortable getting out and about and participating in our general meetings. Things are opening up more and more. We want to continue meeting once a month and bring exciting topics through our demonstrations. I appreciate your help, suggestions, expertise, and short story submissions from all of you will help brighten the days.

The desert certainly has its beauty, even though some of it seems to be self-contained or off our radar. Share with us your discoveries of the natural beauty that you have experienced and have captured!

I am very grateful to connect with all of you through our Newsletter. If I can help you on your path

of discovery or if you want to share something directly, please feel free to contact me.

Fond Regards, Nancy Kimes

General Meetings

We had a great time during our last general meeting held on February 14. Lots of conversations were had with many opting to stay well past the administrative and demonstration portion of the afternoon. We welcomed a new member to the group - Eddie Tucker! He works in acrylics and watercolor, drawn to vivid color and abstract presentation. He used to own Ground Control Hobbies, a venue that Chaparral Artists had a great relationship with.

Eighteen (18) members attended the meeting with Joan Scott getting the door prize of a Chaparral Artists tote bag. Our guest demonstrator, Nancy McHenry was unable to attend the meeting, and in her stead Julianne Koza and Raini Armstrong provided brief show-n-tell presentations. Julianne Koza has been a photographer since holding her first camera as a child, but her photographic focus blossomed in 2008 with digital photography. Her latest love is to capture the night sky. Raini Armstrong considers herself a hobbyist photographer and a watercolorist. Often her photography directly supports and influences her watercolor endeavors. Since 2017 she has divided her time between creation and teaching - volunteer teaching watercolor at the Center for Healthy Generations on Fridays. Joan Scott introduced herself to the room sharing her abstract art focus and that she especially enjoys what others see in her work.

Our NEXT general meeting will be on March 14 at 1:00 PM. We will NOT be sharing food, so please bring only your own snacks and drinks.

Board Meetings

Members of Chaparral Artists are invited to attend board meetings. Previous board meeting *minutes* can be requested for viewing by contacting us through email and requesting specific months. Our next Board meeting will be on March 14 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Center for Healthy Generations, right before the General Meeting!

Group Outings

Our March trip is coming up! We are venturing out to the Indian Canyons in Palm Springs on Wednesday, March 23. Those leaving from the Hi Desert can meet at Jack in the Box in Yucca Valley at 7:00 am in order to carpool, but officially we will meet at the Indian Canyons Visitor's Center at 8am. Admission is \$12/Adult or \$7/Senior. Bring water and snacks and comfortable shoes. Plan on a short hike/walk for photography opportunities or bring art supplies for plein air art.

In April we will visit the Calico Ghost town in Yermo. More information to come in next month's newsletter.

Please remember to share your suggestions for fun outings by contacting an Officer or by emailing us at ChaparralArtists@gmail.com

Gallery Displays

Previous Exhibit

February 2022 featured the theme of “Love” at Rainbow Stew, in Yucca Valley. As always, the showing came together in a better way than I could hope. Gorgeous reds and pinks were on display and of course we had flowers and creatures and kindness being represented. We received a total of thirty (30) entries from thirteen (13) artists. The show will be on display until March 16.

If you are interested in an article with greater detail for any shows mentioned in the newsletters, please visit our website to locate the article of interest. These articles have photos of the art that was on display during the show, they mention the titles of the pieces on display along with the creator, and often a general summary of the mood that the show created is provided.

Upcoming Exhibit

Our upcoming March show will feature the theme of “An Abundance of Green”, certainly inspired by Saint Patrick’s Day, but of course spring time as well. Already we are feeling that inkling of warmth now and again and we have been reminded of the upcoming season by all of the budding joshua trees at lower elevations and the beautiful thick blooms of Yuccas in climbing up the hill from Morongo Valley.

This green themed show coming up will be a fine opportunity to share abstract as well as realism and everything in between. All you need to ask yourself is, what does an abundance of green mean to you? We invite you to bring in your 2-dimensional works that



present the many hues of greens. This could easily be flora with smaller pops of other colors, fauna in greens, and manmade scenes, but abstracts in greens would fit perfectly as well. Intake will be at Rainbow Stew on Thursday or Friday, March 17 or March 18. This is a members only show. There is NO entry fee. The show will be up for a month.

Information about upcoming shows can always be found on the Chaparral Artists website by navigating to Publications, then Exhibits, and locating the show paperwork that you are interested in. Be sure to check in regularly for updates.

Artists of the Month

We are happy to feature Chaparral members at both the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley AND the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley. We do not control when these venues open, so calling in advance to a visit is recommended.

Kim and David Clements are sharing their photography at the Desert Hills Presbyterian Church in Yucca Valley during the month of March. Their photos are often desert themed, beautiful and will spark your imagination.

Robert Rufer is sharing his photography at the Center for Healthy Generations in Yucca Valley during the month of March. His work is bold and crisp, a variety spanning from nature to man made - hummers to grills... come on by and enjoy.

Art On Display

Julianne Koza is the featured artist at the California Welcome Center in Yucca Valley, a display opportunity managed by the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council (MBCAC) through their Art in Public Places program. She is sharing her gorgeous photography through April. Be sure to visit and enjoy - so many amazing gifts can be found at this venue from local and invited artists alike.

Nancy Kimes will have her art on display at Rainbow Stew as a featured artist starting June 1, 2022 with more information to come when her art has been hung!

We invite you to share an announcement about YOUR current or upcoming show. We want to celebrate one another's accomplishments so please reach out to one of our officers directly or email us at ChaparralArtists@gmail.com.

Chaparral Collage

Green as a Subject

Author: Raini Armstrong

The color green has a variety of symbolic attachments, some that merge exceptionally well with art and artistic ventures. What version of green speaks to you?

To no one's surprise, green often reflects nature, springtime, and growth. Freshly sprung buds, healthy foliage, and even our desert greens in olive and dusty blue hues spark the concept of nature.

Green also has a psychological aspect attached to it, often reflecting either a calm state or a motivating

state - what a contrast! I would suppose it depends upon whether you feel like the idea of renewed growth in the natural world sparks invigorating and exciting concepts or comforting reliance.

As we move away from the natural world into societal concepts, green can symbolize money, luck, health, environmental awareness, and even envy. Wow!

In one particular societal use of green during March, we enjoy Saint Patrick's day, where green has been used partly because of Ireland's nickname of "The Emerald Isle." So, we invite members to celebrate the color green during our next show, "An Abundance of Green." Share your favorite embodiment of green with us, whether natural or societal. We hope to see the color green represented in vigor at Rainbow Stew this month!

Recent Desert Discoveries

Author: Raini Armstrong

Travel can be a rare opportunity nowadays, and it has always come with risk, so I take the responsibility seriously when venturing outside of my bubble. I am happy I got away recently because this latest neighboring desert adventure allowed more beauty and color into my life.

Friends and I ventured out on a road trip to the borderlands of Utah and Arizona. We enjoyed quick visits to the Valley of Fire State Park, the Antelope Canyons, and Monument Valley. It was a whirlwind of lovely sites and relaxing moments.

With photographers, often the focus is on beautiful, noteworthy sites, and we saw plenty of those! However, we made time to breathe in the



Lower Antelope Canyon

desert air, spend quiet moments listening to the stillness, and enjoy a couple of sunrises and sunsets.

If you have not been to the Valley of Fire, I urge you to take the drive! The State Park offers such vivid reds and oranges. There are hikes aplenty, but much beauty can be taken in from the windows of your vehicle as well.

Antelope Canyons, however, are a tricky experience to enjoy within the confines of a vehicle. The canyons must be walked, climbed, and monitored. We took a tour with three other visitors; masks worn the entire time. I understand that these tours can get big, pre-pandemic numbers up to twenty, so the concept of such close-confines with people might turn you off. But the adventure, the colors, the shapes, and the stories told are lovely. This particular location has been on my bucket list for a while, so I was pleased. However, the biggest drawback I felt was the innate struggle between the shutterbug and the relaxer in me. To capture every woven color scape above me or to enjoy the warm ribbons of sandstone beauty all around me?!

There is history engrained in every square mile of this country, and spending two days in Monument

Valley can only scratch the surface of that story, the lives that smashed together over hundreds of years. It is a location known more recently for cinematic buffs, setting the backdrop for many Western movies; over fifty films sport at least a few iconic locations within Monument Valley. Before and after the dawn of this country, people, families, and travelers alike have struggled, thrived, and survived the countryside, and it was terrific hearing tales of some of that piece of history from locals.

This brief visit to a neighboring desert landscape - the Great Basin desert - was well worth the stress surrounding responsible travel. I hope to embark on more journeys, but for now, I am happy to be back in OUR lovely Mojave desert.

Finding Your Niche

By Nancy Kimes

Have you recently hit a dry spell? Are you lacking motivation or feeling uninspired because you believe creativity no longer runs through your veins? One possibility could be that you aren't getting together with others or getting out in the fresh air to rejuvenate or spark your curiosity, to recharge, or reinvent that creative flow. Believe it or not, creativity is still there, waiting for you to tap into its consciousness! I want to share some bullet points that I believe will regenerate that flame of passion within you and your art.

Here are some key points going solo:

- Review your favorite memories when you first discovered art
- Bring those imprints of mind into your present surroundings

- Take an hour out of your week to ride through the National park
- Stop at intervals, get out of your car, and breathe in your surroundings
- If the weather permits, find a place in the park where it resonates with you, where you can sit on a rock or bench and journal or imagine yourself in the spirit of creativity
- Bring out your sketchpad if you brought one, art materials, or a camera, and stroll around some of the rock croppings.
- Go back to your studio or art space and soak in the experience

We sometimes need to redirect our thoughts to tap into creative energy. When that energy begins to flow, you will feel it. Sometimes it feels like a swirl or spin that moves in your body like the element of surprise, an elation of inspiration! Bask in that moment and let your creativity overflow!

Just a reminder for you photographers out there... Become one with your camera and your subject. Embody the whole frame of your subject within your consciousness, relax and shoot!

Ongoing Invitation to Share!

Members and friends of Chaparral Artists, we want to share your artistic accomplishments, stories, poetry, and art snapshots in the newsletter. Please share art-related information with us by sending your stories to ChaparralArtists@gmail.com. For anyone that cannot access the internet, call Raini Armstrong at 760-383-3005 to arrange the conveyance of your submission via phone or in person.

Events Calendar

The calendar for the 2022 year can be found in its entirety at our website by navigating to About Us and then clicking on the Schedule link. There you will find the *General Meetings* listed in one column and the *Gallery Shows* with dates and times listed in another column. You can also download a PDF page with dated information on our main events from the same Schedule page.

March 14

Chaparral Artists General Meeting, 1-3pm
Center for Healthy Generations
57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley

March 17 & 18

“An Abundance of Green”
Members-only show
Drop-off Day 1
March 17 at 4:30-6pm
Drop-off Day 2
March 18 at 12:30-2pm

Rainbow Stew, 55509 Twentynine Palms Highway

March 23

Indian Canyons Group Trip
Indian Canyons Visitor Center, 8am
38520 S. Palm Canyon Dr. Palm Springs

April 11

Chaparral Artists General Meeting, 1-3pm
Center for Healthy Generations
57121 Sunnyslope Dr., Yucca Valley