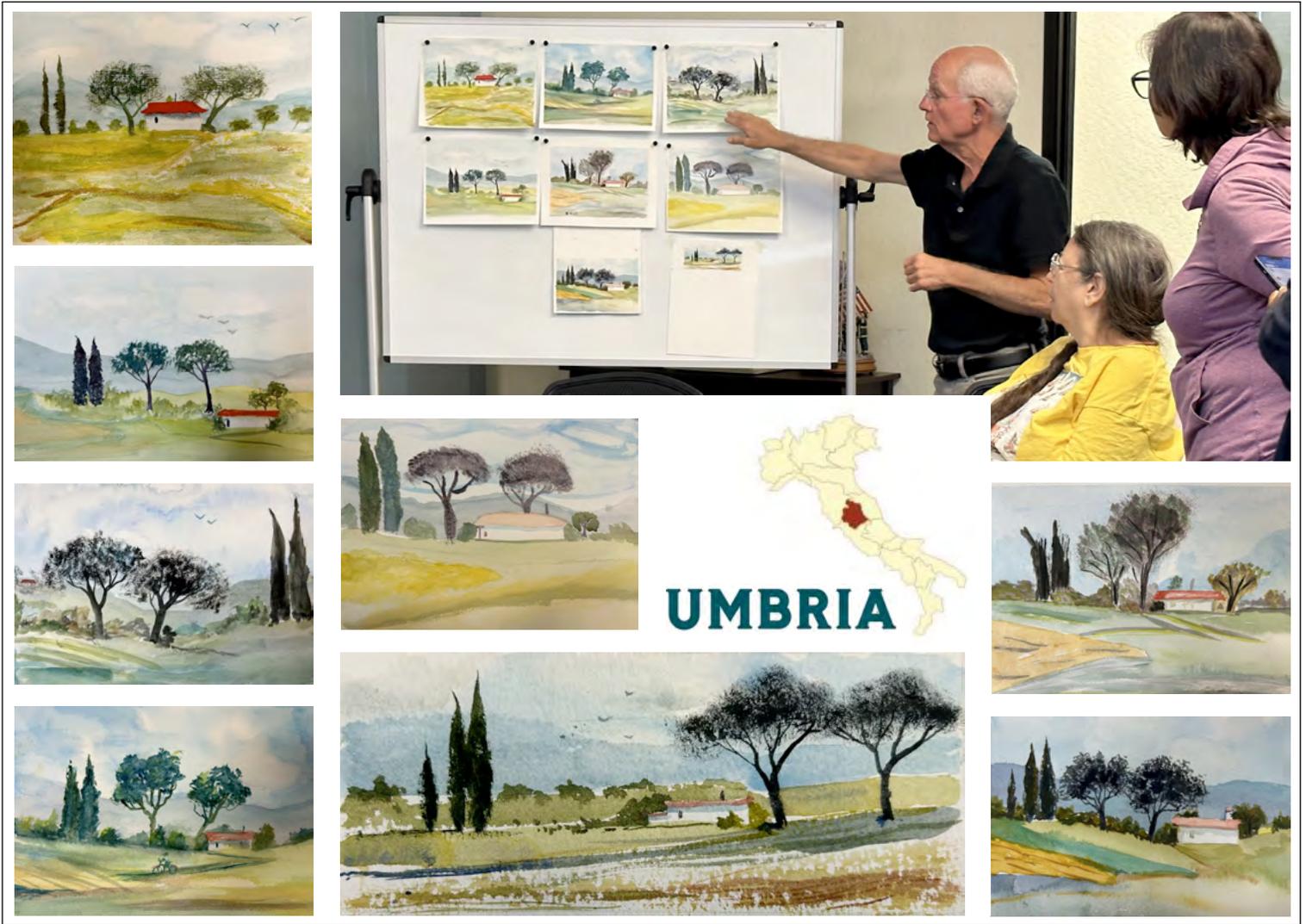




Community Outreach

Oakland Veterans Paint Umbria, Italy



An Italian motif was the subject this month for the CWA Community Outreach at the Veteran Center. Our teacher, Michael Friedland, had returned from almost a month's travel to Italy with stories to tell and art to paint. Hearing his stories we felt we were there too. Michael had given a painting workshop and explored Italian cities on his own.

Our paintings were a motif of Italy or essence of the vistas one sees throughout the country. Michael introduced cerulean blue and there ensued a discussion of the pigments in our palettes. What were the pigment names? How can you tell a cool blue from a warm blue? It was decided that we would tackle knowledge of the palette pigments in next month's gathering.

Returning to our Italian motif we laid in minimal or no pencil lines, tackling the clouds and sky with the new pigment, cerulean blue, down to the horizon line, leaving pure white for the clouds and the villa. When that was dry we painted another layer of cerulean depicting the

mountains far in the distance. After mixing a black tacky paint mixture, we dry brushed in the tree canopy. Then painted the trunks and branches. We moved on to the ever-present cypress trees. We added yellow to the cerulean blue puddle in our palette to begin the bushes on the horizon line varying the green to the darkest around the villa to make its white walls stand out. Finally we lay in the foreground fields with swooping arm strokes on an angle from each side creating a zigzag path into the painting.

During critique Michael commented on value shifts here and structure there. The group enjoyed the various interpretations given the fairly simple source. In conclusion, we all agreed that a trip to Italy would be delightful and joked about going there as a group maybe in 2025 when Michael will be going back.

Sheila Cain

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