



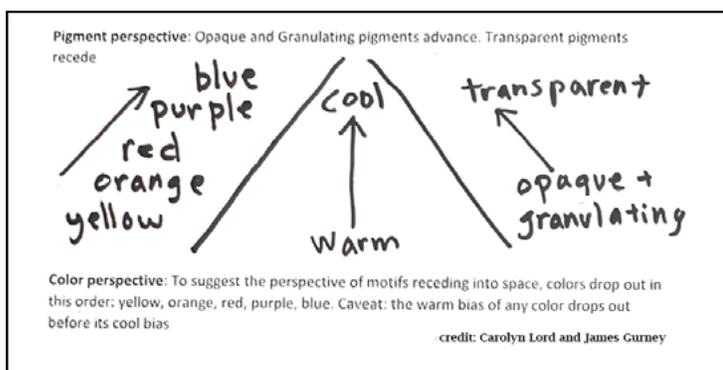
# Community Outreach

## Oakland Veterans Seasonal Celebration on 21st Street



Wow! We're back on 21st Street. We had clean, new palettes, fresh pigments, and a beautiful spacious room, plus delicious pumpkin muffins to greet the Oakland veterans for the December gathering. This new room was a pleasant surprise. We were very grateful to Kevin who facilitated our being back in the 21st Street VA building.

This month's project was a red cardinal in a snowy landscape. Michael Friedland explained the project while Pat Moseuk squeezed the paint into the clean palettes. Finally, all the palettes would have the pigments in the same well. Participants would all be on the same page when they're being instructed on color mixing.



After drawing the cardinal and landscape, we painted masking fluid over the bird and any other part of the paper we wished to hold as white. Once the fluid was dry, we wet with water the areas we wanted to blur. Then we mixed a foreground color, warmish, and a background color, bluish,

in tints to create a snowy landscape. Before the paint dried Michael demonstrated using a clean damp thirsty brush to pick up paint leaving soft-edged lighter shapes to further the painting.

When the paper surrounding the resist was dry, the resist was removed and we were ready to paint the bird. The cardinal was warm red (cadmium red) where the light was hitting it and cool red (alizarin crimson) on the shadow side. A mixed black was made for the cardinal's head markings, eye, and bare branches where he perched. Finally, we painted a yellow for the beak.

Most of the group then returned to the foreground and background. Michael recounted the saying "How many artists does it take to make a watercolor?" Answer, "Two. One to paint and the second to yell, "Stop" and declare the painting complete." A few wise vets had already put their brushes down resisting the urge to overwork their paintings.

On critique, it was observed that there was a noticeable difference in the sizes of birds. The source had a small cardinal and thus small details. It was explained that some painters opted to adjust the composition. With a larger bird, the details are easier to place. Others proportioned their work to be folded into a greeting card or as the cover for a greeting card. This was a very happy gathering. All the paintings deliver cheer for this holiday season.

*Sheila Cain*

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