



Community Outreach

Oakland VA – Giving the Veterans a New ‘Perspective’...

The Oakland VA vet group often paints landscapes and that includes buildings. All styles of painting are encouraged, but some in the group have shown frustration that the buildings in their compositions don't look quite right, and that something about the feeling of receding space isn't working properly. The CWA Outreach team felt a lesson in perspective might be helpful.

To simplify the project we painted in grayscale, no colors. Both one-point and two-point perspectives were explained. Michael Friedland presented a prototype one-point perspective composition of fields, cypress trees, hills, mountains scattered with several buildings and a wonderful sky. The sample also showed,

and we discussed, aerial perspective and why the distant hills are lighter as they recede into the distance. The group addressed the challenge. This was not a "paint along" exercise. Each painter chose his or her starting and ending spot. The room went silent and was filled with concentration.

At the end of the session each person showed and talked about their work. Many found that the perspective was working in one part of their painting, but not in some other part. As a group, the vets learned to see where perspective was consistent in their work and, if they wished for more realistic work, that perspective was a tool that could help. The Oakland vets share great camaraderie by painting together.



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Community Outreach

Oakland and Martinez VA

Veteran's Self-Portrait Exhibit at the Richmond Art Center



The veterans from Martinez and Oakland Community Outreach group's artworks will be among the 40 self-portraits exhibiting in the new "ABOUTFACE" show. Each portrait gives a glimpse of the life-changing experiences of veterans in serving our country. It's a powerful exhibit that is open to the public.

ABOUTFACE: An Exhibit of Self-Portraits by Veterans

Artists Reception: June 8, 2019 5:00pm-7:00pm

The Exhibit Runs: June 11-August 16, 2019

Gallery Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10:00am-5:00pm

Richmond Art Center
2540 Barrett Ave.
Richmond, CA 94804
Telephone (510) 620-6772

The "ABOUTFACE" self-portrait project was started by the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County. CWA Community Outreach collaborated with the Arts Commission bringing it to the Martinez and Oakland veteran painting groups. In 2017 the self-portraits were exhibited in the Contra Costa County Administration Building.

These are some of the comments from people who attended that exhibition.

"This show should go to the White House."

"I am intrigued by every portrait. They all tell such stories."

"These artworks should be made into a book. It would sell. I'd buy one."

"Fabulous!"

"Amazing show. Surprised how powerful. A lot of fun."

We are thrilled the "ABOUTFACE" self-portrait exhibit will be shown at the Richmond Art Center where many people will be seeing it. Viewing the exhibit is a way of acknowledging, honoring and thanking our veterans for their service.

