

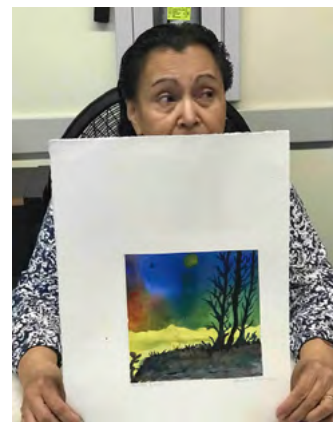


Winter Landscapes

The Oakland VA watercolor group greeted the New Year with “How was your holiday?” and “Happy to be back.” enthusiasm. On fresh quarter sheets we planned for a wet-into-wet winter sky over a landscape of personal choice. Michael Friedland got us started. He showed a prototype and suggested using torn masking tape to create a skyline. This was particularly useful for those going for a dark, deeply colored sky. Some taped, some drew, some went small, and some filled the page. Eventually, everyone wet the sky area and started dropping in different colored pigments to mix on the page.

This semi out-of-control process led to assessments, such as “where do I go from here.” Some used the hair dryer and others used the semi-damp sky to drop in a soft edge to the horizon. It was fun to see the different landscapes developing. We had a range from dark mountain forests to leafless deciduous trees, golden rolling hills, plus a theme park with roller coaster. Lorraine went small with intense color and was pleased. Libby removed old works from the bulletin board and mounted the new ones. It was “out with the old and in with the new.” A good day and good way to start the New Year.

Sheila Cain





Community Outreach

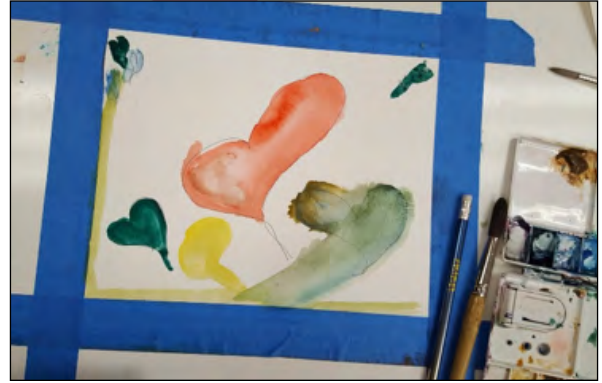
Winter at the VA Martinez

We decided to jump ahead with our themes since our newsletter deadline is usually in advance of holidays.

An annual favorite is to refresh the artists with some basic watercolor techniques Maggie learned from Karen Mason who was instrumental to CWA in its early days. She started all her new students with expired credit cards and a set of 3 basic colors. Students used Alizarin red, Aureolin yellow and Ultramarine blue, and learned to mix every color desired. The credit card was used to trace spaces on 300# Arches paper. The students then painted each technique in a box thus creating a reference for future projects.

Our variation on this was to draw freehand hearts in honor of Valentine's Day. One could trace a heart but drawing freehand was a good warm up. Plus, if credit cards were heart shaped I might have way too many!

We had a lot of fun, especially when this author's face got red and green freckles with the spattering demo.



Joe had a productive morning mixing colors and experimenting with different sizes.

This is the demo that Maggie created. The salt on the top middle had yet to dry and be removed. Tipping the paper up to get a "bleeding heart" was a hit if not a mess.

Now that we've had our "warm up," our next session on Wednesday, January 22, should be very productive.



Ziggy chose to sketch all of us and turned his hearts into a bunch of balloons.

**We meet twice a month from 9:00am-12:00pm. CWA volunteers are welcome!
Please drop in to see if it is as gratifying to you as it is to us.
If you are interested, call Maggie at (925) 899-9185.**

Julie, Georganne, Victoria and Maggie