



Aurora Borealis in Watercolor?

We had a full house for our end-of-the-year painting party and the goal was fun and gratitude. We planned a Winter Solstice theme, and Michael Friedland came up with the concept of painting the Aurora Borealis. I confess, I was doubtful of capturing that cosmic phenomenon and contributed mistletoe and other choices. However, the eerie lights captured most of the group who then made it their own.

Michael's procedure had something especially new. He had us wet both sides of the paper till it was soaking wet and stuck to our plastic boards. (A procedure, he added, that worked well when painting plein air on a hot day.) We painted, almost dropped our previously mixed cream-thick puddles of the pigments, opera, peacock blue and lemon yellow, onto the angled wet paper. When the pigments hit they flowed down and together. We even held the boards vertically and banged the edge of the boards onto our worktables to force greater flows.

It was a noisy, messy, out-of-control process and fun! The results were some very vibrant glowing color. We dried the paper on both sides so that we could continue to paint. Refreshments of cookies, cake, milk and lemonade were passed and, on sugar highs, we worked to complete our compositions. Reviewing the works we were amazed at how some of us had captured the aurora borealis. Thank you, Michael!

It was our final group of 2019, a year in which one of our members had survived a near death accident and others continue into 2020 with hopes for cures for serious medical issues, but all doing their best to enjoy the moment and the good. The vets thanked the CWA volunteers for joining them and we expressed (I hope) the pleasure and satisfaction we feel working with and knowing them.

Sheila Cain





Community Outreach

Winter at the VA Martinez

CWA Outreach Watercolor Studio



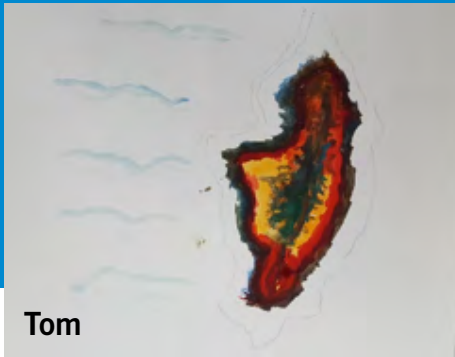
Michael



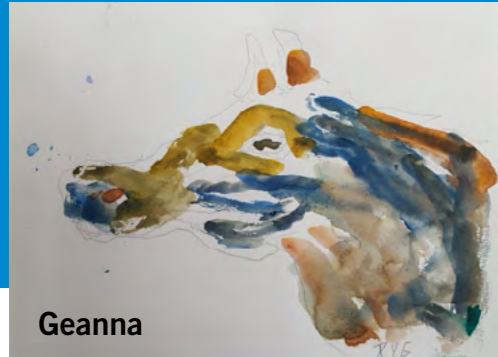
Steven



Clifford



Tom



Geanna



Geanna

We are enjoying a variety of projects as we approach the end of the calendar year. The mood is jovial, due in part to the presence of twins Michael and Clifford who refer to themselves as the “cuckoo” brothers. This is because their surname rhymes with cuckoo and they keep staff laughing. Clifford tried his hand at watercolor and amazed us all.

Michael is a gifted cartoonist, yet was willing to experiment with color. Because they are identical, we cannot report which brother sat down at a nearby piano and played beautiful music while the other shot pool.

Steven is new to us and to painting and is using his non-dominant hand. He utilized a basic still life sketch rendered by Ziggy and demonstrated a beautiful use of color. Ziggy has been a great resource in providing simple sketches for artists and his not so surreptitious portraiture.

Tom hasn't painted since grade school and says he is color blind, yet is doing well with analogous colors. He painted the island of Taiwan from memory

Geanna remains daring and prolific. She found that painting on an easel better suited her and the soft wet into wet colors she laid in proved it so.

Geanna also experimented with a variety of media and techniques for holiday cards.

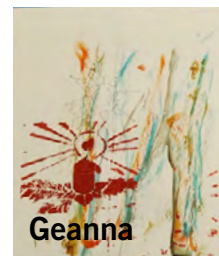
We are in such gratitude for the VA staff, CWA and everyone who help make this artistic journey such a treasure. As this year closes we look forward to the creativity and joy that 2020 promises.

Our next CWA Outreach at the Martinez VA is January 8, 2020.

Contact Maggie Metcalf at (925) 899 9185 if you are interested in joining us.



Geanna



Geanna



Geanna

*Victoria Bianco,
Georganne Zaro-Eddy,
Julie Limberg and
Maggie Metcalf*