

July 2013

CWA Outreach

Veterans Like To Learn

At the beginning of May the Recreation Therapy Department at Martinez VA Hospital opened its doors to CWA volunteers for presenting the best of water-color knowledge to the veterans.

The first CWA Outreach class was held on May 1 in the Tahoe Courtyard. I was a lucky visitor of the first session, and had a chance to take a few photos, observe the lesson and chat with the new VA artists. Sheila Cain instructed on the painting of simple and complex color wheels. Victoria Bianco assisted and worked with individuals. The group of veterans was small but they had a great courage and desire to paint. They started with the Big Three: Yellow, Red and Blue colors; and, then, gradually created secondary colors such Green, Orange and Violet. When the first two tasks were accomplished, the students learned what happens when they mix two opposite colors creating rather outstanding grays and blacks.

The second class, which attracted a few new veterans, was held at 9:00am on May 15. The Tahoe Courtyard became an arena for exploring some new materials, which were generously donated by Cheap Joes Art Stuff, www.cheapjoes.com. CWA volunteers presented the lesson covering “basic watercolor strokes” such stamp, stamp+stroke, compound stroke, tip and heal, wet and dry, numbers and letters followed by shape and field. And even though some attendees were skilled painters, they happily used a stroke lesson on the painting of a still life. With the great enthusiasm Sheila and Victoria included the Value vs. Color investigation into the lesson. Using a camera which could change from color to black and white, they compared the values. The beginners and advanced VA students, as well as both instructors all learned and shared the creativity and fun of art.

Irina Sztukowski

Become a CWA Outreach Volunteer! E-mail us with “CWA Outreach” in the subject line at outreach@californiawatercolor.org or call Sheila at 510 548-2306.

To Volunteer, contact outreach@californiawatercolor.org

