

Portland Botanical Artists Circle - meeting notes Thursday, Dec 13, 2012

Location:

Janet's house

Attendees:

Janene Walkky, Jane Levy Campbell, Wendy Burgen, Laurie Griff, Janet Parker (host), Gina Anzaldo (secretary)

Members checked in:

JANENE WALKKY

Janene is finishing up the last three pieces for Society of Botanical Artists distance program: <http://www.soc-botanical-artists.org/>

She discussed her technique to sketch, transfer to watercolor paper using a lightbox, create a color palette, and have a practice piece going as well as the final piece so that she can experiment before working on final piece. The program also requires a sketchbook for color sampling, sketching, trial/error. Program uses Fabriano Classico 5 hotpress (type not available in US, but can be ordered online)

She showed a beautiful detailed pencil drawing of the cabbage that will be one of the 3 pieces.

Janene recommended the Portland Farmers Market as a great place to get beautiful veggies/fruit.

She also recommends the textbooks for the SBA program, and advised that it's helpful to be a bit of a self-learner.

GINA ANZALDO

Gina showed a miniature painting done with her botanical tools (small brushes and magnifying glass). Take away was that doing a non-botanical painting is great if you don't have the time to devote to botanical on a given day. Try painting something else that takes less time just to keep you painting.

JANE LEVY CAMPBELL

Jane showed some of her botanicals. She often starts with small compositional sketches and then gets right to work on the piece, often without sketching/transfer, etc. She has an extensive background in chinese brushwork and finds she can be pretty exact with the brush. Janet noted that Jessica Tcherepnine is a botanical artist who steps right into the brushes as well.

WENDY BURDEN

Wendy works primarily in oil. She showed some work in which she's included botanical subjects in interesting ways. She was recently inspired by viewing Beatrix Potter's original watercolors at the V&A museum in London (<http://www.vam.ac.uk/page/b/beatrix-potter/>). Someone brought up Arletta Pech, an artist who moved from watercolor to oil, and who apparently uses oils much like watercolor. Wendy is also the author of "Dead End Gene Pool" which looks like a great read.

LAURIE GRIFF

Laurie loves to learn by taking workshops and has enjoyed classes at Filoli, and with many great instructors. She encouraged us to sign up for the Pacific NW Botanical Artists chapter: (www.pnwbotartists.org) We can sign up through that site and also tack on the national ASBA membership in the process.

She talked about Jeanne Debons and Linda Vorobik (www.vorobikbotanicalart.com). Also, talked about how to get works clean with a Mr. Clean Magic eraser, which she also uses along with a dental pick. Then Janet passed around an eraser shield which several people said were great for fixing errors while protecting your work.

Laurie brought in printouts of several interesting things she'd found online, including these pages from Linda Vorobik's website: an annotated bibliography, a schedule of upcoming workshops and lectures, and course descriptions. She also brought in a printout of the current PNBA newsletter, a PNBA membership application, and a call for entries to the PNBA annual Miller Library exhibit and sale.

Janet added the printouts to a binder she's collecting meeting items in, for the use of the group.

JANET PARKER

We toured Janet's studio. She talked about taking the time to get to know the subject, drawing pieces, taking notes. She took Hilary Parker's class at the recent conference where they did drawing by touch (one hand touching an object in a bag while the other is drawing it).

Like some others in the group, she feels a little hesitant around watercolor, but is hoping to embrace the medium more as it seems to be the 'correct' medium for traditional botanical. Her preference has been to learn by taking classes from a great instructor rather than through using books.

TOPICS RELATING TO THE GROUP:

Home & Garden Show : Show is Feb 20-24

(Jane)

There is an area set up for artists to demonstrate their work process. Display space is along the perimeter and there's a lot of space. No charge for the artist space (booths are 10x10), but \$80 for electrical and \$42 for parking

We would have to supply our own materials. Jane has apx. 15 of the grid panels (6x2') to hang art from.

The timeframe may be too soon for the group to participate.

What other ASBA Chapters are doing/What we could do

Janet got annual reports from 12 other ASBA-affiliated chapters and circles: such varied approaches! Some of the groups we have info on are: Botanical Artists of Southern California, Florida Society of Botanical Artists, Great River Chapter of Minnesota, New England Society of Botanical Artists, Northern California, PNBA, Rocky Mt. Botanical Artists, Southwest Society of Botanical Artists. Some groups have limited their number and just focus on painting and drawing together. Some do several exhibits annually, some partner with educational institutions and other community organizations. Some groups distribute educational materials at shows.

It looks like we could go in any number of directions ourselves. Janet suggested we each fill out a questionnaire rating our interest in various things, in order to help us define our goals and mission going forward.

ASBA has a script/photos of a presentation on the history and relevance today, of botanical art, that you can request to show to groups in your area. Janet has requested the materials.

Janet noted that it might be good to think about partnering with other artists groups, like OSA.

Choose a name for our group:

We're mulling over Oregon Botanical Artists Circle, but have some more thought to put into it. Janene had a good suggestion - that we finish our questionnaire and decide on what our group will be about before we pick a name.

Mission statement

Once we have this we can use it in some form to create a postcard or flyer to introduce ourselves to the community.

Discussion deferred - we'll each fill out a questionnaire to help us get closer to this.

Goals

We didn't get to far on this - we're still discovering the group's purpose

Dues

Suggest annual member dues of \$25. Vote. Deferred discussion

Website

We could do a website and or blog. Whatever the group wants. More after we define our mission and get a group name.

Meetings

Discussed frequency/location. For now, we'll stick to meeting monthly (so we can establish our purpose soon). After that can discuss 'formal' meetings monthly or quarterly? Many chapters meet quarterly. We should discuss meeting time of day next time though - are folks generally ok with mid-day or does that exclude other folks who might work during those hours?

Next meeting: at Gina's house, Date TBA