

**NEXT
MEETING**

**SUNDAY
MAY 17, 2009**

3:00 PM

**CRITIQUES
BY
ANDREW
WAGES**

**MEETING
LOCATION**

**Royal Lane
Baptist Church
6707 Royal Lane
Dallas, TX 75230**

**PICK UP
ARTWORK
FROM THE
SHOW AT
THE CHURCH**

Wages to Critique Artwork May 17

I will bet there is a secret drawer or shelf in a closet where the “rejects” are hiding. The paintings and projects that just were not good enough to frame or a pastel that just didn’t work artistically. Bring one of these on the 17th and find out what went wrong. Andrew Wages will be at the next PSSW meeting to present constructive criticism and give help

that may salvage a piece you have tucked away in disgust. Born in Oklahoma, Andrew has a love of the outdoors and plein air landscape painting. However, his proficiency covers still life, portraits and figurative work as well. He is an honors graduate of the Art Center College of Design. He apprenticed in illustration in New York and has spent the

last thirty five years here in Dallas working as a freelance illustrator. Andrew speaking of his experience in nature painting: “It is the sights, sounds and the feel of it that touches me deep inside.” He finds an inner peace in his work. This is a real opportunity to learn something about yourself and your work from a true professional. Hope to see you all at this meeting

President’s Notes

The May program will be our last meeting until September for PSSW. Bring 1 or 2 paintings to the May meeting for critique by Andrew Wages. We will also give out prizes for the show currently hanging at the church. Please thank Joanne Hawkins for putting that show together. Art work from the show must be removed at the May meeting as there is no storage available. Beth

Shirley has arranged for a PSSW member’s show at the Farmer’s Branch Library which will hang from mid-December 2009 until mid-January 2010. More information about the show will be available in the fall. Get ready for the August 15th digital image deadline for our 28th annual show in Plano from mid-October until mid-November 2009.

Several PSSW members and myself will be attending the IAPS Convention in Albuquerque at the end of May. We hope to bring back information and ideas of interest to share with the membership. Have a safe and happy summer.

Janis Krendick

President PSSW



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News You Can Use

1. Marin Society of Artists National Show will be August 2nd thru August 30th. Entry deadline May 1, 2009. See: marinsocietyofartists.org for more information.
2. Nicki Gulley offers adult art classes. Contact her at 214-803-5812 or niki@nikigulley.com.
3. Potential to instruct at Highland Valley Studios in San Diego. See www.highlandvalleystudios.com for more information.
4. The prospectus for the IAPS 2009 Web Show has been posted on the web site: www.pastelinternational.com. Entries to the competition will be digital in format; accepted works will be displayed on the IAPS web site for approximately six months. Acceptance and awards both confer points towards IAPS Master Circle status. See the prospectus for prize information, eligible work and entry rules. Deadline for receipt of CD's with images is July 26, 2009.
5. The Arkansas Pastel Society is having its 3rd National Exhibition. The show runs December 4, 2009 to January 10, 2010. Doug Dawson is the juror. Digital entry deadline is September 5th. Details available at www.arkpastel.com
6. The Goodrich Gallery at First United Methodist Church in the downtown Dallas Arts District invites participation in the show "Interpretations of the Cross". Show is to be held March 28 to April 26 2010. This show is in conjunction with the Easter holiday. This show is open to any medium, not just pastel. Check out details at firstchurchdallas.org/docs/TheCross



John Kirtz: “Slow down to enjoy life’s beauty”

by Martin Prakope

My Mother lives in Chicago. Frankly, I like it here much better. There are advantages to living in Chicago. You can eat some black snow if you want to. They have good hot dogs at Wrigley Field. Our featured artist, John Kirtz, was transformed from a commercial artist to a fine artist in Chicago by the power of pastels.

Originally, John lived in Staunton Virginia. He had an affinity for art as a child and talent to go along with the desire. Art was his objective in college and he graduated with a degree in graphic design from North Carolina State University. He successfully managed a twenty-year career in graphic art as a designer for public television, an artist at various design studios and as an owner operator of his own studio in the Raleigh area.

An opportunity in Chicago for Donna, John’s wife of 33 years, provided the catalyst for change twelve years ago. John closed the doors on his business and they went to the “Windy City”. (I’m guessing a wind chill of minus 40 would be a surprise for people from the South) While looking for work in Chicago, John was inspired to test nearly forgotten skills in the interest of fine art. By mere chance, he picked up a copy of “The Pastel Book” written by Bill Creevy in a shop in Chicago.

Reading the book sold John on the pastel medium. He describes his first experiences painting with pigment as “love at first sight”. The book, the active art scene in Chicago, and the world-class museums and shows in town convinced him it was time to pursue fine art as a more meaningful alternative to working in graphic design. He has never looked back.

John was immediately drawn to the vibrant visual opportunity presented by pastels. He likes Terry Ludwig pastels. To this day, he is impressed with the “physics of the crystalline nature of pastels”. They literally sparkle back at you with endless color possibility. He refuses to use fixative because he does not want to obstruct the reflective color quality of the pigment.

While in Chicago, John made an effort to shore up and hone technical skills. He attended life-drawing sessions at George Soto’s workshops, and worked hard at pastel classes at Chicago’s Palette and Chisel Academy. He also had the good fortune of working with the well-known pastellist Larry Blovits at the Dillman Creative Workshops.

As a rule, John is drawn to those special times of day when light and shadow present some rare and fleeting opportunities.

(Early morning and Evening) He recommends taking the time to study and area when searching for the right composition for artwork. He is hopeful his art will allow him to share a perspective of greater appreciation of our environment here on earth. He seeks a connection evoking emotion on the part of the viewer. Through his art he wants to share “the discovery and the emotion of those (fleeting) moments”.

When looking for material to paint, John will use a camera to capture ideas. He is fortunate to have the skill to transition a photo into a piece of fine art. He likes to travel to the Texas Hill Country, New Mexico and Arizona. John is aware when savoring a vista in Arizona, for example, that nature is in a constant state of change with no two moments ever being exactly the same. His work challenges us to slow down and enjoy the serenity of life’s beauty before we rush off. (That chance to see things before they change forever)

John has been a “First Place “ award winner in the PSSW Winter and Spring membership show. His work is on display at the Premier Gallery, Flower Mound, Texas. John’s pastel paintings have made a huge contribution to art culture in the Dallas area.



John at Premier Gallery



One of several Kirtz pieces on display at Premier Gallery in Flower Mound





Billy Cochrum ----- First Place
Artist of the Month -- April



Guest Artist Demo --- Bonnie Williams



John Kirtz – Second Place
Artist of the Month - April

Tip of the Month

This month's tip comes from John Blockley. Blockley is a past President of the Pastel Society of Great Britain and a world renown painter. "You should develop the habit of making sketches out-of-doors. Sketching is enjoyable, and has great practical value; it makes you look, observe and compare proportions, and you can concentrate on these, free from the problems of colour and painting techniques. This concentrated effort also builds up a store of information in your mind that will help you when painting."

"The sketches also provide you with information from which to paint. The important thing is to make sure you collect enough information for painting when you are back at home. The drawing should be complete in itself, or should have written notes to aid your memory."

"I mostly sketch with a pencil, sometimes with a few pastels strokes and over the years I have collected a mass of sketches from which to paint. They also have their own nostalgic value – reminding me of enjoyable days in interesting places."





Featured April Artist at Garret Gallery in McKinney ----
Marian Hirsh

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PSSW CALENDAR

MAR 8	MARIE MAINES	DEMONSTRATION
APRIL 19	BONNIE WILLIAMS	DEMONSTRATION
MAY 17	ANDREW WAGES	CRITIQUE
		ENTRIES FOR JURIED
		SHOWS
SEPT 13	PSA SLIDE SHOW	2008 SHOW SLIDES
OCT 11	HUGH CAMPBELL	DEMONSTRATION
NOV 5-7	BOB ROHM	WORKSHOP
NOV 8	BOB ROHM	DEMONSTRATION

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