

WEST HILLS ART LEAGUE

Minutes for Meeting of September 21, 2017

Ashley Robles Presiding

Minutes for our 5/18/17 meeting have been posted on line. Anyone with corrections or additions should feel free to submit them. Meantime, the minutes were approved.

Audra Zampogna submitted her current **Treasurer's report** which shows a current balance of \$3161.63. She also circulated her audit for the 2016-2017 year.

Website: The Artist of the Month is Ashley Robles. Ashley encouraged all members to make sure their bios and artist statements were ready and up to date in anticipation of being selected for the next Artist of the Month, which can be seen on the website under the "Blog" tab.

Programs – Vice President Dianne Bauman reported that she has tried to line up artists in a variety of media – watercolor, oils, sculpture, etc. for the coming year. Details are on the WHAL website.

Facebook – Ashley urged members to check the WHAL webpage regularly for the latest in news and info.

Holiday Sale – The Annual Holiday Sale in the Robin Hill Carriage House will be on Saturday, December 2. A volunteer is needed to coordinate participation. There is room for 10 artists. Tables are provided but artists must provide their own covers. There is no commission.

Annual WHAL Exhibit – Our annual juried exhibit will occur again on Mother's Day. Drop-off is scheduled for May 1, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The reception will be on May 13, and pickup will be during the last meeting of the year, May 17.

Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce – Beginning in October, WHAL members will have a new venue in which to exhibit. The Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce at its office located at 830 Beaver Grade Road in Moon is providing wall space and hangers for our exclusive use. Our work will be monitored and insured. Purchasers of our art will be directed to our email addresses, and there will be no commissions. In addition, we will be invited to all Chamber events and will have access to their 300-member address list. We paid \$220 for a two year contract. Volunteers are needed to work out details.

Merrick Museum – The Merrick Museum, at 100 Fifth Avenue in New Brighton 15066, has invited entries for its 2018 juried exhibit next year. There is \$3000 in awards. Photography is eligible in addition to other (presumably 2-dimensional) media. Fee is \$35 for up to three entries. All submissions are due by 3/16/18 and must be on a CD. The reception is on May 20, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The exhibit will be up from 5/20/18 to 7/15/18.

Demonstrator: Our guest presenter was Holly Pultz, who gave us a demonstration of her oil pointing. Holly, who lives with her husband near the Mexican War Streets in Pittsburgh, is a retired Art Teacher and later Supervisor of the student teacher program at Carlow University. She is a volunteer with her local community gardening program, and she and her husband have a cottage in Ligonier which is devoted to helping veterans with PTSD.

Holly, who has worked in several mediums, currently paints in oils. Her subjects are mainly landscapes, often featuring dramatic skies. In explaining her technique, she says she is constantly experimenting and keeps files on everything that might help her, including not only notes from classes she has taken (she shared some handouts with us) to pictures and information about trees and skies.

Support – She paints on watercolor paper (140 or 300”) which she has gessoed three times and tapes to the wall or foamboard. She paints in various sizes, ranging up to murals. She showed us examples that were 8 X 10 and a few that were much larger. For her demonstration, she used a piece about 16 X 20.

Paints – She likes Gamblin oil paints and works with a very limited palette. For recent samples and for her demonstration, she restricted herself to Ultramarine Blue and Burnt Sienna.

Brushes – She uses 1” to 2” brushes that she buys at Home Depot plus smaller rounds which she sometimes uses for detail.

Source Material – She favors pictures she sees in magazines or photos she has taken herself. She doesn’t paint en plain air but prefers to take reference pictures and finish her painting in her studio.

Her Studio – Her studio is in the basement of her home. She has covered the sandstone walls of the basement with wallboard, to which she attaches the paintings she is working on. (She typically works on four paintings at a time.)

Preliminary Sketch – She starts with a very simple sketch – simple guidelines that indicate shapes and composition.

First Step – She used burnt sienna to dab in major shapes for her painting, and then filled in around them with diluted burnt sienna. She says she likes to cover the whole canvas.

Development – She followed up by using a paper towel dipped in solvent to erase or lighten certain parts of the picture. She then used ultramarine blue to darken other areas like the underside of clouds and the silhouettes of trees.

Details – She used the pointed handle of a paintbrush, wrapped in a paper towel, to scratch details like white birch tree trunks – and the side of the brush to create texture.

Finishing – In about 30 minutes, Holly had created what looked like a finished picture, although she felt that there was more work to be done. She says it takes her about 10 hours to complete a picture the size of the one she was working on. She often applies Liquin to her pictures, because it “Intensifies the colors.”

Our next meeting will be on October 19 when our demonstrator will be William Pfahl, landscape painter.

Respectfully submitted,

Will White