

# West Hills Art League

## NEWSLETTER

# JAN 2021



### Hello WHAL Friends!

I hope you are all doing well as we head into the New Year!

I'd like to take this time to thank you all for your support over the past year. It has definitely been a challenging time but I truly appreciate the efforts that were made to keep our art league active when so many others chose to go dormant. It may not have been ideal, but the health and safety of our members was our highest priority.

I'd also like to thank everyone who made the adjustment to our virtual meeting and demonstration Zoom platform. We have discovered the added benefit of being able to hear and see the demonstrator even better than at our in person meetings! If there are others who would like to join us via Zoom for future meeting but are unsure of the set up process, I am including instructions below. I would strongly encourage you to give it a try!

In case you do not already have Zoom on your computer, tablet or phone, here are the directions:

**Step 1:** To get started with Zoom, head to their website [ZOOM.com](https://zoom.us) and click on the "SIGN UP" button that is at the top-right corner of the screen.

**Step 2:** You have two options when it comes to creating a Zoom account. You can either:

- Create a new account using your email address.
- Sign in using your Google or Facebook account.

**Step 3:** Zoom will now send you an email with a confirmation link.

**Step 4:** Download the desktop app/ Zoom client from the Zoom website for easy access.

Enter the zoom meeting address or click the link that will be sent to you in your email.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year!

**Debbie Tobin**

## This Month's Guest Demonstrator: Annie Heisey

Zoom Meeting

January 21, 7pm-9pm



Annie Heisey is an artist and educator living and working in her native city of Pittsburgh, PA. Best known for her paintings of beautifully rendered figures in abstracted or impossible environments, Heisey's work aims to disrupt the viewer's experience of a painting as a simulation of the physical world.

Since receiving her MFA from Boston University in 2007, Heisey's work has been exhibited nationally in galleries and institutions which include the Boston Center for the Arts, Site: Brooklyn Gallery in



Brooklyn, NY, and the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, PA. Her awards include the Junior Artist Residency at the Oregon College of Art and Craft in Portland, OR, a nomination for the Portland Art Museum's NW Contemporary Art Award, and the 2019 Festival Award at the Three Rivers Arts Festival. Her work has been included in several catalogs and publications including the Boston Globe. She is represented locally by BoxHeart Gallery.

<https://www.annieheisey.com/>

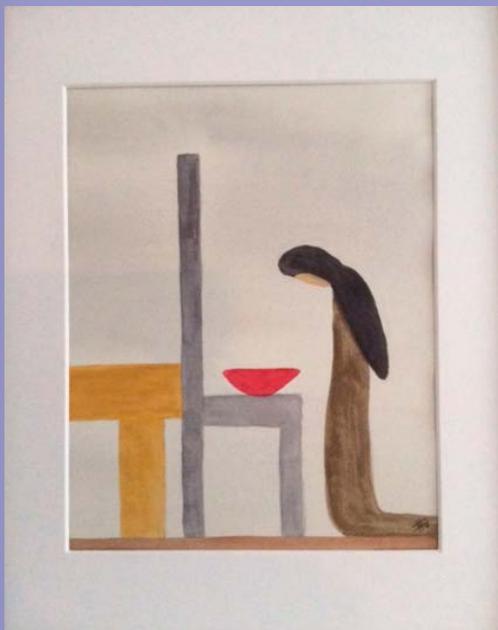


January  
Artist  
Spotlight

# Helena Valentine



"The Wren"



"Disobedience"



"Kinetic Joy"

Helena Valentine's diverse background is purposefully undetectable in her abstract art. Her earliest years were spent living in a hotel, then leaving home at the age of twelve to become a nun, enduring an abusive relationship, becoming a single parent in 1979, retiring with a career spanning 35 years in the travel industry, and finding her "valentine" on the internet could be considered a bit eclectic.

Helena always felt the need to express herself artistically so she checked the box next to "take art classes" on her bucket list in 2016. After a few representational painting classes she felt it wasn't for her but she was floundering trying to find a style she was comfortable with. One of the first pieces she painted and sold was titled "The Wren" it had a Picasso-esque look to it. (pic#1) The next piece (pic #2) was purchased off of the floor at a show before being hung. These were both realistic depictions of extremely personal memories and particularly hard to part with. So that was the end of her foray into representational painting.

The ambiguity of nonrepresentational art is now her chosen style as a safeguard. Her unique memories are hidden from the viewer and thus preserving the knowledge of their significant meanings.

Case in point. (pic #3) Recently Helena painted this piece, and again, it abstractly exposes a very personal memory. It so happened, that one day, after many years in the convent, her life flashed before her eyes. What she saw resulted in her becoming a convent drop out. Helena tried to depict speed, as the focal point in this piece, representing the swiftness of a major turning point in her life. Several viewers commented they "saw" a cat and mouse chase which she feels proves her focal point was successfully represented but more importantly her memory protected.

The professionals say to appreciate abstract art "one should focus on the lines, color, composition, and emotional feel. However, it is human nature to look for "realistic forms" in nonrepresentational art because we need to "connect" with the piece in our own personal way." Originally, Helena would get stressed by the objects people "saw" in her art but now she feels her artistic style is her best union with a viewer, as her ultimate goal, is to cultivate their imagination and create a personal attachment.

Helena works primarily in black and white acrylics but occasionally uses watercolor. She exhibits and sells her work at local art fairs and shows. She is a member of the West Hills Art League, Moon Twp. PA and the North Hills Art Center, Pittsburgh PA.

IG – #Valentine\_Helena

# Call for Artists



## Call for Artists

ENTER NOW - DEADLINE MARCH 5, 2021

WESTMORELAND ART NATIONALS  
JURIED FINE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS

### Westmoreland Art Nationals Juried Fine Art & Photography Exhibit

#### Now Accepting Entries for 2021 Westmoreland Art Nationals

Every year, the Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival holds the Westmoreland Art Nationals, a juried fine art and photography competition, featuring art from all around the country. Artists are permitted to enter as many pieces as they'd like to be considered in both of our exhibits.

The first exhibit will be held in Commissioners Hall at Westmoreland County Community College. The exhibit will run from Saturday, May 22 through Wednesday, June 9, with the Opening Reception on May 22 from 6-8 PM. Awards will be Announced at 7:00 PM on May 22 and posted on our Facebook page. The second exhibit will be held at the Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival on Thursday, July 1 through Sunday, July 4 with the Opening Reception set for Saturday, June 26 from 6-8 PM. Awards will be Announced at 7:00 PM on June 26 and posted on our Facebook page. Both shows are free and open to the public to attend.

A total of \$4,800 in prize money will be awarded in the following categories:

- Best of Show
- Painting
- Graphics
- Craft
- Sculpture
- Photography
- Mixed Media
- Digital Media/Digital Art
- New Entrant
- People's Choice

Winners are selected for each exhibit and are not announced until the night of the Opening Receptions. Both shows provide excellent exposure and serve as wonderful networking opportunities to meet other distinguished artists.

<https://artsandheritage.com/the-arts/art-nationals/>

## Hoyt Regional 2021 Call for Artists

Artists are invited to submit electronic entries for the 48th Hoyt Regional Juried Exhibition. Elaine A. King, freelance curator and art critic, will select works and award winners for the exhibition.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- \* Deadline for Entries: 2/6/21
- \* Notification of Acceptance: 3/15/21
- \* Delivery of accepted works: By 4/3/21
- \* Exhibition Dates: April 13- June 24, 2021

<https://hoartcenter.org/hoart-regional-juried-exhibition/>

## Nicole & Harry MARTIN Spring SHOW

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Sunday, January 24, 2021



Erie Art Museum

The Erie Art Museum's 98th annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show is moving up this year. We're excited to kick off 2021 with the Spring Show. Registration and submission opens this week and must be completed before January 24, 2021. The juror will select the works on February 10, 2021 with the show opening in mid-March.

With the success of last year's digital submission, we are continuing it again this year. Each artist may submit up to three works. Museum members pay \$20 for the first submission and \$10 for any additional entries; non-members pay \$30 for the first submission and \$20 for any additional entries.

We look forward to announcing the Juror soon, until then, [check out the prospectus](#), register and submit!

Not a member? First-time Memberships start at \$15 and include benefits such as free admission to the Museum, invitation to Members-Only events, our Quarterly magazine, and more. We also have monthly membership plans starting at \$2.25 per month. Members entering three works save \$30 on entry fees. [Become a member today and save!](#)

# Call for Artists

3432 Babcock Blvd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-364-3622  
info@northhillsartcenter.org  
www.northhillsartcenter.org



Show Juror:  
William Pfahl  
(see web site for bio)

## The North Hills Art Center

# call for entries!

## Where Love Dwells\* Art Exhibit

\*THEMED SHOW: Each entry MUST incorporate your idea of 'home' somewhere in the piece.

### Benefiting Hello Neighbor

### Awards Announced & Virtual Viewing February 6

Gallery viewing February 8-February 26

### Art Delivery Dates

January 25 – January 29, 10:00am - 3:00pm

January 26, 7:00pm - 9:00pm



Pfahl



### Instructions

**Entry Fee:** Members-\$10 per piece    Nonmembers-\$15 per piece  
Maximum: Three (3) Pieces  
Attach one of the tags below to each entry.

Only recent original (no giclée) 2D & 3D work that has not been in a previous juried show at the NHAC may be submitted.

**Each piece must be ready for display or hanging with picture wire.**

*Work with gallery clips or saw tooth clips will not be accepted.*

No piece of artwork shall be substituted or removed until the last day of the show.

The NHAC is not responsible for damages, loss or theft to any piece during, or if left, after the show.  
Artwork not picked up after 30 days following show closing will become the property of the NHAC.

The NHAC will take a 30% commission on any piece of exhibited art that is sold.

**Show Dates:** February 6 - February 26

**Art Pick Up Dates:** March 1 – March 2, 10:00am - 3:00pm & March 2, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**\*Please note: only 2 days available for pick-up; art must be collected by March 2**

Name: _____	Name: _____	Name: _____
Medium: _____	Medium: _____	Medium: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____	Title: _____
Price: _____	Price: _____	Price: _____

<https://northhillsartcenter.org/resources/Documents/Events/Call%20For%20Entries%202021.jpg>

# WHAL December Challenge: Create a Painting to Music



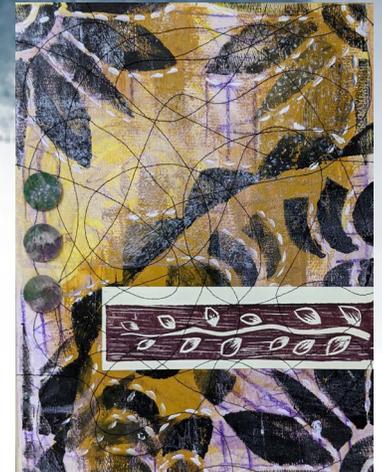
**LYNDA KIRBY**  
"PRIMAVERA", LUDOVICO EINAUDI  
(+ OTHER SONGS FROM MY 'CATHEDRALS  
& FORGOTTEN TEMPLES' PLAYLIST!)  
ACRYLIC



**HELENA VALENTINE**  
"PAPER PLANES", M.I.A.  
ACRYLIC



**JAMES TOBIN**  
"PAUL MCCARTNEY III"  
DIGITAL



**LEAH SHUCK**  
SYLVAN ESSO RADIO ON PANDORA  
MIXED MEDIA



**DOUG BROWN**  
"PA WINTER"  
PAINTED TO JAZZ MUSIC



**DEBRA TOBIN**  
ALLMAN BROTHERS "ONE WAY OUT"  
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN "BORN TO RUN"  
NEKO CASE "BUCKETS OF RAIN"  
MIXED MEDIA PASTEL/DIGITAL



**PR VISSER**  
"THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION"  
PAINTED FOR CINDY GILBERTI, WHO LOVES OLD TRUCKS  
PAINTED TO "ODE TO JOY",  
"JESU, JOY OF MAN'S DESIRING", "NUTCRACKER"

## JANUARY 2020 CHALLENGE: DRAW OR PAINT A FIGURE IN MOTION

\*EMAIL TO [KIRBYCREATIVESERVICES@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KIRBYCREATIVESERVICES@YAHOO.COM) BY JAN. 31\*

Create a portrait of a person or persons in motion.  
Examples could be someone playing sports, people dancing,  
or children running and playing. Your choice of medium.

## WHAL Virtual Show And Share Monday, Jan. 4th @ 7:30pm

All WHAL members are invited! This is simply an informal chat session where members can show recent completed pieces or works-in-progress. There will be opportunities for you to ask questions about someone's process and materials, or you could ask for input on something you are working on, or even just log in to get inspired. It's a great opportunity to connect, collaborate or mentor

**West Hills Art League**  
P.O. Box 633, Moon Township, PA 15108

 [www.WestHillsArtLeague.com](http://www.WestHillsArtLeague.com)  @WestHillsArtLeague

Send Social Media submissions to:  
Cindy Gilberti • [c.b.gilberti@gmail.com](mailto:c.b.gilberti@gmail.com)

Send Newsletter submissions to:  
Lynda Kirby • [kirbycreativeservices@yahoo.com](mailto:kirbycreativeservices@yahoo.com)

### BOARD MEMBERS:

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Kim Freithaler - Vice President / Programs..... [kimartagain@gmail.com](mailto:kimartagain@gmail.com)  
Leah Shuck - Secretary..... [leahshuck@gmail.com](mailto:leahshuck@gmail.com)  
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