

January 2022



chestnut-4819977_1920 Pixabay by Diana Roberts no attribution required

President's Message:

Happy New Year! Yes – we are starting to write “2022” now, after surviving another year of pandemic restrictions and ongoing challenges. On the bright side, this past year has brought us the wonderful development of vaccines so I hope that all of you are enjoying the relative peace of mind that brings to our community.

Weather continues to play a significant part across our nation. Flooding rains in BC late last year, followed by deep freezes and snow in many parts of the country – ah, Canada, how we do love our life here! I trust everyone was able to celebrate the festive season as planned and that you found an opportunity to reconnect with loved ones during the celebrations.

I know many of you are anticipating the start of our winter in-studio classes. I have some late-breaking news in that regard – owing to the very high numbers of virus cases at the moment, and with an excess of caution, **we have decided to delay the start of our classes by 3 weeks. Consequently, our first winter class is now scheduled to commence on Monday, 31st January 2022.** Current health advice is suggesting that this Omicron variant will pass swiftly through our communities and by the end of January we should see a fairly rapid decline in numbers so we decided it might be more prudent to wait. Of course all our normal health and safety measures will remain in place as well, so we believe there is little risk in attending our classes but felt everyone would appreciate a small delay if it improves our environment. Please stay tuned to our website and social media sites for any further updates.

Finally – I should again like to ask...beg, even – for someone to step forward and take up the **role of Treasurer on our Board**. I truly believe there is someone among our membership who has the necessary accounting skills and could spare the few hours a month needed to help steer our great Society. Please contact me if you have any interest or questions about this.



Best regards - Maggie

Quote of the Month:

“It’s difficult to learn from success. I’ve learned more from my mistakes.”

– Louise Penny, Canadian author

Upcoming OAS Art Auction:

The OAS Board is pleased to announce plans to hold a Spring online art auction to raise much needed funds for the Society. Artists are welcome to start thinking about possible submissions of visual art pursuing the theme of “renewal.” Details will follow soon, but note the following dates: Online preview: April 25-27, 2022; Online Auction: April 28-30, 2022.

“No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.” - Proverb

Upcoming Workshop:

More information on the [OAS website](#).

Submitted by Mary Driussi, Program Coordinator

Create Textured Paintings with Palette Knife in Acrylics: An Online Workshop with Instructor Shelley Prior

Put down those blending brushes and put some glorious texture into your painting with a palette knife and acrylic. In this **online** workshop, Shelley will teach you techniques for starting, building and finishing a landscape that glows with light, colour and dimension using only a small palette knife and heavy body acrylic paint.

Saturday February 5 & 12

9:30 am to 12:30 am

Cost: \$35.00 OAS member: \$30.00



Swinton Tips for Rescuing a Canvas:

Some of us have a tendency to overwork a canvas. This leads to the overall detriment of a painting. Along with getting sage advice from OAS instructors in class to rectify this problem, I found two articles by Doug Swinton, owner of Swinton's Art Store in Calgary that may help. The following excerpts are reprinted from [Swinton's art blog](#) with permission:

Rule No. 1: Knowing when to quit

"Knowing when to quit a painting can be like diffusing a bomb. One wrong move and the whole thing blows up before your eyes! I can't tell you how many times I stood on the precipice of the end of a painting only to fall off the edge in the blink of an eye. One of the hardest lessons I'm still trying to learn is when to call it quits on a work in progress. Seems the "just a couple more strokes" fairy has taken up squatter's rights on my shoulder. Here are a few thoughts on how to ignore that pesky fairy and stay off the edge of that cliff. I try to keep the old adage "20% underdone is better than 2% overworked" running through my mind. Quit way early rather than late. A viewer's imagination can finish a painting way more times than you can. Leave some room for this to happen"



Read more here:

<https://www.swintonsart.com/post/when-to-quit-painting-before-this-happens>

Rule No. 2: Abandon or Fix the Problem

“It is way easier to start a new painting than to try to fix an old one. Most of the problem is that if the painting is older than a year most likely you have (or should have) changed as an artist and the new skills you have learned will not work with your older set of skills and you end up repainting the whole thing anyway.

All that being said - if you're going to try to jump back in to [fix] an older work, here is a list of questions that might help you jostle the old brain bucket and aid in solving some problems”.

- Is this scene worthy of a painting to begin with?*
- Would I be better off starting over?*
- What was I trying to say about this scene that was uplifting to the viewer?*
- Is the drawing accurate enough?*
- Do I have a solid value plan?*
- Do I have a dominant temperature throughout the piece?*

Read more here:

<https://www.swintonsart.com/post/10-things-to-know-before-reworking-a-painting>

Easels for Plein Air Painting:

Many aspiring artists subscribe to free painting sites and newsletters. **Plein Air Today**, a bi-weekly digital newsletter that derives from the publication **Plein Air Magazine** offers short articles with videos of interest to beginners and advanced painters alike. A recent article on easels was particularly good, given that many of us are reconsidering the merits of painting outdoors. Artist Sheila Mac Nally completed her own set-up by making a “homemade palette box and paint garage” and attaching it to a sturdy aluminum easel that was about €70. She claimed that it was “Stable enough to withstand licking by cows!” ~

[The Best Plein Air Easels for Artists - OutdoorPainter](#)



A Request from your Bulletin Editors:

We invite **all instructors AND students to submit photos of their works** in progress taken in class. Email newsletterOAS@gmail.com and we will make sure that some, if not all, appear in a future issue.

Happy New Year to everyone. Stay safe! Susan and Leslie.