

# DuPage Art League School & Gallery

February 2022

## TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Visit the DPAL website or stop in the gallery today! Don't miss the next month's newsletter because you forgot to renew. Already renewed? Great! You can pick up your 2022 Activity Guide at the DPAL Front Desk.

## Presidents' Letter

Dear Members...New and Returning,

We want to give you a gentle reminder that DuPage Art League membership renewal is January 1 of each year. If you haven't renewed yet, please make it a point to do so. The new Activity Book is available at the front desk when you renew or join. Single member dues are \$50, family \$60, sustaining member \$100, and lifetime membership is \$350.

Kay Wahlgren will lead a nomination committee to elect new board members for 2022-2023. She will choose another board member, who is not running for office, and two members not currently serving on the board to find members willing to serve a two year to four year term on the board. Carol and I are fulfilling the second year of Dan Anderson's term. A new President needs to be elected by the beginning of May. (To qualify to be president, a member must have served at least one year on the board.) We need a Vice-President of Office Management, a Vice-President of Activities to finish a two year term, and a Vice-President of Finance to start a two year term. Kay will be organizing her committee and posting job descriptions in the classroom very soon. The board meets once a month on the second Thursday of the month. Please give serious consideration to serving on the board.

We hope the 2022 year has started out well for all of you and we look forward to seeing you at the league.

Diana Mitchell and Carol Kincaid  
Co Interim Presidents



## Women's Art Exhibit Walk Misty Alvis | VP Publicity & Promotions

We are planning the 2nd annual Art Walk which will feature DPAL women artists' work displayed in women owned Wheaton businesses. If you live in Wheaton, have worked in Wheaton or went to school in Wheaton and would like to participate, please let me know ASAP, and I can give you more details. Call me at 817.692.8070 or email [misty.alvis@gmail.com](mailto:misty.alvis@gmail.com)

## Donations by Misty Alvis | VP Publicity & Promotions

We are still collecting paper towels and toilet paper for our supplies. The drop off is near our Front Desk. Please consider donating!

The DuPage Art League does not discriminate nor tolerates harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, marital status, citizenship, national origin, genetic information, or any other characteristic.

# Gallery I — Happy New Year!

Judged by Don Yang

## Best of Show

George Bruce, *Peru Farm*, Acrylic

*Excellent sense of color contrast brings out the farm. I love the textural quality which expresses the "earth" of the farmstead.*

## Theme Award

Gary Chipman, *Turkey in the Snow*, Acrylic

*A very realistic scene is expressed in a very graphic way of hard lines (edges) and details. Combination of color temperature with a very illustrative style.*

## Special Merit Awards

Sue Thomas, *California Dreamin'*, Pastel

*Very skillful use of soft quality of pastel to express sense of atmosphere and depth. Love the transparent quality of the water.*

Theresa Lyon,

*Very interesting composition; realistic rendition of the man in front of a very abstract geometric design.*

Vicki Liszewski, *Evening Glow*, Pastel

*This painting expresses exactly what the title says perfectly, "the glow" of light. Contrast of temperature between warm background and cool in the foreground is unmistakable!*

## Merit Awards

Susan McLean, *Just Follow the Signs*, Acrylics

Susan Wilson, *Posies*, Oil

Janet Kloss, *New Safe Harbor*, Watercolor

Sue Rohl, *Hope-filled New Year*, Color Pencil

Margaret Bucholz, **Floral Fantasy**, Watercolor

Mary Ann Asan, *Charlotte Deep in Thought*, Pastel

Mary Kate Venturini, *Headache*, Color Pencil

Ken Kloss, *Happy New Year*, Acrylics

Kristina Stevens, *Polymorphous Moth #2*, Acrylics

Judy MacLeod, *Convergence*, Oil

Barbara Grabowski, *Welcome 2022*, Photo



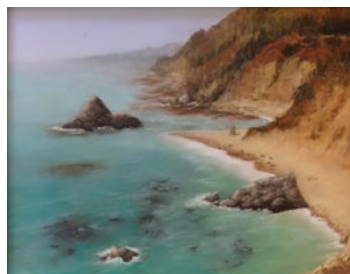
**Best of Show: George Bruce**

*Peru Farm, Acrylic*



**Theme Award: Gary Chipman**

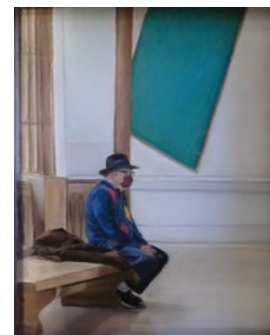
*Turkey in the Snow, Acrylic*



**Special Merit:**

**Sue Thomas**

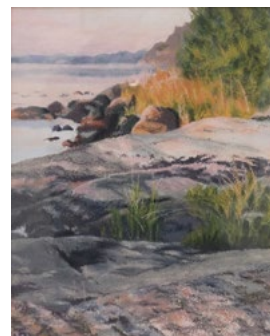
*California Dreamin',  
Pastel*



**Special Merit:**

**Theresa Lyon**

*Argyle Exposure,  
Pastel*



**Special Merit: Vicki Liszewski**

*Evening Glow, Pastel*

## NEWSLETTERS/E-BLAST SUBMITTALS

[vlorimer@yahoo.com](mailto:vlorimer@yahoo.com)

To submit email blast information and newsletter articles, send your information to: [vlorimer@yahoo.com](mailto:vlorimer@yahoo.com) by the 15th of the month.

Acceptable formats for submissions include Word documents or PDF files for text and 300dpi JPG for images). Please proof/verify your information before submitting. **Use minimal formatting; send photos, flyers, images as attachments to your email (not as part of the email body).**



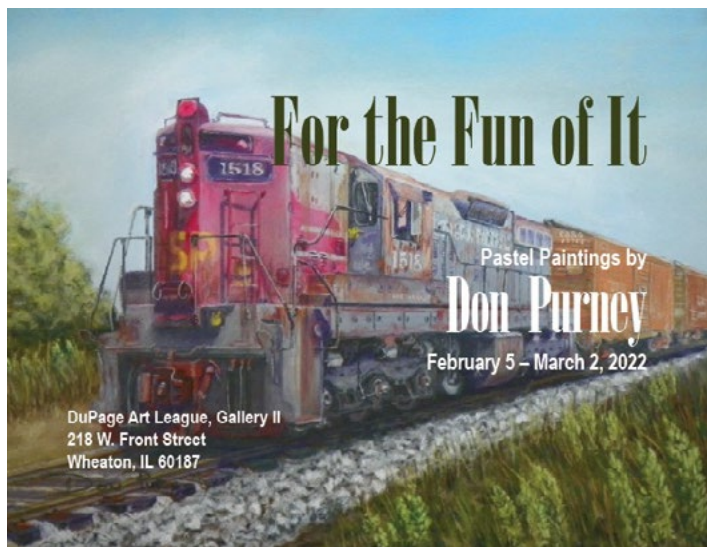
# Gallery II Exhibit: Don Purney Paints For the Fun of It!

Mary Lynn Sullivan | VP Gallery II Exhibits

**Don Purney** – Some artists have the desire to teach or to send a message but I would guess that most of us at DuPage Art League are here for the fun of it. That is why I paint whatever strikes me as interesting. There is no pattern to my art. I like to paint water and so I have done quite a few waterfalls. My time in the U.S. Navy influenced me greatly and so I have done a few ships. I have a model railroad in my basement and so I sometimes paint trains. Isn't there an unwritten rule that every artist has to do a self-portrait? Yep. And so on.

Every artist in the world has probably said this, but I am the kid that kid that grew up with a pencil constantly in his hand. In grade school I went through probably hundreds of sketch pads, desk tops, textbook covers and paint by number sets until finally in college I took my first actual art classes. That lasted until I joined the U.S. Navy. After that I experienced life and didn't get strongly back into art until I retired from my career as an air traffic controller. I found a Tupperware container with my old oils inside and gee, you'll never guess, they were still good and so I went back to the beginning and enrolled in some continuing education art classes at College of DuPage. When my father died I discovered a box of soft pastels in an old cabinet and that was when the true magic began. I signed up for a pastel painting class here at DPAL with artist Gary Wick and have been having a ball ever since.

Pastels deliver instant gratification. They can be worked right now or you can come back next week and they will respond the same. No drying too fast like acrylics or taking forever to dry, as do oils. Pastels are pure pigment in stick form. They are the same pigments as in oils, watercolors and crayons. Pastels are permanent in color but are easily smeared if touched. That is why pastel paintings are generally covered with glass. Some people use fixative to seal their work but I do not. I feel that it alters the colors. Most of my work is in soft pastel but I also play with oils, acrylics and graphite.



# 2022 Exhibit Schedule - Gallery I

MONTH	TITLE	ENTRY	PICK UP DATES
February	Love Letters and Memories	Feb. 2-3	Mar. 2-3
March	Nature Scenes	Mar. 2-3	Mar. 30-31
April	All Animals Large and Small	Mar. 30-31	Apr. 27-28
May	How Does Your Garden Grow?	Apr. 27-28	June 1-2
June	Golden Opportunity – Volunteer Show (by invitation)	June 1-2	June 29-30
July	Places Travelled, Vacations	June 29-30	July 27-28
August	Masters and Fabulous Fakes	July 27-28	Aug. 31-Sep. 1
September	Fall Festival	Aug. 31-Sep. 1	Sep. 28-29
October	Food, Fabulous Food	Sep. 28-29	Oct. 26-27
November/ December	Yuletide Treasures		

## Board Notes

### January Meeting

- Treasurer report: Jennifer Bayer reports that we continue to do well due to the increase in donations, grants, membership fees and winter classes.
- Publicity: Misty Alvis reported that we will participate in the Women's Art Exhibit in March.
- Buildings and Grounds: Kay Wahlgreen said we have had a bad sensor which has been triggering the alarm system. The part is ordered and will be replaced as soon as it arrives.
- Membership: Lori Tucker reported that the membership renewals have been down from last year, but many members are renewing their memberships this month.
- Education: Kathy Szeszol reported that she is interested in finding new and innovative classes and is currently looking for new classes.
- Exhibits: Margaret Bucholz said that there are 26 entries in the Gallery I "Happy New Year" exhibit. February's exhibit theme is Love Letters and Memories, remembering special times and celebrations. Drop-off is February 2 and 3. Pick up will be March 2 and 3. Gallery II exhibits will start again next month.



# The Challenges of Plein Air in Winter

By Maggie Mardis

When you are an artist who likes making art from direct observation or in plein air, Chicago area winters with blistering cold and run-away winds might put a stop to your outdoor art adventures. But does the weather have to win? With a few adjustments perhaps we can keep creating in our favorite way.

Cars can be a handy outdoor studio when the temperatures drop. We can park in a place with a good view in our neighborhood, at a park or at the Morton Arboretum. Setting up a small lap easel with watercolor or gouache or dry media can be done easily. Oil painters do paint in their cars but take care to cover themselves and their steering wheels with plastic bags. When our laps are a few inches too low, some artists have put their lap easels on a steering wheel tray. These are designed for eating or using a laptop computer in the car but are a handy device to have in your car painting setup. If we step outside to paint we might keep our setup close to our cars so we can get inside periodically and warm up. Painting outdoors is possible with layers of warm clothing and what folks call dog walking boots and a warm pair of "for painting only" gloves or finger-less gloves.

That takes care of us but how do our supplies fare in the winter cold? Oil paint gets stiff in the cold so keeping it stored in the house until we go out will help this. Water media of course require water and below freezing the water freezes on our paper and drips off along with our color once we get indoors. Filling your water jar with cheap vodka can make your painting smell boozy temporarily but the painting will stay on the page. It may be best to work on a small scale in all media until we know how we and our materials tolerate the cold. Keeping our setups simple is always a good idea when painting plein air but it is especially good when the cold temperatures are fighting against us.

If nothing will lure us outdoors, then we might try painting the outdoors from the comfort of our homes. With a yard and a window overlooking it, we are set to go. Oil painter, Keven McPherson, painted this way to document the changing light on his pond in all seasons and his lovely paintings are shown in his book, *Reflections on a Pond*. Turning our view away from the window and into the interior of our home gives us another painting option. Interior spaces have fascinated painters like Matisse and Van Gogh. A couch and pillows lit by lamp light or a nearby window can be a challenging subject on a winter day.

Many plein air painters set up a still life in the winter to keep their painting and observation skills fresh. Some artists like James McVicker, place some house plants on a table near a window and make a still life and a landscape in the same painting.



Setting up still lifes of collected objects from outdoors like nests, twigs and branches and dried flowers can help artists capture nature in detail they can not render when they are outdoors. Winter is also a time when artists make larger studio paintings of their plein air studies from prior seasons. Being stuck in the studio is a productive time that many artists look forward to.

Winter can be a challenge and an opportunity. We can observe, study and capture nature while using our materials in new ways and thinking of new ways of being outdoors within our own comfort tolerance. Ready your vodka, your steering wheel trays, your laptop pochade box, your warm gear and perhaps your friends for this winter plein air adventure. Let's let our temporarily cold landscape inspire us.

## Huge Thank You & Final Report on Yuletide Treasures

By Yvonne Thompson, Yuletide Treasures Chair

I don't know where to start except **THANK YOU!** I asked for help and you answered. Thanks to everyone who eased the load as Yuletide Treasures is a lot of work...but **SO MUCH FUN!**

And also, I have the most fabulous news that we not only met last year's figures but topped them by \$5,000! 2020, we took just over \$9,000. This year we went over \$14,000! Not only does that mean almost 50 artists got a check, but we made over \$3,500 for our art league!

As I do every year, I list the top 10 sellers. So here they are in alphabetical order:

Sue Dix  
Barbara Hollow  
Wilda Kemp  
Valerie Lorimer  
Liesl Mann  
Anne Nieman  
Linda O'Connor  
Yvonne Thompson  
Jan Weiland  
Debbie Young

Thank you to everyone who exhibited...and all of you who made a purchase. Our success was because of **YOU!** :o)



**dupageartleague**  
Gallery, School & Gift Shop

## Art Demo: Design & Composition

Monday, Feb. 21 • 6:30 pm • virtual

The key component to every piece of art is design. Watercolorist **Spencer Meagher** will take you inside his composition process. He begins by laying out the painting, deciding what can stay and what has to go. Next, he breaks the subject into large shapes with a quick sketch, followed by laying in a very wet wash of background color. Larger value forms are developed through color and negative painting. In the last stages, Spencer employs simple flecks and applications of paint to accentuate the final image. Provided in partnership with the DuPage Art League.



Register for Zoom webinar invitation:  
<https://wheaton.librarycalendar.com/events/art-demo-design-composition>



# Trying to take a selfie in 1646



## DPAL Board 2021-2022

Co-Presidents: Diana Mitchell and Carol Kincaid

Secretary: Maeva Cook

Treasurer: Jennifer Bayer

VP Activities: Open

VP Building & Grounds: Kay Wahlgren

VP Education: Kathy Szeszol

VP Exhibits: Margaret Bucholz (Gallery I);

Mary Lynn Sullivan (Gallery II)

VP Finance: Sally Hines

VP Membership: Lori Tucker

VP Office Management: Open

VP Publicity & Promotions: Misty Alvis

President Emeritus: Dan Anderson

Yuletide Treasures: Yvonne Thompson, Wilda Kemp, Sherry Theilgaard

Newsletter: Valerie Lorimer | [vlorimer@yahoo.com](mailto:vlorimer@yahoo.com)

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