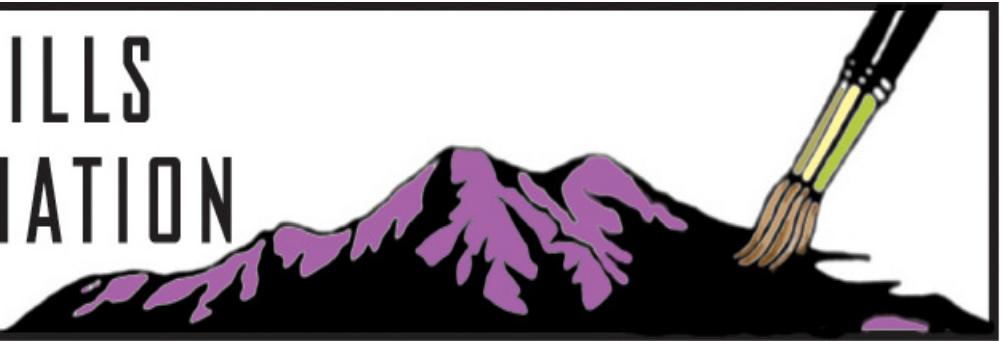


VERDUGO HILLS ART ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2010



Verdugo Hills Art Association, P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0059 • www.verdugoarts.com • Nikki Thomas, Editor

Artist of the Month

Tom Fong: "I paint because it gives me joy"

California native Tom Fong, who will be the demonstrator at VHAA's November membership meeting, paints with a renowned creative abandon, attacking the paper in his signature "free and loose" style. He distills the artistic essence of whatever subject matter is at hand while imbuing movement, light and color with his wide brush and calligraphic accents. In his popular workshops and demos he entertains and inspires students with a quick wit and skilled hand.

Tom Fong was listed as one of 20 *Great Teachers* in the March 2008 collectors' edition of the *Watercolor* magazine (American Artist Publications). His art and teaching have nurtured a loyal following of students, patrons, and admirers through the years.

Tom's style has been described as "fast, bold, direct, spontaneous" and he encourages his students to be "spontaneous and

direct through the creative spirit of intuition and improvisation."

This zen-like aesthetic of artistic freedom seems a bit at odds with the highly precise nature of what was his day job. After all, watercolor painting isn't rocket science. Is it?

The young Chinese-American had an early interest in art, "I loved reading the Sunday comics, including comic books," he relates. "I started to draw at about the age of 7, creating my own comic strips." By the time he was in elementary school Tom was developing an eye for design. His teacher chose his Christmas card as the best designed in the class.

Not too long after Tom graduated from high school he was drafted into the military service during the Korean Conflict. After completing his tour, Tom immediately entered college, graduating from the USC School of Architecture with a major in Industrial Design. In his spare time Tom began studying watercolor painting and taking with such iconic figures in the genre as Robert J. Uecker.



Tom Fong will demonstrate his vibrantly colorful painting style at the November VHAA meeting.

Tom's unique near-vertical paper set up came about from necessity. When seating in a painting classroom was full, he leaned his board against the wall and discovered part of his signature style dwelling in the washes that flowed and mixed in the steep angle of his work surface.

Tom retired early from the aerospace industry to devote more time to his passion. His reasoning: "You can always make more money, but you can't make more time."

He started painting full time and found a ready audience, eager to learn the secrets of his simple, bold approach to painting.

After studying watercolor painting for about

continued on page 4

PLEASE NOTE THAT FUTURE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT LA CAÑADA COMMUNITY CENTER (see map on pg 3)

NEXT ART ASSOCIATION MEETING

Friday, November 5, 2010 • 7:00 P.M.
La Cañada Community Center
4469 Chevy Chase Dr., La Cañada (see map on pg 3)

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 8, 2010 • 7:00 p.m.
at the home of Kobe and Karen Horn
1109 Viscano Dr., Glendale

2010-2011 OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2010-2011 Officers

PRESIDENT.....MARY JANE KLUNE
818/790-1270
maryjaneklune@yahoo.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT.....LILIANE JORIS-ZANUETA
818/913-6510
Lilianejoris@yahoo.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT.....G. BEYER

RECORDING SECRETARY.....GABRIELLE REYNOLDS

CORRESPONDING SEC......KAREN CARTER
818/248-6551
hiswork@earthlink.net

TREASURER.....BOB RUBY
818/249-5053
rubyrobert@charter.net

AUDITOR.....FRANK DE LUCIA
818/951-6640
f.delucia@ca.rr.com

PARLIAMENTARIAN.....SUZANNE BITTERMAN
818/249-5684
sbitte8670@aol.com

2010-2011 Committee Chairs

ARTIST OF THE MONTH.....MARY HOEHN
818/790-3134
lablvrmary@sbcglobal.net

EXHIBITION.....JOYCE PETERSON
626/793-4581

SHERI GARWOOD

818/293-0901
shereeamore@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY.....KAREN HORN
818/240-6979
karenhornthemom@yahoo.com

JOYCE PETERSON

626/793-4581

HISTORIAN.....JEANNE BERGERON
818/507-8122
jbergeron11@netzero.com

MEMBER AT LARGE.....MANON WASHBURN
818/957-2414

MEMBERSHIP.....SUZANNE BITTERMAN
818/249-5684
sbitte8670@aol.com

NEWSLETTER.....NIKKI THOMAS
323/257-3817
nikkithomas1@gmail.com

PUBLICITY.....FRANK DE LUCIA
818/951-6640
f.delucia@ca.rr.com

SCHOLARSHIP.....GLORIA CLARK
818/507-7899
hwandgclark@sbcglobal.net

VIDEO LIBRARIAN.....SUE PEACOCK
626/282-2852
sue-p@pacbell.net

WEBMASTER.....KAREN WINTERS
818/790-4201
gwprod@pacbell.net

WORKSHOP.....SANDY ROONEY
818/249-9006
sandrarooney@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now, finally, we are feeling like fall is here and getting ready for the very busy holiday season. The ghosts and goblins are ready to descend upon us with all their wicked and scary ways. I hope you have plenty of treats to fend them off.

Since I last wrote to you I have been to Ireland and back (see page 3), and by the time I see you again I will have attended another painting workshop in Morro Bay.

As I mentioned at our October meeting, beginning with November 5, the La Canada Community Center will be our new home for meetings and, hopefully, workshops (see map at the bottom of page 3).

Note that this is not the same as the La Cañada Library, home of our Fall Juried Show.

I think you will find the change to your liking. The parking is convenient and safe, there are no stairs to navigate, and there is a slight ramp from the parking lot to our meeting room. The facility is very clean and in good shape; it's a pleasant environment with a large open meeting space. Art and ceramic classes are already offered there along with other community activities. The community center is as pleased to have us as we are to be there because of the commitment to the arts that we both share. A big thank you to Gloria Beyer who suggested and screened possible meeting places, to Sue Peacock, and Gabrielle Reynolds for helping make the choice of LCCC.

We could use the help of a few members to set up chairs and tables at 6:30

pm and to clear away at the end of the meeting, so feel free to volunteer, we can always use help, come join us, be a part of the action!

Thanks to Liliane Joris-Zanduetta who commissioned our October demonstrator. Vadim Zang painted a lifelike portrait of Manon. I know we were all impressed by his knowledge and ability. Gabrielle and her spouse, Patrick (left), put together the projector and camera, and learned to



work it so that we could view the demonstration on a screen, which made the whole experience so much more enjoyable. Thank you Patrick and Gabrielle!

This month we will have Tom Fong with his wonderful loose landscapes in watercolor. Many of you know Tom and will be happy to see him return to our November meeting.

We all like to see each other's paintings at "Artist of the Month" so do bring a sample of what you are currently doing to share with the group.

Looking forward to seeing you all in November!



Mary Jane Klune
President

VHAA People News

Sandra Rooney received honorable mention at the Collage Artists of America show at Viva Gallery in September.

"49 Shades of Green:" painting in Ireland — members' report

"Grab your painting gear, a raincoat, umbrellas and join 26 other artists for a two-week tour of Southern Ireland. Watch leader, Chris Van Winkle paint watercolor demos at beautiful sites, view castle ruins and the "49 shades of green" fields, and fall into the village pubs for Irish Stew and a Guinness (to keep up your strength)."

That's what four members of VHAA and MidValley Art Association did in September.

Arriving in Dublin September 1, we spent the first week at the "Corn Loft" Studio at Heritage Farm in Tomsallagh, County Wexford, run by Rita Lett. Rita is an amazing Irish lady who brought a beautiful country's history and legends to life, planning bus trips through 12 of the 26 counties of Ireland, feeding us and filling our every need!

We traveled the Ring of Kerry with its craggy cliffs overlooking harbors, fields of sheep and cows, medieval villages and the multi-colored cottages so typical of this charming country.

A day trip to New Ross to climb aboard the Dunbrody Famine Ship — a full-scale replica ship that emigrants took to North America — dramatically

showed us why many did not survive. One of our members found her grandmother's name on the registry list, coming to America as a young girl.

We also saw one of the Seven Wonders of the World, The Cliffs of Moher, standing 214 feet high over the Atlantic Ocean, and ended that day with an authentic Medieval Banquet at Bunratty Castle.

We were really able to use the "wet-into-wet" technique since it rained every day. Often after our plein aire painters would set up in sunny weather, add colors to their paintings, and then rain would start. How frustrating to see their paint flow down off the paper at their feet.

On our last day in Dublin, Rita arranged a special viewing for us of watercolors at the National Gallery: two Turners, one done as a young boy and the other at the end of this life, and a Winslow Homer in its original wood frame made by Homer himself.

Joining Chris and his wife Caroline Van Winkle on this artist's dream trip were Mary Jane Klune, Sandy Rooney, Joyce Peterson and Bob Ruby. From VHAA, thanks Chris and pass the Guinness, please!

— Joyce Peterson



Chris Van Winkle paints in Ireland.

Upcoming events

■ VHAA FALL JURIED ART SHOW

La Cañada-Flintridge Library
4545 No. Oakwood Ave.; La Cañada

- TAKE IN: Sat., Oct. 30, 9-10 a.m. at the entrance at the rear of the building
- PICK-UP: Sat., Dec. 4, 9-10 a.m. at the Library

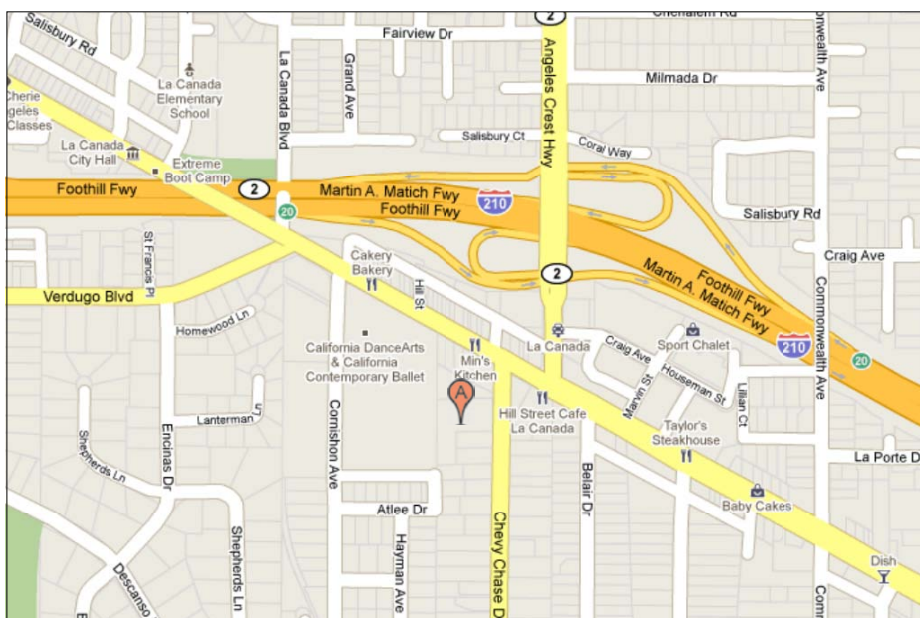
The Gallery will be open from Nov. 1 through Dec. 3 during regular library hours.

Currently at the La Cañada Library until the end of October are Nancy Weeks and Dorothy Shephard, both members of VHAA, exhibiting their work. In December there will be paintings by Shirley Manning, JoAnn Formia, and Jan Wright who are members of the Mid Valley Arts League.

■ THE 42ND ANNUAL WATERCOLOR WEST will run through December 19. Featured artists are Frank Francese, Tony Sheets, and Geri Medway. Address: Brea Civic and Cultural Center, 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA 92821

■ WOMEN PAINTERS WEST is having a show called "Mememto Mori" at the VIVA Art Center from November 3 to November 20. Address: 13261 Moorpark St., Sherman Oaks. W-F 11 am to 4 p.m. Sat. 12-4 p.m.

Map for La Cañada Community Center (4469 Chevy Chase Dr., La Cañada)



Two win *Artist of the Month* awards in October



Lee Sanderson (left) won first place for her oil painting entitled *Small Crafts Warning*. Sheri Garwood won second place for her watercolor *Breaking Through*. Congratulations to our winners! And thank you to all the artists who entered. It is always a special part of our evening to celebrate everyone's art. Each piece has its own story and interpretation, and we are always grateful to those who share with us.

— Mary Hoehn, *Chairman, Artist of the Month*

How to Become a More Creative Realist

By NITA LELAND

1. Include something that isn't there in order to make your design more interesting.
2. Invent a reality-based fantasy from your imagination.
3. Include a visual surprise for your viewers.
4. Give a realistic scene a twist: a touch of humor, shock or playfulness. Use your imagination – and the elements of design – to adapt this point of view to your subject.
5. Enhance a realistic image with fanciful embellishments.
6. Superimpose lines or patterns to create decorative texture or playful movement.

TOM FONG Continued from page 1

10 years, one of his instructors encouraged him to start teaching watercolor classes/workshops. "I paint," he says, "because it gives me joy. I teach because I love sharing my art experiences with others and I also learn from my students."

Tom Fong puts his trust in the process of painting, approaching it with a curious and intuitive spirit. "I paint with wide flat brushes, bold, spontaneous, and direct through the creative spirit of intuition and improvisation," he says.

His paintings display the colorful chaos of life simplified and stripped to its visual and kinetic essentials, serene yet dramatic. "There's no right way or wrong way," he says. "You've just gotta make mistakes, but the more mistakes you make, the more you learn!"

He comes right to the point when he paints. Working quickly, he has become known for his skill at "on the spot" painting demos, expertly weaving composition, paint, and color into dynamic pieces of expressive art.

Tom Fong is a signature member of

Watercolor West. He served as president in 2003 and 2004 and is currently the Exhibition Screening Chair. His award-winning paintings have been shown in numerous national competitions, and his work has appeared in *Splash 6*, *The Artist's Magazine*, *American Artist*, *Watercolor* and *Watercolor Magic*.

Tom Fong

1903 So. Meridian Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

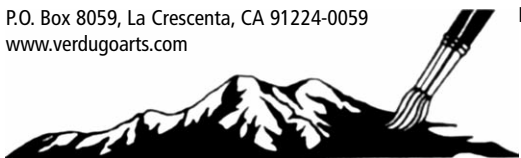
626/282-3790

e-mail: fongfam@juno.com

website: www.tomfongwatercolors.com

VERDUGO HILLS ART ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 8059, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0059
www.verdugoarts.com



**DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE PROCESS IMMEDIATELY**

VERDUGO HILLS ART ASSOCIATION Juried Competition

Date ____/____/____

CLASSIFICATION (circle one)
Painting/Graphics Photography Sculpture

CATEGORY of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Representational Non-Representational

DIVISION of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Open Premiere Honor

Print Name _____

Title of Work _____

Medium _____

Sale Price _____ **Phone** _____

SCORING
Composition _____
Technique _____
Creativity _____
TOTAL _____

VERDUGO HILLS ART ASSOCIATION Juried Competition

Date ____/____/____

CLASSIFICATION (circle one)
Painting/Graphics Photography Sculpture

CATEGORY of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Representational Non-Representational

DIVISION of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Open Premiere Honor

Print Name _____

Title of Work _____

Medium _____

Sale Price _____ **Phone** _____

SCORING
Composition _____
Technique _____
Creativity _____
TOTAL _____

VERDUGO HILLS ART ASSOCIATION Juried Competition

Date ____/____/____

CLASSIFICATION (circle one)
Painting/Graphics Photography Sculpture

CATEGORY of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Representational Non-Representational

DIVISION of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Open Premiere Honor

Print Name _____

Title of Work _____

Medium _____

Sale Price _____ **Phone** _____

SCORING
Composition _____
Technique _____
Creativity _____
TOTAL _____



File Copy for VHAA

Date ____/____/____

CLASSIFICATION (circle one)
Painting/Graphics Photography Sculpture

CATEGORY of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Representational Non-Representational

DIVISION of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Open Premiere Honor

Print Name _____

Title of Work _____

Medium _____

Sale Price _____ **Phone** _____

Attach form to upper left on back of work

File Copy for VHAA

Date ____/____/____

CLASSIFICATION (circle one)
Painting/Graphics Photography Sculpture

CATEGORY of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Representational Non-Representational

DIVISION of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Open Premiere Honor

Print Name _____

Title of Work _____

Medium _____

Sale Price _____ **Phone** _____

Attach form to upper left on back of work

File Copy for VHAA

Date ____/____/____

CLASSIFICATION (circle one)
Painting/Graphics Photography Sculpture

CATEGORY of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Representational Non-Representational

DIVISION of Painting/Graphics (circle one)
Open Premiere Honor

Print Name _____

Title of Work _____

Medium _____

Sale Price _____ **Phone** _____

Attach form to upper left on back of work