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INDEPENDENT ART SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2024

IAS Board Members

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Newsletter	Elaine Meranus 516-672-7257
Secretary	Elaine Meranus 516-672-7257
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Web Master	Lisa Corradi 516-445-7403

President's Message

Dear IAS members, I hope you are having a great summer so far in spite of the rain and heat. Long Island is known for all its beautiful beaches, both on the North and South Shores. If you have the opportunity to go to one this summer, pack a sketch pad and some drawing and painting tools in your bag along with your sunscreen. Take a few photos of people on the beach, candid of course, and the shore line or boats along a dock, that may inspire you to paint from in the future. Have a great time on vacation where ever you go. I hope to see you all next month at our meeting at Planting Fields.

Christine Greene
President

Mark Your Calendars

Our meeting on Tuesday, August 13 will be again at Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay and not at Clark Botanical Gardens in Albertson NY. Our demonstrator is

Suzala who will be painting plein air in watercolors. It will be in the late afternoon this time from 4:00 to 6:00PM in order to capture the sun and shadows that are most beautiful that time of day. Let's hope for another pleasant day. Rain date is Wednesday, August 14 at the same time.

We are invited to either watch her paint or bring our watercolor set ups and paint or draw as well. I will let you know in an email the exact location in the park that she chooses. We will meet again near the entrance after we park our cars and walk to the area together. Don't forget to scan your driver's license in the parking machine, if you are a senior, for a free ticket. Or pay \$8 in singles if not, or pay with a credit card. The ticket is placed on your dashboard. Bring your own chairs, refreshments and water bottles. I look forward to seeing you all next month.

Christine Greene
President

Our August 2024 Demonstrator Suzala

Suzala is an artist who works in a variety of media. She is a watercolorist and she loves watching pigment and water combine in mysterious and beautiful ways. Print making is a medium she explores in the cooler months. She works as a graphic designer specializing in logos, branding, illustration and pre-production work. She also does commissioned work.

Suzala teaches art, offering private lessons for adults and children in her Long Island studio and online. She also creates workshops that she teaches nationally and online.

Suzala is a NYC-urbansketcher, drawing, inking and painting the world around her.

Her work can be found on Instagram: @suzalele
Cara: @suzala www.suzala.com

July Meeting Review Christine Greene

Our meeting this month on Tuesday, July 9 was at Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, NY. from 10 AM to 1PM. Tom Germano, our demo artist, did a wonderful plein air painting from start to finish in under 3 hours. The location he picked was perfect not just for the beauty of the scene but also because it was under an open-air archway located in the back of Coe Hall. There were 12 members and 3 guests present who enjoyed shade and cool breezes while watching Tom paint and entertain us with his engaging stories of artists and their techniques when painting outdoors.

Tom started his painting by telling us about his medium, water-based oil paints. His favorite is Windsor Newton, Artisan Brand. Tom said the beauty of water-based oils is

you only need to dilute your paint with water. There is no need for turpentine or oil. The cleanup is also easier. He prefers to work on a white canvas and his palette is also a white, disposable paper palette.

Tom relies on observation rather than a value study in pencil. He studies the scene and draws it on his canvas directly with burnt umber paint applied with a small round brush. He prefers to use all round bristle brushes in various sizes instead of flats or filberts. Next, he blocked in his darks and middle grounds leaving the lightest areas, the white of the canvas, to paint in last. As he painted, he worked all over the canvas, never fully completing any one area so he could judge his colors and values better against the adjacent areas. He doesn't use black paint to mix his darks. He uses complementary colors instead. He also mixes his greens rather than using them out of a tube on his palette. He also uses a small palette knife to apply paint to the canvas, using it to incise and scratch into the wet paint as if a drawing tool.

Tom explained that plein air painting is an opportunity for painting directly from nature, "Ala Prima" style, rather than drawing a detailed, tightly rendered painting. That technique is more suitable for studio painting.

Everyone enjoyed watching Tom create a beautiful, almost complete painting by the end of the session. Our very happy raffle winner was our newest member, Arlene Papier-Brickman, who will arrange with Tom to take it home when he completes it in his studio.

News For and About Our Members

Lisa Corradi has two pieces of her work at the D. Valez Gallery in Huntington through July 19th. She also has two pieces in the gift shop at Old Westbury Gardens and one piece through August 30th in Barnes Gallery in Garden City.

Birthday Greetings to our IAS members-

Wishing our July birthdays **Ritta Davantis** and **Boyd Shockley** a very happy and healthy birthday and many, many more.