

Manasquan River Group of Artists

Established 1938
Newsletter



M. R. G. A., P. O. Box 614, Manasquan,

www.mrga38.org

New Jersey 08736 May 2021

President's Message

Presidents Message May 2021

May Flowers at last! The pall of the virus is weakening as we enter the spring of this year, in contrast to last year when the state of the pandemic was uncertain. We are optimistically looking for a time when we will be able to meet again at the Curtis House for an evening of MRGA art business, socialization and fun. I am looking ahead to possibly September as a target date; however, time, recovery, and our members individual comfort meeting indoors will be the deciding factor. We will schedule a virtual meeting if a regular meeting is not possible. In the meantime, we will reach out to some venues to determine if any our previous outdoor shows will occur during the summer and will let you know if any of our MRGA exhibits are resurrected.

The Trustees held a recent meeting and have decided, due to the Covid interruption the present slate of offices including the two elected at-large Trustees will stand for the present term until we restart our schedule and can proceed with the biennial election process. A friendly reminder it is dues time again. Submit your dues for the coming year by June 30.

In the meantime, please send your artwork to Maryann Goodwin for publication in the Newsletter and to Sheila Soyster for publication on the MRGA website. Get the sunscreen on and get out for some plein air painting.

Bob Stetz
President



Please visit the website for MRGA www.mrga38.org Our website is being updated regularly by Sheila Soyster. Please contact Sheila with any information: sheila624@comcast.net or 732-892-7692. Thank you Sheila.

Nobody tells you these things.....
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How you see it; How you don't !

I can comfortably say most if not all artists have taken a photo back to our painting sanctuary as the basis of our composition, to be used in entirety or at least as a reliable reference. There are three fundamental problems that all photographs have that we should recognize and be able to conquer if we are to use the photo as a tool not a shackle. They are depth of field/focus, value clumping, and color distortion. Stay with me now for a short while.

First understand cameras don't see the way that we do. They are designed to focus within a vertical plane parallel to the lens of the camera. The depth of this plane in focus is called depth of field. Without getting too technical, this plane (or area in focus) is set by what aperture (camera guys call this the f-stop) you set on your camera. The wider the lens opening, (f3.5, labeled on the lens) the less of the depth of the plane is in focus. The narrower or smallest opening of the lens (f16), the more of the plane is in focus. See, I knew you could get that.

The camera produces an image that is completely in focus for the depth of field or plane, you have set by the aperture. Look at it like a slice of bread (or a few slices) in the middle of a loaf. That slice or few slices represent the depth of field or plane in focus.

There is an equal amount of focus everywhere on that slice of bread or slices along every side corner to corner. That is what the camera image gives us in the photograph.

The human eye works differently. Our eyes focus three dimensionally; as if looking at a model of the earth's layers, where we see only the core in focus. Not only are all the other layers less focused, they progressively lose crispness as they move farther away from the core. As a painter, you are in control of how you choose your center of interest. If you rely on the camera to do it for you, your whole painting will be the center of interest, which is the same as having no focal point at all. You must control where and how you establish the edge quality, and the camera can't help you in that it shows that everything in focus has equally sharp edges. Based on the center of interest you have chosen, make the decisions on the edges that support your choice. Use the sharpest edges to grab the viewers eye, the less sharp edges to move the viewers eye across the canvas toward your focal point, and the softest edge where you want the viewers eye to glide. The other two fundamental problems with photo, value clumping and color distortion are easy to spot in your photo and should not be used to paint the values in your compositions or portraits. Photo's "clump" values (don't separate dark values well), and also distort color depending on the quality of the reproduction of the photo. Only use the lightest lights and darkest darks of a photo as a guide for your values.

Don't become a slave to the photograph used as the basis of your composition. It is a good guide, reference, or idea, but not your art.

It's that time again!

The 2021 dues payment of \$30 for active members and \$10 for inactive members is due by June 30. Please send your payment to Treasurer Laura Lutz, 64 Clark Street, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Member Art Opportunity

Sea Lavender Garden Club Tour Seeking volunteer artists

The Garden Club of Manasquan is again seeking artists for their Garden Tour to paint plein air at the home locations on the tour. Here are some details:

- Date: Thursday 6/24- rain date 6/25 Time: 9am to 4pm
- Time dependent on response. If enough artists respond, there can be 2 shifts, say 9 to 12, or 12 to 4. Otherwise, artists can come & go as they please.
- There are 10 locations with gardens.
- Artists will be told their garden location but cannot go onto the property beforehand.
- 2 house locations can accommodate 2 artists working at the same time.
- Can sell only note cards.
- Business cards, brochures, and 1 optional example of work allowed (not for sale).
- Can offer painting to owner first, then any other viewer.

Contact Denise Cahill
naturemom7@optonline.com
(732)245-2026

Member News



Karen Norby received this kind and clever Christmas card and note from **Honorary Member Irene Walker**. She sent it to Karen in appreciation to receiving the March newsletter. Irene writes in her note that she is 95 years old, and her hand gets a little stiff.

A reminder that a small kindness is always appreciated.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION-PLEASE NOTE

All submissions for the newsletter and changes to your address, phone or email should be sent by email to MaryAnn Goodwin at maryanngoodwinarts@gmail.com by the 20th of the month for the next newsletter. Newsletters are prepared the prior month for September, October, November, December, January/February (Single issue in Feb.), March, April, May, and June. When announcing an award please give the title of your work. Photographs should include the names of the persons in them except for a large group. "Classifieds" will run only once unless you request a repeat.