



Brushstrokes

The Savannah Art Association Newsletter

April 2020

Editorial

Social distancing comes naturally to some of us.

If you are trying to paint, sculpt, photograph, or otherwise create, having anyone within six feet of you can be a distraction. For example, if you are trying to write a newsletter, having a dog poke at your left shin can derail your train of thought. Take my word for it.

Art is a solitary undertaking. It requires concentration on both the subject and the hand-eye coordination and perhaps fine tuning the idea that caused you to pick up your brushes in the first place. That's an awful lot of multi-tasking right there – engaging in conversation at the same time can be too much processing for anyone's head.

So a time of social distancing would seem to be a golden age for creators. It might be so, if all you need to do is execute your art. Your ideas are already in place, and your inspirations are neatly documented and filed away, only awaiting the opportunity to make them physical.

My filing system doesn't work like that. Inspirations do not come as regularly as electric bills or dental appointments, and when they do, unless I write them down, they rapidly fade into the past. Sometime that happens even if I do write them down. Inspirations often require neater handwriting than mine to recall.

Many of my inspirations come from the things I see; I am part of the "hey, look at that!" school of creation. In times of social distancing, that can be a problem.

Not all distancing requirements are obvious. Here, east of the city, we have enough people that nature, my most frequent inspiration, has been put on reservations. The reservations are controlled and regulated, because you never know when somebody might slip in at night and put up townhouses. Many of them are now closed. Cockspur Island, Oatland Island, the beach at Tybee. Nope, nope, nope-ity-nope. All are unavailable. They are closed

because people might congregate there. Explaining to the custodians that you are an artist, not a person, does no good. Again, you may take my word for it.

Some chunks of undeveloped land are available of course, but they now must accommodate everyone who might otherwise be at work or at Cockspur Island, Oatland Island, or the beach. That six-foot restriction can be tricky to enforce.

A big part of art is having it appreciated – non-artists rarely think of that. This is a terrible time to burst on the scene with your innovative, well-thought out and brilliantly executed art. Your art isn't the problem – the scene is. There isn't any scene right now. Exhibitions are out.

As I write this, we are doing well. Chatham County was assigned a grade of B by an organization that measures social distancing. I'm not sure their methodology is all that accurate, but we ought to take compliments when we can. Wyoming got an F, and you wouldn't think social distancing would be that much of a problem in Wyoming. Maybe they still have snow cover, but not quite enough. We don't have that problem.

Stay safe.

Ed

Airport News

Carol Hartley, Chairperson –Airport Gallery

I would like to wish you well during this difficult time in our world. Our Gallery is a quiet relief for travelers. I have sent off two paintings this month. Congratulations are in order for Kenneth Harrington who sold a small watercolor and Kathy Varadi for her oil. And three more are in the works.

Our show of landscapes has been very well received. Beautiful! As you know it was a judged show. Our judge was Terry Moeller, a professor from SCAD, who herself paints wonderful landscapes.



Carol Hartley

Our winners were:

First Place: Becky Marcussen – “Savannah Wildlife Refuge” Mixed Media

Second Place: John Molino- “Colorful Clearing” Pastel

Third Place: Carol Hartley – “Gooseberry Beach, Newport” Oil

Honorable Mention

Ann Powers-West – “Burnside Causeway”

Mary Atkins – “Back Lot”

Mimi Diamond – “Nocturne, Moon River Savannah”

Sarah Bernzott – “On Liberty Street”



Organization

Here's how we are organized:

- Carol Hartley – Chairperson and Hanging
- Sue Diaz – Intake, receiving new work, and monies at the Airport.
- Martha Love – Hanging
- John Molino – Hanging

We'll announce new dates will be announced for future shows when possible. The Landscape Show will stay up until we get an all clear on our present world situation.

The next show is themed “Life's a Beach”. Information forms will be sent out in about a month. Please remember to have your work properly wired for hanging. Thanks.

Our “Local Wall” is where small works are hung with subjects about life and views of Savannah. It’s changed out every two months. Also, more information will be forthcoming about fees for this wall and change out. They will go up slightly to synchronize with how we manage our Members Room in the Chippewa Gallery.



Aviation Painting Project – Savannah Airport – first and second floor.

I have met with Conni Reynolds, Marketing Coordinator at the Airport. She has extended our date of finished work until June. There are many spots on the first and second floor to hang our work. Here are some guidelines for now.

Subject – Savannah Aviation – Past and Present

Size of work: 30x40, 36x48, 18x24 or 22x28; .no smaller. Canvas wrapped, or framed.

Art work will be hung for a six month period.

Any sales will be handled by the artist and buyer. Art must stay up for the entire six month period, and then it can be collected by a buyer. No prices will be advertised.

The Airport Commission will not be responsible for any damage that may occur to the artwork.

The Airport would like these paintings to be done with good taste in mind. If this endeavor is successful, we are encouraged to have a new collection of work to go up after the first six month period. The theme will change. This is a wonderful opportunity for SAA! I want to thank Sarah Bernzott for getting this idea off the ground with the Airport.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas or questions. If you are moving forward with a painting to exhibit, please make me aware you are working on this project. Many thanks, and I am excited and hope we can make a grand showing of our work!

Contact me at: cbchartley@gmail.com or (912) 659-0098



At The Gallery



The Gallery has been closed since mid-March for the required “Stay At Home” Policy. We will be happy to re-open when the experts tell us it is safe to do so and visitors have returned to our city.

In the meantime, Tiffany Taylor, in lieu of her Art Walk, has told us about sending a 30-second video about our gallery to News@WJCL.com, which they will post on their Facebook page. Tiffany will post the same video on the Savannah Art Walk page and her social media pages.

Christina Taylor will help with these postings. She already had a video of the Gallery, not current. But it shows off the interior of our space, which always gets rave reviews from our visitors. I will compose an oral story to accompany the video.

Please add to your Facebook and Instagram pages that once we are back open, we will welcome everyone with new art.

Cathy Sizer
Gallery Manager

Board of Directors

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Paint Out 2020 Cancelled

We have decided to cancel Paint Out Savannah! 2020 and carry over our efforts to make our 2021 event even better.

A decision to reschedule an event our members and participants are looking forward to is never easy, but, understandably, we must all do our part in taking a proactive approach to our community's best health. Also, we believe Paint Out will be more enjoyable taking place at a time when the community is at ease and can take part more fully in the reception, art sales and raffle.

We hope you will carry your registration over to the new 2021 date but will offer refunds upon written request.

These should be submitted to our treasurer, Sue Diaz at lavgolfnh@gmail.com

In the meantime, paint on!