

Inspirational Yosemite

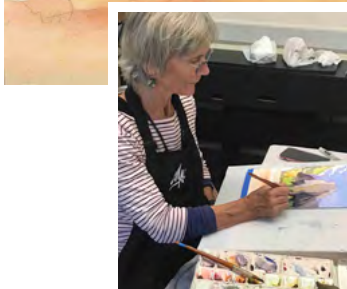
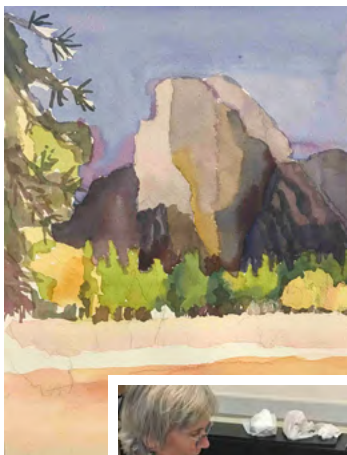
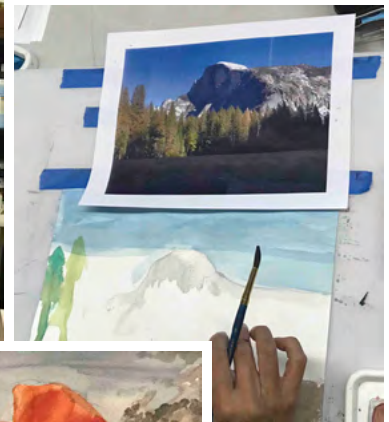
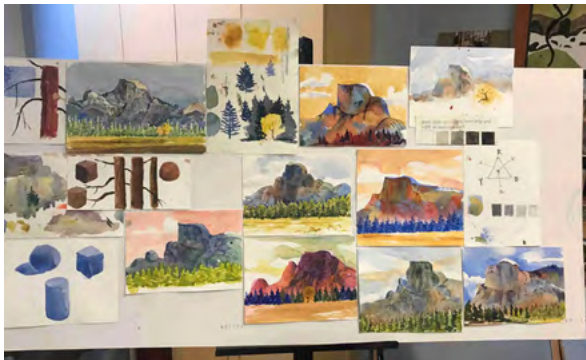
Half Dome is one of the iconic landmarks of Yosemite National Park. Last month the Oakland veterans had the good fortune to paint from photos taken by Michael Friedland who had just returned from teaching there this October. Michael demonstrated how to make things dimensional. We worked on our paintings letting colors mix on the paper to establish the Half Dome shape. Michael reminded us that color was relative, for example, not all skies need to be blue.

As the group sketched from the photos, the conversation went to who visits Yosemite. Michael had discovered that visitors were (pretty much) either tourists or rock climbers. Many employees of the park are serious rock climbers. After dark one can see lights on the face of El Capitan where the climbers spend the nights hanging from the wall in slings. Most of us wondered at rock climbers' motivations.

The first of the vets to share his work had greatly simplified the landscape to just a slab of rock, surrounded by a yellow sky and a plain minimal foreground. He went on to tell a tale of how he first scaled Half Dome when he was nine years old. Then when eleven years old he scaled Half Dome rope free. Furthermore, at fifteen made his first rescue. We were all amazed and dumbfounded to learn this until he broke out laughing and we realized that he was pulling our leg. His tall tale had enriched his artwork and got us all laughing.

The rest of the group had worked at truer, more realistic interpretations of the valley floor, trees and rising rock formations. We found that a range of values increased our success, but as always we had plenty more to experience in the wide world of watercolor painting.

Sheila Cain





Community Outreach

Martinez VA



November was a busy month for everyone. We presented our annual art show during the Veteran's Day weekend. Choosing representative works became yet another learning experience as we matted work for the show. Geanna was instrumental in deciding how best to present her work. It was exciting to see how the matting brought out the beauty of everyone's work. Victoria and I mounted the work on the windows in a busy hallway intersection. Judging by reactions, it is a hit! Ceremonies were getting underway as we finished. All branches of service were represented and attendees were appreciative and in good spirits.

Maggie Metcalf

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to your community.**

Call Sheila Cain (510) 845-0863



Community Outreach

The Memory Project with John Swett High School



This photo is an example of youths and their portraits created at the Memory Project.

CWA Community Outreach is pleased to announce that we have embarked upon a wonderful outreach opportunity with the Memory Project. This is a nonprofit organization that invites art teachers and their students to create portraits for youth around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as neglect, abuse, loss of parents and extreme poverty.

CWA is working with a local high school, John Swett, in Crockett, California. CWA has connected the new John Swett student art club with the Memory Project's Portrait Program. They have just received their first set

of photos from ten children in Afghanistan. Our high school students will paint portraits from these photos. Once the portraits are completed, they will be sent back and shared with excited children awaiting these art works from another country so far away. CWA will be funding this, as well as supplying some art materials.

This is an extremely powerful program, and we are so excited to be a part of it. We look forward to connecting more local schools in the future.

Georganne Zaro-Eddy
Co-Chair Community Outreach

For further information, check out memoryproject.org.



Community Outreach

Thank you California Watercolor Association

November 14, 2019

Dear Sheila Cain,

Thank you so very much for sponsoring the “Best Watercolor grades 11-12” award for the watercolor piece “Night Terrors” I entered into the Alameda County Fair this year. That piece was part of a series I made based on a concentration of traumatic experiences that occur in many people, and it means quite a lot to me that one of them was recognized and appreciated.

Having my work be respected in this manner, as a young adult trying to make it in the field of art, is both an incredible feat for me, and a boost to the understanding that art is definitely appreciated in this world, unlike what some may say. I am grateful to have the chance to thank you personally.

With sincere gratitude,

Aaliyah Gholamipour



Night Terrors by Aaliyah Gholamipour

Every year CWA juries and awards student artworks at the Alameda County Fair. This year we received a thank you letter from a high school student that I want to share with you. It shows how important our CWA organization can be to a young person. This letter has made me proud to work for and be a member of California Watercolor Association.

Sheila Cain

