



Community Outreach

Oakland Veterans Center Hosts Community Outreach: New Home



Michael Friedland instructs the class in-person and on Zoom, the finished *Poppy Bouquet* paintings, Gigi, Sheila and her finished painting, Rudy mixing his colors, Lynn painting multiple versions of landscapes, Craig painting in some final details, Nancy and her finished landscape

Covid had pretty much closed the door on our Community Outreach with the veterans for the last two years. This April Nancy Redden connected with Glynis Banks, who is the Director of the Veterans Center in Oakland. Glynis was open to CWA holding an event with veterans there. On May 20th and June 24th we held painting workshops led by Michael Friedland that were both in person and on Zoom.

We were thrilled to see and paint with our veteran friends from pre-quarantine times and meet new veterans. The Veterans Center purchased brushes, pigments, and palettes for the première event. CWA supplies the paper for workshops from donated supplies.

For our May 20th event, Michael had us paint a bouquet of red poppies in a wet into wet process. He had us let the red pigment flow up beyond the poppies to be developed into a background. We moved to the dry paper areas working up the stems and buds then back to the background to define the edges of the blossoms finishing the lovely floral vignette.

During this first event, we observed that some vets were unfamiliar with watercolor basics. For June 24th we asked Glynis to supply the class with needed additional pigments for a full basic palette: a warm and a cool of each primary color: red, yellow, blue plus the earth pigment, raw umber. Michael laid out a wealth of information (watercolor basics) in a

concise, clear manner. Some students played with stroke types and values before moving on to the project of the day.

We painted a multicolored sky as a wash flowing down to a landscape. This required speed, which was challenging. Having the colors mix on the paper before they dried was the project. We sprinkled droplets of water into the sky creating an evening sky-scapes. Some of us rewet the paper and went back in and finished the landscape. All in all, we had fun and learned a lot.

When we finished, many students expressed how much they had learned from the review of watercolor basics. Others spoke of going home and practicing watercolors all afternoon. Many positive comments came in from the Zoom attendees as well.

We are thrilled that CWA Outreach has a new home at the Veterans Center in Oakland. We look forward to many more events there.

Thank you, Nancy and Glynis, and thanks to Gigi who shared her photos, many appearing in this article.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach