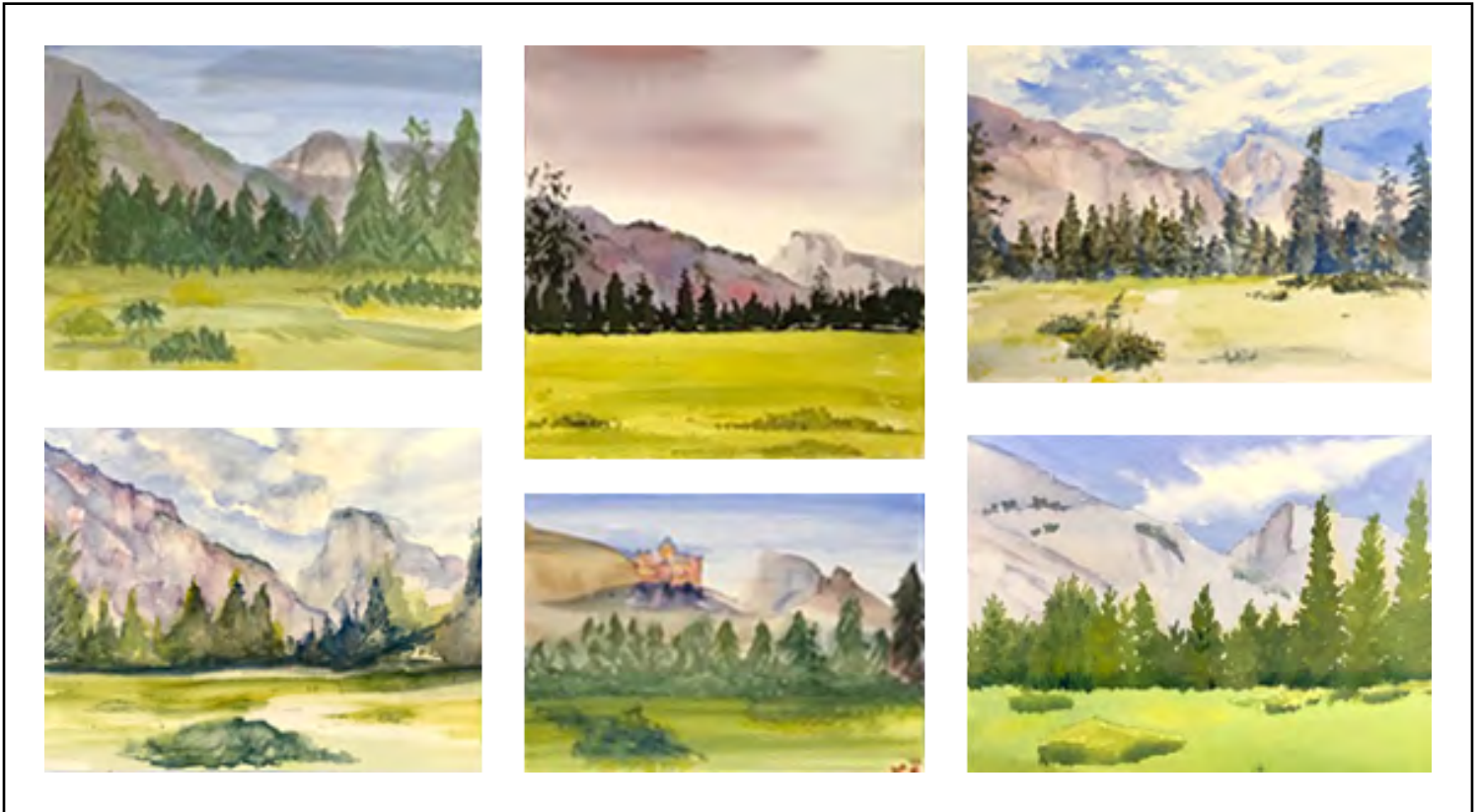




Community Outreach

Oakland Veterans "Visit Yosemite"



The August gathering of the veterans at the Oakland Veterans Center felt like a visit to Yosemite because the group painted Cook's Meadow with a pine forest behind and topped with the granite peak of Half Dome. Michael Friedland provided us with the photo he took while teaching watercolor there in July. It's a great shot and perfect for our lesson on working washes in three simple shapes.

Michael began the class with a review of painting washes in irregular shapes. He then went on with mixing lighter to darker shades of color by building up water puddles with enough pigment to hold the consistency of tea, milk, cream, or yogurt. Using a tea consistency to paint the lightest wash, followed by milk for a fuller color, then cream for an even fuller color, and finally yogurt for the darkest color marks.

We began our paintings by sketching the horizon line and those few lines we needed for the big shapes. Starting with the sky, Michael led us through the "paint along" moving top to bottom, wet into wet. Along the way, the vets, being the vets, moved into their own interpretations of this fabulous landscape. The huge granite mountains, clouds, pine grove,

and meadow gave us quite a challenge. Some of us got a good start on this painting during class time. Others accomplished a completed painting in the class. Michael's completed painting was very striking with a classic light-dark-light composition.

When we concluded the class we shared our work and some snacks provided by the Veterans Center. We socialized and comments were made on Rudy's great cloudy sky, Michael's chartreuse meadow, and Nancy's castle perched on the mountaintop — plenty of artistic license at play here. A good number of us left planning to work, maybe finish, our paintings at home. Studying the natural wonders of Yosemite made a delightful painting day for CWA volunteers and the veterans.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach