



Sketches...

Official Newsletter of your
Lake County Art League

January 2021

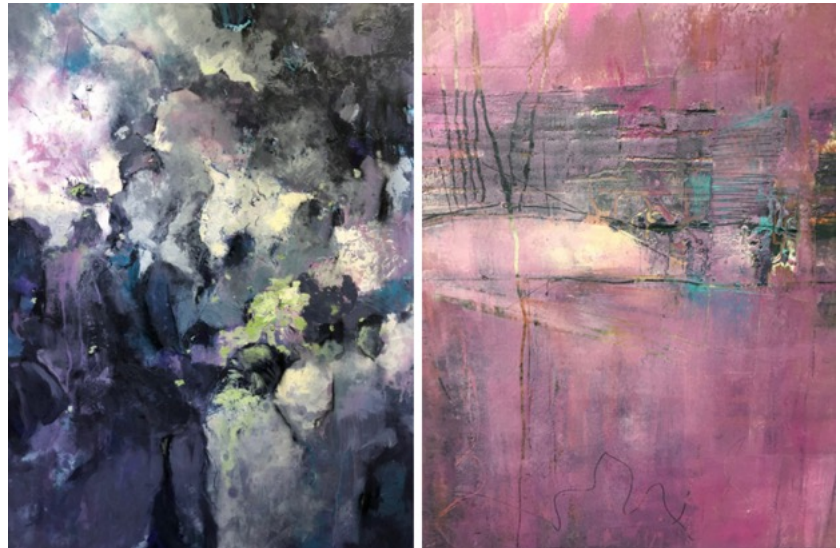
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Karen Sako to present January demonstration

“Soulful marks, energetic colors and multiple complex transparent layers of oil and cold wax medium allow me to achieve depth in my paintings.”

Karen Sako is going to demonstrate the use of cold wax medium in our January general meeting. That will be Monday January 18, starting at 7:00 pm on Zoom, and a link to the meeting will be sent to members. Jeff Harold interviewed Karen for this notice, and the 5-minute Zoom result is posted at [LCAL Karen Sako Promo](#).

More specifically, Karen is going to talk about cold wax medium and how to use it for multiple effects with oils from thick texture to thin glazes. See the results to the right. She is an award-winning mixed media artist, graphic designer, and art instructor with a BFA in Visual Communications from The Illinois Institute of Art. “Constantly conflicted between being a graphic designer or a painter, I realized I could fuse the two together and found each discipline complimenting the other. ...soulful marks, energetic colors and multiple complex transparent layers of oil and cold wax medium allow me to achieve depth in my paintings. Elements are then revealed that push and pull the viewer through the composition...”



Karen teaches at Mainstreet Art Center in Lake Zurich, and her Sako Studios has a new 1500 square foot studio in a business park in Wheeling. “After a whirlwind month of moving and unpacking, everything is finally organized and ready to go! I have eight paintings in a growing new series up on the walls...”

sako
studios

Like many of us she is a dedicated plein air painter, and laments that “this year many of the plein air events were cancelled and it seemed like every day I had planned to head out with my painting buddies mother nature decided to serve up a storm. I managed to get out a few times for practice but not as much as I wanted.” She feels unbiased by historical stereotypes, free to explore her surroundings in their present raw form with an unending curiosity. It is these life experiences that are transformed into visual works of art.

Chris Tanner recalls that Karen once painted with the Lake County Art League plein air group at the Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve. “She does experiment. That day she disappeared into the tall grass and later shared paintings that used pigments mixed with glitter to represent the textured trunks of trees. It was strikingly successful.”



“Having members do a little project along with me would be cool! What they will need is: Oil paint black, white and a color of their choice, gamblin cold wax medium, any small painting substrate like canvas, arches oil paper or a geesobord, paper towels, paint thinner, a toothpick and a palette knife.”

Karen primarily shows her work at Epilogue in Long Grove, *a place of unexpected and rewarding shopping, gifting and learning*, and the Aeon Gallery in Richmond, currently *a dark art exhibition exploring the tumultuous path to a new stage of existence*. Her work hangs in private collections around the world, and she is a member of the Midwest Collage Society and the National Collage Society.

New Year’s ideas from the Board of Directors

Sometimes ideas just bubble up, and our Monday January 5 board meeting, the first after a problematic 2020, seemed to be such a moment. The hope that remarkable new vaccines promise to bring the pandemic to a halt might have had something to do with that.

Jeff Harold wants to include a virtual interview of our presenters. We can put it in our monthly description of a pending demo or lecture, and you will see a link to the first such interview in the above article about the January presentation.

Chris Tanner wants to again have a friendly competition during the break in our monthly presentations, but have a *virtual* competition during a *virtual* presentation. Members would need to submit photographs to the Zoom meeting host (Phil Schorn or Jeff Harold) who would then set up a file that the presenter and others could page through during the break. At the conclusion of the break the presenter would comment on 1-3 of the best. Sketches are always fun and could be included, but would not be eligible for presenter comment. (That has not been planned for our January meeting.)

Someone else thought that we could expand that idea to have a dedicated virtual general meeting where everyone brings and discusses their latest works, including sketches or short videos.

After publicity director Tom Perkowitz talked about how he is enlarging our presence on Facebook, someone suggested that Tom could do a presentation on how we as individual artists can best gain higher visibility on Facebook.

Ali Albakri thinks the time is right for expanding our relationship with Christ Episcopal Church beyond hosting the Undercroft Gallery. The new pastor has shown some interest and some discussions are planned.

Oliver Merriam suggested that we develop an “exhibit wall” in a public space like a library. That would be part of our On-The-Wall program, which has necessarily been inactive during the pandemic, but would reasonably be a top priority when the time is right.

Workshops have also been inactive, but the board started to kick around ideas. Stained glass and watercolor workshops were mentioned, and everyone wondered if that could be done virtually now. Val Brandner noted that Bob Lossman has a passion for exploring and sharing a wide range of media. We know Bob through our long relationship with College of Lake County (CLC). The idea is to find one or more media he could help participants play with over a few sessions. The focus would be less on skill and more on creative expression.

Scholarship Selection Committee announced

For the Lake County Art League year 2020-2021 the Scholarship selection committee will be members Mary Haas, Clarese Ornstein, and Mary Neely. The Director of the committee, who is not a selector, is member Val Brandner.

Two scholarship awards will be offered to CLC students for work juried into the Student Show that will take place in April 2021.

This program has been in effect for many years and is part of the mission of the Art League to create more interest in art in Lake County Illinois and to develop a higher appreciation of visual art.

Lake County Art League members who would have an interest in being a member of the selection committee in future years please contact Val Brandner at isketchit@yahoo.com. Selection committee members must be LCAL members and have no relationship with the students being considered.

Get the most from your LCAL membership

Also, if you have never looked at our web page or Facebook page google them at **Lake County Art League** today. Check out the entries www.lcal.org and [www.facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lakecountyartleague).

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The Lake County Art League year runs from September through June. In the past we have met on the third Monday of these months, 7-9:00 pm. Meetings in September, October, January, February, March, April and June included presentations, usually a demonstration. November and May meetings are the closing critiques for our popular fall and spring membership shows. Finally, we take a holiday break in December. *In the midst of a pandemic our meetings are being done virtually with Zoom video and audio. Here are dates and times that should be on your horizon:*

- **January General Meeting and Demonstration**, Monday January 18, 7-9:00 pm. This will be a Zoom event.
- **February General Meeting and Demonstration**, Monday February 15, 7-9:00 pm. This will be a Zoom event.
- **March General Meeting and Demonstration**, Monday March 15, 7-9:00 pm. This will be a Zoom event.
- **April check-in for Spring Membership Show**, April 3-16. Entries will be digital images and the May critique will be our May General Meeting, a Zoom event.

Elected Officers

President	Gail Gudgeon	gaile.gudgeon@gmail.com
Vice President	Mary Neely	mmbn@yahoo.com
Recording Sec	Jack Littlefield	thelittlefields@gmail.com
Corresponding Sec	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com

Directors

Art Festivals	(vacant until festivals again become viable)	
Historian	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Hospitality	Fran Issac	fmisaac@aol.com
	Sunny Parenteau	parenteausunny@gmail.com
Librarian	(vacant)	
Membership	Betty Perri	bettyaperri@gmail.com
	Leslie Nauta	nautateam@comcast.net
On-The-Wall	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Debbie Kalinowski	artbydebbiek@gmail.com
Publicity	Tom Perkowitz	perkowitz@mac.com
Scholarships	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Sketches	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
Visual Recording	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com
Workshops	(vacant)	

Connection to the Art Community

Social Media	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Website	Phil Schorn	phil@pschornstudio.com
Legacy Art	Thom Kapheim	kapart1@sbcglobal.net
Plein Air	Chris Tanner	chrisetanner@sbcglobal.net
	Deb Edmunds	edmundsdl@gmail.com
Undercroft	Ali Albakri	nyika1940@gmail.com