

Presentation by Nancy Manoogian

20th Anniversary Celebration, held October 6, 2017

It's Not Chalk...

It's simple really...how CTPS began. It was the summer of 1997

I attended a pastel workshop near Dallas with all materials furnished. One look at the instructor's large box of beautiful pastel sticks and I was in love! (Remember in elementary school the first time you opened that 96piece set of Crayolas? That feeling)! An artist could simply pick up a stick of color and paint! No paint mixing! No brushes!

I was excited...but disappointed to find no one sold pastels in Temple. I told my acrylic and oil painting friends that I was trading my brushes for pastels and their reaction was "YOU WANT TO PAINT WITH CHALK?" There were challenges ahead!!

My husband gave me a full set of Rembrandts and that was just the beginning. You can never have enough pastels...right??!!Eventually I met Carol Goettl, a young artist and college student, who taught me the basic fundamentals of pastel painting and through our friendship came the idea of creating a pastel group. Surely there were other artists in our area interested in pastels!

I don't know how many pastel societies there were nationally in 1997 but there were only 3 in Texas: Dallas, El Paso and Amarillo.

Founding President Carol Goettl and I braved I35 (yes, there was construction back then too) on a dark and stormy night to attend a meeting of the Pastel Society of the Southwest in Dallas. Doug Dawson was their speaker and we watched in awe as he emptied his Tupperware bowl of dusty pastels on a cloth, sorted through to select warm and cools to create a beautiful likeness of the young woman before him. And no one dared called those lovely sticks" CHALK!!"Armed with helpful information from the generous members, we hydroplaned our way back south on a rain slick 135, making plans for the new Central Texas Pastel Society.

On the night of September 23, 1997 16 artists met at the Cultural Activities Center in Temple. We were an enthusiastic group...funds were limited: instead of programs, we painted giving us an opportunity to learn from one another. We had many plein air outings. The first few years were filled with serious fun but hard artistic work! Our small group created 7 exhibitions within our first 2 years. And you know our tradition: there was always food. Two members, Whitney Scholars and Judy Lamar drove in from Austin monthly with ice chests filled with refreshments. We celebrated each September with birthday cake and balloons until maybe year FOUR or FIVE we stopped that tradition because we felt...we had finally made it!!!

After Carol, Denise Mahlke, an up and coming artist and art teacher from Georgetown, became president. She gave us a breath of fresh air and took us in a new direction: both figuratively and literally.

We left the CAC and traveled south, meeting at various locations in Georgetown and Round Rock and our numbers grew steadily. We met at a Rec room in a retirement home, at a large comfortable room at a maintenance center, at an art school, at the beloved Windberg Art School and now the Georgetown Library.

During those early years, we defended pastel's definition as pure pigment...not chalk. So much so, that one of our first CAC exhibits was titled "It's Not Chalk!"

20 years!! Thank you to our founding members Carol, Whitney, Judy Lamar, Beth Christoff, Frances McCauley, Mary Ann Morton, Gloria Price, Caralen Rose and Becky Lorraine Rusk, members past and present, our many board members past and present...all who gave, and are giving, their talents and creative energy making CTPS what it is today!

And a special thank you to my husband, Roger for his tireless encouragement and support these past 20 years.

Happy 20th Anniversary CTPS....and many, many more!

DON'T SNIFFLE!!!