



Sketches...

Official Newsletter of your Lake County Art League

February 2021

Since 1934 LCAL.org 501c3

Juliette Belmonte will be providing our February 15 demo

"I feel great joy through the practice of making art as to me it's a meditation on beauty and the surprising form that it can sometimes take."

Juliette Belmonte was born in Costa Rica, but moved to the United States as a child. The character of her art comes from watching her professional artist mother work in her studio, and also from what Juliette calls a nomadic childhood. Thus her credo is constant change. "I think part of me wants to see what's going to happen next."



Recently that has been abstract portraits built from vintage photographs, especially of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. She hunts for the expression or look that to her seems to transcend time. "Occasionally there is something I instantly recognize in a face as familiar, and that will become my subject. It appeals to me that though this person is long gone, the story that is captured in their expression remains." The abstract element comes from her incorporation of found objects, fabrics, gold leaf and organic elements into her current paintings. "I like the physical layers they help to create, and feel those layers act as metaphors for times past."

The focus of demo will be about how she goes about adding to the surface of a portrait that she has painted. See her interview with Jeff Harold at [Juliette Belmonte Promo](#). See also a video that Juliette did for the University of Utah at [Juliette Belmonte University of Utah Video](#).

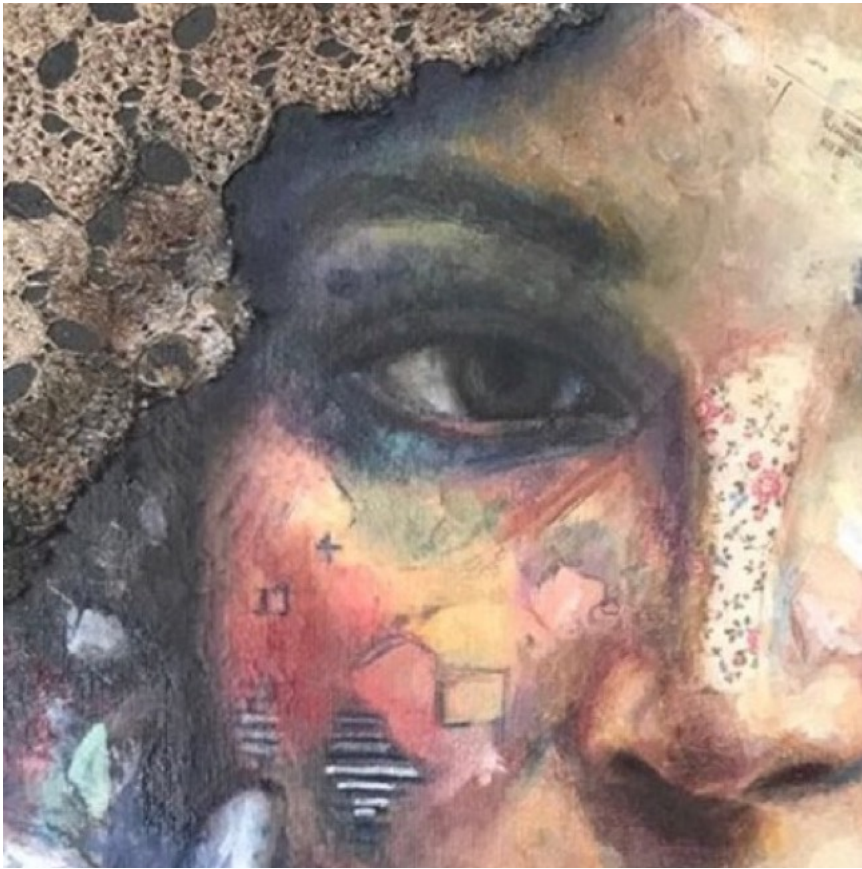
Juliette's parents signed her up for her first official painting class at

the age of ten. She ultimately studied at the Art Students League of New York, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. Currently Juliette is exploring life in the American West and is living and painting in Oakland California. She came to our attention teaching a recent workshop at the Main Street Art Center in Lake Zurich. See her web site at <https://www.juliettebelmonte.com>.

Juliette explains the photo to the right of her and her mask:
"I borrowed the bottom half of this face from one of my portraits and had this mask made at my favorite printing company @finerworks. Because I couldn't help myself. It cracks me up and makes me feel creepy at the same time. Stay safe everyone!"



Juliette is doing another three-day workshop at Main Street on February 19, 20 and 21, 9-4:00, \$450, and there are still a couple of openings left. They are also having a three-day pastel workshop with Jen Evenhaus <https://www.jenevenhus.com> on April 30, May 1 and 2. Call 847-550-0016.



Left is a detail that shows Juliette's incorporation of her "found objects, fabrics, gold leaf and organic elements."

Eight weeks before Spring Membership Show begins

The countdown starts, and there are a couple of changes that might impact everyone's timing. We had extended the Fall Membership Show check-in period because we were all adapting to doing this virtually and the technical problems that come with that, but it will again be only the one week between and including the first and second Saturdays in April.



Another change is that the artists must submit two photographs, a minor additional effort that will give a better sense of fine art. As before, there will be a photo that is just the actual painting or photograph, but no frame, in what we will now call an "art view." This will again be a high-resolution image so that anyone can zoom in to study a detail. Heavy brush strokes and pallet knife applications should use side lighting to bring out rich impasto textures. The additional photo will include the frame as well, and will be shot at a bit of angle for a "gallery view." An added benefit is that this pair of photos make it much easier to fully capture your art with a smart phone camera.

The combined two photos and once again the relative-size graphic (all to the left), better replicate the viewer experience. They also reward attractive presentation

(which many of our critique artists have emphasized) and allow three-dimensional features that play against the two-dimensional surface (which some of our members have done over the years). Finally, this opens the door to diptych and triptych presentations that need unusually precise display alignment with nails driven into a wall.

Other doors that open in our virtual gallery are nude paintings and controversial subjects. They were awkward in a public space like the Jack Benny Center, but there is no longer any need for caution.

Memories of Skip Wiese

Only two weeks ago Skip and Toni Wiese's daughter Corry Bleck sent the following to "LCAL Board and Members:" She wrote that "It is with great difficulty we share with you that our father, Skip Wiese, passed away on January 7th. He passed peacefully in his sleep of natural causes. His love for family, friends and art was very important to him. We wish we could give you this news in person, but sadly it's not possible at this time. ... A celebration of his life will be held at a future date. With deep sadness, Carrie Ware Chris Heslin Cathy Herman Corry Bleck." The two LCAL newsletters — *Sketches* and *Member News* — are collaborating to share our memories of this kind man who has touched so many of us. This record will be for his family as well as for us.

Interviewed in 2013, Skip Wiese called himself a figurative artist with a "sloppy and loose" style, and more specifically a good draftsman, colorist, painter and designer. Mostly, he said, he sees himself as a teacher, and says he wants his students to grow to where they "will be able to critique their own paintings and have the confidence to correct them."

Ali Albakri: Most people called him Skip, but I called him "The Skipper". He was that kind of person to me. He was a SKIPPER kind of guy. He was the captain of the major part of my artist life.

I was already in the executive committee of LCAL as the recording secretary when the nomination for the next years officers came around. Someone suggested that I should submit my name to be nominated for president. I was shocked to my core at the thought of doing anything like that. So I sked my "Skipper" what should I do. His words tore through my chest, "Run Ali run, run Ali run, run Ali run," he repeated again, and again. It was like the "oom ba yah-oom ba yah-oom ba yah" chant of praise for Muhammad Ali when he was in Africa.



That was the humor of Skip Wiese. He smiled and laughed as he gave me his rhythmic advice. He thought it was funny. I could have thought it was funny also, but Skip was my closest associate in LCAL and every word that came out of his mouth was a "pearl of wisdom" to me. I ran and was elected, and that is how the LCAL came to have its first Black President. Shortly thereafter the United States of America followed suit.

Ali's recent photo of Skip and his daughters is above.

Val Brandner: Being a long-time member of the Lake County Art League, my memories of Skip are many. From the times we were on the board together, to when on the spur of the moment Skip would step in to give a demonstration to the art league, or his setting up the lights at our Spring and Fall Shows. He seemed to be involved in everything. I especially admired his art. He seemed to be proficient in so many different mediums and his work in each of them was amazing. I always thought of him as a fearless artist. He seemed willing to try everything. But my fondest memories of him are when I would run into him and Toni at Bob and Anne's Restaurant in Waukegan. Either they ate there a lot or I did, but I can't count the times we ran into each other there. Great conversations and it was always a treat to see Skip and Toni. They were so happy together and it's my hope that once again they are together in peace.

See more memories in the February **Member News**.

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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:

- **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

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Treasurer	Elizabeth Engle	betharoo30@aol.com

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Tours	Val Brandner	isketchit@yahoo.com
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Workshops	(vacant)	

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