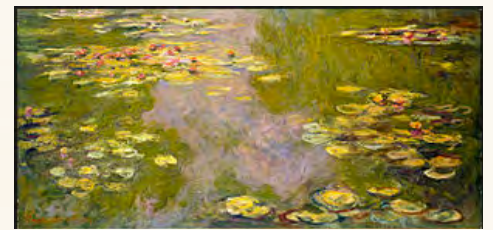




from the president

California Watercolor Association



“Modern paintings are like women, you’ll never enjoy them if you try to understand them.” – *Freddy Mercury*

Do you do that? Do you walk through a venue and try to pick apart paintings that are not a photo realistic creation of an obvious subject?

You’ll see an abstract.

The colors will draw you to it.

You’ll read the art tag.

You’ll step back and try to understand the correlation between the art tag and the painting and for the life of you, you just can’t see it... whatever IT is!

I believe the same thing must happen with every new style of art on display to the public.

The work must be analyzed.

It must be closely examined.

It must be scrutinized and discussed.

It must be picked apart and put back together in the viewer’s mind.

But what about just enjoying the work for what it is... a creation. Think of seeing a Monet, Matisse or Picasso for the first time. People viewing works by those artists initially wanted to destroy their artwork.

And now, the “modern” art by the Impressionists, Cubists, Surrealists, Expressionists and every other “ists” are revered for the forward thinking of the artist.

I’ve been to a few O’Keefe exhibitions and have always been amazed at interpretations of her work, especially by critics. Really, couldn’t that painting just be a close up of a flower like she says it is?

I like what Freddy said. I’ll look at modern paintings and decide if I like them, not if I understand them. It makes life simpler!

Carol Husslein,
CWA President