



Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

Landscapes and Portraits

November marked the return of two important members of our group from their travels: Michael Friedland, who had been teaching watercolor in Maine, and Libby, who had spent time in France. Michael leads many of our projects, while Libby takes care of setup, refreshes our water, and handles cleanup afterward.

For this session, some groups focused on their portraits or self-portraits, while others worked on a snow scene that Michael had originally created as a grayscale painting. After returning home, he developed it into a beautiful full-color piece.

Sheila was painting on a type of paper that behaved oddly. It absorbed water and changed color when wet but looked normal once it dried. Michael explained that if you stretch your paper by thoroughly soaking it, the damaged areas will become transparent when wet. In such cases, it's best not to use that paper but to switch to another. Once you have committed a chunk of time to a painting, you want to finish it willy-nilly, though it can be challenging.

Michael's snow project seemed simple at first, but it quickly became clear that achieving the beautiful soft modulated colors required wetting, dropping in color, and drying the paper with the hair dryer in order to build up beautiful glowing washes in the sky and cool soft shadows in the snow. For the sky, they washed three areas of color onto the wet paper. When completely dry, a light cerulean blue was washed over the entire sky shifting the colors and unifying them.



When the paper was dry enough greys and browns were painted to fringe the horizon with distant soft indistinct vegetation. The cabin and the tree were painted next and if it was timed right the tree went into slightly wet paper again giving a soft edge. Pencil lines angled across the paper to create perspective became the fence posts. Then the foreground was wet with water and cobalt blue washed in for shadows and shaping the terrain of the snow. Once the foreground was totally dry the fence posts and wires were painted leading the viewer's eye back to the left horizon of the composition and then to shift to the right on the horizon to the cabin, the focus of the painting. All in all, it was a challenging project.

A few members of the group took a cupcake break enjoying treats for Veterans Day. We didn't have a formal critique, but looked at each other's work and admired George's addition of the red cardinal on the fence post in the snowy landscape. Pat had begun a reflection in the sunglasses of her self-portrait which was looking good. The plan for next month is to finish up unfinished paintings so that we start the New Year with a fresh new lease on life.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach





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and choose a recipient from the drop down menu.

Membership/Data Manager

Make changes to your address, phone number and email on the members home page, under membership when you're logged with a current membership account. Email datamanager@californiawatercolor.org if you have trouble logging in.

General Meeting

No meeting in December. Our next meeting is January 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Happy painting!

Newsletter Distribution

To receive this newsletter electronically please contact the Webmaster with the email address at which you wish to receive the newsletter.

CWA Photo Notice

CWA may be taking photos or videos at CWA events. Your attendance at CWA events constitutes your "permission, consent, and release" to be photographed without compensation whatsoever in perpetuity. Images may be used online and in print exclusively by CWA explicitly for publicity, information, and promotion.



 **Plan Ahead!**

Submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication!

**January Newsletter
Deadline is December 15th.**

Click here to make a submission.



Community Outreach — Martinez VA

Holiday Greeting Card Project

As we entered the first week of November, it felt a bit early to start thinking about the holidays, so we decided to take a different approach to December-themed images. I brought a selection of holiday greeting cards I've collected over the years, featuring beautiful reproductions of original paintings. It was a pleasure to share insights about the artists' unique styles while everyone explored their options and made their selections. Our session was both focused and productive, and we're excited to complete most of our work at the next meeting. This month's images reflect the strong sense of community and peace these veterans have cultivated, which is truly special.

With gratitude,

Maggie Metcalf

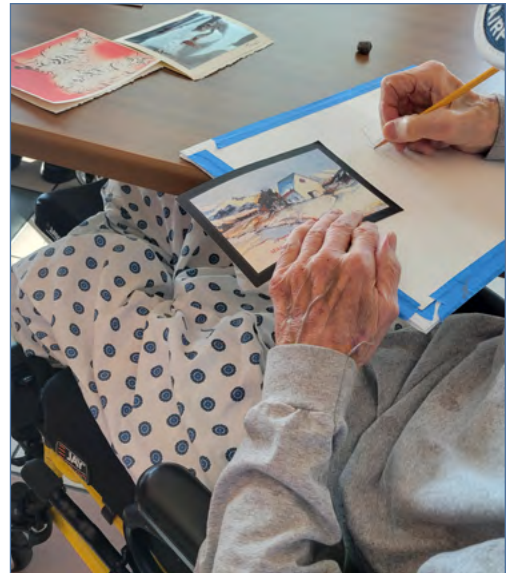
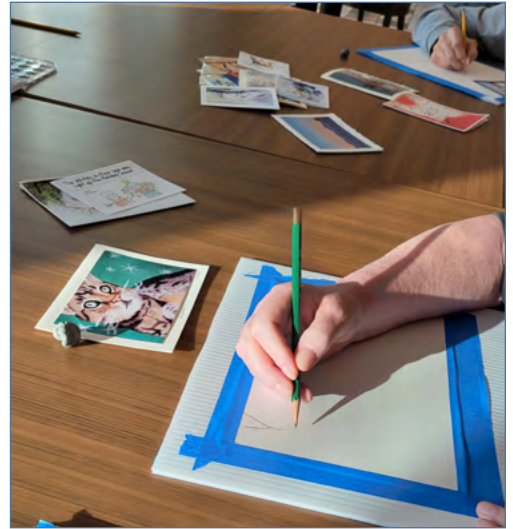
Community Outreach

What We Do

CWA provides support to veterans at the Oakland and Martinez VA facilities by organizing monthly and bi-monthly watermedia painting sessions. The Martinez group consists of both inpatient and outpatient veterans, many of whom are dealing with mental and physical disabilities. CWA volunteers offer one-on-one assistance and guidance, helping these individuals discover joy through watermedia art.

What You Can Do

We welcome volunteers of all backgrounds, including artists, art enthusiasts, and individuals who enjoy collaborating in a watermedia format. We are looking for teachers, assistants, writers, and anyone willing to help by filling water containers, squeezing paint, or cleaning brushes. Our two veteran's programs include introductory training. Please consider joining us.



For further information, please contact us:

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