

## August OPAA column, Peninsula ArtWalks, Suzan Noyes

*"So far, so good," said the turkey at the oven door.*" Unknown

We speak of going online for art tutorials and lessons during Covid-19 restrictions. I'll assume some other painters refer to art books to try a lesson or new technique. I admit to liking the printed page as I don't have a tablet to use for instant visual reference.



I find that I can't rely on a recommended paint color in a book or magazine article compared to my own sample at home. Often, they end up two different colors. Is it photography that makes Hooker's Green look so dark on the page...since my own acrylic turns out *spring green*? Gahhh. Maybe it's my brand of paint. An artist suggested it could be printer's inks in the art book. Whatever. Is this what I get for actively expanding my artistic vistas - stuck with spring green on a ten-buck sheet of cold press? If I wet it down, give it a darker wash – that's not following the instructions. I'm painting like Suzan instead of Mr./Ms.



Famous, following the lesson. Either being sixty-five or viral frustration makes this a difficult choice... My brilliant art teacher in college said artistic mistakes often end up as fine finished paintings. He was usually right as most of mine ended up okay. Here's to you, Fidel Danielli.



I'll share photos of that reference, my original acrylic wash and a switch to pastels for what happened next.

After researching Port Angeles Fine Arts Center in July, I queried Sequim's own Ross Brown, chairman of the *City Arts and Advisory Commission (CAAC)* to share his thoughts of the immediate future of art venues. Ross believes we will be challenged in months to come. "Sharing art with others and finding ways to promote the Arts here in Sequim will test our creative skills. I can't see the future," he says, "but in looking to the past we've met each challenge as artists. We service and will always be part of this society."

Regarding his own art (his striking bronze won first place in the Blue Whole's 3-D show in January), Ross says, "I continue to make works of art as it is who I am."

The City of Sequim offers a virtual juried show called "Fluidity" beginning July 3<sup>rd</sup>, also on their blog at <http://www.sequimwa.gov/952/CAAC-Arts-Blog> . The blog does presentations of some local artists' thoughts and artwork. Several OPAA members' works are included (see the OPAA Newsletter).

Recently, I also checked in with some past OPAA column artists.

Digital Artist Kay Harper told me Port Townsend Gallery is open for limited hours, Noon to five p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday with two gallery representatives available. The gallery follows all required health practices, with plastic face guards at the front desk and jewelry counters.

"We've had a surprising number of visitors and better sales than I expected, though not what we'd normally see this time of year," says Kay. Customers have been compliant about wearing masks, the gallery offers additional safety measures. She also adds that fellow co-operative gallery members hope to continue forward, business-wise, remaining with the group. Some can't work at the gallery for a variety of reasons but assist in other ways. This gallery has been part of Kay's life for ten years and she doesn't want to see it close.

Currently, she uses her time wisely with online classes and says her head is bursting with new ideas. "I focus on flower photography and this time of year my subject matter is readily available. I've been busy taking photographs to edit and work with over winter."

Landscape photography classes are another love. Kay has been staying close to home but wants to visit local beaches to pursue some new concepts like Intentional Camera Movement (ICM). She plans a new series of water images for a new project called "Soft Water". The former microbiologist says we're fortunate to live in a beautiful location with a relatively low infection rate, compared to some other areas.

I appreciate Kay and the gallery for their 'leap of faith'. Stay safe and well.

Woodcarver David Johannessohn has devoted time weekly as a *Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)* volunteer, passing out free food supplies through Sequim's Food Care Package Program. He and others share and offer support during this unstable time, also

inspiring. David mentioned that vintage store Rusting Rooster had closed, the main outlet for his carvings. He shared some frustrations, saying he “lacks the spark to create” right now.

I have heard this from many artists. Much of what we do is shared with others; if these avenues disappear it’s frustrating.

I also connected with oil painter Stephanie K. Johnson, who addressed similar frustrations this past spring after two long-planned art venues were canceled.

She is further developing her skills as an artist and says, “I continue my endeavors to capture nature’s beauty on canvas, and it’s my hope to bring a bit of happiness to the viewer.” Lately, Stephanie has been working with established collectors on some commissioned paintings. This sounds promising – a positive for a young artist.

I also queried Kurt Miller of Gold Rush Jewelry & Coin, to see how his plan for re-entry into fine art jewelry was going. He had hopes of beginning a business remodel towards this end. Kurt says, “There are a large number of customers buying gold and silver in fear of looming economic woes; business has been busier than ever.” He’ll have to revise his game plan, but he has dealt with this before. Kurt shared the turkey quote by the way... wry humor for these trying days.

Links:

[www.porttownsendgallery.com](http://www.porttownsendgallery.com)

[www.kharperphotos.com](http://www.kharperphotos.com)

[Forestcraft.wa@gmail.com](mailto:Forestcraft.wa@gmail.com)

[www.StephanieKJohnson.com](http://www.StephanieKJohnson.com)

[www.GoldRushJewelry-CoinBuyers.com](http://www.GoldRushJewelry-CoinBuyers.com)

Images:

#4824 Book/lesson: Hookers Green Acrylic wash

#4797 Suzan's surprise spring green wash

#4819 Wash becomes Pastel-in-progress