



January 2021

A Note from the Editor

Happy New Year!

I'm sure we are all excited to be finished with 2020. Hopefully you've gotten through the year with mental and physical health intact and maybe even tried a few new art techniques – possibly from one of our YouTube artist tutorials. This project is ongoing, so feel free to volunteer if you have tips or projects to share.

Since we're still not having large gatherings where we can catch up with one another, we're starting a new newsletter column for life updates. We've always welcomed announcements about art opportunities and exhibits featuring our members, but now we're inviting you to share personal life milestones as well. Wedding? New baby? Let us know the good (or bad) news.

You can direct material or questions for the newsletter to the editor at rainbirdm@gmail.com.

Best wishes for 2021!

Miriam Rainbird

“Painting is the poetry of sight.” Jindřich Štyrský

Calls for Artists!

The theme for the 34th exhibit of the Art at City Hall is “All Mixed Up” Show. This show challenges artists to use two or more mediums in the same piece of art. To learn more, download the prospectus, or register as a Rancho Cordova artist, visit <https://www.cordovacouncil.org/art-at-city-hall>

**Digital Submission Deadline:
Monday, January 11 by 5 pm**

Artists notified Jan. 12 via email
Intake of Selected Art and pick-up previous work 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Jan 24th



The theme for the following show will be “Black and White + 1** (additional color)” and the submission deadline will be March 29th**. Watch for free workshop on February 20.



**3-D Art Exhibit at the
Mills Station Arts &
Culture Center!**

Visit the MACC website for more information or to download the prospectus!
<https://www.rcmacc.org/call-for-artists>

Free Exhibits at the MACC



Throughout history people have been forced to flee from their homes for their own safety and survival due to war, oppression, natural disasters, and atrocious human rights violations. The refugee crisis has imposed severe impacts on the social, economic, and political structures of host countries, especially poor and developing countries.

This powerful and timely exhibition illustrates the global challenges arising from the current refugee crisis impacting countries across the globe.



Free Zoom workshop with Pamela Caughey January 30th



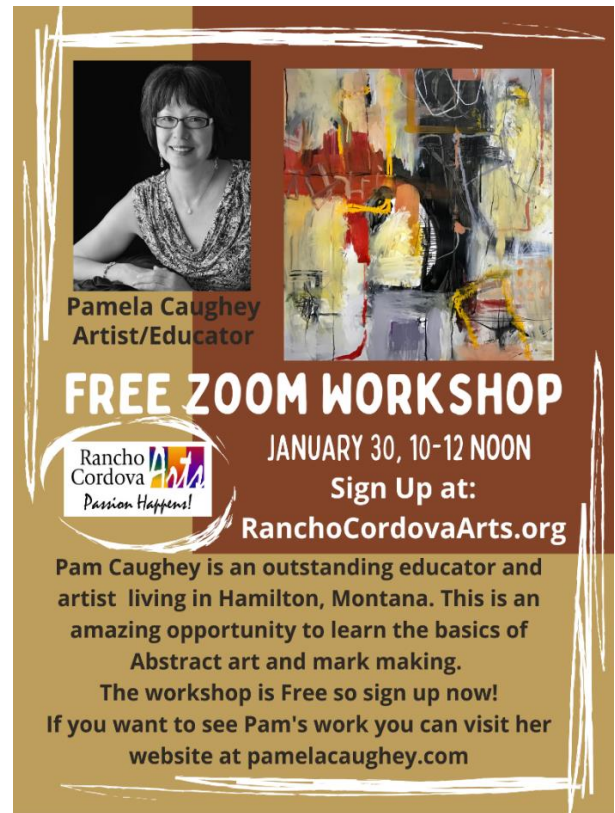
**LEARN HOW TO CREATE
ABSTRACT ART**
FREE MARK MAKING WORKSHOP
W/PAMELA CAUGHEY

**JANUARY 30, 2021
10-12 PM**
WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM

PAMELA IS AN
ACCOMPLISHED
PROFESSIONAL ARTIST,
TEACHER, AND EDUCATOR

**SIGN UP AT:
RANCHOCORDOVAARTS.ORG**

Rancho Cordova
Passion Happens!



FREE ZOOM WORKSHOP
JANUARY 30, 10-12 NOON
Sign Up at:
RanchoCordovaArts.org

Pam Caughey is an outstanding educator and artist living in Hamilton, Montana. This is an amazing opportunity to learn the basics of Abstract art and mark making. The workshop is Free so sign up now! If you want to see Pam's work you can visit her website at pamelacaughey.com

Rancho Cordova
Passion Happens!

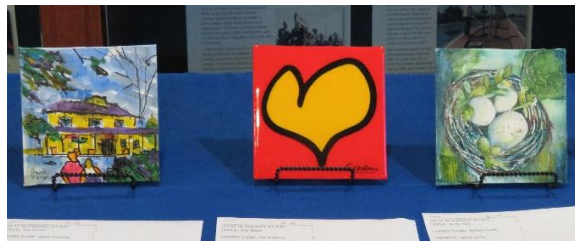
“Abstraction” is the theme of our 36th exhibit of Art at City Hall. This is a great chance to get ideas! Register online!

MicroMasterpieces is back in 2021!

Mark your calendars - Here's how to participate:

We skipped our annual fundraiser in 2020, but now it's back! All artists are welcome to donate 6" X 6" art to Rancho Cordova Arts to sell at our silent auction on June 3-5, during the Member Show. All artwork will be displayed upstairs at the MACC (rccmacc.org), and we plan to add an online auction so you and your friends, family, and neighbors can buy art from home, too. You may use your own substrate, or pick up free 6"X6" canvas boards at the MACC during open hours starting with the 3rd Dimension show in February. All media will be accepted! Also – new this year – you may choose to make some art on a recycled vinyl record. Rancho Cordova Arts will add a clock mechanism, if you like.

For MACC hours, see RCMACC.org, or for questions, contact Cheryl@CordovaCouncil.org.



Rancho Cordova Arts Lights up the Holidays!

Families were treated to a dazzling display of more than 200 lighted silhouettes in over 30 special vignettes to celebrate the holiday season in every way imaginable. Rancho Cordova Arts definitely got this pARTy started at Rancho Cordova's inaugural Holiday Lights Drive-Through event at the Mineshaft this December!

CCC invited Rancho Cordova Arts and a handful of other local non-profits to design and light up a vignette. Ours definitely celebrated the joy of the season over 10 nights! Our 'porch party' was outstanding, and located in a prime spot. As cars entered the cueing parking lot, they drove right up to this small building, and stopped to get a good, long look.

Day 2 of Set-Up – Pitched roofline is built!

Our 'porch party' featured 10 abstracted figures fabricated from square-stock steel and zip-tied with LED neon lights. Signs were made of small globe lights (Happy Holidays), individually lit LED neon letters (Rancho Cordova Arts), and red LED neon (Let's get this pARTy started!), all on recycled coroplast signs from the MACC. Close to 1,000 zip ties were used in all! Thanks to Marsha Mason, John Lambert, Mary Fong, Richard McHenry, Eileen

Noyer, John Schuck and Marsh Wildman for their time and talent, and CCC staff for inspiration!



Look for some of these figures at the MACC for its 3-D show in February!

We expect the Holiday Lights event to continue for 3 to 5 years.

Opening Night!



And just across the driveway, under the oaks, a plein air painter captures impressions of the party.

Several Rancho Cordova Artists were selected for the Capitol Box Art Project!
Congratulations! If you are involved feel free to share photos of your design.

We love to see our members' work. If you have pieces on display at a business or other publicly-accessible location in Rancho Cordova, let us know!

Rancho Cordova Arts Members' News

Two longtime local artists passed away in 2020, and we'll miss them!

Artist and mentor **Kathie Young Ross** passed away in June at the age of 93. She won numerous art awards for her fine art, primarily watercolor paintings, and loved to teach art workshops around the world and travel with her art students. Her outstanding critiques helped accelerate the growth of many, and her vibrant love of life was inspiring.

Rancho Cordova Arts' **Kathy Young Ross Art Lending Library** at the MACC is named in her honor. Kathy's daughter, Pamela Pankey is a member of Rancho Cordova Arts, as are most of the artists who gathered at Kathy's home every week to paint and critique.

Bobbie Weisner was a woman of many talents who lived life fully. Besides being the speediest watercolorist in Kathy Young Ross's weekly art group, over the course of her life she ran a heavy construction company, flew small planes, owned and operated a bed & breakfast in Friday Harbor and published a cookbook of her recipes.

Bobbie led several local organizations, and enjoyed gathering her extended family together, organizing many summers of reunions. Bobbie's grace and strength were a marvel to all who were fortunate enough to know her.

This quarter's **Art Tip** comes from **Susan Sorenson**, who led our November online tutorial on drawing. See this and other videos at the Learning Library on **RanchoCordovaArts.org**.

Drawing in a sketchbook is about the process and the practice, not the finished product. Be inspired to use your sketchbook to try new things and keep creativity flowing – good habits for your brain!

What Kind of Sketchbook? Use different sizes, preferably with good paper (“acid free”).

Mark the first page “**Please return to:**” and put your name and phone number on it.

Step One - Relax, Breathe – Relax and clear your mind before a drawing session. Sit up straight, both feet on the floor, shoulders down, arms dangling loosely. Close your eyes and do some deep breathing while you loosen your neck muscles. Pick up your pen for some warm-ups.

Step Two – Warm up your Brain – Draw big in the air or in a large sketchbook. **Make doodles.** Make a series of **freehand straight lines**, inhaling and exhaling while you draw each line. Do the **squiggly line warmup** by drawing a wavy line across left to right without lifting your pen. Repeat!

Step Three - Choose a Subject to Draw

The real world gives us too much visual information. Draw simple subjects, or simplify your drawing by thinking of the 3-dimensional objects you see as 2 dimensional. Everything has potential for art, so stop waiting for that spectacular subject to come your way. Draw your hand! Draw your breakfast! Draw from a magazine ad! Draw the people in your Zoom meeting! If you're at a loss on what to draw, Draw Garbage!

Step Four – Increase your ability rapidly

Timed Drawing forces us to improve. Set a timer, draw for 2 to 7 minutes. Repeat.

Draw with your non-dominant hand. Doing something different helps your brain at any age. Try

Contour Drawing. Draw the outside edge first, then the largest shapes within the outline next. Try it with a bunch of bananas. **Draw Negative Space**, meaning draw the spaces *around* your subject, not the subject itself. *That* can be a brain teaser!

Draw with a Pen – When you think of an eraser as an **anti-learning tool**, your drawing ability can suddenly get better. (Yes, you can make lovely shading with soft pencils, but soft 6B **pencils, for instance, make a mess of portable sketchbooks.**) Try a pen! Use the fear of making a mistake as a tool to look more carefully, be more deliberate, and make each stroke count. **Draw with a fatter ink line.** Using a Micron .005 (a very tiny nib) makes lines appear scratchier and more restated. **Drawing with a larger nib pen** can help your drawing skill even more. Fine point **Lamy fountain pens** are equivalent to a **.05- or .08-Micron pen**. Boldness makes for more deliberate strokes.

Step Five – Make it a habit!

Get help with your drawing habit. Drawing for brain health keeps the flow of creativity going and lowers stress. Have someone who cares for you ask you each day if you have had a few minutes to draw that day, in a supportive way. **Use a date stamp** to stamp tomorrow's date on the next blank page of your sketchbook. **Practice** drawing and figure out what works for you! When you are drawing happily, you relax and your brain goes into a state where terrific ideas for your art arise. **Creativity happens while we are being creative!**

By Susan Sorensen, susansorensen.blogspot.com by name on Facebook, and in Susan's Facebook group, Draw Garbage.