



RockvilleArtLeague.org

Vol. XXX No. 1

September 2020

**NEXT MEETING: Virtual Meeting: September 3, 6:30PM
Dr. Irina Stotland: “Diego Velázquez and the Modern Art”**

Message from the President, Patrick Sieg

Dear Rockville Art League artists,

What a year we are having. We just received word that the Glenview Mansion will be closed at least until December 2020, and very possibly longer. But these closures and inconveniences do not mean that we members of the Rockville Art League cannot stay connected and engaged. I try to anticipate obstacles and plan accordingly. In this year of the pandemic I hope to change some RAL things, particularly as they pertain to scheduling in-person meetings, exhibits and social interactions. The virus has allowed us to embrace the virtual.

Later in the newsletter we have included a new section called “Pandemic Paintings and Corona Creations.” In this section of the newsletter members may submit images of their artwork completed during the lockdown (from March through the present) along with a brief comment about your piece. I look forward to seeing your work in our newsletter. (Some members need to be first, so Lisa Sieg and I are the pioneers here.)

This fall we will have presentations and demonstrations recorded by accomplished speakers via YouTube or Zoom.

- Our first event will be available in early September and will feature Dr. Irina Stotland who will present on Spanish artist Diego Velazquez and his influence on modern art. This will be the fourth time Dr. Stotland has kicked off our year and I cannot wait to see and hear her via YouTube.
- In October we will feature a Zoom presentation by art educator Dr. Renee Sandell entitled “Riding the Great Wave & the 2020 Pandemic” and it is an interactive exploration of creativity.
- We are planning to have a virtual presentation that will give us insights about how to take beautiful and accurate photos of your artwork. More to come on this presentation soon.
- We have presentations planned for October and November as well...more to come on these soon.
- This December we will have our Winter Members’ Juried Art Show. It will begin as a virtual show and we are hopeful that there will also be a physical exhibit as well, later in the winter but if safety concerns will allow.

A new element of this show concerns prizes. We will ask our judge to make award decisions based on the images you submit with your show entry.

- We are looking forward to the second members' juried show of the year in the spring of 2021. We expect that the world will look much different then.

RAL will continue to sponsor an art focused scholarship in RAL's name to a deserving Montgomery College student.

These things require your support and you can provide that by renewing your RAL membership.

Judges, virtual presentations scholarships, etc. require financing and in this time of change I anticipate that there will also be new required investments in technology.

Please continue to be a member and help us to continue growing and serving during our 2020 – 2021 year. Membership dues remain at \$40 per year.

There are opportunities to get more actively involved with our league...please consider stepping up and serving on our board. Opening positions include:

- Membership Chair
- Programs Chair

RAL members serving in these two roles have had to step away after many years of dedicated service...many thanks to Paula Zeller (membership) and Nighat Ahmed (programs). Please contact me if you are interested and I will be happy to explain what is involved and I promise that helping out will be a joy.



Maya Angelou said that “You can’t use up CREATIVITY. The more you use, the more you have.” I believe this to be true. This horrible pandemic will end and when it does, we will all come together as a group of dedicated artists and admire what we have created during the time of social distancing and how we have grown as artists and people.

Sincerely,
Patrick Sieg
President

Rockville Art League 2020 Speaker Series

September 3, Dr. Irina Stotland, “Diego Velázquez and the Modern Art”

(an unlisted video link will be sent out to members)



We are delighted to welcome back art historian Dr. Irina Stotland to kick off our year. Irina Stotland received her doctorate in the History of Art from Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA. A specialist in nineteenth-century French art, her research interests include Post-Impressionist self-portraiture and gender and sexuality studies, with special emphasis on the construction of identity in representations. Her article on Paul Gauguin’s self-portraits appears in “Gauguin’s Challenge. New Perspectives After Postmodernism.” (ed. Norma Broude, 2018). She is currently teaching at Montgomery College LLI, Rockville MD, and lecturing at various museums and educational organizations.

Presentation overview: “A giant of Baroque, **Diego Velázquez** is the most significant painter of Spain’s Golden Age. Velázquez produced religious, historical, and mythological works, but was especially well-known for his powerful portraits. His images of

servants, slaves, courtiers, and kings approach his sitters through the same prism of the human condition. His portraits of the Spanish royal family, and specifically, *Las Meninas* (1656), are particularly famous.



A revolutionary innovator, Velázquez was a profound influence on later generations of artists, including Manet and Picasso. The lecture will present an analysis of their principal works, which draw on Velázquez and consider their stylistic and philosophical connections.”

October 1, Dr. Renee Sandell, “Riding *The Great Wave* & the 2020 Pandemic,” An Interactive Exploration of Creativity Thursday, 7pm

(This will be a zoom presentation. Details to come.)



Featuring the art of: Joanne Lamm, Helen Wood, Li Wang and Isabella Martire.

Pandemic Paintings & Corona Creations

Have you created art during the pandemic that you would like to share with other RAL members in our newsletter?

Here's an opportunity for current members to connect with others in our group.

Requirements:

- Please send one image of a piece of art that you have created during the pandemic. (It does not have to be about it, but it could.)
- You may include a brief comment or a title along with your name.
- Please share something you are proud of.
- If selected, your work would appear in the next newsletter.
- Please send to: Susan Dunnell newsletter@rockvilleartleague.org and Patrick Sieg president@rockvilleartleague.org



My self-portrait on my deck at home...the tie doubles as a mask when I'm not *socially distanced*. Based on a photo by Lisa Sieg.



Sunset Soliloquy by Lisa Sieg



August Wonder by Susan Z. Dunnell

(Note: inclusion in the newsletter does not preclude work from being entered into our Juried Shows.)

**Critique by
Penny Kritt**

Residential Landscapes

If you are like me, the first landscapes you did – and maybe still do – are of big and sweeping vistas. Snowy Alps in the distance, the majesty of the Grand Canyon or maybe a tropic isle in the middle of a turquoise ocean. Let’s tighten the focus and look at painting homes – no ladders required.

I found a neighborhood of nice homes on fairly large lots. In the images attached, you’ll see how the use and/or location of plants can make or break an art composition. It’s just another case of “what makes a great photo usually won’t work as a painting”. This time our “vista” is less than half an acre. You’ll see techniques for bringing buildings and foliage into and out of focus to keep the viewer’s eye from making a quick pass and moving right out of the painting.



Figure 1

In Fig. 1 above, leaving one small area open (see arrow) to *show a building behind the trees* creates a great sense of depth. Use your hand to block off the bottom of the photo and you’ll see that now the yard seems smaller and closed off. This homeowner chose trees that had both various colors and textures. The partial view of the blue spruce in the lower left has an aqua color that is mirrored by the decorative grasses in front of the wall on the lower right. In the center, a small red Japanese lace leaf maple tree sits right under a red/brown crimson maple. In the upper left, a redwood tree is cone shaped and has few “sky holes”. The oak in the upper right has a more open limb structure. In person, the large variety of colors and textures is impressive. Cramming all of them into a single composition would be much too busy. But I’ve included them all so you can see that there are lots of ways to create a landscape that isn’t all blue sky blue and green plants.

The lower section of Fig. 1 has a root that barely shows up at the bottom left (bad!) and a shadow in the lower right (good!).



Figure 2

Fig. 2 enlarges that root and now it becomes a way to break up a big, boring “lawn shape”. And just for comparison, the shadow that was in the lower right was removed. Without it as a “backstop”, the lawn shape funnels the viewer right out of the painting. Always try to avoid compositions that have large shapes that run horizontally or vertically across the entire picture space. For example, don’t put a big (vertical) telephone pole in the center. Likewise, don’t have lake and sky shapes that make horizontal shapes that run from edge to edge – they tend to become boring rectangles that just make awkward divisions.



Figure 3

Fig. 3 is another example of where you might need to take some creative license. The clumps of decorative grass are graceful and they fly stalks loaded with seeds. Called Blue Fescue, their aqua color shows up even against other (green!) foliage. Fescue No. 1 shows up well against the shadowed side of a wall. Fescue 2 almost disappears against a different side of the same wall because of its lighter value in sunlight. Luckily, there is also a darker wall further to the right so this plant isn’t entirely lost. (Best of all, deer hate these perennials!)

In this photo, their stalks stand straight and direct the viewer’s eye upward. If you want to direct the viewer back to another area of the composition, you could always bend a few stalks to show their movement in the wind. Use the same directional bend in other plants for continuity.

Notice that the lines between the stones barely show up on the shadowed side of the wall. But around the corner on the sunlit side, look at how the horizontal lines between the courses of stones almost makes that beautiful fescue disappear. The more subtle horizontal pattern of multiple fescues planted along the wall are now overwhelmed by the vertical, tighter repeat of the masonry.

The neighborhood has several spruce trees that were very distorted. See Fig. 4 below. The pink line illustrates how far the trunk leans over. Painting the tree from this angle is just too easy.



Figure 4

The same tree is shown from a different angle in Fig. 5 below. You can see that this tree leans backward. Figuring out how to *show the slant* from this vantage point is a real challenge! Here’s a hint -- there are two distinct elements that will explain its orientation to the viewer.



Figure 5

Let's make it even more interesting. If you're the first person to solve this mystery, you can select any of my 30 minute classes as a prize! Just email your reply to penny@pennykritt.com

For online classes in digital art, contact Penny at 301/989-1799
<https://www.pennykritt.com/online-classes.html>
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MEMBER NEWS



Patricia Duproof is selling Rockville Spirit Goods to support our local Rockville Arts Organizations. She has flag masks, ties,

mousepads, small carry bags, and more! Visit and buy directly:
<https://www.pdubroof.com/rockville-spirit>. She will be dividing the proceeds between a few organizations, including RAL!!! For more information or bulk orders, please contact, Patricia Duproof, artforyourwalls@gmail.com 301-641-6375.



Howard Clark reports that while the Tax Man was watching over his shoulder, he counted up the number of framed photos in his storage bin – about 180. He also noted that, in 2019, he held two solo exhibits (Artists and Makers in January and the National Wildlife Visitor Center in August) and participated in 16 group shows. Yet, in spite of all that exposure, he managed to sell only four framed photographs. “Humm,” he thought, “if I could do this well every year, they should all be gone by 2065, and I will no longer need to pay that \$250 per month storage fee – maybe more; the price does go up every year.” So, what do you do now? In the past, the answer was to make more prints and do more shows. It never worked. The time has come to clear the kennel by sending the children off to new homes. He is ready to donate the vast

majority of these prints to worthy organizations for use in their facilities or for fund raising auctions. Suggestions are welcome at HClarkNEMA@gmail.com.

On the brighter side, Howard did teach an online course on "Getting the Best from Your Digital Camera" back in June for Frederick Community College. It will be repeated again in October and, because it's online, even he doesn't need to drive to Frederick. He'll be doing three other online photography courses later in the year.

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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Is your art included in a show? Have other news you wish to share with RAL members? Please send your submissions by the **15th** of each month for inclusion in the next newsletter, to: newsletter@rockvilleartleague.org

GLENVIEW MANSION CONFERENCE ROOM SHOWS

You can show your artwork in Glenview Mansion for one month if you have received a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or honorable mention award in an RAL juried show. Artists may have both rooms to exhibit in if a second artist doesn't sign up for the same month within two months of the show's start date. The receptions at Glenview mansion are 1:30-3:30 PM on the Sunday after hanging. Preferred drop off and pick up times for Glenview Shows are from 9 am to 12 noon. Drop off/pickups are Mondays (unless a holiday). If you are unavailable on the date for pickup, please arrange for someone to pick up for you. There is no room to store your artwork at the Mansion. If you are unable to drop off/pick up on the assigned dates and you can't find someone else to drop off/pick up for you, please choose a month in which you can make those dates.

For artwork delivery, please unwrap your work and take the wrappings with you. Please bring pliers (needle nose are easy to work with). You may use the hand truck that is at the Mansion to move your artwork from your vehicle. There is no staff at the mansion available to help you move your artwork into the conference rooms. You are responsible for hanging your own artwork, with help from the Mansion staff. If you don't have labels for your work, please fill out the RAL cards that will be available. If you print your own, print them on card stock. Do not use the sticky Avery labels, unless you adhere them to foam core or card stock. **Contact Diane Jeang, Glenview Member Show Coordinator, (301) 871-1589 or chickendoc44@gmail.com with questions.**

Monday delivery and hanging: 12PM–2PM & 5-7PM/ Sunday Gallery Opening: 1:30—3:30PM
Monday Pick up: before 11AM

Glenview Mansion Schedule 2020				
	Member(s)	Mon &/or Tues Deliver hours	Sunday Gallery Opening 1:30-3:30	Monday Pick-up
SEPT/OCT	CLOSED			
OCT/NOV	CLOSED			
DEC	RAL Winter Show	VIRTUAL		VIRTUAL
2021	Member(s)	Mon &/or Tues Deliver hours	Sunday Gallery Opening 1:30-3:30	Monday Pick-up
JAN				
FEB				
MARCH				

***Please note:** All dates are tentative as we navigate the changes brought on by the corona virus.

For additional information for members hanging in the conference rooms, please refer to the RAL web page: <http://www.rockvilleartleague.org/glenview.pdf>. At least one platter of finger foods (cookies, crackers/cheese,veggies/dip) should be supplied by the RAL artist on the day of the opening reception. Cups/napkins/water provided by the City of Rockville for opening receptions. The Mansion will be open at 1 pm for the artist on the day of the opening reception.

Artists in rooms 5 and 6 are responsible for hanging their shows but will have assistance as needed.

RAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Position	E-mail
Patrick Sieg	<i>President</i>	president@rockvilleartleague.org
Lisa Sieg	<i>1st Vice President</i>	jshows@rockvilleartleague.org
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