

Club Macchia

Vol 1 Issue 5 Oct 10, 2023 Jerry Ross, Editor

Exciting things happening with Club Macchia events in Sept-Oct.

Club Macchia Participates in City of Eugene Art Events

By Jerry Ross

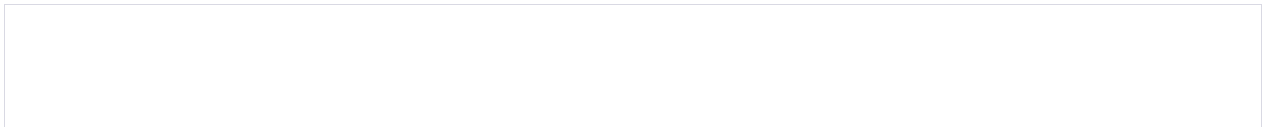
Instead of plein air painting sessions/paintouts, in Sept-Oct our Club participated in the “**Art in the Park**” event at the Peterson Barn and the upcoming “**Art Week**” with a still life class at Maude Kerns Sunday Oct 15th 1- pm (see below).

However, I might arrange for another plein air session for the end of October, as two new Club Macchia members have requested I do so.



Sue Matsu's One-Month Exhibit at Fern Ridge Public Library:

A Fascinating Blend of Verismo and Fantasy



Sue Matsu, a talented painter and member of Club Macchia, recently graced the Fern Ridge Public Library in Oregon with a one-month art exhibit that left visitors captivated and inspired. Her collection was a delightful fusion of verismo and fantasy, showcasing her unique artistic expression and a keen graphical sense.

The exhibit featured an eclectic mix of subjects, including horses, old Victorian buildings, mandalas, and portraits. Sue's exploration of the "verismo" style, cherished by her fellow Club Macchia artists, was evident throughout the collection. However, what truly set Sue apart was her ability to infuse her works with a distinct touch of fantasy, elevating her art to new dimensions.

Two standout pieces from the exhibit were "Winter Mist" and "Fern Ridge Reservoir." These paintings exemplified her verismo influences with their loose and expressive brushwork, depicting scenes of serene beauty. "Winter Mist" transported viewers to a frosty landscape where each brushstroke seemed to capture the chill in the air, while "Fern Ridge Reservoir" portrayed the reservoir in a way that made one feel the gentle ripple of water.

Sue Matsu's artistic journey transcends traditional boundaries, and her work at the Fern Ridge Public Library left a lasting impression on all who had the pleasure of experiencing it. Her ability to seamlessly blend verismo with elements of fantasy with a strong graphic sensibility is a testament to her artistic prowess. Visitors were treated to a visual feast that not only showcased her technical skills but also revealed her unique vision and storytelling ability. Sue Matsu's exhibit was a delightful journey through her world of art, and it left us eagerly anticipating her future creations. – Jerry Ross



New legacy CM Member: Elaine Tognazzini-Franssen

While at “Art in the Park”, I ran into an Italian-American family selling the artworks of the late Elaine Tognazzini-Franssen. Like many women struggling to break into the fine arts, Elaine found work in the field of art restoration while working on art commissions for portraits and landscapes. In her statement “Journey Towards Discovery”, Elaine states:

“I graduated with B.A.'s both in Art History and Fine Art from UCSB and continued to explore different processes at SBCC after graduating. I was passionate about learning about new techniques and getting a foundation in different creative processes such as life drawing, figure painting, printmaking, ceramics, and photography. I put together an art installation in a Santa Barbara storefront that received a significant amount of attention.

After getting my degree I worked in art restoration in Santa Barbara for different companies where I learned restoring techniques for painting and drawings, furniture, and objects and restoring fine art I did on site work at Hearst Castle, Working in art restoration led to taking chemistry classes in order to pursue a Master's degree in this

field, I learned to observe' do math and keep organized notes. I could appreciate the creativity in Organic Chemistry and how the sciences seemed to be saying the same thing as art only in different approaches, (both very creative)."

The Pipe Smoker by *Elaine Tognazzini-Franssen*



Club Macchia Legacy Artist:

1. location and date of birth: Los Angeles, CA (1964)
2. names of birth parents: Unknown
3. date and location of death) 2014, Cancer, Ojai, CA

“Each painting was made in the moment. These paintings can be seen as an unfolding of an emotional experience as it is happening charted by color, line and form. In this sense the painting becomes more of an activity, a verb; something to experience rather than merely a subject to look at. This process allows the artist to see things in entirely new way, It's the activity of methodically going into the seemingly chaotic aspect of an emotion and accepting everything that one finds there free from judgment and full of acceptance of what IS. “

Elaine Tognazzini-Franssen

<https://www.jerryrosspittore.com/Toga.pdf>

City of Eugene Visual Arts Week Workshop: Still Life



[Semana de las Artes Visuales](#)

Visual Arts Week

October 6-15, 2023

Visit Eugene's galleries to enjoy the latest creations from our community's artists, including the new entries in this year's Mayor's Art Show. Learn about the inspiration and processes behind recent artworks and exhibitions with Lane Arts Council's Artist Highlights. Tour satellite art installations and Windowfront Exhibitions displayed throughout the downtown area and revisit our city's 20x21 murals. Expand your artistic skills under the guidance of seasoned artists in workshops provided by Maude Kerns Art Center. Enter a magical world of illuminated artistry with ArtCity's BEAM 2023 showcase, then close the week with the nighttime BEAM BRIGHT parade and dance party.





Still Life Sketching and Painting

Instructor: Jerry Ross

Date: Sunday, October 15th
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Location: Maude Kerns Art Center
1910 E. 15th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97403

Cost: \$20 per student

To register, email: pittore44@yahoo.com

Workshop Description:

Students will learn basics of still life composition and various approaches to creating still life artworks. Students will be able to create Two and Four value studies and then add color. Emphasis on seeing surface planes and working with shadows. Students can work in any media.

"Still life painting, as Manet eloquently expressed, offers a unique window into the artist's inner world, a reflection of their true essence. Many other painters throughout history have shared this sentiment, seeing still life as a means to convey profound emotions, ideas, and personal symbolism through seemingly ordinary objects. The allure of still life lies in its ability to encapsulate the ordinary and make it extraordinary. Its mystery lies in the intricate interplay of light and shadow, the careful arrangement of objects, and the hidden narratives and symbolism that artists imbue into the composition. It invites viewers to contemplate the significance of everyday items, prompting them to search for deeper meaning within the seemingly static tableau. In this way, still life remains a timeless genre, where the artist's soul is revealed through their choice of subjects, colors, and arrangement, offering a glimpse into the profound within the mundane." – Jerry Ross

Global Cultural Commons & Club Macchia Collaboration: Neo-Dada Cafe



<http://globalculturalcommons.com>

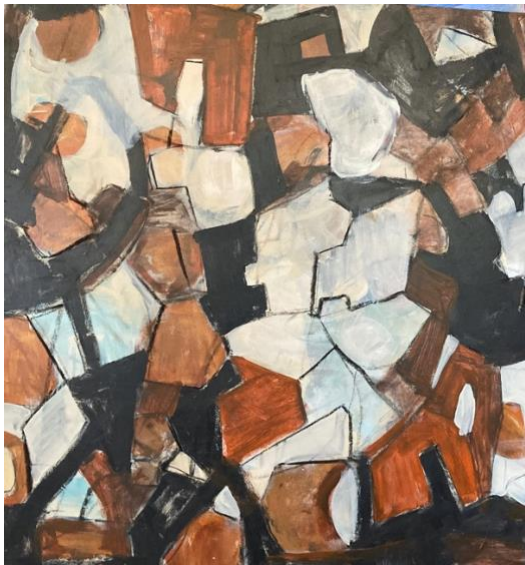
Neo-Dada Café

Club Macchia

Mission: A loosely organized group of all'aperto (en plein air) painters inspired by the Italian impressionists (1860s era who predated French impressionists by 10 years) seeking to bring art exhibits and education to rural areas. Like the original Italian group of painters (the I Macchiaioli), Club Macchia members prefer daily life of ordinary people as subject matter (vita quotidiana) instead of the elite in parks and cafes (often the subject matter of the French).— Based in Eugene but international chapters can be formed. (<https://jerryrosspittore.com/CMWeb/about.htm>)



Marina Arbuck is a Club Macchia member who has made a transition from plein air painter to abstraction. She is currently studying with Kathleen Caprario, a local painter and film maker. Marina has taken to abstraction quickly and has shown a great talent for the language of abstraction. Right now the “Neo-Dada” café only exists as possible pages on the GCC website but an online gallery with a sales component is in the planning.



Springfield Mayor's Show: Patti McNutt takes 1st Place

One of the original Club Macchia artists, Patti is now leader of PPLC.



Plein Air Painters of Lane County

Thi Nguyen · 2d · 🌐

HUUUUUGE CONGRATULATIONS to our fearless (and too humble) leader for winning First Place in the Oils Division at the Springfield Mayor's Art Show. DrrrruummmRrrrrrrrRrOLLLI please: [Patti Hanneman McNutt!!!!](#)



Verismo Research

Domenico Morelli, who was both a painter and politically engaged reformer, died on 13 August 1901 in Naples. Morelli is one of the most important Neapolitan painters of the 19th century. Moving between Naples and Florence, Morelli aligned himself with the Macchiaoli, a group of painters who rejected painterly realism and neoclassicism. Morelli's paintings became progressively less academic and more expressive, especially with regards to his use of color.

Morelli and the Macchiaoli (such as Telemaco Signorini, Giovanni Fatori and Silvesto Lega) were deeply invested in the idea of Italy, and the united, Italian nation. They were interested in social and historical problems as they related to the process of state-building. (Italy became a nation in 1861, under the reign Vittorio Emanuele and the House of Savoy.) A such, Morelli, along with [Filippo Palizzi](#), during their efforts to reform the Istituto di Belle Arti in Naples used the unification as a reference point for redefining the role of the artist who was engaged with and participated in the new civil society of the nation.

Cesare Borgia at the siege of Capua



Direct Action: Pop-up Galleries: “Cloud Hand Gallery”

There was an estate sale up the block, so Angela and I set up an impromptu gallery in the car port. A lot of people stopped by. I ended up selling 4-5 paintings. When you find yourself on the blacklist by local galleries, this is a good, alternative solution!





Sold: "Valiano"

Sostre Related Case Advances: Portrait(s) of Geraldine Pointer

Garrett Felber's Sostre Bio Gets Closer to Publication

Garrett Felber is an educator, writer, and organizer. He is a co-founder of the abolitionist collective, Study and Struggle, and is currently writing a biography of revolutionary anarchist Martin Sostre and building a radical mobile library, the Free Society People's Library, in Portland, Oregon.

<https://inquest.org/a-spirit-unbroken/> <https://ritm.yale.edu/garrett-felber>

Geraldine Pointer was a clerk in the Afro-Asian bookstore when the cops came in the arrest Martin Sostre, the owner. The State was trying to frame Sostre to prevent him from selling books they deemed subversive. Geraldine got swept up in the arrest and, in a separate trial, was convicted and sentenced by the state of New York. Her children were placed in a foster care situation. I met up with Geraldine in Manhattan during the "Martin Sostre at 100" event. After one of the speaking sessions lawyers approached Geraldine to represent her in a case that seeks to void her original arrest and perhaps later claim damages from the State, some kind of restitution for the time taken away and the mental anguish she has suffered.

Recently I painted two portraits of Geraldine. One from many years ago when I saw her at the Buffalo Nine reunion (20 years after the original bust) and one, based on the meeting up in Manhattan:



“Sostre in Solitary”, the Writings of William Worthy

https://offshootjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/final_sostre.pdf

“In 1964, when Malcolm X parted company with the Muslims, Sostre, an admirer of Malcolm, broke too. After coming out of prison that year – 12 years without a single letter, single visit or single food package from the outside had miraculously not demoralized him – Sostre worked for \$146 a week in the Lackawanna steel mill, saved what he could, and soliticed and borrowed additional money to fulfill a dream: the opening of an Afro-Asian Bookstore in the Buffalo ghetto. His largely unpaid assistant, Mrs. Geraldine Robinson (Pointer), mother of five, is still awaiting trial on the same heroin charges. “

Lessons from the Ladder

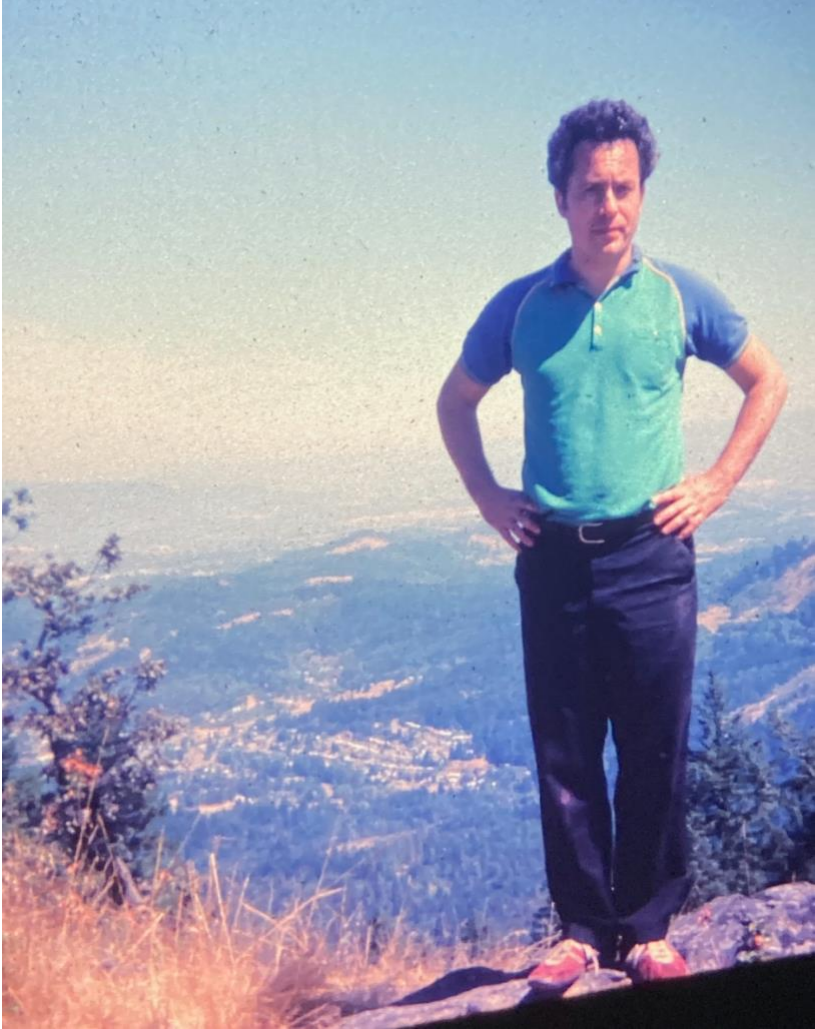


For Sept-Oct I have been pretty much up on the ladder working on a huge mural as part of a City of Veneta grant to Vicki Soudry, owner of the storage unit business on Broadway (City Hall end of the street). There are seven panels all representing various nature scenes with animals. Here you can see the standing blue heron and also one flying. In the corner is a wood duck.

And thanks to Sue Matsu who has been assisting me when she can.

My mural style is free hand drawing in oils, much as if it were just a very big canvas. Lots trips up and down the ladder. First an acrylic underpainting was applied soon after the pressure washing of the surface, which is metal. I am using Dick Blick oil paints for the most part. The biggest lesson from the ladder: patience. One has to let the mural evolve much as if it is just a very large canvas. Do not be afraid to make changes, nothing is set in concrete. Interact with the locals and let them make suggestions. – Jerry

Archives: Photos from the past





Color is Life and other Metaphysical Epiphanies by Sue Matsu

Summer went out like an expended light bulb, a few flashes and boom, gone.

That's okay though, as heat these days has become more scary than bucolic.

I was driving home from town one warm summer evening as the sun went down

*behind the coast range turning the sky a mind blowing explosive orange with a range of
indescribable hues.*

*I started to think about the contrasting color of the orange hue against the blue sky when the color
wheel came to life.*

It suddenly dawned on me;

COLORS ARE LIFE

*In a simplicity that only the most profound of metaphors can elicit, I saw the colors
speaking in and of the spiritual universe.*

Blue Sky - Orange Sunset

Green Trees- Red Earth

Yellow Sun (the brightest bright) - Violet night sky (the darkest dark)

"Is this God?", I thought. Never having a tradition rooted in spiritual practice during my life

*I suppose I am forever looking for meaning in transformational experience. So, for some, this may
seem obvious, even mundane but, for me, it became a point in time where all connected and made
total sense and what more does one hope for on an average day, in an average town at the twilight
of life....*

Hmmmm.....

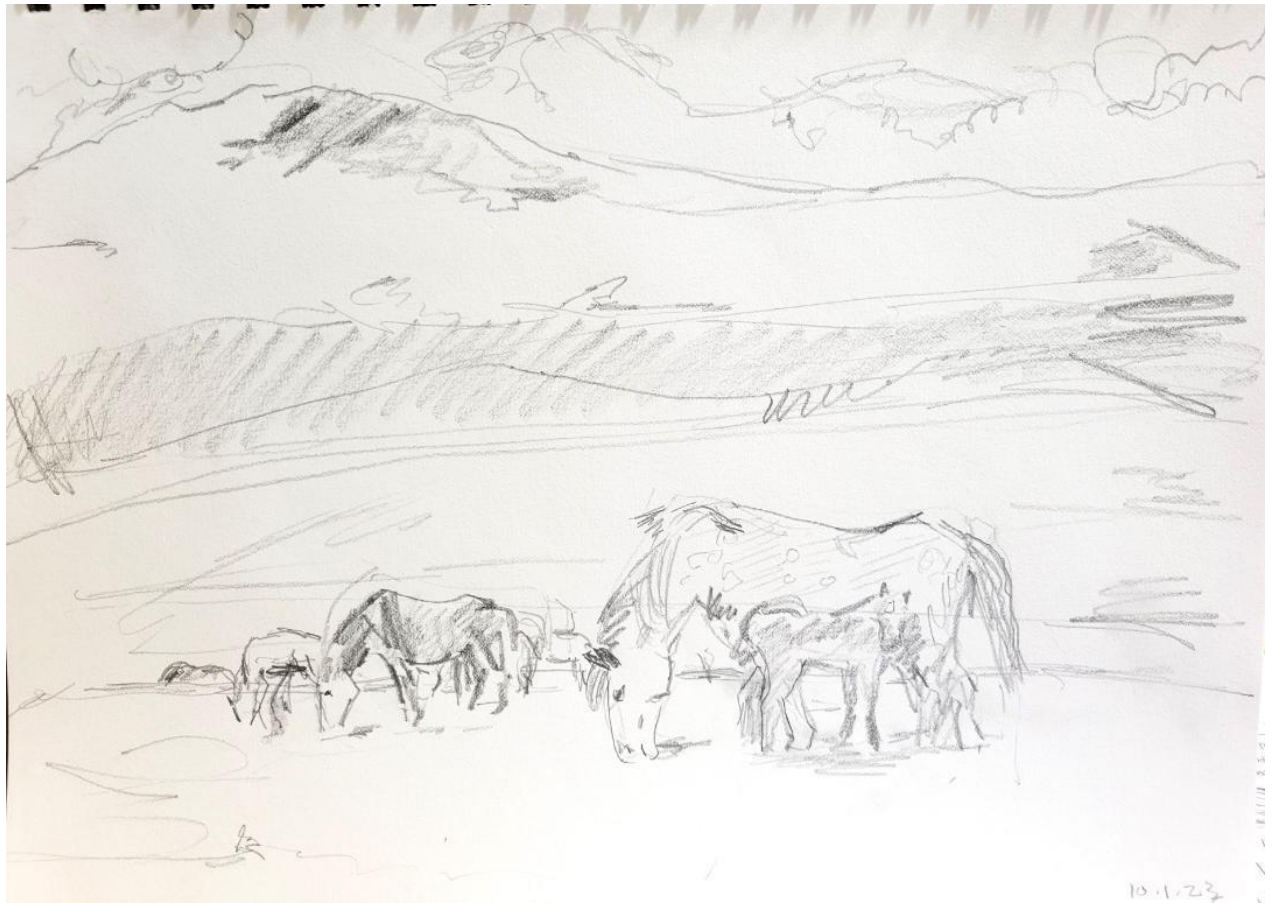
here is a photo to go with it:



I framed this 2022 painting today for the Halsey Library show. I sprinkled the frame with aqua glitter. Also started a mandala painting to help get me back on track:



I've been horsing out lately, hahaha
here is a sketch I'd like to paint;



10.1.23

10.1.23