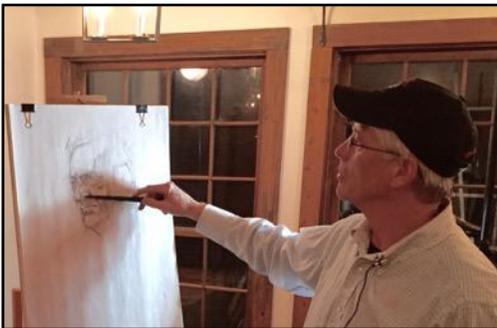


NEWSLETTER

David Pett Demos Portraiture

JCAA Meeting on April 5 in the Granary at Ella Sharp

Artist David Pett is methodical. His portraits are realistic and beautiful. After watching him demonstrate one might wonder if the strict process he applies reduces variables that might otherwise affect the outcome of his work. Or, perhaps for him the process has simply evolved over time to help assure success. In any case, he knows what he is doing with portraiture. It works, and it works well.



Mr. Pett does life drawing at least once a week. At other times, when he doesn't have access to a live model, he uses one of those flexible manikins, and makes beautiful sketches. Or, he uses a live-sized bust that he came across in a resale shop, drawing the face from all angles. "It is about seeing what you see, not what you think you see," he says.

He says he stands when he works and always uses his own easel. "You lose perspective when you draw a subject while being

seated at a table," he says. He draws at eye level.

David speaks of using two "anchors." The first consists of tape on the floor to mark where he will stand - at arms length from the easel. He may move back to view his drawing while he works, but he always returns to the taped mark to resume drawing.

The second anchor is a spot on the subject's face that serves as a reference point to locate other facial features and details. These anchors assure these "marks" are accurately located on the paper.

He uses the following equipment: a baton that holds charcoal (and also allows him to work a little further from the easel), a knitting needle that is always in his left hand to use to measure, an eraser, a block of sandpaper to sharpen lead or charcoal, a plumb line, a pair of close-focus binoculars, a mirror to check for needed corrections, a thin dowel and small clothes pin for accuracy in measurement, and a viewing frame to aid in composition. He recommends you trust what the tools tell you. "Your mind will play tricks," he says.

"If you start drawing what you think you see, stop," he says. "Check your proportions with the knitting needle by anchoring from the reference point," and proceed.

May Activities

JCAA meetings in May will be held on the 3rd and the 17th.

May 3 - Renown artist **Heiner Hertling will conduct the Spring Critique** for our members. Please bring some art for advice, or just attend to watch Mr. Hertling at work, and learn how to improve your skills. All media are welcome.

May 17 - Our **Annual Meeting and Pot Luck** will be held. Please bring your favorite palming dish. We'll elect new officers, fill positions on the JCAA Board, and conduct other necessary business. Art work is due for the **Squares & Circles Project**. Attend and see how project participants solved the problems associated with a square format canvas containing a centered large circle. And, we'll be deciding on the **Artist of the Month** with the theme, "Portraiture."

Ella Sharp Museum Statewide Fine Arts Competition

The deadline for submission of art for the Ella Sharp Museum Statewide Fine Arts Competition is Monday, May 30. Application forms, payment and photography for work must be submitted or postmarked on that date. Any medium is allowed, but a size limit of 72 inches in the greatest dimension exists. Entrants will be notified as to whether work has been accepted by Monday, June 13. On-line registration is available, or forms may be obtained at the museum. See the ESM website at www.ellasharp.org for more information, or call Rachel at the Museum (517) 787-2320.



Artist of the Month

Janet Hughes, Artist of the Month for May, 2016 poses with her painting *Bee Balm*. The theme for the month is "Flowers." Congratulations, Janet.



Dick Stanton finds a quiet place in the Ella Sharp Museum galleries and sketches a vintage outboard motor at the JCAA meeting on March 19, 2016

NOTICE

JCAA Board elections will be held at the May 17, 2016 meeting. Offices of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer; will be elected, and vacancies on the Board of Directors will be filled.

Dexter Plein Air Festival Registration

Registration for the Dexter Plein Air Arts Festival is now open. Registration is available for professional and "emerging artists" categories. Professional artists must register by May 15, emerging artists by July 1, 2016. Registrants self-qualify for either category, but professional artists are subject to jurying to qualify. Registration is only available on-line.

Limitations apply and potential applicants should see the festival website for more information at www.paintdexter.org.

Ella Sharp Art, Beer & Wine Festival

The Ella Sharp Art, Beer & Wine Festival will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from noon to 6 p.m. The JCAA will have tent space available for the display and sales of member art. Members who wish to display and sell art will be asked to assist in setting up the tent and display, man the tent during festival hours, and disassemble the tent following the festival. A 30% commission will be assessed on sales. If you would like to display and sell your art please sign the sign-up sheet at one of the two JCAA meetings this month or send a request by email to charlesreisdorf@mac.com.

All JCAA members are encouraged to support and attend the festival.

Upcoming "Artist of the Month" Themes

- May 17 - Portraiture
- Jun. 21 - Waterscapes
- July 19 - Windows and/or Doors
- Aug 16 - Animals
- Sep. 20 - Self Portraits
- Oct. 18 - Autumn

CALENDAR

Tues. May 3, 2016

JCAA Meeting - Spring Critique with Heiner Hurling. Door open at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30.

Friday, May 6, 13, & 20, 2016

Figure drawing at Ella Sharp Museum, 9 a.m. to noon. Dry media only. \$8

Fri. May 6, 2016

JCAA Board Meeting at Ella Sharp Museum, 1 to 3 p.m.

Tues. May 10, 24 & 31, 2016

Open Studio at Ella Sharp Museum, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. No charge.

Tues. May 17, 2016

JCAA Meeting - Annual Pot Luck and Business Meeting. Selection of the Artist of the Month. Theme - Portraits. Squares and Circles artwork is due. Doors open 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30.

Fri. May 20, 2016

Portrait Session at Ella Sharp Museum, 12:30 p.m. to 3:30. Wet media? Bring drop cloth. \$8

Quotation

"It is for the artist...in portrait painting to put on canvas something more than the face the model wears for that one day, to paint the man, in short, as well as his features."
-James McNeil Whistler

The Jackson Civic Art Association (JCAA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation which promotes the visual arts, and the skills of individual members in the greater Jackson, Michigan community through lectures, discussion, and mutual association. Membership is open to artists and those interested in art. Opinions expressed are the views of the editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the JCAA. The JCAA may be contacted by mail at 3225 Fourth St. Jackson, MI 49203, or through our website at