



Pittsford Art Group

NEWSLETTER - April - 2021

A Message from the Vice President, **Betsy Liano**

Dear Members,

I would like to thank Margie for setting up so many interesting presenters this year. It is definitely a silver lining to be able to have artists from across the country and even the globe! I am surely not alone in enjoying our latest presentation from Brent Dodd in South Africa. I look forward to seeing how he goes about painting a brilliant African sunset this Fall. Our next presenter will be Judith Kellerman from Seattle.

Developing Zoom expertise has been a learning curve for us all this year. Our group has made good progress in learning how to login and type in the chat space. Our latest meeting was a vast improvement over our first, but we still have room to grow. I want to thank our newest member Nina for setting up the meetings and alleviating the worry of getting kicked off the system after 45 minutes. Being that most of us are not using Zoom on a regular basis, I looked up protocols for best Zoom meeting etiquette, so we can improve our meeting experience.

Laura Davis has been able to secure members to cover our current exhibit spaces at Pittsford Town Hall and Star PT. Please consider showing your work solo or with a fellow member the next time Laura sends out a request. These venues are excellent opportunities for commission free sales and public exposure.



Pittsford Art Group

NEWSLETTER - April - 2021

A Message from the Vice President, **Betsy Liano**

I think the group may be more enthusiastic about having a potluck picnic/paint out this spring given the lack of opportunities to meet in person throughout the year. I gathered a group over the summer at the Brighton Town Park lodge area off Westfall Road near the Islamic center during most weeks last summer. It was a pleasant location that I believe we can secure on a sunny afternoon. I propose having an 'invite a friend(s)' gathering. We can give our artistic friends a reason to join the group as well as spend some relaxing time creating in the fresh air.

REMINDER!

Sylvia Ball will send **occasion appropriate cards** to members or their families. If you know of someone who is ill or a member that has passed, please **email or call Sylvia Ball**.



Pittsford Art Group

NEWSLETTER - April - 2021

Zoom Meeting Etiquette

1. **Don't be late.** This will also give you the opportunity to test your volume and video prior to the meeting. I set an alarm on my phone to remind me. We all get busy and our memories unreliable. Find a strategy that works for you. If you are late, please do not interrupt the meeting. You can text someone off screen to learn what you missed, if necessary.
2. **Mute your microphone at all times** unless open for questions/comments. **ReMute** after you have spoken. Background noises are inevitable, vocal and environmental: phones, other house companions (dogs/cats/partners), shuffling papers, etc..are very distracting to other participants. Noise also causes the video to shift focus to your screen. We all want to see the presentation not a blank screen or miscellaneous scenes.
3. Designate a **moderator** for questions/comments. This alleviates redundancy and provides the presenter with consistency.
4. Do not put private or **irrelevant messages** in chat space, use another device to communicate with others.
5. If you need to **leave early**, just note it in the chat and wave goodbye, no need to interrupt the presentation.

Fortunately our meetings are not required to be participatory, so you can leave your video off if you prefer and just type in comments for the moderator to communicate on your behalf. One of our members encountered technical difficulties, but was able to solve the problem in a way that was recommended online. If your internet system is lagging or skipping, you can use your computer for video and phone for audio. This may also be a good solution for those whose devices are not sufficiently loud enough for them to hear the presenter. I completely understand the frustration with high tech devices (my kids will tell you tales of my many threats to throw the computer out the window). However, our meeting time is not the moment to attempt to solve those problems. You can try to solicit advice off screen.

Oil Painting by Presenter: Brent Dodd

Brent lives north of Cape Town in Durbin, South Africa. He started out discussing his color palette as he began an abstract painting of Jackalberry trees. Mixing the color first and then finding it again when you run out can be difficult. He suggests blending from light to dark and uses a palette knife to mix the paints on the palette. He likes to work with color theory with strong contrast to create a greater sense of depth that will stop people in their tracks. "You serve your talent, it doesn't serve you". Use the rule of thirds when composing your work. To get started, block in the canvas in the first few minutes. He used horizontal cross-hatching in the foreground compared to diagonal in the body of the work. Brent uses a filbert No. 14 brush - sable with synthetic hairs. He added more sap green and orange to compose the foreground and also added more contrast to the foreground with blues. His brush strokes are scrubbing in nature and quite fast.



The BIG 5 Rule: setup should take no longer than 5 minutes, palette should have 5 colors (which includes white!), no more than 5 hours of painting (you will begin losing concentration, taking shortcuts, and contaminating the palette), create 5 artworks in 5 weeks, and find 5 other artists to have an exhibition!

"The late Simon Combes, a Kenyan painter inspired my early understanding of light and colour in Africa. His painting technique of a clean and simple palette of colour was instructed under the guidance of David Shepherd a painter from the United Kingdom who started a lot of wildlife conservation initiatives. Both of the aforementioned artists influenced my mentor Larry Norton, a Zimbabwean artist who I grew up with and studied under. All of their styles are wildlife related, meaning the colours and environments of Africa. Lately I have moved more into understanding how those palettes of colour can be applied to a wide variety of genres. So, it's more an application of a painting technique to different subject matters."

The darkest foreground colors are composed of the darkest variations of the midground tones.

Oil Painting by Presenter: Brent Dodd



Brent added more white into the midground and then took a larger brush and dragged it down diagonally across the middle to show sun light rays shining through the trees. Brent then 'fluffed over' the midground, blending in and making the scrubbed in paints nice and smooth.

5 paint colors used in this painting: Magenta, Sap Green, Prussian Blue, Cadmium Yellow, and White. If you don't get the color right, abstract or realist, it will not look right.

Brent then took the same dark colors that were used in the foreground and began filling in the top of the canvas above the trees. He switched to a palette knife to put paint into the top and at the very bottom of the foreground - very dark. He then switched to a brush to smooth over the top of the canvas - loves the strong contrast! Don't produce boring hotel, elevator art! He uses the side of the brush and drags down the dark color from the top (jackalberry tree) - elephants love grabbing the 'sausage' hanging on the tree. He then picked up white from the palette and added 'light' to the top of the trees - creating negative space, while wiping off the brush to not contaminate the source paint. Brent then added more details to the midground with more contrast. The absence or presence of light is what you should practice capturing. You should observe it in realtime. Look at the colors and watch how the light changes every 15 minutes.

Brent stated that his first exhibition in 2001 was a failure. After 11 years he met someone in Botswana that had a studio in San Antonio, TX where he had a sell-out show. In 2013 he had a show in NYC.

Brent does travel a lot on the weekends in the bush (woods) and safari since the weather is never a problem in South Africa. He would like to show us how to paint the African sunsets using the African colors - oranges and reds, yellows, blues. We have invited him back in the Fall 2021!



ROTATING EXHIBIT Schedule

Venue->	Pittsford Town Hall	Friendly Home Main	Friendly Home Memory Care	Star P.T.	Presbyterian Church	Pittsford Village Hall
# pieces->	10 to 15 medium	22	11	16	3 large, 7 small	10 to 15
Apr - Jun '21	Barbara Jablonski / Sylvie Culbertson	no exhibit	Shirley Zimmerkidd	Sylvie Culbertson / Barbara Jablonski	Hiroko Jusko	no exhibit

Due to COVID restrictions, rotating exhibits are mostly on hold with current displays. If you have questions or concerns about this schedule, please contact [Laura Davis](#).

REMINDERS

UPCOMING Show TBD

OUR NEXT Zoom MEETING is **Thursday, May 6th** at 7 pm with presenter [Judith Kellerman](#). Check the [PAG website](#) for a list of upcoming presenters.

GUESTS are welcomed and encouraged to join us at our monthly meetings to hear and see what's going on and to watch our wonderful demonstrators. To help with rising costs it would be appreciated if a **\$5.00 donation** was made to the group for in-person attendance. If the guest would like to join our group then their donation will be applied to their joining fee. During the COVID pandemic, joining one Zoom meeting is free of charge!

WELCOME our New Members!

Please reach out to your family and friends and invite them to attend one of our shows (tbd) or monthly meetings and join our group!

PAG on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pittsfordartgroup>



Brent Dodd gave us a shout-out on Instagram after his Zoom presentation to our group in April. He will be joining us again in the fall to provide a sunset painting demonstration using “African colors”.

Painting Demonstration



brentdodd • Following
Pittsford, N.Y.



brentdodd I had the absolute privilege of doing an art demonstration for the fantastic @pittsfordartgroup this morning. Thank you so much for having me @margaretmitchell1522 and the team. It was wonderful being able to collaborate with you all.

#artcollaboration #artdemo
#artdemonstration #letsmakeart
#makingart #art #oilpaintingonline
#oilpainting #paintinginoil
#windsorandnewton #artwork
#artoftheday #sharingart #artclass
#artsy #brentdodd #brentdoddart
#artstudio #lessonsfromthegallery
#roamingart #roamingartclass #artist
#artists #newyork #nyart



Liked by jsirianniart and 97 others

APRIL 2



Add a comment...

Post

 Pittsford Art Club - Upstate New York

Nina Varon provided some interesting website to reference:

- Free Reference Photos for Abstract Art (liveabout.com)
- A useful [Grid and Grayscale tool](#) from drawpaintacademy.com for those who paint from photos.

Betsy Liano will have an exhibit featuring spring flowers at **My Sisters Gallery** May 17 through June 27. She is also coordinating a small group show for several members who paint in her classes at St. John's in July.

- Hiroko Jusko, Barbara Horvath, Sylvia Ball, Niesdri Welsh, Laurie Tappel, Betsy Thurnherr, Susan Hodes and Sherry Davis.

For those interested in children's illustrations - **Jan Brett** has an exhibition of 70 original works on display at the [Fenimore Museum](#) in Cooperstown NY, now through May 16th (Tuesdays-Sunday 10-4)

The **Pittsford Recreation Department** is offering a two-day (June 7-8) "Painting Flowers in Watercolor" [workshop](#) taught by Pittsford Fine Art gallery member **Kathy Armstrong** - Check out all of her upcoming classes [here](#).

Barbara Jablonski is hosting a painting plein air workshop in May. Check out her [website](#) for details.

NEWS to share? Please email **Joe Sirianni**

BOARD & Committee Members

2020 – 2021 Positions

Executive Board Officers

President	Margaret Mitchell
Vice President	Betsy Liano
Treasurer	Marcia Mundrick
Recording Secretary	Sylvie Culbertson
Corresponding Secretary	Joe Sirianni

Standing Committees

Membership	VACANT - Please volunteer for this position!!
Program Chair	Betsy Liano
Refreshments	Niesdri Welsh
Rotating Exhibits	Laura Davis
Sunshine	Sylvia Ball
Website Manager	Joe Sirianni
Newsletter	Joe Sirianni

2020 – 2021 Season Shows

TBD