



Pittsford Art Group

NEWSLETTER - December 2021

A Message from the Vice President

Dear Members,

Hiroko Jusko sold over 5 pieces at the Episcopal Home, My Sisters Gallery this past month! **Niesdri Welsh** also sold 5 paintings at the Friendly Home! It seems that some folks are investing in local art and buying from local artists this season. Congratulations to both members!

I feel like this year was a very ephemeral, COVID blur. We did have many paint in the park opportunities throughout the summer. I do fondly remember our spectacular potluck picnic/paint-out in June this year. There were some non-member guests who contributed excellent homemade items to our feast. We must repeat this experience!

COVID gave us the unexpected bonus of presenters from across the country and indeed, the world. Margie, you deserve full credit for setting those up. Thanks to Marcia Mundrick for arranging payment, Nina Varon and Joe Sirianni for Zoom tech support. Thanks to Claire Gmelin and Ann Limbeck for arranging reservations for a room at the Pittsford Community Center for us to gather for communal painting time.

We are grateful for a full team of talented, generous members. Carol Schott coordination of membership, Laura Davis, ongoing coordination of host exhibition locations, Hiroko Jusko, for stepping in for treasurer, Diane Tank, hanging works at PFCU, Ann Limbeck & husband for transporting racks, everyone who participates in shows and exhibition spaces, Margie Mitchell for keeping us on the track and Joe Sirianni with communications par excellence, et al.

Betsy Liano

December 2021 Guest Artist - Marty Kelley

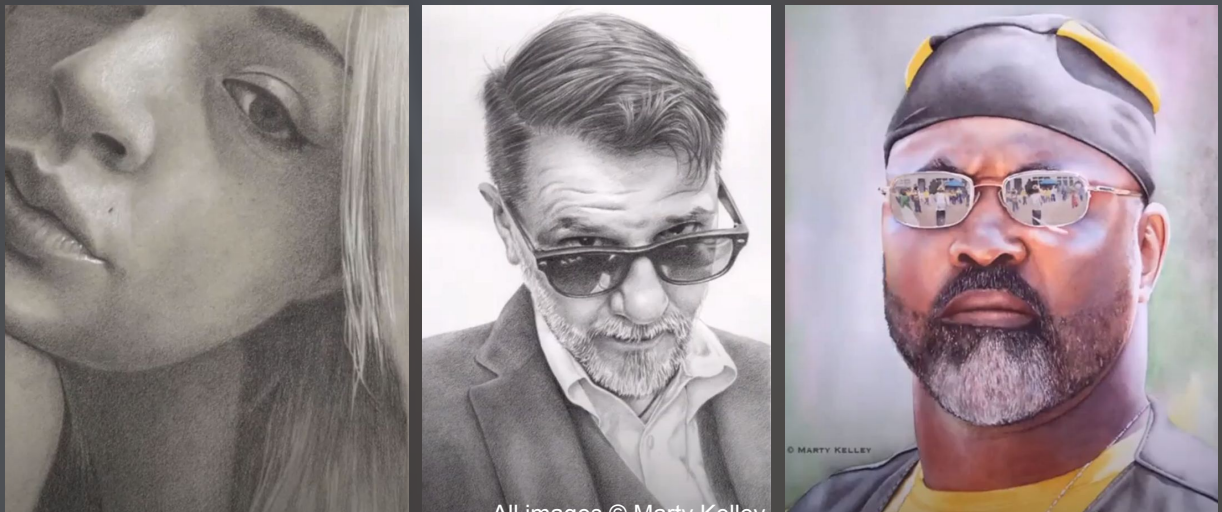
Marty provided a live Zoom demonstration. A huge THANK YOU to Betsy Liano for these very detailed notes!

As part of his daily art practice Marty spends 45 mins to an hour doing graphite portraits on toned medium surface Strathmore paper. He uses a white charcoal pencil along with graphite pencils of varying density to achieve value differentiation in his portraits. He likes to experiment with a variety of media and is currently trying carbon pencils. They are challenging because they are more permanent, so difficult to fix errors. They have a rougher texture which adds a different component to the work.



All images © Marty Kelley

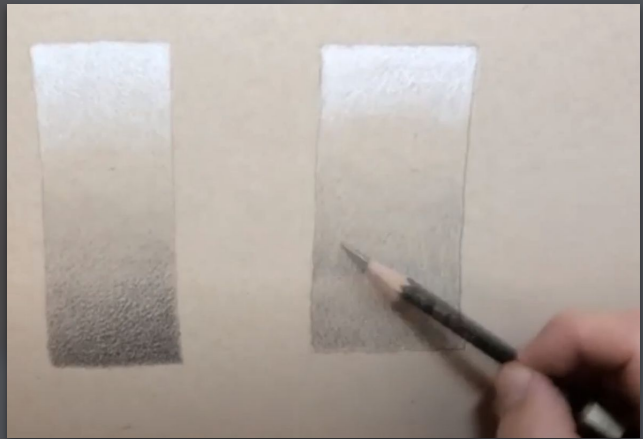
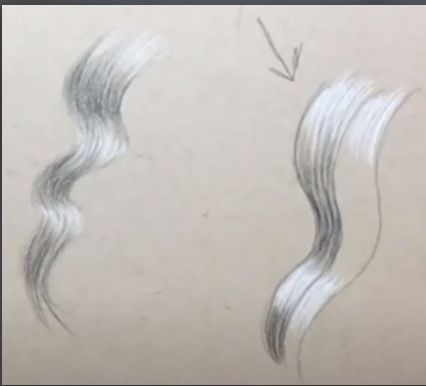
Marty prefers to work very tightly with a lot of detail in his graphite portraits. He showed us some past large works (30x30) that are done on smooth white Bristol board that took approximately 80 hours to complete. He also enjoys doing watercolors, however his current children's book work has taken him in a different direction lately. The objective of his daily practice is to work faster and looser. He finds these evening projects fun and relaxing. His opinion is that nothing is more pleasant than listening to the sound of a pencil scratching on paper!



All images © Marty Kelley

December 2021 Guest Artist - Marty Kelley

Marty walked us through a few value exercises to become familiar with the materials and application techniques. First, we did a rectangle with gradient values beginning with the most intense white using the white charcoal pencil, utilizing the toned paper to transition to the 2B, 4B and 6B darkest value. We proceeded to do likewise with a round shape, that is more similar to forms in portraiture. We then did an exercise to simulate hair, which is often an intimidating component of portraits. He explained the criteria for labelling the pencils. Soft leaded pencils, B (black) are graded from hardest to softest with the low number 2 being the firmer, to 8 or 9, higher numbers being extremely soft. Hard (H) pencils are graded in the opposite manner with the low number being the softer graphite to larger numbers being as hard as a nail head that barely leaves a mark on the paper.

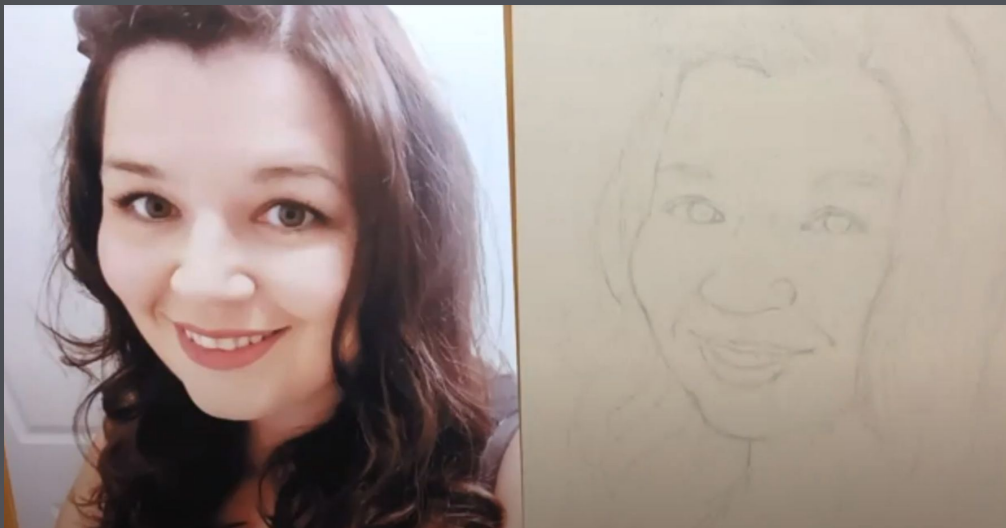


Marty uses a special pencil sharpener that allows him to have extremely long pointed tips on his pencils. He values a sharp point and will even use a utility knife to chisel tips on his pencils and plastic erasers. He does not use blending stumps, in order to maintain the purity of value, preferring to adjust transitions in intensity by changing pencils to increasingly softer grades. In the same philosophy, he prefers the light touch of a kneaded eraser to lift graphite in a gentle more subtle method, than an eraser that will remove all layers. The exception to that is his chiseled plastic eraser for lifting final, fine highlights. He also mentioned a specific, very black pencil, [Cretacolor Nero](#) that makes great dark values. Member Claire G. had an old one in her supply box!



December 2021 Guest Artist - Marty Kelley

After this introduction to the basics, he then explained how he approaches rendering a portrait. It is sometimes difficult to work with images provided by clients because of poor lighting or other problematic issues. He begins drawing very lightly using his pencil as a guide to determine angles and distances between facets on the face. He doesn't use the oval technique often recommended in instructional books, because most people do not have perfectly proportioned faces. He cautioned to not fall into the trap of symbols, drawing a perfect eye, but not her eye. Once he feels satisfied with a specific part of the drawing, such as a eye, he will then use that as a reference to gauge against other parts of the face. He will continue to adjust details until he has a rough line drawing similar to what you would find in a coloring book.



Because of his past watercolor experience, he begins forming contours in the face with the whitest values. He explained that it is very difficult to obtain a pure white if there is an underlayer of graphite. Darker graphite can be easily layered over the white charcoal to create the strands of hair etc. He recommended to find all the highlights; catch lights in the eye, tear duct, highlights in hair, cheeks, etc. If “catch lights” are not present in the image, find the light source and put them in. This is particularly important, especially in the eyes, so the portrait doesn't resemble a dead zombie. He usually moves around the face as he draws. For us, he focused on developing one eye and adjacent hair. He explained how the whites of the eye are similar to the sphere we practiced, with the brightest white along the iris, fading slightly towards the tear duct. He starts with the whites of the eye to give him his lightest value. He can then proceed in developing the darker values. Using the tinted paper saves him a lot of effort in not having to render mid-tones like he needed to when using white paper. He is very experienced in observing highlights underneath the eyebrow and along the bottom eyelid etc. He uses a circular motion to lightly apply the graphite very gradually.

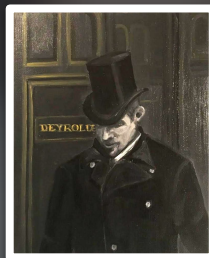
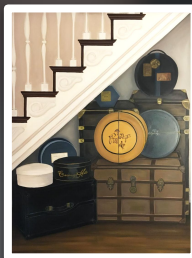
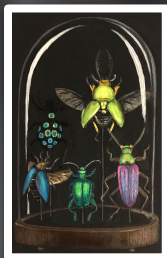
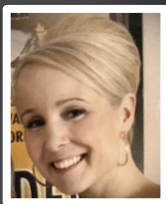
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Marty gave a brief explanation of the digital media he is using in his recently published chapter book [Pugnapped](#). He traditionally rendered all his illustrations for his picture books in watercolor. However, any changes requested by the publisher, created an extreme amount of extra work for him. The digital format, using an iPad with an Apple Pencil and the *ProCreate* App (~\$10), allows him to edit images more easily. He can experiment with various colors on clothing etc. and other design elements without the anxiety of wasted effort. If you want to start drawing on an iPad, you can download the *Adobe Sketchbook* App for free!



WELCOME New Members!

Kristin Spath (oil)



**PAG currently
has 37
members!**

ROTATING EXHIBIT Schedule

Venue->	Pittsford Town Hall	Friendly Home	Star P.T.	Presbyterian Church
# pieces->	10 to 15 medium	22	16	3 large, 7 small
Oct-Dec '21	Nina Varon / Carol Schott	Nies Welsh	Ann Limbeck	Betsy Liano
Jan-Mar '22	Barbara Jablonski	Ann Limbeck	Nies Welsh & Betsy Liano	Claire Gmelin
Apr-Jun '22	Betsy Liano	Joanne Andrews	Hiroko Jusko	AVAILABLE

If you have questions about this schedule, please contact **Laura Davis**.

REMINDERS

Current Show November 19 - January 7: Pittsford Federal Credit Union,
Pick up your artwork on **Friday, January 7th between 9:30-12:30PM**.

OUR NEXT MEMBERSHIP MONTHLY MEETING is **January 6th** at 7pm
in-person at the Pittsford Community Center - be sure to wear your mask. We will
do our best to use Zoom during the meeting for those unable to attend in-person.
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.

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**.

PAG is at the *Pittsford Spiegel Recreation & Community Center!*

Room #18 on the following Fridays: January 7, 14, February 4 and 18 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. All are welcomed. Stop by and do not forget your art supplies!

“Fridge” Reminder

PAG Friday Night Paint Out!
Pittsford Community Center

Room #18, 6:30 - 8:30PM

January 7 & 14

February 4 & 18

Our **January** guest artist, **Erica Bryant**, has a February show at [RoCo](#) and an upcoming April art tour at the *Cuba Art Biennial* (Florida) where she is instructing a [collage workshop](#).

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



Time to update our content! Please send Joe some new pictures of your work to be posted on our Website and Instagram account.

Looking for **new venues** to hang your artwork in 2022?

- **My Sister's Gallery**, at the [Episcopal home](#), is a great place for a solo show. It has 24 hangers. Some can be used for double hanging smaller works. There is also a locked glass case for cards, prints or smaller works. A reception will be provided when COVID rules allow.
- The **1570 Gallery at Valley Manor** on East Avenue is a great place for a group show. It can accomodate 40 pieces and also has a locked glass case for smaller items.

If you are interested in either of these, please reach out to **Betsy Liano**.

Explore Rochester's art venues on **First Friday** January 7. Visit firstfridayrochester.org for a full list participating venues and events.

BOARD & Committee Members

2021 – 2022 Positions

Executive Board Officers

President	Margaret Mitchell
Vice President	Betsy Liano
Treasurer	Hiroko Jusko
Recording Secretary	Sylvie Culbertson
Corresponding Secretary	Joe Sirianni

Standing Committees

Membership	Carol Schott
Program Chair	Betsy Liano
Refreshments	Niesdri Welsh
Rotating Exhibits	Laura Davis
Sunshine	Sylvia Ball
Website Manager	Joe Sirianni
Newsletter	Joe Sirianni

2021 – 2022 Season Shows

November 19 - January 7, 2021: Pittsford Federal Credit Union

TBD March 2022: Pittsford Barnes and Noble

