



**IAPS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION of  
**PASTEL**  
SOCIETIES

the PASTEL  
**Times**

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## A Letter From the President

The pastel dust has begun to settle from the 12th IAPS convention and the work on the 2019 convention is now well underway. While it may seem far in the future, considerable advance planning is definitely required. A wonderful team of volunteers is currently focused on making it even more educational, fun, and inspirational. A lofty goal considering previous conventions, but just like painting, expectations for the next always run high.

For the second time, a Sunday recap meeting was held as the convention wound down. It was exciting for the Officers and Board of Directors to hear the ideas, and wise perspectives, of the committee chairs as well as the Advisory Board members in attendance. While unable to physically attend the convention, the fingerprints of Convention Director, Susan Webster, were evident in every part of the convention. Her wisdom and expertise are crucial. Speaking of crucial, the largest and most utilized boots on the ground during the convention were filled by Mack West. There was not a function before, during, and after the convention that Mack was not involved in. **He is the man!** Feedback from the attendee evaluation forms has been very useful. Glitches are a part of life and everyone is working hard to address the voiced concerns. Whenever possible, please take a moment to thank those who volunteered and contributed their time, energy, and knowledge to make the convention a success. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude!

Stepping into the role of the presidency and following in the highly competent / visionary footsteps of Liz Haywood-Sullivan, Maggie Price, and Urania Christy Tarbet is nothing short of intimidating. Since the inception of the association, IAPS has served as a catalyst for the worldwide advancement of pastel by providing encouragement and support for the individual pastel societies that constitute its membership. Every convention has seen growth, in both the number of attendees and member societies. It has also been very rewarding to see an ever-expanding international participation because a continuing mission of the association is to encourage more global pastel enthusiasm. Pastel now stands toe to toe with its sibling mediums and its future looks even brighter, or should I say, chromatic.

## UPCOMING IAPS EXHIBITION

*Call for Entries for the 31st Juried Exhibition*

**THE 2017 WEB SHOW**

**Time is running out. Enter today!**

**ENTRIES CLOSE: OCTOBER 15, 2017**

All entries through **ShowSubmit**

To download the prospectus, *click this link.*

Be sure to enter the current web show. A link to the prospectus is attached. Some advantages of the web show are that shipment of your paintings are not necessary, points toward IAPS honors can be earned, and all prizes are in cash. Fire up the computer and get those pastel masterpieces entered. You'll never get in unless you take a chance! Exhibition Chairperson, Shirley Anderson, is hard at work on the physical exhibition slated for spring 2018. Future plans for the off-convention year exhibition are slated to feature various regions of the United States with a heightened involvement of local member pastel societies. The first will be held in the Pacific Northwest in Tacoma, WA. Details will be announced soon. Be sure to keep an eye out, it looks to be a great kickoff to the 2018 pastel exhibition season!

In conclusion, I want to personally thank Sue (Red) Weber, IAPS Executive Director. She runs the day-to-day operations of the association and is a treasure. Please follow the IAPS Facebook page, and society Presidents, please make sure that you join the IAPS President's Forum page. These are great resources for sharing information and to just keep in touch when not at the easel. IAPS is here to serve its member societies and I am committed to doing what I can with the help of all of you to keep pastel vital for the next generation of aspiring artists.



**Let the pigment flow!**

## THE HISTORY OF IAPS...How We Got Here

Each issue of this new eNewsletter will carry a story about an IAPS Member Society. Since we are "all in this together," we thought it would be interesting to learn about our domestic as well as international society members. In this way, we believe that the community of pastelists will better get to know each other. Our Editor, **Lisa Rico**, might be contacting your society soon so we hope you can supply us with interesting and pertinent information about your group. Our first story is about....

### Our Very First Member Society PASTEL SOCIETY OF OREGON

The Pastel Society of Oregon (PSO) is the oldest member of IAPS. Society President, Lora Block jokes that they had no idea what they were beginning. "A few of us just all loved pastel and thought, maybe we should start a little club." That was in 1987. IAPS wasn't formed until 1994. Block says at the time they started, she was aware of only two other groups, Pastel Society of America and Pastel Society of the West Coast. Both offered her help and advice in the beginning.

"We started with about a dozen members. Today we have about 100." PSO began in Roseburg, Oregon, located between Grants Pass and Eugene.

Block has been the society's president for 30 years and is proud of the fact they were the first to join IAPS. For 30 years, they have been planning exhibits, workshops and paint-outs, all the while focusing on educating the public about pastels and sharing their love of the medium.

As luck would have it, their membership show this year coincided with the Solar Eclipse. Roseburg enjoyed spectacular views of the moon obscuring 96.5% of the sun. All of which is great, but it resulted in crazy traffic and lots of tourists. That didn't stop them or Dawn Emerson who was the juror and



*Juror and Judge Dawn Emerson taught a workshop at Gallery Northwest Studio. Sixty paintings were hung in the gallery for the show.*



*Lora Block taking in the Solar Eclipse this year.*

judge of the 60 paintings hanging at Gallery Northwest. The opening and reception was Friday night and a three-day workshop with Dawn Emerson followed.

Each week - yes you read that correctly - **EVERY** Tuesday they meet for a paint-out. Some weeks there may be only a handful of people, other weeks a dozen or more show up to paint. They select different locations and subject matter. President Block explains, "...we've been doing this for so long, like forever, every Tuesday - we really love it."

Workshop opportunities abound for their members. In July they hosted Tony Allain for a 3-day workshop and Mike Beeman will be their celebrity artist with a workshop in September.

PSO's next national show will be August 2018. For more information about their show log on to [www.pastelsocietyoforegon.com](http://www.pastelsocietyoforegon.com).



## In MEMORIAM

The art world, and specifically the pastel art world lost one of its greats when **Leslie B. DeMille**, passed away on September 18, 2017 at the age of 90. Born April 24, 1927 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, DeMille was an internationally acclaimed painter and sculptor. A master portraitist for over 50 years, DeMille conducted workshops in portraits and

still life in oil and pastel. He created commissioned bronze sculptures, paintings, and limited edition prints for American statesmen, heroes, sports celebrities, corporate CEOs, university presidents, and entertainment personalities including Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Bob Hope, Dinah Shore and Tiger Woods. While growing up in Hamilton, Canada, DeMille won first prize in an art competition at age eight. His studies began at the Art Students League in New York and continued in California. He was the owner of three successful art galleries and honed his portrait skills by painting quick portraits for summer tourists in Hawaii for 15 years.

He wrote several books of instruction for pastel artists including *Portraits in Pastel* in 1981 and *Pastels* in 1988. He was also the host of the highly successful television program, "Portraits in Pastel."

Throughout his career, DeMille taught numerous workshops and was very generous in sharing his techniques and skills. He was a featured artist at IAPS and all who watched him were impressed with his work, charming personality and quick wit.

Upon his passing, numerous artists commented on his impact and influence on their work.

Lisa Rico, who had the opportunity to study with him several times, was his last known student in 2012. She recalled that when he invited her to come out, he said, "you're not bad, but you've got a lot to learn and I'm getting old, so you better come soon." She was grateful she took his advice, because he had a stroke soon after and wasn't able to teach again.

Stan Sperlak recalled meeting him at IAPS in 2011. "He was very gracious and a talented gentleman who influenced so many through his teaching."

Liz Haywood-Sullivan commented, "I will always remember his great presence on the stage at IAPS. He was a remarkably talented artist."

Daggi Wallace said, "He was one of my biggest inspirations to start painting portraits in pastel."

IAPS President, Richard McKinley said, "His TV painting series was an inspiration and he was one of the greats responsible for the resurgence of Pastel."

DeMille's message to all artists, "Keep on doing what you love, never stop learning. I never have! And you will be rewarded with a beautiful and fulfilling life!"

DeMille is survived by his daughter, Dianne Lynne, his four sons, Leslie "Dan", Malcolm, Richard "Rick" and Mark DeMille; 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Isobel Don DeMille in 2001 and his daughter Patricia Douglas in 1953.

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Shirley Anderson, Exhibition Chair



Shirley is a co-founder of the Arkansas Pastel Society and served as President (2006-2007). She is also member of the Lone Star Pastel Society, The Pastel Society of the Southwest, Brush Strokes of Hot Springs Village, and the Fine Arts Center of Hot Springs. Shirley along with three others owned and operated Gallery 726 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, from May 2009 through April 2013. Her work can be seen at the Artists Workshop Gallery, Central Park Fusion Cuisine Restaurant in Hot Springs and the Art Group Gallery in Little

Rock, Arkansas. In 2007, Shirley released, along with three other artists, a book of her artwork entitled *The Monday Studio*.

### Nancy Nowak, Honors Chair



Nancy Nowak earned her BFA degree at Cleveland Institute of Art in enameling and Oil Painting. After owning both a calligraphy and printing business, she rededicated herself to her art. Nancy has won numerous national awards, and has been featured in *Pastel Journal Magazine* along with receiving 1st place in the *Pastel Journal Magazines' Top 100* (2016) for her landscape. Nancy has achieved IAPS Master Circle status, is a Signature Member of Pastel Society of America, and Member of Excellence in the Southeastern Pastel Society. She's an active plein air painter and teaches classes and workshops.

International Association of Pastel Societies

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*Anyone interested in volunteering for the IAPS Communications Committee please contact Chris Ivers at christine\_ivers@yahoo.com.*