

## May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 General Meeting Synopsis

- Amalia Fisch, SWS President, opened the second virtual SWS meeting by introducing the board members and talking briefly about Yong Hong Zhong, the painter presenting today. There were a total of 35 members attending the meeting.
- Kathi Eckerich, the Rick Surowicz Workshop Chairperson, gave information about the workshop coming up on October 30<sup>th</sup>-November 1 at Spokane Art Supply. Early bird member registration for the discounted rate of \$300 is available through June 30<sup>th</sup> then it will be opened to the public for \$350. A \$100 deposit will hold your place with balance due by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up process is easy through the website at [spokanewatercolor.org](http://spokanewatercolor.org).
- Diana Postlewait presented the Challenge, "The Line Up", which was focused on composition. Fourteen members took part by submitting their jpegs prior to the meeting. There was a variety of wonderful submissions. Anna Canfield was the winner of the drawing for a \$15 gift certificate to Spokane Art Supply. Anna is a new member who recently moved to the area from Minnesota. Welcome Anna!
- Yong Hong Zhong then joined the group for his painting demonstration. He spoke about his painting philosophy. He stated that way he paints comes from his sensibility and everyone has a story unique to themselves. He encouraged the group to ask, "What is it I like and what is my perspective on the scene?" How the story is told creates the connection between the artist and the viewer. The details added should support the story. What is left out can be as important as what is included. Being selective creates space for the viewer to add in their own experience.
- Yong then explained his system that focuses on a simplified three value system, which can be expanded, and attention to shapes. Shapes, in reference to drawing and measuring, need to vary in size and variety. He works from general to specific and from dark to light minimizing layering for spontaneity. Yong emphasized when working from life or a photo that it is okay to add and subtract to tell the story.
- Yong shared his materials which included Chinese calligraphy brushes, traditional mops, smaller brushes for details, a palette knife, liquid pen masking and line charcoal for value sketches. He shared his basic paint palette and prefers to mix his own colors. He noted that porcelain plates are best for mixing. He prefers Arches 140# cold press and rough paper.
- Yong's painting process included a three value sketch then he loosely sketched a drawing onto his paper with an HB pencil. He stated that as long as the big shapes are in place the small shapes will follow. He then mixed his light values and added paint when moving on to darker values. Each stroke to the paper was deliberate and well thought out. He was aware of color shifts between cool and warm and the wetness of the paper. Yong talked about his primary and secondary focal points and the S shaped composition that lead to the focal point.
- During a break for questions Yong gave some advice to let go and not try to control too much. Put something down and don't judge it right away but see how it plays out. Put a stroke down and see how it works with what's there. Trust and be confident. As long as the main shapes are there it will have a good foundation.

- Returning to the painting, Yong stated that the last step takes the longest. He takes a break and comes back to evaluate the painting. He again emphasized to make it personal and something relatable. His final painting will be posted on Instagram and on the Facebook Members page.
- The next meeting will be on June 20<sup>th</sup> with a painting demo by Anita Lehmann.

Submitted by Kelly Knouff-Burk, SWS Secretary on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020