



## Mt Pleasant Art Society Newsletter

### Guest Artist: Jeffrey Jenson

Jeff Jenson has had a love affair with drawing and painting his entire life. Little did he know that this gift would play an important role throughout his education as well as into his chosen field.

After two art pieces were published in a national magazine at age 17, he began to try to figure out how he was going to use this talent to pursue a college degree and ultimately a profession that would fulfill his need and desire to create.

Well known architect Michael Graves once wrote: “Drawing stimulates the imagination and allows us to speculate about ideas, a good sign that we are truly alive.”

“Architecture, drawing, and creativity all seemed the perfect fit for me” Jenson states.

Jeff has continued to hone his drawing and painting skills for the last 40 years focusing primarily on watercolor.

“Watercolor has always been my favorite medium because of its spontaneity, immediacy, and unpredictable nature. My early influences included Andrew Wyeth, Edward Hopper and John Singer Sargent. Even though their signature styles varied greatly between them, all three artist were absolute masters at being able to capture and portray light and its effect of surfaces.”

“Most recently, I have been in awe of the work of some of whom I consider today’s modern masters; Joseph Zbukvic, Alvaro Castagnet, and Dean Mitchell and their ability to portray atmosphere and mood in their paintings. Their inspirational work probably explains why my subject matter tends to be the built environments of a lot of the places I have visited during my architectural career. Oddly enough, my primary studio has often been the airplane seat I am seated in during my work-related travels.

The trips sometimes are incredibly long and painting is a great way to pass

the time while away from home.” Jeff has been a member of SWS for only three years now yet feels a special tie to the organization. Harwood K. Smith, a noted Dallas architect and one of the founding members of the Southwestern Watercolor Society, is the founder and namesake of the firm Jeff has been practicing with for the past 33 years.

“Harwood had already retired when I joined the firm in 1982, but he told me that he still found time to paint every single day! He was an inspiration and I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to know him and to paint with him on occasion. I believe that Harwood was an artist first and an architect second. He was a very gifted individual.”

Jeff strives to continue the legacy by teaching workshops to the firm’s architectural student interns each summer. “This summer the class size ballooned to over 50 participants and the amount of excitement this has generated has been extremely rewarding for me. I have always been a proponent of an integrated relationship between art and architecture and these workshops allow me to encourage our student interns to continue the journey to develop their skills in watercolor as a life-long passion. Their transformation is often remarkable.”

“I am truly fortunate and blessed to have followed a career path that has allowed me and encouraged me to paint and create whenever and wherever I can. The Southwestern Watercolor Society has provided me with a host of new friends with kindred spirits and I look forward to enjoying their company for many years to come.”

Jeff, along with his wife Victoria reside in McKinney, Texas.

### MPAS Demo Schedule

Meeting Time: 2:00- 4:00 PM  
(first Sun of each month)

#### Feb 6, 2022

**Artist:** Jeffrey Jensen, W/C

**Refreshments:**

Marty Graves

Velda Williams

**Small Gallery:** Carla Myane

#### March 6, 2022

**Artist:** Mary Hortman Oil

**Refreshments:**

LaVerne Arnett

Linda Larey

**Small Gallery:** Carol Bybee

#### April 3, 2022

**Artist:** Bruce Peil, Oil

**Refreshments:** Linda Hardy

& Sueretta Todd

**Small Gallery:** Ruth Francis

## *Finishing A Painting Workshop with Bruce Peil*

April 4, 5, 6 2022

Fee: \$475.00 with \$100 deposit

Min of 10 & Max 15 students

### *President's Letter*

Greetings everyone.

We had an informative meeting with our guest artist, **Mileah Hall** in January for her oil demo. She shared a great deal of information with us and explained how to get the results of back lite sun shining through a forest. Interesting compensation and picture she selected from pixabay which I'm sure all of you are very familiar with. She has promised to send us a picture of her finished work and perhaps Donna can forward that to all of us when it arrives. She is currently managing the art department at Northeast Texas Community College. Mileah is the kind of person anyone would want to learn from; she was very forthcoming with much information and is a natural teacher. You missed a real treat if you were not able to be here for her demo.

The Small Gallery display was provided by **Mary Hodges**. She provided a variety of work that included **watercolor, colored pencils, and pen and ink**. Her work included people, animals, and landscape. She is a master at painting any kind of flower and doesn't use photo references. She has so much pretty art in her head that I can't even begin to describe it. She displayed a couple of her **plein air** paintings that were interesting. **Reid Springs** was the name of one of them. Her drawings were fun and reflect her personality that likes to have fun! Her **Cabin in the Woods** was a hit with me as well. I also liked the labels on her work so I could tell you about them. Nice professional touch Mary! Thank you so much for sharing your work with us and I look forward to you showing more in the **Membership Show** that is coming up in March and in the **Mt. Pleasant Library Show** in April.

Our refreshments were provided by **Karen Gatherer and Pat Browning** (who stepped in for Leana McGuire when she had family issues) and what a spread they provided! I think there must have been one of just about everything you could think of to eat! Everything was delicious. I heard that the decorations Karen provided were hand made, and I know all the snowflakes were her creations! Great work and very pleasing to the eye (food and decorations). I think each month, we get to see creativity in action with our refreshments! It won't be long before we will be asking for volunteers to do refreshments and I want you to know that it is not a competition, but it is an opportunity to provide something for others to enjoy during our break time. If you have been holding back and not signing up to serve, you can be as creative as you want and bring whatever you choose. We ask that you sign up in twos so it is not overwhelming for any one person. Thank you everyone that have volunteered and served and thank you everyone for volunteering in the future to serve.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank **Pat Browning, Steve Corbell, and Michelle Hobbs** for the cleanup on aisle 12 where I spilled my cup of water! I appreciate your help.

Just to let you know what is coming this summer, we are working with Walt Davis to present a watercolor workshop. Save the date! July 22 and 23 (Friday and Saturday). Stay tuned for more details as we get them worked out! Happy painting! Shirley Clay

### *Backroom Artist: Carla Myane*

In 1975 I purchased a \$3.00 box of pastels and some sand paper. That was the beginning of my trial and error mostly self-taught career in art. Pastels came and went quickly. Oil was just as short lived. Both were too messy with small children in the house. Watercolor has been my media of choice for the last 30 + years. Collage and markers are recent additions to my favored list of mediums.

Most of my art is inspired by nature but expressed in my style. When I have finished a piece, it is art of my making, -- it has come from my mind, my hand - all mine. It exists only on that one piece of paper or canvas and only because of my effort.