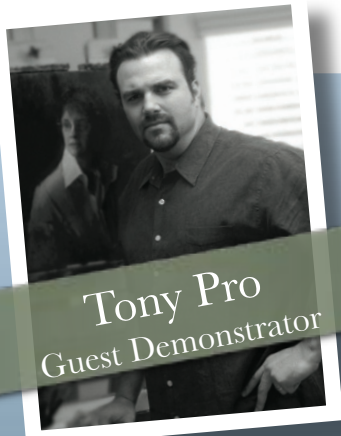




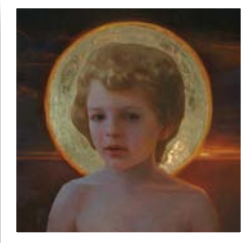
NEWSLETTER

February 2009

VAG proudly announces our Winter Brunch at...



Tony Pro
Guest Demonstrator



Our much anticipated Winter Brunch will be held on Sunday February 8, 2009, at the Cafe Bizou in Sherman Oaks. The restaurant is housed in an old bungalow that complements its casual brand of elegance, Café Bizou is the place for fine California-French bistro. We will begin our brunch at 11:30 am. during our brunch we will have the honor of having artist Tony Pro as our guest demonstrator. Tony Pro was born in Northridge, CA in 1973. He grew up in Southern California around artists such as his father, Julio (1929-), who was an up and coming artist in the southwest art community. Being the youngest of 4 children, Pro was taken all around the country to some of the countries biggest art shows where he met legends like Jim Bama and Frank McCarthy. As a child, he also visited many studios of famous deceased artists such as E. Irving Couse and Nicolai Fechin. In 2005, Pro was awarded the highly coveted Best of Show award at the 14th Annual Oil Painters of America Show, given by juror, Daniel Gerhartz. That year Pro, also, was one of the TOP 10 finalists of the Portrait Society of America Show in Washington D.C. That same year, Pro's painting "Mothers Love" was featured on the cover of Southwest Art Magazine, as well as a feature article. Pro is a guest member of Richard Schmid's Putney Painters and is currently privately teaching master classes in painting. In 2007, Pro started his production company with the production of Jeremy Lipking's first demonstration DVD, The Portrait Sketch. Please members do not miss this incredible opportunity to experience in person the incredible talent of Tony Pro.

Next General Meeting

Date: - Sunday February 8, 2009

Time: - 11:30 to 3:00 p.m

Place: - Cafe Bizou

Admission: - advanced reservation needed

! No mini show this month !

Presidents Message

The delightful Café Bizou and an unforgettable painting demonstration by artist Tony Pro await you this Sunday, February 8th. As I write this, there are still a few precious seats for our Winter Brunch remaining. If you have not yet made your reservations with us, please do so right away, as this promises to be the most outstanding gathering we have ever presented.

This is the stuff that feeds our sense of romance, does it not? An amazing gourmet French meal, good camaraderie and vibrant art...

Our guest demonstrator Tony Pro is a terrific artist who will thrill your spirit with the sensual experience of paint, while filling your mind with knowledge that only comes from watching a portrait come to life right before your eyes! Tony's fame is known far and wide, and we are excited (and lucky) to host such a brilliant artist. This is one demonstration you will not want to miss.

And oh yes, the French cuisine: Café Bizou is famous for presenting the authentic tastes of France, and we have a menu that will astound you. Treat yourself. Bring a friend. Bring the one you love...

All of this is part of our quest to deliver to you an elegant, refined art experience. As a member of the Valley Artists Guild, you will rave about this special day for years to come.

If you have not yet done so, reserve your seat now!

We look forward to seeing you.



John Paul Thornton

President, Valley Artists Guild.



“Without atmosphere a painting is nothing”

Rembrandt

EDITORIAL

After a few months and over a year's membership, I am a relative newcomer to the Valley Artist's Guild. Not really surprising, though, since I have only gotten into any type of art, in particular sculpting stone, about 5 years ago, a few years after my early retirement from an engineering career at age fifty-five. With the encouragement of a long time VAG member, Norm Beal, I really got serious about the stone work, and it is becoming more and more interesting and engrossing as time progresses.

Whenever I get into a new activity, my approach is to learn the basics by taking a class, a course, lessons, or a similar formal training activity. Then I start looking for books on the subject, to expand on the coursework. Some people prefer to strike out entirely on their own, but I find getting formal training, at least at a beginner's level, fits my style of exploration much better.

Then I find myself getting into group activities and usually joining a special-interest organization where I meet more people to help teach me about the subject. That is where my connection with VAG comes in. After attending several general membership meetings and a few board of director's meetings, I was invited to join the board of directors. I formally became one of the directors a few weeks ago. Immediately after that, I was asked to help on the Newsletter Committee.

I've always avoided serious participation in producing groups' newsletters. I've never hesitated to offer an occasional short essay or instructional piece, but never have I agreed to take on a major production effort on an ongoing basis. Well, times change, and I know I can usually handle an extra responsibility as long as it's within reason. Producing a one-page editorial once a month certainly isn't a monumental assignment (he says hopefully).

I spent several hours trying to think up something philosophical to write about, but that just didn't work. A philosopher I'm not. Then, I started thinking about the editorials in magazines I subscribe to. They don't necessarily have to be "the great American Novel", but rather just the editor's thoughts on a subject of interest to him/her. Usually when a new editor comes on board, they talk about how they got into that position. Well, that works for me.

O.K., now you know a bit more about me and my personal approach to getting into a new subject or endeavor. A rather pragmatic, not particular artistic approach, to say the least, but it seems comfortable, and that is really important to me.

Ken Ronney

Special Announcement

Valley Artist Guild 2009 Gold Medal Exhibit



Natalie Smythe
"Sophie's Colors"

2008 Gold Medal Winner

Our 2009 Gold Medal Exhibit will be held in April at VIVA gallery. Members are encouraged to submit to this very prestigious event. Stay tuned for more details which will be posted in our March Newsletter. So far here are the dates.

- Take in date - Monday, April 6
- Show opens to the public - Wednesday, April 8
- Reception Date - Sunday, April 19



Special Member Tribute

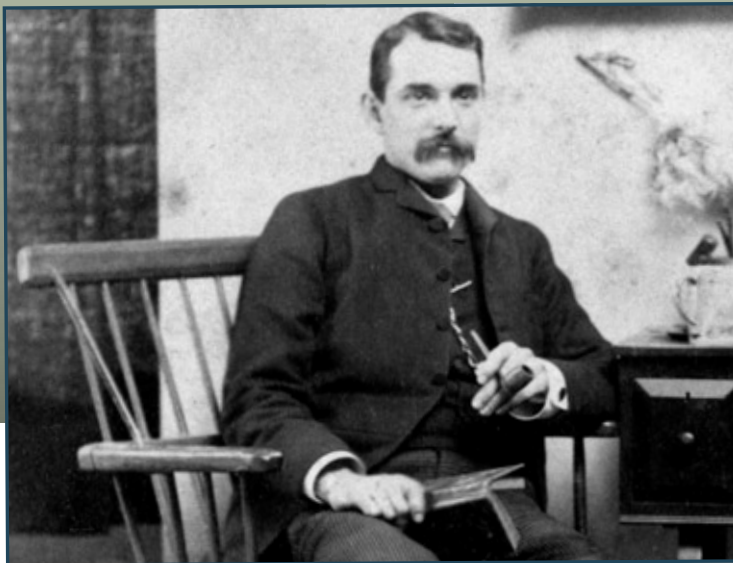
Sadly we announce the passing away of Erin Harnett Cezone, one of VAG's most talented members. Erin left us in January do to sudden medical complications. As a Bermuda-born, British subject, H. L. "Erin" Harnett began receiving honors from the Royal Drawing Society of England at age eight. She was schooled in Bermuda and the United States at Greenbrier, W.V. and Harcum, Bryn Mawr, PA. Since moving to California, Erin worked in many branches of the art world--commercial artist, fabric designer, draftsman and landscape designer. She was at home in most media, including oil, acrylic, watercolor, pen and ink, scratch board and sculpture.



"Two Missing"
6" x 16" Oil/Panel

Erin painted in the style of her ancestor, William M. Harnett (1848-1892), known for his detailed still life and "trompe l'oeil". William was the American master of *trompe l'oeil* (or "fool the eye"). William M Harnett was a great great uncle of Erin. Erin continued the legacy of fine art that was handed down to her. She carried that baton with dedication and devotion. In the last 23 years Erin painted more than 3,000 paintings. Erin had tremendous technical skill and passion. Never at a loss for words she was always direct and sincere with her fellow colleagues, a quality that earned her the respect of many. It was an honor for VAG to have had such a member. She will be missed and remembered by many.

William M Harnett 1848-1892



Erin Harnett Cezone
1934 - 2009



The Old Violin, 1886

Member events and reminders

UPCOMING VAG EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING --

Our group meeting this month will be at the Cafe Bizou for our Winter Brunch

VAG BOARD MEETING --

Wednesday, February 14 Th. at 7:30 pm at the home of Trice Tolle

VAG REMINDERS

Deadline for submittal of items for the newsletter.

If you wish to share with us news, thoughts, anything that might interest your member friends, please submit it to me by the 20th of each month Send to Scott Kiche, Lunahope2003@yahoo.com, Or call 818-462-5708

Board meeting change

The VAG board meeting day has changed from Thursday to the second Wednesday of the month all are welcome to come and join us.
E-mail Scott Kiche at Lunahope2003@yahoo.com or you can contact John Paul at 818-378-8381.

MEMBER NEWS

Stella Singleton-Jones, would like to invite all Viva Members to her art show "chasing" at Roberts Art Gallery in parts with Santa Monica High School, located at 601 S. Pico Blvd. near Lincoln Blvd. in Santa Monica, California. The reception will be held on February 12th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Stella will be unveiling two new art sculptures. She hopes to see you there!!!
please contact Stella with any questions at (310-671-4401).

Debra Hintz has been juried in as an Associate member of Oil Painters of America.

Trice Tolle had her painting, "Cloud Dance" juried into the Yosemite Renaissance XXIV competition / exhibition. The show opens Feb. 27, 2009 through May 3, 2009 at the Yosemite Museum Gallery, then it will be included in a traveling exhibition until early January 2010. Trice also is now a member of the California art .

David Friedman's "See Changes", a recent animated painting (short film/video/abstract movie), has been awarded the Aloha Accolade Award of Excellence in Filmmaking at the 2009 Honolulu International Film Festival. Also, his "Color Parade" (5 min) has been accepted in the San Francisco International Children's Film Festival. You can view them on his website MetaPixel Studio & Gallery:
<www.DavidFriedmanArt.com>

Jude Wiensenfeld is starting children's art classes on Saturday mornings 10 am to 12 noon for \$25 class, one month paid in advance. The classes will be held in her home for more info contact Jude at 818-903-4083 or email her at [judemm@pacbell.net](mailto:judemmm@pacbell.net)

Terry Romero Paul won First Place at the San Fernando Valley Artist Guilds show The exhibit themed "New Beginnings" will be in display at the Creative Arts Center, 1/9 to 1/29.

Lisa August won "Best of Show" at the San Fernando Valley Artist Guilds show "New Beginnings"

Beth Summers invite's VAg members to join her at High Studio Fine Art Gallery

11 East High Street Moorpark, California for the exhibit themed "More Flowers and Dancers" Feb. 2 to March 4, 2009. You will enjoy this lovely gallery that joins the growing art presence in Ventura County, just out of the 118 Freeway from San Fernando Valley off Moorpark to High Street. Reception: Feb. 6 from 7 pm to 10 pm

ARTIST OPPORTUNITIES

International Artist Magazine

CURRENT ONLINE COMPETITION

Seascapes, Rivers and Lakes Entries Close: 18 March 2009

Winners Featured in Issue

No 67 Jun/Jul, 2009

Entry Fee only **\$9.00 US** per entry



Sausalito Art Festival

<http://www.sausalitoartfestival.org/artistapplicationprospectus.html>

Since 1952, Sausalito, the San Francisco Area's "Jewel by The Bay", has hosted one of the finest outdoor Fine Art shows in the country. Held over Labor Day weekend on Sausalito's waterfront, the Festival attracts more than 35,000 Art Collectors to celebrate the virtuoso talents of the finest local, national, and international Artists. The Sausalito Art Festival presents over 20,000 original works of art and features over 285 extraordinary Artists.

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From the editor

Greetings VAG members,

Wanted to bring up some important announcements and reminders. We are just two weeks away from the Winter Brunch and so far we are receiving many reservation requests from the guild. I really excited and looking forward to this special event. If you have made a reservation and have not mailed your \$35 check please do so before the February 5th deadline. If you made a reservation and can't seem to make it please cancel the reservation with Trice Tolle before February 5, this can give us a chance to accommodate another member who wishes to come. The reason being, there is a limited space in the CAFE for this event. Our Gold Medal Exhibit is coming up in April so get ready to bring your best work for this years 2009 Gold Medal Exhibit. Members if you have changed your e-mail address please update your new e-mail address with Terry Romero Paul. That way you can be notified of coming events and announcements. Remember also that our newsletter is now available exclusively on our web site. However anyone wishing a hard copy mailed out to them please let me know. Finally anyone having an exhibit or special event please send that info to me and I'll gladly make an announcement of your event on the newsletter.

Best wishes

Scott Kiche

Would you like to advertise your products or services?
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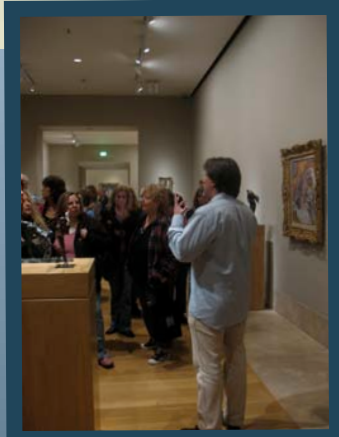
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N o r t o n S i m o n T r i p



Our Norton Simon field trip was once again such an enjoyable experience. John Paul gave the group such a great tour around the museum. His incredible knowledge of many of the works and the history of the artists who created them captivated not just VAG members who attended but also other museum visitors. Needless to say the Vermeer piece was an exquisite gem to look at in person. We had a terrific turn out and everyone enjoyed themselves.



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