



Hello and welcome to the tenth newsletter!

Happy New Year!

Here's hoping you all had a good Christmas and that Santa brought you what you wanted! Doesn't 2010 sound like something out of a sci-fi film? Let's hope that it will be a good year full of happiness and fulfilment.

Christmas Lunch

Thank you to every one who attended and made it another successful social event. It was great to see so many members and their partners again. Thank you also to all the people who donated prizes for the raffle: your contributions were very much appreciated.

Art Trivia Quiz

Thank you for taking part in this fun quiz. There were three lucky winners who have all won two free sessions at the club. They are:

Ken Green

Barbara Mason

Shirley Maddex

They each got 10/12 correct. The answers to the quiz will be put on the notice board if you would like to check them out.

Name cards

We have had quite a few new members joining us recently which is great. So that we can all get to know everyone's names quickly it was suggested that we use some name cards to place in front of us to help remember who is who. These cards can be picked up from the table by the notice board. Please take one and write your name on it - customise it if you like! We have tried badges in the past but some people weren't keen on using them so we'll see if this works. If you have any better ideas do let the committee know.

The wintery weather

It is hoped that you all managed to cope with the very cold weather we have had recently without any mishaps. Although it was tricky to get about it was beautiful. I hope the snowy scenes inspired you to paint and sketch some lovely winter landscapes.

Hints and Tips

Why don't all paintings end up being masterpieces? The five most common reasons for this are:

1. Lack of Tonal Difference

Just how much tonal difference is there between all the areas of colour? Try squinting at your painting. If the painting were in grey tones only, you would easily see if the tones are all very much the same. (It's relatively quick and easy to do with this a photo of your painting by converting it into a greyscale

image in a photo editing program.) Add more highlights and darken shadows to increase the range.

2. Too Many Colors

Using a vast range of colours in a painting is not a recipe for success. You'll be (pleasantly) surprised by how much tonal variation can be created by a few (three or four) colours, and how many colours you can mix with them. A limited palette gives an overall unity to a painting.

3. Only One Reference Photo, Copied Slavishly

Reference photos have their place, and a useful place it is too. But the emphasis must be on "reference", as in "refer to", not as in "copy every detail". Don't slavishly copy only one photo; use it as a starting point. Ideally use a whole bunch of reference photos. At some stage, put the photos aside and let the painting take on a life of its own. Remember, they're reference photos.

4. Fried Egg Composition

It can be done successfully, but only rarely. Putting the subject or focal point of a painting right in the centre of the painting, vertically and horizontally, is dull, boring, hideous and horrible. A viewer's eye goes straight into the centre of the painting, takes in what's there (but not what's around it, towards the edges), and moves on to the next painting.

5. Not Knowing When to Stop

The moment you find yourself mostly satisfied with a painting and think you'll "just quickly" do this or that, that's the moment to stop completely. Put it aside for at least 24

hours, then reassess whether it really needs that tweak.

Helpful notes for beginners

Barbara has some sheets giving help and advice on watercolour painting, colour mixing etc for beginners. Please ask her for copies if you are interested.

Library of DVDs, videos, books and equipment

We have quite a lot of resources available for you to use and borrow. The books and DVDs are put out on the fourth Tuesday of the month for you to browse. Paper is always on sale on other equipment such as mount cutters can be borrowed any time. Ask Barbara for prices and fees.

Wot, no joke?

Sorry, not this time - the stocks need replenishing!

Don't forget, this is your newsletter. Please let the committee know if you like it and what you would like to see in it. Contributions, comments and ideas are all welcome.



Happy painting!