

June 4, 2018

Demonstration - Members' Night Critique by Eddie Mitchell

We were excited to have our own, Eddie Mitchell, well known local artist and long time member of EAA, do the critique of members' art at our June meeting. Over 40 members and guests were anxious to get started, but first, we delayed them at the door asking them to renew their membership. After just one more delay, the installation of officers for the new season, Eddie was ready....to start the critiques.

He told us a little about his background. He graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 1987 and while there, he was proud to study under "a pioneer in the perceptual art movement", painter, Julian Stanczak. Eddie likes to adhere to realism in his own art. But, what will he be looking for in our artwork? "Powerful abstract elements that grab your eye (i.e., attention) and the rhythms (details or nuances) that keep you there", he explained. Other aspects he looked for while critiquing each piece of art included, visual pathways (i.e., movement through the painting), composition, impact of limited colors, texture, negative space, line and value.



He thought Cheryl's photograph of downtown Cleveland was powerful, a great composition, harmonious in black & white and told a story. Dennis' photo of a waterfall showed great contrasts between soft and sharp edges and your eye was drawn into the brightest part of the image. On David's drawing, Eddie suggested that he push the values by making the shadows darker.



There were several artworks with images of birds. "Art isn't *for the birds!*", he quipped. Commenting on the two love birds, "They want to say, *I'm cheap*,"...adding a little "*Eddie horsing around*" humor to his critiques. On a more serious note, Eddie suggested that in Annette's birdhouse picture, she push the colors more. And, on Joan's 'birds on the beach' scene, he suggested that more action was needed on the top half of her painting. We enjoyed listening to Eddie's animated critiques....learning a lot that we can apply to our own art.



Joan and Dottie did an excellent job helping Eddie keep the critiques moving. He gave every artwork equal time and was successful in reviewing close to 30 pieces of art in under two hours.



We thank our hosts for the evening, Carolyn Swaffield and Diane Marra, for their delicious refreshment table. The picnic themed goodies, enjoyed by all, included ham and turkey sandwiches, potato salad, pickles, cheese & crackers, fresh fruit and chocolates, poppy seed bread, Patitza and more....

