

June 3, 2019 Meeting Members' Night Critique by Rick Surowicz

The June meeting is always a busy one for Euclid Art. Members were asked to renew their membership as they entered into Fellowship Hall. Our president, Lee Peters started the meeting with announcements about our upcoming Lake Metroparks Farmpark Summer Fine Art Show and he thanked the many people who helped with our Spring Fine Art Show at the Library. One more piece of business....the officers of the Euclid Art Association were sworn in for the new season. Just over 40 members and guests, including one new member, attended and there were 25 pieces of art to be critiqued. Our program director, Joan Milligan, introduced **watercolor artist, Rick Surowicz**, who performed the evening's critiques.

Rick, who lives in Medina, OH with his wife and two boys, is an experienced watercolor painter and YouTube sensation. After many years away focusing on family and career, he came back to watercolor full time in 2016. His online watercolor classes are extremely popular and his artworks have been accepted in juried shows throughout the United States, plus the International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society. He also holds watercolor workshops locally and across the country. Several of our members follow him on YouTube and have attended his workshops, attesting to his excellent teaching skills.



Rick complimented Euclid Art, remarking about the good attendance on such a beautiful evening and saying, "That's a sign of a strong organization." He said that critique is an important part of development and that everyone sees things differently. He went on to explain that he is big on composition and design, drawing and perspective and the approach to values. He had a lot of good things to say about each piece, but also gave constructive suggestions. As Rick went through the various pieces of art, the audience began to see what he was saying about values, avoiding tangents, adding depth, how overlapping builds depth...and more.



Dan's acrylic painting, *evening at the arch*, was up first. Rick commented that it was an interesting fantasy subject and nice look for an acrylic. He observed that the value of 2 planes were the same and suggested more contrast between foreground, middle and background to create depth. Rick used a value scale to determine contrast. In Barb's painting, he suggested a touch of horizontal to create separation with the ground and sky..."just add a broken line, your eye will complete it." For Pat's painting, he said there were lots of hard edges and suggested adding some soft edges...or as he likes to say "lost & found edge." On Suzette's rabbit, he liked the texture of the poured acrylic and suggested she vary the light in the rabbit's eye. In Helen's "pleasing" watercolor, she should watch for bad tangents. In commenting on Annette's watercolor, Rick suggested that she do sketches and value studies first, instead of painting directly from a

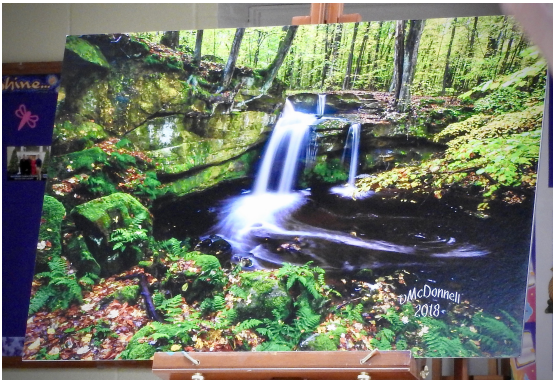
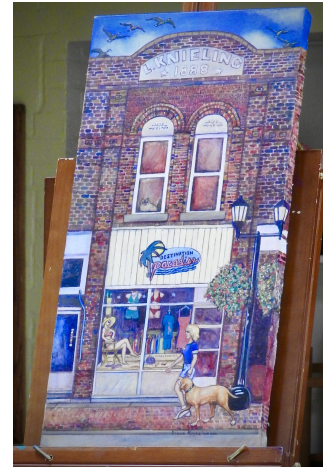


photo....photographs tend to be flat. A good observation for Jim's acrylic was to treat distant trees as a shape and to strengthen shadows to help with depth. For Marguerite's watercolor, he saw lots of nice color, movement and overlap, but no center of interest. And, Dottie's painting was a perfect example of value and depth in all planes and of soft & hard edges. Dennis's photograph has great composition. He called Diane's oil painting, a neat piece with curb

appeal. Even though it was a flat composition, it was meant to be. Overall, we learned a lot from Rick's excellent critique of members' art.



Thank you to our June host, Karen VanLinge, and her assistants, Sandi and Sue for the delicious refreshments we enjoyed after the critique. Karen's lemons squares were a big hit... recipe requested ... as were her homemade cherry squares and blueberry



cake, plus mini chocolate eclairs. To balance all the sweets, we enjoyed salted potato chips and a fruit and veggie tray, contributed by Sandi and Sue. Practical art tips, an entertaining evening, and wonderful snacks to top it all off - what a wonderful way to end our 2018-2019 season!