

**EAA May Demonstration in-person at the Church  
Monday, May 6, 2024 7:00p.m.  
JoAnn DePolo - “Creating Abstract Paintings”**

EAA president, Rozenia Cunningham introduced the evening’s demonstrator, **JoAnn DePolo** . The 28 members and guests in the audience sat ready to hear JoAnn speak about **“Creating Abstract Paintings”**. JoAnn initially expressed her creativity as a photographer. Later she transitioned to painting, where her unique vision blossomed. Recognized for her captivating cityscapes, serene waterscapes, and bold abstracts, her artwork has garnered international acclaim and graces the collections of renowned personalities like Peter Max, Kenny Loggins, and Omar Vizquel. Visit her JoAnn DePolo Studio & Gallery, established in 2012, located in Westlake, OH. Her website is: [www.JoAnnDePolo.net](http://www.JoAnnDePolo.net).

JoAnn brought three large acrylic abstracts in different styles to share...a vintage sunset, the blue ocean scene and a wildflower abstract created while listening to music. JoAnn has 4 sons. The twins, Andrew and Jarred, are music composers! She loves listening to their music while she paints creating what she calls lyrical abstracts...“It’s painting in the moment!” On the ocean scene, one of our members commented that “up close, it looks like a mess, but when you step back and away, it is absolutely amazing!” JoAnn said, “Each piece is painted for someone even if it’s 100 years later. Don’t get discouraged. After all, Van Gogh painted over 900 pieces with no sales for 10 years!”



“All art takes place in the head and heart first and that could take hours, but painting it can take a minute and a half!” She then asked if we were ready to see what happens! Painting wet into wet, JoAnn showed us three ways to add different acrylic paints to the canvas creating texture and movement. She dropped Brusho crystals on the first canvas, adding water the yellowish color expanded. Use less water for a brighter color. Then she added red paint which turned bright orange on the canvas. Moving the canvas around, she added blue for line work. The movement created something that looked like a reflection. Setting that aside for the moment, she moved on to the second canvas. After adding purple latex house paint, she sprayed the canvas with water. The paint ran down the canvas as she moved it around. Then, she added red, followed by blue. Using a rubber palette knife, JoAnn made bold strokes throughout.



Before starting the third canvas, JoAnn told the story of how she got started painting in acrylics. She was a portrait photographer and felt bored with it. Having four young boys, they asked her to draw action figures, which she did using only pencil. Action figures moved to pencil drawings of eagles, pets, and people. When asked to color her drawings, she went to the library to research color, which led her to acrylics and then to abstract art. In 1995, she did a portrait of Peter Max, American pop artist, and gave it to him...he was very impressed with her work. For JoAnn, "the process of creating abstract art is inherently invigorating, offering me a space to truly express my unique perspective in all its vibrancy."

For canvas #3, she added bright colors starting with lemon yellow Brusho crystals, sprayed water followed by more of the same creating different shades of yellow. By adding blue paint on top, the paint turned green as she moved it around on the canvas. This became the background upon which she added 'blotches' of color to create flowers and white lines to represent stems, creating a quick and beautiful painting.



JoAnn definitely liked creating movement on the canvases using various colors and types of acrylic paint. Sitting in the front row, you noticed how the paint 'moved' everywhere. Sometimes, when shaking a bottle of paint, she forgot that the lid was already off or not securely fastened...and paint everywhere, not only on the canvas as a happy accident, but her shirt, hands, and a few drops on the floor. Like she said, "learn, prepare and adjust; you need to know how to fix things!"

After her demonstration, JoAnn surprised us by raffling off three uniquely decorated items based on her art ... coffee mug, pouch, tote bag. What a great idea! Our members, many of whom are acrylic abstract painters, found her presentation inspirational. The watercolor artists among us were amazed at how unstructured painting can be! We thank JoAnn for the raffle and for sharing her artist talents with us.



Twelve members brought goodies to share for the refreshment table. We had a nice variety of treats and more than enough for everyone to enjoy. BYOT to SHARE is a big success! Thanks to all.