

Monday, June 3, 2024

EAA Members' Art Critique Night by JoAnn DePolo

We asked **JoAnn DePolo**, our popular May demonstrator, back to do the June critique. After holding a brief business meeting, president Rozenia Cunningham introduced JoAnn, who was thrilled to again participate with "a great group of artists". JoAnn is an accomplished acrylic artist, photographer, author, teacher and speaker with experience critiquing art. She brings a unique perspective as her "artistic expression resides primarily in the realm of abstract art, unconstrained by limitation". There were 22 members in attendance and 20 pieces of art in the critique, several were award winners. It was interesting to hear what JoAnn had to say about each one.

"Everyone sees works of art differently," JoAnn said and asked if we were familiar with the 10-second rule? *If a person stands there, in front of your art, for 10 seconds, it's a good piece!* When critiquing, JoAnn looks for composition (rule of thirds), color, balance and interest. Does the picture draw you in?

Starting with **Vicki's** "Purple Flowers" watercolor, JoAnn suggested using the Monet effect, i.e., putting dots of purple color with no special identity in the foreground, thus forcing your eye to move around. JoAnn said that **Suzette's** collage, "This Way and That" was wonderful. It definitely got the 10 second look. She loved the way Suzette subtly introduced the red color among the black & white cubes. On **Sandy's** portrait of Henry Kissinger, she found the light intriguing and suggested Sandy fade out the bottom of the portrait to eliminate sharpness. On **Deb's** unfinished, simple blue floral acrylic, the flower was set in the center. That was ok as the petals moved out to the edge. JoAnn suggested splattering iridescence for added interest.



On **Eddie's** oil painting of orchids in his kitchen, JoAnn said that it was picture perfect, nice composition and balance. She loved the way the light changes color. JoAnn thought that **Kathy's** photograph had a nice flow with the clouds, water and color and suggested doing a series of them in the same size. **Rozenia's** mixed media piece was so interesting, cool and captivating. It has good use of color and visual texture, plus a perfect triangular placement of red. **Cynthia's** springtime acrylic abstract was a combination of calm lines and stress. It has great flow. "Don't change it!"



On **Erica's** small portrait, JoAnn liked the choice of the background and suggested doing a larger size, like 16 x 20. **Sue's** watercolor, "Tides Out", had nice use of color and reflections. JoAnn commented, "there's beauty in simplicity" and "I want to be there". **Char's** 1st place watercolor, titled "A Secret Vineyard" was a nice composite still life and JoAnn liked the color choice for the background. **Ellen's** photo, "Tomato Roots", taken from her iPhone camera has nice lighting and shadows and looked nice displayed in any direction! It wowed not only JoAnn but many in the audience, too. Elias, surgeon at Cleveland Clinic, commented that it looked like neurons in the brain. On **Juanita's** figure painted in watercolor, JoAnn found the 'muddy' color in the background distracting and suggested making it lighter.



Our 2024 scholarship award winner, **Karsyn Sharp** and her mother attended the June critique meeting. We were so pleased to see them....it was a first! Karsyn brought in a new acrylic painting, not part of her scholarship entries. It is her own composition, a portrait of her friend who is a make-up artist. JoAnn thought it had great color and balanced face. She liked the bold color choice for the background and the "out of the box, over the edges" composition. JoAnn loved **Carol's** oil pastel, "Melody in Blue" of a flute player. She liked the colors selected and commented on how nice the hands were done, but did suggest a slightly darker skin tone on the palm. **Cheryl's** sculpture honoring her family members with breast cancer was definitely a unique piece of art. JoAnn was very interested in the story it tells.



JoAnn commented that **Bernie's** flowers were nicely done. **Sherry's** flower composition was good, but could benefit from the addition of a few 'bugs' and suggested making one flower more dominate. **Elias** asked for suggestions on his unfinished watercolor and **Marguerite's** orchids needed a focal point. Thus ended another successful June Members' Art Critique Night. We thank JoAnn for her artist insights and suggestions.



The refreshment table was loaded with goodies brought in by members and enjoyed by all. BYOT to SHARE was very successful and will become the refreshment policy in the new season. Thanks to all who contributed. We did have an overload of yummy chocolate brownies! Lots of leftovers went home with Eddie!