

Welcome Rohullah Hassani

By Stephanie Wiles



Some GVA members may have had the opportunity to already meet our newest and quite possibly our youngest member. However, for those of you who have not had the privilege, please allow me to introduce you to Rohullah Hassani. Just turning 18, Rohullah has already celebrated many accomplishments; but the road here has been rocky.

He was born in Afghanistan, but because of the Taliban, his family moved to Pakistan as refugees when he was a very small child. For 15 years, he lived and learned at a refugee camp in Quetta, Pakistan. He first began to draw and paint at 11 years old. In Pakistan, children do not have the opportunity to decide their careers, and the teachers at the schools are not easily approachable. Rohullah wanted to put on canvas how he wanted to see changes in the country and in the cities around him; to show images of love and smiling faces. So to learn art, he attended after school, private classes starting in 2007. Because teachers moved frequently, he had a variety of instructors. For two to three months, he studied sketching and facial features with his first instructor. Then for a year he learned still life, landscapes and

animals with his second instructor. The following four months he had a new instructor that taught him color pencils, pastels and color theory. His favorite instructor, however, was named Hassan Ali Hatif. He was an accomplished artist, able to instruct Rohullah in all art mediums. It was with him that Rohullah learned watercolor techniques. For two years, Rohullah worked as an apprentice at Gholghola Fine Art studio under Hatif's instruction. For another two years he worked in Musawir Art Academy. Nawroz Musawir was his last teacher.

Rohullah first entered the International art competition in 2009. In 2010 he entered again, and became a finalist, appearing in the 2010 River of Words publication for his piece "Forbearance and Seeking a Remedy". It was his entries in 2012 that changed his life. He won the International Art Award for his piece "Give a Shelter to Every Existing Body", and was again published in the 2012 River of Words publication. Other entries published that year included "She is an Orphan Girl, Deprived from Education, Too" and "Pay Attention and Mercy to the Deprived Human".



When Rohullah won the International Art Competition, he was a minor, at age 17. Because he was a minor, he was allowed a parent or guardian to travel with him to receive his awards. On April 23th, 2012, his mother and he were flown to Washington

D.C. There he was greeted by Ambassador Hakimi who gave him a gift, and met with two of the three jurors of the competition: Pamela Michael and Robert Hass.

Once he was in America, however, his living situation changed. It became apparent that due to his new fame as an international award winner in art, extremist Sunni groups would likely kill him should they return to Pakistan; which the government of Pakistan can't prevent. (The extremist Sunni groups already kill Hazara shia such as his family because they traveled to US. They also strongly dislike Western Culture, art, dancing and music – too many things of which Rohullah is affiliated). It was recommended that they stay in America, and become refugees here.

His award also affected his family left behind. He has two brothers and two sisters, back in Pakistan who can no longer attend school. The situation has become too dangerous for his family. They had received a call that said the US government gave \$100,000 to Rohullah, to share with the family. It was not true, and with kidnappings a large risk, his grandmother lives with the children. His father works in Pakistan, but not near the home, and the distance between work and his children is too dangerous to make many trips to see them. Rohullah and his mother are currently seeking asylum, so they may bring their family here to America as well.

If you ask Rohullah what goals he has for his future, he will tell you “I want to show the world and all countries ‘What is humanity? What is peace?’ I am trying to bring a peaceful and lovely world with my art.” It is a beautiful dream to have by a talented young mind. I hope to see it come true.



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New Exhibition Opportunity

The Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan is a non-profit organization that provides affordable mediation to resolve disputes. Their goal is to promote a peaceful, calm setting that is conducive to disputants coming to an agreement.

They are looking for artists to display work throughout the various rooms and hallways of their office, which is located in the Riverview Center at 678 Front NW, overlooking the Grand River. This is a beautiful space in a prime location, and would be a wonderful opportunity for exposure and possible sales.

All 2D artists interested in participating should submit 2-3 samples of work along with a brief description of the work, how many pieces will be available for display, average size, etc. to jeremy@jeremykuhn.com.

The 48th Annual Reed's Lake Art Festival is June 15, 2013

If you don't have your own booth, there will again be our GVA membership tent to share space with other members.

Look for the many volunteer opportunities to support this main source of funding for our fabulous club. A list will be posted and circulated at club activities soon. It is a great way to have fun with your fellow artists and feel good about doing your part! Many thanks,

Lisa Geren and Bob Kraai

Workshops and Classes:

Kathleen Kalinowski

April 10, 17, 24

Wednesday, 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

\$90.00 Grand Valley Artists Studio

SPRING PLEIN AIR WORKSHOP - MAY 4

(rain date, MAY 5)

8:00 am - 3:00 pm, location details TBA

\$75 - oil or pastel, demo in oils. Portable easel required.

Contact Kathleen by email to register.

Kalinowski@chartermi.net

SEPTEMBER 7 & 8

A two day Plein Air workshop, at Pickle Street School Studio, 9 am - 4 pm

\$150 per artist, oil or pastel, portable easel required.

Call Joy: 616-896-9090 or

jrichmon@sbcglobal.net

Pickle Street Studio, 2980 134th Ave. Hopkins, MI in Allegan county.

Jim Markle

Jim Markle is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America and a Master Member of the Great Lakes Plein Air Painters Association. He has over fifteen years of experience teaching all levels of participants in the U.S., Canada, France and Italy. He's the inventor of the Jim Markle Pastel Easelbox and travels extensively throughout Europe and the United States painting en plein air. Great American

Art Works markets his North American Landscape Set of pastels.

Pastel Landscape Workshop May 3 & 4

Livonia, MI.

Visual Arts Association of Livonia

Contact Diana Jamrog 734-838-1204

vaalart@yahoo.com

Plein Air Workshop

Glen Arbor, MI July 10, 11, & 12

Sponsored by: Glen Arbor Art Association

Contact: GAAA 231-334-6112

Gallery 1212 (Patricia Singer)

Gallery 1212, Old Town, Lansing

Tom Tomasek

Pastel workshop

April 20 9:30 am - 4:00pm

\$90.00 (Includes Kitty Wallis sanded pastel paper and non-toxic Gamsol mineral spirits included in the price.) Tom Tomasek is a local artist (Ovid, MI) who features rural Michigan landscapes in his award-winning pastels. He is currently included in the April '13 issue of Pastel Journal with an Honorable Mention. The workshop is to be held in Gallery 1212's classroom and there will be a lunch break. There are several good locally owned places in the Old Town neighborhood that are an easy short walk.

Students must pre-register, payment can be done per phone with credit card or with the buy buttons on the website.

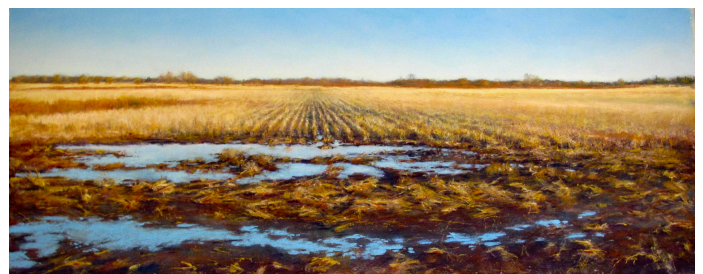
www.gallery1212.com

Gallery 1212 OldTown, Lansing, MI

1212 Turner Street

517-999-1212

gallery1212fineartstudio@gmail.com



by Tom Tomasek

Ken Cadwallader

Ken is offering an ongoing Tuesday painting class for all levels. Classes focus on the core principles of working from life. Review fundamentals of painting: drawing, design, value, color and edge and how they work together to convey your vision to the viewer. The classes include demonstrations, group critiques, individual and group instruction. All mediums are welcome. The instruction will be custom tailored for the individual's specific needs. Space is limited so register soon. Tuesdays 10 am - 5 pm.
\$150 for 5 classes, plus model fee.

Location: Artist Studio: 418 Leonard, 2nd Floor
info@kennethcadwallader.com or 616-566-1238

Juried Spring Art Exhibit

Entries will be accepted Thursday, May 2 between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm, or Saturday, May 4 between 10:00 am and 1:00 p.m.

The fees will be \$10 for one entry and \$15 for two entries.

The first place award is \$200, the second place award is \$150, and the third place award is \$100. Two honorable mention awards are \$75 each.

Artists' reception will be Thursday, May 9 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.



Wednesday Still Life Painting



Wednesday Still Life Painting Session

Program:

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

En Plein Aire Painting by Jim Johnson

Mr. Johnson has had numerous art exhibits of his paintings, is a prolific painter and frequent program presenter. His talk is sprinkled with a delightful sense of humor which makes program night something special.

Thursday, May 9, 7:30 pm

What's New in Art Materials by Dan Anderson. As manager of T-Square Art Supplies, Mr. Anderson displays a depth of knowledge of art materials and will introduce us to the latest tools.

Members in the News:

Flat River Gallery and Framing is hosting a grand opening on Saturday, April 13 from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. Flat River Gallery and Framing is located at 219 West Main in Lowell, Michigan. **Bonnie Osbourne** and **Carol Lurn** will have their work on display as well as eighteen other artists. We hope you will make time in your busy schedule to take a ride to Lowell and enjoy a glass of wine, delicious hors d'oeuvres and meet artists and friends.

Sara Youngman's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of artists chosen to display their paintings in 2013 Celebration of the Arts Competition in February.

Sallie Zigterman will be having a one woman show featuring 55 to 60 pieces of art in various mediums at the Daily Brew Cafe at 128 South Maine, Wayland, MI from April 29 to June 10.

Jan McKinnon had her pastel painting "Shalda Creek-Good Harbor" accepted into the 27th annual West Michigan Regional Art Competition in Lowell, Michigan.

Welcome to New Members:

Kristian Matthews
Anne Corlett
Rohullah Hassani

One Trick Pony

Betty Bell April 1 - May 15

One Trick Pony is a great chance to display your art in a popular establishment in the greater downtown Grand Rapids area. For more information please contact Barb Wood at 942-0585.

One Trick Pony 136 Fulton St. SE

Monday - Wednesday 11 am - 11pm
Thursday - Friday 11 am - 12 pm
Saturday 11 am - 12 pm

Cascade Library Exhibit

Holly Sturges March 15 - May 15

If you are interested in showing your work in the next show, please contact Larry Goff @ 949-1247 or by e-mail at lawrencegoff@comcast.net.

Dominican Center Gallery

March - April 29

Sister Francetta McCann, o.p.
Photography and Pottery

Sister Paula Mierle, s.p.j
Water color & Photography

Reception: Sunday, April 14 12:00 Noon -
4:00 PM

Gallery Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 am to 9 pm
Friday 8:00 am to 8 pm
Sat. & Sun. 8:00 am to 6 pm

Address: 2025 Fulton NE
Grand Rapids, MI

Contact Listings

President: Jeremy Kuhn
jeremy@jeremykuhn.com

Vice President: Carol Laurin 669-3773
carollaurin@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Evie Carrier 648-6858
evie.carrier@gmail.com

Secretary: Stephanie Wiles 558-2701
stephyw2001@hotmail.com

One Trick Pony: Barb Wood 581-7136
Membership: Ruth VanderMeulen 897-6099
ravandermeulen@comcast.com

Photography: Dave Tulos
dnmtulos@gmail.com

Program: Randy Nyhof 949-5746
r.nyhof@comcast.net
Louise Bauer 363-0341
louisembauer@sbcglobal.net
Robin Bomhof 581-2994
robinbomhof@gmail.com

Publicity: Bob Kraai 956-7734
rkraai@ameritech.net

Newsletter: Mary Jo Hays 676-2261
haysmaryjo@gmail.com



Anne Corlett during a recent all day session in the studio



1345 Monroe Ave. NW Suite 130
Grand Rapids, MI 49505-4609

Calendar

April

Monday	April 1	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch
Tuesday	April 2	7:30 PM	Photo Group
Thursday	April 4	7:30 PM	Critique
Saturday	April 6	10:00 AM	Figure Sketch
Monday	April 8	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch
Thursday	April 11	7:30 PM	Program Night
Saturday	April 13	10:00 AM	Figure Sketch
Monday	April 15	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch
Thursday	April 18	7:30 PM	Figure Sketch
Saturday	April 20	10:00 AM	Figure Sketch
Monday	April 22	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch
Thursday	April 25	7:30 PM	Figure Sketch
Saturday	April 27	10:00 AM	Figure Sketch
Monday	April 29	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch

May

Thursday	May 2	6:00 PM	Board Mtg.
Thursday	May 2	7:30 PM	Critique
Saturday	May 4	10:00 AM	Figure Sketch
Monday	May 6	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch
Tuesday	May 7	7:30 PM	Photo Group
Thursday	May 9	7:30 PM	Program
Saturday	May 11	10:00 AM	Figure Sketch
Monday	May 13	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch
Thursday	May 16	7:30 PM	Figure Sketch
Saturday	May 18	10:00 AM	Figure Sketch
Monday	May 20	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch
Thursday	May 23	7:30 PM	Figure Sketch
Saturday	May 25	10:00 AM	Figure Sketch
Monday	May 27	10:00 AM	Portrait Sketch
Thursday	May 30	7:30 PM	Figure Sketch