

Demonstration
April 4, 2016
Daniel J. Whitely



Our featured demonstrator, Dan James Whitely is a well-known artist in the Cleveland/Akron area. Dan specializes in oil paintings and drawings, public murals, figurative work and is currently the art instructor at Orange City Schools. One of our newest members, Dottie Geisert had the honor of introducing Dan to the Euclid Art Association. Dottie had a big influence on Dan's artistic career, as she was his art teacher from the 7th to the 11th grades. She was the one who introduced him to Michelangelo and the Masters. It was a touching reunion of teacher and student.

Dan's demonstration was on oil painting....he paints BIG, really BIG! He brought two large canvases with him, one to show us an almost finished masterpiece that he was planning to enter into the current Gates Mills Show....due in two days....and another large canvas to work on during his

demonstration. He began with a video presentation of the large public murals he has created. Several colorful, 40'x20' panels create a large mural on the International Village building at W. 25th & Clark. Up to 16 of his students helped create the mural located at Puritas Ave and W. 160th, titled Fun is Always in Season. And a 100' mural designed around the windows on the side of a grocery store at W. 130th, features an earthscape and several world religions.



His most impressive mural is on the City Mission building at E. 55th and Carnegie, expressing transformation and inmate outreach. The hands in these images were inspired by Michelangelo's hands in the painting on the Sistine Chapel. Several of Dan's large paintings hang on the wall at Hillcrest Hospital, along with painting by his very good friend, Eddie Mitchell, a long time Euclid Art member.





There is definitely a humorous side to Dan's teaching style. He brought the old Masters alive! With the help of his students, Dan became Rembrandt's "Self Portrait". One year he was Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" and in other years, Van Gogh and Sister Wendy. And, all this for the faculty yearbook pictures. How much fun it that for his students?



Now...back to the big canvases that Dan brought for his demonstration. He explains how he uses photoshop to merge many images; removing the black allows him to see the color. He likes using a computer monitor as he can better see color. Dan's paintings have that luminous quality, which is hard to achieve in oils. He uses a technique used by da Vinci, called Sfumato, to get the luminosity of color to come through his canvas. As he scumbled Indian yellow and shades of green and aqua around the canvas, we could see things change.



There were 33 members and guests that didn't want Dan to stop, but refreshments awaited. Thanks to Mary Alice Valvoda and Mary Ann Gambitta, we all enjoyed delicious treats, including croissant sandwiches, pizza, hummus dip, fruit and veggies, plus those yummy Palmiers!

