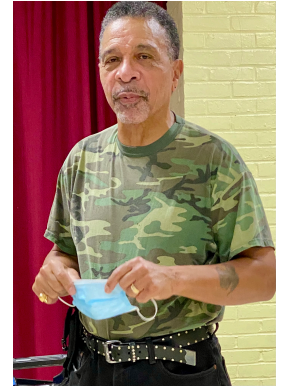


Demonstration November 1, 2021 David Buttram - "How I Work in Oils"



Many thanks to artist, **David Buttram** for demonstrating "**How I Work in Oils**", at our November meeting and a special thanks to his family and friends who came to support him. This may have been his first demonstration in over 25 years, but it certainly did not seem that way to the 25+ members and guests who came to watch and learn his technique. He started his demo from a drawing done at home, a value study in one color, orange, depicting an image of a young black child with exquisite backlighting around his head. The lighting "was like gold," he said. David takes his inspiration not only from the masters, such as Van Gogh, Rembrandt, O'Tanner, The Eight, but from the numerous pictures he has taken from all over Cleveland's inner city. He says "My camera is like my paint brush." He admits to going a little crazy these days taking digital images.

"I consider myself a student for life," said David, a US Marine Corps veteran from the Vietnam era. He graduated from Cooper School of Art and the Cleveland Institute of Art, receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Jose Cintron, a long time friend of Euclid Art, was his teacher at Cooper. At Kent State, David completed his master's education, holding a Master of Arts degree in Fine Arts. He worked as a mechanist at GE and TRW, but retired as an art educator from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, having taught art and photography at Glenville HS and at various elementary schools, kindergarten to 5th grade. "High school students are fun," he said. "You control the kids or they'll control you!" *Size, Shape, Position and Direction* were always written on the board in his classroom.



We watched as David added color, dark to light, to his orange value study. His reference is a digital image on his iPhone, which is positioned next to his easel, elevated so he can easily refer to it. He holds his brush filled with paint next to his iPhone for a color match. "At times I can be found talking to my paints!" He admits that once he gets the colors in there, he's in another zone. Looking at it later, he says "I don't remember painting that!" He controls the color tone by using his palette, which is arranged from dark to light, with 62 different colors on a 'throw away' waxed piece of paper. He gave us this one tip about preserving paints for another time. Keep oil paints from drying out by putting them in a suction bag, sandwiched between two containers. Someone in the audience asked if he ever cleans out his brushes? "No, I just use a different brush." One of his secrets is that he uses his shaky hand to his advantage, saying, "Sometimes mistakes I make are better than what's intended." He likes to call this stage of his painting "the ugly stage." A tip: "Stay away from the details, do it last." He loves working in his home studio... "it's like being in heaven!" "When I'm in my studio, it's like second nature." He enjoys listening to music while he works. His favorite is

soft jazz on Sirius XM Watercolors. At the meeting, president Lee Peters softly played music on his iPad, making David feel at home.



As a final part of his demonstration, David shared a slide presentation of his amazing artworks. The first series of slides showed the progression of how he works, painting dark to light. David's art is a combination of photo realism and impressionism. There were so many beautiful pieces to see. His snowy scenes sell really fast, especially to people in Chicago. Not only has David captured life in the black community....he's captured history! His artworks are exhibited at the Framed Gallery in Cleveland's **Waterloo** Art District and at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. More of his artworks can be [viewed at https://david-buttram.pixels.com/](https://david-buttram.pixels.com/).



Thanks to our hosts for the evening, Bernie Russ and Terese Berzinskas for their Pre-Thanksgiving feast! We 'give thanks' for the many tasty treats, enjoyed by all....pasta salad, fresh fruit cup, pigs-in-a-blanket, crackers, cheese & salami, chocolate cookies, muffins and Halloween candies.

