

Euclid Art Association

April 3, 2023 Meeting

Brittany S. Paynter, "Working in Oils with a Self-taught Paynter"

The Euclid Art Association held its April meeting in-person at the church featuring artist, **Brittany S. Paynter**. She was wonderful! Over twenty members and guests watched Brittany demonstrate her approach to oil painting, her most favorite medium. Selfe is her maiden name and she's also a self-taught painter, thus the play on words in the title of her presentation. Brittany is an observational painter. She notices things that inspire her and then paints it. "Having a cell phone is really helpful," she said. She always paints from a reference picture, mostly her own. However, her pelican reference for this demo was from a friend. She set up for the demo using items pulled from her small travel bag....a black bag containing Filbert brushes (she buys cheap brushes), a small glass palette, a few key paint colors, including Titanium White and a soft mixing white, but no black (a color she never uses), plus some 'rubber' gloves. She paints wearing gloves, so that "I can tear them off easily", especially when her two young children start acting up!



At the start of a painting, Brittany puts a toned background color on her canvas, often burnt sienna. In the case of the pelican, she added an underpainting with an oil-based pinkish purple color. Sometimes she will underpaint using acrylics. "You can paint acrylics on top of oil, but not the other way around!" We watched her paint the pelican's long beak. "I follow the reference and paint what I see". Her favorite colors are Phthalo blue, Alizarin crimson and dark browns. Her favorite brush is a Filbert #8, which she uses even on huge paintings! She likes mixing colors on the palette emulating Bob Ross, an American painter as seen on PBS. *Tip: She puts mineral spirits from a metal can (not from a plastic container) into a jar that has chicken wire at the bottom. The chicken wire along with mineral spirits cleans your brushes.* She starts painting at the top of the canvas and likes to work dark to light. Occasionally she will use two dowel rods (professional term, mahl stick) to help get a straight line or to keep her hands off the wet canvas. "If it's too wet, I just work away from that section." She continues to blend paint on the bird's face as we watch the pelican on her unfinished canvas 'come to life'....a delightful and enjoyable demonstration.



In addition to painting in oil, Brittany does ceramics. She has a wheel and kiln in her studio. She even melted glass in the bottom of one of her mugs and thought "that's beautiful." So, she took a picture of the glass and expanded it into a series of amazing abstract oil paintings. She loves oils, hates acrylic and is a very accomplished watercolor artist. Many samples of her work lined the church bench for us to see. In addition to her original artworks and prints, she sells scarves, mugs, greeting cards. Everything is made to order. She uses 'Art Storefronts' to sell her merchandise.



Growing up, there was always artwork going on somewhere in the house. Her mom, who was in the audience, confirmed this. Brittany would skip 'no-nothing classes' in school, like study hall and go to the art room to paint. She went to college for about a year, but decided she could learn faster and more on her own. Instead, she took the time to travel around the world, snapping pictures of things that inspired her, most of which later ended up as oil paintings. In addition to being a professional artist, Brittany is also a mother of two, a published illustrator, Board Member of the Geauga Arts Council and an art teacher at the Chardon Recreation Department. She is the owner of Creative Spirit Studios, her independent art and web design business. Visit her website: www.brittanyselfeart.com.



Many thanks to our hosts for the evening, Char Dayton and Sue Herrle. We enjoyed an Easter bunny feast which featured two recipes from our new EAA Cookbook....now on-sale! In addition to cold veggie pizza and lemon yogurt cake, recipes from the cookbook, we enjoyed GF meatballs, tomato, basil & cheese skewers with a balsamic drizzle, GF brownies and Irish oatmeal raisin, walnut & chocolate chip cookies.