

## June 6, 2022 Meeting Members' Night Critique by Christopher Leeper

The Members' Critique meeting, a very popular event, was held on Zoom for two very good reasons. First, participants would have a much better view of the art being critiqued, allowing our president, Lee Peters to move around the image showing interesting details and brush strokes. Second, the high cost of gasoline (now over \$5)...Leeper lives in the Youngstown area and it's a 150 mile round trip to Euclid and back. Lee started the meeting acknowledging the 78th anniversary of D-Day. He followed that by thanking all who participated in the virtual spring fine art show and with a reminder to renew our membership. Before Lee introduced Chris Leeper, the 2022-2023 officers of the Euclid Art Association were quickly sworn in.



The critique included the twelve images submitted by members, plus all the winners from our Virtual Spring Fine Art Show@EuclidArt.com. We had 24 participants on Zoom. Here are some comments and quotes from Leeper during his critique of our art (*not all images included*):



- Poppy by Annette F. - an exceptionally strong watercolor; composition is centralized.
- Likes the vertical format in Cynthia's acrylic floral; his favorite is the red & yellow flowers; leaves are too symmetrical; suggests she 'bleed' the blue flowers over the upper right edge in the corner.
- In Char's watercolor, the building is the star of the show; it's hard to have trees competing with the building; be less 'fussy' with the background trees, as it competes with the building; likes the foreground.
- Deb's prisma pastel lilies could be more dramatic by adding a dark background around the flowers. Nice blend of colors and a solid drawing; make the center of flowers darker as everything is middle value.
- Kirk's watercolor works really well. Leeper loves the placement of the boat's 'mast'; suggest the shadows on the house go deeper; the shadow values can be tweaked more.



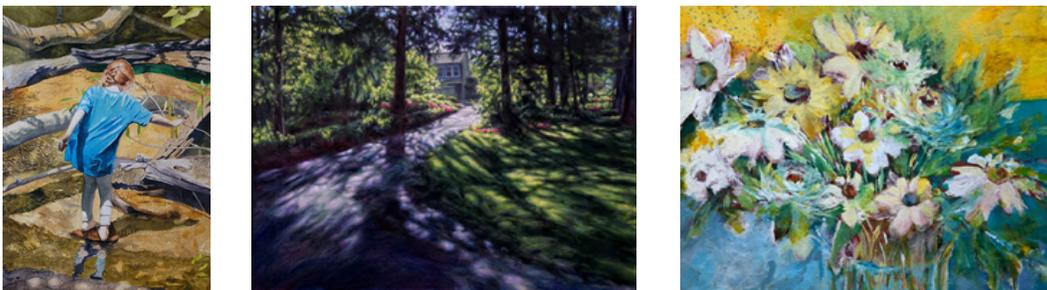
- A super rich oil painting by Eddie; a solid piece; loves how the light leads you through the painting; loves the rimming of the shadows and the blues in the upper right flowers.

- Ellen’s charcoal sketch, which took her 25 minutes to complete, is well done. Good use of negative space; you can see her thinking throughout her line work.
- Jeri’s tree stumps have great character. He considered this a rendering and not a painting. Suggest she let one or two stems bleed off the top of the paper; could go darker.
- Alesha’s fantasy drawing is nicely drawn. He wants to see more value and texture; good composition; suggest she keeps the background simple.



- Rozenia’s acrylic and raised collage won Leeper’s “Most Ambitious” painting of the evening, so far. It’s an ambitious composition and subject matter. The shapes being of different sizes strengthens the image; the baby’s head is isolated and floating off the shoulder; would like the blue passages to be stronger.
- Suzette’s bird nest collage is a great composition. “I’m squinting it down,” as he studied the image more. Pretty cool balance of color and intensity within the nest. “I love the challenge of collage”, said Suzette.
- Yellow Rose by Terese B. - After ‘squinting it down’, Leeper said he loves the dew drops on the petals and a few drops are all that’s needed. Well balanced; not an easy subject to paint; it’s like painting a portrait. A few warmer leaves may be needed.
- Triangular Enactment by Tom E. - excellent drawn figures; great shadow shapes; likes the pinks; thought the pyramids were competing with the figures.

At this point Christopher reviewed the Virtual Spring Fine Art Show’s 2022 Best of Show and 1st, 2nd 3rd and HM winners. He explained what drew him to the winning images. Only 1st place winners are below:



- Best of Show and 1st place in Watercolor - Jack Hickson, *Natural Curiosity*, a slam dunk! It’s hard to paint in watercolor. Drawn to the position of the figure, the multiple layers of color in her hair and the shadows on her arm. Very impressive and well done!

- 1st place Oil/Acrylic - Eddie Mitchell, *A Lush & Luminous Lucidity*, “I was drawn to it right away. It’s a subject that resonates with me.” Great light and use of back lighting, which manipulates where the viewer looks.
- 1st place Mixed Media - Bernadette Russ, *Blue and Yellow*, well drawn; subtle use of negative space in the flowers.



- 1st place Graphic Art - Michael Bacnik. *Requiem for the Common Man*, very strong and detailed drawing; the quality of the line and position of the figure works; favorite part is the shoes. Leeper also taught drawing.
- 1st place Photography - Susan Herrle, *Take Flight*, loves the design, value, color pattern and texture on the wings; “It has it all!” Great composition with the clouds, wings and background. This is the design you would want to paint.
- 1st place Digital Art - Lee Peters, *In an Octopus's Garden*, loves the strength of the lines. Likes the color palette and and some negative space.

Christopher went on to critique the rest of the show winners. We thank him for doing our June critique and for judging our Virtual Spring Fine Art Show.

