The editor position has been taken over by Erika McGinnis. Thank you, Erika!

Welcome to the latest issue of Pulsar! We have the final part of a wonderful review of the Kitt Peak workshop with lots of great info, photos and paintings that were produced there, including the cover, a strip painting made by each participant doing their own style strip!

We'd like to have more artist profiles! If you have done new work lately, please contact the editor (email address on the back page) and submit a short review and photo. It may feel like bragging to other artists, but in reality, our artists often have requests for artwork or collaborations with other artists. If you show what you're currently doing, it may very well trigger more work for you! Plus, we all love to see what each other is working on, so please send in your latest!!!

We welcome some new members, but first, we must pay tribute to a couple of wonderful members that have passed on. If you have done new work lately, please contact the editor (email address on the back page) and submit a short review and photo. It may feel like bragging to other artists, but in reality, our artists often have requests for artwork or collaborations with other artists. If you show what you're currently doing, it may very well trigger more work for you! Plus, we all love to see what each other is working on, so please send in your latest!!!

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Farewell Lost Members

Christa Wawers-Breid
Bildende Künstlerin
† 22. Juni 2011

Es ist schwer, einen geliebten Menschen zu verlieren, aber es ist toll zu wissen, wie viel Liebe, Freundschaft und Achtung ihr eingebracht wurde.

Danke allen, die sich mit uns verbunden fühlen und ihre Anteilnahme in so vielfältiger Weise zum Ausdruck brachten, sowie allen, die sie auf ihrem letzten Weg begleiteten.

In Namen aller Angehörigen
Edgar Breid

Christa Wawers-Breid
geb. Nau
Bildende Künstlerin
* 10. 12. 1945 † 22. 6. 2011

http://christawawers.de/
Paul Hoffman, 1941-2012

Andrew Hoffman: (Sept. 24, 2012) I regret to inform you all of the passing of my father this morning. His cancer took a very aggressive downturn in the past few weeks, moving to the spine and bone marrow. Thankfully, he did not suffer for an extended period. You all, and everyone at the IAAA, meant the world to him... Thank you all for your passion and friendship that Paul cherished so much.

Jon Ramer: Paul was an avid space artist and long-time volunteer member and his wit and humor was always a highlight at the many workshops he attended. With the family's permission, we will be sending a flower arrangement to his services when they occur. Sleep well friend, the cosmos is your canvas now.....

Steven Hobbs: I was priveledged to meet Paul (and our own Mikey) at a Mars Society Conference and talk to him personally about space art. He and Mike are two of three IAAA artists I have physically met. Paul, here's hoping you are saying gudday to Rick Husband and Neil Armstrong. RIP mate.

Aldo Spadoni: I'm glad I got to meet Paul and spend some time with him during the IAAA Death Valley and Utah workshops. I well remember his sense of humor, as well as the marvelous western hats he wore out in the desert. You will be missed, my friend. Fly high!

Kara Szathmary: Rest in eternal peace Paul, may you chart the next series to stages that takes you to the here-after. Thank you for all your help as a colleague in the IAAA Board, your service as our CFO Treasurer and your friendship from Kennedy Space Center, Death Valley and Utah- Escalante. You are and will be missed.

Dale Darby: Prayers are with you Paul and all your family. Your art will live on my brother.

Julie Rodriguez Jones: I remember watching you paint in Death Valley and how amazing your work was. We are richer for your life Paul. Rest now and watch the heavens glory in their welcome home to you.

David A. Hardy: Very sad news. I met Paul on a number of occasions at workshops, where he was always a great asset and a friendly and helpful participant. His art is top class, whether digital or hand-drawn, and at least this will live on long after his death.

B.E Johnson: Joy and I learned of his passing this morning. He will be missed. We worked with him for many years on IAAA business matters. I met him in person years ago during a visit to the D.C. area; where a bunch of us early IAAAers had gathered for an exhibition. One evening, after the day's functions were over, we talked at length over a couple of beers. A good time with a good person is always to be revered. God speed, Paul. New Zealand is but one stop on your journey.

Dan Durda: Very sad news. Paul visited Colorado every year and I remember the last time I saw him last year on a fun trip with Mikey to meet up in Pueblo at the Air Museum there. I like Paul's digital technique and watched him work at the Death Valley workshop in 2005, turning the day's digital image of the Devil's Golfcourse into a very nice new piece of art that evening...

Dirk Terrell: I, like everyone else who knew Paul, was very saddened to hear this. I worked with him over the last few years when I was on the Board. I met Paul at the Death Valley workshop in 2005. He met up with Dan and me at the Las Vegas airport and we drove to the workshop together. Paul was a very talented man, and I very much enjoyed learning from him. The IAAA and space art in general will miss his contributions. God-speed, my friend.

Lynette Cook: I am so sorry to hear this, and wish his family well in this sad time. He was a dedicated IAAA member and someone we will miss greatly. He'll now take up his paintbrush in the great beyond...

www_digitalspaceart_com/gallery.html
Welcome New Members!

We have several new members to welcome! And since I haven’t done this in a bit, we have more new members that are lined up for the next issue. If you’re new and I haven’t done a feature yet, please write me!

Welcome to Sarah McNulty as an associate member from Florida, but she has some wonderful art to view at sarahmcnulty.daportfolio.com. Sarah is one of the lucky ones working for the space industry!

Next, also welcome Corinne Cowan as an associate member from Canada! Her artworks have a loose flow on watercolor paper that I just love. I’ve often wanted to be able to do this type of work, but she really has a wonderful feel for it!

Please welcome as an artist member, Marie Green, another member from Australia! She is relatively new to painting, but has already created some stunning pieces. Check them out at www.mariegreen.id.au

And also welcome as an associate member, Alizey Khan. She’s from the South Carolina and has wonderful images at alizeykhan.com. She does a lot of deep space paintings which have wonderful colors and details.
The GENESIS and the EXODUS of the IAAA * Kitt Peak Workshop: The Route to the Heavens

By Kara Szathmary MSc FIAAA

Part SEVEN

Day Five: Final Full Day on Kitt Peak – Thursday, October 22, 2009

The final full day of creativity swung into full gear beginning with breakfast and then onto the mountain art studio. Kara, after quick check for e-messages from Elizabeth in Tucson, joined Betsy, April, Jon and Michelle in the cafeteria just as they were finishing. Michelle left and returned to the dormitory to finish packing her car, move it over to the studio and then spend the balance of the morning finishing up her line drawing. April, Betsy and Jon returned and prepared for one final excursion on the plateau to paint and/or photograph.

Tim, John, and Bill were already setting up their area of work in the studio. As Tim busied himself both inside and outside on the patio, Betsy, April and Bill discussed and critiqued their finished paintings while Bill framed some of his for delivery to the exhibit. Tim spent some of his time happily reviewing the forthcoming IAAA art book that Jon Ramer made available for anyone to preview. Once finished, Tim moved on to review some of the techniques of Russian Impressionists using the art books Bill brought to share from his Tucson studio. As John was flipping through one particular book, Composition of Outdoor Painting by Edgar Payne, it caught Kara’s eye when he returned from breakfast. The book would have to wait until later. For now, Kara grabbed his D-100 digital camera and headed out for a reconnaissance of the south end from the dormitory area to the McMath-Pierce Solar telescope and to the ledge to view the panorama of the mountain range south and west rising from the Sonoran desert floor. He was looking for a spot that would become his final color drawing. Bill chose to spend most of the time around the studio space, working on unfinished paintings putting finishing touches on and varnishing them. Once completed, he photographed them. April decided to organize her 300+ pictures in her digital camera.

Betsy also chose to produce one final water color and headed out along the path up to the 2.1-meter Kitt Peak telescope where a sign read “Watch for Snakes”. The warning alerts the general public to be cautious on their visits as rattlesnakes are easy to encounter as the sun warms this area fairly well. She finally found a view behind the observatory, set up her easel on an embankment along the road to the WIYN telescope and began “Memory of Kitt Peak”.

Meanwhile, John Ramer continued his walk up to the area of other telescopes on the west side of the acreage. With his camera, Jon’s exploration was focused on finding unique formations in the countless number of boulders, odd rock formations, and/or creatures that habitat this area.

Kara returned to the studio, picked up his art supplies and headed out to the back of the 3.5-m WIYN observatory. His view looked over the valley north in the direction of the Spacewatch observatories, the 4-m Mayall telescope and cluster of other observatories where he finished a color drawing the day before. Walking around at night, you are dark adapted, allowing you to see the city lights of Casa Grande to the north and Tucson to the east. Superimposing the night sky into this composite captures the essence of the nightly activity on Kitt Peak, while security monitors the main road leading up to the plateau on the left side.

Tim also decided to take a last wander around the plateau. There were still plenty sites and perspectives to visit to learn something new and soak up the senses with just being there at Kitt Peak. During his walk this nostalgic sentiment only grew stronger, which was strongly felt by everyone. He tried to capture this emotion in his last en plein air oil painting, Souvenir of Kitt Peak. The small majestic panorama of rock and multiple domes he later gave to his wife.

By the time Kara returned to the studio, Michelle had left for Tucson in order to purchase snacks and make preparations for the vernissage at the Kuiper Atrium for Friday. Bill was still working on his painting while others were away at lunch. Kara took the opportunity to look through Bill’s art book, Composition of Outdoor Painting.

After lunch Betsy, April and Jon joined Bill and Kara for their final push to finish their latest compositions including their sections of the strip painting. With all the inspiration happening in the studio, Jon decided to start a final acrylic painting, called “Monument”. He left his large pointillist “Great Red Spot” painting...
for later as it would require over 100,000 dots on the painting by the time he'd be finished. A short time later, Tim and John returned from their excursions and joined that creative afternoon frenzy. After April finished her strip painting, John launched into his; then Tim, followed by Bill and Betsy. One by one the artists took turns completing the strip painting sections. By 4:30 the crew was ready for supper.

After the evening meal, six of us left to go on the 4-meter tour that Jon had arranged for us. Bill decided to remain in the mountain studio to continue on various projects in addition to varnishing some of his finished paintings. Our rendezvous at the 4-meter telescope was scheduled for sundown, when the shutters to the dome would be opened. We were greeted at the back door and led to the elevators up to the observation console room and telescope. While a pair of graduate student assistants set up the observation run, our host astronomer guided us through the staging area and gave a mini a lecture on his research. Once everything was ready for the night of observing, we left. When we were walking back the sunset was an incredible event. We were looking for the green flash which Jon said he saw several times in LA near the Pacific beach; but only Betsy managed to see one at Kitt Peak. By the time we reached the main road back to the Visitor's Center we had to use our red cellophane wrapped flash lights to guide us. On our way back to the studio, John accompanied one of the graduate students on her way to another telescope.

Returning from the 4-m tour Kara went onto to the computer room to check his E-mail to see whether Michelle arrived safely back to Tucson and that she had secured all the purchases. She sent her greetings back to the artists as she was busy cutting up cheese as finger food for the snack table during the exhibit. Kara also confirmed the expected rendezvous time the next day for the artists-in-residence at Elizabeth's NOAO office near the University of Arizona's Kuiper Atrium.

Kara returned to join the rest of artists-in-residence working and finishing up in the studio. Since John was finished with his paintings, he hung out in the TV room and watched the premier introduction of conductor Gustavo Dudamel with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra playing Mahler's Symphony No.1 on PBS' Great Performances show. As the artists finished their remaining pieces and tidied up their work area, they headed off to their dormitory rooms, leaving Kara and Jon to finish up their section of the strip painting. Once the two completed their sections, they too headed for sleep.

Part EIGHT

Day SIX: Exhibition at the Kuiper Atrium – Friday, October 23, 2009

The morning calm and peacefulness was in stark contrast to the pace the artists-in-residence found themselves. Packing up their rooms and art supplies in the Mountain ART Studio was now a mandate if not completed the night before. The studio, which was adjacent to the cafeteria, was reconfigured back into its initial format as the RBSE room.

After breakfast the vehicles were packed, keys and radio equipment returned to the administrative office and the crew was ready for the 10 AM departure. We stopped at the Visitor's Center and asked one of the caretakers to take our group photo at the side of the building where the telescopes were placed during the meteor shower.
Once John's car was topped off at the correct level with antifreeze, to prevent engine boiling problems as happened on the way up a week earlier, the convoy headed out. With Bill in the lead, John followed accompanied by Betsy, then Kara with April and Tim and Jon in the rear. On the way down the mountain, John kept shifting into a lower gear to save on the breaks throughout the twelve mile descent along a route of windy and twisting series of switchbacks and sweepers of decreasing radial turns. The decision may have put too much strain on the engine as black smoke came out his exhaust as we neared the bottom of Hwy 386. Four miles later at the entrance onto Ajo Parkway (state Hwy 86) we stopped to check with John who agreed to push on toward the Coyote's Souvenir and Convenience Store 16 miles away east towards Tucson. After a brief stop there at the convenience store, the antifreeze level was checked again and was fine. It also provided one last opportunity to purchase some additional souvenirs, Tohono t-shirts, postcards and a photograph with a giant saguaro cactus. During the drive back to the motel near the Tucson airport, great conversations, stories and reflections about our experiences were shared with the hope that the exhibition will be the crowning achievement to a successful week of creativity. As a group, we brought 60 paintings including 32 new pieces for the exhibit. After registering at the Country Suites & Inn and dropping off our luggage in our rooms, we headed to the University of Arizona to rendezvous with Elizabeth Alvarez at the NOAO headquarters at noon near the Kuiper Space Science building.

Elizabeth arranged parking permits to be issued for the cars of the artists on campus during the setup and through the takedown of the exhibit. Michelle arrived with her car stuffed with finger food snacks, soda and lemon drinks for the venue. She also brought her art and the set up plans she had drafted and arranged with Mary Guerrieri, the manager of Academic Affairs at the Department of Planetary Sciences and Lunar and Planetary Laboratory of the University of Arizona. Aletha Kalish, who assists in the KPNO Director's and Kitt Peak Support Office when temporary help is needed, joined our group at the back delivery entrance to the LPL. The cars were unpacked; the artworks and easels fitted onto loading carts and rolled onto a service elevator up to the second floor and into the Kuiper Atrium. Michelle took out the floor plans and directed the artists to select a table that would fit midway beneath a vertical eight foot long panel for hanging the art work. The tables could also hold small table easels once their surface was draped with black table cloth. Artists hung their names and art works on their panels, and placed business cards and artist's statements on their tables as they wished. The IAAA banner which the public would see entering the atrium, was hung above the snack bar area on the second floor railing, announcing the exhibition theme.

During the week prior to the exhibition venue, an all media blitz press release was issued by NOAO and UA. Arizona Illustrated, southern Arizona's television magazine hosted by Tony Paniagua interviewed Dr. Steven Pompea, NOAO Education and Outreach Manager and IYA2009 Project Director. While discussing the 50th anniversary of the National Observatory, Pompea described the week long IAAA workshop and announced the art exhibition at the University of Arizona. An invitation was extended to all art enthusiasts and the general public to join the viewing from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. The opening of the IAAA Art Show-- Visions of the Cosmos--at 3 P.M. marked the commencement celebration of the 50th Anniversary of NOAO/KPNO and the 50th Anniversary of the UA's LPL. During the exhibit artists answered questions from the enquiring public. Jon Ramer gave demonstrations of his pointillist technique as he continued work on his large painting of Jupiter's Red Spot.

At the front entrance into the atrium a guest book was available for the public to sign. Michael Palmer, an undergraduate student who works with NOAO Education and Public Outreach program gave demonstrations of a Galileoscope as this activity was also in the spirit of the International Year of Astronomy.
At the close of the exhibit, the artists approached Elizabeth Alverez to thank her for coordinating her KPNO staff to assure that the IAAA workshop was conducted smoothly and efficiently and orchestrated across cultures on a tight budget. She was presented with an original painting executed during the week on the mountain. The artists-in-residence selected Betsy Smith’s watercolor, At the Cassegrain, painted Monday morning at the Mayall Observatory as Elizabeth’s husband, Bill, swapped out instrumentation to the 4-meter telescope.

Before the takedown of the exhibit and general clean up, the artists invited Elizabeth Alverez, Mary Guerrier, Aletha Kalisk, Jim Scotti, and Michael Palmer to join the artists-in-residence for a group photograph around the IAAA banner above the Kuiper Atrium exhibition area.

Once the cleanup was completed, the party agreed to meet at the Old Pueblo Grille off of Alverson Way for 8 P.M. for supper and a grand finale celebration of the conclusion of one of the most successful and creative of the IAAA’s legendary workshops.
FOOTNOTE: Departure from Tucson

I boarded the plane, and found my seat; the flight back to Panama City FL was scheduled to depart the gate at 7:20 A.M. The morning sun hung in the east. It was partially cloudy; yet, from my seat my eyes scanned across the observatories on Kitt Peak, some sixty miles distant to the west. As the plane lifted from the runway, the 4-meter Mayall Observatory and the McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope were the clear and obvious visual landmarks on the mountain home of the twenty-six telescopes of NOAO. Baboquivari Peak was also visible, majestically sitting south of the observatories up on Iitol's Garden. Farewell Tucson and thank you for the marvelous success and the hosting of our IYA2009 mission to celebrate the launch of the 50th anniversary of Kitt Peak National Observatory and the Lunar Planetary Laboratory of the University of Arizona.

Recap Planetfest 2012 Show, August 4 & 5, 2012

By Aldo Spadoni and Jon Ramer

Aldo Spadoni: Rick Sternbach, Bob Kline, and I put up the IAAA art show on Friday afternoon prior to the event opening at the Pasadena Convention Center. Rick and I focused on hanging the prints on the provided four zigzag cloth panel arrays through the miracle of Velcro, while Bob handled the hanging of the framed art on a hard wall. Much of the show is comprised of prints and many of these were expertly printed by Joy. They look great! Joy also wrapped each print in a "magic sleeve" which made it easy to hang the show. A few hook-side adhesive Velcro strips at the rear corners and voila! I posted some photos on the IAAA FB page to provide a quick look at the preliminary set up for the show. These photos don't show the complete art show set up, but hopefully give you a feel for what it looks like.

We had good IAAA member participation on Saturday. By the time I showed up, we had Rick, Don Davis, Don Dixon, and Jon Ramer in attendance. Unfortunately, Bob could not attend on Saturday. Charley Kohlhase is supposed to be in attendance but we did not see him. I've not met Charley before and I hope he shows up on Sunday. Jon brought some additional artwork on Saturday as well as the large IAAA banners, which finished our art show display nicely. The art show is well placed right outside the main event ballroom. As Jon reported, we were very busy with a swarm of interested visitors!
Our small stack of Beauty of Space art books sold like proverbial hotcakes! Art was selling well too. Rick was very busy talking to fans while managing art sales. Don Davis made us all look good by doing some live painting. He touched up/restoreed two small beautiful Mars oil paintings that were damaged in an earthquake. Jon and I took a quick jaunt to a local art store and purchased a gessoed panel. We intend to complete a quad painting of the Curiosity landing to be presented to Bill Nye the Science Guy.

As Jon reported, the five of us participated in a panel discussion of "Why Create Space Art?", which was well attended and received. I managed to fumble through my own part of the talk, saying something about rockets and Iron Man. But I have to say, I was very impressed with the eloquence of Jon, Rick, and the Mega-Dons. In the short time we had, I think they really impressed the audience. Hey, these IAAA guys are good!

I'll be heading back up later this afternoon and will try to take some more photos, before all the artwork is sold :-). Should be fun working on the quad painting. We plan to take down the show sometime this evening while we await the Big Event! It should be an exciting evening!

And from Jon Ramer:

We were totally slammed today from the moment we walked through the door. Not only did we sell ALL of the books I brought on the first day but we also sold seven printings! :-) And tomorrow's crowd is sold out at over 2,000 people - nearly twice today's count, so we're expecting more sales. Our panel was attended by about 500 people too and was very well received. We had many people come up to us afterwards and say they really enjoyed it. A couple even said the art show was the reason they came because they never get to see space art shows.