

FCA – Victoria Chapter

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Demonstration: Marshall Hugh Kaiser

January 16, 2014

Next meeting: February 20, 2014, 7:00 PM, Windsor Park Pavilion

Call to order: 7:00 PM

Minutes: submitted via email by Janet Mercer

Chris Stusek opened the meeting with the following information:

Spring Show

- Spring Show in March at the Coast Collective.
- Chris brought a supply of entry forms for the show, otherwise the forms are available on the FCA-Victoria website.
- Invitations for the show will be available for members to pick-up at next month's meeting.
- The commission rate is 30%
- Members were reminded to pay attention to the standards for framing of submitted work.

Fall workshop

- Negotiations are underway with Nancy Slaght for a workshop in pastels.
- Nancy has indicated that she would make some pastels available to participants so they would not need to purchase a supply.
- Proposed dates – October 25 and 26, 2014

Other Items

- We are still looking for a Spring Workshop presenter
- Members reminded that Vancouver FCA membership fees for 2014 are due.
- All dues (including those to the Vancouver FCA) must be paid up in order to participate in the show
- Information regarding signature status has been forwarded to the membership via email. It is also available on the website.

Chris Stusek introduced artist **Marshall Hugh Kaiser** – oil colour painter
Chris provided the following background information:

Website which includes a great gallery: <http://www.marshallhughkaiser.com>

Hugh is a Victoria based artist who was raised in Halifax Nova Scotia. He received his fine art degree from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. He works in oils, focusing on land and seascapes. His paintings are an interpretation of thoroughly researched and sketched subjects and locations. They are a multilayered, dark and luminescent expression of the personal experience of being there.

His work is in private and corporate collections such as the Nova Scotia Power Corporation and the William H. Sobey Collection. Hugh exhibited extensively at Zwickers Gallery and Duke of Argyle Gallery in Nova Scotia.

His own gallery and studio, which he shares with his artist wife Karen Lynn Kaiser, is in Dragon alley in Chinatown. Hugh won the People's Choice Award two years running at the Sooke Fine Arts Show, and this year also won the Designer's Choice Award at the Sidney Fine Arts Show.

Hugh brought two partially completed works to use to demonstrate his method.

Ottawa River – taken from the vantage point for Victoria Island during a flood. He worked from a photo for this painting.

Fulford Valley – taken from the vantage point of Mount Maxwell. Hugh works from studies and sketches of the view.

Hugh will work on a number of painting (1 – 4) simultaneously, using the same palette for each. He tends to use only a few colours for his painting. He may then put a painting away for some time and then bring it out again to work on. The Ottawa River painting was started about a year ago.

- Starts with an undercoat, the colour of it depends on what he feels the painting colours will be.
- Doesn't have a set formula

- On a large piece, he will often start with a pencil sketch and then using a soft eraser, take it off, a faint sketch remains.
- Uses needed information from the photo reference and then “get rids of the photo”.
- Light source is usually from one side – diagonally across
- Sometimes he only wants one section of the painting and so he will cut up the painting and restretch the desired section.
- He finishes the painting with a light varnish – 1 or 2 coats painted on, in opposite directions. His preferred product is “Demar” varnish. Use less than 50% solvent/varnish. Mix slowly, never shake. This will avoid lumps
- Uses poppy seed oil as a medium
- Uses lamps with incandescent daylight bulbs in his studio.

He may apply paint and then rub it into the canvas with a paper towel. This gives extra atmosphere and glow and a loose non-hard line. If too much paint is left in one spot, it can be dabbed off with a kneadable eraser.

Hugh commented that the painting is more important than the “actual” scene (i.e. photo) – so a person can change the appearance of the scene to enhance the painting. Keeping this in mind, aids the ability to do the painting loosely.

Hugh will return to sketching in pencil to work out problem areas. He commented that there is a lot of planning to a painting, but he has found that accidents tend to result in his favourite area.

Hugh demonstrated his technique of applying paint and then rubbing it off with a paper towel. He works back and forth on a painting – is it predominately red or blue? Change the predominance, do something drastic, rub out and see the end effect. He showed how he builds up the changes by adding paint and rubbing.

Hugh provided a very interesting and instructive demonstration. The FCA members spent time asking questions and discussing the demonstration with him during the break.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.