



## December 2025 Newsletter

### President's Message-Ginny Sparlin

Hi Ladies,

Well looking back on the past year, I hope you've had as much fun as I have! Teaching or learning a new and different project every month was a great time. And I hope you'll enjoy the projects on the calendar for next year. Thank you to the board for all your hard work, our little group would not exist without all of us working together.

As this Holiday Season approaches, I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and the Happiest New Years! Hope Santa treats you right! Look for the Calendar of Events further into this Newsletter.

*Ginny Sparlin*

Just a little reminder: Our dues for the year are still just \$20.00, and are due as of December 31. Please send your check to Treasurer: Linda Beaty, 16016 E. Harvard Ave, Aurora, Colorado, 80013. Rocky Mountain Hi Artists Group 2026 Calendar of Events

- January 17th, "UFO" brings any unfinished project (if you have one of those!) to the meeting with whatever paint you need finish it, and we'll all sit and paint and enjoy each other's company. And if we should have snow, well it's just a UFO, it'll get finished someday.....
- February 21st, Animal Zentangle taught by Debbie Poster.



- March 21st, a small surface, mini-Landscape, taught by Debbie Poster



- April 18th, TBA
- May 16th, "Piggy" on a wood slice, taught by Ginny Sparlin.
- Summer Paint Parties: We try to keep these a surprise, but they are always fun. Due to the awful summer heat these will be at Garden Plaza this year.
  - June 20th
  - July 18th
  - August 15th
- Sep19th, Book Mark with Pumpkins, taught by Andrene Schmelzer
- October 17th, TBA
- November 21st, Our Christmas meeting, pot luck. Ginny Sparlin will be teaching "Jingle Kringle" on a wood window topper or surface of your choice. Pattern by Just Fine Designs artist, Sandy LeFlore.

## Monthly Program Report-Deb Poster

Happy Holidays to you all. We've had a great year with some fun projects. I'd like to thank every one of you for sharing your ideas and for attending the meetings to try some of the techniques and projects that were offered. I want to remind you all that even if you don't want to do the project, we all enjoy visiting and laughing and eating the goodies that we share. If you are stuck on a previous project, bring it and there will be someone to help you. These are called

UFO's (Unfinished Objects). I have so many of these that I look forward to time away from home to work on them!

Our Summer Paint Parties have worked so well these past few years. However, the heat has made a few of our Saturdays so unbearable outside. We often eat and then visit sitting out, under the shade in Marilyn's cozy backyard (my favorite part). We will use Garden Plaza if the weather is unbearable.

Our meeting days will remain the third Saturday of each month. We start at 10am and end at 2pm for 4 hours of painting. Please feel free to bring a guest!  
Location is still Garden Plaza!

Our winter seems to be starting out very slow this year. That may mean January will come in strong and hard.

- ✚ January 17 UFOs: I'm sure some of you need to finish a project or two
- ✚ February 21. Tangled Penguins or Cat
- ✚ March 21. Mini Landscapes
- ✚ April 18
- ✚ May 16. Pig
- ✚ June, July, August. Summer Paint Party collage on canvas using texture, napkins, stencils to create background for a single flower of your choice
- ✚ September 19
- ✚ October 17
- ✚

We have several open dates hopefully we will have a gourd project. Gourds will be brought to January and February meetings to be chosen. First come, first served.

If you would like to offer or suggest a project you can text me at 720-217-2383

Respectfully,

Debbie Poster

## **Sunshine Report- Karon Sorensen**

We all want to wish Verlene Siska a Happy Birthday on December 21



## **Tole Chatter-Melinda Barnes**

**Just Fine Designs ...** Sandy Lefore has a cute free pattern available I don't know how long it will be available. Scroll down to find it.

<https://www.justfinedesigns.com/shop.html>

**Pacific Decorative Painters Expo** April 29-May 2, 2026 Registration is now open and I've seen some really good classes offered.

<https://www.pacificdpexpo.com/>

**OKC Panting Palooza... Catalogs will be mailed soon.**

<https://okcpaintingpalooza.com/>

### **TRACY MOREAU'S SPOT**

#### **Painting Tip:**

Tired of having the Paint bleed under your tape??

Try applying a very thin coat of Matt Medium, all-purpose sealer. or DecoArts Decoupage Matt over the edge of your tape before applying your color. Let it dry thoroughly before applying your color.

When removing the tape, fold it back on itself and pull it along at a 45-degree angle. Take your time...if you do this while the paint is still wet, you will lower the risk of "tearing" the fresh paint, and it will leave you with a clean edge.

tip: to avoid bleeding....

Use a high-quality Painters' tape, not MASKING TAPE.

Frog tape, or 3M Safe Release tape, are the two I recommend.

Both of these use a moisture-activated adhesive that greatly reduces the chance of paint bleeding.

Store your tape in a sandwich container or the container it is sold in (Frog Tape). This prevents detritus (dust, glitter, etc.) from adhering to the edges of the tape (causing a rough edge)

#### **Painting Tip:**

I have a stack of MUST have tools for designing.... I like my circles to be circles; I like my straight lines to be straight...It's virtually impossible to free hand them that way. So, I use tools. I use templates for small squares, circles, triangles, etc. I use rulers and t squares to ensure lines are straight, I use a lettering rule, to ensure that spacing is correct, Mechanical Pencils, ultra fine

point gel and felt tip pens, and my light tablet... they are all important in my own process and each designer has their own, have no doubt. Here are just a couple of great tools that are handy for any painter!

Geometry kit: I know you had one in school; I keep one in my stash. Perfect for classes and travelling, it has nearly everything you could need! toss in an eraser and an extra pencil and your set!

Staedtler General Purpose Templates. For making circles, squares, triangles of all sizes. They help keep shape and size consistent (handy for tracing too.. just match the sizes).

A good Quality STEEL Ruler (Cork Backed). I have a 6" that is ideal for everyday work. Plastic rulers tend to chip giving you an irregular line.

Hit a local staples or office supply store, they are all reasonably priced, and worth the investment. Back to School season is a great time to buy them as most stores have discounts and coupons available.

### **Painting tip:**

There are a variety of ways to make stencils for your own use. You can use the electronic cutting machines (Silhouette, Cricket etc.) Or you can hand cut them from Stencil material ( Like the one shown ) Or you can cut a limited use stencil from Heavy card stock. You can use large paper punches, even cookie cutters to create simple stencil designs for craft and art projects. You don't have to use commercial stencils to create incredible design work!

Trace your chosen design onto heavy card stock , and cut it out using a craft knife or precision cutter.

On stencil material like the one shown ... place the line drawing under a piece of plate glass and position the Mylar over it, then cut it out using a craft knife, precision cutter or a hot knife ( similar to a wood burning tool) These simple homemade stencils can help you create work that is YOU-Niquely YOU!

Design Ideas:

Trace fall leaves, pattern in fabric, geometric shapes, sea shells, letters.... anything that you like!! Just keep it simple!!

### **Did you know.....**

Delftware or Delft pottery, also known as Delft Blue or as delf, is a general term now used for Dutch tin-glazed earthenware. Most of it is blue and white pottery, and the city of Delft in the Netherlands was the major center of production, but the term covers wares with other colors, and made elsewhere. It is also used for similar pottery, English delftware.

Delftware is one of the types of tin-glazed pottery or faience in which a white glaze is applied, usually decorated with metal oxides, in particular the cobalt oxide that gives the usual blue, and can withstand high firing temperatures, allowing it to be applied under the glaze.

Delftware forms part of the worldwide family of blue and white pottery, using variations of the plant-based decoration first developed in 14th-century Chinese porcelain, and in great demand in Europe.

Delftware includes pottery objects of all descriptions, such as plates, vases, figurines and other ornamental forms and tiles. The style originated around 1600, and the most highly regarded period of production is about 1640–1740, but Delftware continues to be produced. In the 17th and 18th centuries the manufacture of Delftware was a major industry, with product exported all over Europe

### **Did you know...**

Repoussé or repoussage is a metalworking technique in which a malleable metal is shaped by hammering from the reverse side to create a design in low relief. Chasing or embossing is a similar technique in which the piece is hammered on the front side, sinking the metal. The two techniques are often used in conjunction.

Many metals can be used for chasing and repoussé work, including gold, silver, copper, and alloys such as steel, bronze, and pewter.

These techniques are ancient and have been extensively used all over the world, as they require only the simplest tools and materials, and yet allow great diversity of expression. They are also relatively economical, since there is no loss or waste of metal, which mostly retains its original size and thickness. Toolmarks are often intentionally left visible in the result.

A few among many famous examples of repoussé and chasing are the prehistoric Gundestrup cauldron, the mask on the mummy of Tutankhamun, the body armors of the Bronze Age, the copper ornaments made by the Native Americans in the Southeastern United States, and the Statue of Liberty in New York City.

### **Did you know...**

John Singer Sargent (January 12, 1856 – April 15, 1925) was an American expatriate artist, considered the "leading portrait painter of his generation" for his evocations of Belle Époque and Edwardian-era luxury. He created roughly 900 oil paintings and more than 2,000 watercolors, as well as countless sketches and charcoal drawings.

Sargent's work is characterized by remarkable technical facility, particularly in his ability to draw with a brush, which in later years inspired admiration as well as criticism for its supposed superficiality. His commissioned works were consistent with the grand manner of portraiture, while his informal studies and landscape paintings displayed a familiarity with Impressionism. In later life, Sargent expressed ambivalence about the restrictions of formal portrait work and devoted much of his energy to mural painting and working en plein air. Art historians generally ignored society artists such as Sargent until the late 20th century

Tracy shares her talent with a free project almost every Saturday on Facebook and YouTube.com.

**Tracy's website:** <https://tracymoreau.net/>



## Computer Security...

[Holiday shoppers targeted by account takeovers, warn Amazon and the FBI](https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2025/11/holiday-shoppers-targeted-as-amazon-and-fbi-warn-of-surge-in-account-takeover-attacks?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=b2c_pro_oth_20251201_decemberweeklynewsletter_nonpaid_v1_176433587980&utm_content=Amazon)

You can read the entire article here.

[https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2025/11/holiday-shoppers-targeted-as-amazon-and-fbi-warn-of-surge-in-account-takeover-attacks?utm\\_source=iterable&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=b2c\\_pro\\_oth\\_20251201\\_decemberweeklynewsletter\\_nonpaid\\_v1\\_176433587980&utm\\_content=Amazon](https://www.malwarebytes.com/blog/news/2025/11/holiday-shoppers-targeted-as-amazon-and-fbi-warn-of-surge-in-account-takeover-attacks?utm_source=iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=b2c_pro_oth_20251201_decemberweeklynewsletter_nonpaid_v1_176433587980&utm_content=Amazon)

Merry Christmas,

Melinda

More examples of a small surface, mini-Landscape, taught by Debbie Poster



