

September 2013

Fall is suddenly upon us. Many painters get a special dose of inspiration at this time because of the burst of colors in the trees around us. It is a great time to do some exploration to find painting subjects that are found only for a couple of weeks each year.

As you recall, the theme of our Fall show last year was Autumn in Vermont. I hope everyone is focusing on entries to this year's theme show: "Peaceful Places". Once you think about it, I believe you will agree that it is a broad theme, and can conceivably cover a wide range of subjects. It all depends, I guess, on what you define as peaceful. Hint: images from the Syrian war will probably not pass muster.

I have been struggling (again) with acrylics. I recently obtained a few DVDs that I thought might help me get off square one and on to a more successful new start with the medium. But alas, I seem to lack the basic requirements for successful acrylic paintings. I don't know if I am using the wrong types of paints (apparently, there are very fluid acrylics, as well as medium- and heavy-bodied paints, all with different properties and uses) or simply lack the expertise for applying them correctly. I will continue the struggle, however, and am hoping to have an acrylic painting ready for the fall show. I will let you judge how successful I have been.

Meanwhile, I plan to continue my on-again, off-again love affair with oils. I have a number of paintings under way using that medium. I find that having a number of paintings under way allows me to work on one, set it aside for a week, and have something else to work on in the meantime. Working on different paintings each day provides just the right amount of variety to keep my interest going. Also, getting started often on a new painting is a special joy in itself.

Hoping to see you at the October 22nd meeting.

President Bob