

Belmont Art Association Meeting: December 17, 2020

Location: Our fifth Zoom meeting was brought to order by Co-Chair Dari Paquette at 7:05, presuming that everyone who was going to come had arrived. Attending were nine members and two guests:

Attendees: Helen Canetta, Julliette Carignan, Naomi Ellenberg-Dukas (Co-Chair), Bert Halstead (Treasurer and Membership Coordinator), Anne Katzeff Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Fleur Thesmar, Ian Todreas, and Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary). Honored guests from the Belmont Media Center: Meredith Holch and Frédérique Rigoulot

Meeting

1. Dari welcomed longstanding member Anne Katzeff back to Belmont after her sojourn in Florida.
2. **Dues 2021:** Bert announced that he will be collecting annual dues of \$35 starting now, with a deadline of January 31st. In this time of Covid-19, if people want to continue membership but are in a financially awkward position, they can contact Bert confidentially and he will waive dues. Dues can be sent to Bert via PayPal or by sending him a check. Instructions are on our website.
3. **Paint Pals:** Ian told us that when he finished painting his “Dogs of Belmont” electrical box at the corner of Trapelo Road and Slade Street, he had \$100 left over, so he decided to use the money for a pilot project to help Belmont elders, who have been alone in their homes during the pandemic, to explore creativity through watercolor. He bought two watercolor supply kits with the money and delivered to two seniors he found via the Senior Center, his faith community, and the BAA. Then he taught the two women how to get started. His idea is to connect the two women with a mentor or group with whom they can have an ongoing social experience through art. He is looking for volunteers to help build on what he started. Fleur said that she would be glad to work with Ian to give art instruction to other seniors.
4. **January Meeting Presentation:** Next month on Tuesday, January 19th, Adria Arch will give the BAA a presentation about acrylic paints. Adria is an accomplished sculptor and painter who has shown at the DeCordova Museum, Fidelity, and many other venues. Adria is a Working Artist for Golden Paints which produces lines of acrylics, oils, and watercolors. This demo will be on Golden’s acrylic lines and various mediums to use with them. *Twenty people must register for this event to take place, and participants can send in for a free Golden acrylic sample kit after attending the presentation.
5. **Belmont Gallery of Art’s Virtual Show:** Dari announced that the BGA’s virtual portrait show, “Facing You,” goes live on December 21st. Much of the art is for sale, and many BAA members have work in this show.
6. Dari and Naomi are asking for suggestions for speakers for our February meeting. If any members would like to give a talk, show their work, or have an idea for an outside presenter, please let them know ASAP.
7. Fleur announced that she has a painting in a benefit show at the Beacon Gallery for Art Dash 2020.
8. Bert announced that the Griffin Museum is doing a virtual show for the Boston Camera Club, of which he is a member, starting in January. In addition, what is being termed a photo fence is planned for the Greenway in Boston this summer. This banner will highlight the work of Boston Camera Club members. It will be 5-6 feet high and hundreds of feet long. This

installation will be an amazing sight. Bert says that the Boston Camera Club has many very talented photographers.

9. Presentation by Belmont Media Center:

Dari introduced our speakers for the evening, Meredith Holch and Frédérique Rigoulot, who put together a presentation explaining how artists can make a video of their work for publicity purposes. Meredith moved from Vermont in March to work at the BMC. She is an animator who does stop motion with the computer and uses tissue paper. She creates video on camera and is concerned with social justice issues. “Fred” is the News Director of “News Now” and works with a volunteer-based staff at the BMC. She uses an iPhone Pro and says it has great video quality.

Meredith explained that in your video, your opening shot should make people want to keep watching, and your last shot is what you want to leave in people’s minds. Pictures of your work can be interspersed with scenes that show your process as you make your artwork. Ask yourself, what is the story you want to tell people about your art?

Meredith and Fred said that using an expensive video camera is unnecessary. They both make videos with audio using their iPhones. The iPhone has a number of features for creating videos and editing them. The quality of iPhone photos is perfectly adequate for computer and phone viewing. Professional-looking results can come from using editing tools such as changing the formatting or exposure, using panorama shots, slow motion, time lapse, face tracking, selective focusing, locking the exposure, and adjusting the color tone all the way to black and white. You can change the color temperature of the original source of light; your iPhone can display a grid so you can line up your subject to the vertical and horizontal. You can even change the texture of your shots. There are apps you can get and YouTube tutorials you can watch to help with your editing tools and techniques. Fleur Thesmar creates a lot of videos for her Instagram feed and says that Splice is a very good app for video editing, along with iMovie.

iPhone settings:

Frames per second: 1080 p HD at 30 frames per second— 60 fps is smoother but makes bigger files. Use 60 fps to do slow mo later. 4k @ 30 fps is a HUGE file size.

Fred discussed different ways to keep your phone steady: using your whole hand to hold the phone, steady your arms against your body; various stabilizing devices, including, of course, a tripod that accepts an iPhone. The BMC has loaner tripod frames for stability that can either be hand-held or connected to a tripod. You can also make a DIY desktop tripod with clothespins!

Also discussed was how to light your scenes: natural light is better than artificial, but not full sun. When natural light is not possible, you can use a ring light with a remote to control light intensity and color. For photographing or taking video of either 2D or 3D art, place lights at 45° on either side to reduce shadows. Aim them up or down depending on the location of the art. It is better to underexpose than overexpose since there is no information on a whiteout photo or video. Use the e/AF lock to lock the focus by holding your finger in the square. When the sun symbol appears, you can adjust the exposure.

For content, the first and last images are the most important. Do a full frame first, then zoom in. A yoga mat makes a uniform background. Take 7 second still images so people can see details. Do slower pan, zoom, and tilt shots. You can speed things up in editing, but slowing down is bad for the focus. For process videos, cutaways and zooms change the views to different angles. Sound effects are good to link.

For time lapse videos, good apps are: SkyPro for iOS 13.0 or later, Lapselt, or Time Lapse Free—but that has no back camera use. For animation, O Snap! is good.

The BAA is very grateful to Meredith and Frédérique for a very informative introduction and a great learning experience into what is clearly a bigger subject requiring experience and practice. They showed us what is possible, and they covered a lot of ground. They also told us that you can request a BMC-trained volunteer with some experience to actually shoot your video if you have no one else who can do it!

Naomi recorded this presentation by the BMC. Ask her how to access it for a better understanding of the material discussed since there is a great deal more information than what is presented in this synopsis.

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617- 489 - 0412
Edits and additional notes by Dari Paquette