



Laurel Art Guild

Montpelier Arts Center, 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708-9700

Joe Mayer Discussion of “Composition and Expression”

About Joe Mayer:

This event will be held in conjunction with the general meeting of the Laurel Art Guild where local artists meet to exchange ideas. The public is invited to attend.

Joe Mayer, artist and teacher, will discuss the subject of "Composition and Expression". Mr. Mayer has been teaching art for over 40 years. Prior to his retirement, he was Chairman of the Art Department at Prince Georges Community College and taught at the University of Maryland. He now teaches adults, giving private workshops in the United States, France, and Mexico. He is considered by many of his students as one of the best watercolor and abstract art teachers in Maryland.

Joe is best known for his landscapes for which he has received many awards - most recently in the Mid-Atlantic Watercolor Competition where he received the bronze medal and the Richeson Award (in both 2005 and 2007), He also won two coveted Troika awards in the national Plein Air Competition in Easton (2005 & 2006). Joe is the founder of the "Friday Morning Artists" groups based in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. and in Easton, Maryland. He and his wife, Ann Sharp, own the Studio Gallery on South Street in Easton.

Joe was educated at William and Mary, where he received his B.F.A. and at The Catholic University of America, where he received his M.F.A. Mr. Mayer has exhibited his work at the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Corcoran Art Gallery, The Catholic University of America, Gallery 54 in New York City, the Maryland State Capitol Building, the Vierhoff Gallery in Washington, D.C., and at the Pinto Gallery in San Francisco.

Program Summary:

At the April 2008 LAG Program, Joe did two watercolor demonstrations at once; one was an objective scene of a house and boat, the other was non-objective. He goal was to illustrate the similarity in process for either type of work. He focus was to develop a dominance of color, temperature, and large versus small structures. He explained how the eye follows color through a painting and is drawn to contrasts.

To demonstrate how both objective and non-objective pieces follow these same principles, he used the same colors and temperature dominance in both paintings. He would work on one painting for a while and then switch to the other. Back and forth he went while explaining

his thinking as he proceeded. It was like watching a dance. Two paintings bloomed before our eyes that had these amazing similarities and yet were totally different in subject. It was inspirational to see this master work.

Examples of Joe's work from his website are included, but not those from the demonstration. To see more of Joe's work visit he and Ann Sharp's website at <http://www.sharpmayergallery.com/> or visit Studio Gallery in Easton, Maryland.

