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Sumi-e at the Blue Rooster



By Karen Larsen

Waterville resident Amy Larsen has always enjoyed Asian brush painting (called Sumi-e in Japanese), but never found the opportunity to learn the skill.

When Larsen heard that Sumi-e artist Patrice Bruzas would come to the Blue Rooster in Waterville on the morning of July 19 to give an art workshop, she jumped at the chance to attend.

Larsen said that Bruzas taught the class of five three different types of brush strokes for painting bamboo, as well as how to mix paint and how to mount the finished product.

"She really covered all the basics. It was enough to get you ready to continue on your own."

Larsen said that she is eager to begin practicing, and hopes that Bruzas can come again sometime for a follow-up class.

Until the end of September, Blue Rooster owners Bruce and Cathy Clark will have some of Bruzas' work, which includes both Sumi-e and collage, displayed for sale.

The Clarks held a reception with Bruzas on the afternoon of the 19th

as an opening for the exhibit.

In addition to viewing Bruzas' art, those who attended had the chance to meet Bruzas and even try their hand at the Sumi-e style.

The group looked together closely at a vase of wheat and watched Bruzas paint the wheat stroke by stroke.

Each then learned to paint something of their choice.

Waterville resident Donna Slager chose a cat, others learned how to paint mice and frogs.

Arrangements for Bruzas to come were made through Coyote Pass Café owner Barb Hamilton, a student of Bruzas.

Bruzas said that she has been painting since 1984, when she suffered back problems that prevented her from continuing with her interior design business.

Bruzas has been teaching Sumi-e at Tacoma Community College for 17 years, and will begin teaching at the Gig Harbor campus as well this fall.

She also teaches private classes, workshops and lessons with a group called "Seniors Making Art."

"I absolutely love it," Bruzas says of Sumi-e painting.

Because this art form has meant so much to her, she finds a lot of meaning in passing it on to others.

Despite her teaching schedule, Bruzas continues to paint every day.

Her work has been exhibited all over the world and has won awards world-wide.

Bruzas is a member of Women Painters of Washington.



Photos—Top Left:

Patrice Bruzas holds up the Sumi-e painting of wheat that she had just completed as a demonstration during a reception at the Blue Rooster July 19.

Bottom Left:

After watching artist Patrice Bruzas paint a cat, Waterville resident Donna Slager paints the finishing strokes on her own cat.

Weather

The weather recorded by RAWS Weather Observations at Douglas for the past week was as follows:

	High	Low	Prec.
July 14	82	47	
July 15	87	51	
July 16	91	70	
July 17	93	60	
July 18	90	64	
July 19	86	54	
July 20	89	52	

GRAIN PRICES

FOB Waterville
 Tuesday, July 21

	Cash
Soft white	\$4.67
August New Crop	\$4.72
September New Crop	\$4.75
Hard Red Winter	\$5.37
Dark North Spring	\$6.22
Barley 48#	\$100.00
White Club Prem	\$2.25
Club Prem—Sept	\$1.50

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