Jan Grady • Watercolorist

The Guild welcomed Jan Grady to our August 26 Membership Meeting where she talked about her supplies and process in creating watercolors.

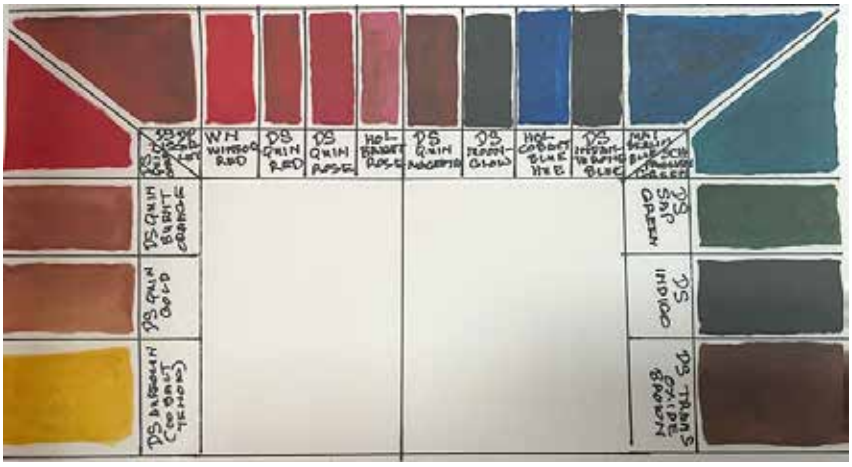
She was a computer programmer/project manager at Hewlett-Packard and began creating art just prior to retirement in 1998. Jan created portraits in pastel until she was forced to quit due to the dust affecting her lungs.

Her supplies consist of:

- an airtight palette
- mainly transparent watercolor and she glazes frequently
- a tool for referencing value studies by artist Judy Morris
- white porcelain dishes or butcher trays
- Fabriano Artistico Soft Press Bright White Watercolor paper in 300 lb. weight
- Jan paints with round brushes using a combination of Daniel Smith and Winsor & Newton paints

Jan's Process and Suggestions

- Doesn't pre-soak paper as it removes the sizing
- She paints at a slight angle using a wedge to prop her work up as it's easier on the neck
- Uses an old towel under her work which deters the paper from blossoming as it dries
- Consistently walks away from her work in progress to acquire a better perspective
- Uses a tiny crochet hook to apply masking fluid
- Uses a projector to transfer images on paper
- Uses a complement color to tone down where needed
- Likes starting with lights and punching in with the darkest darks
- Creates her own matts and frames reducing the cost in purchasing her paintings
- Paints from her photos that have been manipulated in Photoshop

You may see her work at Viewpoints Art Gallery in Los Altos and visit her website www.jangrady.com.

Jan Grady's palette.