



# Torrance Artists' Guild

P.O. Box 1494, Torrance, CA 90505

January 2021

## Zoom Meeting Tuesday, 7:00 pm, February 9, 2021



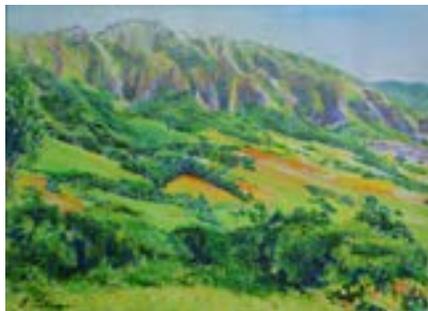
### Featured Artist

**Alvin Takamori**

**Remembering...  
To Prevent History  
From Repeating**

Born in Los Angeles, as the younger of two boys, to an accountant and a seamstress from Hawaii, I grew up in Gardena. The encouragement of a kindergarten teacher introduced me to painting, and I've been attracted to a creative life ever since.

An impulse to be practical led to a couple of years studying physics at Occidental College but, the need for a more creative outlet, led me to a compromise idea



**Ka'a'awa Valley**

to study industrial design at CSU Long Beach. After college, I worked primarily as a craftsman, building and installing custom signs and displays. With the evolution of computer software, I transitioned to a career in graphic design.

During my career in commercial art, art for purely creative expression was shunted to the back burner as something to do someday, when I had more time. This occurred over twenty five years later.

[See **Takamori** pg.2]

[www.torranceartistsguild.org](http://www.torranceartistsguild.org)

Webmaster: Jeannine Madden

[torranceartistsguild@gmail.com](mailto:torranceartistsguild@gmail.com)

### Statement of Purpose

The Torrance Artist's Guild is a non-profit corporation organized to cultivate art skills, promote awareness and encourage appreciation of art in our community. It is chartered by the City of Torrance in cooperation with the Cultural Services Division of the Community Services Department. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every other month.

**General TAG Meeting:** Online via Zoom until further notice. Board Meeting: 2-2-21  
Newsletter Deadline: Wed. 2-3-21  
Editor: Alvin Takamori  
(310) 941-1866 [alvintaka@att.net](mailto:alvintaka@att.net)

### TAG Officers

President: Tricia Alexander  
(310) 749-0881 [triciaalexander@verizon.net](mailto:triciaalexander@verizon.net)

Vice-President: Kathie Reis  
(310) 540-0518 [k\\_reis@yahoo.com](mailto:k_reis@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Diane Reeves  
(310) 220-1313 [diane.reeves@sbcglobal.net](mailto:diane.reeves@sbcglobal.net)

Recording Secretary: OPEN

Publicity Chair: OPEN

Membership Chair: Elke Goodno  
(310) 614--6274 [elkescreations@gmail.com](mailto:elkescreations@gmail.com)

Program Chair: Linda Thompson  
(310) 318-7006 [lv2art@gmail.com](mailto:lv2art@gmail.com)

Corresponding Secretary: OPEN

[Takamori, from pg.1]

As a volunteer at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute (GVJCI), I worked with Mary Hatsuko Higuchi and Donald Hata. Somehow, based on their appreciation for my graphic designs, in 2014 they invited me to join the Henry Fukuhara Manzanar "Paint Out," organized by Al Setton and Michele Pearson. At the time, my old excuse of being too busy was no longer valid. I found myself with more time, when my care-giving duties ended. My wife, had recovered from cancer and my father, who had

Alzheimer's, passed away the previous year. So it seemed like a good time for a new adventure. I hadn't picked up a brush to



**Out of Place**

paint anything since college. I had some old acrylic paints that still seemed okay, but besides that I had no art supplies. After researching plein air painting, I knew I needed an easel, something to sit on, paints, brushes, a palette, and paper or canvases. The details concerning which paints, which brushes, which paper to use was a guessing game. Also, there was a new world of additional items like palette knives, sponges, tapes, mediums, masking fluid, spray bottles, etc. After a spending spree collecting whatever I could find on sale, I accumulated more than I needed and headed off to the Eastern Sierras.

The first day of painting I met Ron Libbrecht, who puzzled over my use of acrylic paint straight from the tube. By the third day, I was mixing my paints on a palette and creating paintings that I was happy with. The many years that I had avoided painting, I had always feared that it would be too time consuming. By the end of the workshop, I had confidence that I could produce a painting in an afternoon. I've been painting ever since, also I had all these supplies I needed to use.

During the workshop, I also met Bill Wassenberg, who invited me to the meetings of the South Bay Watercolor Society (SBWS). It opened my eyes to a new universe of local art groups. Meeting artists,

watching demonstrations, attending workshops, seeing and participating in art shows has added a whole new dimension to my life. Now, I'm recording secretary for SBWS, newsletter editor for the Torrance Artists' Guild, and I organize an art show at the GVJCI.

As for my art, I am attracted to water media. It's a medium I feel comfortable with, having used it as a child. Regarding the subjects for my art, simplistically, it's whatever I'm interested in. However, I have a lot of interests.

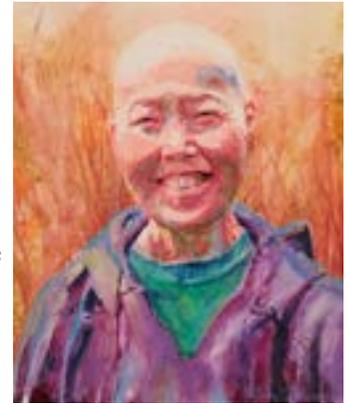
Beginning with that first workshop, which included a visit to the Manzanar concentration camp, the unjustified imprisonment of people of Japanese



**Segregated**

ancestry during World War II, has been a topic of several paintings. I know many people who were impacted by this, including my mother-in-law, who I depict in my painting "Segregated."

The people in my life, like my wife are also subjects for paintings. I show her in "Beautiful Smile," when she was having chemotherapy. "Just Thinking" is a more recent image of her, back to full health.



**Beautiful Smile**

Like many artists, I also love nature and depict



**Just Thinking**

[See Takamori pg.3]

[Takamori, from pg.2]  
 it in many paintings. But sometimes, I want to express something more abstract like an idea or a feeling. "The Empty Space" was an expression of my grief stemming from the passing of a friend. In "Covid-Confined" I wanted to capture the sense of isolation I'm feeling now. My art is like a Facebook page showing whatever I'm thinking about.



**Monarch Closeup**

Thanks to Mary and Don and that first workshop,



**Covid-Confined**

now I know that I have art as a method of communicating and plan to use it for the rest of my life.

*Alvin Takamori*



**Chantal's Sanctuary in Redondo Beach**

we have had to call up our inner strength, learn how to "zoom," and connect with others while keeping a physical distance. We have been inspired by people who found creative ways to cheer us up, such as musicians who perform concerts from their balconies and on zoom. A couple of our fellow artists have been teaching others how to paint via YouTube or have created daily art shows in their front yards. Our art group and other local art groups have held virtual shows to offer their members' work for public consumption. Neighborhood children have made their chalk drawings on cement driveways, sidewalks, and streets for passers-by to enjoy. It has been heart-warming to witness innovative folks who have found ways to press on during this difficult time and even boost the spirits of others.

I would like to encourage our members to look toward a brighter future as we settle into the New Year. During 2020, your TAG board met monthly via zoom, produced general meetings, created a members' directory, produced a monthly newsletter, and put on a virtual show of members' work. Penny Kastiger created an "Art in Isolation" feature for our website, where many of our members posted work they completed during the pandemic. Your new board for 2021 will continue with these efforts. We are in urgent need of a recording secretary. This job may sound difficult, but it simply involves summarizing what the board has discussed in the meetings. There is an easy format to follow. It can be quite fun to serve on a board to see how decisions are made, and to have a say in how the group is run.

To encourage members to hang in there with us, the outgoing board voted to offer membership renewal for next year at half price, \$15. Please send your checks to Torrance Artists' Guild, P.O. Box 1494, Torrance, CA 90505.

I hope to see you at the next general meeting via zoom on February 9th at 7pm. There will be a couple of short presentations featuring different media and a display of members' work. If you want to share a piece of your artwork, please send a photo of it, unframed, to Lynn Attig: [lynnattig@gmail.com](mailto:lynnattig@gmail.com)

Have fun making art this month,  
**Tricia Alexander**

## President's Message

Happy New Year to my fellow TAG members! I'll be your president for 2021. I hope you are keeping yourselves safe and are anticipating a "get out of jail card" in the form of a vaccination within the next couple of months. Our group may be able to meet in person once again this summer. Meanwhile,

# Art Event News

## San Pedro Art Association Harbor Wide Online Student Art Competition and Exhibition

This exhibit of art from harbor community students grade TK to 12th grade is online at: <https://www.spaa2020studentart.com>

## Palos Verdes Art Center: The Winter Show

Dec. 4, 2020 - Jan. 17, 2021. Juried exhibition of PVAC members. Go to <https://pvartcenter.org/the-winter-show/>

## Destination Art Online Show

The Fall 2020 Gallery Show and the Hanging in There Show are still available for viewing online at [www.destination-art.net](http://www.destination-art.net) The Studios and Gallery are open for viewing by appointment only. Reserve a time for a party of 5 or less by email at: LocalArtists@destination-art.net providing your name, phone number, email address and preferred time by the half hour Tu-Sat 10am-3pm.

## National Watercolor Society

NWS Gallery will be temporarily closed until future notice.

NWS International Centennial Open Exhibition Online at [nationalwatercolorssociety.org](http://nationalwatercolorssociety.org) Now through Jan. 30, 2021.

NWS: The First 100 Years Exhibition with the Hilbert Museum online - Nov. 14, 2020 - Feb. 20, 2021.

2021 NWS Members Exhibition deadline for entries is Feb. 12, 2021.

## Pastel Society of Southern California

Make Your Mark! 2020 Exhibit is online. There's a link from the PSSC website, <https://www.psscwebsite.org>

## Treasurer

Diane Reeves

## Membership Chair

Elke Goodno

## Program Chair

Linda Thompson

There is still a need for volunteers for the following positions:

## Recording Secretary

Recording Secretary takes minutes (notes) of what happens during General and Board meetings.

## Corresponding Secretary

Corresponding Secretary will handle all the correspondence of the club, attend Board meetings, send for donations for prizes for the annual show and publicize the meetings each month.

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## Destination: Art – Classes and Workshops

### Stress-Free Watercolor Doodling, In Studio –

Debbie Abshear–watercolor, Jan. 9-Feb. 5, 2021 \$145

### Stress-Free Watercolor Doodling, Zoom Section –

Debbie Abshear–watercolor, Jan. 9-Feb. 5, 2021 \$145

### Louisa McHugh- Contemporary Watercolor, In

Studio – Louisa McHugh –watercolor, Jan. 13-Feb.10, 2021 \$145

### Louisa McHugh- Contemporary Watercolor, Zoom

Section – Louisa McHugh –watercolor, Jan. 13-Feb.10, 2021 \$145

### Joe Mancuso - Pastel Workshop, In Studio –

Joe Mancuso –pastel, Jan. 14-Feb.11, 2021 \$155

### Joe Mancuso - Pastel Workshop, Zoom Section –

Joe Mancuso –pastel, Jan. 14-Feb.11, 2021 \$155

### Find Your Voice - Critique with Frank Minuto –

Frank Minuto

all mediums, Jan. 14-Feb. 12, 2021 \$100

## Paint-Ins

Tuesdays 10:00am-3:00pm, \$15 each, \$10 for Assoc. Artists, Drop in, no registration

[www.destination-art.net](http://www.destination-art.net)

**Sign up on line.**

Destination: Art

(310) 742-3192

[LocalArtists@destination-art.net](mailto:LocalArtists@destination-art.net)

[www.destination-art.net](http://www.destination-art.net)

1815 W. 213th Street, #135

Torrance, CA 90501

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## 2021 TAG Board

There are some new members on the 2021 TAG Board:

### President

Tricia Alexander

### Vice President

Kathie Reis