



Phoenix Artists Guild

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Susan Falcon-Hargraves

Born and raised in New York City, **Susan Falcon-Hargraves** attended the New York School of Visual Arts, but was bitten by the "dance bug" early in her studies there. Invited to study dance at the prestigious Julliard School, she instead chose to join a professional company that was started by a teacher at the Martha Graham School. As an actress, she was singled out for small roles in Hollywood films, such as *Boyz in the Hood*, and received critical acclaim as well as critic's awards for her work in various Los Angeles theatre productions.

Susan resumed her fine arts involvement in Arizona, where she earned a B.A. from Prescott College. In a scant five years, she has carved out an artistic niche in the Valley, winning top awards at juried shows. In 2007 the City of Glendale purchased the "Elephant in the Room" from her *Eccentricities* series, and she was selected as Phoenix Magazine's Artist of the Month for the March issue of 2008. In March of 2009 she won a place in the top ten of the ARTROM Gallery TOPTEN Women in the Arts International Art Competition.

In the spring of '08 she presented a one-woman show at the West Valley Art Museum, titled "Dreams and Totems" and her work was prominently featured at the Arizona Museum for Youth show entitled "Table Manners" which ran

through September of 2008. The MFY curator's statement kindly cited her work as the inspiration for that show. Susan Falcon-Hargraves teaches at the BRIO Fine Arts Center in North Scottsdale.

Artist's Statement:

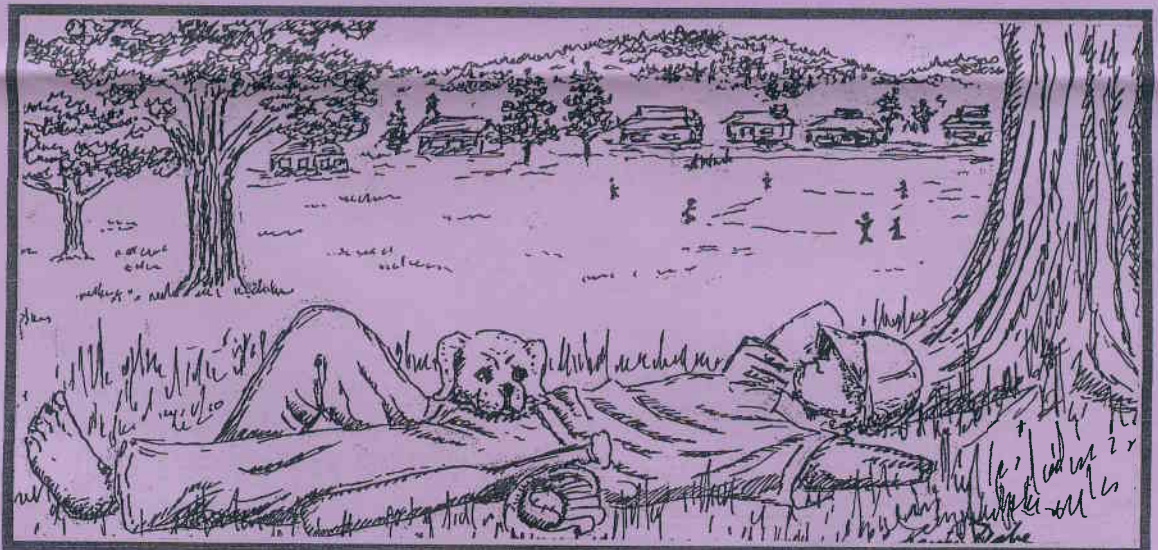
I've always been fascinated with the unsolvable mysteries that certain old photos present, particularly those that seem to hint at an unspoken social or emotional dynamic among several figures, or a subtext of thought within a single figure. These castoff moments of real or imagined drama provide the inspirational color to generate some sort of private narrative in the viewer's mind, often exploring the quieter and more contemplative elements of the bizarre.

My goal has always been to take the viewer beyond the image to reveal something of the unique spiritual essence of the subject, to expose something of the extraordinary within the ordinary. The dream within a moment of daily life, or perhaps the surreal in what appears to be a realistic setting. More and more often lately I find that these essential elements insist on manifesting themselves in the form of stray wildlife or totem animals.

falconhargraves@mac.com or
www.falcon-hargraves.com

Sketch by
Ken Yabe

Artist of the Month:
March
Monique Spinabella



NEW MEETING NOTICE! - 6:00 PM FOR CRITIQUE. GENERAL MEETING AT 6:30

President's Message

We were all very intrigued with our demonstrator, **Bob Coonts**, and his style of art. The shapes and colors he uses in his creations are so interesting and different, a person could spend hours looking at his work. Bob, thank you for the interesting demonstration.

Monique Spinabella was chosen Artist of the Month for March. She brought in a very nice oil painting of her dog. Congratulations Monique.

The **Phoenix Artists Guild** was well represented this month with members showing at **Peoria City Hall Show** and the **Arizona Art Alliance Show**. Thank you to all our members who entered works in both of these Shows.

April will be the last chance for one of our members to hold the title of "Artist of the Month". In May, all of the artists chosen for artist of the month will bring in their winning work or another work, if they have sold the winning work, and we will vote for an "Artist of the Year". This monthly event is a nice way to recognize all of you and give you a chance to show your finished works. Artist of the Month runs from September to May, any member of **PAG** may enter a finished/framed work to be voted on. If a member is chosen artist of the month, they will not be eligible to enter another work, under that title, until September of the following year. Thank you for supporting this part of our monthly program.

The Summer Show at the Glendale Adult Center has not been firmed up as of yet. I hope to know about this show opportunity by the end of April.

Three of our members have been chosen to participate on April 18 in the Berridge Nursery "**Art in the Garden**" show. If you are interested in showing your work, the public relations firm representing the nursery for "Art in the Garden", will start interviewing new artists for the 2010 Show in January. The Rose is the theme for this year, and demonstrations in the nursery will be on the care/trimming of roses. Thank you for participating in all of our **PAG** events.

PAG President,
Carolyn Tolliver



Mystery Member

Grew up in New Jersey
Wrote scripts for Television Programs
Painter and _____ Artist

Other News

Julie Frye is recovering from a badly broken ankle. The surgery required a plate held in place by 5 screws and a pin. It is exceeding painful and getting around is a struggle. She wishes to express her thanks for all the cards, food and prayers she's received and is so grateful for her **PAG** family.

Carmen Timm will be going in for knee surgery on the 25th. Good luck and a speedy recovery to you Carmen and Julie.

Member Tribute

Earlene S. Ford

Earlene S. Ford came to Arizona from Illinois where she was a high school art teacher. She was an active member in the **Valley Artists League** and after that organization disbanded she joined **PAG** in 1986. **Earlene** has devoted many hours to the benefit of **PAG**: serving as publicity chairman she diligently sent notices of our shows to newspapers, magazines, TV stations and radio stations. Attendance at our exhibits grew each show and sales were good as a result. **Earlene** also served many years as historian, took many photos and spent countless hours preparing scrapbooks of our many activities. Health problems arrived and **Earlene** had to drop out of **PAG** but she is now **BACK!** Feeling better and eager to see her many friends. **Earlene** donated the beautiful costume jewelry that **Larry** has been selling at the **Ways and Means** table. Although she is unable to paint any longer due to macular degeneration, she is still an avid and enthusiastic member. She loves visits and phone calls and loves to "talk art" with her friends. It's an honor to have you as a member. Welcome back!

Monique Spinabella won "Artist of the Month" for March for her portrait of her dog.

Creative Corner

"Painting From Your Heart"
By Elaine Waters



Years ago when I asked a very fine artist friend, what I was missing in my oil paintings, she said, "don't just paint a pretty picture."

Plan ahead by asking yourself, "Why am I going to paint my chosen subject?" What excites me about doing the painting? What is the single most important thing I want to say? How can I paint this painting so that the viewer will know the answers?"

Many times, even competent artists forget to think about these very important questions and therefore, when they are finished, they may have a "pretty picture," but the painting says little because the artist never took the time to think about why they were painting that particular painting.

Art class students often have this problem because they copy other artists' published works, or they are faced with quick decisions about what to paint in class for that particular day... Almost any painting from a personal resource photo will be more spontaneous and exciting than copying some other artist's work.

As an artist, enjoy the process of painting, have fun playing with the color mixtures, paint what is in your heart and mind, strive to make your work individual, and be excited about your paintings.