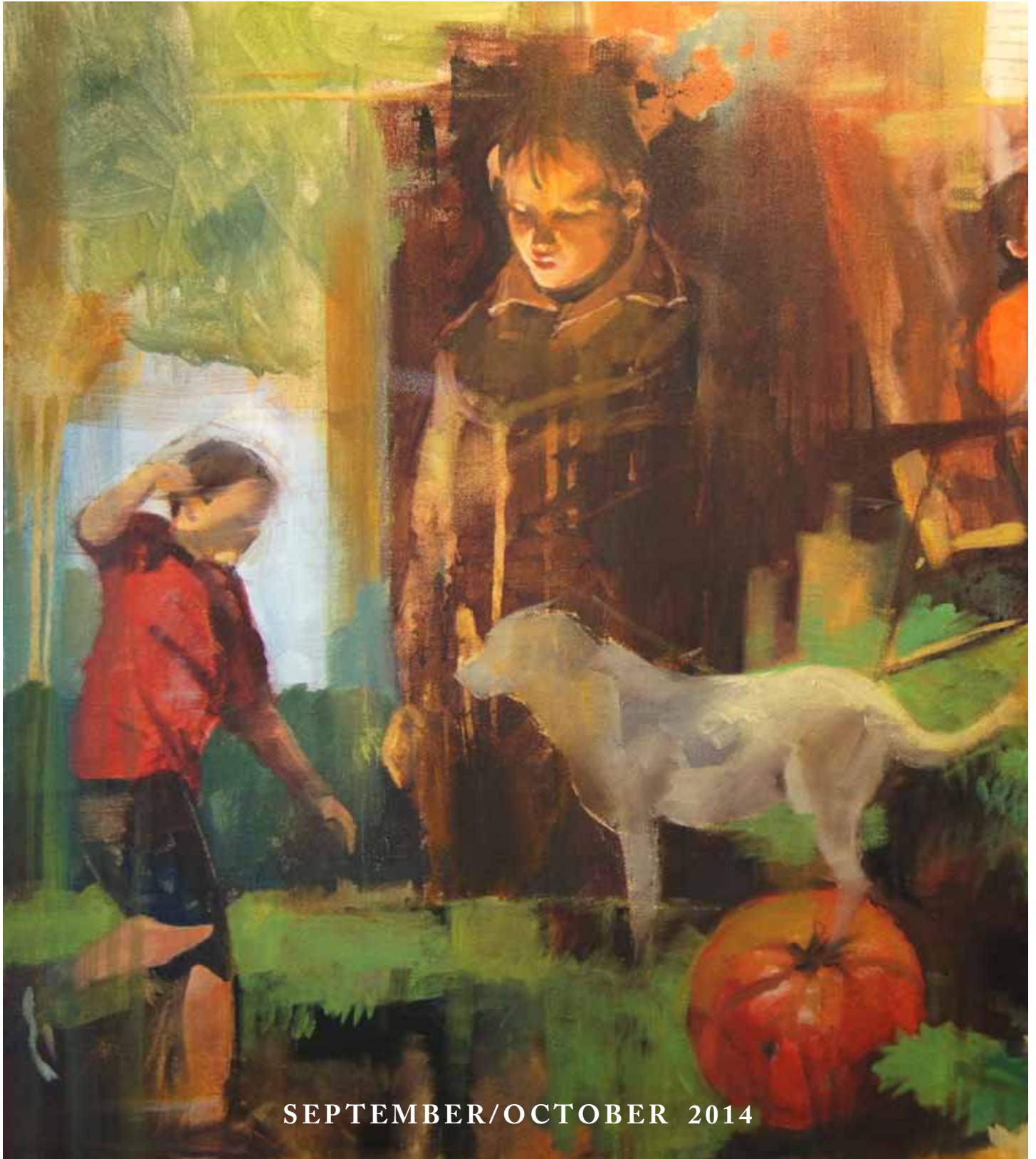


# The Painter

*A painting newsletter from Christopher Leeper*

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

# The Painter

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2014

## Back to Work

Fall is here and I am back to work. The boys are in school and I have been on the road teaching. This issue is mostly workshop demos and plein air paintings. I haven't done very much work in the studio. However, I am showing some studio paintings I did late summer that are a different direction for me.

I am trying a new schedule for my studio classes and I detail that on page 3. If you are interested in a class or a studio workshop please let me know. I am already scheduled for several workshops in 2015 so if you have a group that would be interested, please contact me ASAP so we can get it on the schedule.

This coming weekend is the Ohio Plein Air annual competition in Licking County, OH. Always a fun event and I am really looking forward to going.

Happy painting!  
Chris

## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS:

**Ends Oct. 3, 2014**

TAG Annual  
Trumbull Art Gallery  
158-162 North Park Ave.  
Warren, OH

**Ends November 7, 2014**

REUNION II Alumni Invitational  
McDonough Museum  
Youngstown State University  
Wick Ave  
Youngstown, OH

## Upcoming Workshop

**October 11**

9:00-3:30

SEOWS

Watermedia Workshop  
First Christian Church  
Zanesville, Ohio

Contact: Barbara Hill, President SEOWS  
hill1152@sbcglobal.net



This is a photo of Brian helping me with *Birdcraft*. The boys really like the new style paintings and were full of ideas as I was working on them.





# Weekly Classes in the Studio

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I've given a lot of thought on my next round of weekly classes in the studio. In the past, I have scheduled as students called or emailed. Whenever someone wanted a class and if I had time, I would book the class. I am going to try a more structured schedule this time.

I will only be teaching classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

## **WATERCOLOR**

Monday: 10 am - 1 pm:

(fee - \$35 per student/per class) Max of 4 students

This will be an ongoing class.

**First class is Oct. 13**

## **OIL**

Tuesday: 10 am - 1 pm: (fee - \$35 per student/per class) Max of 4 students

This will be an ongoing class.

**First class is Oct. 14**

These two classes are on a first-come basis. Please contact me ahead to reserve your spot in class. If there are less than two students, they will be cancelled. **Classes must be confirmed by an email or a phone call from me.**

## **PRIVATE CLASSES (ANY MEDIUM)**

- Monday- 1:30 - 3:30 pm
- Tuesday- 1:30 - 3:30 pm and 6 - 8 pm
- Wednesday 10 am - 1 pm and 1:30 - 3:30 pm (morning session can be plein air)

Fee: 2 hour class: \$50

3 hour class: \$75

These can be scheduled individually. They are not ongoing. Whatever fits a students schedule and budget.



## New Work

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This was the first watercolor I had done in a couple months. The subject is the Mill Creek Metro Farm in Canfield. I liked the subtle colors as the sun was setting. I used Winsor & Newton blending medium in the sky. It helps even out wet into wet washes. If you are a “wet” watercolor painter you might want to try it.



*Evening Fields, 15x22, watercolor on 300 lb., cold-pressed, Arches paper*

## New Work

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### Plein air



*September Fields, oil on linen on board. 18x24*

I spent a good part of a day on this painting. I went to Austintown Park and set up on the edge of their naturalized grassland habitat. To avoid a “too wet” surface that wouldn’t leave room for adjustments, I worked with very thin paint for much of the time and only in the last hour did I use a thicker paint application. The sun was a challenge and I had to adjust my umbrella numerous times.



# New Work

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## Plein air



*Rhodes Farm, oil on linen on board, 11x14*

A quick and simple oil painting.



## New Work

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### Plein air



*September at the Preserve, 22x30, watercolor on Twin Rocker 200 lb. cold-pressed paper*

This was an indulgence. I just wanted to do a large plein air watercolor. I set up in the Mill Creek Preserve. This is one of my favorite places to walk. It is a naturalized grassland that was a former turf farm. It is a good place to see wildlife and to do some serious sky watching. My sons call it Tickville because they are a nuisance in the spring and summer when we hike there.

The painting was very loose and transparent. I kept reminding myself to keep it simple and to move on. I gave myself two hours and finished right on time. I was reminded of Charles Burchfield. It seemed like a Burchfield-like subject. His painting would have been much more poetic and thought-provoking. I was doing a mere rendering in comparison.

## New Work

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### A New Direction

First...a bit of a back story about these paintings. I recently gave an acrylic demo in Indiana. It was on a gessoed board and in the demo I showed the benefits of using rubbing alcohol to lift color and layer. Rubbing alcohol dissolves dried acrylic paint. During the drive home, I was thinking about what a cool technique that is. It made me think of a series of paintings that I did in 2006. These paintings were a mix of acrylic and watercolor on Yupo. Those paintings were painted collages and inspired by a Rauschenberg book I had been reading. I won the OWS Gold Medal with one of the paintings. I tired of Yupo and moved on and hadn't thought much about that style of painting.

The day after I returned home I started a new painting. My sons hearing my story and concept were totally into the idea. We chose a theme (birds) and I worked intuitively-adding and subtracting and building into a final composition. The boys gave suggestions and even helped paint sections. It was the most fun I think I had ever had doing a painting. *Birdcraft* was the painting. Conceptually, I was thinking of the contrast of how the general public perceives birds and how birders see our avian world. For birders it is all about specifics and details. The public sees practically nothing in comparison.. I have been an avid birder since I was young and have always been irritated when someone calls a Northern Cardinal a redbird or a Blue Jay a bluebird. Birds emerge in and out of the space showing various levels of recognition. I included a bit of writing based on a 19th century account of an immigrant family who ate a Turkey Vulture and all became deathly ill. The story amused me so I included it. The title comes from an early 20th century birding book.



*Birdcraft, acrylic, 30x36*



## New Work

### Myths and Legends



*Myths and Legends, oil on canvas, 30x40*

The 2nd painting was started immediately and the theme was selected after talking with the boys. Baseball is a big part of our lives. Both boys play and we practice in the yard almost every day. Practically every evening we watch the Pittsburgh Pirate games. Jack especially, is baseball crazy. He is very interested in the history of the game and has read a lot about the great players and teams of the Negro League. He spent a lot of time in the studio watching this painting develop.

The painting followed the Negro League theme and features a portrait of Satchel Paige. The figure on the right is Josh Gibson. The stadium in the back is old Forbes Field in Pittsburgh.

I wanted to try the acrylic technique with oils. I used turpentine the way I used alcohol. It doesn't work the same way but it had a similar feel to it. Figures were added and subtracted and developed and then rubbed out or softened. Some of the line work is done with a charcoal pencil and then dissolved with turpentine.

## New Work

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### Summer Song



*Summer Song, acrylic on canvas, 30x36*

I was on my own for this painting. I didn't have a narrative to follow and the boys didn't offer a theme. I just started with a photo of Brian eating a roasted marshmallow. I added the one of Brian standing by the campfire. It seemed like a summer theme and Brian was going to star. I added a rendering of Brian running. I added a subtle image of my deceased dog Betty and some of my tomatoes from the garden. As images were added I wiped out or added shapes to complement the design.

My wife Kathy really likes the painting and I am also happy with it. Of course, Jack wanted to know when his painting is going to be done.



# Workshop

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## Tryon, NC

I had a great workshop in Tryon, NC. The area is beautiful and everyone was so gracious and friendly. I look forward to going back. The theme was watercolor landscape. All the paintings shown are 15x22 demos on Arches 140 lb cold-pressed paper.



# Workshop

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## Tryon, NC





# Workshop

## BayArts, Bay Village, OH

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It is always a pleasure to teach at BayArts. We had a full class and I really enjoyed the students and their work. The workshop was watermedia landscape. We discussed watercolor and acrylics. The (15x22, Arches 140 CP) demos shown here were in watercolor. I did something a bit different for this workshop. After my morning demo, the class painted along with me step by step as we worked together on the same subject.





# Workshop

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BayArts, Bay Village, OH





# Workshop

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## Cliffside Artists Collaborative, Hinckley, OH



Cliffside is one of the most beautiful and unique places that I teach. The spectacular building houses probably the largest collection of Ohio artists. Sara Kass who is the owner is always a warm and gracious host. It has a very home-like and welcoming atmosphere. She offers a full-schedule of classes and workshops. Recently, Mary Whyte taught there. Look them up on the web. Don't miss the opportunity to take a workshop there.

This was an acrylic landscape workshop. These demos are 16x20 painted on linen on board.



## Workshops in my studio

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Workshops for six people or less. Topics can include oils, acrylics, watercolor or drawing. They can be scheduled in 2 or 3 day sessions, 9-5 each day. Classes must be scheduled well in advance.

These workshops include demos, handouts and lots of one-on-one attention. I try to provide plenty of information in a short amount of time. I can shape the workshop to the group's needs. You can bring your own reference or we can work together on the same subject. The workshop can also be focused to learn a specific technique or concept. Weather-permitting, these sessions can include plein air painting.



There is a new Hampton Inn just five miles from the studio and many nearby restaurants and shopping venues. Your workshop can also be combined with a visit to the Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio and/or a visit to beautiful Mill Creek Park.

*“ I have taken many workshops over the years and you have been the most helpful. I learned more in three days than I have in the past 20 years. Plus, it was so much fun! ”*

### Fees:

1-2 students:	2 day class: \$400 per student / 3-day class: \$600 per student
3 students	2-day class: \$275 per student / 3-day class: \$400 per student
4 students:	2-day class: \$200 per student / 3-day class: \$300 per student
5-6 students:	2-day class: \$150 per student / 3-day class: \$250 per student

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Call or email me if you have any questions or to schedule a workshop

**Christopher Leeper Studio**

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