

The Renaissance Man and his palette knife painting classes

When artists-in-training get the creative urge, it's the "renaissance man" himself, Mr. James Kosloskey, they ask for... again and again. The Charlevoix Circle of Art honors the public's requests by offering his palette knife painting classes.

Kosloskey's classes are so popular that they quickly fill to capacity. Only a few openings are left for the November 29 and 30, first ever "Wild and Crazy Flower" class. Through the Circle of Arts, he offers beginning and intermediate oil painting classes, choosing numerous northern Michigan scenes to depict. Students clamor for his careful instruction and encouragement on the intricacies of palette knife painting.

Kosloskey, a popular artist from Harbor Springs, always attracts an interesting group of students. The camaraderie he creates helps them enjoy and love his patient, helpful methods of teaching art. The art students are from every walk of life - executives, realtors, artists, retirees, students, and the like - and they come from Harbor Springs, Petoskey, Charlevoix and other nearby communities to learn and enjoy the experience of producing an art piece themselves.

Everyone starts with the challenge of an empty canvas and all are highly rewarded at the end of the class with their own creation, completed and ready to take home for framing. As students put on the finishing touches, Kosloskey plays guitar, as song writing is another one of his many talents, making for a relaxing, cultural experience.

When the second evening closes, Kosloskey, chef and proprietor of Crazy Jim's Barbecue Sauces, gives each student a sample of one of his many flavors to sample at home, yet another sensory experience from Kosloskey and the Charlevoix Circle of Arts.

The biggest gift received from Kosloskey's instruction, however, is the inner satisfaction students feel from creating artwork, and the huge smiles of pride they all wear when having a hand in the creation of something beautiful. After all isn't that what the Renaissance was all about?

For more information on Jim Kosloskey's classes, please call the Circle of Arts, 231-547-3554, or go to the Circle of Arts website www.charlevoixcircle.org. For more information on the "Renaissance Man" himself, visit www.crazyjimsbbqsauce.com.