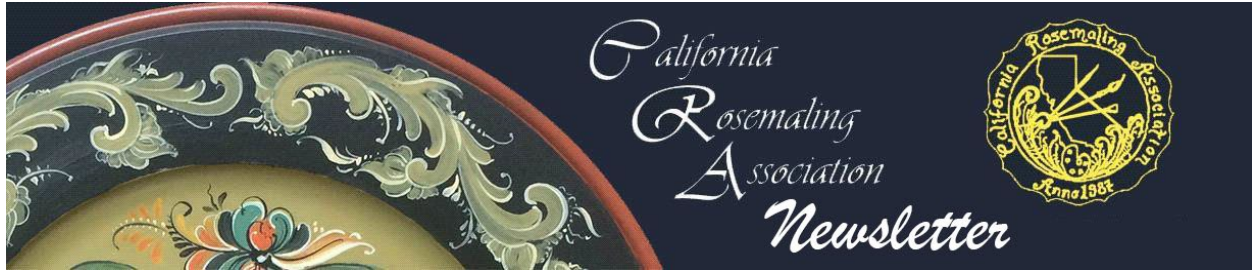


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California Rosemaling Association

The purpose of the California Rosemaling Association is to promote the traditional art of Norwegian Rosemaling. Our members are committed to preserving Rosemaling as a unique art form.

CRA has approximately 125 members. Some are expert Rosemalers, and others are beginning painters, all with a love to study this beautiful art form.

Membership in CRA allows you to attend the annual convention featuring renowned Rosemalers from around the world and a subscription to the newsletter for only \$15 in annual membership dues.

President's Column



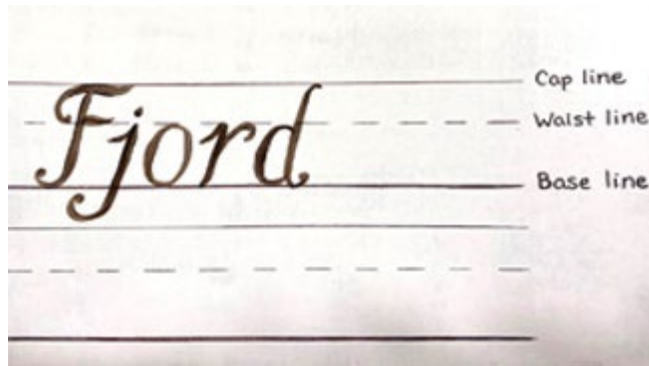
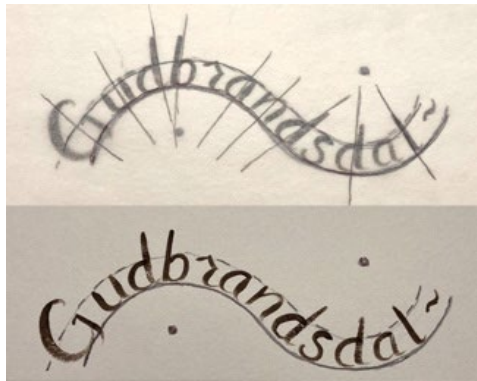
We are all getting excited for our upcoming Eureka **CRA Convention: September 15-18, 2022!** If you haven't signed up, please see details inside to do so. If you have a deposit down, know the **final payment is due August 15, 2022.** All details are found inside this issue as well as on our website! Pennie Wilkins has done a terrific job of getting rooms at both the Clarion and the Red Lion for the \$125 price (plus, plus). We thank her for her continued work on this event. I am really looking forward to seeing you all and enjoying the fun and comradery convention offers us. Seeing and learning from JoSonja will be a big treat!

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I've been taking some classes online and saw a few of you were taking the class as well. I am braving my photo of the project I painted (I realize some of my errors now), but Lise Lorentzen's is better. She taught a Gudbrandsdal plate that I just loved. If you go to her facebook page you'll see her version of the project. She told me if we wanted a class for 12 people, she will host it. If interested in taking a class from her or other rosemaling teachers, I'd need to know what your preferences on type of rosemaling, level of rosemaling, and best times for class (days, hours, etc.)?



Also, I enjoyed a class by one of our own members, by Marilee Mortenson: *Introduction to Lettering* presentation/demonstration. She did an excellent job in my opinion based on my calligraphy and typography background. If you are interested in having her offer it for our group, please let me know. She will be at this year's convention. I'm hoping to get her to write an article for one of our newsletters too. (Contact me at katie.d.allen68@gmail.com).



Here are two sample teasers from the class

We continue to have our Friendly **Rosemaling Site Links** section with some additions added as we find them. The updated Upcoming Scandinavian Events is

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also continuing. We would love to include your upcoming events or share your past events, so just send us information and pictures to post.

As always, at convention, we elect our officers for the following year. CRA opens nominations from the floor of convention in case someone is willing to step forward at the last minute. Marley has reported on the list of candidates she has contacted but we all welcome new people to participate and keep our organization thriving and fresh. Yes, we need a new **Newsletter Editor** still. If you can recommend anyone to fill the job, please let Marley know. All convention material and proposed Bylaw changes are included in this newsletter. Please review Bylaw changes now if you haven't already done so. Be ready to vote at the Convention annual meeting on the changes and officers. As you know, officers have term limits currently based on our bylaws, and we really do need new people to sign up for positions.

I wish to congratulate Karen Nelson on her 10 years as a CRA gold medalist! We have featured her in this publication and I'm sure you'll enjoy learning of additional news she shares. In addition, Joyce Fields focuses on one of our honorary members—the wonderful Telemark painter from Norway, Bjorg Klevi. Joyce has been instrumental in setting up Bjørg's classes in southern California for many years. I was lucky to attend one of those many years back and it was, as Joyce foretold, a unique and wonderful experience! Bjørg has over five books to her name and has won numerous awards for her painting. I really enjoyed the book: *Rosemaling fra hele Norge* that she wrote (1999) which features many different Norwegian Rosemalers and styles. Although it is written in Norwegian, there is an English section at the back which highlights each section, and the color photos are great.

We welcome learning more about the many Norwegian Rosemalers of Norway today as well. This edition features Rune Nesher, another Telemark Rosemaler who shares a Telemark project with us. Also, for those of you who like Trivia, we have a 35th year Trivia contest in this newsletter. I'd suggest you work on it right away to win a prize or fame!

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Regarding the missing officer records from the past. We are now hoping to find old Newsletter copies from the beginning until 2005 when we started saving them digitally. Those members who have other records they've promised to bring back to convention this year, please add that to your list of what to bring.

Thank you to the many members and board members who have helped put this newsletter together. As a team we continue to keep you connected!

Katie Allen, President

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<i>2022 CRA Board Members</i>			
President	Katie Allen	Katie.d.allen68@gmail.com	408-781-6450
VP Programs	Pennie Wilkins	penniewilkins@gmail.com	530-347-6434
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Secretary	Karen Loveless	kmaloveless@gmail.com	310-780-8328
Trade Floor	Joyce Field	jafield@verizon.net	310-292-1332
Membership	Joyce Field	jafield@verizon.net	310-292-1332
Historian	Rhonda Payne McKanna	rpmteach@gmail.com	949-872-2320
Past President	Ellen Soppet	ellensoppet@gmail.com	925-989-2095
Past President	Ruth Ann Petro	rpetro1@mac.com	760-212-7524
Newsletter Editor	Looking for an Editor*		

*The editor writes and gathers articles and photos. If you need assistance in creating the document, we can help; but, if you know how to create Word & PDF documents, that is even better. Newsletters typically go out 3 times a year.

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CRA Honarary Member: Bjørg Oseid Klevi

By Joyce Fields



As a friend of Bjorg, I thought the CRA Members might like to hear a little about the artist in her own words.

I started painting Telemark in the fall 1980. I live in the middle (up on a mountain) of Telemark. It is natural for people who lived in Telemark to paint that style. We keep the style for where we live [so that is why I paint in that style]. Other Norwegians who paint [in] other styles come from other places here [in Norway], and many of them liked the Telemark style, and started to paint that even if they lived in the west coast or come from east.

I have a group near Oslo who come [here] to Telemark every year to paint. They stay in Rauland (not too far from me) so I teach them every day of the week. Before COVID, I would also go to their place near Oslo to teach for a long weekend. I used to travel much more when I was younger, but not now. I save my traveling to come to USA every year. I miss [those trips to US] very much.

We are hoping Bjørg can come this year. We have such a good time. Samples of her work follow:



Samples of Bjorg's work sitting in Joyce's kitchen where she enjoys them daily.

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Elections of Officers for 2022

By Marley Smith 1marjim2@comcast.net, 510-305-1414

Convention is coming upon us rather soon and but certainly not soon enough, considering our last two years had to be canceled due to Covid. I hope you all have your registration sent in and are ready for some fun. That said, along with Convention comes Election of Officers. So far, the persons listed below have agreed to fill the following positions:

Elected:

- President: Katie Allen
- Vice President: Pennie Wilkins
- Treasurer: Shaun Sasaki
- Secretary: Karen Loveless
- Membership: Joyce Fields

Appointed positions:

1. Newsletter: Vacant
2. Historian:

Shaun has been doing the Newsletter now for several years as well as Treasurer. She deserves a BREAK! So hopefully someone will step up to do the job. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these jobs.

1 510 305 1414 or 1marjim2@comcast.net

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In Memory of Carl Larson: Died June 20, 2022

by Katie Allen



Our long-time member and friend to all, Carl Larson passed in June. He will be sorely missed especially at this convention! In our last edition, we featured a story on Carl's work and life. He was quite a man and a great teacher. The article is available on the website under newsletter if you would like to read it again.

People near and far have expressed their sadness at losing this great man in their life. He's taught and taken Rosemaling classes all over the country and has shared decorative arts with so many people all over the country.

Peace be with you Carl.

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In Memory of Carl Larson

By Mark Jansen

How a wonderful day can turn to total sh*t with one phone call. I've had the photo hanging next to desk for nearly 40 years. Its impossible to look at without comment and a grin. Its almost one of those that you want to post and invite comments as its so rich in possibility. Mullet, 70's mustaches, hammer pants, three (amigos, stooges, hear - say - see no evils) where do you stop.



I was in my late 20's Val and I having just moved to Eureka when I first met Carl Larson (left), and Gary Albrecht (center) and we instantly became good friends. Gary, a renowned Rosemaling instructor and Carl were both here in Eureka taking classes with my mother and from that time onward they became great friends and spent nearly a month a year here in Eureka teaching classes and "caretaking" my parents house while they were traveling abroad. Those who knew them know that "caretaking" would be an extremely loose term to describe the comedy of errors and circumstance that followed those attempts. Inevitably I had to spend time each evening bailing them out of predicaments that one could never anticipate. Going in and seeing them painting next to the stove burners because they didn't dare want to try and turn on the heater. Assuring them it would be OK only to come back two days later to find the goldfish floating upside down in 90 degree house. So many tales however, each trip was always consumed with genuine laughter, good times and countless memories.

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After Gary passed, at way too young an age, Carl continued his frequent trips up to Eureka each year and made a thousand new friends. He was someone that you could never get by with just a simple "hello". A bear hug, firm handshake, smile and genuineness of spirit. I never heard him complain and I don't know that I've ever met someone who didn't enjoy spending time with him.

Whenever he was here he took the time to know each person in class and then embarked on his mission to get everyone to go out to dinner each night and spend time together. The local restaurants all knew him well as how can you forget someone who arranges 30 person dinners each night? Every class that he was in for 35 years bonded and resulted in enduring friendships that continue today.

He made his own mark teaching thousands of students over the years and passed on his own passion for his Swedish heritage and love of folk art. While I was not ever in one of his classes I know for certain that they were all filled with friends and laughter. He never met anyone he didn't enjoy and that didn't enjoy spending time with him.

We all have so many memories of Carl but perhaps my favorite "Carlism" is the time he towed a trailer up here to camp before class. On his way home he was passed by a trailer and thought "Boy that one looks just like mine" - only to look back and see that his trailer had come unhooked and just passed him in the Redwoods.

He was a good friend, one of the best human beings I've ever known and we'll miss him dearly.

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KAREN NELSON, VGM

Based on an interview 4/10/22 by Katie Allen

Background: Karen's rosemaling journey began at birth. She was born to a Norwegian father and Swiss mother in Stoughton, Wisconsin. Stoughton is in Dane County and has a history of Norwegian influences that helped shape the area. For the first ten years of Karen's life, she grew up surrounded by Norwegian businesses, food, rosemaling, and families. Stoughton was home to Per Lysne (credited with bringing the art of rosemaling to the United States in the Norwegian-American community) and to Ethel Kvalheim, Vesterheim's first VMG (Gold Medalist), who happened to be Karen's aunt.



Photo courtesy and © Karen Nelson.

Ethel has been credited with the revival of rosemaling in the United States, which then caused the revival in Norway. Surrounded by family and heritage, she was classmates with Per Lysne's grandson, learned Norwegian folk dancing, and celebrated Norwegian holidays like Syttende Mai (17 May, Norwegian Constitution Day) and followed the Norwegian tradition of celebrating Christmas Eve, followed by a smaller celebration Christmas Day. Her family did have pieces that Ethel painted in their home. At the age of ten, she moved to Sacramento, CA with her family where she has lived within a three-mile radius for many years. The farmland in the area is gone, and housing tracks have appeared instead. Karen has enjoyed living there though all the changes.

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She worked full time after high school graduation for the California Department of Motor Vehicles while taking college courses needed for promotions. She was a very busy woman and successful as a programmer at the institution until injuries grounded her requiring several surgeries. Having to be home all day soon got her into searching for a hobby. Karen had always been drawn to rosemaling and one of her old co-worker's spouse had taken decorative painting classes and Karen felt taking this up might lead to rosemaling. Karen started decorative painting at the local craft shop in 1998. By 1999, she was at the Society of Decorative Painters' convention and took part in some classes but did not see any rosemaling classes offered.

The Painting Journey: Along the painting journey, Karen also tried to find ties with her Nordic heritage and visited the annual Sacramento Scandinavian Festival where she could connect with others. At one such venue, she found an artist who did rosemaling finally! She immediately started asking this lady if she could take lessons. Yes, Julie Anne Droivold did teach rosemaling but required ten students to hold a class. Karen didn't know any other people who wanted to take rosemaling at that time. However, she asked Julie Anne to contact her if one of Julie's classes might let her join them. Julie Anne eventually followed up and Karen began her rosemaling lessons.

Karen said her various art teachers would ask their art students at the beginning of a class: "Tell us your name and why you are taking this class?" Her standard answer was always: *My name is Karen Nelson and I want to rosemal.* Julie Anne asked her if she had ever been exposed to rosemaling. Karen did mention she had grown up around it and had an aunt that painted it. Since we know the rosemaling world is smaller than Karen then knew, Julie Anne wanted to know what her aunts name was. Karen was sure no one would have heard her aunts name in California but when Karen responded with the name, Julie Anne was stunned. Karen then realized her aunt Ethel was more famous than she had realized (a small understatement). By 1999, Julie Anne mentioned to Karen that CRA had a convention she might want to check out and Karen took the only two

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available classes that year—one with Kathy Anderson and the other with Judy Ritger. She has been a member ever since.

How did Karen Hear About Vesterheim? Her aunt Ethel Kvelheim (VMG 1969) told her about Decorah, Iowa's Vesterheim Museum and folk programs. Karen feels her rosemaling days "took off" when she started braving Vesterheim classes. Karen mentioned she seems to put off things to the last minute, and this is exactly how taking the class at Vesterheim occurred. For quite some time she had been viewing class offerings at Vesterheim but had a fear of traveling alone to overcome. Finally, Karen acted on a last-minute inspiration to try and take a class two days before it began, sometime probably in 2002. On a Saturday evening she called a person who had the same name as the teacher for a Vesterheim rosemaling class, to see if they could accommodate Karen. She did connect to the correct person, then immediately made travel arrangements, and left the next day. Arriving in Madison the next day, Karen somehow managed to drive even after dark in an area she didn't know in snow flurries (with no previous experience in handling a car in such conditions). She prayed a lot and turned off now and then and eventually made it to her hotel. The success of the trip helped Karen get over her fear of traveling alone.

Karen continued to take classes at Vesterheim, along with many others in various areas of the US and Canada and went in 2007 on a Vesterheim trip to Norway. She credits all the painting teachers she's taken from in helping her achieve her success. In the early 2000's, she began taking classes at Camp Norge and in 2012 she began teaching rosemaling there per a request from Penny Knudsen.

In the beginning of her journey, Karen took seminars and found completing pieces was impossible because she needed to achieve perfection. Somewhere along the way, she did learn that perfection was holding her back and ruining the flow of her work. By changing her attitude so she didn't need to achieve perfection, Karen started finding pieces got done much quicker and the results had much more life and flow in them. Her UFO pile went down significantly! She also got more involved with CRA and helped man their table at Norway Days in San Francisco for a few years.

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Karen prefers to paint in Acrylics as her aunt had urged her to. Ethel felt they were the way of the future, being familiar with the work of JoSonja and her line of acrylics. JoSonja and Ethel had the opportunity to meet in person at Vesterheim. However, Karen recently has been studying the use of oils to be a more versatile teacher. She maintains "All styles can be done in acrylics; however, some styles are just easier to accomplish in oils."

Why did you decide to enter your work in competition? *I wanted to get more feedback on my work.* She talked with her Aunt Ethel who suggested Karen paint something to enter in the Wisconsin State Rosemaling Association's competition held in her hometown of Stoughton. Karen painted a *Hallingdal* piece and submitted it in the May 2005 competition. She tried to follow her aunt's instructions and read the various categories to participate in and decided she had painted for more than three years and should therefore "according to the rules" she should then enter as a professional. Her aunt was vexed with Karen's choice when she found this out, as Karen was a newbie in Ethel's eyes. However, Karen earned her first second-place award in rosemaling at a professional level. The critiques she sought, helped her improve her next version of the piece which she

entered that year into the *Vesterheim National Norwegian American Folk art Exhibition*. Again, she won a second-place ribbon, giving her two points towards the necessary eight points needed to become a Gold Medalist. By entering the exhibition, Karen was able to receive the feedback that helped improve



(left): Exhibition piece from 2009, a Hallingdal style bowl receiving a 3rd place White ribbon Photo courtesy and © Karen Nelson

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her future work. Karen earned points in these years: 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2012 per our newsletters.

Although she had begun entering the competition at Vesterheim to receive feedback and improve her work, at some point along the way, Karen decided to go for the Gold. Two years during her entrees, she entered more than one item in the competition and thus, when Karen earned her Gold Medal in 2012, she had more than enough points. Prior to the 2012 exhibition, Karen had seven points, and by entering two pieces (one received a red ribbon for 2 points, and one the blue ribbon for 3 points), giving her 4 more than was necessary. This was the first time a Gold Medal was awarded to a family member of the next generation in the same medium (rosemaling).

Karen related that for her first piece she entered at Vesterheim, the critiques had to do with the way she prefers to paint. They wanted her line work to be heavier and she found it difficult to feel good about.

Interestingly, Karen's plans on these 2012 entrees were not what one might expect. Per Karen: *The box I had painted at the request of the Elise Wærenskjold Lodge, the Roseville chapter of the Daughters of Norway, was presented to Judy Felker after serving as the President (she was also the founder) of that group. (This is the only piece I painted for the exhibition that I do not own.) I borrowed it back from her to design the pedestal piece which I planned to enter in the contest. When I saw the two were together, I liked the box better. Judy was kind enough to loan it to me and the museum. The judges liked it better too as it*



Karen was awarded honorable mention 2009 for this Hallingdal-style cupboard. Photo courtesy and © Karen Nelson

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received a First Place Blue Ribbon, and the pedestal piece received a 2nd Place Red Ribbon. 2012.



Karen's 2012 pieces for Vesterheim. The Box (First Place Blue Ribbon and Pedestal piece (2nd Place Red Ribbon). Photo courtesy and © Karen Nelson

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Karen's Design Process:

Study old pieces of rosemaling that you are attracted to—the elements, design, balance, details, colors, etc. Learn how they approach design. Learn how they created those elements: strokes, design, color balance, etc.)

- Paint the elements you particularly like to have a reference reflecting your interpretation of those elements.
- Develop your own design while keeping in mind basic art design principles. Incorporate things you have learned along the way in painting the final design.

When taking classes, she likes to understand how the teacher achieved the final piece, so she learns that process.

When painting on her own, she prefers designing her own pieces.

For her first Vesterheim piece, Karen based that design on Nils Ellingsgard's *Hallingdal* work. In this piece she used all the elements she knew about Hallingdal at that time. Karen recalls that she hadn't learned about the correct symmetry motifs used in Hallingdal—usually there is an odd number like 5 or 7 rather than the 4 she used. This was not noted in the judges' comments.



Karen's first piece entered in Vesterheim Folk Art Exhibit 2005. This Hallingdal style plate won a Red Second-place ribbon. Photo courtesy and © Karen Nelson.

Top Three Teaches who taught Karen important fundamentals:

1. *JoSonja Jensen*: Instrumental in all aspects of Karen's rosemaling journey, especially color and design development.
2. *Heather Reddick*, a Canadian decorative artist known for her *Zhostova* work (Russian flower painting), helped Karen learn how to load the brush and control the strokes for the best possible outcome.

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3. *Marian McNaughton*, known for her very colorful, beautifully executed fantasy florals, helped her with learning how to fix elements without having to take them off and not being able to tell it was fixed. Karen stated: “The more we go to fix something most often, we bring more attention to the item we are trying to fix and we would be better off leaving it alone. I am convinced it is better to not fix anything until you are done and then deal with what still bothers you.... It is amazing how little needs fixing if you just keep painting.”

What has life been like since obtaining a VGM?

Karen found that “life was very freeing afterward” because she didn’t have anything “over her head” to concentrate on every year. However, I don’t think she recalls all the time she spent as VP of CRA 2012 and 2013 CRA conventions. Karen says she had a lot of help in putting on those conventions! In 2013-4, Karen also went thru a difficult period when she dealt with serious health issues. As with everything she does, she managed to make a goal to survive and thrive afterwards and through her dedication, treatments, the best doctor and nurses, and perseverance she achieved this and more. We are very happy for her. After that illness she found her view of life also changed and found she “lived in the moment more”. She took until 2015 to sign a VGM after her name on her rosemaling.



Karen in her Bunad.
Photo courtesy and © Karen Nelson

COVID has also been a time when Karen found new hobbies such as gardening and expanding her outside living space so she could get some sun. She also

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completed her “ten-year” *bunad* and many UFOs. Karen says she “learned to be content being at home.”

Since earning her VGM, Karen continues to learn and still teaches at Camp Norge’s Rosemaling weekend (for all level of painters), at seminars around the country (usually 3 days or more), and even teaches an occasional Zoom class. She prefers in person classes over Zoom so she can help her students more and can see what they are doing. Karen strongly urges beginners to take in-person classes. She has painted the Stube’s window and door frame at Camp Norge in addition.



Figure 7: Karen at Camp Norge with her rosemal work around the doors and windows of the Stabbur. Photo courtesy and © Karen Nelson.

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Karen continues to enjoy traveling to the Midwest for the Stoughton 17 Mai event and the Decorah Nordic Fest. She is full of zest and interest in living a full life. She keeps busy with Mahjong, Chinese Brush painting in addition to her other activities. Karen wishes to emulate her aunt Ethel, by following this: "When I am no longer learning, it is time to hang up the brushes."

Karen, we wish you many wonderful learning experiences and thank you very much for sharing your story with us.

P.S. I just got word today (7/14/2022) that Karen has received a residency at Vesterheim. We are delighted to share this with you. Keep up the excellent work Karen!



[Karen's Chinese Brush Painting.](#)
[Photo courtesy and © Karen Nelson.](#)

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Rune Nesser, Norwegian Rosemaler

Reported by Katie Allen

I've learned about contemporary Norwegian Rosemalers on many Facebook groups and I'd like to highlight one from the Thornton Malers Facebook page.

Rune Rosemaler (Rune Nesser, age 72) recently retired. His U-Tube Introduction to Rosemaling clip is an excellent, quick introduction to Telemark Rosemaling. You may access it by either using the link or searching under his name:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIGSuugSBC4>. He makes rosemaling look very easy. However, he's been painting for over 50 years. He is planning on taking down his website at the end of the year so take a peak before it's gone to see his many talents and work: <https://runerosemaler.com/>.

As a young man, he was inspired to take up the traditional crafts of Norway. Over the years he's perfected his colors and style after studying old masters works. Originally from Kragerø, he later moved to Nissedal in West Telemark where rose painting in the Telemark style is the norm. He is self-taught. Primarily he has rosemaled his entire career but also has a wide breath to his art background—including carving, portraits, folklore, and Disney like work. He not only does his own work, teaches, but also restores pieces as the need

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arises. In one article, he was called: *one of the country's best rosmalers, if not the best*, who would travel to different parts of Norway as they did long ago to paint. Not many other rosmalers travel outside the area where they live to decorate interiors, but he had done this most of his painting life. He calls the trip work holidays and brought his family along.



Bowl painted by Rune Nesher



He customizes his work to his customer's needs and his design sense. Some of his customers did have unusual color requests as you see on the right. I find that some of his work is much more muted in color pallets that I see in the US today.

Below you'll see other pieces he's done.

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Chest painted by Rune Nesher



Wood Carving and painting by Rune



Left: Kubbestol painted by Rune Nesher

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Who were Rune's Role Models?

- **Knut Hovden** (book: *Bjormane Ropa På Meg* by Sigrunn Lie Brattekås and Knut Buen) has meant the most to him. Per Rune: *Knut K. Hovden (1893-1983) was a rosemaler who continued the tradition of rosemaling as well as one of it's innovators in the 20th century. He helped with the revival of including rosemaling as a décor tradition during the modern Scandinavian and other style [periods]. Hovden was a prodigious painter of large and smaller works.*
- **Åsmund Skori** (retired and 83 years in age). He was from Åmotsdal, Seljord, Vestfold and Telemark. Per Rune: *You will never find a single stroke that [Skori did that] is not perfect after his way of painting. No irregularity. If he wrote a poem every "a" was exactly like the other "a", and so forth. He had not any lines or drops not attached to the main "rose", [He] did not overfill any empty spaces, he could fill it with only one line with a couple of small lines. He had Knut Hovden as teacher but developed his own style. He was teacher in the same school himself some years....*
- **Tomas Luraas** (1799-1886). Interestingly Rune says: *Luraas was a counterfeiter and outlaw besides being a skilled rose painter around the villages while he was on the run.*



Chest painted by Rune Nesher

Tips from Rune:

- *When using black base painting, use light contours on the dark shade side. Be aware of the white border outlining the rose painting—it is important to get it even and firm.*

- *I know it is important with a lot of practice to handle the liner. [On the next page] I will [give] some examples for[this] exercise. Start from the left first with simple lines, and then you can fill in some more decoration. Notice the different thickness you achieve with more or less pressure on the brush. If you shall make a beautiful s shape the first curve is often longer than the second. Only rule in rosemaling is to make it as beautiful as possible. [See next page]*



Black Based example of Telemark Rosemaled plate by Rune Nesher. Copyright and courtesy of Rune Nesher.

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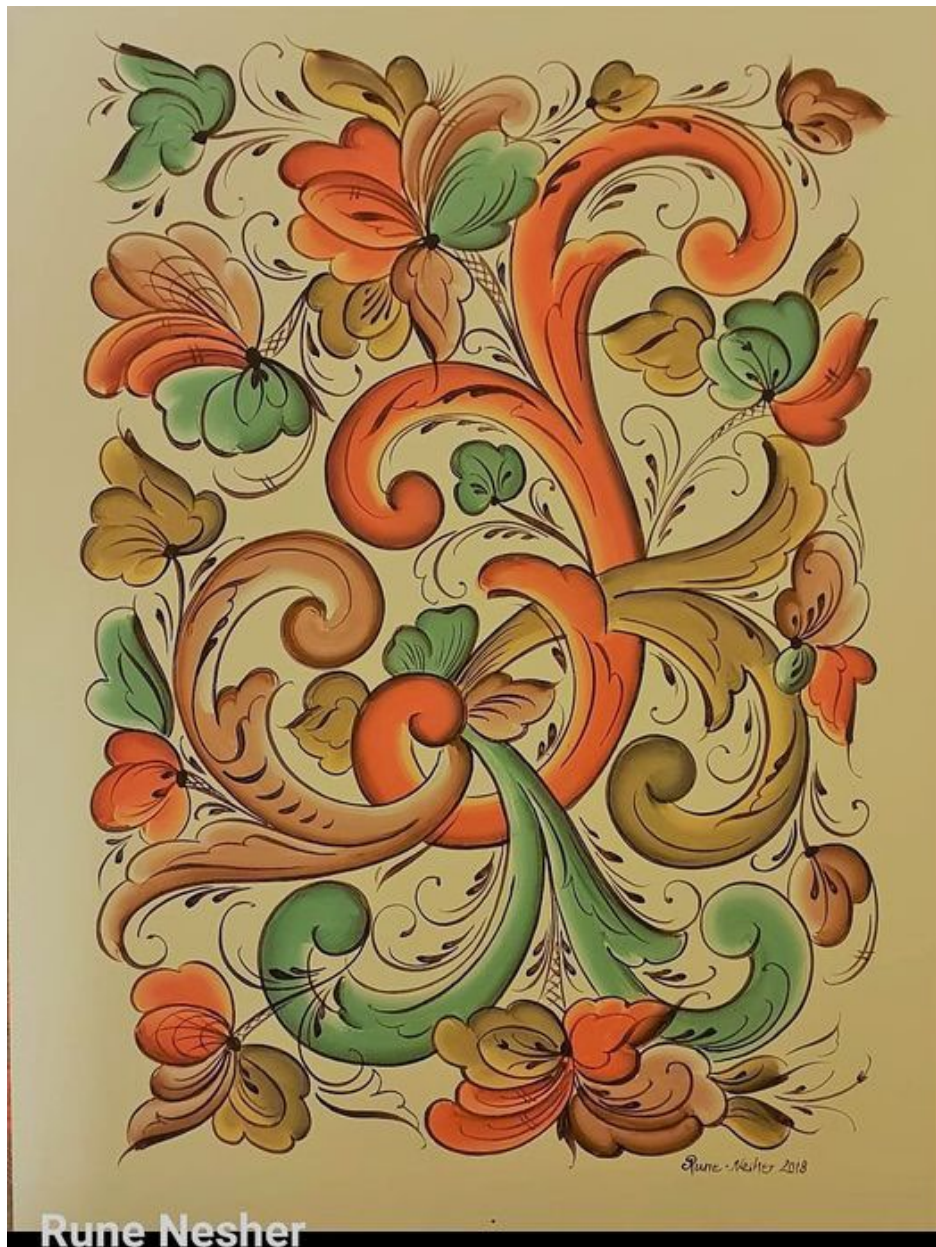


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Traditional Telemark Tutorial, step by step by Rune Nesher:

- *I will try to go through how to paint en rose (a rosemal motif) in traditional Telemark style the way I learned it 50 years ago, step by step. I will use this rose painted on a light background, ca 30x40cm, A3.*
- *First, we will draw it to show what is important to be aware of. When you are painting for yourself later, it may be enough to sketch roughly with chalk.*

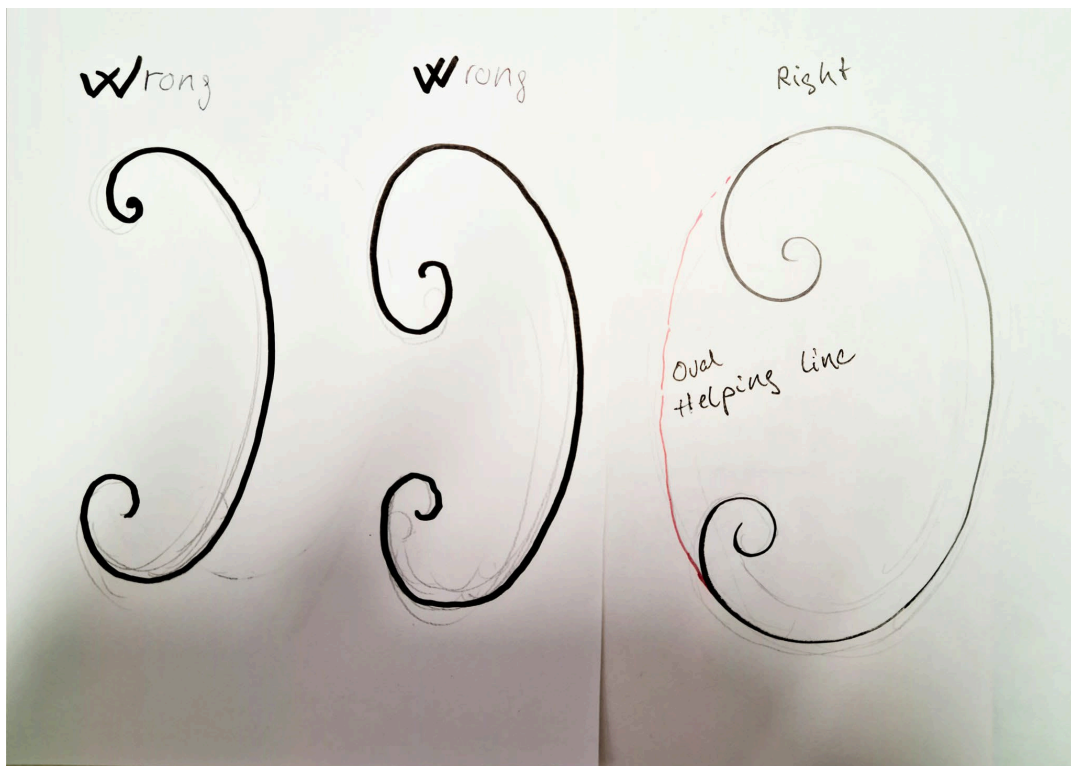
[Note: Colors in this photo do not necessarily match] **Follow along step by step.**



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- **Step 1:** We are always hunting for the most beautiful, perfect line. *Telemarkrosa* is often starting with a C. In fact, rosemaling is built upon C and S. The perfect curve is after the *fibonacci* formula which God usually use in the nature. We feel when it's right.

Example



- **Step 2:** Now we use this C to build a pattern of scrolls. As I said we hunt for perfect lines, when we start a curve, it will be steeper until the end. As you can see, some of these curves is not perfect, and I will have to correct them when I start with the colors. (Next page)

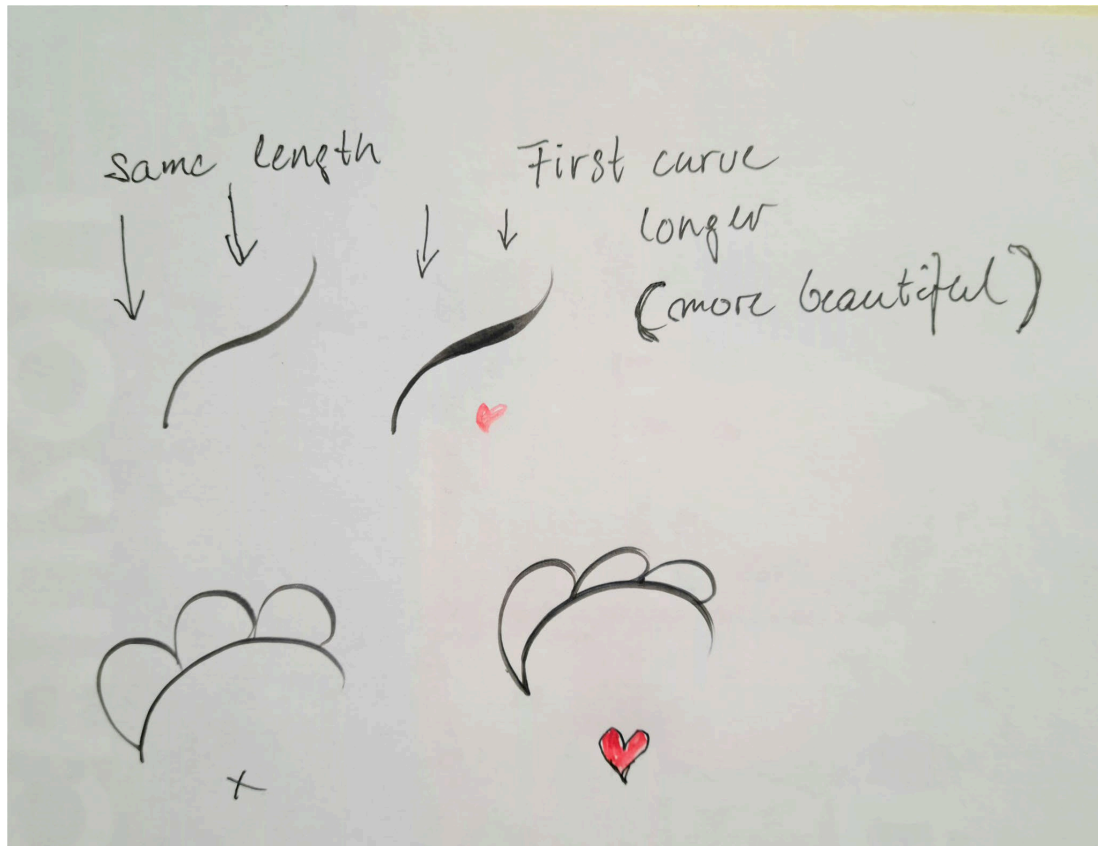
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Step 2: Basic Telemark design scrolls (S and C strokes) by Rune Nesher

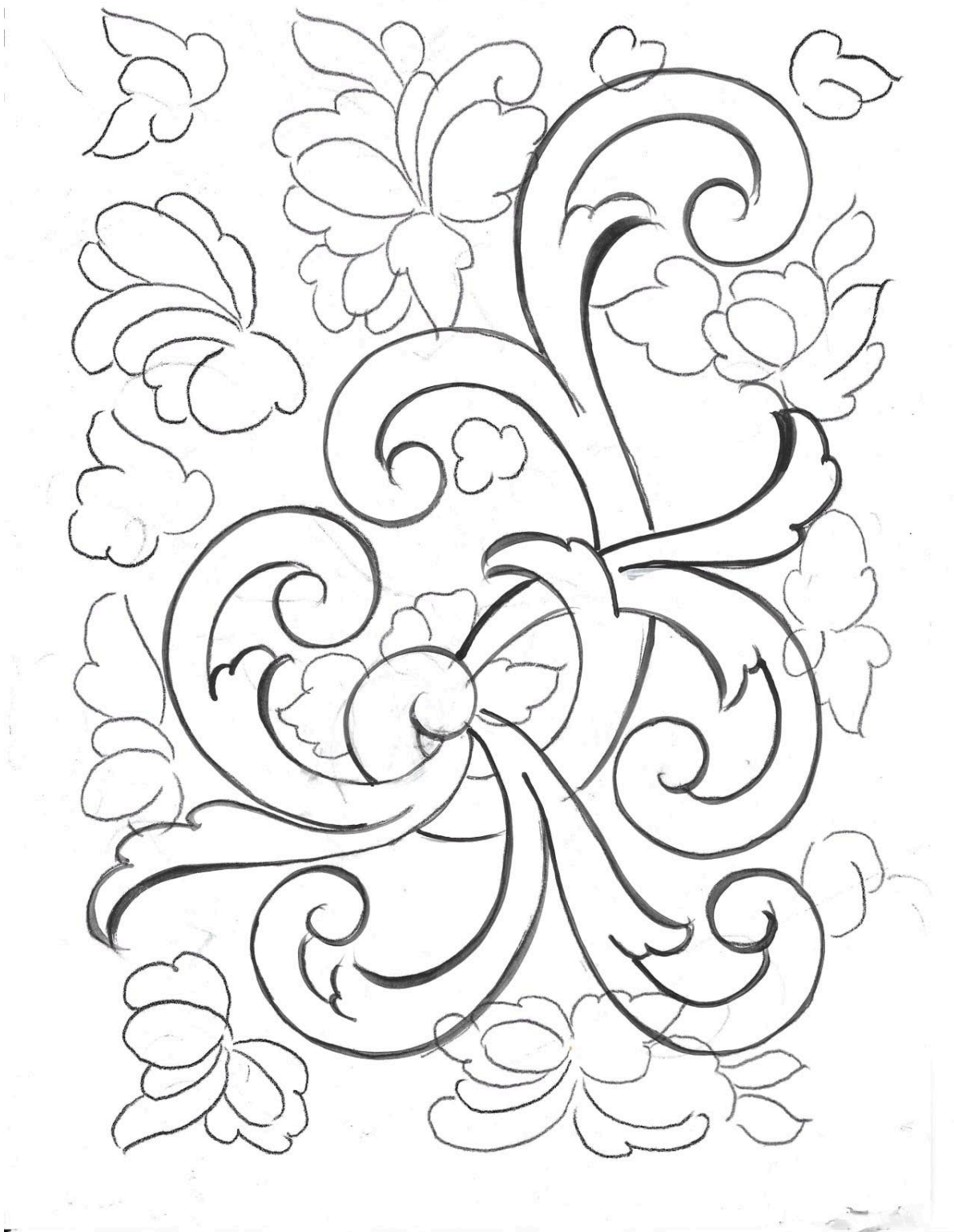
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- **Step 3:** Now is time to draw the "flowers" which in fact is only decorative abstract figures. The line and shape are important here too. A line seems more elegant if the first curve is longer than the last.



- **Step 4:** Now is the last job today. We will try to draw the flowers, place them so you can have place for a stem, but we do not draw the stems, that will have to wait till we paint. P.S. In rosemaling you may copy with blue paper or what you like. it is the painting that matters. (Next page)

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Step 4: Rune's design completed with flowers added

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- *Step 5: I love colors and am very thankful to God for my color vision. You must remember that when they started with rosemaling, it was meant to lighten up colorless dark rooms. They used all the colors they could get, and better and more when it was available.*

We will have an easy job today. I used to give the rose a ground layer of paint. Now is the time to fix any line you are not satisfied with.

The main motif is the C and S, and I use a dominant color here. Then I try to have the different colors spread throughout the whole rose. If it is room for it I use green next to red as it is contrast colors. Yellow and brown is nice next to blue.*

I have not said much about ground colors, that is because I do not think it is so important. I asked for light color, but whether it is blue, green, red or brown it is the colors in the rosemaling that is important. (It is rosa that makes the ground color nice, not the opposite. I must admit it saddens me when I have rosemaled an item at my best, and the viewer says: Nice ground color.*

But now we can find colors that suits the ground, and each other. If you are not satisfied at once, try again, it will not be better if you try to overlook it. Tomorrow we will learn to paint with two colors in the brush at a time. That will be so much fun!



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Step 6: *The time has come for rosemaling. We use 2 colors in the brush at a time. First, we fill the entire brush with the main color, then we dip the side of the brush sideways 1/3 in a dark or light color. For this motif I use 2 pieces of 8 mm flat brush, one for the dark side and one for the light side.*

I follow the curves with the brush in 90° angle to the plate, and the flat brush in 90° to the painting direction. Sometimes you must repeat the stroke to make the colors blend properly.

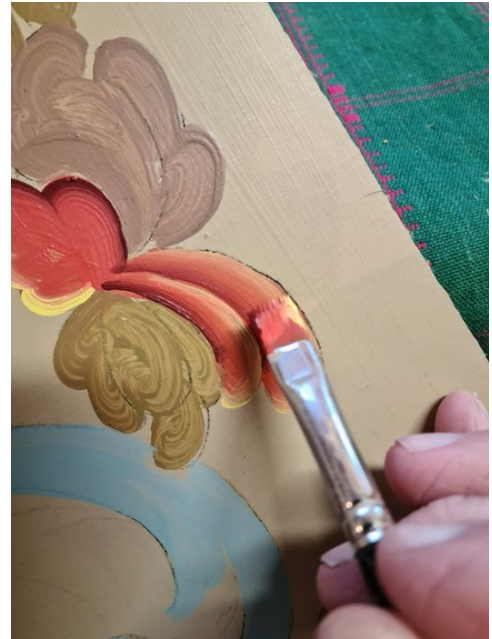
I use these colors:

- Red: carmin red + raw sienna + skin
- Dark side (Dark red): black + red (caput mortum)
- Light side (Light Red): yellow + white
- Beige: burnt sienna + raw umbra + white
- Dark Beige: raw umber
- Light Beige: antique white
- Blue: cyan + antique white + beige (as over)
- Dark (Blue): Payne's grey
- Light (Blue): antique white
- Green: mid. green + red + yellow
- Dark (Green): sap green + caput mortum
- Light (Green): yellow+ white+ a little red
- You may use colors of your own choice of course, but remember, it is not more difficult to paint with beautiful colors than colors that is not so good, but the result will be much better.



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Step 7 : You may wonder why I have so much philosophy around details in rosemaling, , colors and curves. I can tell you, when I started my rosemaling 50 years ago, this time of the year was very busy. When I sat there painting in the long dark winter nights, often to three and four o'clock, I had time to think things through. I was so lucky that I began to paint in the rosemaling golden days. It was no limit for how much I had to paint, and my capacity was much higher then. I knew families where they all painted, parents and grandparents and 3 or 4 children. Many of them were very clever too.



Step 7: Rune Painting this step

That was only a bit history, they used oil paint, and had to stop, I started with acryl after a couple of years, and I am painting still. Back to today's lesson. When the space you paint are limited, it may be useful to take both the dark and light side in the same stroke.

One more thing, if a form has a light side, try to start with the dark side on the one beside it. Think contrast.

Step 8: As in the week, or the note line, or the colors, now we are back to 8, and it is the same as the first. 😊 You must fetch the original we aimed to copy. There you see the thin lines.

The Geisfuss brush [liner], in Norway it has many names, but the main thing is that it is a good thin brush, ca 20 mm long so it will absorb a little shaking in your hand. And it must hold so much color that you can draw a long line. It must also keep the hair together in a thin point. When you dip it in color it may be useful to roll it between your fingers, always in the same direction.

The thin lines have three main purposes:

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- 1. To fix the "flowers" to the scrolls as stems, usually supported with some lines and drops.*
- 2. Make a clear contrast to the bottom color, a nice outlining on all the different elements in the "rose".*
- 3. Decorative jewelry on the "flowers", the scrolls and the empty spaces between them.*

At this point I could talk about rhythm, brush pressure and direction with many words, but I will limit it to say that the thin lines shall give a elegant touch. A calligraphic impression. Then you understand that the lines must be thin, and you must not overdo it.

I usually use a mix of red and black (like burnt umbra). Think black is too hard. For this motif I think it not necessary to use white. It's no reason for rosemaling to look like a blizzard. Skori's painting was often without white at all. (And he was the best.)

As you know, it is as many ways to do it as there are painters. I will lay out a plan with many different suggestions how to fill in a form in rosemaling. In addition, they didn't use too many dots. (See next page diagram)

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Samples of flower embellishments by Rune Nesher

Good Luck!

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2022 CRA Convention! September 15 – 18

I am so very excited to share with you about my visit to Eureka to set up the convention. I was able to do a video interview with JoSonja that we will share with you at the convention. I also got to see many pieces she is working on. You all are going to be very pleased with her work.

We will be doing a *Telemark* design on a dragon foot tine. She has incorporated some new ideas on traditional painting and color and has been working very hard on a special piece for us. She is so full of knowledge that she will share with us.

I know that things have been very difficult and different these last 2 ½ years. When visiting with JoSonja I was so inspired by her recent paintings, her knowledge, and the quality and beauty of her pieces. I am sure that you will be pleased too. JoSonja, just like us, is looking forward to connecting and sharing with us. It will be nice to be together again.

Please be patient and prepared to learn and enjoy. You will be AMAZED.

Love too all my painting friends,

Pennie Wilkins, Vice President



The convention will be held in the Eureka Red Lion Hotel (next to JoSonja's studio and showroom) on Thursday, September 15 to Sunday, September 18.

In 1974, **JoSonja** was awarded a Master Teacher's Certificate by the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters. In 1980 the Silver Palette award was bestowed by the same organization in recognition of outstanding contribution to the advancement of Decorative Art. In 1996, the Vesterheim Gold Medal (VGM) in Rosemaling, from the Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, Iowa was awarded. In 2007 she was awarded the Presidents Commendation award for service by the Society of Decorative Painters.

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The 2022 CRA Convention project will be a Telemark Dragon Tine designed by JoSonja for the CRA!

The 2022 CRA Convention will be held in the **Red Lion Inn, Eureka, California**. Make your own reservations. Tell them you part of the CRA Convention to get a discount. Address: 1929 4th St, Eureka, CA 95501 Phone: (707) 445-0844

See the CRA website www.califrosemaler.org for information on airport shuttle, cabs, car rental, etc.



CRA 2022 Convention Telemark Tine designed by JoSonja.

© photos courtesy of JoSonja Jansen

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Wood, Patterns, Paint and mediums are provided, but you should bring your own basic painting supplies ([suggested list is on the website](#)).

Prep work is done on Thursday, September 15 starting at 11am. Classes are Friday thru Sunday, from 9am to 5:30pm (Sunday class finishes at 4:30). There is a 2-hour lunch break during class days. The hotel will offer a box lunch to purchase, or you are welcome to visit the many restaurants within walking distance.

The banquet will be held Saturday night at the Red Lion Inn. Your \$280 registration fee includes this banquet. You may bring guests for an additional fee. See banquet meal choices on the website.

Registration is open until August 15, 2022. Final payment due August 15.

A deposit of \$75, non-refundable unless the event is cancelled, is due at the time of registration, plus annual CRA dues for 2022 of \$15 if not previously paid. *IF you were a CRA member in 2020 or 2021, your membership has been extended to 2022, so you do not need to pay the 2022 membership dues.*

Once the convention is filled, new the registration applications will be put on the wait list.

Go to www.CalifRosemaler.org to register.

We suggest that you make travel and hotel arrangements as early as possible after your registration is confirmed. The Red Lion Inn and The Clarion Hotel by Humbolt Bay offers discount rates of \$125 for a room with 2 queen beds. When you call 707-445-0844 (Red Lion) or 408-714-7988 --tell them you are with the California Rosemaler Association.

Registration payments are due August 15. **Make check out to “CRA” and mail to:**

Shaun Sasaki
11234 Mt. Crest Pl.
Cupertino, CA 95014

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Convention Health and Safety: Covid immunizations are required. Vaccination status must be shown at registration in Eureka. Temperature checks will be done. Masks are encouraged. Policies may change due to circumstances at the time.

CRA Convention Trade Floor

The convention also provides a way for you to buy and sell things on the trade floor. See the form on the next page. Call Joyce to reserve your table space. Joyce adds: I would like to thank everyone who donated, had tables and who made purchases which made the last Trade Show a success.

jafiield@verizon.net (310) 292-1332

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Page of	Your Name: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____
	Fill this form out and bring to the convention

#	Item	Style/Identification	Price	Sold

Inventory: _____

Total _____

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Membership Notice

As Membership Chair, I am inviting former CRA members to rejoin and come to Eureka to learn from Jo Sonja, September 15 - 18, 2022. Please send your \$15 dues made out to CRA to Joyce Field, 19703 Tomlee Avenue, Torrance, CA 90503.

If you are not a current CRA member, or if your contact information has changed, you can fill out the form:

- On the website: www.CalifRosemaler.org
- Or, if you are planning to attend this year's CRA Convention, there is an online membership form in the convention registration form.

Membership is \$15 for new members or past members that hadn't paid for membership in 2020/2021/2022.

If you no longer wish to receive this CRA Newsletter, please let me know.

If you have questions, contact:

Joyce Field

jafield@verizon.net

19703 Tomlee Ave., Torrance, CA 90503

310-292-1332

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Friendly Online Rosemaling Links

Webpages:

- Online Rosemaling class Listings in US:
<https://www.rosemalingcoasttocoast.org/classes>
- Rosemaling Coast to Coast Classes: (Convention 2023)
<https://www.rosemalingcoasttocoast.org/classes>
- Gayle Oram: <https://gayleoram.com/index.php> ([packets](#), [classes](#), and [more](#))
- JoSonja's: (Products, design packet/packages, classes and more):
<https://josonja.com/>
- Vesterheim Folk School: <https://vesterheim.org/folk-art-school/> (Classes and more—great Rosemaling Newsletter if you sign up for it and join).
- Rune Nesher Rosemaling: <https://runerosemaler.com/>
- Lisa Lorentzen: <http://www.artoflise.com/about-lise/>

Facebook pages:

- Western Rosemalers Association:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Westernrosemalers/>
- The Thorntown "Malers":
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1518201928437409/>
- Rosemaling <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Rosemaling/> Group by Forest Wood Rosemaling Design—largest group...many gold medalists, Norwegian rosemalers, as well new and old rosemalers post- great educational site. Excellent!
- Geir M Kåstastuls Rosemaling Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/678552482914745> wonderful telemark painter's follow page.
- Art of Lise: <https://www.facebook.com/ArtofLise1>
- The Enchanted Palette: <https://www.facebook.com/The.Enchanted.Palette>
Claudia Teaches Rosemaling in person and zoom hybrid. Additional information—teaches JoSonja patterns of all sorts. Rosemaling pieces will come up in the Back To Basics class on Wednesday mornings (in a few weeks I will be starting to teach JoSonja's Lion and the Unicorn). If people are interested, contact:: claudialohnes@comcast.net or 408-829-5489, or Instagram at claudiallohnesh.

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CRA 35th Anniversary Trivia Time:

Time for some trivia questions and your chance to send in photos or to win prizes or fame! Responses to this should be sent to katie.d.allen68@gmail.com. Prizes (gift cards for \$10 each) will be given out for specified questions (they will be marked with a red P) and only one person may win each trivia question. (except for the one that states multiple winners). Other questions are marked with a red F meaning you will be award winners fame in our newsletter for correct responses and no other prize.



*Other rules: Prizes (questions marked with a red P) will be awarded to **first** person who responds based on email time tag. Only **one** person may win each trivia question except for the one that states multiple winners. If more than one person has same time log on their email with correct answer(s), all in that time frame will have their names put in a hat and **one** name will be pulled as the winner. There is one question that allows multiple prize winners as specified in the list below. Some questions are just fame (marked with a red F) points as it will help us all learn more of the history of this organization and our conventions. These winners will not receive a prize, just fame in our Newsletter and at the Convention Banquet! Prizes will be handed out or mailed at the time of convention.*

*All members should be able to participate in this if they want **except** elected board members. Many answers are found on the website or in your old CRA newsletters. However, you must search for the answers. Maybe you'll learn something during your search! If a question isn't answered, it will appear in our next newsletter. Additional Trivia questions may be forthcoming in the next newsletter issue. Winners will be announced in the newsletter and answers will be shared to all in*

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the next newsletter if they have been answered. If there are no correct answers, we will print the answers in our last newsletter of the year.

Good luck!

Sponsored by your CRA President, Katie Allen

CRA TRIVIA QUESTIONS 2022:

- Can anyone advise who the people are (Left to Right) in this picture and when and where was it taken? **P**



- During the early years of the organization, they realized the need for not only one larger group, but they also divided the state into 3 regions. What were those regions? **P**
- Has anyone attended all the conventions? If so let us know— prize to be awarded for person(s) who attended the most and multiple winners are possible. Let us know how many you've gone to. **P**
- How many distinct teachers taught at multiple conventions? Who taught the most classes? (must answer both parts to win) **P**
- Who designed the first Newsletter Logo and do you have a picture of it? **P**
- At many conventions, an ornament has been handed out for you to take home and paint along with instructions. What was your favorite one and do you have a completed piece photo you can share? **F**
- What was the Hen House? **P**
- Answer both questions: Has every convention teacher been from Norway? Has every teacher been a Gold Medalist? **P**

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- Can you identify some or all of these people from this list of first names who has played a role in our organization? If so, state last name and role(s) they played. (Number correct plays a part in winning the prize). **P**
 - Synnove, Eli, Ragnold, Sunhild, Eldred, Rhoda, Bergliot

Upcoming Scandinavian Events

- Sept 17-18, 2022, Vista, CA: *Vista Viking Festival*
<https://business.vistachamber.org/events/details/vista-viking-festival-09-17-2022-23672?calendarMonth=2022-09-01>
- *Solvang's 85th Danish Days*: Sept 16-18, 2022:
<https://www.solvangdanishdays.org/2022-updates/>
- *Sacramento Scandinavian Festival*: Granite Bay: Lutheran Church of Resurrection: (Sacramento Area): Oct. 15, 10a-4pm 2022:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/scandinavian-festival-association-of-sacramento-14447748219> or Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoScandinavianFestival/>
-

If you live in LA area, check out this site for other Nordic Events in LA area (and now, Nordic Virtual Events all over): A Viking in LA: she keeps listing Nordic Events in LA area—usually current month and next one:

<http://www.avikinginla.com/>

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California Rosemaling Association By-Laws

(proposed changes shown in Red for General Meeting September 2022)

Article I – Name

The name of the Association shall be the California Rosemaling Association

Article II – Principal Office

The Principal office of the Association shall be at the home of the presiding President. The Association may have such other offices as designated by the members of the Board.

Article III – The Purpose of this Association is to:

Promote and preserve an interest in the traditional art of Norwegian Rosemaling as a unique art form by displaying works of the members at schools, exhibitions and art shows and to instruct and demonstrate at appropriate venues.

The intent of the Association is to operate a Professional Association within the meaning of Section 23701e of the California Revenue and Taxation code.

This association does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit of the members thereof and is organized for non-profit purpose.

Article IV – Membership

Sec.1. Active membership: Anyone who supports the purposes stated in Article III is eligible to become an active member of this Association with full voting and other privileges.

Sec.2. Honorary membership: Anyone who has made a major contribution to the art of Rosemaling may be offered an honorary membership at the discretion of the Board.

Sec.3. Voting: Each active member is entitled to one vote in the affairs of the Association.

Article V – Dues

Sec.1. Membership dues shall be determined by majority vote of the members.

Sec.2. Dues shall be paid annually on a full calendar year basis. Dues are payable on November 1 and delinquent by December 31.

Sec.3. Dues must be current for any member to enjoy all privileges of membership.

Sec. 4. Amount of dues shall be stated in the Standing Rules.

Article VI- Officers

Sec.1. Elected officers: The elected officers of the association shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair.

Sec.2. Appointed Chairpersons: The appointed committee chairpersons of the Association shall be the Newsletter Editor, Historian, Nominating, Webmaster, Audit, and Trade Floor (January 2014).

Other Chairpersons may be appointed for special duties as deemed necessary by the President and approved by the Elected Board

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Sec.3. The term of office shall be one year. No officer may hold the same office for more than two consecutive full terms, *if possible*.

Sec. 4. Vacancies in any office may be filled for the balance of the term by the Elected Board. These officers are not considered to have served a full term unless their term of office exceeds 7 months.

Sec.5. The Board of elected and appointed officers shall conduct all business of the Association.

Article VII – Executive Board

Sec.1. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, immediate Past President, Newsletter Editor.

Sec.2. The Executive Board shall conduct business between meetings and all other business the Association deems necessary.

Article VIII – Elections

Sec.1. The officers shall be elected at the annual convention business meeting. All offices take effect January 1, for the duration of the calendar year. (Oct. 2003)

Sec.2. The offices of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chair shall be filled each year.

Sec.3. The nomination of officers shall be made by a nominating committee consisting of three active members appointed by the President. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. The consent of the candidates must be obtained before the Nominating Committee may place the candidate's name before the membership.

Sec.4. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed at least three months prior to the annual meeting and the slate of the proposed offices shall be printed in the newsletter prior to the annual convention.

Sec. 5. Nominating Chair is responsible for installation of officers at the annual convention.

Article IX – Meetings

There shall be no less than one annual convention/business meeting per year. The date and time is to be determined by the Executive Board.

Article X - Duties of the Officers

Sec.1. The President shall:

Preside at the meetings of the Association.

Call special meetings of the association and Executive board.

Make provisions for the discharge pro tempore of necessary duties of absent members and officers.

Assure that the By-Laws and Standing Rules of the Association are enforced.

Vote only in case of a tie, except when presiding over the Executive Board. Be an ex-officio

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member of all committees.

The President shall deliver all books to the successor at the end of office term.

Sec.2. The Vice President shall:

Preside in the absence of the President and shall assist the President.

Be the Convention Chairperson for the Association, performing the scheduling of all Convention activities.

Be responsible to purchase a gift for the outgoing President.

The Vice President shall deliver all books to the successor at the end of office term.

Sec.3. The Secretary shall:

Keep a record of the proceedings of all official meetings. Record the attendance at all official meetings of the Association.

Keep records of changes to the By-Laws and Standing Rules and send updated copies to members of the Executive Board.

Be responsible for sending letters to vendors for raffle and/or silent auction contributions for the Annual Convention.

Be responsible for organizing and conducting raffle and/or silent auction.

Conduct correspondence.

The Secretary shall deliver all books to the successor at the end of office term.

Sec.4. The Treasurer shall:

Have charge and custody of all funds of the Association.

Keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the Association's properties and business transactions.

Draft checks only on warrants signed by the President or Secretary.

Issue checks only on the signature of two of the following: Treasurer, President or Secretary.

At all times be subject to verification and inspection by the elected officers of this Association.

File with state regarding "non-profit" status Form RRF-1 (Annual Registration Renewal Fee Report) annually by due date established by the IRS and California Form 990-N (electronic postcard) annually by due date.

The Treasurer shall deliver all books to the successor at the end of office term.

Sec.5. The Membership Chair shall:

Maintain files of membership.

Record all new members and give all monies received to the Treasurer.

Provide an updated copy of the By-Laws and Standing Rules to each member when mailing or e-mailing the Annual Membership Directory by April 1.

Submit a list of new members to the Newsletter Editor.

Membership renewal letters shall be sent to delinquent members by Feb.1.

The Membership Chair shall deliver all books to the successor at the end of office term.

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Sec.6. The immediate Past President shall:

Be responsible for recognition of the outgoing officers.

Attend Board meetings and act as an advisor to the President and Board members.

Sec.7. The Newsletter editor shall:

Gather, publish, mail or e-mail a minimum of ~~four~~ **three** newsletters per year. The newsletter will contain information regarding classes, shows, coming events and news pertinent to the Association.

The Newsletter Editor shall deliver all books to the successor at the end of office term.

Article XI – Amendments

Any proposed amendment to the By-Laws and Standing Rules will be submitted to the members in the Newsletter prior to the annual meeting. Amendments to the By-Laws and Standing Rules will be voted upon at the annual meeting.

Article XII — Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of this Association, all liabilities shall be paid, satisfied and discharged. Any remaining assets of the Association shall be given to the Norwegian American Museum at Decorah, Iowa.

