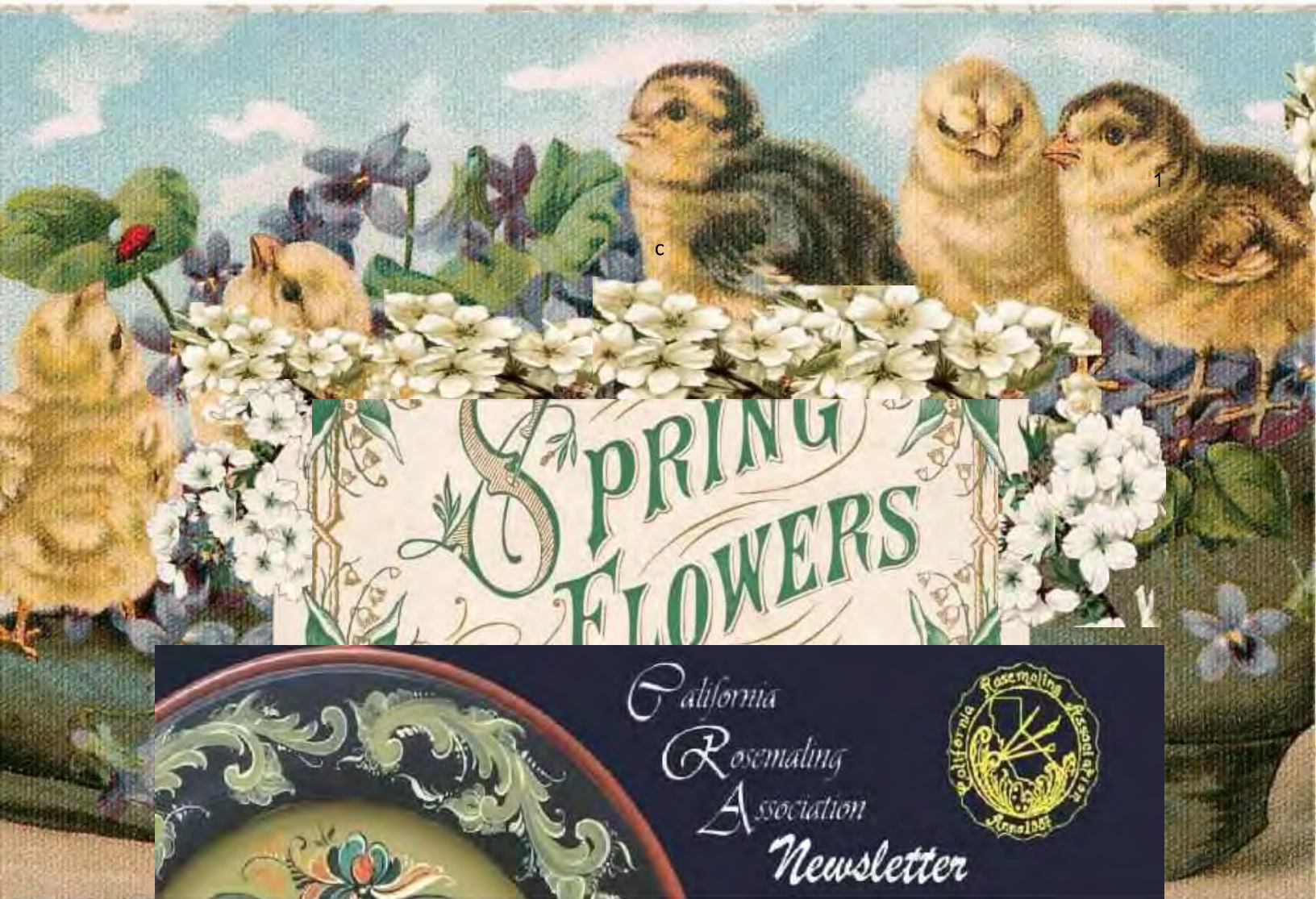




Spring 2025

Nu-149

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 120 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 Report:



Dear Rosemaling Friends,

Thank you all so much for your help in making the 2024 convention so successful. It was a great event and as far as I know, everyone had a great time. I heard SO many requests for the same thing in 2025. I've never experienced that before.

So, that's exactly what we are going to do. Our teacher, Lise Lorentzen, has agreed to teach again. In 2024 we had a mix of experienced rosemalers and true beginners. Lise was able to connect with everyone and I was so impressed with the results attendees were able to achieve.

If you were there, you know I was experiencing shoulder pain and I wasn't able to participate the way I wanted. I'm so sorry for that! It turns out I have a torn rotator cuff. I'm seeing the right doctors and getting physical therapy. Fingers crossed that it all works. Thank you to all for the care and concern. One more thing. Please consider a board position. Fresh perspectives are needed to keep things exciting and fresh.

Happy painting to all,

Love,

Ruth Ann





Howling for Hallingdal

36th 2025 CRA Convention

Oct. 23-26 in San Diego

Registration is now open

Go to CalifRosemaler.org to register

(registration ends and full payments are due

September 27, 2025)

IMPORTANT ALERT!!!

Officers are needed for 2026!

Conventions are fun, zoom classes are fun and being with fellow painters while continuing the lovely art of Rosemaling is inspiring, fun and good for our health!

Without new officers, this group will not be able to function. According to our bylaws we must have the following officers: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chairs. The term of office is one year, and we like to limit anyone's term to two years at most at a time. To date, I have some leads on a few of these positions, but we need more of you to step up.

Please step forward today!



Please step forward today!

We thank all of you for your support of CRA, and now we are asking some of you, new or old members, to step into the void we have for 2026 elections.

*Our 2025 board members wish to step down from their positions. Some have served us faithfully for many years! They will support you in various roles in the future but **not** in their current Officer positions.*

Thank you so much RuthAnn!

RuthAnn is set to retire from her Presidency and take on the role of past president. She has now exceeded any other president's number of years in office. She is none less than...

Remarkable!



Thank you so much Lynne!

Lynne has set up two great conventions for us and is ready to let someone from Northern California take over the Conventions for 2026 and 2027 in Northern California as Vice President (of Programs).

Thank you so much Onya!

Onya will be stepping down with Shaun Sasaki willing to step back into that role.

Thank you so much Shaun!

Thank you so much Joyce!

Joyce has served an extra year as Membership chair compared to what she had wanted and will not do the job next year. However, she will continue as the Trade floor person which we all love!

ARTISTS WANTED



ONLY TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP
OUR ASSOCIATION FUNCTIONING



We invite you to take advantage of making this organization enjoy another year or two of life at least. Call officers to explore the time it takes to do the job. It's fun to be on the CRA board! You make lots of friends and are thanked! It helps you live longer!

Help Wanted 2026 Board!

Positions:

President

Secretary

Vice President

Treasurer

Membership

Zoom Program Helper

See page 41 for descriptions of positions

Membership Renewal:

Membership fee for 2025 is past due. Please send a check for \$15 to:

Joyce Field

19703 Tomlee Avenue

Torrance, CA 9003

You may also go on the CRA Website and Zelle Onya Tolmasoff.



Back to the Convention:

The 2025 convention will again be held at the Courtyard Marriott in Old Town, San Diego. The hotel contacts were so great to work with (can you believe that Joel even made *lefse* for us at the banquet!!) Thursday, Oct. 23 will be a prep day with classes being held on Friday, Oct. 24 thru Sun. Oct. 26. Sunday's class will end at 5 pm.

Back by popular request, Lise Lorentzen will again be our instructor for the 2025 convention. Lise has prepared a lovely design in the Hallingdal style (see Lise's bio included in this newsletter.)

Basic convention fee --\$275

The **basic** fee includes instruction, classroom facilities and paint (you bring your own basic painting supplies)



AU GARDENIA
19. Rue Trochet, PARIS



A **banquet** and live entertainment on Saturday night is also included.

*Note: there is a **\$75** non-refundable deposit due at the time of registration (plus annual dues for 2025 of \$15 if not previously paid)*

Optional Extras

There are some great options which you *may choose to add* to the base convention fee:

1) **wood tine - \$90**

Lise's beautiful project is painted on a lovely tine turned by LarryPickett. You may choose to add the tine (**\$90**) to your registration fee. For those on a tight budget, you may bring your own wood (from your private "stash" of woodenware). The tine Larry has created is 12.25 inches in diameter and 9.5" tall-with handles. The container without the top is 9 inches in diameter, 4.25" tall and 28 inches around.

Lise will provide suggestions for adapting her design to various shapes.

*Note: the cut off for ordering wood is **September 1**. **Wood must also be paid for by Sept. 1**.*



The Convention: Extras and meals

2) Sip and Paint-\$25

Last year, we offered an optional mini class in the Ukrainian folk-art style of Petrykivka taught by Svitlana Ivasyuk. Svitlana is moving to the east coast, so we thought it might be fun to offer an informal “sip and paint” session with Lise in the late afternoon on Thursday. Lise will do a fun project that can hopefully be completed in 3 hours. We encourage everyone to stop at the bar in the Bistro before this class to purchase your own beverage to “sip” during the class.

3) Guest Banquet meals-\$73

The meal will be served buffet-style, with an Italian theme, will include caesar, pasta and caprese salads; seared chicken breast, beef ravioli, ahi tuna, potatoes and dessert. (let us know of any specific dietary requirements).

Hotel Rooms

We have negotiated hard to try to make our convention as affordable as possible in these times of skyrocketing costs. We have been so grateful for Joel, our contact at the hotel who has been extremely helpful. Turns out he's Norwegian and was born in Decorah!! We hope everyone will find a moment to tell Joel “tusen takk” during the convention. The very special rate for CRA members is \$159/night. That convention rate will also apply three days before and three days after the convention for those who want to extend their stay in this beautiful city. **Note: The last day to book rooms at the special CRA rate is Friday, September 27, 2025.** There are three ways to reserve a room.



The Convention: Reservations

1. When you click the link for the online reservation to the convention, you'll find a link to book a hotel room directly to CRA's special reservation site
reserve now
[Click here](#)
2. Call Marriott reservation line: 888-236-2427. Once you reach an agent, let them know you are staying at the Courtyard San Diego Old Town, the group name (Californian Rosemaling Association) and the dates you want to stay.
- 3 You may also contact the hotel directly with the same information at

619-260-8500.

If anyone wants help finding a roommate, feel free to contact Lynne (lbradley93168@gmail.com; (760)-505-8758). I make no guarantee I can be a matchmaker, but I'll do my best to help people find each other. Hotel rooms include small refrigerators and coffee makers. A microwave is available in the lobby along with some snacks. Other hotel amenities include a small gym and a small outdoor pool and jacuzzi. The Bistro, just off the lobby, is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

For those of you driving to the hotel, we were able to negotiate **no charge** for parking **for those staying at the hotel**. For those who are *not* staying at the hotel overnight, there is no free parking in the parking garage, but we have been assured that there is ample parking on the street adjacent to the hotel.

The Convention: Classrooms

This year, we will all be together in one classroom and we will *all* be painting in acrylics. The set up for the classroom which has recently been remodeled includes two projectors and two screens so visibility should be good for everyone. The room comfortable accommodates 45 painters, so when we reach that number of registrations, we will start a waiting list. **We encourage everyone to register as early as possible to secure your place.** Go to CalifRosemaler.org to register.

The registration fee does not fully cover the total cost of putting on our conventions. Especially with ever escalating costs, we need your help. We hope everyone will purchase **raffle tickets** for the beautiful treasures that will be on display. There will also be donated items for sale and a **trade floor** where members may bring items that they wish to sell (CRA gets a commission). See *Joyce Field's article for details*.

We also must meet a food and beverage minimum. At the banquet, there will be a designated bartender in the Bistro (adjacent to the patio where the banquet will be held) who will keep track of all beverages purchased by CRA so that those purchases can be applied to our food and beverage minimum. In addition, there is an option each day to purchase a Bistro lunch. The special menu has several good choices and has the added advantage of convenience. We may order up to 20 of these Bistro lunches each day. The price is **\$33** which includes meal, beverage, tax and gratuity. The Bistro lunches will also apply to our food and beverage minimum, so we encourage people to try them at least once. *Order forms will be available each morning for lunch that day and must be turned into the bar by 9:30 am. Note: Bistro lunches will also be available on Thursday Oct. 23 (prep day) but they MUST be ordered by 9:30 am. Thursday*

Bistro order forms will be available at the registration table in the patio on Thursday when registration opens at 9:00 am.

One word about the weather. The temperature during the day should be warm (possibly hot). The classroom will be airconditioned so it's always a good idea to have a sweater handy. The nights cool down considerably, so if you want to make the short walk to shops and traditional restaurants of historic Old Town, that sweater may also come in handy. It may still be pool weather so bring your suit if you might want to take a dip or use the spa.

We can't wait to welcome you to our 2025 Convention. See you in October!

Please contact Lynne Bradley, CRA 2025 Convention Chair

Lbradley93168@gmail.com (760)-505-8758 if you have any questions or need help with the online registration.



The Convention: Our Teacher

Lise Lorentzen has been rosemaling since the age 12 and her art covers over 40 years of experience, specializing in custom painting of woodenware, furniture, and home interiors. Lise has been fortunate to study under many renowned Norwegian and American artist's. They include Sigmund Aarseth, Karen Jenson, Dorothy Petersen, John Gundersen, Shirley Evenstad, etc. In 2009, Lise completed the New York State Council of the Arts (NYSCA) folk arts apprenticeship program studying with her mentor and master artist Eldrid Arntzen, a National Endowment of the Arts recipient. Lise, herself has been a master teacher, receiving a grant from The Maryland State Arts Council in 2015-2016, passing on Rosemaling to her apprentice, Michele Fiore Wimmers.

In November of 2017, Lise started recording rosemaling videos for her Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ArtofLise1/>. She started a YouTube channel, Rosemaling by Art of Lise, in July of 2019, and taught her first online class through the Illinois Norsk Rosemaling Association (INRA), in July of 2020. Since then, she has taught many online classes for the INRA and other rosemaling groups, plus she has her own teaching program with online and in-person classes.



Lise is a member and teacher through Vesterheim, Norwegian-Norwegian American Museum. In July, 2024, she received the distinguished Vesterheim Gold Medal, culminating 20 years of receiving points for her submissions. Currently, she is teaching for Vesterheim, both live and via zoom, as well as for various other national organizations. She also has an active online studio zoom class schedule that she runs. Her classes may be found on www.rosemalingclasses.com.



Her work has been displayed at the Staten Island Museum, the Norwegian Seamen's Church in Manhattan, the Liriodendron Gallery in Bel Air, Maryland, where had a one women show in 2015. Currently, Lise's work may be found at The Vesterheim Museum Store, Decorah, Iowa, The Harford Artist Association in Bel Air, Maryland, The Arts by the Bay Gallery in Havre de Grace, Maryland as well as online at her Etsy shop, Art of Lise Creations. Lise also has at artist licensing contract with one of the leading Scandinavian Gift suppliers, Gift Chalet Auburn. In June of 2016, Lise was featured at the 6th annual Maryland Traditions Folklife Festival in Baltimore.

Lise is a professional educator with a BA in art History and a MS in Special Education. She was a GED Special Education Teacher with the NYC Board of Education for many years until the time she and her husband began their family. Lise, her husband Ken, their three children, Annelise, Silje and Axel, and their dog, Otis, now reside in Bel Air, Maryland.



ZOOMIN' ALONG WITH CRA...

CRA's February class with Cathy Castellanos on Viksdal style rosemaling was a huge success and we had a great turn-out for the class. Cathy's enthusiasm got us all hooked. We mastered understanding how to use our brushes to create the many strokes used in Viksdal painting.

I was so excited that I was able to face my fears and master the use of a script liner. Variations in colors, wood shapes abounded, and I found doing a practice board first helped so I could then shift the colors used on my final palette so that they were more vibrant. One of our new members even created her own design using the information that Cathy shared on the design elements and colors used in this style. She was able to complete not only the plate but her other piece once on a practice board and once on a wood piece.

Two of our members have shared their final photos and we thank them for that. (Rhonda Roesch's plate on left and Elizabeth Estep's plate on right of photo.) If you look at the close-ups from Cathy you will notice if you zoom in the many colors used near one another, the roping techniques, the long and short tear drops and the beautiful outcome of the work. Thank you "Zoomers" for attending and Cathy for a wonderful job of teaching!



Rhonda Roesch acrylic

Elizabeth Estep - acrylic



Cathy Castellanos (oils) fine details..notice rope work, closely placed geometric lines, and long and short teardrops

**VIKSDAL CRA ZOOM CLASS
FEBRUARY 2025**



Zoomin' Along:



Our March 22nd Zoom Class with Onya Tolmasoff was titled ***What Medium should I use when painting with JoSonja's paints?*** This was a terrific outreach program geared to all painters. It was a demo-info style class where Onya showed us the mediums she likes to use and for what purpose. We covered many types of acrylic mediums and how they help offer acrylic painters more versatility so they have more of an open time in doing things to be more similar to the behavior of oil paints. Onya has tried many types of mediums and has found the ones that work for her and the look she likes in her work. The best medium is the one that works for you. She urged all of us to try all the mediums. JoSonja's website has more videos on each one if you are interested.



We had a great class with very knowledgeable members helping us learn things. Members shared experiences with mediums they use. One problem facing people using JoSonja's tube paints was discussed –Red Earth when painting design on pieces will smear when putting on glaze or varnish after allowing it to dry to touch. Patti Goke explained JoSonja's had explained that Its drying time (and perhaps other colors drying times) are longer chemically then many other colors. It may be dry when touching it but needs longer time to be dried chemically. Using a hair dryer worked for some, but most of us also had to try other means. We agree that you wait about 7 days if using it on flowers or scroll before finishing the sealing of the paint with whatever medium you choose so that it will indeed dry.

Thanks to the following for making this class successful:

- Participants for coming and sharing
- Onya Tolmasoff for a great teaching job
- Shaun and Gary Sasaki for doing the Zoom hosting and recording
- Mark Jansen at JoSonja's for offering members a discount code

We will be announcing another Zoom class to be held in late August once details are completed.



Geir M. Kåsasul

By Katie Allen

Today, we plan on introducing you to another contemporary Norwegian Telemark Rosemaler, Geir M. Kåsasul was born, raised and lives in Notrodden, Telemark Norway. Notodden, is a small town at the end of the Telemark Canal in the municipality of Notodden in Telemark.

This area has links to a celebrated old time Rosemalers' work in its Heddal Open-Air Museum in the *Rambergstugo* building's interior that Olav Hansson. (1760-1843) painted (including of the ceiling, walls, cabinets, beds, etc.) The museum's website states it is "often referred to as some of the most beautiful decorative painting found in Norway." Follow this link to view the museum experience".



Photo and © Oyvind Bergetig



<https://www.nia.no/en/heddal-open-air-museum/experiences/rambergstugo/>.



Geir started out in folk arts by learning how to build things—including his first chest at age 13-14. He eventually worked in construction for a period, and by 1987 he was doing rosemaling. He must have inherited talent from his mother and grandfather and



Photos and © Geir Kåsasul

he's teased that he can't help it, but always makes roses. He's a self-taught painter, uses acrylics, has studied on his own the old rosemalers and is now a very important artist in Telemark rosemaling and Norway. He almost taught at Vesterheim last summer, but he had another conflict that came up. Geir also has taught in countries other than



Norway. He's worked on large installations with another contemporary Norwegian artist, Vebjørn Sand who has won major large space installations such as the DaVinci bridge between Oslo as Ås, one at the Oslo airport, and the Rose Castle installation (2021) looking over Oslo. Geir's rose painting being part of Sand's major exhibit has increased Kåsasul's fame. However, his work speaks for itself.

He believes in the never-ending changes that occurs over time in rosemaling and as such has created his own style and ways to keep Norwegians educated about this craft which is no longer taught in schools and lost in many homes. He tries to get his fellow Norwegians educated about the craft in interesting ways because it is no longer taught in schools and seems to have lost favor in home decorations. However, Geir fills this with



Photos and © Geir Kåsasul



volunteering rosemaling classes in schools and universities when he has time.

He has called his large home studio: *Kattegat* (Cat Alley/Street—perhaps AllyCat). This is because he has his students Pablo and Birgit helping him. They are his talented cats who test his products for comfort, seem to inspect the quality, and who he asks input from when in doubt. They may eventually even hold the brush he puts in their hands more than bat it around like a mouse. His studio is open to anyone, and overflowing with projects just like the old-time painters workshops were in photos.

A short introduction may be in order about the Seljord September event called Dyreskuen in the article below. Locals call it *Dyrsku'n* (a local dialect form) and the two names both mean *the animal showcase*. It's been going since 1867 (showcasing Telemark cattle at first and now other breeds and animals, it is Norway's largest animal event attracting at least 80K or more visitors. In 1962 and thereafter they included a home arts and crafts exhibit sponsored by the Telemark Husflidslag (translated as Norwegian Handicrafts Association—the Telemark chapter). This part of the show included under the main header Dyrsk'n. In 2024, the show deleted Rosemaling from the Huslid part of the show and by 2025, it will return thanks to Geir's efforts. As you recall, rosemaling was done by farmers in the winter so it's being included means something to the heritage of the area.

The loss of cultural heritage is not a thing Geir will willingly accept as he was immersed in it as a primary student in a school where they stressed the importance of it. Thus, he is committed to teaching children through adults (elementary school aged kids and at universities) all about the craft in meaningful ways. If he must, he'll argue with anyone



Kåsasul travels around the countryside with his goods for events, shows, and displays. He always interacts with people, offering tattoos to everyone, and sometimes showing funny photos of his work with cats in it. His humor is evident and his willingness to beautify any object is seen on his many posts. He painted a man's shirt while the guy was wearing it, a cigarette box, a lighter, a cell phone wallet, beer can, booze bottle, furniture, helmets, plates, bowls, chairs, instruments with their cases, cupboards, trunks, tables, etc. Not to mention, Geir has his bucket list of ambitions he's begun to check off—painting the world's largest plate (over 6' tall) to get listed in the Guinness Book



The World's Largest Rosemaled Plate: Photos and © Geir Kåsasul]



World Record Book, rosemaling a shipping container (it took 2 months) and we can only wait to see what's next.

I urge those of you who use Facebook to look him up by doing a search on either the Thornton *Malers* page or the Rosemaling page or simply signing up to view his own



Photos and © Geir Käsasul

Facebook page found at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/678552482914745>. .

I love his flowing C and S strokes that make me think of waves; his backgrounding methods that yield unexpected beauty of the wood behind the color; the vibrant colorfulness and balance in his work; intricate line work that flows so lyrically; the ease of getting lost in his work and the happiness it leaves me feeling. I believe he is a painter who must paint as he's filled with so many ideas, energy and flow. Geir was called the "Master rose painter" by Ingebjørg Kaljord Svalebjørg, whose husband carves items occasionally for Geir

Geir has agreed to me using the following article in our newsletter to better acquaint you with him. I hope you enjoy it. The translations online vary but I hope this one is easier to follow. To View the article in Norwegian and see more photos go to this [Geir M Kåstastuls Rosemaling](#) Facebook group link:
[\[https://www.facebook.com/groups/678552482914745\]](https://www.facebook.com/groups/678552482914745).



New from Notrodden Nytt fra Notrodden Feb 13, 2025 at 11:42am, text by Oyvind Bergetig.

"From being a construction worker and learning to becoming a renowned rose painter in Telemark and the rest of Norway. Geir Kåsastul can thank his mother Berit Kristine Hagen who sewed traditional Norwegian bunad costumes and his grandfather Ole Kirstenson Hagen who worked with copper engravings.

Geir sat and watched his grandfather working. Grandfather gave Geir a small piece of copper that he had made a rose on. Geir made roses from anything he could find. At the primary woodwork/handicraft school the schoolteacher Sverre Rønjom wanted Geir to make projects that the other students were doing, but Geir was not particularly keen on it. Rønjom discovered that the boy had the ability to make roses. After much fuss, Rønjom gave in, Geir got paint and a brush. This gave Geir the support to become a master in rose painting.

Geir is self-taught, but he studied the old great masters in rose painting. He has found his own style. Rose painting is an abstract art form with naive symbolism in the figurative, but the development from the 1920s has gone in the direction of a more naturalistic touch. Geir has also made the world's largest rose painted bowl / dish measuring 185 cm in diameter. Olav Hansson, born in the 18th century, was the first rose painter in East Telemark. Geir began to paint roses in earnest in 1987. Geir met Vebjørn Sand, who invited Geir to the USA to his studio where they developed a collaboration. Vebjørn told Geir about Geir's rose painting that Vebjørn had never seen anything like it, as the color blend together matches the warm and cold colors in his rose painting.



Rose painting has a deep and rich history in Telemark and Norway and has been a central part of Norwegian folk art for hundreds of years. This tradition, which dates to the 18th century, has developed through different periods and styles. The original rose painting was often characterized by symbolism and naive, figurative art, where geometric patterns and flowers were common motifs. In the 19th century, rose painting became more detailed and took on a more naturalistic feel, which was also a reaction to the increasing influence of European art traditions.

Telemark, and especially Notrodden, has been an important center for rose painting, with several famous artists and traditions associated with the region. Geir Kåstul is a brilliant example of how rose painting has developed in modern times. He has not only preserved the traditions but also contributed to renewing and revitalizing the art form through his own, unique style. His success is also proof of the continuing importance of rose painting in both Telemark and on a national level. Geir has shown how a self-educated artist can reach high levels, and his work has received international recognition, including after his collaboration with artist Vebjørn Sand.



Photos and © Geir Kåstul



The significance of rose painting in Telemark and Norway goes far beyond its aesthetic value; it is a symbol of Norwegian cultural heritage and identity. The tradition has also helped shape Norwegian handicrafts and intellectual expression and has helped establish a strong connection between folk art and the nation's history. Those who have practiced rose painting, such as Geir Kåsasul, have not only been bearers of an important tradition, but have also been pioneers in renewing and continuing this art.

Telemark Husflid is responsible for the Husflid exhibition in Seljord during Dyrskuen. Rose painters were refused permission to exhibit their art for a period at Dyrskuen by Telemark Husflid. However, after much pressure and mention of Geir Kåsasul in the press, Telemark Husflid gave in to the pressure. This year, in 2025, the exhibition will return to



Photos and © Geir Kåsasul



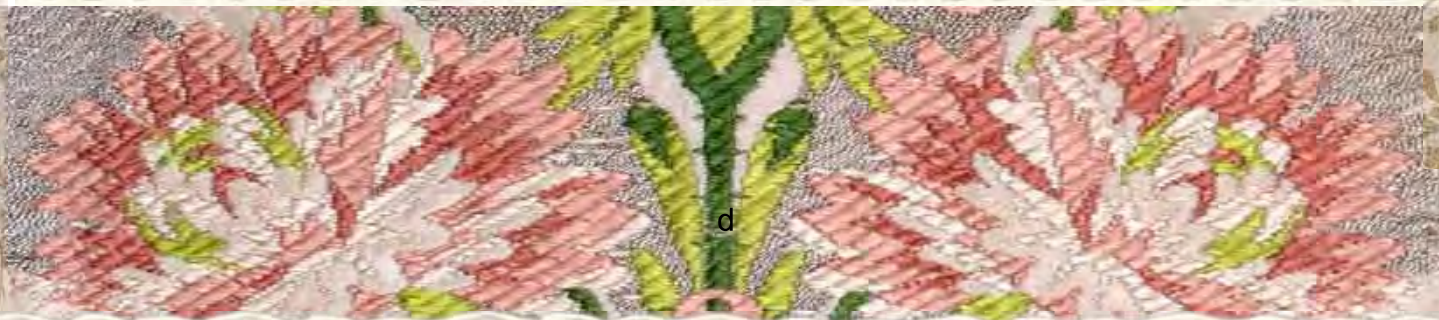
Dyrskuen in Seljord. Greir was also invited to write an article in Husflid in Telemark about rosemaling from 1924 to 2024.. It was handed over to Geir. Geir told them that he was going to criticize them for being banned from Dyrskuen in his article, which they accepted. This was probably one of the reasons why they have given in to the pressure.





© Geir Kåsastul

Photos and © Geir Kåsasul



Kobbestol

I was first introduced to a Kobblestol (Norwegian chair made from a log) when visiting my second cousin in Danville, CA, in the 1980s. She had attended the University of Oslo International Summer School the year WWII ended. She purchased a very beautiful kobblestol from this trip and had it shipped back to the US. I had seen this chair while in Norway in the museums I had visited. However, I really got to experience it at her house. She invited me to sit in it giving me the feel of the comfortable chair. The concept of a log chair had me believe it would be uncomfortable but that was not the case. Her version of the chair was much prettier than those I had previously encountered. As rosemaling has evolved, so has the beauty that is painted on them. Today via social



Photos by & © Geir Käsasul

media I see the gorgeous rosemaling adorning them.

In doing my research on Geir Käsasul, I noticed that he had many kobbestoler that he had worked on over the years. I know I can't find one more beautiful than the next, they all are beautiful in different ways. This got me to thinking that perhaps it would be interesting to learn more about them. My research found some interesting facts, and an actual video of one being created, and the many steps involved in creating one. They are pricey for a reason!

The chair is a traditional one found in Norway, Denmark and Sweden and it's always made from a hollowed out green log that is formed into a certain shape that then is sealed and allowed to dry out completely taking up to two years. Sometimes it is translated as a cubed chair or block chair. These were quite common in Norway in some districts from the 1750s-1960s. In the later 20th century, some sites reported they had largely vanished from contemporary Swedish and Norwegian homes, but we have seen they still existed from the many photos rosemalers have shared as they refurbish old ones or paint new ones in the past 20 years or so. Today, many of these chairs are still found in museums and folk-art workshops in Norway. The Swedish ones they discovered mostly were found close to their Norwegian border, and the Danish just were not associated with anything, but they were not usually made from logs but from barrels.



The actual width of the chair is determined by the size of the tree, where it's cut from and the amount of bark on it. Usually, the log size is about 3-4 feet long and as wide as possible to fit the person who will be using it. The bark is cut away. The base has been cylindrically cut while the back is cut away and contoured to fit a person from seat level to the top of the chair. In addition, the base is hollowed out to reduce weight and cracking while the wood is green and freshly cut. The remaining base is still heavy enough that it's a stable chair. Then it is sealed and left to dry for up to two years. Today, electric tools like a chain saw to name one, make the use of an ax and other old tools much easier to fine tune the chair.

Forests were plentiful in the areas where the chairs were made and thus, they were locally sourced. Norwegians coming to America in the 1800's and early 1900s didn't have money to bring them with and the ones found in the US were usually made by the skills brought by the first-generation Norwegians. We know many folk skills have been passed on today both here and in Norway and we find many skilled craftspeople still making the stools today. These pieces were usually kept in families, and they were placed near the open hearth or a bed as a seat of honor for the head of the household. The earliest kobbestol found in the US was from Wisconsin and was dated from the 1850-1870s. Interestingly, it was made for a child (17"



tall). At some point, one finds smaller ones being made in Norway for women and children. In Little Norway, in the US, they had a kobbestol rocker in their possession. Another place in the US some creative first generation Norwegian even created a high chair like kobblestol.

The chair is associated with a seat of honor and originally used by the head of the household. In Norsk mythology the carvings show Frigg, a mythological goddess of great importance, sitting on a kubbestol—meaning the chair was seen as a seat of power and importance. The chair was even depicted on amulets, money, churchyard carvings, etc. from 9th and 10th century—Sweden. Thus, some historians believe these chairs existed from at least that time. In one online article, it stated the oldest recorded kubbestol was from about 1460 AD plus or minus 160 years. In Scandinavia, other historians say they date from the Middle Ages and the Vikings helped spread them geographically as seating objects. Another similarly shaped chair was found in Italian carvings and jewelry made for the dead. The experts found evidence that these chairs arose in Scandinavian independently of developments in Italy and before the Vikings were known. They also mentioned in another source that similar shaped chairs were found in South Europe but made of bronze or clay and these dated from 900-700 BC. However, because the Scandinavians only used wood blocks, they don't believe they are related.



This chair probably came into being because of necessity—they needed something to sit on. Trees were plentiful and Norwegians loved nature and wanted it inside their homes and what better way to mimic nature than using it for function and decoration. However, others say the time it took to do this was not compatible with this theory. However, originally it might have been more rustic—a few hacks with an axe and use them while green. As society and craft skills improved, they refined the chair. The chair was symbolically functional at first, then refined to be a design piece adding to house's interior and showing off the skill of head of the household. Eventually, society standing and wealth probably increased it's symbolic value as large, impressive farmhouses existed that had several



richly carved and painted kubbestolerl as a display of wealth and status.



Photos by & © Geir Kåsastul

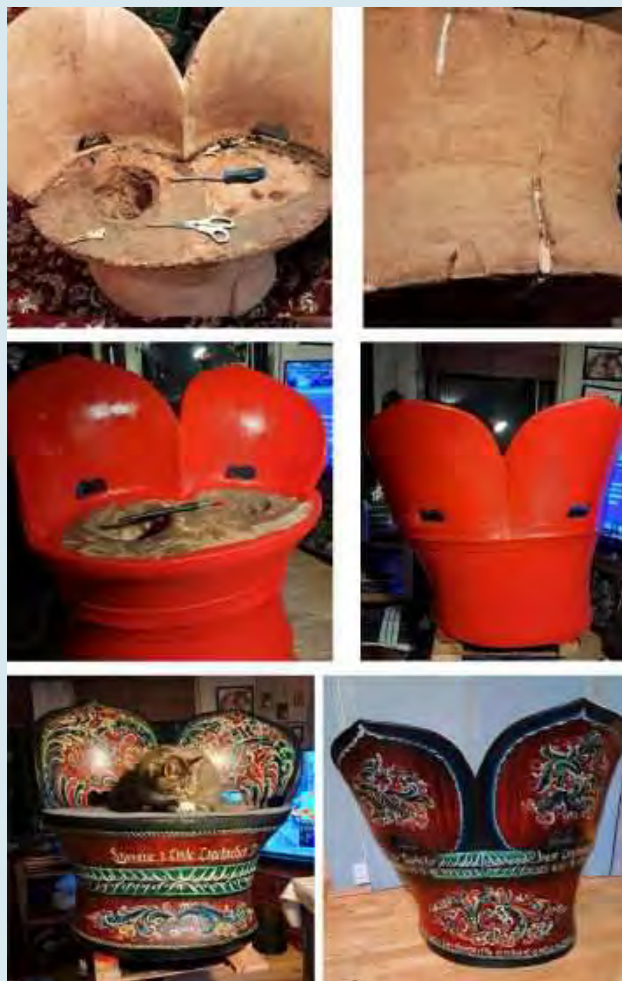
Norsk Wood Works's website offered information on the timing of when they cut the logs—in winter as the sap has settled down to the roots of the

tree. Many cracks are found when refurbishing chairs from long ago so techniques might have changed [see the wood cracks fixed in the raw wood version of the Twin Chair photo from Geir Käsasul that had to be fixed].

Once they have been dried and roughly cut, a lot of work is used to smooth them out, carve, and/or paint them. Painting alone can take at least 3 weeks of labor for a single kobbesto per Geir. Each district in Norway would decorate the kobbestol with their local styles and the historic styles in which they were finished.

I suggest you enjoy a youtube video on the making of these pieces found at this site:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUEzFSfn1Cw>.



Photos by & © Geir Käsasul



It is very fascinating to see, and they condense the years and weeks into a reasonable viewing time for your benefit and edification.

Geir has rosemaled and restored many amazing Kobblestoler. They are single seated as most are or double seated, from miniature in height to large, and all sorts of styles. His photos and explanations are great but there is one I recommend you for sure read on the Twin Kobblestol. Anyone not able to access Facebook who wishes to see the many steps used to paint a chair, contact Katie Allen by email: katie.d.allen68@gmail.com for a pdf file you can view of Geir's step by step process. Facebook viewers may access his many posts including the chair ones from either his site or any of the other Facebook pages mentioned using the date of Feb 13 or 14th as a search under his name. Specifically, the touching story of the Twin kobbestol is available at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1518201928437409/search/?q=geir%20m%20k%C3%A5sastul> dated Feb 14, 2025.



DESCRIPTIONS OF BOARD POSITIONS

President: Holds meetings, ensures bylaws and standing rules are followed, responsible for organization, etc.

Vice President of Convention Programs: Organizes convention, finds location, teacher, dates, helpers, and coordinates it all. In 2026, it will be held in Northern California.

Membership: Keep track of incoming membership regularly, post a Membership smooth running of list by April 1 to all members, and keep board members at meetings updated on numbers.

Secretary: Record minutes, make corrections as necessary and keep records of final minutes of board meetings and General Meeting.

Treasurer: Financial accounting, budgeting, and tracking of expenses, filing forms required by law and accounting to organization and board.

Zoom Program Helper: Help Katie send out correspondence to all participants in programs. Additional help as get to know job available if desired. Skill needed Excel, sending group emails, and timeliness. Three Zoom classes per year usually.

Must be a member in good standing. Contact Ruth Petro: 760-212-7524

Webpages:

- Online Rosemaling class Listings in US:
<https://www.rosemalingcoasttocoast.org/classes>
- Rosemaling Coast to Coast Classes:
<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://iosonja.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/>
- Målarkunst I Numedal (Painted Art in Numedal) :
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/564378793708565>
- Nordic Canvas Folk Art Studio: classes:
<https://www.nordiccanvasfolkartstudio.org/shop>
- Wooden ware: Turn of the Century Shop on Etsy:
https://www.etsy.com/shop/TurnofthecenturyShop?ref=simple-shop-header-name&listing_id=1184501210



Friendly Online Rosemaling Links

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 Kåsastuls Rosemaling Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/678552482914745> wonderful telemark painter’s follow page.
- Art of Lise: <https://www.facebook.com/ArtofLise1>
- [Målarkunst I Numedal](https://www.facebook.com/groups/564378793708565) (Painted Art in Numedal) :
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/564378793708565>
- The Enchanted Palette: <https://www.facebook.com/The.Enchanted.Palette>
Claudia Lohnes Teaches Rosemaling and decorative painting in person and zoom.

