AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AVIATION ARTISTS

DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE
AND PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF AEROSPACE ART
The Art of Aerospace Painting

An examination of the dominant visual art of our genre and the individual artists who present their unique vision and technical mastery in their artwork.
ASAA FOUNDERS

Keith FERRIS  Ren WICKS  Bob McCALL  R.G. SMITH  Joe KOTULA

Masters of Art • Vision • Professionalism • Educational Objectives • Guidance
The Aerospace Art of

John W. Clark
John W. Clark is a prolific artist and has produced a large volume of work. This presentation represents a selected sample of the art of John W. Clark. Although his principal interest is aerospace art, John varies his subject matter. He is a consummate artist, art historian, educator, and a perpetual learner.
EVOLUTION
Rocket Man

“I shot a rocket in the air and when it landed I know not where.”

United States Air Force aircraft mechanic, Served in Southeast Asia 1960s
Fortresses Under Fire by Keith Ferris, 1976
NASM
John Clark assistant
John W. Clark

1986 Associate Member (Artist Category)
1994 Artist Fellow
1994 ASAA Scholarship Program
1995-1996 ASAA Vice-President
1996 Editor of Brush Tips
1996-97 ASAA Vice-President
1997-98 ASAA President
1998-99 ASAA President
1998-99 Jo Kotula Founder’s Chair
1999-2000 Jo Kotula Founder’s Chair
2001 Named to Jo Kotula Founder’s Chair
2001-2012 Exhibition Chairman
2005 Luther Y. Gore Service Award

USAF Art Program member
Perception • Apperception

Fine Art

Art History

Technical Mastery

Wisdom • Education
John W. Clark’s partial library
Resources of merit
“The art of painting is the art of expressing what one sees, of expressing what is invisible through the visible.”
John W. Clark Aero Brush Articles

1990 ASAA Sustaining Committee Report  ABV3N4
1993 *Art Watch* ABV7N1
1994 *Art Watch and Assignment, Windshear* ABV7N4
2001 *Appreciating a Work of Art* (Wilson Hurley - John W. Clark
B-737-200 Series painting) ABV14N2
2001 *Plein Air - Four Views: John W. Clark* ABV14N3
2001 *Abstract and Modernism Come to Aviation Art* by John W.
Clark ABV14N4
2002 *Aero Dynamic Artists Capture History, Essence of
Airplanes in Their Everyday Lives* ABV15N2 Mary Beth
Klatt Chicago Tribune 2-24-02 submitted by J Clark
2005 *Who Are We? Founder’s Corner* - John W. Clark, Joe
Kotula Chair (“Old School”)
2006 *With A Little Help From My Friends* (Peacekeeper
Deactivation) ABV19N2
2007 *A Spark of Curiosity* AB20N4
2008 *A Spark of Curiosity - Part 2* ABV21N1
2008 *The Studio of John Clark* ABV21N2
2008 *Wilson Hurley - The Passing of a Renaissance Man
ABV21N4
2009 *Visions of the Cosmos* (IAAA Workshop-Kitt Peak, AZ)
ABV22N4
2010 *Cage Academy of Art Presentation* ABV23N3
2012 *Artist Spotlight* ABV25N1 (Interview)
2012 *Tribute to ASAA V25N3*
2014 *Painting The Moon With Grumbacher Grays* ABV27N1
2014 *An Artist’s Unknown Thoughts* ABV27N2
2014 *Plein Aire Painting - A Modification* ABV27N3
2015 *Which Way is Up?* ABV28N2
2015 *The Purity of Creativity* ABV28N4
2016 *Treatise on Visualizing Aircraft Marking On Curved Surfaces...A
Mental Exercise* ABV29N4
2017 *The Importance of Values in Painting* ABV30N1

Proposed ASAA Distinguished Artist Exhibition

Forum Presentations

2002 *An Exercise in Values*, Savannah, GA
2009 *Artist Materials - What Do We Know Today*, Savannah, GA
2009 *The Art of Picture Making Gustave Caillebotte's Space*
2010 *Jurying and Judging Criteria*, San Diego, CA
2011 *Color in Art - Past and Present*, Pensacola, FL
2011 *A Brief Journey into Linear Perspective*, Pensacola, FL
2012 *Keynote Speaker (Banquet)*, Kalamazoo, MI
2012 *Retrospective Discussion*, Kalamazoo, MI (Ferris, Rendel,
Thompson)
2013 *Leonardo da Vinci*, Baltimore, MD
2014 *Visualizing Aircraft and Planning a Painting*, San Diego, CA (Ferris,
O’Neal)
2015 *The Aerospace Subject in its Environment*, Savannah, GA
2016 *History of ASAA - Thirty Years of Art and Artists*, Kalamazoo, MI
(Malko)
2017 *The Importance of Values in Painting*, Hampton, VA
Oil paint and their properties
Artist Materials-
What Do We Know Today
Instructor: John Clark
2009 Savannah, GA
Fine Art
Traditional Art
Representational Art
Academic • Atelier • Salon
Old School
Jean-Léone Gérôme

Jean-Léone Gérôme *Pollice Verso (with a turned thumb)*, 1872
Lawrence Alma Tadema

Expectations

1885

Lawrence Alma Tadema Expectations 1885
Midnatt (Midnight) 1891 by Anders Zorn
Anita Grosvenor Curtis by R.H. Ives Gammell
1920
“I vividly recall sitting on the front steps of my home on Cramer Street in Milwaukee back in the late 1970s. I was in a near state of depression due to the frustration of attending what I considered an art school (the university), and having learned nothing about drawing or painting. By chance, I had heard there was a school that did in fact, teach artists how to draw and paint like the Old Masters of the past. The school was in Minneapolis, and was run by an artist named Richard Lack.”

John W. Clark
“Not being able to enroll in Lack’s atelier in Minneapolis, I continued my studies at the university. Then, by chance, I heard of a local Milwaukee artist, Jim Prohl, who had attended Atelier Lack, and had now opened his own atelier in Milwaukee, called Atelier Prohl.

I immediately contacted Jim and began studying under him, learning all of the skills taught by Gammell and Lack.” — John W. Clark
“John Clark shows us in painting that even as good literature follows rules, even as the greatest music is constructed in a format that is logical, even as the most elegant buildings follow the rules of physics as well as being practical, so does a good painting emerge from the spirit of the painter who does not disregard hard-learned rules of coherent visual communication.”  Wilson Hurley 2001
“Throughout our friendship of more than 45 years John has provided my bridge to the classic masters introducing me to the value of study of art and artists of the past. He has selflessly passed along his knowledge of art history, materials and processes, playing a far larger part than he realizes in the balancing of art and engineering involved in my work. In addition, John has been one of the hardest working and influential members of ASAA who have provided the guidance which has kept ASAA on track throughout its existence.”

Keith Ferris 2017
Robert McCall

“When we view his space paintings, he takes us, through his imagination, to distant worlds and allows us to see images and scenes that we will only see on his canvases or in our minds.” John W. Clark 2005

The Space Mural • A Cosmic View by Robert McCall, 1976
THE ART
Main Engine Start by John W. Clark (ASAA James V. Roy Jr. Award 2005, AV Week Space First Place 2005)
Titan IV-B
Perspective Projection by Descriptive Geometry
drawing
John W. Clark
Sputnik-1 by John W. Clark
Dawn of the Space Age
by John W. Clark
(Boeing Spirit of Flight Award 2015)
Lunar Phase by John W. Clark  
(AV Week Space First Place 2009)
“One of my continuing quests is to try and make the planets I paint appear as a sphere rather than a disk.” John W. Clark

*Luna* by John W. Clark
“To be a painter, there’s more to it than just presenting planetary landscapes and a starry background. You have to fall back on the history of art and the works of great landscape painters like Jean Baptiste, Camille Corot, George Inness, and John Constable. It involves how you look at a scene and present its different elements in artistic terms.”

John W. Clark

*First Look* by John W. Clark  
(AV Week Space First Place 2013)
Celestial spawn.
Duality of consciousness
Isolation.
Thermal energy and residue.
Space Ying & Yang.
Near and far, and farther still.
Consciousness against a backdrop
of infinity.
See the light, feel the light, who
am I?
Random particles given form.
Selective focus for contemplation.
Barren sphere with topographical,
lifeless form.
Inorganic versus organic cosmic
dust.
Out of darkness yields forms of
contemplation.
Beyond comprehension.
Why?
Apollo by John W. Clark

Full Moon by John W. Clark (AV Week Space First Place 2014)
Return to the Moon
by John W. Clark
Return from the Moon
by John W. Clark
(AV Week Space Third Place 2011)
Earth Shine by John W. Clark

Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter above the Timocharis Crater by John W. Clark
“Stargate 5 presents the viewer with many possibilities for interpretation. Echoes of Stanley Kubrick’s 2001 monolith comes to mind suggesting that Star Gate 5 represents and offers an explanation for a basis of fundamental creation or Man’s future to control and manage his own destiny. Perhaps it is none of the above. The creative intent of the artist yields vital export of visual information that begs one to think.” Don Malko

*Stargate 5*
By John W. Clark
The Martian Chronicles • Ray Bradbury
Outward Bound from Saturn
by John W. Clark
(ASAA James V. Roy Jr. Award 2006)
Mariner 10 Above Venus
by John W. Clark
(ASAA Honorable Mention 2010)
The Jupiter Effect by John W. Clark (ASAA James V. Roy Jr. Award 2016)
Io by John W. Clark
(AV Week Space Second Place 2008)
“Artists are visionaries. That is true today and has always been true throughout history. The artist finds beauty in sensitive observation.” John W. Clark 2016

Sunrise on Jupiter by John W. Clark
2001 James V. Roy Jr. Award
The Occultation of Saturn by John W. Clark (AV Week Space Second Place 2010)
Perspective Projection by Descriptive Geometry
John W. Clark 2007

Lord of the Rings - Cassini
Uranus and Moons by John W. Clark

Above the Rings by John W. Clark
“Aviation artists are known for having their heads in the clouds and space artists are referred to as being spaced-out. We are dreamers. But if one wishes to translate those dreams into noteworthy works of art, one must be able to do so in a convincing manner.”

John W. Clark 2012
“A Peacekeeper ICBM in its underground silo at F.E. Warren Air Force Base Cheyenne, Wyoming. The Peacekeeper had been on strategic alert with the 400th Missile Squadron but was now being deactivated.”

John W. Clark

Peacekeeper Deactivation
By John W. Clark
(IAV Week Third Place Award 2006)
Peacekeeper Deactivation
by John W. Clark
Cyber Goddess
by John W. Clark 2012
Old School Academic by John W. Clark

Still Life by John W. Clark
Vermeer’s Girl
by John W. Clark

Drawings
by John W. Clark
Lake Michigan Sailboat by John W. Clark

Fisherman by John W. Clark
*Milwaukee Inner Harbor* preliminary painting and palette.
Entering Milwaukee’s Inner Harbor
by John W. Clark
Perspective Projection by Descriptive Geometry drawings by John W. Clark
Perspective Projection by Descriptive Geometry
drawings by John W. Clark
“What ASAA has been doing can be called “Old School.” We shouldn’t abandon but embrace the Founders way of thinking and their approach to producing art. It has a charm and appearance that is trans-generational and will always appeal to the sensitivities of the human spirit.” John W. Clark 2005
Across the High Frontier
by John W. Clark
“We all know that art exists within a structure of critical and historical knowledge that is constantly evolving and being reevaluated. One must, however, not lose sight of the tenets that made great works of art - from the ancient to the contemporary.”  John W. Clark 2012

_Evaluators_ by John W. Clark
Pushing the Envelope
by John W. Clark 1997
Commercial Aviation
Boeing 737-200 drawing
by John W. Clark
Commercial Aviation Boeing 737-200 by John W. Clark
(AV Week Commercial Aviation First Place 2000, Simuflite Award 2000)
Commercial Aviation Boeing 707-320B by John W. Clark (Captain Duane W. Martin Award 2007)
Reflected Light (Pilatus P-3) by John W. Clark
F-101 Voodoo by John W. Clark
Florida Air Museum
Thud Ridge by John W. Clark 1985
“Good art is like an airplane that has two wings. One wing represents Nature’s Truths, and the painter uses the skill of drawing, light and shadow to represent these truths." The other wing represents abstract beauty, and the painter relies on line, value and color to create this beauty. By means of his art and skill the painter tries to combine the real and the ideal so that they become one.”

Richard Lack

*Up North* by John W. Clark
1980s
Head ‘n Home by John W. Clark 1980s
F-16 by John W. Clark
ASAA Exhibition Awards

SimuFlite Award: John W. Clark, “Commercial Aviation-Boeing 737-200” (2000)
Aviation Week & Space Technology **Commercial Aviation First** Place Award: John W. Clark, “Commercial Aviation-Boeing 737-200” (2000)

**ASAA James V. Roy Jr. Award:** John W. Clark, “Sunrise on Jupiter” (2001)
AV Week **Space First** Place Award: John W. Clark, “Sunrise on Jupiter” (2001)
Award of Merit: John W. Clark, “Far Side of Saturn” (2002)
AV Week **Space First** Place Award: John W. Clark, “The Far Side Of Saturn” (2002)
AV Week **Space First** Place Award: John W. Clark, “Farewell to Mankind” (2004)

**ASAA James V. Roy Jr. Award:** John W. Clark, “Main Engine Start” (2005)
AV Week **Space First** Place Award: John W. Clark, “Main Engine Start” (2005)

AV Week Third Place Award: John W. Clark, “Peacekeeper Deactivation” (2006)
AV Week Space Second Place: John W. Clark “Io” (2008)
AV Week **Space First** Place: John W. Clark, “Lunar Phase” (2009)
ASAA Honorable Mention: John W. Clark, “Mariner 10 Above Venus” (2010)
AV Week Space Second Place: John W. Clark, “The Occultation of Saturn” (2010)
AV Week Space Third Place: John W. Clark, “Return from the Moon” (2011)
AV Week **Space First** Place: John W. Clark, “First Look” (2013)
AV Week **Space First** Place: John W. Clark, “Full Moon” (2014)

**ASAA James V. Roy Jr. Award:** John W. Clark, “The Jupiter Effect” (2016)
“It is more interesting to try to realize one’s dreams on canvas than humbly to spend one’s efforts in trying to represent a jug and an apple. But until one can paint everyday realities, one has little chance with dreams.” Kenyon Cox

As we in ASAA say: “A little knowledge is not enough.” John W. Clark