



The **SCENE** is the monthly newsletter of the Southwestern Watercolor Society.

<http://www.swswatercolor.org>

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.
Lovers Lane Methodist Church, Ashbury Hall, 9200 Inwood Road,
Dallas, Texas (northeast corner of Northwest Highway and Inwood Road.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dalynn Montgomery, SWS President

Hello SWS friends!

I am writing this the day after our 60th membership exhibition reception. Congratulations to all of you who participated in the exhibition by entering, volunteering and attending the exhibition and reception. A round of applause for the award winners as well. Well done!

I hope you had a chance to visit the exhibition judged by the esteemed Stan Miller. Several members expressed their appreciation of the exhibition, reception, food and wine. I heard many glowing compliments regarding the gallery space and I have to say that I agree! Those who volunteer many hours for the benefit of SWS sincerely appreciate it when our hard work is acknowledged and seemingly pays off! I am grateful to Shahrzad Afshinpour and Kay Byfield, the exhibition co-chairs and their amazing team for such a successful event.

As an avid on location sketcher and plein air painter I look forward to (hopefully) cooler temperatures in north Texas this month. I hope many of you will join us in November for the fall paint-out. It's always a great time and a great way to deepen our SWS friendships.

Lovers Lane United Methodist Church cannot accommodate our membership meeting in November so I have made arrangements to have our November meeting at Marsh Lane Baptist Church which is about 4 miles away from LLUMC. We will send out reminders in email and on Facebook to remind you all. LLUMC has agreed to put a notice on the doors the night of the meeting directing our members to go to MLBC for the November meeting.

Venues that can accommodate 100-150 persons for a meeting that includes audio / visual as well as tables, chairs and storage space to store our necessary items that are budget friendly are not easy to come by. Rising costs and inflation has affected venue rental prices as well. SWS is extremely fortunate to have these two churches that are willing to accommodate our large group.



Please be sure to check out the “Fall into Watercolor” SWS exhibition now on display at the Lovers Lane Methodist Church in Watson Hall. There are 20 SWS members who have 54 paintings on display. There will be a reception on Sunday October 15 immediately following the church service.

The deadline to enter the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies exhibition is November 27. The juror for the exhibition is Stan Miller who just judged our membership exhibition. I hope you all feel inspired to enter!

In conclusion, I hope everyone has a beautiful fall and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Dalynn Montgomery

Dalynn Montgomery
President, Southwestern Watercolor Society

ARTIST'S SPOTLIGHT

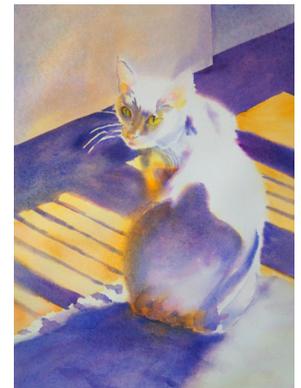
Liana Yarckin, SWS

Jane Jones was Liana Yarckin's first teacher in the late 1990s. Liana knew immediately that watercolor was her thing. When Jane left town for the summer, she suggested that Liana go to Artisan's studio and study with Naomi Brotherton so that she wouldn't lose momentum with her painting. There Liana found a supportive community of painters who even stayed in touch with her when she moved for a few years to London. She rejoined them when she returned to Dallas, continuing classes with Pat

Kochan at Artisans and Cecy Turner. Pat also connected her with the Southwestern Watercolor Society. Liana says that the artist's community from her classes and the SWS is the reason that she has continued to paint over all these years. She very much enjoys the camaraderie that the classes and SWS provides.

Unlike many of our members, Liana sells a lot of her work and, while she does compete in exhibitions like the SWS Membership Show and has earned her signature, commissions and direct sales are where she focuses most of her attention. She has had strong sales by showing in local venues and has also been selling work at arts and crafts festivals. She says that SWS member, Gail Delger, really helped her with navigating that world.

Liana is grateful for her retail background and the way those skills have been invaluable in selling her art. She says that her guiding principle is that the customer is always right. Sales depend upon strong customer relations. As part of that, when someone wants her to create a painting for them, she provides them with a set pricelist and a contract that establishes the conditions of the sale. For instance, when she finishes the painting, the buyer can ask for one set of changes but after that she charges a minimum of \$250 for each additional change. Establishing that at the outset avoids future conflicts and hard feelings.

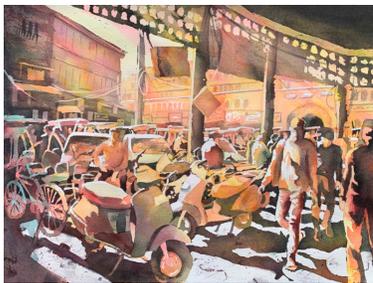




Marketing comes easily to Liana. A lot of her sales come from social media and word-of-mouth through other customers. She is also represented by Cerulean Gallery and is an artist in residence at Zhen Art and Music Institute and participates in art shows there where she sells well. When she has a local show scheduled in a venue around town, she sends out a newsletter and posts on her social media to announce it. She finds that a lot of times work sells before the exhibition opens. She says that the key to sales is to have the work be seen everywhere and to make sure to make paintings of several subjects and with different sizes and price points. She also

creates notecards because she finds that those sales can add up and can sometimes lead to sales of paintings.

When someone calls Liana about commissioning a painting, Liana asks them to send her photos of the subject they would like to have depicted. She waits until after that to give the client the price list, they are much more likely to commission a painting because now they are invested in the process. Her commissions range from portraits, to architecture, to flowers, to pets. If she has too many requests to manage, she offers them to artist friends to execute.



Liana finds that through sales she connects with other people. She is a very social person and painting is a solitary pursuit, but selling is interpersonal. When someone likes a painting, it establishes a rapport with that person.

Watercolor is Liana's first love but she sometimes does commissions or gallery paintings in acrylic and other media. She says that the cost of mounting and the weight of the framed painting make watercolors less lucrative. Collectors want large paintings and the size of watercolor paper is limited. It is also very expensive to ship framed paintings.



Because of these issues, some of her favorite commissions, like a 20-foot-

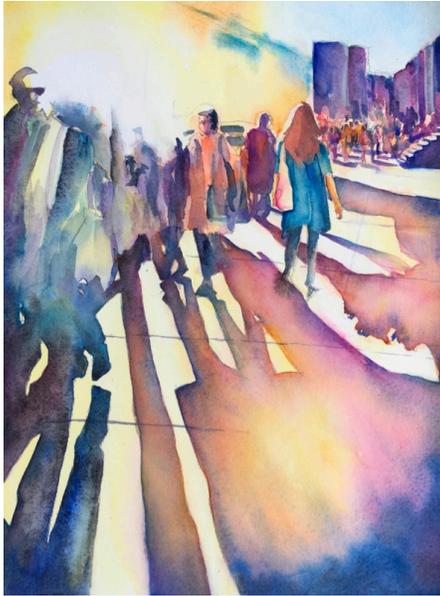
long painting created with 4 canvases of plumerias is done in acrylic (shown right). It hangs at Tulum Dallas Fine Dining.

This commission came to be because the restaurant owner had seen a floral painting by Liana on her social media.



As a gardener, Liana most loves to paint flowers. In last year's SWS exhibition, she showed a closeup of inner tubes floating in the water. The painting was based on photos she took at the beach. Out of the corner of her eye she realized that a bunch of renegade inner tubes were drifting toward her. She helped the owner and her two kids to corral the tubes and then asked them to help her recreate the scene. To Liana's surprise, no one has been interested in buying the painting, but she did get into the exhibition.

Liana's SWS painting this year (on the right) showed a closeup of some umbrellas on a restaurant patio in Austin. It is difficult to get reservations at the popular eatery and Liana walked several times past the elevated dining terrace with its signature umbrellas. The unusual viewpoint of a familiar scene attracted her and provided the impetus for the composition.



Liana likes to select subjects that are full of light and color. One of her favorite paintings is "Fall Sun on Newbury Street" (shown left). In her first version, she painted it on a scrap of paper that was not a standard size. She liked it, but knows that the odd size makes it more expensive to frame and enter in shows. She repainted it in a standard size and submitted it to competitions. She had a price on it, but now she likes it so much that it is not-for-sale.

Liana says that she wishes she had more confidence and trust in her heart and gut in earlier years because a lot of paintings she rejected she now realizes are pretty good. She thinks that maybe other artists should be less judgmental about their own work. She also wishes other artists had more opportunities to sell their paintings. She likes selling her stuff, but many artists don't. She would like to help with that.



Painting is not Liana's only activity. She has a husband and three sons who keep her busy, and the day we talked she was preparing to host a mahjong group. She certainly has a full life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October Membership Meeting

Laurie Goldstein-Warren will be the featured artist at the October Membership meeting for SWS. Laurie has been painting watercolors for the last 25 years, and still continues to experiment with new techniques in watercolor and watercolor/acrylic. She has exhibited her work in the US, Japan, Turkey, Greece, Canada and China. Her work tends to focus on city scapes, portraits and still life. For our October meeting, she will demonstrate her dramatic



approach to painting from darks to lights in a still life. This promises to be a memorable presentation that is not to be missed. Be sure to join us on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church at 9200 Inwood Road in Dallas.

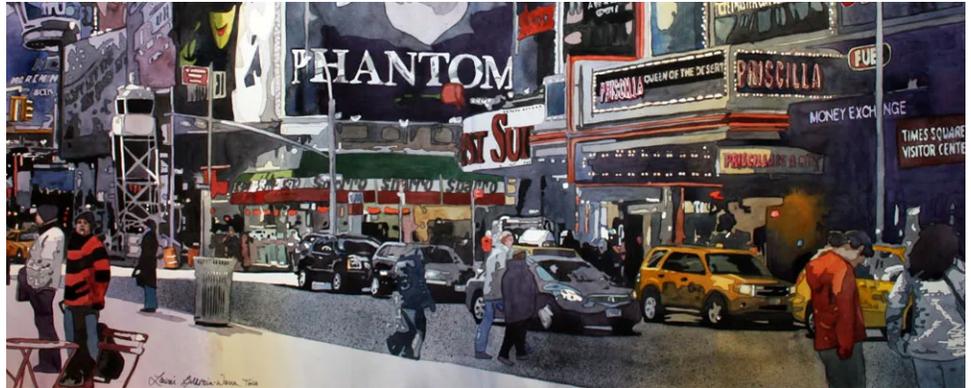
We will have Painting of the Month competition, so bring your paintings!



Everyone is welcome, and can bring a guest!

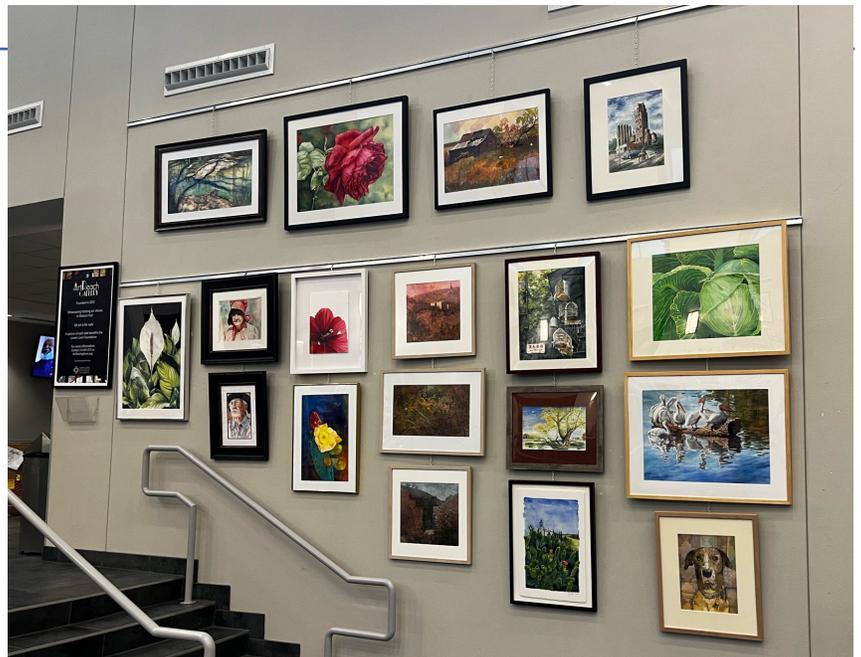


Laurie Goldstein-Warren



ArtReach Fall Into Watercolor Exhibit On View

The ArtReach Fall Into Watercolor exhibit is now on display at the Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Watson Hall. It features work from members of the Southwestern Watercolor Society. Fall is a great time to discover watercolor art, with so many colors and subjects to choose from. This exhibit includes many fall colors in scenes, flowers, portraits, and even some of our favorite pets and animals. We are thrilled to showcase 63 different paintings from more than 20 members of SWS, displaying a variety of water media in an array of different styles. The exhibition will be on view until November 16.



The Fall Into Watercolor reception will be held Sunday, October 15, Noon to 2:00 pm. at the ArtReach Gallery at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX.

SWS Three-day Fall Workshops are Back in Full Swing

The Fall workshop season is here, and we only have two workshops remaining this year. There are still openings left for Laurie Goldstein-Warren's workshop this month with SWS. Considering asking a friend to join you for this creative workshop! Please go to [SWS Workshops page](#) to snag those remaining spots now!



[Laurie Goldstein-Warren](#)'s October 10th-12th workshop will be unique in that it's one of the first pouring workshops ever offered by SWS. Goldstein-Warren and her luminous technique of pouring layers of color and then masking portions of the painting before the next round, was featured not so long ago in the world-wide virtual event, Watercolor Live! Laurie continues to experiment with new techniques in watercolor and watercolor/acrylic. She has exhibited her work in the US, Japan, Turkey, Greece, Canada and China. She is a much sought after workshop instructor and exhibition juror. Her work focuses on city scapes, portraits and still lifes. This workshop will also be unique in that it includes the use of acrylics and will teach a variety of finishing techniques. Go to [SWS Workshops page](#) to register for this refreshing take on watercolor painting.



November

The Fall season will wrap up with the atmospheric techniques of artist [Sarah Yeoman](#) on November 14th-16th. Yeoman will teach participants how to



interpret light and mood, and will include a series of imagined landscape exercises to familiarize students with how the pigments move and interact with water and paper, in order to create dynamic lights and shadows. Please register at [SWS Workshops page](#).

Yeoman's workshops is already half full, so please consider securing your spot today!



One-Day Class with Dalynn Montgomery *Creating a Travel Journal*

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023

Time: 9:00 am-4:00pm

Cost: \$100 for members/\$115 for non-members

Venue: Marsh Lane Baptist Church, 10716 Marsh Lane, Dallas, TX 75229

Join a one-day class on Saturday, October 14th to learn the joys of making a creative, artful travel journal! SWS president **Dalynn Montgomery** will lead the class in learning how to utilize the travel journal before, during and after the trip to extend the joy of your trip.

“Drawing and journaling your trip is an effective method of imprinting details into your memory whether the journal itself is the end product or a tool for creating larger, more finished paintings in the future. We will use simple drawing tools and a compact watercolor palette,” Dalynn said. “Beginners to intermediate level artists welcomed!”

Dalynn also serves as an administrator of Urban Sketchers of DFW and teaches travel journaling at the Creative Arts Center of Dallas.

Consider inviting a friend and [click here to register](#).



Additional One-Day Classes are Being Scheduled. Please Watch the Website for Details!



Get Your Paintings Ready to Enter the 2024 WFWS Annual Exhibition

Entries for the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies annual exhibition are currently open and SWS members are invited to submit paintings. As a member of SWS, you are also a member of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies and are eligible to enter WFWS annual exhibition in

March of 2024. The prospectus for the show and the entry period opened on September 11, 2023 and **no entries will be accepted after November 27, 2023**. The exhibition will run from March 1 to April 28, 2024. It will take place during Phoenix’s ART WALK which is two months long so the paintings will receive a lot of exposure.

The Western Federation of Watercolor Societies is comprised of ten watercolor groups from most states west of the Mississippi River and the annual exhibitions are hosted by each group in succession. In 2023, SWS hosted the exhibition in Texas, and in 2024 the exhibition will be held at the FOUND:RE Hotel in Phoenix and hosted by the Arizona Watercolor Association.

Begin to plan on entering now. Click here for the [WFWS Prospectus 2024](#). The electronic images will be submitted to [ArtCall](#).



Save the Date...

Fall Paint-Out at Eisenhower State Park Denison, Texas November 3 - 5

Dan Killebrew and Ray Mosier,
SWS Paint-Out Chairs, invite
all members of SWS and their

families to participate in Southwestern Watercolor Society's Fall Paint-Out. It will be on the first weekend of November (Nov. 3, 4, and 5) and will be at Eisenhower State Park in Denison, Texas on the banks of Lake Texoma. We have discovered some incredible vistas of cliffs,

boat docks and many sprawling landscapes along with a multitude of great places to stay should you like to make a whole weekend of the event. The nearby main street of Denison and the Eisenhower

birthplace are also great places to compose great scenes.

As a side note: Even Dwight Eisenhower (inspired by Churchill) was known to enjoy painting his favorite views.



There is no cost from SWS to be part of this event, but the park entry fee is \$5 (reservations available online at <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/eisenhower> and participants will need to pay for their own food and accommodation.

The available hotels and motels near the Park and nearby Denison are as follows: Hilton Garden Inn, Hampton Inn,

La Quinta, Motel 6, Best Western, Comfort Inn and Suites, Tiny Homes Resort, Tanglewood Resort and Holiday Inn Express. Additionally, for our campers, the campsite information is available on the above website as well. We will be providing a listing of dining establishments in upcoming newsletters for sharing meals good times and our favorite hobby, **ART!** Pictures are a sampling of potential painting sites.



Registration is now available on the SWSwatercolor.org website at https://swwatercolor.org/content.aspx?page_id=4008&club_id=400280&item_id=2030798. Please sign up soon so we can begin to get our numbers of participants to make proper arrangements for our sharing and meal times. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

SWS members are invited to come paint there and share some camaraderie with other painters for one to three days with some dinners together and the opportunity to share our paintings. These paint-outs are planned in the Spring and

Fall and are always a good time. **SAVE THE DATE—November 3, 4, 5, 2023.** Let's get together at Eisenhower State Park in Denison. All members of SWS and families are invited to participate! Watch for more information coming soon.

RECENT EVENTS

Terrific September Membership Meeting

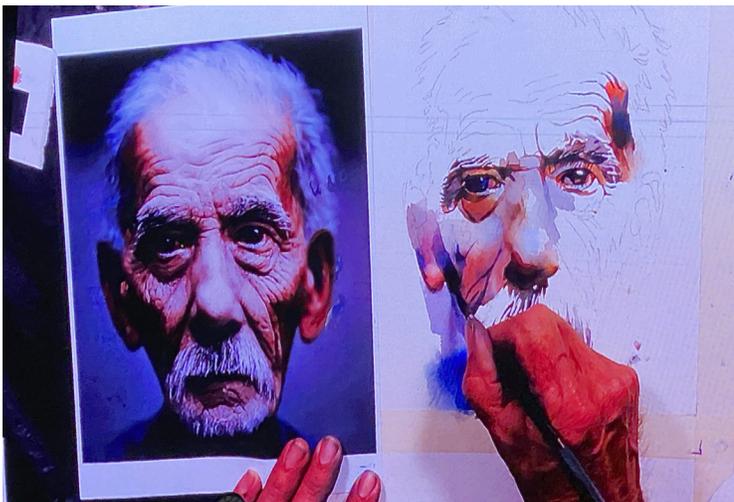
On Tuesday, September 12th, SWS meetings resumed for the 2023-2024 membership year. The first meeting featured artist Stan Miller who gave a very informative demonstration of his approach to painting in watercolor. Miller was also in Dallas to teach a three-day workshop and to judge the paintings he selected for the SWS Membership Exhibition.



Before Miller's demo, SWS President, Dalynn Montgomery, along with some of the committee chair people, gave an overview of upcoming activities for the Fall. The exhibition was on display at the Dallas Main Library Gallery, there will be a Paint-Out in November, and there is an exciting schedule of upcoming workshops.

Miller had a high contrast photograph of an old man's face to use as a reference source and had drawn the contours onto watercolor paper before the meeting. He noticed that the projections on the screen were less bright than the actual painting or photograph so the colors of the painting would be less intense in color. Stan said that he was attracted to the world weariness of the subject's expression when he decided to do the painting.

The first step in any painting was to establish a good design. To do that, Stan squints to see the design possibilities in the value contrasts and he turns the photograph upside down to see how the shapes direct the eye around the surface. That is the foundation of good design and is analogous to the melody of a song. Once that is established, the way the paint is handled is like the words of that song.



Stan says that like one of his heroes, Andrew Wyeth, he is a very slow painter—a small painting could take as long as 30 hours. For that reason, his demonstration was focused on how he thinks about painting. When he paints, his approach starts out very tight and then gets looser and more abstract as he gets further along with the painting. The goal is to create an artwork that will hold the viewer's attention for a long time.



Using a small square viewfinder cut out of watercolor paper (shown left), Stan started by painting one eye at a time. He focused on one square inch of the painting and the same part of the photograph. This is the center of interest and needs to be well-crafted. He doesn't worry about necessarily matching the colors in the photograph or being painterly—he is just trying to create good shapes and value relationships. Skintones cause many people a lot of problems, but they are just a combination of red, yellow and blue. If he does want to match the color in the photo, he tests his color match on the white area around the viewfinder opening. In the studio it may take as long as an hour to paint an eye.

Stan advised that students can improve if they work hard. That is the key to success. Talent without passion gets nowhere. The key is to let your creative right brain work and to not always be governed by the linearity and judgementalism of your left brain. You need both and they need to work together. Stan Miller said that color isn't important. Design takes precedence. As he paints, he pays constant attention to how all the pieces of the artwork are working together. If he puts blue on one side, he needs to repeat it somewhere else. He doesn't know when he starts how the painting will turn out. He just allows himself to try things because he trusts he can make adjustments later.

Painting of the Month

The Painting-of-the-Month competition resumed in September after the summer hiatus. Winners are selected from paintings brought to the meetings. Submissions must be original works in watermedia on paper by members. The Signature Category includes members who have earned the SWS signature (five acceptances to SWS membership exhibitions.) The Non-Signature category is open to any member who would like to share their work.



The winners of the SWS Painting-of-the-Month in the Non-Signature Category are selected by a vote of members present at the meeting. The winners for September (shown above right) were:



- First Place, **Ginny Hoppe**, “Oh Buoy” (in the center)
- Second Place, **Lindy Ballew**, “Down Under” (on the right)
- Third Place, **Mary Palmer**, “Dovey” (on the left)

The winner in the Signature Category in September was **Tricia Poupard** for “BadAss Biker” (shown left). Guest artist Stan Miller made the selection and described what he liked about the painting.

2023 SWS Exhibition Closes

The 2023 SWS Membership Exhibition was on view from September 5th to September 29th at the Lillian Bradshaw Gallery which is on the 4th Floor of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young Street in Dallas. The gallery showed all the varied artworks selected by judge and juror Stan Miller to its best advantage. The gallery had the benefit of being centrally located with a lot of foot traffic so many people were able to enjoy the paintings.

The awards reception was held on Saturday, September 23rd from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. It was held in the area outside of the gallery. Time to enjoy refreshments, see the show and socialize preceded the awards announcements and after. At the awards ceremony, SWS president Dalynn Montgomery welcomed the people who attended. Then Exhibition Co-Chairs Shahrzad Afshinpour and Kay Byfield announced the winners and gave them their awards. Dalynn congratulated each one.

We want to applaud each of these winners:

Vendor Sponsor Awards

- En Plein Air Pro/Blick Art Materials Award, **Les McDonald**, “The Old Days”
- Holden Paints/Golden Paints Award, **Don Taylor**, “Red Headdress and Pomegranate II”
- Dixon Ticonderoga/Blick Art Materials Award, **Gail Delger**, “Migration Rest Stop”
- Dixon Ticonderoga/Rosemary & Co. Brushes, **John Krenik**, “Pali Nene (Precipice Nene)”
- Cheap Joe’s Art Stuff/Blick Art Materials, **Kay Smith**, “Model”
- M Graham & Co/Blick Art Materials, **Michael Borne**, “A Cool, Dry Place”
- Artisans Studio-Gallery in Memory of Judy Walker/Blick Art Materials, **Ken Toki**, “Great Escape”
- Daniel Smith Watercolors Award, **Sondra Car**, “Another Flat Day”

Memorial Awards

- Memorial Award in Honor of Past Members, **Jane Strong**, “Transferred Energy”
- Rob Erdle Memorial Award, **Celeste McCall**, “Marie’s Grapes”
- SWS Presidents Award, **Radha Chatterjee**, “Bird Song and Ocean Songs”
- Lou Bono Memorial Award, **Dana Brock**, “Drawing the Line”

Major Awards

- Third Place, **Michael Holter**, “Rusty and Dusty”
- Second Place, **Maureen Lewis**, “California Captive”
- First Place, **Nance Gordon**, “Early Spring”
- Edgar A Whitney Transparent Watercolor Award, **Jennifer Gillen**, “Farm to Market: Peppers”

Best of Show

And the Naomi Brotherton Best of Show Award went to **Gisa Elwazir** for her painting, “Butterfly Effect” (shown right).

In addition to the merit awards, the newly qualified SWS signature members were introduced to the society. These members are entitled to add the Southwestern Watercolor Society initials (SWS) after their





names with their signature. They receive a certificate and a piece of SWS jewelry along with that new entitlement.

We also want to thank Jean Bono and her sons Shane and Bret for coming to the reception in remembrance of her husband Lou. Lou Bono was a two-term president of SWS. We continue to miss him. The Lou Bono Memorial Award is in his honor.

We also welcomed Jill Brooks whose husband, John, passed away a week

before the show opened. It was the first time John had been selected for an SWS show and we wished he had been there to see his painting among the other wonderful watercolors.

This was a wonderful exhibition. Everyone who entered will receive a catalog picturing all the entries. Now the planning starts for next year.

New SWS Signature Members Announced at the SWS Exhibition Reception

Every year at the SWS Membership Exhibition reception the members who have newly earned their SWS signature are announced. These are members who have been selected for five SWS exhibitions (one may be a Western Federation exhibition). Their selection for this show was the last of the five exhibitions required to earn that honor.

We are pleased to announce these new signature artists which include: Melody Ballenger, Valerie Batchelder, Laura Drumwright, Brenda Driggers, Trish Poupard, Betty Smith and Ken Toki. Please congratulate each of these members when you see them.



Stan Miller's Workshop Was a Hit!

Stan Miller is a consummate artist and teacher. His care for the students is obvious. He teaches classes in Spokane three times a week and offers online critiques for his students. Over the years, he has taught children's classes as well. Stan has posted 30 YouTube videos online that are available to the public and cover every aspect of art from conception to completion.

Stan was the judge of this year's SWS 60th annual membership exhibition. He bases his judging criteria on the following:

- Design. 70% of his choices are based on composition.
- After he has decided on design, he will consider color, technique and subject matter.
- The whole painting must be attractive. The viewer's eye should find something of interest to see in every section of the work.
- Unusual subject matter is worth an extra look, and doesn't even have to be identifiable.

Stan's workshop was organized to appeal to students who enjoy portraits and/or landscapes. He also adjusted his exercises for some students who were less experienced. He made new students feel comfortable by sharing his first watercolor paintings, and he didn't mind everyone's laughter.

Some bits of advice Stan gave were:

- Paint what you want to paint.
- Learn to draw.
- Understand color and value.
- Master how to limit the amount of water on your brush.
- Use the "Beginner's Mind" (Buddhism). Ignore everything you already "know" and use fresh eyes.
- Paintings need a strong second point of interest.
- The beginning of understanding design is to notice where your eyes go. Identify points of contrast before identifying color, subject, patterns and texture.
- Anything can work. There are no hard rules

Stan led his students through several exercises. The first exercise was focused on controlling the amount of water on your brush, your palette and paper. This advice is critical for creating dark paints and blending hues and values. Another exercise was on color mixing, and matching using only the primary colors.

Stan is a master at mixing colors to match the color he is trying to duplicate. He also reinvigorated an appreciation of using only primary colors in order to create just the right colors on a portrait. Sometimes it can be overwhelming when you have too many colors in your palette, keeping it to three colors simplifies the process. The class was fascinated to watch him complete a portrait using his knowledge of design.

Students left the class feeling inspired and confident to apply their newly learned skills to their own work.



HAPPENINGS

Hollan Holmes's painting, "Industrial Revolution IV" (shown right) was accepted into the Rockwall Art League 23rd Annual Juried Fine Art Show & Sale.

This is a transparent watercolor of a section of a Circa 1900 Case grain thresher. Hollan says he has always been fascinated by turn-of-the-century machinery, especially those of the agricultural industry.



Gail Delger had her painting, "Magical Kingdom" (shown left) accepted into the National Watercolor Exhibition at the Gladys and Karl T. Wiedemann Gallery, hosted by Mark Arts in Wichita, KS. Carrie Waller was the juror. The show runs from Oct. 6- Dec.16, 2023.

Trish Poupard had two paintings juried into the 38th Annual Bosque Art Classic by juror Seth Hopkins, "Dogwood Dream" and "Approaching Fort Worth".

Two of Trish's paintings, "If Looks Could Kill" and "Eyes On You" were juried into the Trinity Art Show 7th Annual National Juried Exhibition by juror Sandra Jean Ceas. The exhibition runs from 10/14 - 11/05 at the Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento, CA.

Two more paintings, "Lush" and "Aubergine" were juried into the Mark Arts National Watercolor Exhibition by juror Carrie Waller. The exhibition runs from 10/06-12/16 in Wichita, KS.

Her painting, "Pigtails & Snowflakes" was juried into the South Carolina Watercolor Society 46th National Exhibition by juror JJ Jiang. The Exhibition runs through 10/06. Trish also was awarded Signature Status with the SCWS with this acceptance.

Another painting, "Magnolia" was juried into the Northstar Watermedia Society National Juried Exhibition by juror, Dan Mackerman and will be on exhibit through 10/29.

Her painting, "Determined Beauty" (shown right) won first place in watercolor at the CCAN by juror Letitia Huckaby. It will be on exhibit through 10/28 at the Center for Contemporary Arts in Abilene, TX.



Nel Dorn Byrd received the Best of Show award in the 34th Annual VAST Members Juried Exhibition on her painting, Sunshine (shown right). Don Hodges served as juror for the show.

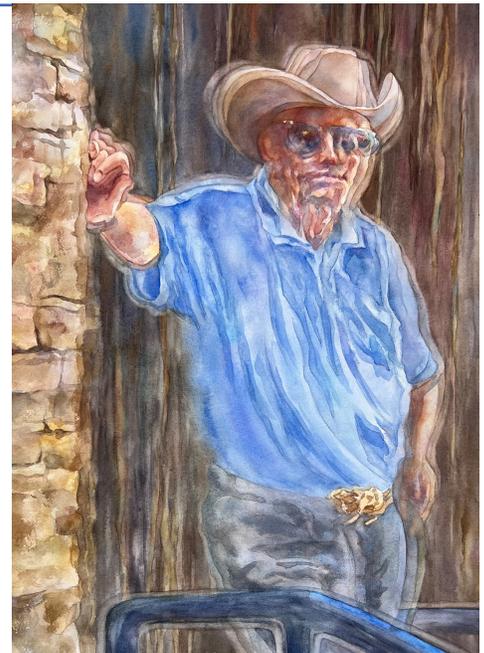
Nel also had a painting, Kilowatt Hours, accepted into the National Watercolor Exhibition in Wichita, Kansas. The show hangs October 6 - December 16. Carrie Waller was the juror.



Sheilagh Cooper had paintings recently juried into many exhibitions. Her painting "Hidden Assets" (shown left) was juried into the Ballinglen Museum of Art 1st International Biennial Exhibition, Ballycastle, Ireland, which runs from Oct. 7, 2023 through Jan. 10, 2024; West Texas Watercolor Society Fall Show 2023, Juror-Jeannie McGuire; The Rockwall Art League 23rd Annual Fine Art Show, Juror- Jessica Fuentes, and the Visual Art League "Fresh Ideas 2023", Juror-Bonnie Liebowitz.

Kay Byfield was pleased that her painting "Lookout" (shown right) was invited to be included in the 2023 Aqueous Open International online exhibition hosted by the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society. The dates for the exhibition are October 7 - November 30, 2023. The juror of selection and awards is Kathleen Conover.

The exhibit will be available to view here:
<https://www.pittsburghwatercolorsociety.com>.



IN MEMORIUM

Judy Walker, beloved long-time member of the Southwestern Watercolor Society, passed away on July, 2023.

Raised in Oklahoma, and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, she then moved to Dallas and worked for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. For the last thirty years of her career, she had her own business doing billing and collections for physicians. She married James Carrol Duck in 1982 in St Georges, Bermuda, who preceded her in death.



Judy Walker

After retirement, she moved to Edgemere Independent Living where she continued to share her love of art by teaching classes to others. With a big heart and as a member of the Knit Wits, she also made hats for Ukrainian children and for newborns at local hospitals.

Once Judy was retired, she took classes at Artisan's Studio with Naomi Brotherton, Pat Kochan, and others she became an important part of the Artisansí community. Judy will be deeply missed. She was a strong supporter of SWS and some of her paintings have been kindly donated to SWS to auction at a future fundraiser. Judy's memory was honored by Artisans when they funded an award in her name in the 2023 SWS Membership Exhibition.



John Preston Brooks
1957 - 2023

John Preston Brooks, 65, passed away on September 9, 2023, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

He was a proud graduate of Texas A&M, where he earned a degree in architecture which served him well, allowing him to become an award-winning architect. He was an avid caver and turned his love of caves into art which graces the covers of multiple publications.

John met his wife, Jill Buffington Brooks, in 2008 and they married two years later. He and Jill created a wonderful life together and squeezed in as many memories as possible with adventures near and far.

In the last few years of his life, John developed a passion for watercolor painting. He was very committed to transforming his drawing skill into strong paintings. The first step was realized when he had a painting accepted into the 2023 SWS exhibition in September. His wife, Jill, stood in for him at the awards reception. SWS lost John Brooks too soon.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LLUMC Call for Entries for 2023 Juried Advent Exhibition

ArtReach Gallery at the Lovers Lane United Methodist Church is now accepting entries for its 2023 Juried Advent Exhibition that

will be held from November 16, 2023 to February 1, 2024. The theme of the Advent exhibit is “New Beginnings.” The works submitted should have some spiritual meaning for the Advent season. Works can be about new birth, anticipation, love, the glorious future, positive outlooks, resurrection, hope, and the like. The ArtReach Committee reserves the right to refuse entries that it deems unacceptable to the theme or inappropriate for display in a church or school.



Each artist may submit up to four (4) paintings. A registration form available from the church must be filled out for each entry. No more than three paintings per artist will be chosen by the Visual Arts Committee for exhibition. The juror and judge will be Wallace Leon Hughes, full-time free-lance architectural illustrator and artist. There will be awards for best of show, first, second and third place as well as honorable mentions. Entries must be submitted electronically.



The entry deadline is Thursday, November 2, 2023. To get more information, a copy of the prospectus, the entry form and release of liability form, send your request to artreachllumc@gmail.com. More information is available at <http://foundation.llumc.org/advent-2023/>.

Taos Watercolor Society Invites Participation in Ric Dentinger Workshop

The Taos Watercolor Society will be hosting **Ric Dentinger** for a workshop October 12 & 13, 2023. Registration is on the society's website at www.taoswatercolorssociety.org. Ric's work is shown on his website, www.dentingerfineart.com.



The workshop will be held at the Hotel Don Fernando de Taos. Hotels and restaurants are nearby, as is historic Taos Plaza. The workshop will start off with a meet and greet on Wednesday, October 11.

October is beautiful up here in the mountains with the Aspens and Cottonwoods turning to gold. For more information, contact Lonnie Shan (lonnieshanart@gmail.com).

EDITORIAL

Sign Your Paintings

By Kay Byfield

VP Communications and 2023 Exhibition Co-Chair

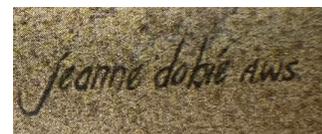
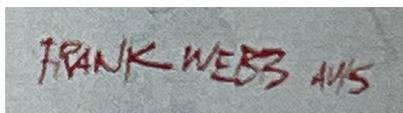


I have been painting and teaching watercolor for more than forty years and have been involved with many exhibitions, but I had never been co-chair for one as significant as the SWS Membership Exhibition. As a result, I began to pay attention to a lot of things that I hadn't noticed before. One of the most significant was that many artists do not seem to think their signatures are important. They are.

After the paintings were hung, I helped put up name cards next to them to provide the name of the artist and the title. I forgot my little "cheat sheet" with all the photos, but was confident that I would be able to match all the cards to the paintings without it. It wasn't as easy as I expected.

Here's why:

- A lot of the paintings had no signature at all.
- Signatures on many paintings were indecipherable.
- A lot of paintings only had initials that were hard to match to a name.
- When they had no signature, an unreadable signature, or just had initials, a lot of the titles weren't obviously related to the subject matter.



I shouldn't have been surprised because, as VP of Communications, I receive several inquiries each month from people who have old watercolor paintings and want to know who the artist might be. That is because the painting is well done but there is no signature, the signature is unreadable, or it is just initials. They are so disappointed when I confess that we don't have a database that will help us figure out who the artist might be.

Signatures should be part of a painting. An important part. However, they don't get discussed enough and so painters have had no input in regard to signatures. When I ask painters how they sign their work, I often get these kinds of responses:

- "A signature shows that you have a big ego and takes away from what the painting is saying, so I don't sign my paintings."
- "I don't know what medium to use or where to sign the painting, so I don't sign it."
- "I have been told that I should just use my initials so that the painting can speak for itself."
- "I want my signature on the paintings to be authentic, so I sign it the same way I do legal papers (even though I have illegible handwriting)".
- "I want to establish a brand identity, so I have a calligraphic signature, use a Chinese chop, or my logo."

None of those choices do your artwork any favor and they certainly don't make it easy for people who want to know how to attribute the painting.

If you have taken the trouble to do a painting and made it available for people to see it, you need to be willing to take your place as the creator of the work. And when you sign it, I recommend that you make your signature legible. No initials, first names or little calligraphic designs unless you know that in future generations you will become so famous that everyone will know it is you. Your signature acknowledges that you are the author of this work and stand behind its authenticity.

Your signature should be consistent with the design of your painting and be legible but unobtrusive. For instance, a big flourishing signature that becomes the focal point of the composition is not appropriate either. Many watercolorists sign in pencil or pen rather than using paint in order to avoid that. Try to select colors that coordinate with the painting but can still be seen when someone wants to know who created the artwork.

If you don't sign your paintings or the signature doesn't tell the viewer who you are, you are disrespecting your viewer and shortchanging yourself. I hope you will sign the work you create.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Total Members in August

392

*Welcome to All Our
Newest Members!*

**Alexander Bostic
Sandi Ciaramitaro
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ADVERTISEMENTS

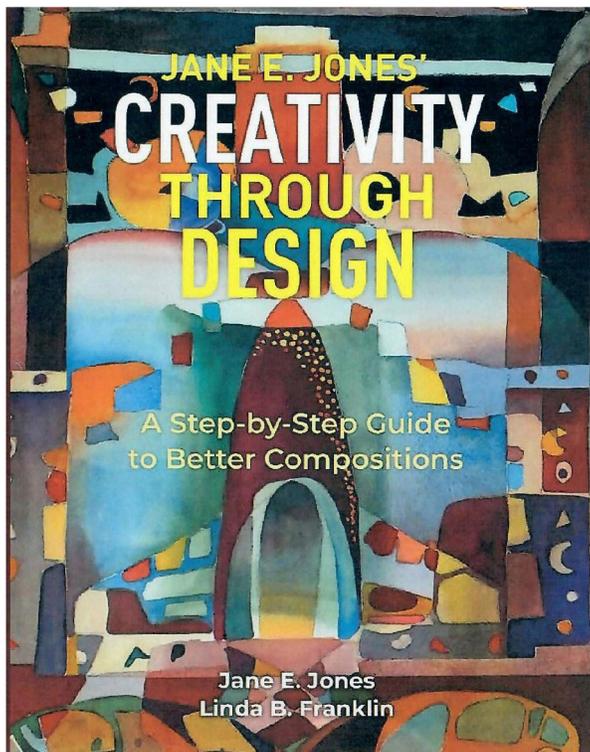
SWS SCENE NEWSLETTER AD RATES

\$25 for ads 3" or less in either dimension
\$50 for ads 5" or less in either dimension
\$75 for ads 7" or less in either dimension
(7" is the absolute size limit for an ad)

Submit proofed copy on website at
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BOOK SIGNING

By Jane E. Jones & Linda B. Franklin
At October SWS meeting



Books must be pre-purchased from
Amazon.com and *brought* to the meeting.

Each lesson is built on the last one, and includes
clear and tested explanations, illustrations, and
paintings with exercises for practice.

Sterling Edwards: "...this book is a MUST READ
for all artists who desire to produce creative and
unique works of art..."

MEMBER TEACHER LISTINGS

*Teacher listings are available to members
for a small annual fee of \$25.
For more information, contact
Communications@SWSWatercolor.org*

LISTINGS ARE FROM JUNE - MAY
FOR THE
2023-2024 MEMBER YEAR

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