

Newsletter

Spring 2009

Watercolor USA Honor Society is dedicated to focusing national attention on watercolor painting through exhibitions, educational opportunities and the recognition of artists working in watermedia.

WATERCOLOR HONOR SOCIETY

Watercolor U.S.A.

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WHS Calendar

- March 31: Last day for receipt of slides or CD and related entry materials for Watercolor U.S.A. 2008.
- April 16: Jury notification cards mailed for Watercolor USA 2009
- April 30: Last Postmark date for entries for the WHS Japan Exchange Exhibition
- May 7: Last day for receipt of accepted entries for Watercolor U.S.A. 2009.
- June 5: Reception for Watercolor U. S. A. & Japanese Watercolor Federation Exhibitions
- June 6: Watercolor U.S.A. 2009 & Japan Watercolor Federation Opens
- June 6: WHS meeting for Board and members starting at 9:00 a.m. at Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. WHS annual dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Note: All members are welcome to attend the board meeting and annual dinner. If you are planning on attending the dinner please notify the president or vice-president so adequate space is reserved for the event.

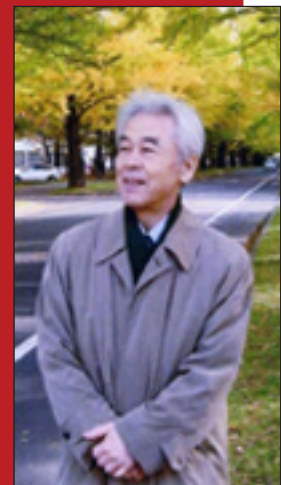
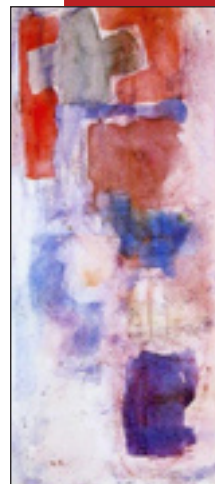
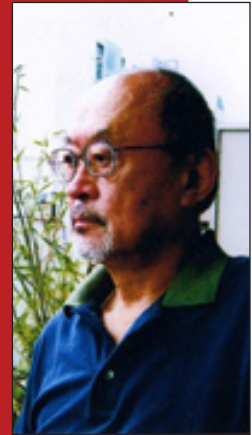
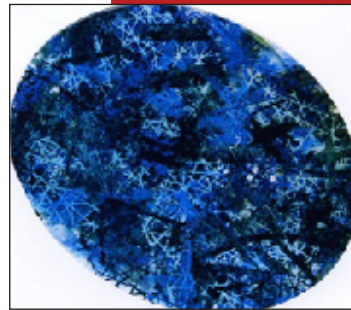
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Japanese Watercolor Federation Exchange Exhibition

June 6 - August 2, 2009

Springfield Art Museum



Pictured above is Mr Atsuhiko Sakai, JWF Exchange Project Committee Coordinator and Mr. Yoshinori Kawamura, President of Japan Watercolor Federation. Both men appear next to their art.

Sandra Schaffer



As spring is almost upon us, it's time to look forward to upcoming events in Springfield in conjunction with this year's Watercolor USA Show. We will welcome the Japanese Watercolor Federation (JWF) delegation for an exchange of both art and ideas. At least eleven JWF committee members and artists will get a brief tour of Springfield, have the opportunity to view an artist demonstration by Judi Betts, and view this year's Watercolor USA Show as our part of this unique cultural exchange. Also, as part of the JWF/WHS Exhibition Exchange Project we are excited to have thirty paintings by JWF artists for display in the new wing of the Springfield Art Museum. The JWF opening will coincide with the opening of Watercolor USA, and a small catalog will be produced for the exhibition and passed out at the Springfield Art Museum. Much thanks again to Kenji Nishikawa and Hiroko Shikashio for all the work they have put into organizing this exhibition, as well as to the JWF committee and delegation for their efforts and participation.

A second important event will be the recognition of a number of Lifetime Achievement Award recipients at the WHS banquet on Saturday, June 6th. This year WHS will honor Lee Weiss as a recipient. She will be the keynote speaker at the banquet, and will share images of her work. In addition, WHS will present four posthumous Lifetime Achievement Awards to Judy Richardson Gard, Georg Shook, Rob Erdle and Electra Stamelos. All posthumous recipients were past presidents of WHS, all produced a creative and highly respected body of work, and all contributed greatly to recognition of watermedia as a media of excellence. Lee Weiss continues to create excellent works of art – her resume is long and her accomplishments are many. Please read more about these outstanding artists in the articles in this newsletter.

Finally, do read the information on upcoming changes to the WHS website. We will be adding information to the About Watermedia page that will make the WHS site unique as an educational website. WHS member Cheng-Khee Chee has generously allowed us to use his article "A Survey of Watercolor Painting in the 20th Century"; Dr. Patricia Crown has provided "The Golden Age of British Watercolor in the 18th and 19th Centuries." We will also be utilizing the News page to give updates on WHS activities.

All WHS members are welcome to join in the events in Springfield this summer. Please contact me for further information.

INFORMATION

WHS Board Members 2008-2010

WHS Officers

President: Sandra Schaffer	lschaffer@kc.rr.com
Vice-President: Caryl Morgan	earthroadgraphics@sbcglobal.net
Secretary: Sarah Riley	sariley@semo.edu
Treasurer: Wayne Conyers	conyersw@mcpherson.edu
Membership: Mary Britten Lynch	MBritlynart@comcast.net
Historian: Missie Dickens	theartistmd@aol.com
Newsletter Coeditors: Sandra Schaffer & Caryl Morgan	schaffer@kc.rr.com earthroadgraphics@sbcglobal.net

Board of Directors

Jerry Berger – Director Springfield Art Museum	JBERGER@springfieldmo.gov
Bill Armstrong Board Member Emeritus	msba3@mchsi.com
Howard Kaye Past President Ex-Officio	hkaye1942@yahoo.com
Pat San Soucie	pat@sansoucie.com
Bob Mejer	mejebob@quincy.edu
Ellen Murray	e.murray@asu.edu
Kenji Nishikawa	knishi78@aol.com
Cyndie Peterson	cyndiepeterson@hotmail.com
Susan Amstater Schwartz	sas@elp.rr.com
Hiroko Shikashio	hiroko1@aol.com

Watercolor USA Exhibition Prospectus Information

- Email: WatercolorUSA@springfieldmo.gov
- Write and include SASE:
Watercolor USA Exhibition
Springfield Art Museum
1111 E Brookside Drive
Springfield, MO 65807
- Call: 417-837-5700
- Fax: 417-837-5704
- Visit: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday:
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am – 8:00 pm
Sunday: 1:00 pm-5:00 pm
Closed: Monday, City of Springfield & National Holidays

For Online Prospectus:
www.springfieldmo.gov/egov/art

WHS Japan Show

Entries must be postmarked by April 30, 2009.
Mail entry form found in the Fall 2008 WHS Newsletter or
download from the News pages of the WHS website to:

Kenji Nishikawa
800 Jerfferson Cir.
Colleyville, TX 76034

Watercolor U.S.A.

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MEMBER NEWS

Keith Crown: A Retrospective will be on display in the Main Gallery of The State Historical Society of Missouri from February 6 – June 6, 2009. The exhibit will feature works from the Society's collection, the artist's personal holdings, and those held by private collectors in celebration of Mr. Crown's 90th birthday.

Rolland Golden will have a one-man exhibition of his Katrina series at the Springfield Art Museum, Missouri from February 20 – March 29, 2009.

Pat San Soucie will be juror in the upcoming 44th annual Central South Art Exhibition held by the Tennessee Art League; Pat also won awards in the following exhibitions in 2008: Watercolor Society of Alabama National Exhibition, Watercolor Society of Oregon National Exhibition and EAA Online Juried Exhibition.

MEMBER NEWS COLUMN

Due to limited space and a large WHS membership the Member News column is unable to include information on acceptances into national shows. Please include only the following information for the last 6 months for Member's News:

- Awards in Exhibitions
- Solo or Two Artist Exhibitions
- Publications
- Small Group Invitational Exhibitions
- Serving on Juries
- Additions to Permanent Collections

Send your selections to: Sandra Schaffer, WHS Newsletter Co-editor, 12700 E. 64th Ct., Kansas City, MO 64133, e-mail: lschaffer@kc.rr.com (first symbol is a lower case L).

Messages from the Japan Watercolor Federation to Commemorate the Joint Exhibition with Watercolor USA in 2009

Thanks to the hard work of both the WHS and Japanese Watercolor Federation (JWF) Committees, and to the courtesy of the Springfield Art Museum, artists from the JWF will display work in an exhibition at the Springfield Art Museum coinciding with the 2009 Watercolor USA Exhibition in June. We are very pleased and excited about this event.

The mission of JWF is to create a new generation of watercolor concepts based on both our ethnic background and Japanese contemporary art culture. Our objective is that of striving towards freedom of expression, technical diversity and the creation of modern works of art. Believing that WHS shares these common objectives and interests, our hope is to work together with WHS to contribute a better understanding of watercolor today and to share in the task of promoting the next generation of watercolor media paintings internationally.

As an exchange project, JWF will hold a joint exhibition with Watercolor Honor Society (WHS) at the National Art Center, Tokyo in the year 2010. We share in the excitement with WHS about this exchange of art, ideas and philosophies.

Japan Watercolor Federation,
US/Japan Exhibition Exchange Committee, Chairman

Ei Nakamura

The Japanese Watercolor Foundation was founded in 1940 and holds the largest annual watercolor exhibition in Japan. In our 2008 exhibition there were over 1200 paintings, including a large variety of works ranging in style from realism to the abstract. The JWF membership consists of watermedia artists throughout Japan, and is based on invitation only. All members of JWF are excited about the upcoming event with WHS. We believe this collaborative effort of JWF and WHS will cultivate enlightenment in the potential for expression in watercolor painting in 2009 and beyond.

Japan Watercolor Federation,
US/Japan Exhibition Exchange Committee

Syun Shibata

The Watercolor Honor Society and the Springfield Art Museum are honored to host the Japan Watercolor Federation Exchange Exhibition 2009. WHS would like to thank the members of the JWF and especially Mr. Atsuhiko Sakia, JWF Exchange Project Committee Coordinator and Mr. Yoshinori Kawamura, President of the Japan Watercolor Federation who appear on the front page of this newsletter along with a piece of their work. In addition we would like to thank Mr. Ei Nakamura, Project Committee Chair and Project committee members Mr. Syun Shibata, Ms. Hiroko Tadakuma and Mr. Tohru Matsui. Their pictures appear on page 5 along with pieces of their work.

JAPAN TOUR TO COINCIDE WITH WHS JAPAN SHOW

WHS member Hiroko Shikashio is planning to lead a group tour to Japan in 2010 during the opening of the WHS Show in Tokyo, Japan in 2010. She has conducted specifically cultural tours of Japan in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008. After a trip this fall with Judi Betts, also a WHS member, a detailed 2010 trip plan will be made. She needs to know a preliminary count of people who would be interested in going on this trip. If you have any interest in this trip please e-mail her at hiroko1@aol.com. A preview of this tour can be viewed at her website at hirokoart.com.

JWF EXCHANGE SHOW PROJECT COMMITTEE

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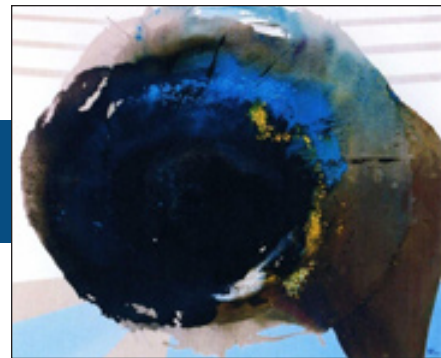
Mr. Ei Nakamura
Japan Exchange Project Chairman



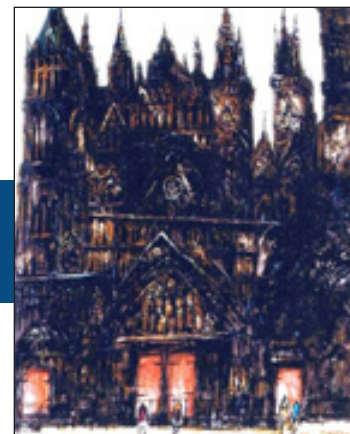
Mr. Syun Shibata
Project Committee Member



Ms. Hiroko Tadakuma
Project Committee Member



Mr. Tohru Matsui
Project Committee Member



ATTENTION ALL WHS MEMBERS!

WHS WEBSITE TO BE UPDATED AND UPGRADED

The Watercolor USA Honor Society website www.watercolorusahonorsociety.org, will be undergoing significant upgrades in the next couple of months. We would like to encourage all members to update their images at this time, or provide images if you haven't yet put work on the site. The cost to update images digitally is \$25.00, and by sending slides \$40.00. Our webmaster, Patrick Ripley, strongly prefers digital images sent by e-mail, as these are much less time consuming for him to post on the site. The specifications for digital images remain the same, 800 pixels X600 pixels, with modifications for elongated or unusually shaped images. Patrick would also like artist's statements of not more than two paragraphs (if you haven't already posted a statement on the site). Please consult the Contact page of the website for further instructions. As of now, the basic information for submission of images remains the same, with each member sending a check to our treasurer, Wayne Conyers, for either \$40.00 (slides) or \$25.00 (e-mail digital images). When the Contact page has been updated there will be a more specific request for digital images.

The reasons for the upgrade are as follows. When gallery participation was smaller, at the inception of the site, the image pre-load was very fast for cable internet connections and only took a minute or so for dial-up connections. However, as gallery participation has grown, the initial delay is now very noticeable. The Gallery will be re-designed as a Flash-based tool to eliminate pre-load delay on fast connections, thus performance will be improved.

The reason for the update is to modernize and improve the site. Our website was meant to be an educational tool, as well as to provide access to current news within the organization,

and offer contact information. It was also meant to be a means for WHS members to display their most current work. The About Watermedia page will now contain articles written by highly regarded professionals on the history of watermedia (inclusive) and watercolor as a medium. One goal will be to look at the historical development of watermedia internationally, as well as to compare and contrast Eastern and Western development. As the page expands in content, it will also hopefully include techniques in watermedia painting that you, as members, would be willing to share. The Contact page will in the future contain a downloadable Member Dues Renewal form, in case members can't locate the newsletter for the form. The website for Springfield Art Museum, as well as the date to look for the Watercolor USA Prospectus will be included. On the Springfield Art Museum website can be found a downloadable Watercolor USA Prospectus. On the About WHS page please look for a downloadable Complete History of "Watercolor USA Honor Society 1986-Present", along with other new features. Finally the News Page will be developed to include current news for WHS such as complete information on the upcoming JWF/WHS Exchange, Watercolor NOW! And Watercolor USA dates. If you, as a member, have news of a one person exhibition that you will be having this can also be posted. Just contact Cyndie Peterson, our website liaison at whs@cyndiepetersonfineart.com.

This is a brief overview of the changes you'll be seeing. Our goal is to modernize the site, make it unique among professional watercolor organizations sites in offering an About Watermedia page, and provide access to usable forms and current news. We would also very much like your most recent images for a whole new look!

Life Time Achievement Award Recipient 2009

Lee Weiss was born in Inglewood, California. She attended California College of Arts from 1946-47 and studied briefly with Alex Nepote and Eric Oback. Her paintings are in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, the National Air & Space Museum, the Phillips Collection, the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. and in 26 other Public Collections all over the United States.

Over the years Lee Weiss has made a major contribution to the advancement of watermedia painting through her creativity and experimentation into new painting techniques, as well as in both participation in and leadership of major organizations that provide a prominent venue for watercolor painters. She was made a Fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters in 1985 and named a Dolphin Fellow of the American Watercolor Society in 1991. Her paintings have been exhibited in the Setagaya and Meguro Museums in Tokyo and the Saitama Museum of Art, Japan numerous times between 1988 and 2008. Ms. Weiss' resume' is extensive, and includes numerous prestigious awards in major exhibitions, serving as juror of selection and awards, a variety of one-woman gallery shows, as well as many publications featuring her work. She has also served as president of Watercolor USA Honor Society.



Lee Weiss is drawn to nature as subject matter, but does not paint nature in a literal sense. She has trained herself to remember the essence of what she sees, claiming that nature is central, but that in the main she is concerned "with depth and layering, light and mystery." She states that "Mother Nature is exceedingly generous. Every subject has a season, a time of day, growth, and change. Each time I paint a subject, I notice something I missed the first time and try again. Since I paint the remembered image, I am open to noticing such new aspects. Often I combine ideas I have explored. It's about creating, not re-creating. Sometimes I paint from sheer imagination - something I've read or been told that fires my fantasy."

In technique about half the time she uses creative monoprinting she has developed for texturizing, other times she uses large brushes to both lay in an abstract base, and add texture and interest, then flicks water or pigment with a wet brush. She does not use salt or chemicals and sponges, which leave obvious textures. She works on large scale paintings, attempting to keep the painting surface continuously wet. Ms. Weiss once commented that "keeping such an extensive surface wet and alive requires the ability of a slightly demented ballerina." She says, "I think of watercolor as the freedom medium. Working as I do, wet pigment into wet paper, I can quite literally 'go with the flow', allowing the beauty of the merging colors to dictate the direction the painting will go."

As quoted from to an article written by Adelyn D. Breeskin of the National Museum of American Art, her works "all are presented with such dramatic impact that they reveal the world of a poet, affording views of the wonders of nature in microcosm."

JUDY RICHARDSON GARD

Posthumous Life Time Achievement Award Recipient 2009

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Judy Richardson Gard was a charter member and officer of both Watercolor Art Society-Houston and Watercolor USA Honor Society. She also held signature membership in the National Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society.



Judy earned success as an artist early in her life, beginning with winning prizes at the state fair in Muskogee, Oklahoma at the age of 12. Her career as an artist culminated in her winning major awards in both the American Watercolor Society and from the National Watercolor Society. Her formal education consisted of studies at the University of Oklahoma, and at the Corcoran Gallery and American University in Washington, DC. She also studied with such well known artists as Edgar A. Whitney, Robert E. Wood, Millard Sheets, Edward Betts, Henry Casselli, Glen Bradshaw, and others.

Judy inspired and encouraged other artists to develop their talents, and gave generously of her time to organizations that supported watermedia painters and provided them with a prominent venue for displaying their works. She also taught, lectured and demonstrated in many locations across the United States. She taught in the Houston area for over 20 years, including the Watercolor Art Society, Jewish Community Center, Art League of Houston and several private galleries. Judy's work is held in a large number of public and private collections.



A past president of WHS, Judy most recently was newsletter editor for Watercolor USA Honor Society, again donating her time to ensure that an organization that she greatly cared about would continue to thrive. She always worked toward excellence and was hugely creative in maintaining the integrity of the newsletter. Judy remains highly respected for both her creativity as a visual artist, and for her contributions to the art world.

GEORG SHOOK

Posthumous Life Time Achievement Award Recipient 2009



Georg Shook was past president of Watercolor USA Honor Society as well as past president, and one of the Founders of Southern Watercolor Society. He was a highly regarded leader of both organizations, known to be easy going and personable, yet also hard working and dedicated. Georg exhibited widely, and won several awards for his paintings, including three consecutive purchase awards in Watercolor USA. He exhibited in The American Watercolor Society, Tennessee Watercolor Society, Central South and Mid-South Exhibitions. Georg was also at one time art director for Memphis Publishing Company.

As noted in the article “40 Watercolorists and How They Work” by Susan E. Meyer, “Georg Shook was born in Mississippi in 1932. A southern regionalist, Shook paints vestiges of the rural south. Georg said that, ‘I especially enjoy painting scenes that touch the viewer with nostalgia, like half-remembered places of forgotten times.’ “

Georg originally aspired to be a police sketch artist, and followed the usual channels toward becoming a professional artist, going to both college and art school. His aspirations changed when he realized the narrowness of that field and became aware of what he deemed less than appealing scientific methods used. Due in great measure to his love of realism and detail, Georg entered the world of representational painting through the “backdoor” or portraiture. His skills would later carry over into the field of landscape painting to the point where his work could literally be called landscape portraiture. Over time his style of painting evolved. According to Georg, “Like many artists involved in realistic and or representational painting, I have struggled over the difference that exists between literal painting and realistic expression. However, through growth or natural evolvment, my style has loosened considerably. My paintings now contain more self-expression and emotional response to a particular scene, rather than being a literal interpretation of a subject.”

According to Georg, “Art is a means of communication. I feel that art, without an audience, loses its validity. I love realism because the viewer does not need an education in art appreciation to understand a realistic painting. The statement I am trying to make, through my paintings, is easily understood by a large number of viewers. On the other hand, I believe that artists should not concern themselves with whether they are abstract, representational, traditional or experimental modernists painters. They should paint whatever is comfortable or true to themselves.”

Georg Shook died in a tragic auto accident around 1995. It is with great appreciation that I credit *The Southern Watercolor Society's* website, as well as information provided on that site from an old magazine article uncovered by Marilyn Hughey Phillis for this article.



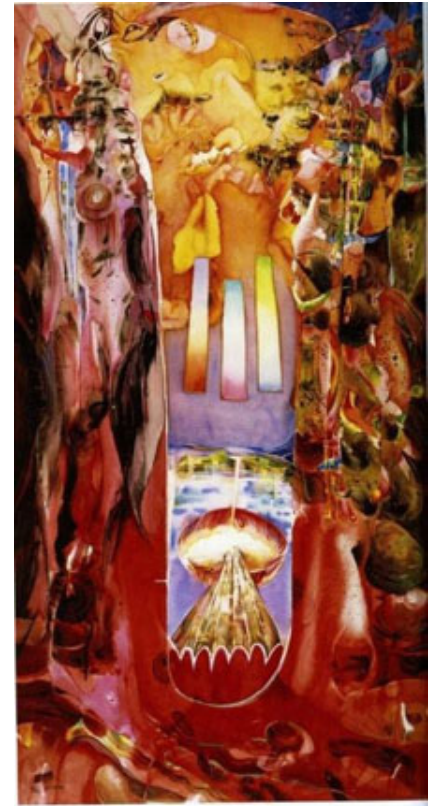
ROB ERDLER

Posthumous Life Time Achievement Award Recipient 2009

Rob Erdle was a passionate and accomplished watercolorist. For twenty years he participated in Watercolor USA as an exhibitor, curator and judge. He also served as president of the Watercolor USA Honor Society. Rob was a juror for many prominent watercolor exhibitions, and conducted seminars and lectures across the U.S. and in more than a dozen countries.

Rob graduated from Bowling Green University, Ohio with an MFA Degree in Watercolor Painting. In 1976, he joined the faculty at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas where he taught undergraduate and graduate classes in painting and drawing for 30 years. He was head of their Watercolor Program from 1976 to 2001, and attained the level of Regent's Professor. During this time he also spent

10 years as an instructor at the American College in Switzerland, as director of the Chautauqua Institution Art Gallery in New York, and for 13 years taught at the Luxun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang, China, which awarded him the honor of Distinguished Visiting Professor.



In November of 2007, UNT and the Visual Art Center of Denton co-hosted a memorial exhibition of Rob's work, entitled, **WATER/COLOR: ROB ERDLER RETROSPECTIVE**. As stated by Jo Williams, the Curator of this exhibition, "The works chosen for this exhibition underscore the significance of Rob's contribution to the contemporary movement of watercolor painting in the United

States and abroad. His greatness is reflected in the virtuosity of his brushwork, his luminous colors, and his unique personal interpretation of the natural world." In the Retrospective catalog, from *Ten Questions About Rob* Answered by Dan Piersol, the Deputy Director for Programs at Mississippi Museum of Art, Mr. Piersol wrote: "I always thought his (Rob's) relentless urge to travel and explore paralleled his insatiable curiosity as a painter. In either case, he was most interested, not in what he knew, but in what he could learn. If that meant taking risk, so much the better, as he clearly found risk-taking invigorating." Mr. Piersol also felt that coexisting within each of Rob's paintings were beauty, content, meaning and depth.

Since Rob's death, his wife Millie Giles, a continuing lecturer at the UNT School of Arts as well as a member of WHS, has put tremendous effort into building a new program in UNT's College of Visual Arts and Design. This program offers both BFA and MFA degrees in Watercolor. The program has flourished, now serving some 30 undergraduate majors, with the Fall Semester of 2009 adding four graduate students, all of whom will be eligible for one of the scholarships from the \$15,000 raised for the Rob Erdle Graduate Watercolor Scholarship Fund that she established in Rob's memory at UNT. In addition \$10,000 was raised for graduate watercolor scholarship funds from the Rob Erdle Retrospective.

Posthumous Life Time Achievement Award Recipient 2009



Electra Stamelos was born in New Jersey. She graduated with a BFA from Wayne State University, and an MFA from Michigan University. Following graduation she attended the Center for Creative Studies, the Corcoran Museum School and the National Art School in Washington, D.C., for which she was granted a full scholarship. She later became a lecturer in the Department of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Michigan, as well as the University's Director of Art Acquisitions and Exhibitions.

During Electra's lifetime she created an extensive body of work, using the mediums of watercolor, pastel and acrylic, her work being accepted into a multitude of juried national exhibitions throughout the United States. She served as president of Watercolor USA Honor Society and Michigan Watercolor Society, and was a member of the National Watercolor Society. She traveled extensively throughout most of the United States and the world, with images from her travels heavily influencing her words of art. Using either a 35 mm or digital camera she looked for scenes with potential, circling and taking shots from different angles in order to get a

number of perspectives. She claimed her photography was mainly "impulsive", since "in a matter of minutes the elements can change or disappear entirely. Photos are the technical advantage of our time". She would then take the photos back to her studio, looking for an angle that would draw her eye to the subject. She worked entirely in her studio, realizing that she had a relatively short time to gather a great deal of potential subject matter in the field.

As stated by Electra, "I like my work to reflect or express the exuberance and challenges of life, as I feel or see them. I choose the positive, hopeful and beautiful aspects. My art is a heightened absorption of formal criteria such as light, color and form--an intensification of nature and my reaction to it." Each of her works was truly a unique composition, an imaginative composite of ideas and images. She stated that, "I find painting a watercolor to be hard work. Each painting is a challenge that requires concentration, time and effort." She described her style as "figurative abstraction that can be interpreted on many levels. It challenges the viewer to view the works, flowers and landscapes, intellectually to discover intricate dimensions of shape, form and design in watercolors. In summary, if art is a remembered sensory experience, I can only paint what I see and feel."

In 2008 William Stamelos, Electra's husband of 50 years, pledged \$1.3 million dollars and a bequest to UM-Dearborn to create the William and Electra Stamelos Gallery on campus devoted to works by Michigan artists at UM-Dearborn. Electra's name also lives on in memory in the Livonia City, Michigan Hall of Fame.



Return Service Requested

Watercolor USA Honor Society
Caryl Morgan
116 1/2 North Main
Newkirk, OK 74647



REMINDER:

Membership dues for 2009 were due in January. Members who pay dues after January 31st may not receive both spring and fall newsletters or be eligible to exhibit in WHS sponsored exhibitions.

W H S M e m b e r s h i p D u e s F o r m :

Date:

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

Annual Dues: \$40

Checks payable to: W H S

Mail to:

Wayne Conyers, Treasurer
1603 Jody Lane
McPherson, KS 67460

Paintings above are by Lee Weiss. She will be honored as 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient at the WHS banquet on Saturday, June 6. She will also be the keynote speaker at the banquet and will share images of her work.