Newsletter

Spring 2012

Watercolor Honor Society

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.

WHS Calendar

- March 2: Watercolor NOW! entries due to SAM
- March 27: Last day for receipt of slides or CD and related entry materials for Watercolor U.S.A. 2012
- April 6: Jury notification cards mailed for Watercolor U.S.A. 2012

  Last day for receipt of framed artwork for Watercolor NOW! to SAM
- April 27: Last day for receipt of accepted entries for Watercolor U.S.A. 2010.
- May 5: Watercolor NOW! 2012 opens at the Springfield Art Museum
- June 8: Exhibition reception for Watercolor U. S. A. & Watercolor NOW! 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., SAM
- June 9: Watercolor U.S.A. 2012 opens, Springfield Art Museum
- June 9: WHS meeting for Officers, Board Members and members starting at 9:00 a.m. Springfield Art Museum, 1111 E. Brookside Drive. WHS annual dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Ocean Zen Restaurant.

Watercolor Now! 2012

Many thanks to the Springfield Art Museum for sponsoring Watercolor Now! 2012 featuring works by members of Watercolor Honor Society. The exhibition opens on May 5th , with an Artists' reception at the museum on Friday, June 8th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. to coincide with the opening of Watercolor USA, and closes on July 8th . This is a wonderful venue for WHS artists to display their work.

Please Vote for New WHS Board Members

On the back of this newsletter is a ballot for the WHS 2012-2014 Board of Directors. Please cast your vote by cutting out, marking and mailing the ballot to:

Sandra Schaffer, WHS President
12700 E. 64th Ct.
Kansas City, MO 64133

Feel free to write in another candidate's name is you so choose.

WHS to Honor Judi Betts and Katherine Chang Liu as Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

WHS is proud to honor both Judi Betts and Katherine Chang Liu with the WHS Lifetime Achievement Award for their extraordinary work as artists, as well as for their contributions to the arts community. Please read about both these outstanding artists in articles contained in this newsletter.

Both will speak and present a retrospective of their work at a dinner to be held Saturday night, June 9, 2012 following the Saturday opening of Watercolor USA. All WHS members, museum staff, guests and friends of the artists are invited to attend. Please contact either Sandra Schaffer at lschaffer@kc.rr.com or Caryl Morgan at earthroadgraphics@sbcglobal.net if you would like more details, as well as to reserve a space.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sandra Schaffer

This will be my last message to you as president of the WHS board. In June of 2012 the board changes over to new leadership, with another worthy elected president coming on to take up the challenge of keeping WHS fresh and relevant in today's world.

WHS's mission has always been "to focus attention on the Springfield Art Museum, Missouri, as a repository for conserving, preserving and collecting watercolor painting." Our mission statement also reads, "Through its leadership, collaborations, services and advocacy for the kinetic medium of watercolor, WHS strives to benefit its members and the general public. WHS members contribute their time and efforts within the Society and as ambassadors at large to champion the advancement of watercolor painting." I think these words bear repeating, as with the strong support of our membership these last years, through entering work in the Watercolor USA Exhibition, sending paintings to Watercolor Now! Exhibitions, entering work for exhibition in the WHS/JWF Exchange Show in Japan and paying yearly dues you have all been responsible for keeping our mission alive and well. WHS has been financially able to provide a significant yearly purchase for the museum award, with the amount worthy of the purchase of a talented watercolorist's painting in Watercolor USA to add to the museum's permanent collection. The Springfield Art Museum continues to add quality watercolors to its permanent collection, both through our award and through the support of the surrounding community; Watercolor USA also continues to offer an amount in prize and purchase awards that exceeds that of almost any other national show.

To those of you who have served on the board in all capacities, and have given your time to supporting the unique exchanges we have had with the Japan Watercolor Federation (JWF) these last few years, your efforts have all been worth it. As the result of these exchanges, visitors to the Springfield Art Museum were able to see another vision through viewing the creative work of 30 members of the JWF. We were able to meet and share ideas with members of the JWF personally when they made the trip to the United States, and vice versa when a group from WHS made the trip to Japan. Because of the exchanges, visitors to the National Art Center in Tokyo were able to see a sampling of work by WHS members. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who made this possible!!!!

Finally, I want everyone to know I've really enjoyed my tenure as your president and appreciate your honoring me with such an important responsibility.

Newsletter Articles

Many WHS members are accomplished writers who have ideas, teaching experiences, opinion pieces, art related historical background information and other information they could share with other WHS members. Please submit any articles you feel would be interesting to our membership for publication in the WHS newsletter. Contact : Sandra Schaffer, lschaffer@kc.rr.com if you have an article you would like to submit.

Member News & Other Information

Please include only the following information for Member News: Awards in Exhibitions, Publications, Solo or Two Artist Exhibitions, Small Group Invitational Exhibitions, Serving on Juries, and Addition 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) by July 15, 2012.

Member News

Kenji Nishikawa's work was in a group exhibition including other national and internationally known watercolor artists titled ***Kenji Nishikawa and His Watercolor Friends*** at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center from Oct. 3-29, 2011.

Marlin Rotach had a painting selected for the ***Blossom II Exhibition*** which was also selected for the National Tour. He was invited by the Governor of Wyoming to be an active participant in **The Cheyenne Frontier Days Art Exhibition** (in conjunction with the world famous rodeo) and had two patron purchases. He was awarded third place in the Heartland Artist National Exhibition. He won the Robert Goodier Award for Traditional American Watercolors in Watercolor USA. He exhibited paintings in both Aqueous USA and The National Watercolor Society Exhibition. The painting, ***Touch the Sun***, exhibited in the National Watercolor Society Exhibition will go into the permanent collection of the Beach Museum in Manhattan, Kansas. He won second place in the Missouri Watercolor Society membership show. He had three paintings in three different categories, selected for the ***ARC Salon Exhibition***. He had five floral watercolors purchased for the permanent collection of the Truman Medical Center. He was contacted by Manitou Galleries in Santa Fe about representing his work. He was also one of the artists featured in ***Watercolor Artist Magazine's*** February 2012 issue, " The Year's Best Paintings – 2011."

Denny Bond received the Ray Baker Memorial Award in the National Watercolor Society 91st Annual Exhibition for his painting, ***Aplomb***. He also received the National Watercolor Society Award of Excellence in the Philadelphia Watercolor Society Works on Paper Exhibition for Ironmaster. Denny is currently in a traveling exhibition at the Art Center Manatee in Bradenton, FL. ***The Art of Watercolour Magazine*** (French and International) is featuring a ten page spread of Denny's paintings in the February 2012 issue.

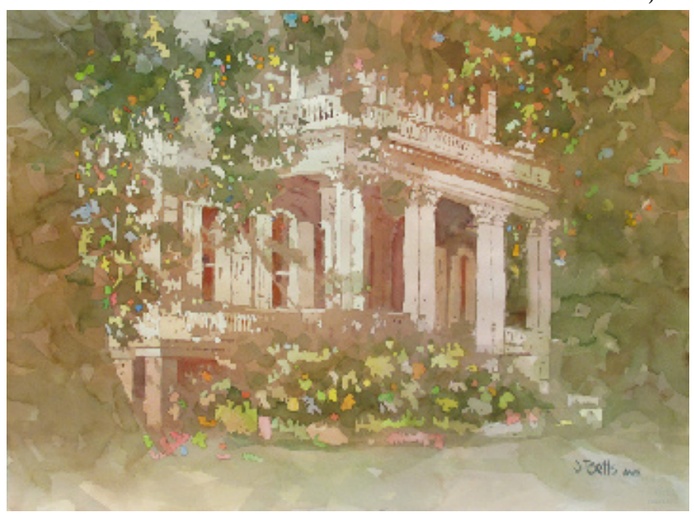
Lee Weiss Retrospective, was held at Watrous Gallery of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, Madison WI, October-December, 2011 in recognition of her 2011 Visual Lifetime Achievement Award. Lee also had a solo show at Capital Lakes Gallery, Madison, WI September - October 2011. Watercolor, *Dream Stream*, was selected for the permanent collection of the Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend, WI, and she served as juror of awards for Florida Artist Group in Maitland, FL last fall.

Caryl Morgan had two solo exhibitions of her work at Northern Oklahoma College from October through December and at the Oklahoma State Capitol's North Gallery from December through February of 2012. She will have her next solo exhibition at the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, KS in July.

Judi Betts

As aptly stated by Milford Zornes, "Judi Betts has fairly won her place as a painter by the sound and proven way in art, by study, creating a body of accomplished work and having the energy to teach. All this has combined to give her the wide reputation she has achieved." Judi Betts is a painter who teaches; an artist who has found abundant joy in the multiplicity of art related activities that have helped define her career. She continues to bring creativity to her numerous instructional workshops, has written award winning books, and juried numerous national and international exhibitions. She was one of the original Charter members of WHS at its inception in 1986. In addition, she continues to create outstanding work that has been recognized nationally and internationally in numerous venues.

The specifics of Judi's career are extraordinarily impressive. The following are only some highlights among her accomplishments. She authored the award winning books: WATERCOLOR…LET'S THINK ABOUT IT! now in its 5th printing with more than 25,000 copies sold, and co-authored a QUEST toward XTRAORDINARY, which has won 5 major international awards. Both books have been used as course books by many technical and college level schools as well as by private instructors. She is also the creator of the popular COLOR-SKETCH. Numerous articles on Judi's paintings, as well as the paintings themselves, have been included in more than 35 notable books and publications, including SPLASH 2,5,6,8, and 9. Judi was honored to have been selected as one of "100 Women of Achievement" by Alpha Omicron Pi, her international sorority, chosen from nominees (living and deceased) from its 100,000 plus membership over their 1st century. She was the recipient of the Governor's Award for the State of Louisiana in 2000, the state's most prestigious award honoring a professional artist's contributions, with recipients selected from all artistic venues. She is also listed in the Hall of Fame at the high school she attended, her name placed among many highly accomplished professionals who graduated from this large suburban school near Chicago. Judi has been a juror and judge for numerous national/international competitions including serving on three separate occasions on the Juries of Selection for the American Watercolor Society's annual exhibition. She also serves on the AWS Board. As an instructor she has conducted more than 400 watercolor workshops both in the United States and internationally.



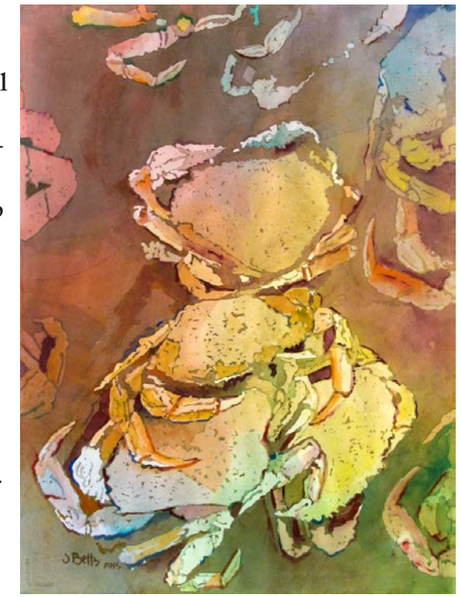
Judi Betts , *Breath of Spring*.

Lifetime Achievement

Judi Betts, *Sea Prince*.

Judi refers to her work as "Creative Realism". She states, "On my journey, I'm constantly collecting sparks of ideas which ignite my imagination…suddenly exploding into creative concepts. In paint, I share the intimate passion I feel for life's experiences." Judi has spent a good deal of time during her life sharing her passion for painting in her workshops. She says she receives great energy from teaching, and feels the experiences that happen around instruction have enriched and continue to enrich her life. She feels that teaching not only helps her to understand herself by keeping her mind active and making her think, but helps the students gain an understanding of why they're doing what they're doing. She strives to keep her approach to each workshop fresh and innovative. For example, she doesn't always use flat paper; she will also give students three dimensional folded paper problems that require ingenuity and creativity. She says she has seen some amazing things happen with this approach. For Judi, workshops not only keep her mind sharp through coming up with novel teaching ideas, but have the added advantage of allowing her the extracurricular time to take advantage of opportunities in the area she's in, such as on two separate occasions visiting the Museum of Modern Art or driving with a group to the Boston Museum of Art. She says she has made some very, very good friends among both fellow instructors and students. Although her workshop schedule itself is highly structured, it seems that teaching has made Judi's life more "serendipitous", adventure and new experiences more frequently than not have been a result.

Judi has accomplished much as an artist: taken risks artistically, been recognized nationally and internationally for her accomplishments, given back to the arts community, and both embraced and shared her sense of joy and adventure. WHS is proud to honor Judi Betts as a Lifetime Achievement Award recipient for 2012.



Judi Betts, *Seasoned Greetings*.

Katherine Chang Liu

Katherine Chang Liu is being honored by WHS this year for her extraordinary accomplishments as an artist, as well as for her numerous contributions to the arts community. As stated in an article by Laurence Bufflier in *Le Progres Magazine*, "Her paintings, created with a mixture of techniques, weave together a web of interior spaces, both meticulous and chaotic, where you get lost with delight. From the fingers of the artist blaze without a doubt a multitude of influences. An eye and a technique of oriental influence mix with processes of simultaneous visions, dear to cubists and surrealists. Softened echoes of Basquait, Katherine Chang Liu's paintings fit in this archaeological vein that attempts to lay bare the graffiti of the soul."

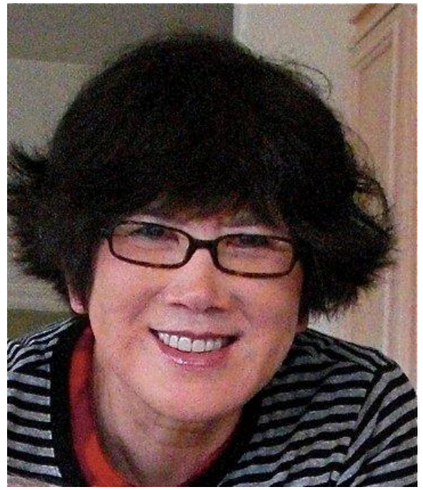
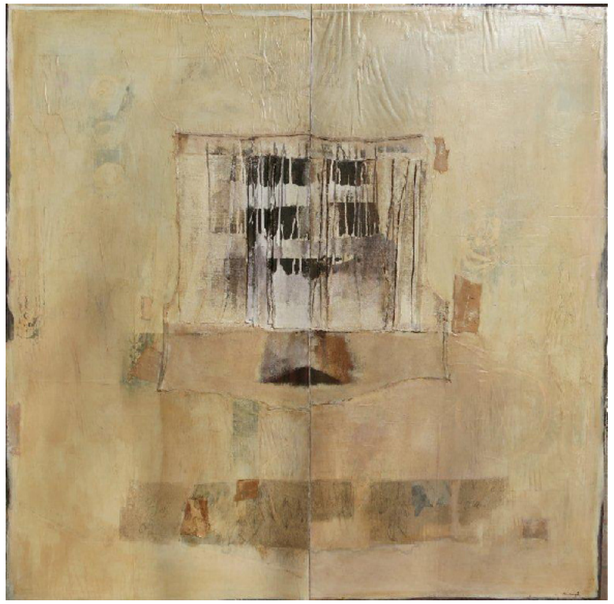


Photo courtesy of Li Yang.

Katherine grew up in Taiwan, where she began lessons in drawing and Chinese brush painting. Gravitating towards science, she came to the United States on a full scholarship at the University of California, Berkeley, earning an M.S. degree and going on to become a pharmaceutical chemist. It was later, following her move to Virginia that she took up painting full time. Finding connection in a strongly supportive arts community there, she still is grateful for the tremendous encouragement she received from her fellow artists. She made the transition to California in 1978 where she currently lives and paints.

Katherine Chang Liu, *Undercurrent*.

In earlier works Katherine tended towards the representational, but later strove to move beyond that mode and change directions. She feels she found her voice, and made a key breakthrough following a trip to Greece with her "Walls" series, featuring close-up views of ancient and cracked Grecian walls. This series marked a shift in her work from that which captured a likeness to work that which allowed an idea to be the main driver. She claims, "I used these very old walls as a symbol for aging civilization, for the cyclical nature of how civilizations decay and then are revitalized. So I was still painting landscape, but the image looked quite abstract because I was focusing on shapes, textures and colors." It was here that she made the leap towards working from a conceptual framework. She states, "I got so interested in doing these paintings from thoughts, and I found that I didn't even need to look at any walls. I could just make it up as I went. I realized that if I had the idea pretty concrete in my head, then I could come up with images that might express that idea, and it became a personal way to do things."



Katherine Chang Liu, *Resolution*.

As stated in a recent article on Katherine Chang Liu by Christine Proskow in *Acrylic Artist*, "Liu's abstract work… is always concept driven. She allows an idea to germinate …before translating it into an abstract visual equivalent." Katherine's paintings in recent years have focused on "germination". She begins with a concept drawn from personal experience. Her goal is then to get the images to reflect what the idea might be, to make a personal statement. She departs from convention in how she titles her work, often titling paintings before she begins to paint. That way she is able to come up with a more distilled version of a more complex idea at the outset.

An example of Katherine's approach to concept paintings is a recent series she named "Color of Light", where she examines her time as caregiver to her elderly parents. She decided to create two paintings for each hour of the day as a way to explore changing colors and moods. She stated, "It's a way to combine my care-taking life with my studio life, which describes my current life very well."

Katherine says that when she paintings she listens to music to help set the mood. Rock music tops her play list. Favorites include Annie Lennox, Kate Schutt, Kings of Leon and Pink Floyd, the last providing the title for her piece *Comfortably Numb No. 2*. She says she gets energized by the musical beat, especially during nighttime painting sessions – as a self-described night owl, her preferred work time.

Katherine Chang Liu's resume' is extensive. She continues to be a well-known workshop teacher and juror and has work published in numerous art publications. Her work has been exhibited around the world, from Hong Kong to Finland and can be found at the Jenkins Johnson Gallery in New York City and San Francisco.

WHS is proud to award Katherine Chang Liu our highest honor, the WHS Lifetime Achievement Award for 2012.

AWARD WINNER Susan Webb Tregay

Susan Webb Tregay states that for the past few years she has been painting contemporary art for adult children. This began with her "Free-Range Children" series exploring the wild fun an earlier generation had as kids in contrast to today's children, who are often never let out of an adult's sight. A painting from this series, titled ***Risk Being Sorry***, won a juror's award in Watercolor USA 2011. Dr. Dorothy Joiner, who reviewed last year's exhibition, had this to say about Susan's painting, "Delightfully wacky, the young woman of Susan Webb Tregay's ***Risk Being Sorry*** rides her bike through a puddle, shooting up curling jets of water. Originally titled ***Before the Age of Anxiety***, the work uses visual humor to protest the overly protective education of children these days. Tregay remembers her own youth when she and her sisters deliberately ran their bikes over a pot hole covered with water, thrilling to the unknown: will we hit it or not? She chooses a wacky, offbeat style to convey the exuberance of a child's daring."

Susan Webb Tregay, *No Child Left Inside*.

Susan feels her current inspiration comes from studying all types of folk art. She credits Jasper Johns and his poem that includes, "Take something, Do something with it, and then do something else with it" as the artist who changed her life.

In addition to being a watercolorist, Susan has an eclectic background that includes having earned a Masters degree in Learning and Behavioral Disorders, which she claims works great with the adults she now teachers and having been a potter she is also currently learning how to play the fiddle.

Susan has been a full time artist since the 1980's. She is the author of the book and ***DVD Master Disaster, 5 Ways to Rescue Desperate Watercolor***s (North Light Publishers, 2007), and is currently teaching what she says is an amazingly well received workshop on becoming an artist. Her new series can be viewed at .

Philip Smallwood AWARD WINNER

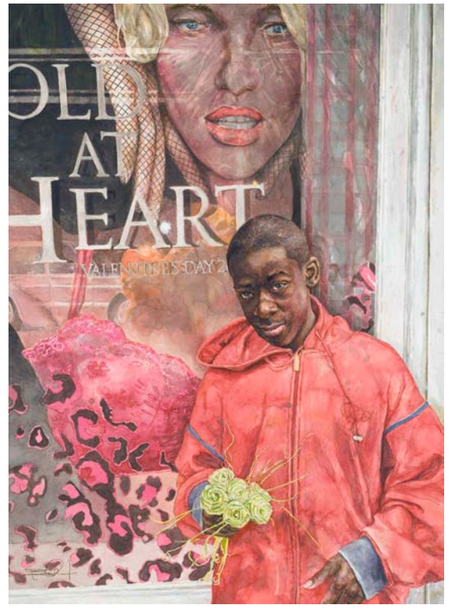
New Jersey artist Philip Smallwood has found a passionate calling in his signature watercolor paintings which he refers to as Lifescapes. His paintings are intended as a "powerful form of portraiture and visual narrative … portraying the subject within his or her natural environment, carefully manipulated to evoke an emotional connection with the viewer."

Philip earned a B.S. in Biology with a Minor in Art with a concentration in Figure Drawing. This was his first formal study of figure drawing, and he states that he was immediately intrigued. He went on to establish a highly unique furniture fabrication and design company, which focused on producing experimental one of a kind artisan pieces. Philip made his way towards watercolor as a medium after taking a three week watercolor class at the Art Center of Northern New Jersey. Philip states that "through watercolor he found a medium that allowed him to blend his love of the human form with light, color and a fluid surface ideal for telling the human narrative that has become the heartbeat of his work." Once he became a full-time artist he began studying with renowned watercolorists that interested him.

His work today reflects the culmination of his life experiences incorporated into an approach whereby he follows his own artistic vision rather than that of any academic or artist school. His work "incorporates scenes and memories from his own life and, as an African American artist, focuses primarily on portraying African American subjects from the rural Southern backwoods or the urban Northeast back streets that, in their day-to-day lives, most viewers might either ignore or overlook. He takes these subjects and puts them center stage."

Philip has recently begun a shift in his work. He has begun his first series of six paintings on one subject, showing different aspects of a complex life. His subject is a male teenager in his home setting of the urban Bronx. In the series, the teenager, facing a manhood fraught with challenges, is set amidst the edgy trains, sidewalks and electric energy of the Bronx. In his world, to hustle is to survive. Philip states that it is a visual narrative of high-risk survival that permeates the lives of many people today across demographics.

Philip Smallwood has a body of work that is widelyand collected exhibited and has had numerous Solo Exhibitions in highly respected galleries. A point of pride was his commission for the Duke Ellington Centennial Commission – the Charlin Jazz Society in Washington DC.



Philip Smallwood, *Bold at Heart*.

AWARD WINNER Soon Y. Warren

Soon Y. Warren was born and grew up in South Korea. She came to the U.S. in 1987 and has lived here ever since. From childhood Soon says she has always been an artist at heart, with a deep love for painting, drawn by a strong inspiration to imitate the beauty found in nature as well as the everyday, colorful aspects of life. She "loves the magic that happens on two dimensional paper as the pigment turns into a three dimensional image." She says her mother was always supportive, and inspired her with a love of the natural world.

Although she graduated from Thomas Nelson Community College with an AAS degree in Commercial Art, Soon says that she is primarily self-taught. Her lifelong interest in painting resulted in her acquiring a huge collection of art books, contemporary to ancient; with juried collections of contemporaries and colleagues; and also about technique. Her first experience with watercolor began when she made oriental-style paintings in her 20's, but evolved into her current style through experimentation with the media. She claims, "I like to portray paintings that exude a positive impression of beauty, hope and happiness. Any subject matter will do as long as it inspires my imagination to instill an energetic mind set. The common theme across all of my work is the real world in all of its majesty, whether made by the hands of people; formed by the earth, wind, or rain; or alive in its environment. When I paint, I like to use bright rich color and bold composition to create vibrant images to light up my paper with realism and style."

Soon Y. Warren, *Feeding Time*.

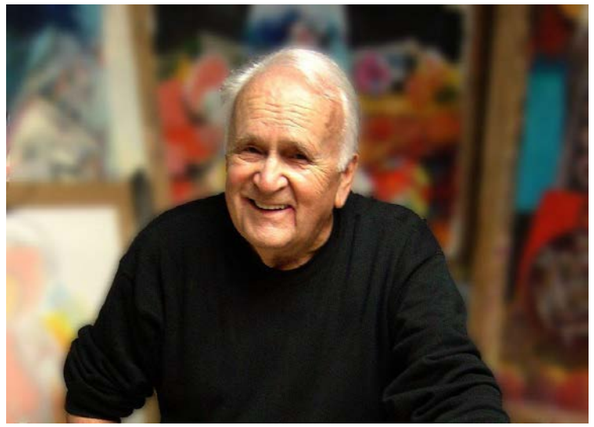
Soon feels that her choice to enter competition exhibitions is the most important decision she has ever made. Her paintings are now recognized worldwide; she is a signature member of AWS, NWS, WHS and many other watercolor societies, has had her work continuously published in *Splash* publications, has won numerous awards at the national and international level and is the author of two books:

Vibrant Flowers in Watercolor, 2006 F&W Media, Hardcover Edition and

Painting Vibrant Watercolors: Discover the Magic of Light, Color and Contrast, 2009 F&W Media, available in Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle and Nook Editions

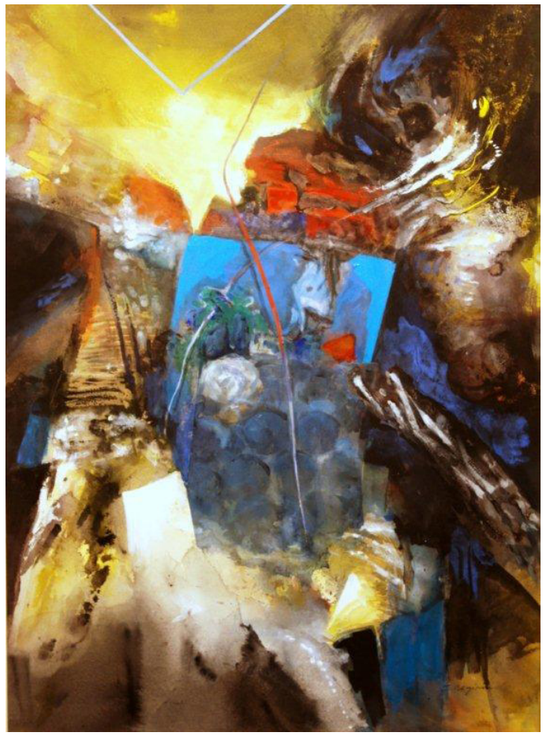
She has continuous exhibitions at The Southwest Gallery in Dallas, Texas; My Private Collection Gallery, Granbury, Texas; Bryan Drake Studio &Gallery, Stephenville, Texas, and The Weiler Fine Art Gallery, Fort Worth, Texas

Igor Beginin In Memoriam



WHS member Igor Beginin, a prominent Michigan painter with a focus on abstract watercolor, passed away in September of 2011. Igor taught watercolor at Eastern Michigan University for 33 years. Upon retirement he was conferred the status of Professor Emeritus. During his distinguished career Igor served as a juror for numerous state, local and international exhibitions. Igor had a rich and interesting history. Born in Croatia, he excelled in the arts in Nazi-occupied territory during World War II. At the end of the war, with the communist takeover of Yugoslavia, he escaped to Italy where he spent four years in a displaced persons camp, learning to speak five languages and serving as an interpreter for the camp. After immigrating to the United States he served as a Naval Commander of the Sixth Fleet before returning to the United States and becoming a naturalized citizen. He went on to earn both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Art from Wayne State University in Michigan.

Igor's son Vadim states that, "My father's passion in life was art, specifically watercolor; he devoted his career to his students, and his time outside of the classroom painting or working with others in the watercolor field." Igor's works have been described as "paradoxically intuitive and controlled" and that they provide a profound "visual experience without being a slave to reality." A website of his work, including a more detailed personal history, has been set up in his name: www.igorbeginin.com.



Igore Beginin, *"End of Flight in Pathless Space."*

Return Service Requested

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

2012-2014 WHS BALLOT

OFFICERS – Check box or write in name:

- ❑ President: Bob Mejer
- ❑ Vice President: Lauren McCracken
- ❑ Secretary: Bonnie Armstrong
- ❑ Treasurer: Jerry Ellis
- ❑ Membership: Carole Hennessy
- ❑ Historian: Fred G. Jones
- ❑ Newsletter Editor in Chief: Sandra Schaffer
- ❑ Newsletter Design Editor: Caryl Morgan

BOARD MEMBERS – Vote for 5:

- ❑ Soon Y. Warren
- ❑ Gary Adamson
- ❑ Wayne Conyers
- ❑ Robin Avery
- ❑ Missie Dickens
- ❑ _____

Feel free to write in another candidate's name if you so choose.

Bill Armstrong, Board Member Emeritus

Cut out ballot & mail to:
Sandra Schaffer
12700 E 64th Ct.
Kansas City, MO 64133

Thank You!!

A big thank you to our membership for a record turnout on dues payments this year.

With your help we can continue to thrive as an organization!