Newsletter

Spring 2014

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
Watercolor USA 2014

- **March 18:** Last day for receipt of CD and related entry materials
- **April 3:** Notification cards mailed
- **May 2:** Last day for receipt of accepted entries
- **June 6:** Exhibition reception, 5:30 - 7:00 P.M.
- **June 7:** Watercolor U.S.A. 2014 opens
- **August 3:** Exhibition closes, 5:00 P.M.

Watercolor Now! Small Works 2014 Exhibition

April 1: Postmark deadline for completed prospectus & digital image

June 2: Notification mailed

August 11th - 15th: Paintings should arrive at designated Gallery

August (TBA): Reception

August 18 - September 19, 2014: Opening and closing exhibition dates for galleries

Please Vote for WHS Board Members

On the back of this newsletter is a ballot for the WHS 2014-2016 Board of Directors. Please cast your vote by cutting out, marking and mailing the ballot to:

Bob Mejer, WHS President
Quincy University, Art Department
1800 College
Quincy, IL 62301

Watercolor U.S.A.

Honor Society

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President's Message

Robert "Bob" Mejer

Dear WHS Members,

Talk about the "Big Bang Theory"-2014 has already been full of surprises and adventure. The good thing is that the weather has provided us with quality time to spend with our family and friends. I hope that it also allowed for you more time to be productive in the studio making quality art. I look forward to seeing your watercolors in the upcoming 2014 Watercolor USA Exhibition at the Springfield Art Museum Friday June 6 and, should you attend the reception, 5:30-7:00 P.M. that day, meeting with you personally. All WHS members are welcome to join us at our Annual Board meeting to be held at the Museum Saturday June 7 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and/or join us for dinner that evening.

I would like to welcome the new and current WHS members who continue to support our reason for being. Your membership sustains our organization and allows for us to make a major donation of $3,000 to the Springfield Art Museum in support of Watercolor USA and their efforts to build an outstanding collection of contemporary watercolors. The WHS Board decided to honor our deceased colleagues with Memorial Awards of $300 in their name: Glenn Bradshaw & Ed Reep-WHS Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients, Georg Shook, Lorna Berlin, Janis Theodore, Carl N. Schmalz Jr. and WHS Founder Bill Senter. We also initiated a WHS $400 "Pushing the Boundaries" Award in keeping with the Museums intent and provided a WHS $500 Cash Award.

I am ecstatic about our new venue for **Watercolor Now! Small Works 2014 Exhibition** to be Co-Curated and held at two academic institutions: Gray Gallery-Quincy University, Illinois and across the Mississippi river at the Mabee Art Gallery-Culver-Stockton College, Canton, Missouri. Already I have received works from WHS membership via email and CD. All of our WHS members have been informed of the important dates regarding this exhibition by email or snail mail. Having the show as a small works show should keep costs down for the artists and allow for more members to participate. A color brochure will be printed to document the event. If you missed it below are the important dates to remember:

April 1 *- Postmark deadline for completed prospectus & digital image.*

June 2 *- Notification mailed of inclusion along with Reception dates and time*

August 11th - August 15th *- Paintings should arrive at designated Gallery along with Pre-paid shipping label*

August 18 - September 19, 2014 *- Small Works 2014 Exhibition*

My heartfelt thanks and Kudos to Sandra Schaffer who agreed to continue as Newsletter Editor-in-Chief and create the wonderful Fall 2013 & Spring 2014 Newsletters until we found a good replacement to fill her shoes. We have a valuable replacement in Chris Buth Furness. As President I found Sandra indispensable as a sounding Board regarding WHS.

It delights me to see that many of the current WHS Board members have agreed to continue in office and provide valuable continuity and service to our organization. We have a new replacement as Newsletter Editor-in-Chief in Chris Buth Furness. I am sure Sandra is relieved and was valuable in recruiting Chris. *Please take time to vote for the new Slate of Board Members for 2014-16.*

The WHS Board, at our June meeting, will vote on two WHS members worthy of being designated **Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients**. I request from WHS members to email to me (mejerbob@quincy.edu) your nomination of an artist worthy of this honor who has contributed much to the growth of watercolor. The WHS Board is always open to new ideas and suggestions from its membership that will keep us as a viable and productive organization. Please feel free to contact any of the Board members.

I leave you with another quote by famous artist **Kasimir Malevich:**

"With the most primitive means the artist creates something which the most ingenious and efficient technology will never be able to create."

Peace and all Good.

Bob

Member News

Jeanne Dobie, NWS, TWSA, WHS, PWS, FWS, PWCS will be one of the Awards Jurors for the 2014 American Watercolor Society International Juried Annual Exhibition, NY along with the other two Awards Jurors Frank Webb and Eric Weigardt. Her painting won the Keystone State Medal and Award in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society 34th International Exhibition. She was the Awards Juror in the Phillips Mill Exhibition in New Hope, PA, which helps foster the Bucks County Impressionist Artists movement.

Miles G. Batt, Sr. WHS won the following awards for his paintings: Best of Show in the Georgia Watercolor Society 34th Annual National Exhibition; Best of Show in the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Society 40th Annual Exhibition; Best of Show in Watercolor West 45th Annual International Exhibition; and a Cash Award in the Florida Watercolor Society 42nd Annual Exhibition. His painting *Florida File* was acquired by The Museum of Florida Artists, DeLand, FL

Mary Quiros had a one woman show at the Red &White Gallery in Fayetteville, TX. in September, 2013

Christine Buth-Furness will have two solo exhibitions in 2014. Her first solo show will exhibit her watercolor paintings, drawings and photographs from her Australian series at the Art Upstairs Gallery and Studio in the Marshall Building, Milwaukee , WI, July, 2014. The second solo exhibit will be part of the 2014 Arts Initiative at St. Nicholas Hospital in Plymouth, WI on their health, hope and healing wall, October through December, 2014.

Mary Ann Pope had a One man Exhibition at the Dragonfly Gallery in Fayetteville, TN in 2013. She had a work in an Exhibition "Chicks: American Women from the Collection", Huntsville AL Museum of Art, 2013. Her watercolor *Summer Pools* won the Patron Award in the 2013 Watercolor Society of Alabama National Exhibition. "50 Years of Bluff Park Awards" had a painting of hers in their Exhibition at the Alabama State Council of the Arts, 2013.

J. Henderer Burns, WHS, was-h, SWS, had her work published in the featured artist story of *Watercolor Artist,* Feb 2014 issue, which came out in Dec., 2013. She took Best of Show, First Place and Third Place in the Northwest Territory Artist Guild Exhibition. Jody has also been invited to do a one man show in the spring of 2015, at the Rend Lake Artisans Center as part of the Illinois Artisans Program of the Illinois State Fine Art Museum, Springfield, IL. Her work *Squeeze* me will be featured in *Splash 15*.

Mary Wilbanks, WHS, NWS had a solo show of her collage paintings at Spencer Gallery in Charleston, S.C. which opened November 1st, and a two artist show with Heath Brodie in Houston, TX at Nicole Longnecker Gallery which opened December 7th

Mike Mazer, WHS, was the recipient of the Winsor and Newton Award at the North Shore Arts Association in Gloucester and an Honorable Mention at the Arts Affair at Marina Bay in Quincy. Mike was requested by the University of Mass Press to allow an image of his painting *New Bedford Whaleman Statue* to be used as the cover image for their new book published last August titled: *A Bold and Hardy Race of Men: The Lives and Literature of American Whalemen*. The original painting is in the collection of the New Bedford Free Public Library. Mike was the first artist to be designated Master Artist status in The Cape Cod Art Association in Barnstable. He has an ongoing solo exhibition of his marine paintings at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay, Mass.

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:

Chris Buth-Furness, WHS Newsletter Editor e-mail: chrisbuthfurn@gmail.com by July 30, 2014.

WHS Welcomes New Newsletter Editor

WHS would like to extend a warm welcome to **Christine Buth-Furness** as our new newsletter editor. Christine earned a B.F.A. at the University of Wisconsin and an M.F.A. at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. As an artist Christine has a dedicated studio practice, and has exhibited regionally, nationally and internationally in over 150 solo, juried and group invitational shows in museums, art centers, commercial galleries and alternative spaces. Watercolor is her primary medium, but she also creates and exhibits pastel paintings, drawings and photographs. She currently serves statewide as Vice President of Wisconsin Visual Arts and Chair of its Southeast Chapter, and was recently awarded lifetime membership. In her personal journey Christine has traveled extensively in the U.S.A, France, U.K., Brazil, Australia and Canada and is married with one adult daughter. She is also a Wisconsin Academy Artist, and Retired Emeritus of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.

Christine Buth-Furness

Christine's Artists Statement reads: "I paint images that suggest a presence in an environment or an absence of one, and evoke an emotional response. My works are abstracted portraits of places experienced, and spaces navigated. Layered transparent washes intensify the color and light as a subject gives meaning and definition to the form. Transparent watercolor is my primary medium, but I also create and exhibit drawings, pastel paintings and photographs."

Above: Yellow Surrender
Right: Empty Spaces

Celare/Revelare

Denny Bond

Denny Bond is an internationally recognized award winning watercolorist who resides in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Denny earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Communications from Kutztown University . His background is in illustration and graphic design, both of which he uses to "combine elements in creating representational paintings that emphasize timeless quality, sometimes real, sometimes imagined". Denny has won awards for his work consistently in Watercolor USA over the years, including the top award and Purchase for the Springfield Art Museum's Permanent Collection.

What most influenced you, early in your life, to become an artist?

Throughout school, two of my older brothers were quite good artists. There was definitely no lack of competition within the family, and with that comes a family reputation, constant positive comments and encouragement. When you have one unique aspect about yourself at an early age and the possibility of pursuing it as a profession, you grab it and go along for the ride.

You often tell stories through your work, combining the real with the imagined, while leaving the meaning open to the viewer. Ideally, in what way do you hope to communicate with the viewer?

I want the viewer to create their story through viewing my artwork. The creativity shouldn't end with creation. It's not only what I was hoping to convey to the viewer, but also what the viewer will conceive. I've often been asked concerning the story behind a painting, but sometimes the perception of the viewer is far more imaginative.

How would you best describe your technique and process in creating a painting? Are there certain motifs that are recurrent in your work? You also create paintings in a series.

Celare/Revelare (continued)

What intellectual challenge does painting in a series present for you?

Illusion

I am a detail oriented artist - I thrive on detail. I use Dr. Martin's Hydrus Watercolors which are liquid concentrated watercolors. Besides eliminating the down time in preparation, the Hydrus series allows me to layer, and I mean a lot of layers! The product seems to be a bit more permanent than some other brands, which on the downside means it's more difficult to remove color. (I usually scrape off with an exacto blade, but only smaller areas) I prefer building colors as I go. As much as I admire the watercolorist that throws down the paint in the intensity desired, I need to cautiously layer.

I do work in series. A series of figurative paintings will follow a series of still life paintings only because I get bored doing the same subject matter. A recent series included a polka dotted cloth. The first painting was a young woman (my daughter) holding the cloth in front of herself, not wanting to be exposed. The second painting is of a middle aged woman, (my wife) with head and body wrapped by the same cloth, the dragonflies surrounding her suggest strength, and an optical dotty pattern behind denotes security in her life. The third painting is of my mother at age ninety-two. The cloth is on her lap comforting her. The repeated circle motif in the background has some circles bursting suggesting loss of memory. She's holding an alarm clock that reminds the viewer of the aging process.

Celare/Revelare (continued)

What interests you most in creating storybook art and in illustrating children's books?

I love the challenge of a children's book. I've been fortunate in that many of the books I've done, I've also created the layout for the book. I'm currently illustrating a book about a chubby little dog who adopts a healthier lifestyle through exercise with the help of a young girl and her grandfather. The story reflects the current trend of child obesity, but uses the dog as the reference.

Name two artists whose work you admire and tell why.

Andrew Kish III, a friend of mine and also an exhibitor at Watercolor USA, has quite a few paintings that I wish I would have thought of first. Dean Mitchell seems to get it right with every painting he does, whether it be figurative or landscape. Two guys with very different painting methods who make me pause and think.

Who or what has most influenced your work?

I'm influenced by other contemporary realist artists who create imaginative paintings that retain my interest.

What are your own "Words to live by"?

Don't put off tomorrow what you can do today.

Who are your real life heroes?

My real life heroes are the average everyday people out there that are overly kind and thoughtful...the world desperately needs more of them.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment is truthfully my artwork...usually the one that is in the works (hopefully). Whenever I actually think of my own mortality, I like to imagine that my paintings will remain long after I'm gone. That said, maybe I'm overly optimistic.

Karla Breeding Trammell

Karla Breeding Trammell not only has a background of dogged determination and talent that have earned her numerous awards in the art world in the past few years, but is extremely socially conscious in her willingness to work for causes that benefit greatly from her time and expertise. She spent 6 1/2 years working as a receptionist at the Springfield Art Museum, following which she spent 10 years working with victims of domestic violence. She taught art on the high-school level, taught drawing and watercolor to both adults and children through Ozarks Community Technical College, works as a free-lance instructor, as well as a free lance writer, having been published in various local, state and national venues, and since 2012 has worked as a multi specialty substitute teacher. She creates and designs fine art jewelry, and loves photography, leatherwork, cooking, quilting, reading, travel and animals. Karla currently is on the Board of WHS and serves as Secretary.

Karla grew up in Clarendon, Arkansas in the eastern Arkansas Delta, and says she began drawing "pretty much as soon as I could hold a pencil", with her greatest early influence coming from her piano teacher, accomplished artist Ellan McKenzie, whose paintings in oil and casein graced the walls of her home at that time. Even though the private schools that Karla attended while growing up offered no art programs, Karla was determined to find a way to learn. She took a correspondence course in commercial art from Art Instruction Schools, which she finished after graduating from high school. Fourteen years later she enrolled at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville as a non-traditional student, receiving her BFA in painting in 1993.

In her paintings Karla loves to combine watercolor with pen and ink, and gouache in her more detailed works to obtain the desired effect. She likes to portray the beauty of nature, although other subjects occasionally catch her eye. Subjects most fascinating to her are aspen trees, peonies, magnolia, waterfalls and waterfowl. She considers her style to be ultra-realistic with a lot of minute detail. Karla says that her biggest inspiration is Thomas Moran, but has also been inspired by Jacqueline Golden, Robert Ross, John Newman, Ken Stout and Tom Turpin. She is also constantly inspired by her contemporaries at Fresh Gallery in Springfield and in WHS.

In recent years Karla has focused on watercolor, and has won numerous first place and best of show awards for her paintings and drawings, including "Most Outstanding Watercolor" in 2009 at a Springfield Exhibit. In Watercolor USA 2012 she received a cash award for her painting *Aspen III*; in Watercolor USA 2013 she was the recipient of a merchandise award for her painting *Aspen IV*, as well has having the piece purchased by the Dunnegan Gallery after the Patron Preview. Karla states that even though she still has many of the other commitments, art is now a major part of her life. She was kind enough to credit me in this article for help and collaboration in compiling the 2013 WHS Board meeting minutes as she took on her new role.

Aspen III included in WUSA 2012

David Douglass DeArmond

David Douglass DeArmond painting indoors

David Douglass DeArmond grew up in Northeast New Jersey, and currently resides in Merriam, Kansas. With sixty years of experience, David is largely self taught. However, he has also taken many workshops by well known watercolorists, participated in frequent life-drawing sessions, and attended the Art Students League of New York, studying with the late Howard Trafton. His work has been accepted into numerous juried exhibitions throughout the country, and has won many awards. His award winning painting in Watercolor USA 2013 is titled Six Hundred Canal.

David does a lot of "plein air" painting. He's painted outside in England and Australia as well as widely in the USA. Much of his work reflects his strong interest in showing the time and place he is in at the moment, for the purpose of helping others appreciate it. David says he would like to think that many years from now a piece of his will emerge from an attic or shed and help someone understand our lives...what was important to us and how we lived. He says he doesn't paint horses in his scenes. He paints today's automobiles. He likes to place people and animals into his landscapes portrayed in situations that will tell future generations something about the early twenty first century.

David likes to paint in a series. He recently spent three years doing stipple work of miners lamps. Recently he has been working on Kansas Scenes, painting outdoors with watercolors. He says he has painted in every county in Kansas at least four times. This summer he finished painting the Kansas Counties a fourth time using oils, editing his art DVD to add the new work. He sells the DVDs at a couple of events and through shops, principally at the Kansas Originals Gallery and Market based in Wilson, KS. He has also been working for years on a series of pen & wash, full sheet images. Most of these show scenes in Yorkshire England. This use of pens gives him a graven effect that is good for the old stone construction of the buildings, bridges, etc. He says it takes a long time to do these things, but he loves the finished results.

In addition to being an artist, David's other occupations have included being a volunteer fireman, designing printed circuit boards, surveying and managing oil fields, repairing other people's foreign sports cars, and working for three-letter corporations repairing their products in and around the New York area. He is also an amateur radio enthusiast with the highest license not only here but in Australia. He loves Morse code and messaging abroad in the wee hours.

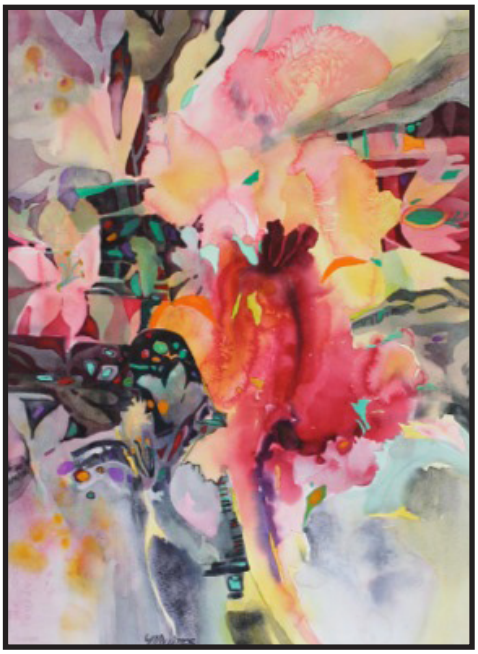
David is currently working with the Solomon Valley Highway 24 Heritage Alliance on a project. His efforts so far have been to paint in all the sites mentioned in a 1916 guide to the Midland Trail. He first made up a DVD slideshow of this work and then expanded on it with older work to create a 90 piece "art book". This is of interest to Kansas history, vintage automobile and back-road boffins as well as for his art.

Pottawatomie-St. George

Mary Quiros

Mary Quiros in studio

Mary Quiros was born and raised in Laredo, Texas and educated at the Ursuline Academy and Texas Tech. She speaks Spanish beautifully, fluently pronouncing the names of places and locations that have inspired her paintings. Earlier in her art career Mary worked in oils, but by 1977, after attending a watercolor workshop, she found her current focus towards fluidity of expression through use of the medium of watercolor. Though she works in other media, she states that there is such a harmony between watercolor and the creative process that it is a joy to work with. As stated about Mary on her website, "She draws from the small blossom, the obscure window and the silence of the silhouette. The observer finds a lively, energetic color that is most unusual in the watercolor medium." In words taken from a recent article written to accompany Mary's one person show at the Red and White Gallery titled *Reflections of an Artist*, "She works almost exclusively in water medium, including acrylics, filling her canvases with rich vibrant colors. As we go through some of her work over the years, my eye lands on a beautiful piece called *Cool Calm Waters*. It depicts an idyllic blue pond. A tropic paradise, I wonder? No, 'It's Haw Creek' she tells me. I am skeptical, and she laughs, 'It's my impression of Haw Creek'. It is the common thread through all her work, the interpretation of what she sees around her, placed onto her canvas."



Wednesday Demo

Mary is a signature member of several watercolor societies and her paintings are part of many corporate collections. She is a passionate, accomplished artist who continued to challenge and reinvent herself through decades of studying and paintings. Her original studies began in learning from Milford Zornes, who was part of the original California Watercolor School which included Millard Sheets, Diego Rivera and others who painted from the 1930's through the 1950's. Like others in the California school, Zornes painted outdoor scenes in deep, saturated colors, but with a darker, moodier palette than Mary Quiros personally chooses. Dorothy Bertine, whom Mary describes as her best teacher, is part of the second wave of the California Watercolor School. Mary credits Bertine with teaching her design concepts. However, it is the late Rob Erdle that Mary describes as her "muse". He encouraged her to attempt larger canvases, and to "paint big". Mary is also inspired by the artist Joseph Raffael in his vivid, large-scale watercolors of nature and flowers.

In speaking of her work , Mary says when asked the question if it was difficult to put herself into her paintings, she acknowledged "you do bare your soul when you paint."

WHS 2014-2016 Ballot

OFFICERS - Check box or write in name:

President:	Bob Mejer	❑
Vice President:	Laurin McCracken	❑
Secretary:	Karl Breeding Trammell	❑
Treasurer:	Chalen Phillips	❑
Membership:	Carole Hennessy	❑
Historian:	Sandra Schaffer	❑
Newsletter Editor:	Christine Buth-Furness	❑
_____	_____	❑
_____	_____	❑
_____	_____	❑
_____	_____	❑

BOARD MEMBERS

Wayne Conyers	❑
Robin Avery	❑
Jerry Ellis	❑
Cyndie Peterson	❑
Jerry Berger	❑
_____	❑
_____	❑
_____	❑
_____	❑

Bill Armstrong, Board Member Emeritus

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

Mail your ballot to:

Bob Mejer, WHS President
Quincy University, Art Department
1800 College
Quincy, IL 62301

Watercolor USA Honor Society
Sandra Schaffer
12700 E 64th Ct.
Kansas City, MO 64133

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