WHS Newsletter

Autumn 2021

Watercolor U.S.A. Honor Society

Luminous No. 2 (detail), by Xi Guo

WHS President's Letter *by WHS President, Carole Hennessy*

Carole Hennessy,
WHS President

Dear WHS Members,

Local weather is having a difficult time deciding what the season is, 90 degrees one day and 65 the next, but the calendar tells me autumn is upon us. The exciting colors of the fall will be showing themselves soon to inspire us all. It also brings you the latest edition of our WHS Newsletter. I hope your summer has been both productive and fun.

Watercolor USA had a successful run and if you couldn't see it in person, you could view it on the museum's website. Thanks to the 2021 exhibition, we welcomed nearly a dozen new members to the WHS. You can see the list of names in this issue and on our website.

Congrats to all!

Our Website Liaison, Sandra Schaffer, has been busy overseeing multiple updates and improvements to our website during the summer. The *Members Gallery Spotlight* on our Home Page features a new rotation of work by some of our members. And the *Members Gallery* has been completely redone and is easier to navigate. There is now an In *Remembrance Gallery* which allows us to continue to show the work of those members that have passed. The *Membership Directory* has been updated and there is also a more complete *In Memoriam* listing. We continue to make every attempt to feature all our members, past and present.

Plans are moving forward for our next Watercolor NOW! Exhibition at the Birger Sandzen Memorial Art Gallery in Lindborg, Kansas. The prospectus for this show will be sent to all members in the spring. This is a wonderful venue and I hope you will enter. This show will be our first to accept work that has been varnished or waxed. These works may be sent without the usual plexiglass glazing. Many artists have been implementing these methods with great success and this will broaden the scope of our exhibit. I want to remind you that there is NO entry fee and NO handling fee for the exhibit.

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The opening reception will be on August 21 from 2 - 4 pm. The exhibition will close on October 23. A catalog will be produced and all exhibiting artists will receive one. The board is looking at locations for Watercolor NOW! 2024. We wish to continue to expand our horizons and find more new venues for this show. If anyone has a suggestion, please contact me and we will investigate it.

Newsletter Editor Gary Cadwallader works hard to bring you these newsletters and I hope you enjoy the combination of information and interviews that he has put together. Also in this issue you will see the reminder to pay your 2022 WHS Dues. These should be paid by January 31, 2022. The PayPal link on our website is an easy and quick way to get this done or you can access the membership form and mail your check to our Treasurer, John Keeling.

If any member has an interest in joining the WHS Board, please let me know. There will be a few open positions for the next term that starts on June 2022. **Contact me at president@watercolorusahonorsociety.org**

Thanks to all our Board Members that contribute to the success of the WHS! Thanks to all our members that support us through their dues and participation in our events.

I hope the coming months bring good health, happiness and the joys of creating and painting to you all.

Thank you,

- ***Carole Hennessy***

President, Watercolor USA Honor Society

Welcome to New WHS Members 2021

Carmella Tuliszewski	Ken Clubb	Jospehine Grace
J. (Jie) Li	Anni Matsick	Mark Grosserode
William C. Wright	Stephanie Goldman	Debora Reed
	Andrew M. Kish III	

From the "Tip Jar" *by Gary Cadwallader*

Collecting old watercolors may sound like the most genteel of hobbies. But a new online project called **The Watercolour World** aims to make the case for watercolors as a rare and vanishing resource—and one that has major importance, both in preserving history and raising awareness about a changing planet.

A New Project Uses Watercolors to Picture the World Before Photography—and Reveals the Devastating Effects of Climate Change | Artnet News

Top 80 Watercolor Blogs and Websites

Top 80 Watercolor Blogs and Websites To Follow in 2021 (feedspot.com)

There should be something for everyone here.

Cezanne on Paper

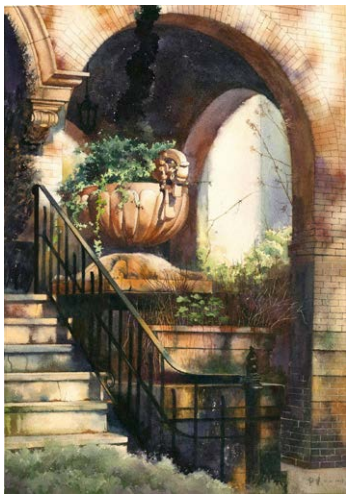
The artist as searcher: Cézanne works on paper - CBS News

Maria Sibylla Merian, *Metamorphosis of a Frog and Blue Flower* (c.1700–1702). Image courtesy of Minneapolis Institute of Art. Seen on "The Watercolor World"

An Interview with

XI GUO

www.xiguowatercolor.com



Backyard (above-left), Arch (above-right)

This month we interview Xi Guo, a watercolorist originally from Shanghai, China but now living in St. Augustine, Florida.

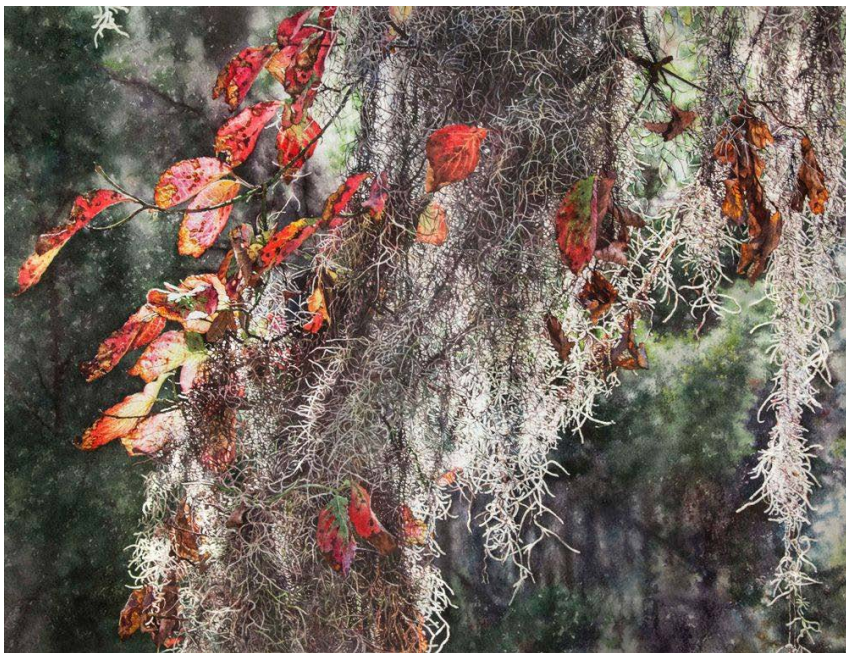
Q) Hello Xi. Can you tell us about your background. I understand you've been using watercolor less than a decade?

A) It's been almost 10 years since I re-connected with watercolor.

I majored in oil painting at my undergraduate school in Shanghai, China and have a master's degree in photography from Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)

I had a one month watercolor training course in college. We also had plein-air courses every year. We were allowed to either use watercolor or oil paints. The second year of my college, I chose to try watercolor because it was light, easy to carry and I had heard that the professor was good at watercolor. I learned a lot from him. However, I had not painted with watercolor until I thought I might sell my watercolors to pay for my tuition when I was in my graduate school.

Q) I first became aware of your painting with a piece called "Dance Together" and I thought I wish I'd done that. Later I found "Portrait of a Boston Fern" and "Red Leaves." Do you consider yourself a maximalist? How long does a painting like "Red Leaves" take?



A) It usually takes me a month to finish. Some of them took me longer. You are probably right about I am a maximalist because the details really attract me but I prefer another word, mystic. I love those old, abandoned buildings, covered with veins. I feel some spirits still live inside.

Dance Together (above), Portrait of a Boston Fern (right-top), Red Leaves (right-bottom)

Q) I admire your compositions. Paintings like "Backyard" and "Arch" are really well done. Tell us where and from whom you learned about composition.

A) I didn't learn from a specific person. Instead, I learned from my experience. I studied graphic design when I was in high school. It really helped me to get a sense of structure and balance. Also, I love to study other artists' paintings, from the ancient masters to the modern artists. I still remember I studied The Art Book for hours. My experience as a photographer also helped. For a painting, if your technique is good, color looks balanced, even with a vulgar composition, most likely its already a decent piece. However, for a photo, there's nothing more critical than composition, especially when you shoot black and white.

Q) But it seems to me that "Victim" takes composition to another level. You've created emotion within the composition, I think, by piercing the painting with that lamp, which in turn tends to bleed off the page. Tell us about that and is it a self-portrait?

A) Yes, it's me. I got inspired by looking at the mirror after I took a shower then put my green algae mud mask on. My mask started to dry and peel off. It made me think of a moth or butterfly trying to get out of the cocoon. I looked so creepy, but in a good way.

The lamp was there when I took the picture. I also took a picture without it. Then I compared the two, and decided to keep the lamp. Without the lamp, the picture still looks good but kind of boring. With it, it's challenging but more interesting. I did a little trick here. I softened the edge of the black pole and made the background darker.

The Last Sleep No.2 (top), Pink Flowers (above), Fireplace (right)

Q} Oh my goodness, let's talk about "The Last Sleep No. 2". Is she dead? Is that a self-portrait? How did you get that wonderful skin tone in the middle of the floor detail? All those reds and browns! The shadow across her arm looks like a bruise. I give up, I'm a fan. The roses! The perfect hair. I'll shut up now. You talk.

A) Yes, it's me again. Maybe she's dead, or just taking a nap. It depends on how you interpret.

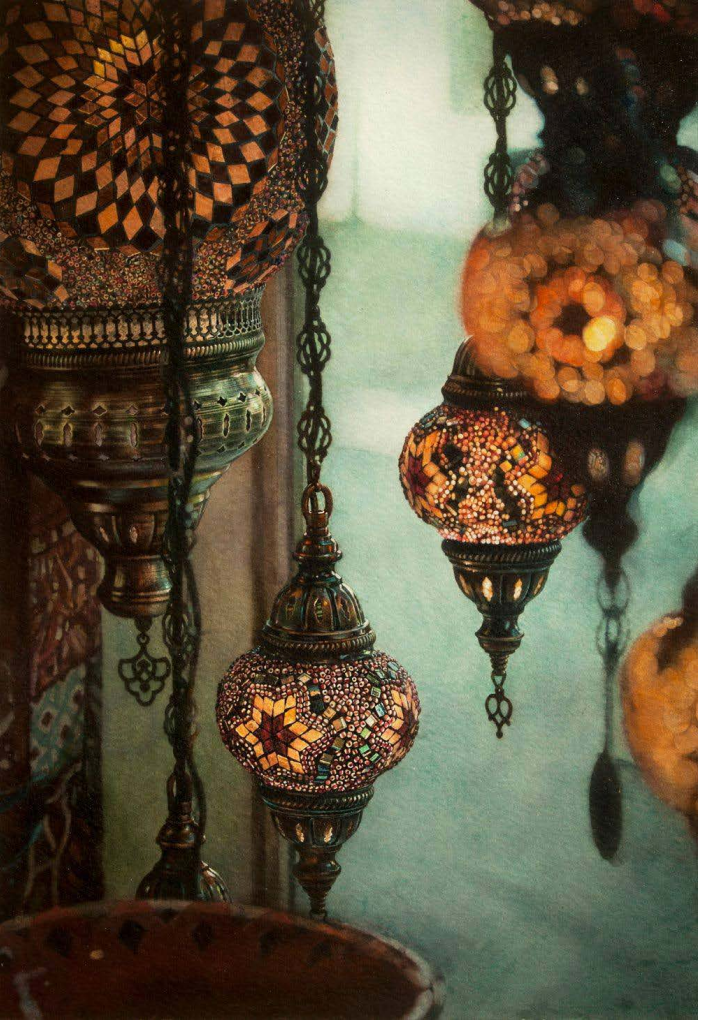
The floor was a very deep and vibrant sienna. I purposely desaturated the color to create a canvas for the main subjects. The shadows were very dark on her body and arm. It was disturbing so I made them a little brighter. I never thought about the shadow looking like a bruise though, but good interpretation. It sounds more mysterious.

Victim

Q) I've noticed a double-image effect in "Pink flowers" and "Fireplace". Tell us how you make that happen and why, please?

A) I used the same technique in other pieces later. I made them by Photoshop. Don't forget I majored in photography.

Like I said, I'm a mystic. I am always deeply touched by something brilliant, illusionary, mysterious and impermanent. Lots of my paintings are about investigating the impermanence of images, thoughts, and the ambiguity in



between the reality and the dream.

Imprint

For the composition purpose, I only use this double-image effect when the background is simple. It also helps to connect the main subject to the background.

Q) On your facebook page, I saw, "Blue Butterflies". Lots of good things going on there. The red and green color scheme with bits of blue like in "The Last Sleep No. 2", the twisting composition. Yum! Talk to us. And are your whites from the paper, or paint?

A) Most of my paintings are transparent watercolors. I only use white when I teach or give demos because you really have to plan ahead to be able to leave the whites from the paper.

Blue Butterflies is my newest painting. It's from my new series Lilith which is inspired by some ancient mythologies. Lilith, from Jewish mythology, is Adam's first wife. She lives in the tree. She is a source material of fantasy and horror. And butterflies are the symbol of transformation.

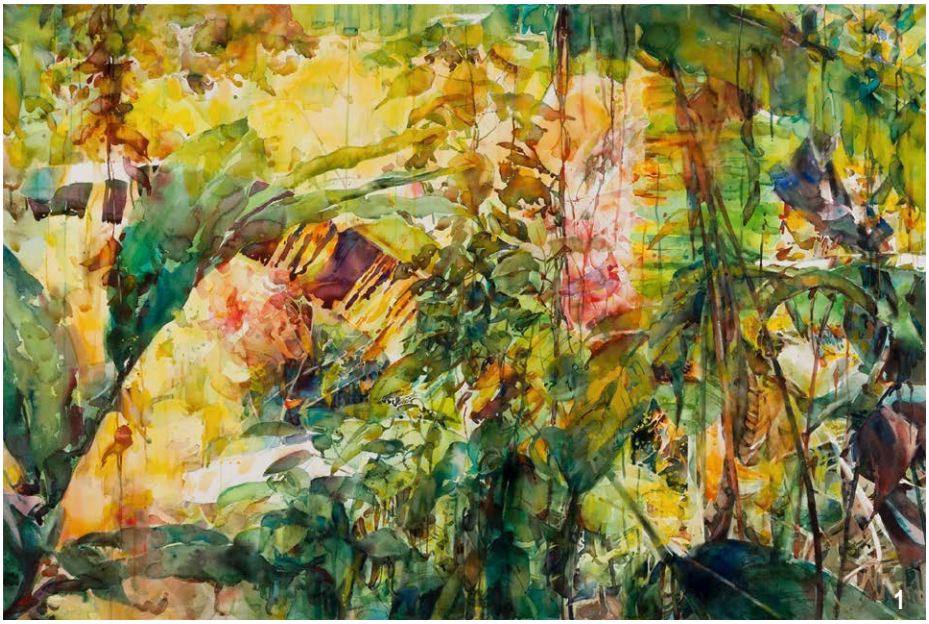
I used many reference photos for this painting. That's my strategy now. The figure is from a picture I took years ago. The background is a picture of bushes when I was on a trip in the west. The white flowers are from the pictures I took from Home Depot. And the butterflies are from the botanical garden in Miami.

Let's talk about the color. Like all my paintings, every color was planed before I paint. I use Photoshop to change the color, saturate, or desaturate them, darken or brighten them etc. For this specific painting, these are the changes I made. The dress was blue, but I changed it to pink. The background bushes had very bright green. I darkened them up and desaturated the green. I also painted all the butterflies blue which were not.

Luminous No. 2 (above-left)

Blue Butterflies (left)

Watercolor USA 2021 Award Winners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JUROR DESIGNATED AWARDS

Kenneth M. Shuck Memorial Award
1) Stephen Zhang *"Hidden"*

Greg G. Thielen Memorial Award
2) Andrew Kish III *"Distortio Obscura"*

Robert E. Goodier Memorial Award for Traditional Transparent Watercolor
3) Jackie Dorsey *"Where the Sweet Birds Sang"*

Bill Armstrong Memorial Award
4) Sheli Peterson *"Mockingbird"*

ARTIST MATERIALS AWARDS

Speedball Art Products – Escoda Brushes
5) Kelly Eddington *"I Got Me Babe"*

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WATERCOLOR U.S.A. HONOR SOCIETY AWARDS

Dorothy Schulz Englehart Memorial Award
6) Xiaochang Zhang *"Red"*

Elizabeth Concannon Memorial Award
7) Elaine Daily-Birnbauer
"She Walks Alone"

Gerald Brommer Memorial Award
8) Lisa Englander *"Silhouette Shards"*

Serge Hollerback Memorial Award
9) Bill Dale *"Deanna"*

Sheila Cappelletti Memorial Award
10) David Stickel *"Palette of Petals"*

Richard Clubb Memorial Award
(WHS Charter Member)
11) Ken Call *"Tranquility"*

Mary Ives Berry Memorial Award
(WHS Charter Member)
12) Chris Krupinski *"Nataliya's Shawl"*

ARTIST MATERIALS AWARDS

Daniel Smith Watercolors
13) L.S. Eldridge *"The Tools of Color & Line"*

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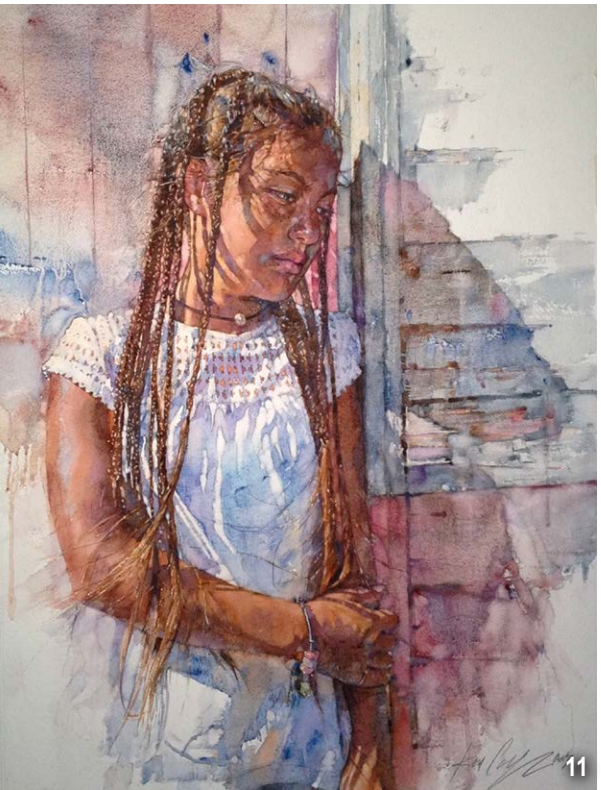
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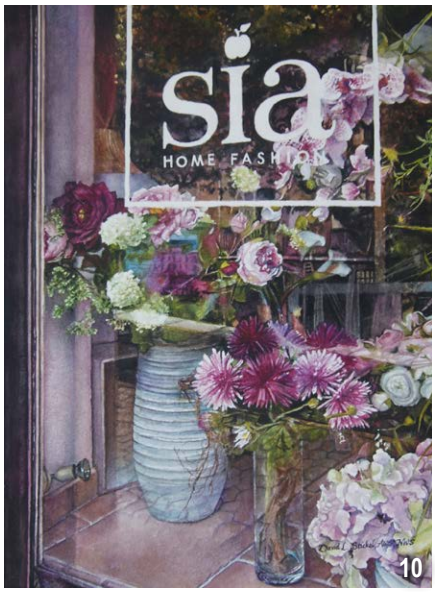

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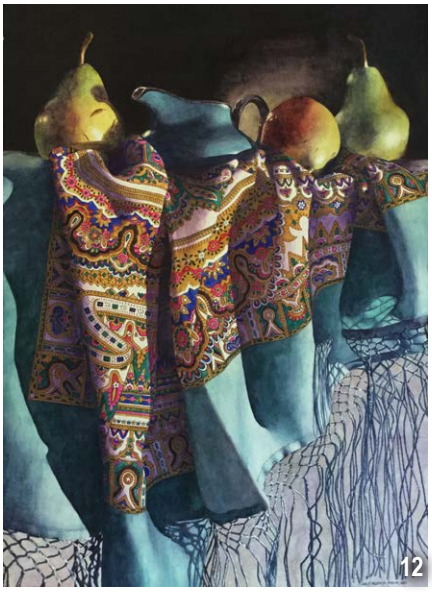
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NATIONAL WATERCOLOR SOCIETY RECIPROCAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

14) Alisa Shea *"In the Key of W"*

ARTIST MATERIALS AWARDS

Savoir-Faire Fabriano Paper

15) Anni Matsick *"Passing Through"*

WHS AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

16) Stephanie Goldman *"Imagination E=MC2"*

17) Jacqueline Gnott *"Still Life With Cherries and Vintage Brocade"*

18) Carrie Waller *"May Contain Pits"*

19) Robert Langford *"Call Me"*

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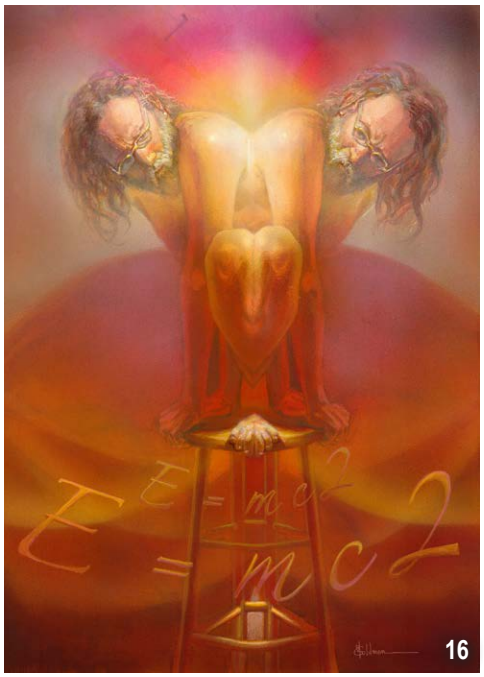

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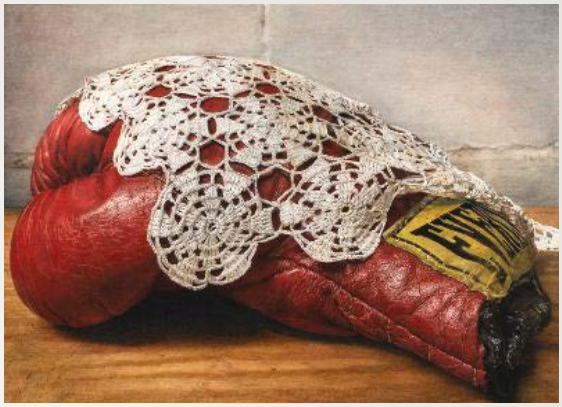
Member News

Alisa Shea received the following: NWS Masters Award in the ***2021 National Watercolor Society 101st International Open Exhibition***. She also earned Signature status with NWS this year.

- **The Winslow Homer Award of Merit** in the ***Transparent Watercolor Society of America 45th Annual Exhibition.***
- The Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine **Award of Excellence** in the 2021 ***American Women Artists, Lifting the Sky: Elevating the Works of American Women Artists*** online exhibition.

Received **Third Place in the Still Life & Floral** category of the 2021 2nd Annual ***Women in Watercolor International Exhibition.***



Feminine Touch by Alisa Shea

Bob Mejer received the following:

- The International Society Experimental Artist **top honor as Master Fellowship (ISEA-MF)** in recognition of his acceptance into ten juried international exhibitions.

Variant-Checkmate #2 (left), *Take PC #18-Revisited* (right) by Bob Mejer

- His *"Variant-Checkmate #2"* was selected for inclusion in the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolor ***95th Open Water virtual International Juried Exhibition,*** online at www.cspwc.ca.
- His *"Take PC: Open Book #4"* was selected for inclusion in the 2021 Miami University/Ohio ***Quadrennial Department of Art Faculty and Alumni Exhibition***.
- *"Take PC: Open Book #4"* also received a **Merit Award** in the 26th Annual ***Mary S. Oakley and Lee Lindsay Artist Regional Showcase*** Quincy, IL.
- *"Variant Equilibrium"* received the **Indira Das Memorial Award** in the TWSA ***45th Juried Exhibition, Kenosha*** Public Museum, WI

- *"Take PC #17"* received the Cheap Joe's Art **Merchandise Award** in the Rocky Mountain National Watercolor, Center for the Arts Evergreen, CO.
- "Take PC Open Book #3" received **Honorable Mention** in the 10th National ***Abstract Only Exhibition***, WAILOA Center in ***Hilo, Hawaii.***
- *"Variant 1-PC# 26"* (took **3rd Place** in Graphics) & my watercolor *"Take PC Open Book #2"* (took **Honorable Mention**) for exhibition at the 2021 ***Illinois State Fair's*** Professional Art Exhibition.
- His watercolor *"Take PC #18-Revisited"* was selected for exhibition in the 2021 ***MOWS International Exhibition***, Missouri Watercolor Society Gallery, St. Louis, MO.
- *" Take PC Open Book #3"* was selected for exhibition in the ***Cimarron National Works*** on

1) *Take PC Open Book #1,* **2)** *Variant 1-PC# 26,*
3) *Take PC Open Book #2,* **4)** *Take PC #46* by Bob Mejer

Paper Exhibition, Oklahoma State University's Bartlet Center in Stillwater, OK.

- *" Take PC Open Book #1"* was featured in the ***60th Watercolor USA*** 2021 Exhibit, Springfield Art Museum, MO.
- *"Take PC Open Book #4"* was also selected for exhibition in the 2021 ***Illinois Watercolor Society Exhibition,*** IL.

Father's Coat by Cindy Kopenhafer

The Day Begins by John Keeling

- *"Take PC #46"* was selected for the **Steven Viorel Merit Award** in the ***Hannibal Art Club 2021 Regional*** Originale-Professional Division, MO.
- Mr. Mejer was also **Awards Juror** for the ***59th Annual National Peoria Art Guild-Fine Art Fair,*** Peoria, IL-Sept. 25, 2021

Cindy Kopenhafer's Watercolor USA 2012 entry *"Father's Coat"* has tied for **second place** in the ***American Art Awards competition*** juried by ***25 Best Galleries and Museums*** in the U.S.A. Artists from 64 countries competed.

Diane Schmidt won a special award in the ***2021 International Missouri Watercolor Society*** exhibit in St. Louis.

John Keeling's *"The Day Begins,"* won **Best of Watercolor award** at the ***40th Annual Western Spirit Art Show*** and Sale in Cheyenne, Wyoming, earlier this year.

Kathleen Giles' painting *"Life is Looking For Crayfish"* won the **First-Place purchase award** in the National Watercolor Society show. And her painting *"Perfect Peony"* won the **Grand Prize** in the ***International Artist Magazine's*** recent floral and garden competition.

Looking for Crayfish by Kathleen Giles

Perfect Peony by Kathleen Giles

Works by Marilynne Bradley: *Sheltered Cove* (top), *Structured Steel* (above-middle), *Summer Storm* (above)

Ken Goldman, WHS, AWS, NWS was a **Juror of Selection** for the 2021 ***NWS International Open Exhibition.***

- His "*A Touch of Red (Serenity)*" received **First Place** in ***Artist Network's Acrylic Works 8***: The Best of Acrylics Competition and has been published in ***TopArtAwards.com Magazine***.
- *"A Touch of Red"* also received the **Elsie and David Memorial Award** in the 2021 ***American Watercolor Society's 154th Annual International Exhibition***.

Marilynne Bradley was the **juror** of 3 shows in September., the ***Hannibal plein air art competition***, the ***Ste. Genevieve Plein Air*** exhibit and the ***Webster Arts Small Painting exhibit.*** **Over 100 of her paintings** will be exhibited in January in the St. Louis Arcade Building as ***a retrospective of her work*** from the 1960's to now.

Michael Holter:

- Michael was included in the "Aptly titled *'Breaking Glass,'* ***Sponsored by Golden Artist Colors, Inc.,*** and ***curated by Laurin McCracken,*** an exhibition of their works will be on view at ***The Painting Center in New York City*** through Oct. 2, 2021.
- Mr. Holter was **featured in an article** in the Summer issue of ***Watercolor Artist magazine***.
- He was also the **juror** for the ***San Diego Watercolor Society,*** the ***Iowa Watercolor Society*** and ***Watercolor Art Society Houston.***
- **Michael is featured** in a ***new DVD from Creative Catalyst Videos.*** *"Watercolor Landscapes from Photos"* contains two complete painting demonstrations and several other segments.

Suzanne Davis Ross WHS, **Michele Ross Walter** VWS, and **Bethany Walter,** ages 84, 54, and 13 are in a show called ***"Three Generations Paint"*** November 10, 2021 - March 2, 2022 at Chuck Mathena Center, Princeton WV.

A Touch of Red (Serenity) by Ken Goldman

Memorials

Benjamin Mau

Benjamin Mau was a private man, an adventurer, and an artist. His art communicated his spirit, his love of life and nature. Benjamin Mau, 76, of Normal, passed away on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at home with his wife and best friend, Sonya, at his side.

Benjamin (Ben) was born December 25, 1944 in China, middle son of James and Sue Ma Mau. When Ben was five years old, he and his family escaped the ravages of the Chinese Civil War by moving to Macau and eventually to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, Ben learned calligraphy from his maternal grandmother who finally told him, when he was 10, that she had taught him all she knew.

Ben completed 2 years at Southwest Baptist College, earned his BA at Ouachita Baptist College in Arkansas, then earned a master's degree in Math at Memphis State University. Along the way, he was recognized for his art, often with one-man shows in Little Rock, Arkansas, Memphis, Tennessee, Quincy and Bloomington, Illinois.

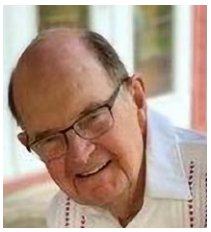
Ben never stopped painting, winning 1st place or Best of Show in a number national and local watercolor competitions. His most recent "Best of Show" was a national competition for Chinese- American artists in 2019. He exhibited in the international watercolor show held during the 2008 Olympics in China. His art can be found in permanent collections at Eastern Illinois University; Caterpillar in Decatur; Carson P. Scott in Quincy, and several private collections. He was featured in 'La Revue Moderne des Arts et de la Vie,' in Paris, France and is published in many US art books. Ben was a member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, and the Watercolor USA Honor Society.

Carolyn Coffey Wallace

Carolyn Coffey Wallace, loving wife, mother, sister, friend & talented artist, died, August 24th 2021. Born to Oliver Franklin Coffey and George Ann Ray Coffey on April 15, 1954 of Platte City Missouri.

Carolyn graduated from Platte City R-III High School, University of Missouri (Columbia) and earned a Master's Degree at Southwest Baptist University. At Mizzou, she was a member of the Pom Pom squad and a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, where she made lifelong friends.

Carolyn began her teaching career at Ava Mo in 1976 and during that time she created innumerable art shows, to spotlight her students, and Prom sets and environments that are often remembered. She retired after 31 years of teaching, and was later inducted into the Ava Alumni Association Hall of Fame. Carolyn was a prolific artist who created innumerable beautiful works in many mediums. She was a member of the Best of Missouri Hands, the Watercolor USA Honor Society, and her work was shown internationally.



Kirby Attwell - 1935-2021

Kirby Attwell of Houston and Wimberley, Texas died at the age of 86 on the morning of July 6, 2021 at his home in Houston. He passed away surrounded by love in the company of his family and his dear golden retriever, Zia. The cause of death was pneumonia.

In retirement, Kirby became an accomplished artist and an award-winning watercolorist. He exhibited his work across the United States and, had COVID not interfered, was set to show internationally in Spain in 2020. During the pandemic, Kirby spent his time in Wimberley, Texas, at the family's home near the confluence of Cypress Creek and the Blanco River. His days were filled with painting, walking Zia through the Square and enjoying many art classes and Bible studies with friends via Zoom.

Watercolor Honor Society USA
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2022

Membership dues are payable on or before January 31st of each calendar year.

Date:_____

First Name:_____

Last Name: _____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone:_____

E-mail_____

Website:_____

Annual Dues: $40 - Make check payable to: WHS

MAIL this form and your check to:
John Keeling, WHS Treasurer
5517 Crestwood Drive
Kansas City, MO 64110

OR go to the Watercolor Honor Society USA website, and click on "pay dues"

CHECK HERE IF YOU DON'T HAVE EMAIL _____

For questions regarding payment, e-mail John Keeling
johnkeelingpaintings@gmail.com

For questions regarding membership, e-mail Membership Chair, Alicia Farris
afarrisart@att.net