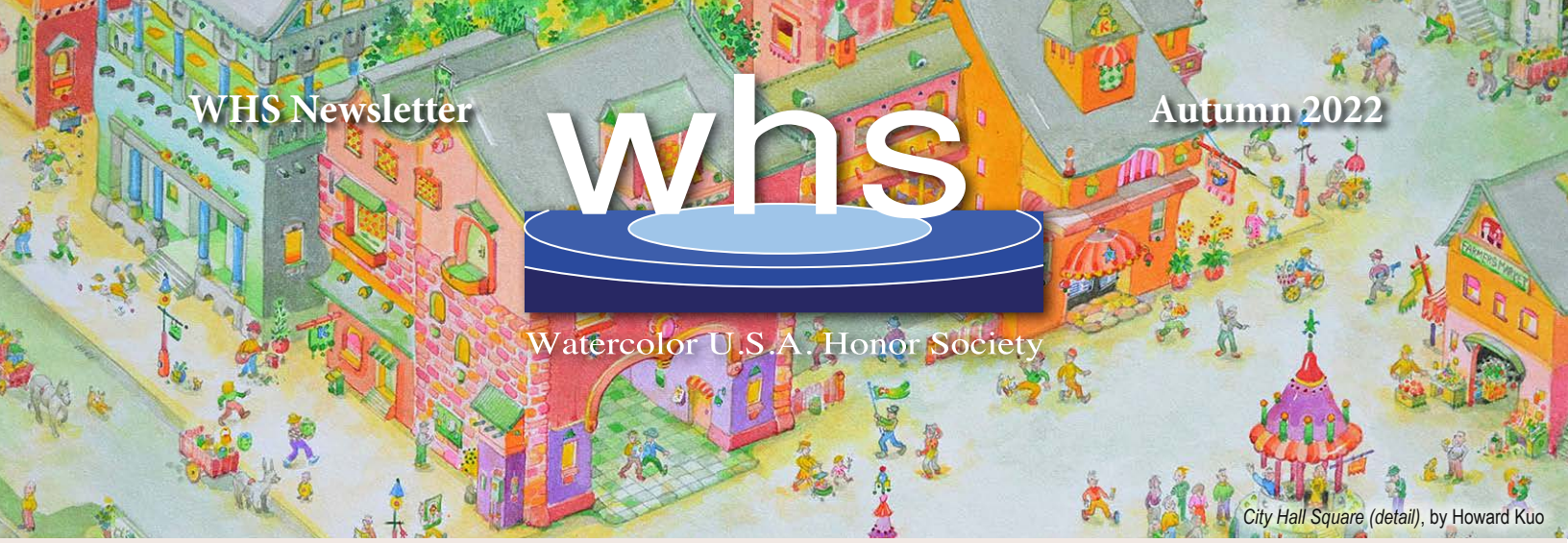

WHS Newsletter

Autumn 2022

whs

Watercolor U.S.A. Honor Society

City Hall Square (detail), by Howard Kuo

WHS President's Letter by WHS President, Carole Hennessy

Carole Hennessy,
WHS President

Dear WHS Members,

I am writing this on the first day of Autumn, and I am realizing what a very busy summer it has been!

It was exciting to return to Springfield for the opening of Watercolor USA 2022. The exhibition was wonderful, full of diversity in styles, colors, topics, scope and scale. The show was beautifully hung by Cindy Quayle and her staff at the museum. The reception on Friday night was well attended and I was happy to visit with many members and exhibitors. Paintings by our Lifetime Achievement recipients, Cheng-Khee Chee and Marilynne Bradley were hung side by side in the gallery. Unfortunately, Cheng-Khee Chee was unable to travel, but Marilynne was present to enjoy the reception.

The following morning we met at the museum for our annual board meeting. Thanks to technology upgrades at the museum, those members not in town were able to join us by Zoom. Our new board members officially joined us and Wayne Conyers and Laurin McCracken were approved as Board Emeritus members. The updated list of Board members is on our website. Membership is slightly up and our finances are solid. I am pleased to report that we approved an increase in the number of awards that we will give at WCUSA starting in 2023. In addition to the 10 Awards of Excellence ($300) and the 3 Merchandise Awards, there are now 3 WHS Board of Directors Awards of $500 each.

Nick Nelson delivered his annual report to the board which included updates on the

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progress of the Master Plan. The improvements to the exterior grounds were very nice to see and the new parking lot will be big upgrade. Fundraising has been successful and planning for the interior work will start now. Construction is anticipated to begin by the end of 2024. The Museum will need to close for a period and the search has begun for temporary office and programming spaces. At least one Watercolor USA Exhibition, possibly two, will have to be held in an alternative space. Many options are being explored and there are no decisions at this point. WCUSA 2023 will be at the museum. Nick will keep us informed as this plan develops. When all the work is completed the museum will be bigger and better for all!

Watercolor NOW! opened at the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery on August 21. The Opening reception was well attended and the museum was very pleased with the submitted works. Due to an increase in Covid at that time, the artist talk was canceled but Wayne Conyers and John Keeling represented the board at the event. Bob Mejer is working on a power point of the images from the exhibit and when that is complete, the link will be on our website. Thank you to all of our members that sent their work to create this impressive show. Thanks to Bob Mejer and Wayne Conyers for all their efforts to make this show and the catalog possible. Plans are in the works now to secure new locations for the shows in 2024 and 2026.

In this issue you will see a short article about our Lifetime Achievement Awards and the process of choosing these awards. The board will vote on the 2024 recipients next June.

Nominations may be made by any member and I hope you will send your recommendations to me for our consideration.

Every year we sadly report on the passing of members. We honor deceased members with a memorial in the newsletter and each year designate an Award of Excellence in the names of those that have passed. This summer we lost not only a WHS member but a long serving Board Member, Karla Breeding Trammell. Karla was at the opening and the board meeting, her death was sudden and unexpected. Karla had served as Secretary for several terms and most recently as Education/Workshop Chairperson, helping to develop ideas for new programs the WHS might offer. She will be greatly missed by all her friends and family and we are grateful for the many contributions she made to the WHS over the years she served.

Your WHS Board begins the 2022-2024 term with a continued commitment to keep the WHS a strong presence in watercolor and to continue to find ways to promote and honor our members. Thank you to all for your continued support. Please contact me or any board member with your ideas, questions or concerns at any time. And if you would like to help your WHS by serving on the board, don't hesitate to volunteer, there is always something to be done.

I hope you enjoy a lovely Fall and Holiday season. Keep painting. the Watercolor USA prospectus will arrive before you know it!

Best wishes,

- ***Carole Hennessy***

President, Watercolor USA Honor Society

WHS Lifetime Achievment Awards

Every three years, the WHS gives two **Lifetime Achievement Awards**. The recipients are to be artists that have made outstanding contributions in many areas of water media painting including artistic achievement, writing, teaching, service or research.

Nominations may be submitted by ANY MEMBER of the WHS and by any board members present at the annual meeting. Recipients do not have to be member of the WHS. Awards may be given posthumously.

In June of 2023, the board will review all nominations and vote to decide the awards for presentation in June of 2024.

If you would like to nominate someone, email Carole Hennessy no later than May 1, 2023 at carolehennessy@gmail.com. Please include a brief statement as to why you feel this artist is deserving of the award.

Welcome to New WHS Members 2022

Diane Shabino	Bulbul Majumder	Jean Weiner
Monte Toon	Deena Altman	Chris McLean
Carol Z Brody	Nick Long	Rita Finnegan
Eric Wiegardt	Ed Labadie	Anke Dodson

A note from the Editor Gary Cadwallader, Newsletter Editor

I want to welcome Linda Buechting to the Newsletter. She did the interview with Howard Kuo. What a great job, Linda! You'll have a bigger role in the Spring. Ha ha.

A reminder that we will continue publishing studio pics in the Spring newsletters. I find them fascinating. I was at a board member's house recently and saw that she worked at a tiny easel at the foot of her bed… but, she had another bedroom half-filled with framed watercolors leaning against the wall. I'll guess there were 60 or more of them and that's on top of the 20-30 hanging on the walls of her beautiful house!

Gary Cadwallader
WHS Newsletter Editor, **gary@garypaints.com**

An Interview with

HOWARD KUO

by Linda Buechting

Howard Kuo says that it's hard to know him because he's an outsider with a background far from the field of art, but his whimsical watercolors have been delighting jurors and audiences for several years. Formerly a physical therapist, he's now retired and living in Hannibal, Missouri.

Q) Howard, did you always want to be an artist?

[A] I'm Chinese from Taiwan, and I came to the U.S. as a student to study physical therapy. I always wanted to be an artist, but the reality had struck me that it's a luxury dream and it would not pay the bills. Art can only be a side dish in my life. It does not sound positive or supportive to all the great artists here, but the fact is it is a down-to-earth reality in life.

[Q] Do you have a philosophy about art?

[A] I have NO fancy philosophy in my artwork. It just reflects a country farmer's life in basic views. To be a true artist, that person should constantly be observing people and the environment surrounding him/her. To me, if we do not possess such a personality, we can only be called a 'technician' in art, am I right?

[Q] Your paintings are very creative and whimsical. Where does that come from?

[A] Some people are rigid and only favor traditional 'real' paintings, not fantasy. Almost all Oriental drawings are to express the feelings of the artist and that's why you see a lot of writings on their pictures. Arts—I mean paintings—in the old country, Western as well, were used to communicate with the general public. So the messages had to be clear and the stories also had to be persuasive and meaningful. This type of culture influenced me heavily and it reflects in my works. People say that I'm creative, but if you paint with a meaningful purpose and try to carry out a story hiding deep in your heart, it is bound to be different and unique. To me, the definition of creativity is merely saying that it's different from the norm.

Plein Airing (left)

[Q] What does your art bring to your life?

[A] I guess I'm lucky that I love to do art because it eases my nerves and entertains me when I feel low and down. To me, a good picture has to have a meaning in it; in other words, it has to possess a purpose to do so, and maybe that's why I always have a story behind my paintings. Without meaning or purpose in a picture, it would be nothing but a piece of dead object. I am a daydreamer and have endless fantasies and stories within my head, but since I had no formal training in many painting techniques, it makes my creations somewhat odd and different. Some said that I'm NOT an artist, just an illustrator. But I do not know the difference between them, and I think a good picture is a good picture with no need to differentiate it. The fact is I'm still learning in this field of arts.

[Q] Congratulations on your award in the 2022 Watercolor USA exhibit for your painting Plein Airing. Do you do plein air yourself?

[A] I have difficulty painting outdoors on site; I'm a slow painter. Since art is for all kind of free-minded people, I created my version of plein air with the artists free to choose how they enjoyed doing it. To me, it is a real plein airing.

[Q] I really like your painting "When An Artist Taking A Break." Tell us something about it .

[A] When an artist takes a break, his world is still surrounded by all his fantasies. Well, the fact is artists actually never took any break. They just floated from one scene of ideas to the others. And that's how they rested their minds. Aren't you that way too?

The Emperor Wearing His New Clothes (top)

When An Artist Taking A Break (right)

City Hall Square (above)

[Q] You have so many interests. You do bonsai as well as your watercolors and you've included your bonsai in some of your paintings.

[A] I love nature and enjoy life in the country with all my farm pets—chickens, quail, rabbits and dogs. The art of bonsai is one of my favorites and it gives me inspiration for my painting. I always believe that gardening is art too. We can create our world with those little trees and live within it, and, of course, along with some imagination, a lovely painting should easily be made.

[Q] I love the humor in The Emperor Wearing His New Clothes To My Art Show.

[A] The emperor's behavior might be laughable, but the truth is don't we all love those sweet flattering lies in our ears? I believe, at times in our lives we do need to lower ourselves to get our points across.

[Q] City Hall Square is a little different from the nature scenes you do. Why did you choose that subject?

[A] I love doing an everyday living scene. It satisfies my desire to create something from nothing. Pictures like this have energy and life in them. I am happy that I can actually be putting my dream on paper and make it alive. To be an artist is GREAT.

An Interview with JUDY NUNNO

by Gary Cadwallader

www.judynunno.com

Judy Nunno is much awarded watercolorist living in Florida. She is a signature member of AWS, NWS, TWSA and has had her work selected for *SPLASH* seven times. This fall she will have an article in Watercolor Artist.

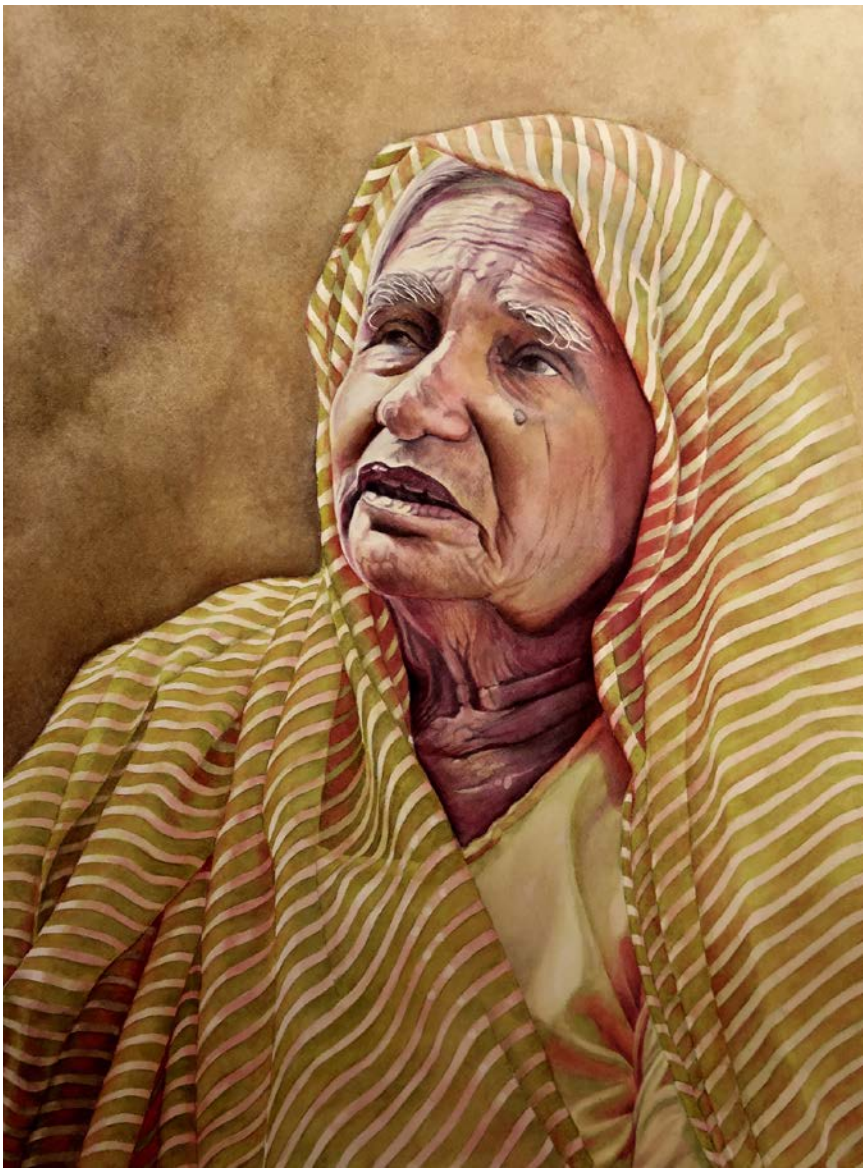
[Q] Hello Judy. Tell us, was there anything in your early life that suggested you would become an artist? Was anyone in your family an artist?

[A] I'm a late bloomer in the art world. While I loved to draw as a child and earned an A in my high school art class, I didn't begin developing my artistic skills until after raising my children and early retirement from my business career. Oil painting classes at a community center got me started followed by watercolor classes, again at a community center, several years later. There are no other artists in my family, but two of my grandchildren are showing potential.

[Q] One of my favorites is your painting "Contemplation". I've always found painting people in watercolor difficult, but you seemed to have mastered it. Do you have any tips for me?

[A] "Contemplation" is a portrait of a street merchant at a spice market in Udapur, India. My advice for painting a portrait in watercolor is to strive to capture the mood and spirit of the subject rather than to just duplicate the physical features. For this painting, I began with a reference photo that I edited with Photoshop (including cropping, changing colors, and increasing the saturation level), made a detailed drawing on 300 lb. cold-pressed paper, saved the whites with masking fluid, applied multiple layers of transparent paint, and created a complementary background.

[Q] "Scarf Dancer" is another great portrait. I'm flabbergasted at the delicate hand gesture which to me says you understand dance. Can you share some thoughts on that one?



Contemplation (right)

[A] No, I don't have any experience in dance but was captivated by this dancer and her dramatic movements while attending an ancient bell concert at Hubei Provincial Museum in Wuhan, China. My reference photo for "Scarf Dancer" was taken from afar, so I had to improvise on some of the indicate details in the painting including adding a tail to her scarf. Creating the dark background made the other colors pop and added to the drama in the painting.

[Q] Before we talk about your wonderful use of color, let's talk about "Crabcake". I got a kick out of that.

[A] "Crabcake" is from my crystal and edibles series and was painted for a black and white show (I later colorized the cherry). Catchy titles are part of the fun of this series, and sometimes (as in this case) I come up with the title even before I've the designed the painting. After deciding I wanted to paint a "crabcake", I photographed one of my crystal crabs with a cupcake then completed my painting process. It won first place in the black and white show.

[Q] I dare anyone to look at "The Lineup" and say this woman has no sense of humor. Several of your pieces have that little bit of sass that gives them life. My favorite in that series is "Rubberneckers". It is technically brilliant and a little bit cheeky too. What made you start using crystals? And what do you want people to think when they see these paintings?

[A] My long-running series of more than thirty paintings of crystal figurines and edible items with catchy titles began on a whim when I set up a still life of two eggs paired with a crystal pig from my extensive collec-

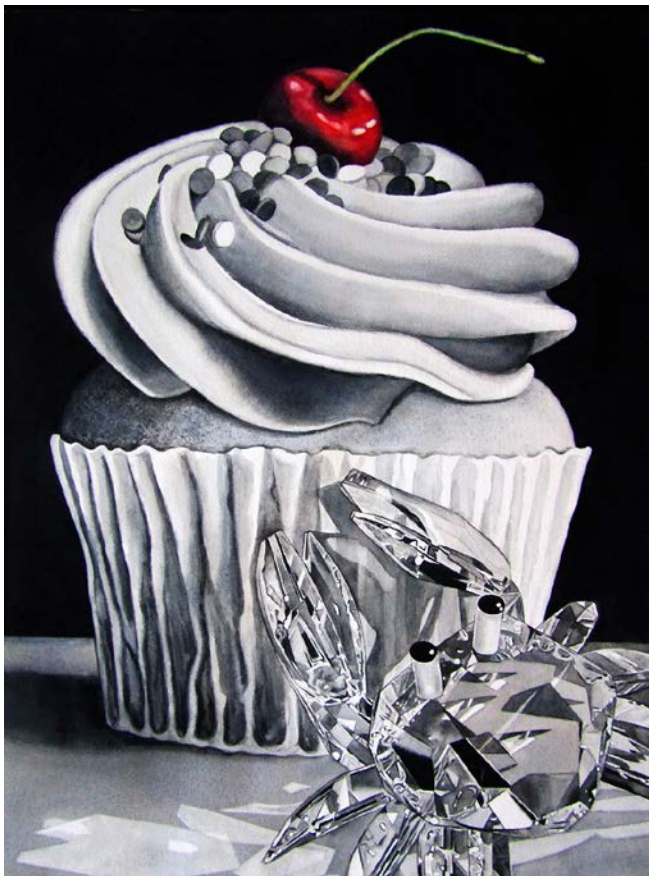
Scarf Dancer (top-left)

The Lineup (left)

tion of Swarovski crystal. I named the painting "Ham and Eggs" and it won first place in a local show, so I decided to keep going with this concept. My intention is to personify the crystal object and make it the leading character in the story. I hope to bring viewers a sense of joy and playfulness.

[Q from Linda] Your colors are so vibrant. Do you do multiple layers of color to achieve that?

[A] Yes, vibrant colors in watercolor require several layers. My process involves three to four and sometimes as many as ten layers of transparent paint. Even my black backgrounds require two to three thin layers of a mixture of alizarin crimson, sepia, and indigo.



Crabcake (right)

Rubberneckers (below)

A Review of *Watercolor Now!* 2022 by Wayne Conyers

The opening of our *Watercolor Now!* 2022 exhibition was indeed an impressive event. Ron Michael, director of the Birger Sandzen Memorial Art Gallery, his staff and docents graciously welcomed attendees and provided reception goodies.

The Sandzen gallery has four exhibition rooms, hence three other shows opened along with ours. *Watercolor Now!* was the "main attraction" featuring 76 paintings. There was a steady stream of approximately 90 visitors (from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma) who voiced amazement at the range of styles, the varied subject matter, and the array of techniques. It was a very interactive environment. More than once I overheard, "That's watercolor? I've never seen watercolor used this way."

The opening reception was scheduled to end at 4:00 but at 4:45 there were still folks looking at the exhibitions. Could it have been any better? I don't know how. Thanks goes out to everyone at the Sandzen who made this exhibition possible and to the WHS show committee who worked for months making necessary arrangements among WHS participating artists.

Watercolor USA 2021 Award Winners

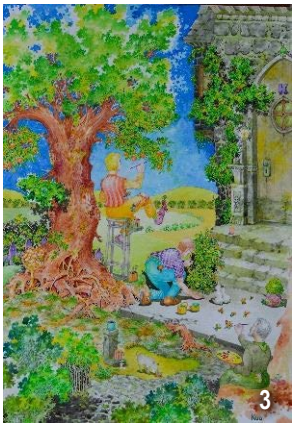
WATERCOLOR U.S.A. HONOR SOCIETY AWARDS

Kenneth L. Shuck Memorial Award - $3,000 Cash
1) ***The Boot*** **- Chris McLean**

Greg H. Thielen Memorial Award - $2000 cash
2) ***Harbor Life*** **- Ed Labadie**

Bill Armstrong Memorial Award -$1500 cash
3) ***Plien Airing*** **– Howard Kuo**

Robert A. Goodier Memorial Award for Traditional Transparent Watercolor - $1000 cash
4) ***Image and Apparition*** **– Mark Grosserode**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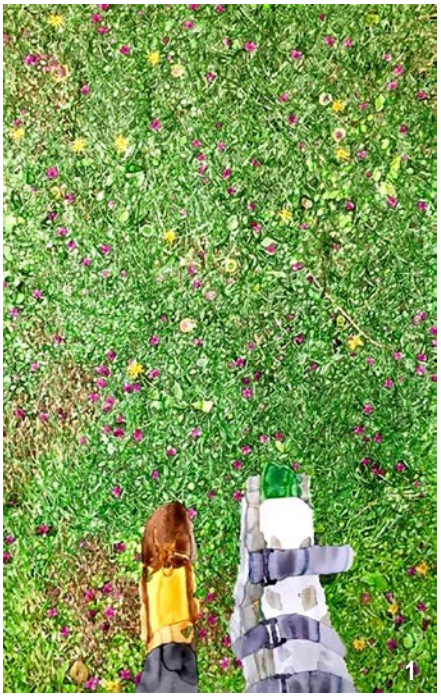
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WCUSA / WHS 2022 AWARDS

MERCHANDISE AWARDS - $500 value each

DANIEL SMITH WATERCOLORS AWARD
5) ***Southwest Shadows*** **– Chris Krupinski**

SAVOIR-FAIRE FABRIANO PAPER AWARD
6) ***Still Life with 3 Pears & Sterling Silver*** **– Jacqueline Gnott**

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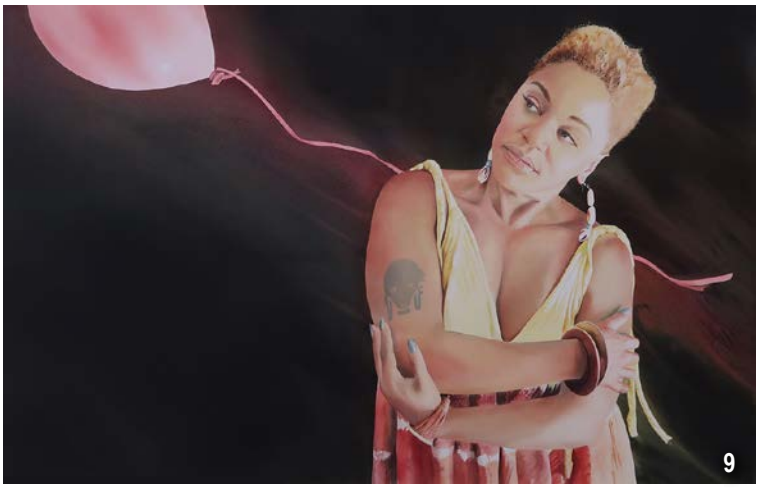
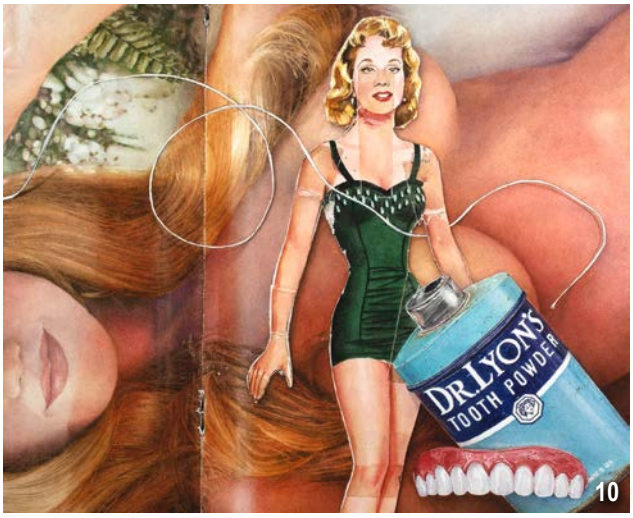




SPEEDBALL ART PRODUCTS - ESCODA BRUSHES
7) ***My Family*** **– Xiaochang Zhang**

CASH AWARDS

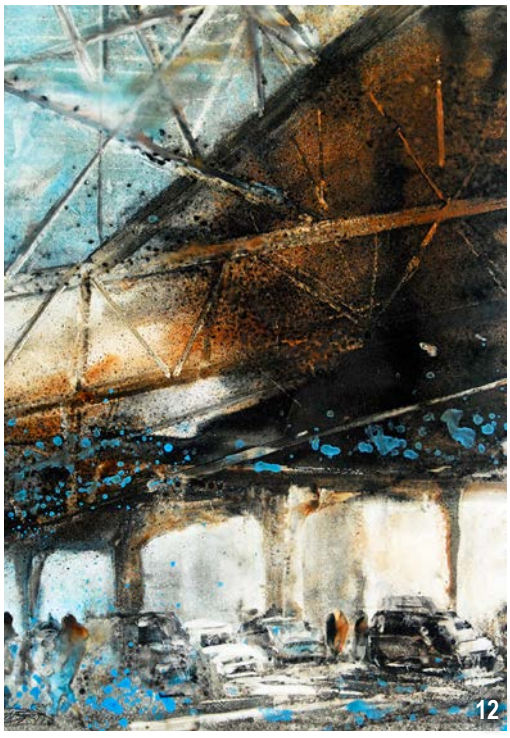
WHS BOARD of DIRECTORS AWARD - $500
8) ***Big Flame Lilies*** **– Jerry Bowman**

RICHARD CLUBB MEMORIAL AWARD (CHARTER MEMBER) - $300 (Annual through 2028)
9) ***THIS*** **– Jackie Dorsey**

DORIS WHITE MEMORIAL AWARD (CHARTER MEMBER) - $300
10) ***Smile, Sweetheart!*** **– Alisa Shea**

FRANCES MEISCH MEMORIAL AWARD (CHARTER MEMBER) - $300
11) ***Challenger*** **– Deena Altman**

E. J. VELARDI MEMORIAL AWARD (CHARTER MEMBER) - $300
12) ***E L Angles*** **– Ingred E.Abrecht**



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CASH AWARDS

CARL SUBLETT MEMORIAL AWARD (CHARTER MEMBER) - $300
13) ***Vertical Farming*** **– Carole Hennessy**

EDWARD BETTS MEMORIAL AWARD (CHARTER MEMBER) - $300
14) ***Avenue of Flags*** **– Jean Weiner**

JACK GARVER MEMORIAL AWARD - $300
15) ***Dual Vessel*** **– Lisa Englander**

JAY O'MEILIA MEMORIAL AWARD - $300
16) ***Pareidolia*** **– Nick Long**

CAROLYN COFFEY WALLACE MEMORIAL AWARD - $300
17) ***Beach House (Late Evening)*** **– Fred Schollmeyer**

KIRBY ATWELL MEMORIAL AWARD - $300
18) ***Menomorphosis: Estrogen*** **– Kelly Eddington**

NORIKO HASEGAWA MEMORIAL AWARD - $300
19) ***Alpha*** **– Ken Call**

19

Member Accomplishments

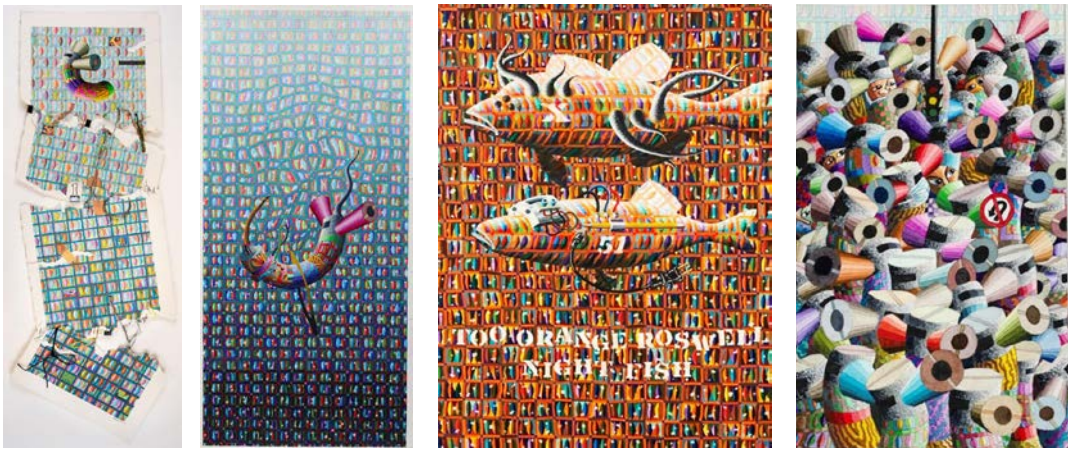
Susan Webb Tregay discussing her work

Jane Stoddard will be the **Juror of awards** for the **Adirondack International** show and the **Juror of rewards** for the **Northeast Watercolor International** show this October.

Susan Webb Tregay just finished up a **Solo show** at The Gallery at Flat Rock in Flat Rock, NC, during August.

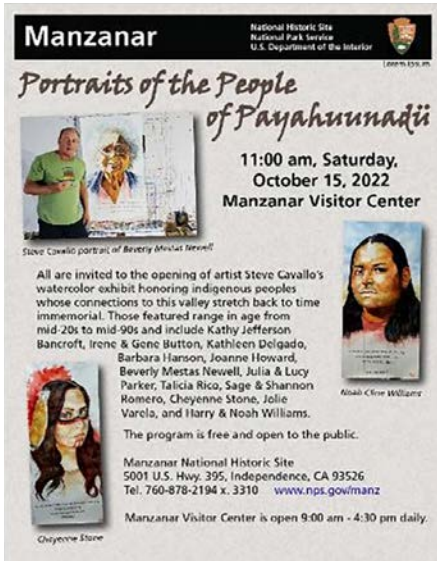
Wayne Conyers' Solo exhibition is opening Saturday, Nov. 19 and closes January 13. ***"A Glimpse of the Journey So Far (Including Detours)".*** The show will be in the main lower gallery at the Carriage Factory Art Gallery in Newton, Kansas (128 E. 6th St.). He will be showing 38 watercolor paintings, 3 watercolor monoprints, 3 lithographs, and 7 drawings.

Steve Cavallo has a show of larger than life **portraits** of indigenous people: ***"Portraits of the People of Payahuunadii"***, opening Oct. 15, 2022 at the Manzanar Visitor Center, Independence, CA.



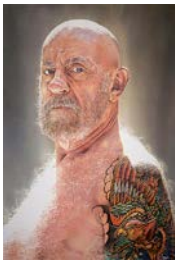
Works by Wayne Conyers, L to R: *And it couldn't be put back together again, Free Falling Out of the Light, Too Orange Roswell Night Fish, Too Many People*

Anni Matsick's painting ***"Waiting"*** received the **Pittsburgh Watercolor Society Award** and the **People's Choice Award** in the Baltimore Watercolor Society 2022 Mid-Atlantic Regional Exhibit. Juror was Kathleen S. Giles. The show ran June 11-July 23 at The Gallery at Center for the Arts in Baltimore. Anni's painting ***"Welcome In"*** was awarded **Best of Show** in the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts Images 2022 Exhibit.



Flyer for Steve Cavallo Exhibit

Irena Roman received a **Silver Medal of Honor** for her painting ***"Wayne"*** from the American Watercolor Society. The 155th International Exhibition was held April 11 – 29, 2022 at the Salmagundi Club in NYC.

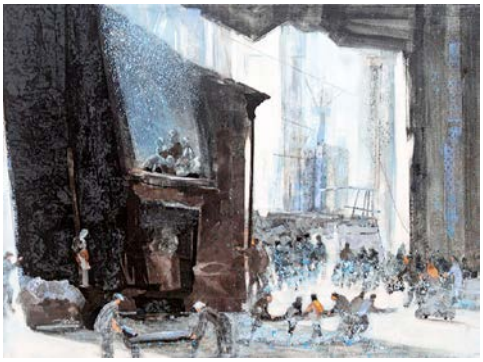


Wayne by Irena Roman

Ann Pember: In June ***"Kelsey",*** received the **Southern California Arts Association Award** in the 54th Watercolor West Annual National Exhibition, at the Coastline College Art Gallery Newport Beach, CA.

In August ***Sophie's Iris*** won the **Margaret & William Foley Award** in the Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors; View Art Center, Old forge, NY It was sold from the show as well. "***Heavenly Hibiscus***" and "***Dahlia Duo***" were included in the **top 100 paintings of the Readers' Choice Competition of Art of Watercolor Magazine** June-August issue.

Member Accomplishments



Works by Ingrid E. Albrecht: *On The Move I* (top-left), *Curtain Call I* (top-right), *Backstage Lyric Opera I* (above-left), *E L Angles I* (above-right)

Ingrid E. Albrecht was **one of 56 artists invited** to the 7th Biennial International Prize "**Fabriano Watercolor 2022"** Painting competition. ***"Backstage at the Lyric Opera"***, won **Directors Choice Award**, for the painting ***"Curtain Call"*** at Illinois Watercolor Society 38th National Exhibition, 2022.

Albrecht also won the **Watercolor Honor Society E. J. Velardi Memorial Award** for the painting ***"E L Angles".*** National Watercolor Society's 102nd International Open Exhibition, 2022, **Alice Leonard Memorial Cash Award, Fabriano Paper Award, Sennelier merchandise Award, Raphael Merchandise Award, and the Blue Annual Artist Development Merchandise Award** for the painting ***"On the Move"***

Robert Lee Mejer and his son **Jason Dillard Mejer** (deceased) shared a show June 28 to August 13 at the Contemporary Art Center, Peoria, Illinois. Both shared service at Quincy University: **Robert as Professor of Art/Curator** (1968 to present) and his son **Jason as Lecturer of Art** (2000 to 2010). Jason passed in 2014. Sharon Watts of Exhibizone (smart International online exhibition platform-Ontario-Canada) has selected Mr. Mejer for the **6th edition of Solos artist** call for 2022. The online solo exhibition ***"Inscapes"*** will be shown from September 15-October 15, 2022. **Biafarin platform** is a Canadian registered artist management company, supporting artists from over 120 countries. A stylish colorful catalogue will be prepared and digitally published for the solo exhibition and available online for free-circulated internationally. Also, **an online profile page is available at this link:** https://www.exhibizone.com/inscapes-exhibition

1) Robert and Jason 2) Jason's work displayed
3) *Jason's Delight* by Robert Mejer
4) *Spectrum Action* by Jason Dillard Mejer
5) Robert with his work displayed

Member Accomplishments

J. (Jie) Li's solo exhibition ***"Behind the Appearance"***/Centro Cultura Gomez Tortosa-Novelda/Alicante, Spain will run from September 15 to October 14th, 2022.

You can view this link from YouTube (only available in Spanish):
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Ck1anaTYm70

Or this link from Spanish media (available in English):
https://noveldadigital.es/cultura-y-sociedad/511237/detras-de-la-aparien-cia-la-nueva-exposicion-de-acuarelas-de-la-artista-neoyorkina-j-jie-li/

J. Jie Li with her work

Jaqueline Gnott was **awarded Signature Status** in the National Watercolor Society and the **Bao Hong Award** in the 96th Annual Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour in 2021. Then in 2022, she received, the **Savoir-Faire Fabriano Paper Merchandise Award & Peoples Choice Award at Watercolor USA**. Also in 2022, she received the **2nd Place Award Still Life Challenge** in **International Artist Magazine**, Published in the June/July 2022 Issue and the **Mary Jane Saussure Award;** Pennsylvania 43rd Annual Pennsylvania Water-color Society International Juried Exhibition. And had a **piece published in American Art Collector** - Sept. 2022.

Still Life with Three Pears by Jaqueline Gnott

Cherries by Jaqueline Gnott

Karen Poulson was **invited to show** 2 pieces in an invitational of o**nly large works** at the Collective (community art center) in Lafayette, Co. this August and Sept. Both are acrylic on paper and measure 3'x4'.

Works by Karen Poulson: *Fraying at the Edges* (far-left) and *Abyss* (left)

Memorials

Karla Sue Trammell December 19, 1957 - July 6, 2022

Karla Sue Trammell, 65 of Bolivar, MO, passed away Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at her home. Karla was a graduate of Marvell Academy in Marvell, Arkansas with the class of 1975 and the University of Arkansas in 1993 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

She worked as a teller at the Bank of Holly Grove in Holly Grove, Arkansas. She also worked for several years at the Springfield Art Museum and Harmony House in Springfield, MO. Karla was a member of "Fresh" Art Gallery, Watercolor USA Honor Society and was a state officer with Arkansas Business and Professional Women, and the Christian Church.

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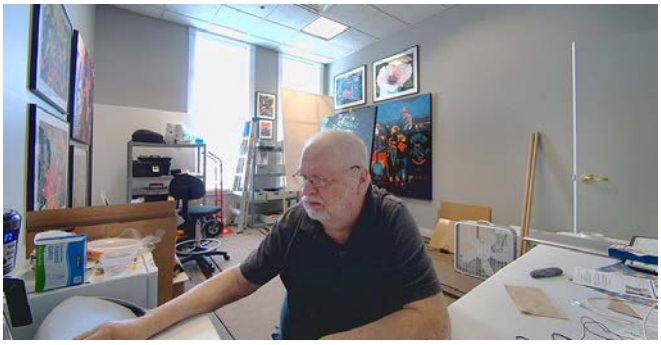

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