



The SCENE is the monthly newsletter of the Southwestern Watercolor Society.

<http://www.swswatercolor.org>

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.  
Lovers Lane Methodist Church, Ashbury Hall, 9200 Inwood Road,  
Dallas, Texas (northeast corner of Northwest Highway and Inwood Road.)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Dalynn Montgomery, SWS President

Dear SWS friends,

April promises to be a wonderful month for us!

On April 9th we look forward to welcoming Tom Francesconi for our last multi-day workshop of the Spring. Mr. Francesconi will also be giving the painting demonstration for the member's meeting on April 9th.

The 2024-2025 SWS Board Officers will be voted on by the general membership at the beginning of the meeting. We will have a brief welcoming ceremony and introduction of next year's board at the May meeting on May 14th.

April is also a very special month because our founding member, Naomi Brotherton will turn 104 this year! I know we all want to wish

her a **Happy Birthday!** We are so grateful to her and the other founding members for starting SWS more than six decades ago!

Our Granbury Paint-Out will be April 26-28. I hope to see a bunch of "first timers" attend as well as our regular attendees. I have invited some of the Dallas / Fort Worth Urban Sketchers to join us. (I am secretly trying to entice them to join SWS.)

There are a few of us that add content to the SWS website. Several months ago, Constance Corbett suggested that we should update the "look" of our website periodically especially as the seasons change. As I write this letter, the website features several "wintery" themed paintings on the web pages. We would like to invite you, our SWS members, to submit images of your paintings of "Spring" and "Summer" themes to be considered for a website refresh. Here is the procedure to submit your images:

1. Log in to the SWS website.
2. Click on Activities, then Photo Albums
3. Choose the appropriate album to upload your images. The image should not include any mat, frame or glass. Remember to include your name and the painting title.

Well, the beautiful day beckons me to get off the computer and go outside while the weather is perfect and the mosquitos have yet to arrive.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve SWS as your president.

Sincerely,



Dalynn Montgomery  
President, Southwestern Watercolor Society

## ARTIST'S SPOTLIGHT



### Merri Chester

When she develops an interest, Merri Chester becomes passionate about it. As a child she was “horse crazy” but she couldn’t indulge her interest until she was a young mother. Then she finally had the time and money to begin competitively riding hunters and jumpers. Soon she found that gaited Peruvian Pasos were even more interesting than dressage and that began a new love affair with that breed and style of riding. Eventually she specialized

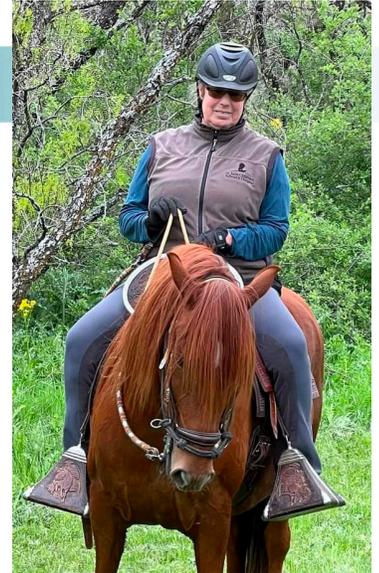
in training other lady equestrians. All of this began to wind down before the pandemic and she retired her favorite horse after 25 years.

It became time to reinvent herself as she had before. Fellow rider and SWS member Tina Mewhinney encouraged her interest in painting. Early on she was using oils but she transitioned to watercolor because of its transparency, the lack of noxious odors, and the ease of cleanup. She found the process of working from light to dark to be intuitive.



At first, Merri thought watercolor was difficult and she had just dabbled in it, but she rediscovered the medium during the pandemic and found it relaxing and therapeutic. It allowed her to take what’s around her and create her own world. It was a perfect outlet for her natural curiosity and quest for learning because the medium is difficult to control. No matter what you intended, at some point the water takes over and sends the piece down another path. She has learned to not consider that as a mistake but just a new direction. Rather than becoming frustrated, she discovered that with patience the painting will guide you. She finds it fun to wonder what will come next. She tries to get out of her own brain and experiment and play with possibilities.

At first finding the correct saturation of the paint was the most difficult challenge. All her colors were light with not enough dark values. She began developing better control of the water and also realized that she





likes paintings that leave viewers scratching their heads a little. The story doesn't need to be totally resolved. Artworks can make us think a bit, shake us up, even be a bit disturbing. Because she thinks this way, it is hard to see common denominator in the subjects she chooses. She just finds herself curious about a particular subject and decides to paint it. It may be beautiful or ugly (although they don't have to end up ugly). The fun is in experimenting with the idea and taking it where you don't know you are going.



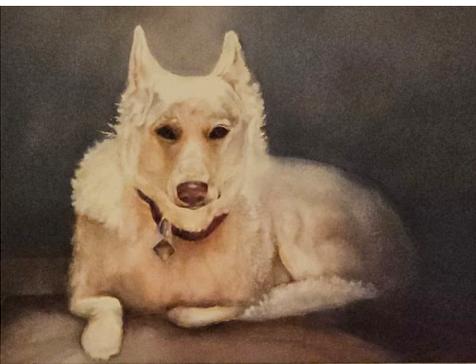
With Merri, no subject is off the table as you can see in the images of her paintings. The surprising thing is that she doesn't paint horses. She still has a horse but she no longer rides competitively or trains other riders. She says that after all the horse years, she got that out of her system and now other things spark her fancy when she paints.

Between paintings, Merri waits for an idea to bubble to the surface on her mind before she starts something. She'd been feeling a bit stagnant until a recent trip with her husband to Mexico where she was able to walk on the beach and came back with a lot of reference photos. A lot of times she works from more than one photo to create something new. That can lead to complications because it can result in a confusing



composition. Merri enjoys finding ways to resolve those difficulties. Once she begins, she plows through until it is finished because she doesn't like to accept defeat, even with a painting. Now that she knows how to make modifications and corrections, even if she loses some of the initial freshness in the paint, she can often add richness when she makes adjustments.

One of the most important aspects of painting is knowing when to quit. When she is far enough along, she takes her piece from the painting shed into the house where she can look at it at night and see what needs to be adjusted. Living



with it often makes it obvious what she needs to do. She is comfortable receiving suggestions from other people but in the end, no one else knows what she intended. Her goal is to make the painting meet the demands of her own taste and not be about anyone else's. Other people's opinions about her paintings are not that important to Merri. She paints for herself.



“Oh, am I supposed to have goals?” asked Merri when questioned about what she is aiming for as an artist. She just paints because she is curious about how an idea might work out. She wants to create paintings that look like they are by her. Life is full of wonder and beauty and she wants to capture some of it. Travel and other experiences offer possible subjects. So many people are goal driven and make step-by-step plans but she says her mind doesn't work that way. Instead, she just starts and sees where something takes her. She did that with riding and now she is doing that with painting. It promises to be fun to watch.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Guest Artist Tom Francesconi Brings Dynamic Approach to Painting

The SWS April membership meeting will feature artist **Tom Francesconi**, AWS, NWS, TWSA, known for his fresh direct approach to painting with watercolor. With the ability to clearly explain visual concepts, Tom enjoys sharing his approach and methods for painting bold and interpretive watercolors.



This is a program not to be missed if you ever wondered how to achieve loose vibrant expressive paintings in watercolor.

We will have Painting of the Month competition, so bring your paintings! To get more information about the Painting-of-the-Month guidelines, [click here](#).

The April meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00 pm at the Lover's Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas. Please plan to join us and bring your friends informative and fun meeting!

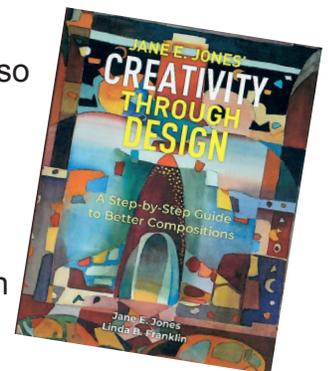


## Jane Jones To Discuss “Creative Drawing through Design” in May

**Jane Jones**, teacher for decades of watercolor students and the author (along with Linda B. Franklin) of *Creativity Through Design: A Step-by-Step to Better Composition*, will be the presenter at the SWS May membership meeting. She is a respected teacher of design, color and creative thinking and has been teaching for 48 years. She has taught workshops worldwide. Jane is listed in “Who’s Who of American Women.” Jane has participated in many group and one woman exhibitions, and in many corporate and private collections. She is a signature status in many national watercolor juried societies including NWS and SWS. Jane works in all media, watercolor, acrylic, collage, and mixed media. She is the designer of three watercolor palettes and she and Linda Franklin will soon have a second book, *Creativity through Color*.

Jane’s paintings are quite Impressionistic and abstract in Watercolor and she also creates Non-Representational paintings in Acrylic. She also uses mixed media, mainly collage, which allows her to explore Design.

Jane’s abstract watercolors are painted from photos. She superimposes something from nature onto the real and then plays the game of real versus abstract. Her non-representational paintings are from her imagination. The reason she paints is I try to capture the essence of nature when she is working in plein air. The non-representational paintings are expressions of her inner self. She enjoys the challenge of trying to resolve the chaos she has initially created into a satisfactory resolution. She is always searching for a new way of expressing herself.



Don't miss the May meeting when SWS will benefit from the long established expertise of one of a key member of our society. In addition to the presentation by Jane Jones, we will be installing the new officers and recognizing the contributions of all our leaders past and present. We especially want to recognize Past-Presidents of SWS to be honored.

## April Workshop

### Tom Francesconi is the cure for paintings that are too tight!

The Spring season will wrap up with the fresh and lively techniques of artist **Tom Francesconi**. This workshop will expose students to Tom's approach to creating interpretive watercolors.



In this workshop, Tom will share his approach to creating interpretive watercolors that are fresh and dynamic! He'll emphasize meaningful color and brushwork that delights and entertains the eye. He will also share his experience with breaking free from the tyranny of the reference photo, encouraging a more creative and satisfying painting experience. This will be a workshop with an atmosphere that is educational, inspirational and joyful!

Emphasis will be on creating better paintings through an understanding of the importance of well-considered value relationships, meaningful color decisions and brushwork that delights and entertains the eye.

Students will gain a better understanding of the power of simplicity through a preliminary process of letting go. Daily demonstrations will allow the students to see how Tom approaches a painting from start to finish. Exercises aimed at helping students better understand certain concepts will also be employed.

There currently are a few spots remaining. Please register at [SWS Workshops page](#).



### One-Day Class with Michael Holter *Expressive Landscapes*

**Date:** Saturday, May 4, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 am-4:00pm

**Cost:** \$100 for members/\$115 for non-members

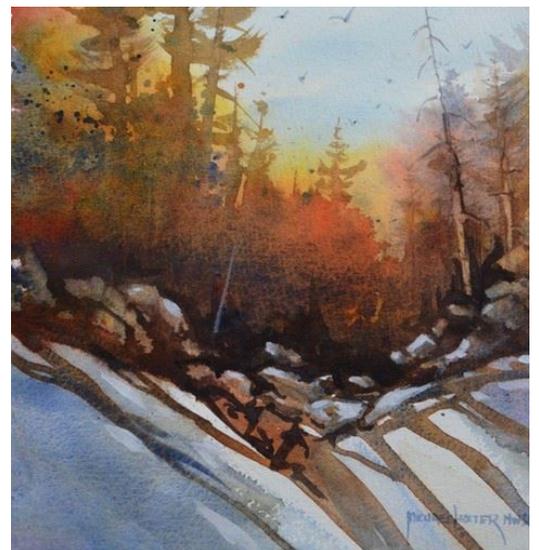
**Venue:** Marsh Lane Baptist Church, 10716 Marsh Lane, Dallas, TX

We're very excited to offer a special one-day class with Michael Holter, AWS, NWS, TWSA, SWS. This Plano-based, award-winning American impressionist will lead participants in creating "Expressive Landscapes" on Saturday, May 4th at Marsh Lane Baptist Church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### ***A message from Michael about the workshop-***

*This workshop will focus on the use of watercolor to paint exciting impressionistic paintings. You paint from a variety of landscape references and will explore the use of light and shadow to create interesting compositions and achieve dynamic results.*

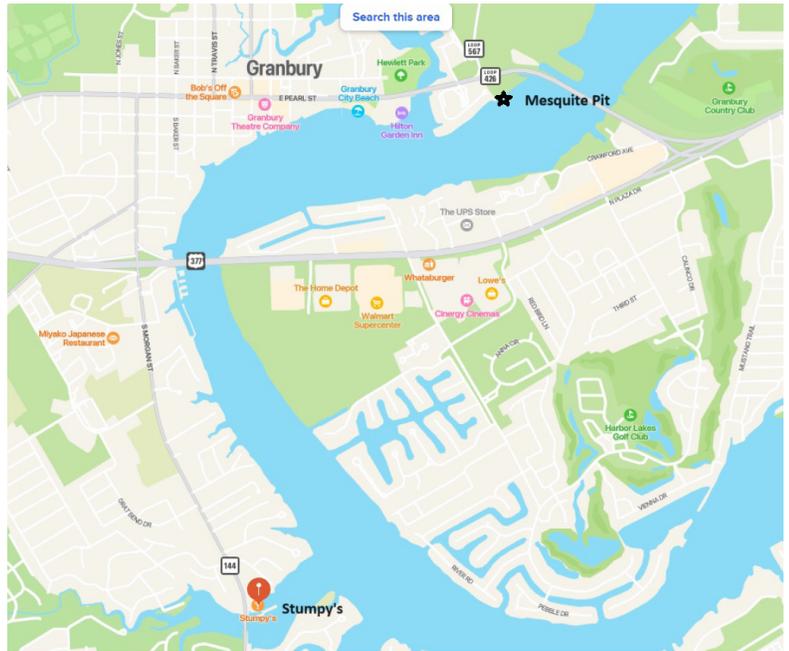
To be added to the waiting list you can email Gail Chandler at [gchandler01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gchandler01@sbcglobal.net).



# SPRING PAINT-OUT: Granbury Texas, April 26, 27 & 28

**Dan Killebrew and Ray Mosier**, SWS Paint-Out Chairs, invite all members of SWS and their families to participate in Southwest Watercolor Society's Spring Paint-Out 2024. It will be on the last weekend of April (Apr. 26-27-28). We are heading down to Granbury, TX. to Paint the Town, literally!

On the map (shown right) we have shown where the dining spots are located for Friday and Saturday night.



On Friday night at approximately 6:00 pm we'll be meeting at **Stumpy's**. It is located at 2323 S Morgan St, Granbury, TX 76048.

For the Saturday Night Pin Up we'll be gathering at the **Mesquite Pit** at approximately 6:00 pm. It is located at 919 E Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048-2205.

To kick off this Paint-Out, we plan to gather at the southwest corner of the courthouse square about noon on Friday, and then again at the same place at 8:30 am on Saturday morning.

It is not too late to sign up! Please [click here](#) to register.

Registration is free, and cancellations will be accepted. The sooner you sign up the sooner we can begin to get our numbers of participants to make proper arrangements for our sharing and mealtimes.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!



## RECENT EVENTS



### Soon Young Warren Big Hit at SWS

Immensely entertaining as well as being informative, Soon Y. Warren's demonstration and workshop got rave reviews. She is most known for her dramatic high contrast still-life paintings in a photographic style and she discussed how she does them. In addition to creating stunning paintings, Soon's quips and stories are very enjoyable.

Soon Warren explained that her paintings are done with layer on top of layer and so it would be very tedious to watch her paint. Instead, she discussed her painting process.

Soon Warren's paintings are based on reference photos she has taken. She often sets up objects that interest her and lights them. Other times she sees something in passing that captivates her and then snaps photos of that. She jokes that she has been known to trespass or go where she hasn't been invited if it will give her a better vantage point for a possible subject.

Soon says she doesn't care about color theory because she can always change a color or shape if she decides it isn't right. She doesn't bother with value or color studies because her experience drawing from a young age has helped her to understand how shapes work. Now she never draws anything because she is sick of drawing. Instead, she traces the shapes from the photos and then uses a projector to scale them up. That saves time so she can get to the painting part.

Initially, she applies colors loosely and then glazes over the different areas to define and enrich the colors. When the undercoat dries, she paints a flower petal by petal. As she applies color to the different parts of the painting, she keeps in hand small reference photos so that she can keep track of the part of the composition where she is working as her brush moves from shape to shape. She prefers to paint glazes of color over other colors because they mix optically but the layers also shine through.



Watercolor is Soon Warren's medium of choice because the water does half the work in the painting. With oil paintings the artist is in control; with watercolor, the artist has to follow the water and persuade the water to do what they'd like. She says she never paints a photo exactly. She starts with the photo she likes but then things happen and she must follow the painting where it goes.

# March Painting-of-the-Month

There are two categories in the monthly Painting of the Month competition, one for signature members and professional artists, and one for non-signature members. Submissions must be original works in watermedia on paper by members.

The winners of the SWS Painting of the Month in the Non-Signature Category are selected by a vote of members present at the meeting. The winners for March (shown below) were:



1st place - **Jay Weesner**, “Cheeseburger, Cheeseburger” (pictured right)  
2nd place – **Yenipher Chung**, “Jubilee” (pictured left)  
3rd place – **Mary Jane Journey**, “Forest Fungi” (center)

The winner in the Signature Category in March (shown left) was:

**Chérie Giddens** for “Morning Bachelor Buttons”. Guest artist **Soon Y. Warren** made the selection.



# HAPPENINGS

**Nel Byrd's** painting, "The Reception", has been accepted in the Louisiana Watercolor Society Annual International Exhibition. Kathleen Giles served as juror and the show is on line May 1 - 31.

Nel has another painting, "One Size Fits All" (shown right), that has been accepted in the Society of Watercolor Artists 2024 International Exhibition to be held April 13 - May 25 at The REC of Grapevine, in Grapevine, TX. Carrie Waller served as juror.

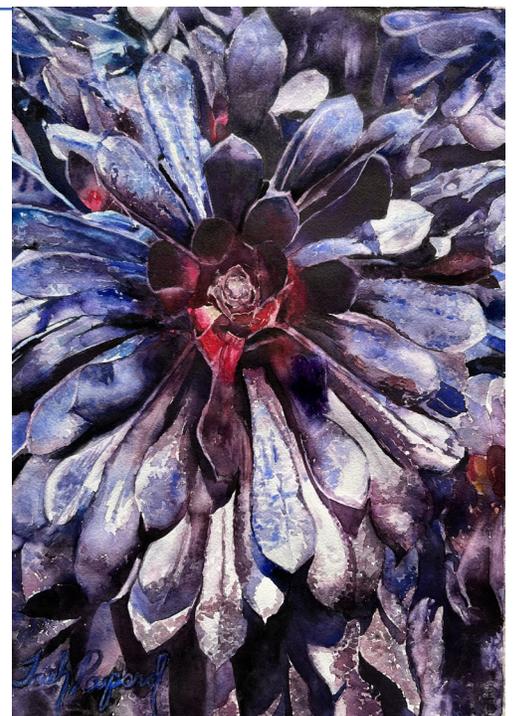


**Dana Brock** has three paintings, "The Language of Trees 7" (shown left), "Mad Hatters Tea Party 2" and "Drawing the Line 2" that were juried into, and are currently showing, in the Art Unleashed Exhibition at Art Mozaik Gallery in Santa Fe, NM.

Dana's painting "On My Way" has been invited to participate in the Art214 Biennial Exhibition at Dallas City Hall.

**Trish Poupard's** painting, "Aubergine" (shown right) was juried into the Transparent Watercolor Society of Americas's 48th Annual National Exhibition by jurors Birgit O'Conner and Stephen Zhang and will be at the Kenosha Public Museum in Wisconsin from May 4 - August 04.

Also, "Urban Cowgirl", won an honorable mention by Juror Alexis Lavine at the South Carolina Spring Digital Show, which is online now at <https://scwatermedia.com/sds/>





**Murthy Mantha** was invited to do a presentation and painting demonstration called “Landscape Paintings to enhance creativity in watercolors” at the Chitrakala Parishad, Visakhapatnam, India as well as a talk on on “Composition and Design in Watercolor” at the SV College of Fine Arts, Hyderabad, India. His plein-air painting (shown left) was recognized at a location painting event in Visakhapatnam, India.

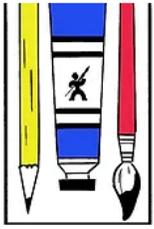
**Valerie Batchelder’s** painting, “She Has A Lot Going On” (shown right) was juried into Dallas Cultural Art/214. It is showing in the South Dallas Cultural Center along with many wonderful pieces - March 22 - April 27.



**Shahrzad Afshinpour’s** painting, “Crimson Sonata” (shown left), has been juried into the Society of Watercolor Artists 2024 International Exhibition, by juror Carrie Waller. This show will be held April 13 - May 25 at The REC of Grapevine, in Grapevine, TX.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Trinity Art Guild 2024 Open Show



The Trinity Art Guild has issued a call for entries for their 2024 Open Show. Entry and registration will be on April 23 and 24 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Closing Reception and Awards Ceremony will be on June 1 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

For more information go to <https://www.trinityartsguild.net/prospectus-and-entry-forms>.

## A REMINDER

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SWS has volunteers who will escort you to your cars after the meetings. We have very powerful flashlights and willing volunteers to help you to your car in the parking lots. Simply come to the Membership Table at the end of the meeting and a volunteer will assist you to your car.

We at SWS are concerned for your safety and provide this program for your convenience.

Membership  
Southwestern Watercolor Society





## BOARD NEWS

### Members To Vote On Next Year's Board Of Directors

On Tuesday, April 9, the members of SWS will vote on a slate of officers for the 2024-2025 Membership Year. As described in the SWS By-Laws, the Nominating Committee has offered a slate of officers who have agreed to fulfill the responsibilities of the leadership roles that keep this organization one of the top watercolor societies in the country. This list of Board members for next year has been ratified by the current Board and now must be approved by the membership at the April meeting. They will be the leaders who will oversee all of the SWS activities for next year including membership, the treasury, communications, the exhibition, programs, workshops and classes, paint-outs, and all other aspects of running a society that is this active with over 400 members.

#### The nominated officers for the 2024-2025 SWS Board of Directors are:

President	<b>Kent Perigo</b>
1st Vice-President, Programs	<b>Cheryl Sonsteby</b>
2nd Vice-President, Membership	<b>Jan Venuso</b>
3rd Vice-President, Workshops	<b>Mary Jane Journey and Kay Byfield</b>
4th Vice-President, Exhibitions	<b>April Hare</b>
5th Vice-President, Communications	<b>Dalynn Montgomery</b>
Treasurer	<b>Janet Southern</b>
Recording Secretary	<b>Regina Carl</b>
Parliamentarian	<b>Dalynn Montgomery</b>

In addition, other members have volunteered to take on the important committee leadership positions. Those names will be published in the next newsletter. There are still a few roles open to volunteers. If you are interested in becoming more involved in helping this society continue to be so successful, please contact one of the current leaders to learn more.

## CONTACTS

Dalynn Montgomery  
[President@swswatercolor.org](mailto:President@swswatercolor.org)

**1st VP - PROGRAM CHAIR**  
Kent Perigo

**2nd VP - MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**  
Jan Venuso, 214-535-7213  
[Membership@swswatercolor.org](mailto:Membership@swswatercolor.org)

**3rd VP - WORKSHOPS CHAIR**  
Constance Corbett  
Beth Menking  
[Workshops@swswatercolor.org](mailto:Workshops@swswatercolor.org)

**4th VP - EXHIBITIONS CO-CHAIRS**  
Shahrazad Afshinpour  
Kay Byfield, 214-532-5559

**5th VP - COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR**  
Kay Byfield, 214-532-5559  
[Communications@swswatercolor.org](mailto:Communications@swswatercolor.org)

**RECORDING SECRETARY**  
Cheryl Sonstebly

**TREASURER**  
Janet Southern  
[Treasurer@swswatercolor.org](mailto:Treasurer@swswatercolor.org)

**PAST PRESIDENT/  
PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
Paula Vining

**PAINT OUT CHAIRS**  
Dan Killebrew, Raymond Mosier

**SCENE EDITOR**  
Lori Williamson  
[Newsletters@swswatercolor.org](mailto:Newsletters@swswatercolor.org)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Total Members in March

423

*Welcome to Our  
Newest Members!*

**Marsha Reeves  
Kathleen Reilly  
Mindy Rowland-Hess  
Shangzheng Yang**



# ADVERTISEMENTS

## SWS SCENE NEWSLETTER AD RATES

\$25 for ads 3" or less in either dimension  
\$50 for ads 5" or less in either dimension  
\$75 for ads 7" or less in either dimension  
(7" is the absolute size limit for an ad)

Submit proofed copy on website at  
[https://swwatercolor.org/Submit\\_Ad](https://swwatercolor.org/Submit_Ad)  
by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

## **JERRY'S ARTARAMA**® Retail Stores

12817 Preston Rd., Suite 128  
Dallas, TX 75230

**(972) 803-5664**

## MEMBER TEACHER LISTINGS

*Teacher listings are available to members for a small annual fee of \$25 for four lines (135 characters).*

*For more information, contact  
[Communications@SWSWatercolor.org](mailto:Communications@SWSWatercolor.org)*

LISTINGS ARE FROM JUNE - MAY  
FOR THE  
2023-2024 MEMBER YEAR

**Trish Poupard, WW, SWS, TWS, SWA, SCWS, PWSA**  
All Levels Welcome, Watercolor Techniques Class  
Wed's 10am-1pm Touchmark at Emerald Lake, McKinney  
Contact Trish to Register for WC Classes  
Text: (626) 862-9869; Email: [trish@trishpoupard.com](mailto:trish@trishpoupard.com)

**Al Kline, SWS**  
Email: [alklineart@gmail.com](mailto:alklineart@gmail.com)  
Drawing & Urban sketching courses, watercolor, all levels  
Website: [albertkline.com](http://albertkline.com)

**Paula White, Artist & Instructor, 50 years of experience**  
817-527-6736; [paulaswhitehssa@gmail.com](mailto:paulaswhitehssa@gmail.com)  
Private & Group workshops, classes  
Watercolor on Yupo

**Michael Borne, SWS**  
(512) 318-1279, Email: [mborne@att.net](mailto:mborne@att.net)  
Transparent Watercolor and Sketching Lessons  
Beginners Welcome! Private Lessons available  
Website: [www.michaelborne.com](http://www.michaelborne.com)

**Kay Byfield, MFA, SWS; 214-532-5559**  
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Traditional Watercolor, all levels  
[www.CreativeArtsCenter.org](http://www.CreativeArtsCenter.org)

**Laura Lee Drumwright, SWS; 615.424.2934**  
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Beginner-Intermediate  
Private & Group Workshops/Classes  
[www.LauraLeeGallery.com](http://www.LauraLeeGallery.com)

**Pat Kochan, SWS, TVAA, TWS, ISAP, WFWS, WHS**  
Finding Your Own Style  
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[www.patkochanfineart.com](http://www.patkochanfineart.com)  
972-814-2647, [PatArt@AOL.com](mailto:PatArt@AOL.com)

# Danube

WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

River Cruise

with Al Kline

Join us August 19th-26th, 2024 where we  
paint Vienna, Budapest and other cities  
along the Danube in watercolor.

Go to [paintbydestination.com](http://paintbydestination.com) for more  
information