



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

<http://www.swswatercolor.org>

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 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

Hello SWS friends!

May flew by faster than I thought even possible. I missed seeing you all at the May meeting. I greatly appreciate all the calls, texts, cards and emails of support and sympathy regarding the passing of my beloved mom early in May. She was an amazing woman and mother and I know I will miss her every day of my life but I believe she now resides in a better place where there is no pain and no sorrow.

Many of you told me that the May meeting which featured Michael Holter's presentation about Varnished Water Media was very informative and the social party was a big success too! The fun social mixer games that Constance planned and led were also warmly enjoyed by those who attended.

I want to thank Jonesy McConnell, Gail Delger and their team of volunteers for the spectacular WFWS exhibition and Reception in Grapevine. I heard many positive comments about the quality of the show and the Texas hospitality that was extended to our fellow WFWS members that traveled to Grapevine for the reception.

Please remember that memberships were due on May 31 and can be paid on the SWS website by logging in as a member. If you have not yet logged into the new site, please do and check out all the hard work that we have done so far.

While SWS does not meet in June, July or August, I know many of us will be busy painting in June, preparing to enter our 60th membership exhibition. The deadline is June 30th, so don't forget to enter!

I challenge you to share your love of water media with someone over the summer break. Does a friend admire your sketches or paintings? Do they say things like, "I wish I could paint." How do you answer them? Do you offer to help get them started? Maybe invite them over for an iced tea and a casual lesson?

A couple of months ago I was asked to volunteer to teach a watercolor sketching class at the local community center. It's been wonderful spending time with new friends in the community while I share with them the joys and benefits of sketching and painting for EVERYONE. I tell my friends that sketching and painting need not have the goal of producing "something that will necessarily hang on a wall". The very effort of drawing / painting for one's own enjoyment (and practice) is valid and worthwhile. I share the value of taking a sketchbook everywhere. So many happy memories and spontaneous conversations about sketching and art and why I love it. Can you share your joy of



painting even if you aren't "the best painter" you know? Yes, of course you can... and you should! You may not feel qualified to teach them extended formal watercolor lessons, but I bet you can help them get their brushes wet and then introduce them to one of the many professional teachers that are SWS members.

I'd love to hear YOUR stories about sharing the love of being creative with beginners! Email me at President@swwatercolor.org. I hope you all have a safe and wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you at the September meeting!

Dalynn Montgomery

Dalynn Montgomery
President, Southwestern Watercolor Society

ARTIST'S SPOTLIGHT

Les McDonald

Besides his loved ones, Les McDonald, www.lesmcdonald.com, has two passions, outdoor activities like hunting and fishing, and painting. It all started when his mother inherited some property in Port O'Connor, Texas from his grandmother. In elementary school he spent time there almost every day with his rod and reel or a shotgun and shells. It wasn't unusual for him to come home with a dozen or so trout.



After all that time spent in nature, he drew a pintail duck with colored pencils in the 6th grade and showed it to his mother. When he assured her that he hadn't traced it, she was impressed. By the 8th grade he was taking neighborhood art classes and was entering competitions. He won an award in his first exhibition at a shopping mall in Port Lavaca, Texas. At the next county fair he won the President's award even though he was competing with adults. He decided that art was his calling.



After graduating from Sam Houston State College with a degree in Commercial Art and a minor in photography, Les was a partner in an ad agency from the mid-seventies on, working predominantly with oil and real estate companies. In 1986, he sold his share of

the company to become a full-time fine artist specializing in wildlife art. He promptly joined the Houston Watercolor Society and began entering more competitions.



Les' early training was in oil paints, but the poor ventilation in his mid-1950s home exacerbated his allergies and watercolors are not toxic like oil solvent fumes. Although the painting process for watercolors is the opposite of the approach oil painters take, Les adapted quickly to watercolors. He likes the transparency, and says the key is to start with the basics and let things dry thoroughly before going on to the next step. With watercolor it is necessary to work from light to dark and paint negatively a lot, but it is fun to use all the options to add interest to the painting. These include sponging, scraping, stamping, using drybrush, etc. In a pinch, a little light gouache can be added to touch up details. A master of technique, in June Les will be teaching a workshop on all the different methods a watercolorist can use to apply paint to a surface.



In 1992, when his wife began to complain that his art paraphernalia was taking over the house, Les built a 720 square foot studio attached to the house with a large deck. It has a cathedral ceiling, a fireplace and northlight with his own frame shop. This studio has been where he has created his award-winning paintings. He has been selected as the sponsor print artist for Ducks Unlimited and Waterfowl U.S.A. numerous times and has been the stamp print artist for Quail Unlimited and the Dove Sportsman's Society.



Les has also competed and won awards in many watercolor societies. His most recent honor is the selection of one of his paintings for the American Watercolor Society exhibition in New York ("Dining Out" shown right). This is the second time he has had that honor. The other painting that was displayed by AWS is called "Alaska Crab Traps" (shown left). He has also had paintings selected many times by the Watercolor Art Society-Houston, SWS, and other art groups.



Les loves the outdoors. He is still an avid hunter and fisherman, but he doesn't paint on location. Instead, he takes a lot of photos when he is in nature and his compositions are often refined by the framing of his shots. He makes his selection of which ones to paint based on how well the photo is composed.

Les says that it doesn't matter how good the artist's technical skills are if the design isn't good. A good composition will enable the eye to travel in a pleasing way around the painting. If there is an obstruction in

the path of the eye, like the poorly positioned telephone pole that interrupted the flow of his recent painting of the Grand Fayetteville Hotel, he removes it from the design. Notice the pole in reference photo is shown above that painting.



Once Les has selected the reference photo for his painting, he does a very tight drawing, usually on a half sheet of watercolor paper (15" X 22"). He believes that his paintings are more likely to be successful if he has carefully planned everything out. He prefers to paint on 300 # Arches Cold Press in order to be able to use drybrush techniques and also get fine details. After he is satisfied with the drawing, he applies a very light wash over the drawing because that will set the pencil lines and keep them from smearing. After the wash has dried completely, often overnight, he works first with the sky and background. Because he doesn't use a hairdryer except in small areas and likes to dry the paper completely between each step, he usually has several paintings in process simultaneously. He doesn't like to use hairdryers because they push the paints into the valleys of the texture and off of the high places, and that can leave a mealy looking wash.



Les often uses masking fluid to preserve light shapes so that he doesn't need to do as much negative painting around small shapes. In a scene that he is painting now, he masked out the ducks so that he could freely paint the sky. He cautions that it is important not to leave the masking fluid on the painting for more than two or three days after it is applied, or it may damage the paper. Sometimes he masks the painting in sections for that reason. Brushes that are used to apply the

masking fluid should be cleaned every 4 or 5 minutes with rubber cement thinner and then soap and water.



His reputation was earned painting fur, feathers, scales and natural scenes, but in recent years, Les has begun painting other subjects as well. He has done paintings of the farmer's market, shrimp boats, and even a still life with silver bowls. He doesn't see himself doing portraits, but he is working on a painting of longhorn cattle drive that he photographed at the Fort Worth Stockyards. He was intrigued by the animals and their wranglers, especially one with a handlebar mustache. He is excited to see how it will turn out.



After so many accomplishments, Les is hoping it won't be too long before he will have another painting accepted into the American Watercolor Society annual exhibition so that he will earn his AWS signature. Good luck, Les. We look forward to seeing what you do next.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Membership Show Slide Preview To Be Held In July

If you are curious about the paintings that were submitted to the SWS 60th annual membership exhibition, you will want to join us for the preview slide show on July 8th. Come see all of the paintings that were entered! This is your chance to guess what the juror, Stan Miller, AWS, will select.

This year's slide show will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library at 1515 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75201. This is a secure location with



free parking under the library in the basement. Use the address 1541 Wood St. to go directly to the library's parking garage. The J. Erik Jonsson Central Library is at the corner of Young and Ervay Streets, across from City Hall. The entrance to the underground parking garage is located on the Wood Street side of the library building. [Directions are on this page.](#)

The slide show is the only membership activity during the summer and gives members a chance to get together to talk about watercolor paintings and have a glass of wine and some delicious appetizers. Come spend a summer afternoon with other watercolor enthusiasts, see a lot of terrific paintings. This year everyone will receive a score sheet that will show all the artworks in order to score the paintings yourself. On September 5th, when the show opens, you can see how closely your selections align with the juror, and on September 23rd you can see the awards selections at the reception.

Everyone is welcome to come see all of the entry slides that go to the juror.

Exhibit at The ArtReach Gallery at Lovers Lane Church In September

SWS member artists have been invited to participate in an exhibition in September at the ArtReach Gallery at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road in Dallas. Artworks must be watercolors and all SWS members are eligible to enter. The prospectus will be posted on the SWS website under Exhibitions in early July. Entry deadline will be September 9, 2023.



The theme of this exhibit is "Fall into Watercolor." The exhibit will be in the church gallery, but the artworks submitted for this exhibit do not necessarily have to have a spiritual meaning. However, considering that art is a God-given gift, appropriate themes might include hope, new birth, anticipation, love, the glorious future, positive outlooks, nature, animals and the like. The ArtReach Committee reserves the right to refuse entries it does not deem acceptable to the theme or appropriate for display in a church or school.

Entry slides must be submitted by Saturday, September 9. ArtReach Gallery can hold 30 to 50 paintings depending upon the sizes of the artwork entered. Each artist may submit up to four (4) paintings. However, the ArtReach Committee reserves the right to limit / reject some entries should the number and size of artwork entered reaches the limit of 50 pieces. There will be no competitive jury or judgment. The selected works will be exhibited from September 14, 2023 through November 16, 2023. Paintings must be original work and hang for the duration of the show. The Lovers Lane Foundation keeps 25% of the sale price if your work is sold and the artist receives 75% of the sale price.

Look for more information by email, on the SWS Facebook page, and on the SWS website in July.

Fall Workshop Seats Going Fast

Registration for the Fall line-up for workshops was opened at the March meeting and spaces are filling fast. Check out these great opportunities and sign up today.



September

AWS signature member [Stan Miller](#) will be giving a three day workshop called “Painting the Portrait and Landscape in Watercolor,” as well as doing a demonstration at the membership meeting and judging the annual exhibition. The workshop will be from September 12 to 14 and registration is open now. To find out more or register, go to the [SWS Workshops page](#).

October

[Laurie Goldstein-Warren](#) will be describing her approach to “Dynamic Pouring” at the membership meeting and she will provide instruction to students in her three day SWS workshop from October 10 to 12. To find out more, or to register, go to the [SWS Workshops page](#).



November

The featured artist in November will be [Sarah Yeoman](#) who will be helping Dallasites to understand The Light of Watercolor in a three day workshop and in her demonstration in November. The workshop will be from November 14 to 16. To find out more, or to register, go to the [SWS Workshops page](#).



RECENT EVENTS

One-Day Class Paints Fast and Loose Portraits with Bill Dale



“Fast and Loose Watercolor Portraits”, the latest in SWS’s series of one-day classes, received excellent reviews and calls for an encore. Bill Dale, who is an SWS signature member, urban sketcher and industrial designer, led the class. He demonstrated his drawing and painting techniques and provided one-on-one guidance for sixteen participants on May 20.

“Painting mindlessly takes practice,” Bill said. He advocated finding photographs with strong lighting and laying out colors in advance to paint fast and spontaneously. In the class Bill provided reference photographs and then demonstrated his painting process. Participants painted along. During his initial applications he painted from top to bottom to establish color in the background and the shadows in the face. Then it was quick work to refine the features for a lovely portrait.

Since the popular class filled more than two months ahead and drew a long waitlist, a second class will be planned for later this year.

May Membership Meeting/Celebration- May 9, 7:00 pm

The last meeting of the 2022/2023 membership year was very unusual. At the beginning of the meeting, there were some games to encourage mingling and then a feast of specialty pizzas and dessert. After that, Michael Holter described how to varnish watercolor paintings. This method of protecting works on paper is becoming more widely accepted in watercolor exhibitions and SWS will be accepting varnished paintings for the first time in 2023.



Traditionally, watercolor paintings on paper are matted and are behind glass in order to protect them but that makes the paintings heavy, fragile, and the surface is reflective. Plexiglass, which is even more expensive than glass will not break but scratches easily and there is still a glare. Varnishing is beginning to be an acceptable alternative. Michael has been experimenting with varnishing paintings using different materials for several years.

There was no Painting-of-the-Month competition at the May meeting. It will resume in September.

The 2023/2024 membership year begins in June. **There will be no meeting in June, July, or August.** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September

SWS Hosts Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibition in May

From May 6 to June 2, 2023, SWS hosted the 48th Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS) Exhibition in Grapevine, TX. The exhibition was mounted at the Tower Gallery, 636 Main Street. The juror and judge for awards was the prestigious watercolor painter, Mary Whyte, <https://www.marywhyte.com>

The Western Federation of Watercolor Societies includes over 5,000 artists in ten societies across the western states. The juried show is hosted each year by a different regional member society. We showcase works on paper created with a variety of water-based media. Membership in WFWS is automatic for any member of one ten western watercolor societies.



The awards reception, held on May 6th was very well attended and was hosted by Exhibition Chair, Jones McConnell Jr. (Jonesy). He introduced all of the delegates from each of the member societies and gave awards to each of the winners.

There was general agreement that this was a particularly strong exhibition. There were many positive complements about the quality and variety of the watercolor paintings on display. Styles range from paintings full of whimsy and subjective color to almost photographic imagery. Subject matter is equally varied.

Best of Show was awarded to to Chuck Rouse from the South Dakota Watercolor Society for his painting, "Backwater." SWS members who won awards were Kathy Elliott, Bev Boren, Dana Brock, Sheilagh Cooper, Jane Jones and Judi Betts. Congratulations to all the winners and every artist who had work accepted.

Western Federation Delegates Meet In Grapevine for 48th Annual WFWS Exhibition

SWS hosted the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies' annual Board Meetings, Show Opening and Awards Reception May 4th through the 7th in Grapevine, Texas. Each of the ten societies that are part of the Western Federation had collected the works of their member artists to ship together to the show. The paintings were matted according to the specifications on the prospectus to be framed at the gallery in order to have a consistent look in the framing.



Prior to hanging the 90 paintings in the Clock Tower Gallery on Main St in historic downtown Grapevine a rowdy bunch of SWS volunteers led by Gail Delger did the framing of the selected paintings.

They needed to open all ten of the societies' shipping boxes, sort the matted paintings by sizes, check mats for cleanliness, clean each piece of plexiglas, and place the assembly in each cooresponding pre-ordered frame. The assembly line worked like a charm.



On Friday morning May 5th the current Delegates and Alternate Delegates for WFWS met in the Hilton Garden Inn in Grapevine to discuss business issues, the current agenda for the events, and view all the information for next year's event to be held in Phoenix. After lunch they enjoyed a small-painting exchange among the members before reconvening for a Networking Meeting to discuss future jurors, workshop events, membership issues, etc. Friday evening the Delegates from ten WFWS Societies enjoyed dinner together at Tolberts on Main Street in historic downtown Grapevine. On Saturday evening everyone participated in the awards reception and opening of the exhibition.

HAPPENINGS

Ron Bigony had a painting (shown right) accepted into the 156th American Watercolor Society Exhibition. The exhibition will be held at the Salmagundi Club in New York City April 3-28, 2023.

Alicia Farris received the Airfloat Award of Excellence in the 2023 Missouri Watercolor Society International in St. Louis and Award of Excellence in the 62nd Watercolor USA exhibit in Springfield, MO. Two of her works will be featured as Honorable Mention and Finalist Award winners in *Splash 24*, which will be on the newsstands in July, 2023. She was accepted into the 46th International Watermedia Exhibition in Houston, 2023 Signature American Watermedia International in Falbrook, Ca., Southern Watercolor 46th Exhibition in Panama City, Fla, and the 55th Watercolor West International in Newport Beach, Ca. Shown left is "Blue Eyes" which will be featured in *Splash 24*.



Jouette Travis participated in a symposium about "Image and Identity: Representing Texas, the Lower South, and the Southwest before 1900" at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in May.

Cecelia Renfro's exhibiton at the Winnsboro Center for the Arts in Winnsboro,Tx closed on May26, 2023. It is a retrospective called "Fragments of My Life."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Taos Watercolor Society Invites Participation in Ric Dentinger Workshop

The Taos Watercolor Society will be hosting Ric Dentinger for a workshop October 12 & 13, 2023. Registration is on the society's website at www.taoswatercolorsociety.org. Ric's work is shown on his website, www.dentingerfineart.com.



The workshop will be held at the Hotel Don Fernando de Taos. Hotels and restaurants are nearby, as is historic Taos Plaza. The workshop will start off with a meet and greet on Wednesday, October 11.

October is beautiful up here in the mountains with the Aspens and Cottonwoods turning to gold. For more information, contact Lonnie Shan (lonnieshanart@gmail.com).

Call for Entries with NorthStar Watermedia Society

NorthStar Watermedia Society is excited to host its 9th Annual National Juried Exhibition. Here is a quick summary of key dates and requirements:

- Entry deadline: July 1, 2023 @midnight
- Entry dates: May 1 – July 1, 2023
- Exhibition dates: September 15-October 29, 2023
- Exhibition Location: Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI
- Eligibility: All adults 18 years and older
- Media: All watermedia
- Entry fee: \$40/members; \$55/non-members for up to 3 entries/artist
- Registration: Online only @ www.callforentry.org

For full information, see our Prospectus @ www.northstarwatermedia.com/exhibitions and/or www.callforentry.com. As in previous years, there will be a minimum of \$3,000 in cash awards plus approximately an additional \$3,000 in non-cash awards!



BOARD NEWS

Call for Entries for the 60th SWS Membership Exhibition

Entries are being accepted from May 1st to June 30th 2023 for the 60th annual membership of the Southwestern Watercolor Society based in Dallas, Texas. The juror of selection and judge for awards will be Stan Miller, AWS (<https://stanmiller.net/>). There will be more than \$8000 in cash and merchandise awards and the exhibition will run from September 5th to September 29th at the Lillian Bradshaw Gallery of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 4th Floor, 1515 Young Street, Dallas, TX 75201.

SWS membership is necessary to submit show entries, but the membership fee entitles SWS members to also enter the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies exhibition in the Spring of 2024. To join the Southwestern Watercolor Society go to www.swswatercolor.org.

All entries must meet all the requirements in the exhibition prospectus. To find out more or to see the prospectus and enter, **search for the Southwestern Watercolor Society on CaFÉ** (www.callforentry.org). For questions contact info@swswatercolor.org.

Volunteers Needed to Help With Upcoming SWS Watercolor Exhibition

A few more volunteers would be helpful as the work to mount the SWS Membership show in September proceeds. People will be needed to help with publicity, publications, receiving and other tasks. If you can volunteer, please contact Shahrzad Afshinpour at afshinpours@gmail.com or 919-616-6166.

Renew Your SWS Membership

The next SWS membership year starts on June 1, 2023. Although you can join any time, members who have not renewed their annual membership by June 30 will be removed from the directory and will no longer have membership benefits until they rejoin.

To maintain your membership and be eligible to enter the SWS membership exhibition in September, the Western Federation exhibition in May, and to access to all the SWS member information, please renew now! Go to

swswatercolor.org

and click [JOIN.](#)

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Southwestern Watercolor Society MAY MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Total Members in May

455

Welcome to our newest members!

Susan Joseph
Cyndy Smith
Linda Soder
Luther Williams

ADVERTISEMENTS

SWS SCENE NEWSLETTER AD RATES

Advertisements are priced:

\$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
by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

MEMBER TEACHER LISTINGS

Teacher listings are available to members for a small annual fee of \$25.

*For more information, contact
Communications@SWSWatercolor.org*

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

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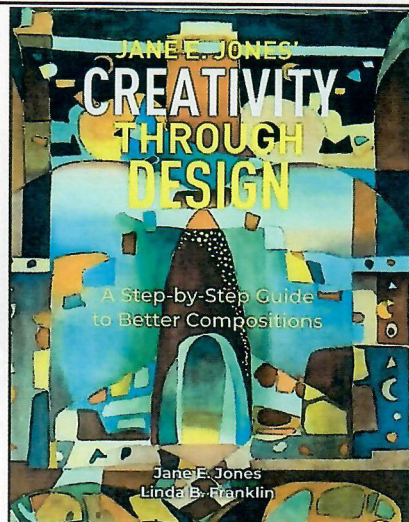
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Traditional Watercolor, all levels,
www.CreativeArtsCenter.org

Member Teacher Listings Rate: \$25 per year for four lines (135 characters)

A Book on Design Written by Jane E. Jones & Linda B. Franklin



COMING SOON

CREATIVITY THROUGH DESIGN is a step-by-step guide to compositional tools to create better two-dimensional art and spark your creativity.

This book presents Jane's methodology of teaching design. She has collaborated in writing the book with principle writer and artist, Linda Franklin who is her long-time friend and student. They have thoroughly worked through all of this material ensuring that it communicates the design process.

Through using the tools provided by the book, artists can better organize their compositions and develop a method for evaluating their own designs.

Updates about the availability of CREATIVITY THROUGH DESIGN will follow.

**Watercolor Classes
with
Kay Byfield**

Creative Art Center of Dallas
creativeartscenter.org/classes

Basic Watercolor (Beginners)
6/15-8/3, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Intermediate/Advanced Watercolor
6/14-8/2, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

More Information:
ArtSpeaksKayByfield@gmail.com

SIGN UP NOW!!!