



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

<http://www.sswatercolor.org>

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 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

Happy New Year SWS friends!

I hope you all had a wonderful, joyous and safe holiday season!

We have lots of exciting things to look forward to for 2024 beginning with January's meeting on the 9th. Long time SWS member, Bill Dale will teach us some of his tips and techniques for painting watercolor portraits. Those of us who have had the privilege of taking one of Bill's workshops or one day classes can attest that Bill's demos are definitely very informative.



Over the past weeks Kay Byfield (SWS VP of Communications), has diligently worked with the SWS Board and Chairpersons to detail more comprehensive descriptions of the various roles and the respective duties. These descriptions will make it much easier for our nominating committee to explain to interested volunteers what the roles involve. Thanks so much Kay!

Volunteers make SWS possible. Many of us serve SWS year after year, working in different areas where needed. Please understand that we are also very much in need of new volunteers to join our efforts. Volunteering is a great way to get involved, make new friends and improve your mood and mental health.

There are many articles that you can read on-line that support this. The Journal of Happiness cites a study of 70,000 individuals from the years between 1996-2014. It was found that those who regularly volunteer have improvements in mood, stress, happiness and mental health.

The nominating committee and the SWS Board are working hard to connect volunteers to roles for the 2024-2025 year. The new slate of officers, chairpersons and volunteers will begin on June 1, 2024. The membership will vote on SWS Board Officers at the April Members Meeting.

I continue to be grateful and excited to be your SWS President through May of 2024. I look forward to all the good and great things that we can accomplish together for the future of SWS!



Dalynn Montgomery
President, Southwestern Watercolor Society

ARTIST'S SPOTLIGHT

John E. James



John James almost declined to be interviewed for the Artist's Spotlight. He confesses that he is a shy person and isn't comfortable with a lot of attention. He prefers to let his paintings speak for themselves.

When he started twenty-eight years ago, John never imagined that painting would become such an important part of his life. He didn't even think about taking a painting class until he became friends with Hugh Templeton, a British watercolor artist and teacher. He soon began to study with Templeton and enjoyed learning how to control the paint and mix

colors, but being a perfectionist, he was discouraged when he couldn't make things look absolutely realistic. That all began to change when he took a workshop with abstract painter, Pat San Soucie. She encouraged him to be more experimental and showed him how to create textures. The process freed him up to respond to the colors and textures as they revealed themselves in the painting. Painting became more fun.



Though his day job is at a pharmaceutical company, he enjoyed art as a child. He aspired to be a doctor and ultimately went into the sciences. He had classmates in junior high and high school who he thought had artistic talent but didn't think he was blessed that way. Even now that he has had paintings accepted in all of the most competitive art exhibitions and published in *Splash*, he isn't sure if he has any talent.

One of the attractions of doing paintings that do not refer to nature is that the true subject is the design itself rather than the documentation of appearances. To John, an experimental approach in painting isn't very different than experimenting in sciences and as he incorporated more novel painting tools and media, he became more confident. Early on, he would destroy disappointing work. Now he puts them away and periodically pulls a stack of them out to see if he sees a spark of potential

in any of them. If there is any part that intrigues him, he will obscure the less interesting parts with additional brush strokes or by pouring, stamping, scraping, or stenciling. His goal is for his paintings to elicit some kind of feeling. He will keep working on the painting until it seems to be finished.

John is a bit surprised that he has done as well as he has in competition. When he started out, he just hoped to have paintings accepted in the region where he lived. He entered shows with SWA in Fort Worth, SWS, and the Irving Arts Association and even served as SWA President in 2000. Now he lives in Virginia and has joined the Chesapeake Bay Watercolorists.



In 2016 John had his first painting accepted into the American Watercolor Exhibition and then earned his signature after two subsequent acceptances. He has had paintings in the National Watercolor Society twice. He says the key is to enter—the painting

doesn't need to be perfect, it just needs to appeal to the juror. The important thing is to put it out there. As HC Dodd said, "if you never try, you will never know."

For John, achieving a variety of textures is one of the most interesting aspects of doing a painting. When he takes his dogs for a walk, he admires the textures he finds in nature. In his backyard he noticed the gauzy bark of a palm tree and collected it to use in his paintings. After laying it on the painting, he can pour paints over the mesh of the bark which will act as a stencil and create a cool effect underneath. That's what he did in the painting at the right. He also likes to stamp with pieces of rawhide, found objects, or scrape into wet paint as in the painting on the left to reveal what is underneath. He began as a transparent watercolor painter but now he is happy to add opaque paints, watercolor pencil, and watercolor crayon as well. A lot of his paintings evolve gradually but occasionally, a painting almost seems to paint itself. It almost feels as though the painting was done by God's hand.



When he cannot find time to paint, John is constantly thinking about it. He was in his early thirties when he started and wonders where this will take him. He enjoys exhibiting in shows and would like to have more invitations to be a judge and have more paintings sell. He is looking forward to the day when he can retire from his day job and devote himself to his art career.



UPCOMING EVENTS

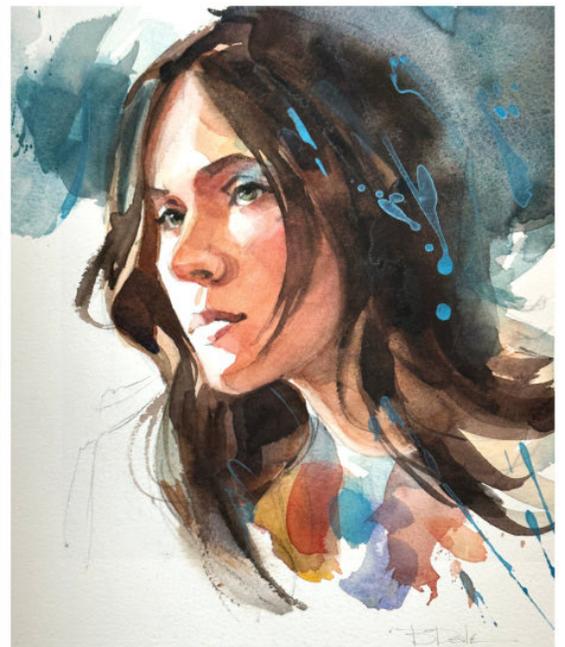
Bill Dale Shows How to do a “Fast and Loose” Watercolor Portrait at the January Membership Meeting

At the January SWS membership meeting, SWS signature member **Bill Dale** will demonstrate his approach to doing a “Fast and Loose” watercolor portrait.

Bill Dale has pursued a long career as an industrial designer. As a designer he has become fairly proficient in drawing, rendering, and illustration which has benefited him in his current painting endeavors. He is a signature member in several watercolor groups and has received awards in a number of exhibitions.

This demo will be his approach to painting portraits with watercolor. He likes to keep them fresh and spontaneous!

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



SWS Three-day Spring Workshops Begin Next Month

The Spring workshop season is drawing close, and begins February 13th with artist **Ken Call**. Call's workshop will cover primarily portraits in watercolor, and begins each day with a demonstration. The first day you can paint whatever subject matter you'd like. This will give the instructor a better idea of your ability, so he can better guide and advise you. The second day you will all be painting people from the same reference photos supplied by Call. He encourage everyone to try do a portrait or figures on the last day. He will give a portrait demo that morning and afterwards can help anyone with their drawing before starting their own painting.



This workshop is currently full, but you can go to [SWS Workshops page](#) to add yourself to the wait-list in case of any cancellations.

March



Soon Y. Warren's March workshop will learn how to create an image of a cut crystal bowl in watercolor in a step by step process. To speed up the class exercise, Soon Y Warren will provide a reference photo and drawing for the group exercise. Following a painting demonstration, workshop participants will do their own painting in order to fully understand the process. While concentrating on technique, the concept of color theory, composition, and color values will be incorporated into the workshop.

Warren will also discuss

- Glazing and washing techniques to create a luminous under painting
- How to utilize light and dark values in order to capture the sparkle of glass
- How to approach a painting
- How to incorporate the concept of color theory and color relationships into a painting
- Discussion and critiques will follow during workshop session
- In addition to the group exercise, participants are encouraged to bring current pieces to paint along with reference photos.

There are currently still a few opening for this informative workshop. Go to the [SWS Workshops page](#) to register.

SWS Three-day Spring Workshops (cont.)

April

The Spring season will wrap up with the fresh and lively techniques of artist **Tom Francesconi**. This workshop will expose the students to Tom's approach to creating interpretive watercolors that are fresh and dynamic. 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. Throughout this process, Tom will share his thoughts and approach to breaking free from the tyranny of the reference photo, encouraging a more creative and satisfying painting experience.



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. Throughout, Tom strives to create an atmosphere that is educational, inspirational and joyful.

Please register at [SWS Workshops page](#).

RECENT EVENTS

Artists Notified of Acceptances to the 2024 Western Fed Exhibition

On December 12, all the artists who had entered paintings into the 2024 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies exhibition were notified about juror Stan Miller's selections. Out of almost 900 entries this year, only 80 will be hung, so the competition was fierce.



Members of ten watercolor societies across eight western states were eligible to participate and the annual exhibition is hosted by each group successively. SWS was the host in 2023 and this next one will be hosted by the Arizona Watercolor Society at the Found:RE Phoenix Hotel in Phoenix from March 1, 2024 - April 28, 2024.

Sixty-one SWS artists entered. Only twelve artists had paintings accepted. Those artists are **Monica Austin, Cheryl Baron, Valerie Batchelder, Dana Brock, Sondra Carr, Gail Delger, Ginny Hoppe, Olivette Hubler, Jessica Kirklin, Pat Kochan, Trish Poupard, and Ken Toki**.

Selected paintings must be delivered matted without a frame to the society delegate to the Western Federation for shipping to the hosting society. SWS's delegate is Gail Delger. The Arizona Watercolor Society will frame and hang the paintings.

HAPPENINGS

Trish Poupard's paintings, "Huntington Cactus" and "Million Watt Smile" (shown left) were both juried into the 2024 Arizona Aqueous XXXVIII by juror Tracy Lynn Ross, and will be at the Tubac Center of the Arts from Jan. 5 - Feb. 25, 2024.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Connect With Other SWS Members

SWS leaders often get requests from members who want to spend more time with other members. It is a joy that we attract people from all over the region, but that also means that not everyone can take part in all of our activities or be with other members regularly. Some people cannot attend meetings because they can't drive at night or live too far away. SWS does not have the ability to solve these problems, but our new website makes it easy for you to help yourself.

Need A Ride Share?

If you would like to come to SWS meetings but don't have transportation, why not set up a ride share? Many of our members are uncomfortable driving at night or out of their neighborhoods, but there may be other people who live nearby and could give them a ride.

How do you find each other? Login to the website and go to the Membership Directory. Put in the name of your town in the search box and it will show all of the other members that live there. To expand your search, include nearby towns. Just email or call those people to see if ride sharing would be convenient.



Want To Form A Painting Group?



The Directory on the website might be the key for this too. Just search nearby towns to see who lives in the area. Then figure out if anyone else shares your vision by emailing them. You will need to figure out when to meet and how often, where (someone's home or another location), and all the other arrangements that need to be made.

Making art with a group once a week or once a month can encourage people to paint and provide a sense of

community. The feedback you get from other artists would be a bonus.

If you are technically challenged and cannot do the search on the website, contact us. We would be happy to help. Just email Communications@swwatercolor.org.



Get the Most From Your Membership – Volunteer!

As this calendar year ends, the SWS Nominating Committee is trying to find candidates for leadership roles for the next membership year (June 2024-June 2025). Some of our current Board Members and Committee Chairs will be staying on, but there are a lot of great open positions. If you value this society and want to get the most out of your membership, now is the time to let us know how you can contribute to SWS.

Some volunteer positions can take a lot of commitment, but most don't. They all make a contribution to the success of the society, however.

Accepting a leadership role makes sure that all of the scheduled SWS activities continue into the future and associates you with other artists who also care about this group. Most people who become leaders understand that the rewards of volunteering are enormous. In addition to feeling good about giving back, volunteers make strong friendships and connections with other artists. Volunteering is the way to get the most from your membership. We need to hear from you NOW!

To see a description of all the Board positions and Committees, go here:

<https://swswatercolor.org/docs.ashx?id=1267257>

For more information about all these jobs and to talk with a member of the Nominations Committee, email Communications@swswatercolor.org.

SWS Receives Bequest From Estate Of Former President Joel Sampson

Joe Earl Sampson, called Joel, was an avid watercolorist, member of SWS, and the President from 2009 to 2010. Although he no longer lived in the DFW area at the time of his death, he included SWS as one of the benefactors in his will. SWS has received \$27,647 from his estate. Joel died in October of 2022 from ongoing heart issues but the estate bequests have just been distributed.

During his early years, Joel earned Master's Degrees from Ohio State in Computer Science and Film. After graduating he opened his own photography studio in downtown Columbus where he shot portraits, weddings and modeling portfolios among other things. He had been doing landscape photography and cityscapes from an early age. After about ten years of running his business, he started teaching Computer Science at Ohio State. He also had his own band from the age of about sixteen and played gigs all over the Midwest during this entire time. He played the saxophone, flute, guitar, drums and keyboard

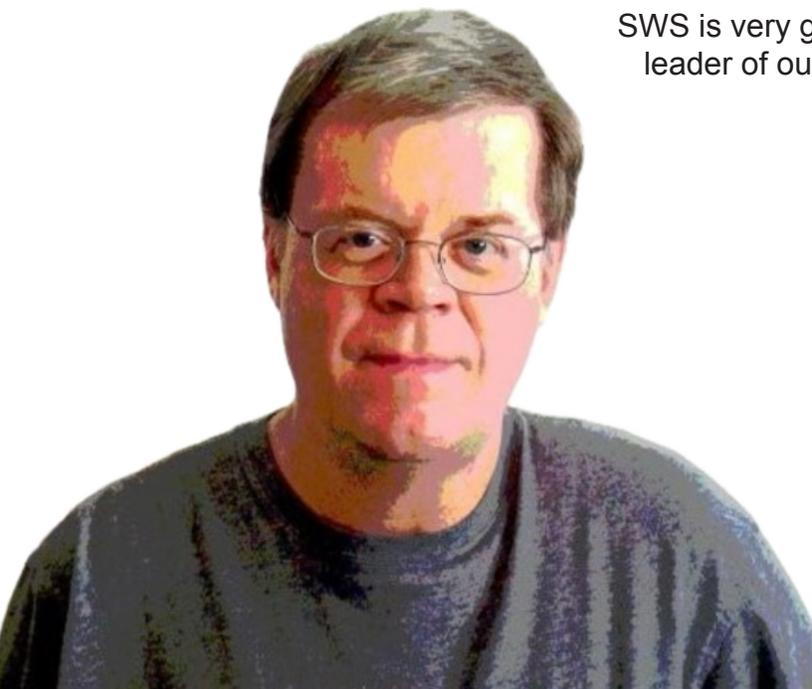
Joel eventually decided to move south and got a job teaching Computer Science at SMU in Dallas. He enjoyed the students but not the academic politics. After a few years at SMU he opened his own business again. This time it was in the music business which took him all over the United States selling a product he invented involving drum beats that could be used to embellish all kinds of musician's performance tapes. After about twenty years of that, he started getting interested in the art world.

Although he was already an excellent photographer, he started taking drawing and painting lessons at the Irving Art Center and served on their Board for several years. Joel and Maureen met around that time so she invited him to get involved in SWS. They both served on the Board for around five years. When Joel served as President of SWS for the 2009-2010 term, which he enjoyed very much, Maureen served as Workshops Chair. Joel enjoyed the comradery with all of the SWS members and remembered that time as one of the happiest of his life.



"Wired" Mixed Media by JoelSampson

SWS is very grateful to receive this generous gift from a valued leader of our society.



Joel Sampson

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Total Members in December

403

*Welcome to Our
Newest Member!*

Susan Floyd



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
by the 20th of the month prior to publication.

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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

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

Al Kline, SWS
Email: alklineart@gmail.com
Drawing & Urban sketching courses, watercolor, all levels
Website: albertkline.com

Paula White, Artist & Instructor, 50 years of experience
817-527-6736; paulaswhitehssa@gmail.com
Private & Group workshops, classes
Watercolor on Yupo

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

Kay Byfield, MFA, SWS; 214-532-5559
ArtSpeaksKayByfield@gmail.com
Traditional Watercolor, all levels
www.CreativeArtsCenter.org

Laura Lee Drumwright, SWS; 615.424.2934
LauraLeeGallery@gmail.com
Beginner-Intermediate
Private & Group Workshops/Classes
www.LauraLeeGallery.com

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

Watercolor Classes with Kay Byfield

Creative Arts Center
of Dallas

<https://www.creativeartscenter.org/>

Basic Watercolor
(less experienced)

Intermediate Watercolor
(experienced)

Carrollton Parks &
Recreation

Leisure Connections

Basic Watercolor
(less experienced)

More information: [ArtSpeaksStudio.com/shop](https://www.artspeaksstudio.com/shop)
Questions? kaybyfield@gmail.com