

Message from the PRESIDENT



Tom Francesconi
President

As somewhat of an amateur astronomer, I am always encouraged by the warmer days of spring, which translate into warmer nights. The crisp, cold winter evenings are over and, alas, stargazing can take on a more comfortable experience. Yet, there is something about the extra preparation and ensuing discomfort (both physically **and** mentally) associated with those frigid viewing sessions that make the *prize* seem extra special. Bundling up against the cold, waiting for the telescope's optics to cool down to outside ambient temperatures, fumbling through star charts with numbing fingertips, etc., all contrive to thwart the most dedicated of observers. Having endured all that, how many times have I struggled and never found my evening target, while the temperature has eaten away at my endurance? And how about those times when the clouds rolled in and spoiled everything? How many times has the cold won out, only to nip at my backside as I fled indoors to the comfort and warmth of heated air? Gosh, what a struggle! Why bother? Well, because for me, there is nothing quite like the thrill of gazing upon the treasures of the night sky with all their mystery and beauty. Glorious winter star clusters, the Great Orion Nebula and its stellar galaxies to only name a few, are the visual gifts that await anyone who would take the time to "bother".

So, is it worth the bother when so many painting efforts end up in the discard pile? Are they nothing more than the carnage of wasted efforts? How often have you invested the better part of a day in the studio only to find your work was to no avail? After

such times, tired and frustrated, I make my way downstairs to rejoin my family, sometimes, to make matters worse, with a headache from the intensity of my efforts. How many times have I seen this scenario played out? Does any of this sound familiar to you? Gosh, what a struggle! Why bother? Well, is there anything quite so awe-inspiring to each of us as a beautiful watercolor? No, and even more so if **you** did it! Now there's something **really** special!! Not only is the painting a joy to look upon, but also that fabulous experience of the creative process - the doing - is worth its weight in gold! Were you not exhilarated as you gazed and

This year, MWS is proud to present the 26th Annual National Transparent Watercolor Exhibition at the Kankakee County Historical Society Museum. I invite each of you to take the opportunity to visit this lovely museum...and enjoy watercolor!

marveled upon that painting as it unfolded before your very eyes, while your hands guided the brush? You know the painting I'm talking about, that wonder that just seemed to happen.

Did it really come that easy? Of course not! Look at the discard pile! Would it have come at all if it were not for all those "wasted efforts"?

Art is a journey, not unlike any other in life. It is arduous and full of pitfalls. The road of painting is littered with those who have "fled indoors," seeking the comfort offered by not continuing to try. But those who continue on come to know the truth, that comfort, real contentment, is only realized by the stick-to-itiveness of relentless creative effort. It is only through the dedication to one's craft that the doors to growth and achievement, so often seemingly closed, are opened. Like the gems of a winter sky, they are there, waiting, but will not give of themselves freely. But the means to open those doors can be gained by anyone who would take the time to bother.

Message from the VICE PRESIDENT



Vickie L. Morley
First Vice President
Exhibition Chairperson

Preparations are well under way for the 26th Annual National Exhibit of Transparent Watercolor paintings. Juror Frank Francese has selected a wonderful group of paintings that pay tribute to the medium of transparent watercolor. The exhibit opens June 22 and continues through August 18, 2002.

The Kankakee County Historical Society Museum, under the direction of interim director, Mardene Hinton and her committee, is working tirelessly to make this a spectacular exhibit. In fact, they have installed a new Walker hanging system, enhanced the lighting and garnered support from the Kankakee community with funding and the production of posters and postcards. These efforts demonstrate the importance and respect they place on our Society's annual competition and exhibition. This is the museum's first large two-dimensional display of paintings. The transparent watercolors will share space with George Grey Barnard's larger than life sculptures to create a

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powerful visual impact for the visitor. Only an hour from Chicago, a visit to Kankakee would make a pleasurable summer outing for all artists, students, teachers, friends, art groups and all who appreciate watercolor.

Mark your calendars right now for June 29th. Frank Francese will be conducting a gallery walk at the museum from a juror's perspective, followed by a demonstration. Please note that the Gallery Walk will not be videotaped this year. You must be present to hear the juror's comments on each painting in the exhibit.

MWS President Tom Francesconi and Joan Hasselman, Hospitality Chairperson, are combining efforts to make our annual dinner meeting a

very special evening celebrating the Award recipients. Please refer to the enclosed dinner reservation form for exact times. Seating for the dinner is limited this year. We suggest you get your reservation in early.

We welcome the 30+ first time exhibiting artists as well as the returning artists and the 32 signature and master artists who have been accepted into this year's Show. Congratulations to all of you!

There will be an admission charge during the Midwest Watercolor Society's exhibition. Adults \$3.00 Seniors and Children 18 and under \$2.00.



MWS 26th Exhibition Calendar of Events

- June 22, 2002** Public Opening
- June 24-28, 2002** Frank Francese Workshop
- June 29, 2002**
 - 10:00 am Gallery Walk
with Frank Francese, MWS, NWS
 - 1:00 pm Watercolor Demonstration
with Frank Francese, MWS, NWS
 - 4:00 pm Mixer
 - 5:00 pm Dinner Awards Ceremony
- August 18, 2002** Exhibition Closes

Frank Francese, MWS, NWS



Frank Francese, MWS, NWS

AWARDS

*Carol Shahbaz,
Awards Chair*

Awards for the 26th National Exhibition of Transparent Watercolors will come from a wide variety of donors; have you ever considered being a donor? Ideas to think about: Do you work for a company that matches your donations when you give to a non-profit organization? If so, consider giving an award or establishing an endowment in your name to the Midwest Watercolor Society. Or, how about considering

getting a group of fellow artists together and creating an award for our 26th Exhibition. Please think about it, you can discuss the possibilities with either myself, Carol Shahbaz (616) 428-2688 or with Sue Ison (847) 705-6455.

Last year, for the first time in MWS history, the public was asked to vote for their favorite painting at the 25th Annual Exhibition of Transparent Watercolors at the Elmhurst Museum. The public bestowed the honor of most favorite artist to Z.L. Feng and his painting "Mechanic." Joan Hasselman,

Hospitality Chair, organized 25 artists to paint and donate 25 luminaries that were auctioned off at the banquet with the proceeds going to the Peoples Choice winner. The MWS board agreed to continue having the Peoples Choice Award for our 26th Annual Exhibition. Joan Hasselman is busily organizing a project to fund this award and we will have another auction at this years Award banquet. MWS greatly appreciates the support and generosity of its members in making this and other awards possible for our Annual Exhibitions.

DON'T MISS THE FUN!

2001 marked the Midwest Watercolor Society's first annual "Peoples Choice Award". We funded the award with a watercolor luminary auction. The entire proceeds went to the "Peoples Choice Award" winner. Z.L. Feng's painting "Mechanic" won and he was awarded \$960.

This year we have decided to limit the "Peoples Choice Award" to \$250. Money raised in excess of this amount will be used by MWS to continue to produce a premier national transparent watercolor show. The luminaries were a great success, but it was a one-time event.

To fund the "Peoples Choice Award," this year, MWS will have a silent auction of small paintings donated by our members and recent award recipients. Paintings will be on display and bids will be open during MWS's annual workshop.



Dolores Rogers, MWS

Joan Hasselman, Hospitality



Dan Burt, MWS

Frank Francese, MWS, NWS, is this year's instructor. Bids close and the high bidders will take home their painting treasures at our 26th annual meeting and awards dinner, June 29, 2002 in Kankakee, IL.

Dan Burt MWS, Ratindra Das MWS, Z.L. Feng, Dolores Rogers MWS, Evelyn Ecale Schultz MWS, Jan Fabian Wallake MWS, and June Young MWS, have graciously agreed to donate paintings. Dan Burt MWS and Dolores Rogers MWS paintings have already arrived. They are fabulous!!!! I've always wanted to make our awards dinner something you don't want to miss and I think this will do it!

Make your reservations for dinner now so you...

don't miss the fun.

SLIDE REFLECTIONS

Nancy Rayborn, *Slide Receiving*

The slides are now in the juror's hands. We received 439 entries this year, with close to 800 slides. Entries broke down into the following categories:

	<i>Received/Accepted</i>
Landscape	125 / 13
Figure	41 / 14
Still Life	92 / 09
Portraits	31 / 01
Floral	75 / 03
Nature/Garden	50 / 01
Abstract	66 / 03
Water/Marine	47 / 04
Interiors	13 / 05
Birds/Animals	43 / 08
Fantasy	17 / 0
Streets/Buildings	83 / 12
Transportation	10 / 05
Misc	01 / 01

It is so important that only your painting AND NOTHING ELSE be visible on the slide — even a small sliver of matting is distracting. I know that mylar tape is a mystery to many artists but if you will learn to use it, you will multiply the impact of your slide!

One source of silver mylar tape is Light Impressions (phone 1-800-828-6216). Mylar tape is called “slide masking tape” or “polyester laminate tape” in the catalog — you can also purchase it at most camera stores. I actually purchased a roll in the tape department of our local hardware store. Mylar tape is very thin and a bit tricky to get used to, but well worth the effort. To use it, you must first remove your slide from the mount. Then, carefully,

stick the tape right up to the edge of your image, masking ALL extraneous material. The film should then be placed in a new slide mount — available at any film processing or camera store (and also in the Light Impressions catalog). Some slide mounts snap together and some are closed by using the heat of an iron.

After five years of serving on the slide receiving committee and viewing all submitted slides during that period, I can promise you that your slide will stand out and look more professional if you will take the time to use mylar tape. You would be surprised at how many slides are submitted with grass, trees, books, stools, thumbtacks, clips, frames and matting visible. Give yourself that extra boost!



Frank Francese MWS, NWS



Frank Francese MWS, NWS



Frank Francese MWS, NWS

SECOND CHANCE

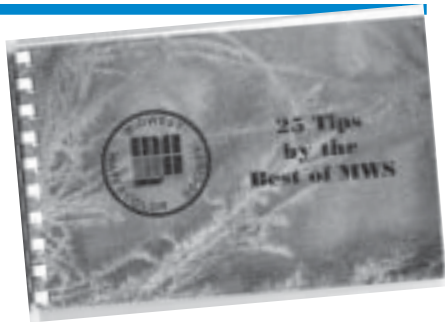
FRANK FRANCESE WORKSHOP

Due to cancellations, there are a couple of openings left for the Frank Francese Workshop. If you thought there wasn't a chance for you to participate, here is a 'second chance.' Just phone or email Carole Burval, MWS, (847) 382-4325; carole@watercolorcards.com.

RESERVATIONS

Be sure to send in your reservations for the MWS dinner, demonstration and gallery walk, on June 29th, with our juror, Frank Francese. This is a not-to-be-missed experience, especially since the gallery walk will not be videotaped this year. There is limited space, so get your reservation early.

If you absolutely cannot make the Gallery Walk on June 29th, be sure to make a trip to this lovely museum before the end of the exhibit, August 18th. It is a great summer trip.



25 Tips by the Best of MWS

A full color booklet with painting tips from some of the best MWS artists has been published to commemorate the MWS 25 th Anniversary.

\$10⁰⁰ for Members

\$12⁵⁰ for Non Members

Please add \$2.00 for shipping.

Revisit the 25th Anniversary MWS show at the Elmhurst Art Museum

through these two MWS items.

• **Cheng-Khee Chee Gallery**

Walk video **\$25⁰⁰**

• **25th Anniversary Show**

Catalog **\$12⁰⁰**



25th Anniversary MWS Watercolor Sketchbook

20 pages 12" x 9" 140 lb. Acid free paper.

For this item, we must charge shipping

\$20⁰⁰ plus \$5.00 shipping



MWS Membership Pin
\$5⁰⁰

Reduced prices on older videos

2000 Gerald F. Brommer video ----- **\$20⁰⁰**

1999 Joseph Bohler video ----- **\$20⁰⁰**

1998 Stephen Quiller video ----- **\$18⁰⁰**

1997 Tony Van Hasselt video ----- **\$15⁰⁰**

These items still in stock

2000 MWS Show Catalog ----- **\$10⁰⁰**

1999 MWS Show Catalog ----- **\$5⁰⁰**

1998 Show Catalog ----- **\$5⁰⁰**

1999 MWS Exhibition Computer Screen Saver
for PC or MAC **\$12⁰⁰**

MWS Stickers 4 @ \$1⁰⁰

MWS Special Promotions

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Description	Quantity	Price	Subtotal

Order Total _____

Please mail checks with order to:
Midwest Watercolor Society
Box 253
126 E. Wing St.
Arlington Heights, IL
60004-6064

Member NEWS AWARDS AND PUBLICATIONS

•**Jack R. Brouwer, MWS**, is featured in a ten page article in the winter issue of the "Watercolor" magazine an American Artist publication. The article is titled "Painting Boats, Two Careers, One Vision".

•A painting of **Andrea Vincent PWS**, "Villa Umbrella" is one of ten finalists in International Artist Magazine 'landscape' competition. Chosen from 2000 entries, it will appear in the February / March 2002 issue and may be seen on her website, www.andreavincen.com. She also had a solo show, titled "Fluid Simplicity" at Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers, Chicago. For the second year, in a row, her watercolor was featured on the 2002 Lakefront Parking decal.

•**Dan Burt, MWS, NWS**, won the Mary Lou Fitzgerald Memorial Award for watercolor at the 88th Annual Allied Artists of America Exhibition in New York in December 2001. He also had a painting accepted in the 135th Annual American Watercolor Society International Exhibition in New York City. Another painting was accepted in the 25th Annual Watercolor Art Society, Houston International Exhibition in April, 2002. A painting was also included in the newly released book, "The Collected Best of Watercolor" by Rockport Publishers.

•**Arleen Rugerri, NWS, RRWS, WCWS, WW**, had a painting accepted into Watercolor West, where she received the Daler Rowney Award. She further received signature membership in the society. She also had paintings accepted by Pike's Peak and Missouri Watercolor Societies as well as the Western Colorado Watercolor Society from which she attained Signature Membership. One of her paintings has been used for the front cover of the Grand Junction Colorado Symphony Orchestra Program Catalogue, 2001-2002. She had a one-woman exhibit at

the Grand Junction, Colorado, City Hall through April 30, 2002.

•**Catherine Anderson** has been elected to active AWS membership with the acceptance of her painting, "Magic of the Night" in January 2002!

•On May 7th, The American Liver Foundation will host an exhibit of original watercolors by **Tom Francesconi, MWS, NWS**, at the **Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago**, to be held in conjunction with their annual dinner event. The American Liver Foundation will conduct a silent auction of the paintings. His painting, "Days of Infamy" has been selected for the 26th Annual Midwest Watercolor Society's Exhibition.

•**Grace Haverty** will have her pen, ink and watercolor sketch of "Ground Zero" in the Spring issue of Watercolor Magic Magazine, in the article "The Core of Creativity" written by Betsy Dillard Stroud. She also had her watercolor "Flaming Gerbera" accepted in the 27th Annual Exhibition of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies. The exhibit will be held at the Albuquerque Museum in Albuquerque, New Mexico May 18th through August 30, 2002.

•In March, one of **Jeanne Dobie's** paintings from the Seattle, Washington, Frye Art Museum's permanent collection was selected for their current exhibition entitled "The Frye at Fifty: Five Decades of Collecting."

•**Peg Cullen** has been invited by Lands' End to have a solo show of her larger-than-life portraits of real people, in their corporate gallery in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. The show will include about 20 of her works. She won a merit award for her watercolor "Bye, Bye, Tribe" at the Women Contemporary Artist Exhibit, Venice Art Center, Venice, Florida and also for her drawing "Patty" at the Festival of Art Show, at Charlotte County Art Guild, Punta Gorda Florida.

•**Lorraine Ptacek** was accepted and exhibited a painting in the 25th Annual Alice and Arthur Baer Art Competition & Exhibition, Beverly Art Center,

Chicago, Illinois, the Community Art Partners, Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Artistic Expressions at the Wings Gallery, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois; and the Arizona Aqueous XVIII, Tubac Art Center, Tubac, Arizona. She won an award at the DuPage Art League, Wheaton, Illinois and exhibited at the Awards Exhibition, "Best of Show", Triton College Art Gallery, River Grove, Illinois

•**Lucija Dragovan MWS, NWS**, received the Edgar A. Whitney award at the American Watercolor Society's 135th Annual International Exhibition in New York City for her painting "A Light Within." The painting will also be in the travel show. "Summer Sun" was selected for the Texas Watercolor Society's 53rd Annual Exhibition at Rockport Center, Rockport, Texas. She also received Ott's Art Supply award. "Concerto" is exhibited in the Watercolor Society-Houston 25th International show at Two Allen Center, Houston. "Ristorante di Milano" is exhibited at Winston Churchill Memorial in Fulton, Missouri. It also earned signature status. "Forever Springtime" was accepted and exhibited in the Northeast Watercolor Society 25th International exhibition in Kent, Connecticut. It received the member award and earned signature status. "Adagio" has been selected for the Midwest Watercolor Society's 26th Annual National Exhibition of transparent watercolors.

•**Ted Rose, AWS, NWS** was featured in an interview "Why Watercolors?" In the April issue of US Art; In Splash 7-Qualities of Light, two paintings were featured. His painting "Road Trip" appeared in Southwest Art, May issue with an interview. He appeared in these 2002 juried exhibitions: Missouri National Second Annual Exhibition, Hudson Valley National, 71st Annual Exhibition and Midwest Watercolor Society's 26th Annual Exhibition.

•**Evelyn Ecale Schultz, MWS** was awarded Best of Show at the 2002 SAN, Senior Art Network Exhibition at the Beverly Arts Center, Chicago.

CAN YOU HELP? YOU CAN HELP!

SLIDE RENTAL CHAIR—

We are still in need of a Slide Rental Chair. Jane Stiker has graciously consented to be the *Interim* chair. All you need to do is keep a calendar of rental request, send out the contracts, take the proper deposits, and package up the slides and mail them. Of course, you'll also need to return the deposit check when the slides are returned in proper condition. Contact Jane Stiker, (630) 579-0955 or email janestiker@aol.com for more information and to volunteer.

Member WORKSHOPS TRIPS AND TOURS

Edee Joppich is leading another Artescape painting trip, this time to **Portugal, September 27-October 7, 2002**. Deadline for reservations is June 19, 2002. For information phone Edee at Artescape, 248-661-1020 or Fax 248-661-1081.

Painting and Rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, a painting workshop and world class adventure with artist **James Wisnowski, MWS May 20-26, 2002**. For information call 312-944-5833 or visit website www.jameswisnowski.com or email him at wisnow@megsinet.net.

There is still room for one or two artists on **The Painter's Tour of Provence II**, a ten day plein air painting excursion led by **Thomas Trausch, MWS, September 16-26**. Call 815-338-0389, or email thomas@trauschfinearts.com for information.

Tom Francesconi, MWS, NWS will be conducting these workshops:

- **Gastonia, North Carolina, July 15-18, 2002**. Contact The North Carolina Watercolor Society, at (919) 518-0901;
- **Finnishing Touches, in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, August 16-18, 2002**. Contact Kathy Kovala at (715) 369-3544.
- **Old Courthouse Art Center, Woodstock, Illinois, September 9 - 11, 2002**. Call Beverley Ganschow at (815) 338-4525.

Member PROFILES

Norma Zajicek, our Dinner Reservations Chairperson has had an extraordinary art life.

A native of Savanna, IL, she went from the local high school to working in Chicago during the day and attending the Academy of Fine Art at night, majoring in commercial art. Moving to LA, she studied Technical Illustration at the Technical Illustration Center in West L.A., and then was hired by Douglas Aircraft. She illustrated the Nickie' Hercules missile system and the Thor missile project. Subsequently, she was employed by Space Technology Laboratory, which at the time worked under the direction of Congress for the development of outer space vehicles. Later STL became TRW. With both of these companies, Norma says "I sat in locked rooms with Phds while they 'thought' of ideas they wanted in visual form." With TRW, she did their concept drawings for the unmanned surveyor to the moon competition. Unfortunately, they lost. Later, Norma's husband was transferred to Cape Kennedy where she worked for Boeing Corp. In 1970, family concerns forced them to move back to Savanna where she worked in The Graphics Group until retirement in 1990.

"I love watercolor—it's fresh purity of color that I see so many painters achieve" says Norma.

and we'd also like to introduce you to....

Catherine Savage who has accepted the care of our web page upon the resignation of Nancy Fortunato. Catherine is our catalog designer and was involved with Nancy in setting up, and the production of our web page. She is experienced in web design through her position with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and has already instituted changes to our web page which facilitate its use. She has some wonderful ideas for the future of the website which will enhance the stature of our organization. Check out our website at www.watercolors.org.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS....

...available upon the request by any member. We realize that not everyone wants one but we are happy to provide a copy to those who do.

Contact **Nia Pirnat-Dressler** at membership@watercolors.org or phone (309) 527-2434.



Please Vote! Your Vote Counts!

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Dee Kurecki, Interim Secretary

Carolyn "Sue" Ison, Treasurer

Carole Burval, MWS, Workshop Coordinator
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Donna Jill Witty, MWS, Signature Screening

Nancy Rayborn, Slide Receiving

Catherine Wilson Smith, MMWS
President Emeritus • cwsmithart@aol.com

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Carol Shahbaz, Awards Chair

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Joan Hasselman, Hospitality

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Jacque Thomas, Photo Processing

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Michael P Mosher, MWS Attorney

Information
info@watercolors.org

Special Promotion requests should be sent to:
(merchandise, videos etc.)

Midwest Watercolor Society
128 E. Wing St.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-6064

Tom Francesconi, *continued*

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accompanying George Grey Barnard sculptures and enjoy watercolor! I hope you will agree with me that each of the works in this show may well represent a "wonder" that has come to life for us through the stick-to-itiveness of relentless creative effort.



See you at the Exhibition Opening and the Awards Dinner, June 29th

from Catherine Savage,
Webmaster..

WEBLINKS

Any artist member with a website who wants to be linked to the Midwest Watercolor Society's website members page, please contact Catherine at joecatsav@msn.com

IT COULDN'T BE EASIER—

New email addresses are available to make things simpler:

To send newsletter items just email:
newsletter@watercolors.org.
For membership issues use
membership@watercolors.org
and for other information,
info@watercolors.org.

Vote!

Next Newsletter deadline is July 15, 2002

INVITATION TO ARTISTS

Spring Street Gallery is a fine art gallery opening in May, 2002. It is located in Galena, Illinois, in the old Fulton Brewery building, which is currently under renovation for the Galena Art Center. The Center will house the Spring Street Gallery, Galena School of Art, Artist Studios and a cafe / lecture area. The Galena Art Center is a facility developed to help support and cultivate the arts. The Galena School of Art is scheduled to open Spring 2003.

Spring Street Gallery is currently reviewing artist's work for upcoming exhibitions. Artists interested in exhibiting their work should send;

•4 or more slides or photographs of current work and

•resume / exhibition list to: Spring Street Gallery, 601 S. Prospect St., Galena, Illinois 61036, or for more information call Belinda Shastal or David Young at 815-777-9040.

Slides will remain on file with the gallery, unless requested to be returned.