

CLEAR CHOICES



TWSA is recognized as the preeminent transparent watercolor society. The society offers services and education and endeavors to further recognize, expand awards and exposure to an ever-growing membership of professionals, amateurs, students and patrons.

Fall Newsletter 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - OCTOBER, 2018

I can't believe that Fall is already upon us. It seems as if it was only a couple of weeks ago that our jurors, John Salminen and Soon Warren, were facing the challenge of jurying the highly competitive entries for the 2018 Exhibition that opened in May.



And what a show it was....diverse, exciting, compelling, thought-provoking, discussion producing, all adjectives I heard used by some of those who wandered the spacious galleries taking it all in.

I hope that many of you were able to be part of the 54,000 people that the Kenosha Public Museum reported as attendance through the 3 months of the Exhibition this summer. Additionally, at the Museum, the workshops held in the classroom spaces were intense and fun, all at the same time! They were also sold out so if you are considering signing up for a workshop with either Laurin McCracken or Linda Baker (or both), our juror/instructors for 2019, the sign-up information will be on the the website this month.

The Saturday demos by Soon and John saw over 100 plus artists, families, friends, TWSA members and supporters as did the reception and the dinner. At the dinner, twenty-six artists were honored with more than \$24,000 in cash awards. Also honored were 9 new Signature Members and 2 new Master Award recipients. And the mini-painting silent auction kept everyone hopping up to keep tabs on a favorite or two!

And now the time is quickly approaching to do it all over again! The prospectus for the 2019 Exhibition will be available this month on the website. Our jurors, as I said above, will be Laurin McCracken and Linda Baker.

So, make your plans, mark your calendars and, as a suggestion, you may also use this occasion as a reminder to renew your Membership dues for 2019.

If you plan to enter the show, you may renew or pay your Membership at the same time. Life Members, you may enter at no fee. The deadline for both is January 31.

As always, I would like to mention that our “Discussion Regarding Guideline for Transparency” is available on the website homepage. The link can be found in the upper right corner of the page.

If you still have questions, you can email me, Lenox Wallace or Sheryl Coon using the info@watercolors.org email link on the website.

Enjoy the Fall Colors and Happy Painting!

Donna Jill Witty, TWSA Master
President
Transparent Watercolor Society of America

Demos

John Salminen Demo





Sometimes things can get a little messy!

Soon Warren Demo





Celebrate Watercolor Dinner





Coming in 2019!

Transparent Watercolor Society of America Exhibition

May 4th-August 4th, 2019

Celebrate Watercolor Awards Dinner and Demos

June 8, 2019

Five day workshop with Laurin McCracken, TWSA MS • June 3rd-7th

Five day workshop with Linda Baker, TWSA • June 10th-14th

Kenosha Public Museum • 5500 1st Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140



Samovar with Magnolias
Laurin McCracken,
TWSA MS



Double Shadows
Linda Baker,
TWSA

2019 TWSA Workshops

The 43rd Juried Exhibition of TWSA will, once again, be hung in the Kenosha Public Museum. Our distinguished jurors will be offering workshops. Plan your vacation time in June, to not only come to Kenosha to view the exhibition, but also to participate in a 5-day workshop.

Linda Baker's workshop is "Mastering Mentoring and Pouring" and will be offered the week of June 3-7 and again, June 10-14. Laurin McCracken will teach "Painting Realism in Watercolor" June 3-8. For more information, please see the 2019 Workshop Schedule.

The workshops are held in the spacious classrooms of the Kenosha Public Museum and the Civil War Museum. You will have an opportunity to select your workspace the Sunday afternoon preceding the beginning of the week

of classes. Delicious catered lunches contribute the hassle-free opportunity to enjoy getting to know your fellow artists.

Vicki Kwasny
Workshop Chair

2019 Calendar

January 31	Deadline for Entries 2019 Dues Deadline
March	Notifications 1st week
May 4	43rd TWSA Exhibit Opens
June 3-7	<u>Workshops</u> Laurin McCracken: Painting Realism in Watercolor Linda Baker: Master Mentoring and Pouring
June 8	Celebrate Watercolor Dinner Morning & Afternoon Demos by Jurors
June 10-14	<u>Workshop</u> Linda Baker: Master Mentoring and Pouring
August 4	43rd TWSA Exhibit Closes

2019 TWSA Exhibition

It's that time!

Which of your latest works of art will you be entering in the 2019 TWSA Exhibition? Our jurors/ workshop instructors for this year are Laurin McCracken, TWSA MS and Linda Baker, TWSA.

On October 1st, the CaFÉ online website will have the 2019 Transparent Watercolor Society of America 43rd National Exhibition Call for Entry open and ready for entries through the deadline of January 31st, 2019 @ www.callforentry.org. We will also have a direct link to our CaFÉ Call For Entry on our TWSA website, www.watercolors.org.

You may still print the prospectus from the TWSA website to use as a guide

for TWSA requirements and CaFÉ image size restrictions. We only accept entries online.

The most efficient way to cover your dues and enter the exhibition? When entering the exhibition on CaFÉ you can pay your annual dues at the same time! If this is your first time using CaFÉ, they will require you to register (free). Otherwise, use the same account you opened in previous years.

There will be two COUPON CODES listed on both the TWSA website and in the online information for the CaFÉ Call For Entry. Life members use their COUPON CODE for a 100% discount. If you are not a Life member, and have paid your dues prior to entering the exhibition (either through the website or regular mail) the second COUPON CODE is for you. It will give you a \$40 discount, the entry fee is all you pay. One image is \$10; two images will be \$15.

Coupon codes are entered at the very end of the process. Have your code written down prior to finalizing your entry so you will not have to back track in the process. You will not be entering a credit card number until after you have finalized your entry. There is no need to be concerned about paying for anything mistakenly.

PLEASE use the correct code if you qualify for one. We had quite a few members use COUPON CODES who were not eligible to use them!!! (Our jobs are voluntary and being naughty forces us to hunt you down and that is quite unpleasant.) We will be monitoring and disqualify anyone who uses a code who is not a Life member, or who has not prepaid.

In the past couple of years, we have had artists who have been sending their gorgeous artwork in frames that go against our requirements. We have not sent them back, but it has gotten a bit out of hand.

PLEASE send your work in simple frames as requested. MATTED in a white or off white color. We appreciate your compliance on this.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need any help at all at TWSAexhibition@aol.com.

We look forward to another successful exhibition in 2019!!

Sheryl Fletcher Coon
V.P./TWSA Exhibition Chair
TWSAExhibition@aol.com

Interview with TWSA 42nd Skyledge Winner: Xiaochang Zhang

by Donna Jill Witty



Jill: Tell us about your background.

Xiaochang: In 1978, at the age of 15, I got accepted by Affiliated High School of Sichuan Fine Art Institute in China. I began my professional training at Sichuan Fine Art Institute in 1981 and received my bachelor's degree in 1985. I immigrated to the United States in 1995 and began to start my career as a professional artist. Meanwhile, I signed a contract with a well known American gallery. I started painting watercolor in 2005. In 2009, my artwork got selected by 11th China National Exhibition of Fine Arts and received the Outstanding Works of Award. My artwork "New Yorker" received Shanghai Zhujiajiao International

Watercolor Biennial Exhibition Outstanding Works of Award in 2009. In 2014, the artwork "Starbucks" received Purchase Award with Silver Star from 94th International Exhibition National Watercolor Society (NWS). In 2018, my work "Mother-Hong Kong" received Skyledge Award from Transparent Watercolor Society of America (TWSA).

Jill: How has your artwork changed over time?

Xiaochang: When I first started drawing watercolor, my paintings were mainly landscapes, flowers, and cityscapes. Those paintings were aesthetically pleasing and cordial. Later my subject focus shifted to the people in metropolitan cities. I wanted to capture their daily lives because what impressed audience's emotions are people. The watercolor painting awards I received in 2010, 2014 and 2018 all depicted various people's lives in big cities.

Jill: What technique(s) did you use to create "Mother-Hong Kong"?

Xiaochang: I painted in the style of realism. I carefully depicted people and background which should come out to be better than the photo references. In this way, I can express my idea and emotion perfectly.

Jill: What inspired you about the subject matter of "Mother-Hong Kong"?

Xiaochang: My mother passed away when I was young. She was busy and had to take care of her family for her entire life. Therefore she always suffered from illness in her late years. It had always been my dream to draw a hardworking mother that should be respected by everyone

Jill: How do you know when a work is completed?

Xiaochang: I always checked every detail carefully when I was drawing. My personal goal for my artwork is to exceed the original photo reference and make it perfect and empathetic. Meanwhile, when I was about to finish my artwork, I always turned my photo reference into black and white to check the perfection of values. The only way for me to stop drawing is when all the values and colors are perfect.

Jill: Is there a brush, tool or color that you must have in your studio?

Xiaochang: It's necessary for me to have wolf hair brushes in my studio. Those brushes are made in China especially for Chinese calligraphy and traditional Chinese paintings. Of course, there are many other types of brushes for me to choose but I still prefer the Chinese wolf hair brushes. I already get used to these brushes since they are convenient and cheap. I go back to China every year to buy wolf hair brushes.

Jill: Share with us a piece of advice for up and coming artists.

Xiaochang: First, I hope that every watercolor artist can be passionate when they are

painting watercolors. Secondly, never give up on creating artworks. There are some hard times that you have to overcome. Do not always start a new drawing when you're facing a problem. Sometimes you need to insist on your current piece and try to finish one piece before you start a new one. Thirdly, don't stop drawing. Practice makes perfect and quantity decides quality. After you finished 1000 pieces, you may still question about your work. But after completing 1,000, or even 10,000 artworks, you can become a teacher and solve all the questions that you asked before. Last, it's important to learn from the old masters. I recommend to frequently visit the museums. The painting techniques from the old masters can broaden your horizons and improve your drawing skills.

2019 TWSA Member News

Michael Holter has recorded two DVDs to be released through Creative Catalyst Productions. The first is called "Seven Steps to a Successful Watercolor Portrait," the second is "Seven Steps to a Watercolor Landscape." A DVD on portraits is anticipated. Holter's watercolor "New York Morning" has been accepted in the American Impressionist Society's 19th National Juried Exhibition to be held at the Peninsula School of Art in Door County, Wisconsin. His watercolor "Lily among the Roses" has been accepted into the 50th Watercolor West International Exhibition of be held in Brea, California. "The Roost," "Weatherford Weather," and "Stairway to . . ." were selected to be included in the 2018 Richeson75 Landscape, Seascape & Architecture competition. "Light on the Façade" was given an Honorable Mention in the Year's Illinois Watercolor Society National show. "The Whistleblower" was awarded the Watercolor USA Honor Society 'Award of Excellence' in this year's Watercolor USA 2018. "Violet's Ridge" was selected as Outstanding Watercolor in the March Bold Brush competition. "Chuckwagon Bob" won the Red and White Gallery Award in the Texas Watercolor Society 2018 show. "Spanish Muse" won a cash and merchandise award in the Georgia Watercolor Society 39th Annual Exhibition. "Blues on the Green" has been accepted into the Society of Watercolor Artists Members Show. Holter has been invited to become part of the Watercolor Honor Society of The Watercolor USA.

Robert Koch was awarded First Place in Watercolor 2018 at the Professional Artist Art Show at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Illinois. This year he displayed that painting at Norris Gallery in St. Charles, Illinois. His award winning paintings will be on exhibit September 22-23 at Art in the Barn in Barrington, Illinois. In 2018 he also exhibited in the Louisiana Watercolor Society's 48th Annual International Exhibition.

Alexis Lavine has recently been awarded signature membership in the Watercolor USA Honor Society, after winning an Award of Excellence in the Watercolor USA exhibition for "To the Grandstand."

Joye Moon's watercolor "Karen" was included in the Missouri Watercolor Society's 2018 International Juried Exhibit that will travel to Qingdao, China. "Titanic Museum 2" was awarded a Merchandise Award at the Red River Watercolor Society's National Exhibit at Moorhead, Minnesota. "Grand Canal, Venice Italy" was accepted into the Rocky Mountain National and "Market Day, San Miquel, MX" was accepted into the Aqueous 2018 exhibit with the Kentucky Watercolor Society at Louisville, Kentucky. "Belfast View" was accepted into Watercolor USA at the Springfield Art Museum.

Kris Preslan will get signature status in the Louisiana Watercolor Society. Her painting "Reflections of Ghent" will be in the Splash 20 publication by North Light. Preslan was awarded the "Chick and Cheri Mills Award at the San Diego Watercolor Society's 38th International Exhibition in October for "The Breadwinners #2." She received the Purchase Award from Cheap Joe for "Black Beauty" at the National Watercolor Society 98th International Open in San Pedro, October 4-December 16. Her painting "The Porthole" was accepted for the Watercolor Society of

Oregon exhibition in October, and two paintings – “End of the Day” and “Submarine Galley #2” – were accepted for the Hawaii Watercolor Society Open this past September. Five of Preslan’s paintings are in the Luster “traveling exhibition of realism,” currently at the Howard Arts Center from October 1 to December 23 and running until 2021.

DeEtta Silvestro’s painting “Café Napoli” was awarded the Princeton Brush Co. Special Award in the Missouri Watercolor Society’s 2018 International Exhibition held in China. “Looking Up” was accepted for the American Watercolor Society’s 151st Annual International Exhibition.

Annie Strack’s paintings were accepted into the Kentucky Watercolor Society’s Aqueous 2018 National Juried Show, and the North Star Watercolor Society’s 4th Annual Juried Exhibit. She judged the annual American Artists Professional League’s members show, and Salem County Art League Annual Exhibit. She taught workshops in Charleston, South Carolina; Gloucester County Art League in New Jersey, and at the Community Arts Center in Pennsylvania. She recently received Signature Membership in the International Plein Air Painters association.

Eric Wiegardt has recently published a new book, *Painting without a Net*.

We would love to hear from you. Please send your news of awards and achievements and upcoming solo shows to jean.tobin@uwc.edu and please label your email “TWSA member news.”

Sorry, but we can’t include information about local classes, nor will we be including images of watercolors.

Transparent Watercolor Society of America | www.watercolors.org
Email: info@watercolors.org

