

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.

Spring Newsletter 2018



TWSA is proud and honored to welcome *John Salminen* and *Soon Warren* to Kenosha, Wisconsin to conduct their 5-day workshops in June.

Don't miss this opportunity to participate in *John Salminen's "Abstract through Design"* workshop or *Soon Warren's "Vibrant Watercolors: Creating Cut Crystal and Pouring Backgrounds"*. There are only a limited number of spaces left to be filled.

The workshops will be held in the Kenosha Public Museum, (home to the 42nd Annual Juried TWSA Exhibition) and next door, in the Kenosha Civil War Museum. Both facilities offer spacious comfort in the classrooms and beautiful views of Lake Michigan.

From a friendly cup of coffee in the morning, to delicious catered lunches, the five days will be filled with enjoyable and educational

experiences to improve and enhance your own watercolor paintings.

You can sign up today at www.watercolors.org

Wyndham Garden Harborside Inn is within walking distance of the museums and is the ideal place to book your stay for the workshops. Be sure to include the weekend of June 9th to attend the "Celebrate Watercolors" Banquet. (Make your reservation for the banquet on line at www.watercolors.org too)

Please mention TWSA to ensure the best available room rate when booking your hotel reservation. Wyndham Garden Harborside, Kenosha (262) 658-3281.

If you have any questions, please email me at:
wigolfgirl90@yahoo.com

Vickie Kwasny

TWSA Workshop Chair

TWSA 2018 Awards

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

4000 TWSA Skyledge Award □ - Xiaochang Zhang - 'Mother-Hongkong'

3000 Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Watercolor Award - Frank Webb - 'Amigos'

2000 Edgar A. Whitney Memorial Award □ - Setsuko O'Hara - 'First Museum Visit'

2000 TWSA Members' Award - Stephen Zhang - 'Expedition' □

1000 TWSA Directors' Award - Robin Erickson - 'India Street Reflection'

SPECIAL MERIT AWARDS

1000 Winslow Homer Award of Merit □ - Anne McCartney - 'An Admirer'

1000 Maurice Prendergast Award of Merit- Dean Mitchell
- 'Screaming Blue'
1000 John Singer Sargent Award of Merit - Garry Mealor-
'Exhaust Trail'
1000 James McNeil Whistler Award of Merit - Harold
Allanson- 'Red Willows'

FOUNDERS' AWARDS

750 Nora Stevens Founders Award - Kim Johnson
Nechtman- 'Generations'
750 Zoltan Szabo Founders Award - Ona Kingdon- 'Broken
In Transit'
750 Phil Austin Founders Award - Charles Rouse - 'Future
Bound'
750 Irving Shapiro Founders Award- Frederick Graff- 'The
Reach'

AWARDS OF MERIT

500 Lakes Region Watercolor Guild Award of Merit - Ken
Call- 'In The Moment'
500 R & R Galleries Award of Merit - Charles Sharpe-
'Lighting the Paint'
300 Feen Plastic Bottle Corp Award of Merit - Kay Stern- 'A
Moment in Time'

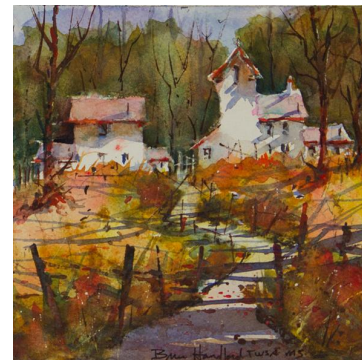
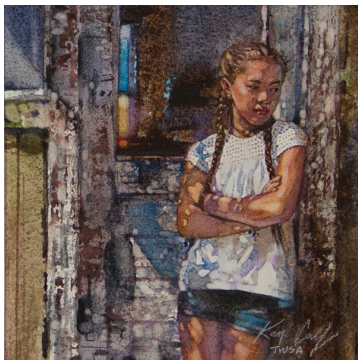
DONORS' AWARD

500 Marty McManamon Memorial Award- Ratindra Das-
'Fishtown GM'
500 Frank Nash Memorial Award - Andy Evansen- 'Unique
Fixer Upper'
500 Kenneth R Hetzel Memorial Award - Kathleen Conover-
'Urban Elegance'
500 Erna Kindler Memorial Award - Karen Heidler-
'Memories Like Butterflies'
500 Charles "Bud" Koontz Memorial Award- Peter Jablokow-
'Quinc Dredge Doorway'
300 Indira Das Memorial Award - Jean Grastorf- 'Red T-
Shirt'
300 "Chevy" Chevillon Memorial Award - Cheng-Khee
Chee- 'Istanbul Rainy Day'
300 Lehmann Memorial Award- r mike nichols- 'Watching
TV'

300 Carol Sonnenschein & Stuart Feen Donor Award – Mark Smith- ‘Shutter Shadow’

400 People's Choice Award - Recipient Chosen by popular vote of KPM visitors and awarded at the conclusion of the Exhibition.

Mini-Painting Auction now [Live](#) on our website!



Check out the original paintings donated by some of our TWSA Master Status Artists (artists who have been accepted into our exhibits ten or more times). These artists, committed to furthering watercolor as a major medium of artistic expression, have generously donated these small paintings (6" X 6") to be placed in our silent auction. Monies raised will benefit TWSA's Awards fund.

<http://www.watercolors.org/special/2018/>

Special thanks to all the artists who have participated and given of their very unique talent: Robin Berry, Ken Call, Kathleen Conover, Rose Edin, Tom Francesconi, Jean Grastorf, Bruce Handford, Chris Krupinski, Catherine O'Neill, Mel Stabin, Lenox Wallace, Eric Wiegardt and Keiko Yasuoka.

This year, in lieu of monitoring online bids, TWSA will serve as your agent during the live auction on June 9th. Click on your selected painting on our website and indicate your maximum bid via email.

At the Celebrate Watercolor Dinner on June 9th 2018, we will bid for you in \$5 increments until others have outbid your maximum bid or you are the top bidder. Keep checking the mini painting link as more paintings will be added. Good luck.

High bidders who cannot attend the dinner will be able to have their paintings shipped/mailed to them "at cost."

Online bids will no longer be accepted on Friday June 8 2018 after 5:00pm.

If you have any questions, please email: minipaintingbid@watercolors.org

2018 TWSA Exhibition News

John Salminen, TWSA DM, and Soon Y Warren, TWSA have finalized the Juried Exhibition for 2018. We had an increase in entries this year and the outcome shows quite a variety of subject matter.

Here is the rundown:

Subject Matter	Accepted
Abstractive/Nonrepresentational	7
Animal	5
Architectural	13
Cityscapes	6
Figurative	12
Flora/ fauna	0
Interiors	4
Landscapes	6
Motorized vehicle/boat, etc.	6
Portraiture	9
Stilllife	11
Water	2
Total	81

The Transparent Watercolor Society of America 42nd Exhibition will be in Wisconsin at the Kenosha Public Museum from May 5th through August 5th. It is a beautiful local and exhibition, well worth the time to visit.

Celebrate Watercolor will be on June 9th with demos from both John Salminen and Soon Warren. They are free and well attended. The Awards and Dinner is that evening and open to all. More info of cost and menu can be found on the website. www.watercolors.org
Please join in on this celebratory weekend!

Sheryl Fletcher Coon
Exhibition Chair/Vice President
Transparent Watercolor Society of America

2018 Calendar

- May 5 **42nd TWSA Exhibit Opens**
- June 4-8 **John Salminen Workshop**
"Realism Through Design"
- Soon Warren Workshop**
"Creating Cut Crystal & Pouring
Backgrounds"
- June 9 **10:30 am Soon Warren Demo**
2:00 pm John Salminen Demo
5:00 pm Cocktail Reception
6:00 pm Celebrate Watercolor Dinner
- June 11-15 **John Salminen Workshop**
"Abstract Through Design"
- August 5 **42nd TWSA Exhibit Closes**
-

2018 Ballot

All members in good standing may vote for 4 Directors.

- ___ Gayle Mondie Website Chair
___ Illona Rauwolf E-Newsletter & Mini-Painting Chair
___ Catherine Nash Merchandise Chair
___ Nia Pirnat Life Membership

Send your vote to Becky Kraft by May 15, 2018 at
c.b.kraft@comcast.net

or

25 Honey Lake Rd.
Barrington, IL. 60010

President's Message

As we prepare to open our 2018 Annual Exhibition in Kenosha, I wish to focus this column on the advancement of our chosen medium, watercolor, and the obstacles that must still be conquered as we move forward.



This year's exhibit will be our 42nd. It will run from May 5th

through August 5th and includes some of the most wonderful examples of the type of value and mastery that is present in watercolor painting today. The following article presented for your consideration is the contribution of Fort Worth watercolorist, Laurin McCracken, and recently appeared in the online publication, *American Watercolor Weekly*. Laurin is the current President of Watercolor USA Honor Society and will be one of our jurors and workshop instructors in 2019.

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

The Value of Watercolor



Laurin McCracken, TWSA, AWS, NWS, WHS

The question comes to me in many forms. How do we advance the reputation of watercolor? How do we get over the age-old prejudices against our medium? How do we reposition the value of watercolor in the minds of collectors and gallery owners and print journalists and museum directors? How do we combat the idea that watercolor is a fugitive medium? How do we address the price differential between watercolor paintings and those painted in oil or acrylic?

I believe the answer lies with watercolorists. We need to believe in our medium. We need to be more publicly supportive of our medium.

We have to be the champions of our medium.

I was recently in a discussion with several watercolorists about this issue. One said that he did not call himself a watercolorist, but was just an artist to avoid the stigma associated with watercolor. Another asked why would he want to be identified with a lesser art form and therefore he called himself a painter. I think that this approach is wrong, wrong, wrong and seriously detrimental to our goal of advancing the recognition of watercolor as a superior art medium.

I think each one of us who prides themselves on the creation of quality art through the medium of watercolor should stand up and shout, "I am a watercolorist, I am proud to be a watercolorist, and I am proud of my medium, watercolor."

How can we get anyone to believe that watercolor is an equal to or better art form if we hide our pride under a basket and duck our heads rather than admit that our chosen medium is flipping fantastic?

Many times, we are our own worst enemy. I recently saw the price listing of paintings by 30 top watercolorists from all over the country. All of the paintings were of the same size and offered for sale unframed, in my mind a real "apples-to-apples" comparison. The prices ranged from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand. If we are so uncertain about the value of our art, how can the public be wiser?

We are beginning to see a number of examples of artists who have moved the price point (Yes, let's face reality and talk about sales in the language of the marketplace, such as price-point and all that terminology) of their paintings up in the galleries in which their work is shown.

Over the past 5 years, I have been able to move the price of my full sheet paintings from \$2,800 to over \$5,000. A number of my watercolor friends have greatly exceeded those price points. Agreed, you have to be in the right gallery in the right geographic area of the country.

There are also many stories of watercolorists selling their paintings on-line for prices in the thousands. But, if you price your paintings in the hundreds, that is what you will get for them and you will be supporting the public's lower opinion about the value of watercolors.

You have to get away from your painting board and understand the dynamics of the retail art market. If you just sit back and complain that no one is paying enough money for your paintings, then you are doomed to selling your paintings at under their value.

If you are sitting there waiting for a top gallery to find you and sell your work at top dollar, you are in for a shock. It isn't going to happen. If you want success in the market you have to work to make that success happen.

If you only want to sell your paintings in Memphis, TN, then you have to be aware that Memphis is a \$350 watercolor market. If you are not willing to go where you can get a better price, then you have no reason to complain. If you want to sell your paintings for thousands of dollars, you have to find galleries that will and can sell your paintings at those prices. They exist, probably not just down your street and around the corner.

Fort Worth is not a city that values watercolors. The top prices in local galleries rarely exceed \$1,000. And it usually has to be a painting of Bluebonnets. There are a lot of very wealthy people in Fort Worth; but they don't, as a rule, buy their paintings locally. They go to New York, London or Paris. This just a fact of life. You can't sit on the corner of Main Street and 7th

and cry about the fact that you can't get the value you want for your watercolors in Fort Worth.

On the other hand, Fort Worth's annual Main Street art show attracts fine painters, sculptors, print makers. etc. from all over the country. I have talked with watercolorists who are selling \$50,000 to \$150,000 and more worth of paintings during the four days of the fair. Most told me that they do three to six fairs a year. Those artists know their market, work hard to create a volume of work, and are willing to work the fair circuit to enjoy a very high standard of living.

If we continue to look for and support those establishments that do treat us and our work with respect, we will raise the value of watercolor across the marketplace, across the country, and around the world.

If I could, I would wear an insignia on my collar that proclaims I am a watercolorist, just the way I wore my captain's bars when I was in the Corps of Engineers of the US Army. I was proud of being an officer serving my country, and I am equally proud to be a watercolorist.

We all need to become advocates and educators in this cause. We need to submit our best work to competitions. We need to attend those exhibitions. We need to support galleries and exhibition spaces that show watercolor. We need to go to opening nights for shows for other watercolor artists.

Each of us plays a part in making watercolor a more important and desired medium. Get out there and spread the message. Watercolor is great!

Laurin McCracken

2018 TWSA Member News

Carol Z. Brody was awarded an Honorable Mention from the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition in Evergreen, Colorado, for her painting "Party Papers, Ribbons and Red Confetti." Brody was also the juror for the exhibition of the Women in the Visual Arts in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Ratindra Das received the following awards: the Watercolor West Chris Van Winkle Memorial Award; the Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Evergreen Artists Association Award; the Ben Emerson Memorial Award in the 2017 Adirondack National Exhibition of American Watercolors. Das recently published his second book, *Watercolor with an Eye for Design*. (His first is titled *Watercolor Beyond the Obvious Reality*.)

Pat Dispenziere's watercolor "Library Break" was juried into the Rockies West 26th Annual National Exhibition March 2-31, 2018, in Grand Junction, Colorado, by Fealing Lin. This was Dispenziere's 10th acceptance into their National shows, earning her Master Signature Membership in the Western Colorado Watercolor Society. Dispenziere's watercolor "The Play of Light VIII" was juried into the Fallbrook Art Center 9th Annual Signature American Watermedia Exhibition February 4-April 15, 2018, in Fallbrook, California, by juror Ratindra Das. Ted Nuttall has juried Dispenziere's watercolor "The Play of Light XI" into the 43rd Annual Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibition May 1-June 24, 2018, sponsored by Southern Arizona Watercolor Society in the Guild Gallery in

Tucson, Arizona.

Jeanne Dobie's well-recognized book, *Making Color Sing*, is now published in Russian, and she was excited to learn she will be the Juror of their first landscape exhibition. Dobie's book is available in French and Chinese also.

Michael Holter has been selected to be one of the watercolor presenters as a member of the faculty at the PleinAir Magazine 7th Annual Plein Air Convention and Expo in Santa Fe in April 2018. Holter's painting "The Banner" has been selected to be included in the 151st Annual American Watercolor Society Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club in New York. His painting "Istanbul" (11 x 14 Watercolor) has been accepted into the American Impressionist Society 2nd Annual Impressions: Small Works Juried Exhibition to be held at the Greenwich House Gallery in Cincinnati, Ohio March 23-April 21, 2018. His painting "Stairway To . . ." received Best of Show at the Wyoming Watercolor Society annual show. He has received the Margaret Bock Award from The Watercolor Art Society Houston for his painting "The Pigeon Roost." "The Veil Has Been Torn" will be traveling to the Quingdao Museum in China, for the Missouri Watercolor Society's international exhibition.

Lara Hwang's painting, "Dilemma IV," was accepted for the American Watercolor Society's 150th Annual International Exhibition at the historic Salmagundi Club in New York.

Frank Spino's "Citrus Squared" was awarded the Dong Kingman Award at the 151st Annual Exhibition of American Watercolor Society and was also published in *Art of Watercolor* magazine issue 29 as a selection for the Readers' Competition. His "What Now My Love" was published in the June issue of *Watercolor Artist Magazine*. "Morning Prayer, Athens" was awarded First Place at the 23rd annual Splash of Watercolor Exhibition of Brevard Watercolor Society. It received the Art Society Award at the 46th Annual Exhibition of the Florida Watercolor Society in Coral Springs, Florida. "Florida Reflections III" received the 1st Place Award Watercolor Category in the Best of the Best Show at the A. E. Backus Museum and Gallery in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Mel Stabin's painting "Lunch Break in Central Park" received The Andrew T. Kisonak Memorial Award at the New Jersey Watercolor Society's 75th Annual Open Juried Exhibition. Stabin was invited by the Essex Watercolor Club, the oldest watercolor organization in New Jersey, to do a demonstration on April 8, 2018. The demo, which is open to the public, will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Livingston Senior Community Center 204 Hillside Avenue, Livingston, New Jersey.

Don Taylor's third acceptance in the 2017 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibit ("Heads or Tails II") and the 2017 Watercolor West Exhibit ("Linked In") has earned him signature status in both societies. Taylor's painting "Arches of Augsburg" in the 2017 Tallahassee Watercolor Society TriStates Exhibit won the Silver award. His painting "Melk Shadows" won the Colorado Watercolor Society Award in the 2017 Pike's Peak Watercolor Society Annual Exhibit. Taylor's painting "Hurry Up and Wait" won the Jack Richeson Award in the 2017 (68th) Texas Watercolor Society Exhibit. His painting "Angels on High" won the Winsor and Newton award in water media in the 2017 104th Annual Exhibit of the Allied Artists of America at the Salmagundi Club in New York. Taylor's painting "Tapping and Twirling" won the Best of Show Award in the 2017 Tallahassee Watercolor Society Annual Brushstrokes Exhibit.

Sharon Towle has a painting, "Tulip Shadows," in the new *Splash 19, Illusion of*

Light by North Light Books, due to come out this summer.

Recent awards to **Frank Webb** include a First Award at the Pittsburgh Waterworks, the Combined Donors Award at the National Watercolor Society International, the Baltimore Watercolor Society Award at the Pittsburgh Aqueous International, and the Silver Medal at the Audubon Annual. He has also authored a coffee table book titled, *Frank Webb: A Lifetime Collection*.

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

