

President's Letter

Dear Members,

The 158th International Exhibition was a resounding success, culminating in a series of memorable events.

As part of our Watercolor Evenings series, Thomas Schaller, AWS, gave an outstanding watercolor demonstration to a live audience and many more attending virtually via Zoom. The following evening featured our annual Members Meeting and Awards Banquet. I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who participated and attended—your presence and support made both evenings truly special.



At the banquet, we were honored to welcome Eric Rhoads as our guest speaker. His presentation on How to Promote Yourself as an Artist was insightful and inspiring. In recognition of his valuable contributions and generous sharing of expertise, we presented him with an Honorary Certificate of Associate Membership in the American Watercolor Society.

That evening, we also had the privilege of recognizing our Past-President, Antonio Masi. In appreciation of his many contributions and steadfast leadership, the Board of Directors unanimously awarded him the Dolphin Medal. This prestigious three-inch bronze medal is occasionally bestowed on individuals or organizations that have made exceptional contributions to the arts—particularly watercolor—and to AWS. It is not a painting award, but something greater. Past recipients include such esteemed names as Mario Cooper, Ogden Pleissner, Dong Kingman, Andrew Wyeth, and Nancy Bercow—remarkable company indeed.

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing summer filled with inspiration—and plenty of time to paint!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Popadics". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joel Popadics
President, American Watercolor Society

2025 Annual International Exhibition



The 158th Annual International Exhibition was held April 7 – 25, 2025, at the Salmagundi Club in NYC. There were nearly a thousand submissions from 34 countries around the world. One hundred and fifty-one artists from 17 countries were accepted and displayed their work in both the upper and lower galleries at Salmagundi. Forty-two awards totaling over \$50,000 were given out. There was a Watercolor Evening demonstration by Thomas Schaller, AWS, on Thursday, April 24th at 6 pm. The demo was available both live and through Zoom.

Award Winners

AWS Gold Medal of Honor (Courtesy of Clara and Ida Wells Stroud)
Dean Mitchell, AWS, D.F. *Tampa Bay Drawbridge*

AWS Silver Medal of Honor (Courtesy of Clara and Ida Wells Stroud)
Yan Liang, AWS *Rosayena-Down the Mountain*

AWS Bronze Medal of Honor (Courtesy of Clara and Ida Wells Stroud)
Andy Evansen, AWS, D.F. *Getting Home*

Alden Bryan Memorial Medal
Jianzhong Zhou *Red Wall*

Mary Bryan Memorial Medal
Laurie Goldstein-Warren, AWS *Street Art*

Marilyn Hughey Phillis Memorial Award
Chung-Wei Chien, AWS, D.F. *Salmagundi Library*

Mario Cooper & Dale Meyers Medal
Frederick Graff, AWS, D.F. *Town Centre*

Dagmar Tribble Memorial Award
Robin Erickson, AWS *Reflection on Via V. Emmanuele*

Fred E. Albrecht Memorial Award
Rick Surowicz, AWS* *Tangled*

Carl Folke Sahlin Medal
F. Charles Sharpe, AWS *Paint Shed Taboret*

John Young-Hunter Memorial Award
Jasmine Huang, AWS *Spring Song*

Margaret Martin Memorial Award
Ken Call, AWS, D. F. *C'est a Moi!*

Elizabeth Callan Memorial Award
Jerry Smith, AWS, D.F. *Winter Whisper*

Diana Kan, Paul and Sing Si Schwartz Memorial Award
Pam Wenger, AWS *Train to Cinque Terre*

High Winds Medal
Kathie George *Rush Hour*

High Winds Medal
Chris Krupinski, AWS, D.F. *Cuppa Limon*

Bud & Gretchen Marble Medal
R. Mike Nichols *Watching TV*

Frances Nell Storer Memorial Award
Mark Mehaffey, AWS, D.F. *A Flicker of Hope Again*

Joan Ashley Rothermel Memorial Award
Stephen Edwards *Once Upon a Time There was a Boy Who Loved Trains*

Ralph Smith Memorial Award
Joel Johnson *Isle in the Sky*

Dong Kingman Award
Mary Jansen *Heiwa*

Harrison Cady Award
Lynne Hardwick *Nomads Vision XXXX*

Nicholas Reale Memorial Award
Ruth Koch *Liminal Space*

Anne Williams Glushien Award
Catherine O'Neill, AWS *On the Way Down*

Paul B. Remy, AWS, Memorial Award
Lorraine Watry *Some of My Favorite Things*

Walser S. Greathouse Medal
Cathy Hegman, AWS, D.F. *Big Top*

Ogden & Mary Pleissner Award
Robert O'Brien, AWS *Glory in Pink*

Elsie and David Wu Ject-Key Award
Vicente García Fuentes *Gold Waterway*

Samuel Leitman Award
Rachael Grimm *Outside the MoMA*

Mary S. Litt Memorial Medal
Kevin Deck *Tower of Power*

Edgar Whitney Memorial Award
Jian Wu, AWS *Soft Reflection*

Jeanne Dobie Color Award
Xiqiang Fei, AWS *Returning at Night*

Alan Chiara Award
Lorenzo Ignacio *The Liberty Bell*

Mary & Maxwell Desser Memorial Award
Michelle Nixon *Empty, Empty, Empty*

Herbert G. Morris Memorial Award
William Vrscak, AWS, D.F. *Looking to St. Stan's*

Margery Soroka Memorial Award Svetlin Sofroniev *Oxide Living*

Louis J. Kaep Award
Richard Sneary, AWS *Pep-Up Inc.*

Hardie Gramatky Memorial Award Peter Jablchow, AWS *Scissor Bridge-on the Tracks*

Frederick Wong Award
James Turner, AWS *You Looking at me?*

Baohong Artists' Watercolor Paper Award
Laurin McCracken, AWS *Objects on a Quilt*

Barse Miller Award
Jorge Corpuna *Solitude in Greens*

Lena Newcastle Award
Kathrine Amble *Car Ride*

Accepted Artists

Edward Abrams AWS
 Suzanne Accetta
 Dennis Albetski AWS
 Kathrine Amble
 Jennifer Annesley AWS
 Ruth Armitage AWS*
 Phillip Babb AWS
 Poppy Balser
 Nancy Barch
 Karen Barnes
 Joanna Barnum AWS
 Sean Barrett AWS
 David R. Becker AWS*
 David Belling AWS*
 Ron Bigony AWS
 Matthew Bird AWS
 Mark Bird AWS*
 Shari Blaukopf AWS
 Myhanh Bosse AWS*
 Gwendolyn Bragg
 Jessica Bryant AWS
 Ken Call AWS, D. F.
 Chung-Wei Chien AWS, D.F.
 Kevin Clifford
 Jorge Corpuna
 Madeline Daversa
 Katherine Davis
 Kevin Deck
 Christian Derdoski
 Cristina Diez
 Jackie Dorsey AWS
 Kelly Eddington
 Stephen Edwards
 Robin Erickson AWS
 Andrew Evansen AWS, D.F.
 Xiqiang Fei AWS
 Jonathan Frank AWS
 Gerald Fritzler AWS
 Dorothy Ganek AWS
 Vicente García Fuentes
 Carla Gauthier
 Kathie George
 Kathleen Giles AWS
 Laurie Goldstein-Warren AWS
 Frederick Graff AWS, D.F.
 Ken Graning
 Rachael Grimm
 Xi Guo AWS
 Deborah Hall
 Cindi Handy
 Richard Hanson AWS
 Jack Haran AWS*
 Lynne Hardwick
 K Hartmann

Achintya Hazra
 Tom Hedderich
 Cathy Hegman AWS DF
 Bradley Hendershot
 Catherine Hillis
 Michael Holter AWS
 Jasmine Huang AWS
 Lorenzo Ignacio
 Peter Jablokow AWS
 Paul Jackson AWS, D. F.
 Mary Jansen
 Bei Jian
 JJ Jiang
 Sun Jiengang AWS
 Chengzhu Jin
 Joel Johnson
 Júlio Jorge
 Bev Jozwiak AWS
 Ruth Koch
 Michael Kotarba AWS*
 Chris Krupinski AWS, D.F.
 Thein Shwe Kyi AWS*
 Ted Lawson AWS
 Peggy Lefebvre
 Yan Liang AWS
 Kerk Hwang Lok AWS
 Nick Long AWS
 Steven Lotysz AWS*
 Cheryl Lowe
 Bing LV AWS*
 Robin Makowski
 Antonio Masi AWS, D.F., P. E., L.M.
 Laurin McCracken AWS
 Dan McCrary
 Mark McDermott
 Angus McEwan AWS
 Mark Mehaffey AWS, D.F.
 Rebecca Mentz
 Stan Miller AWS
 Christine Misencik-Bunn AWS
 Dean Mitchell AWS, D.F.
 Woon Lam Ng AWS, D.F.
 R. Mike Nichols
 Michelle Nixon
 Bob Noreika AWS
 Robert O'Brien AWS
 Catherine O'Neill AWS
 Marian O'Shaughnessy
 Adele Park
 Ramkrishna Paul
 Joel Popadics AWS
 Lisa M Pope
 Lynn Pratt AWS

Lana Privitera AWS
 Stephen Quiller AWS, D.F.
 Ian Ramsay AWS
 Michael Reardon AWS
 Thomas Rebek
 Irena Roman AWS, D. F.
 Julia Rosenbaum
 Prafull Sawant AWS*
 Thomas Schaller AWS
 Wu Shang-Fen
 F. Charles Sharpe AWS
 Alisa Shea AWS*
 Mary Shira AWS*
 Jerry Smith AWS, D.F.
 Richard Sneary AWS
 Svetlin Sofroniev
 Michael Solovyev
 Frank Spino Jr, AWS
 Bivenne Staiger AWS*
 Iain Stewart AWS
 David Stickel AWS
 Susan Stuller
 Kai Ting Sung AWS
 Richard Surowicz AWS*
 James Turner AWS
 Paul Van Clevan AWS*
 William Vrscak AWS, D.F.
 Yong Wang AWS*
 Lorraine Watry
 Juliette Watts AWS*
 Tai Wei AWS
 Susan Weintraub AWS, D.F.
 Sue Welsby
 Pam Wenger AWS
 Jian Wu AWS
 Liron Yanconsky
 Liu Yang
 Keiko Yasuoka AWS
 Scott Yelonek
 Barbara Yoerg AWS
 Wen Zhi Yu AWS
 Stephen Zhang AWS
 Li Zhao
 Jianzhong Zhou

*Became a Signature member this year



2025-2026 Travel Exhibition

Each year following the Annual Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club, 40 painting selected from the Annual Exhibition travel the United States for the next year. This year, 40 paintings featured in the 158th Annual Exhibition will travel to Nebraska, North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida from September 8, 2025 through May 15, 2026.

Travel Exhibition Schedule

September 8 – October 27

Mid-Plains Community College,
McCook Campus
1205 East Third Street McCook,
NE 69001

November 20, 2025 – January 3, 2026

Mooresville Art Guild
103 W. Center Ave.
Mooresville, NC 28115

January 23 – March 28

Piedmont Arts
215 Starling Ave
Martinsville, VA 24112

April 21 – May 15

Art Center Manatee
209 9th Street West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Traveling Exhibition Artists

Kathrine Amble
Shari Blaukopf AWS
Ken Call AWS, D.F.
Chung-Wei Chien AWS. D.F.
Jorge Corpuna
Kevin Deck
Robin Erickson AWS
Xiqiang Fei AWS
Vicente García Fuentes
Kathie George
Laurie Goldstein-Warren AWS
Frederick Graff AWS. D.F.
Rachael Grimm
Lynne Hardwick
Cathy Stricklin Hegman AWS. D.F.
Jasmine Huang AWS
Lorenzo Ignacio
Peter Jablokow AWS
Mary Jansen
Ruth Koch

Bing LV AWS*
Antonio Masi AWS, D.F., P. E., L.M.
Dan McCrary
Mark McDermott
Woon Lam Ng AWS, D.F.
R. Mike Nichols
Michelle Nixon
Catherine P. O'Neill AWS
Lana Privitera AWS
Stephen Quiller AWS, D.F.
Jerry Smith AWS, D.F.
Svetlin Sofroniev
Bivenne Harvey Staiger AWS*
David L. Stickel AWS
Richard Surowicz AWS*
James Turner AWS
Lorraine Watry
Pam Wenger AWS
Keiko Yasuoka AWS
Jianzhong Zhou

2025 Watercolor Evening: Thomas Schaller

Review by Donna Lewis, Demonstrations Chair

On April 24th, AWS Signature member Thomas W. Schaller presented a watercolor demonstration to a sold-out crowd at the Salmagundi Club, with 90 people in attendance. The presentation was also streamed live on Zoom, to an online audience of over 300 attendees. The demo, part of an ongoing series of AWS Watercolor Evenings, coincided with the three-week run of the 158th Annual International Exhibition at Salmagundi.

The demonstration subject was a scene from Central Park which incorporated both natural elements of trees and water, and buildings in the background. Starting from a prepared sketch, Schaller walked the audience through his process of gradually building a painting.



Drawing is the backbone of Schaller's paintings, and he always begins a work by making beautiful small pencil sketches from observation, reflecting on the movement and energy of the various shadow shapes and values. His subjects include natural, man-made and imagined themes. Indeed, imagination, dreams and impressions play a large role in Schaller's work. He paints what he feels and what he experiences, remembers and dreams by relying on "juxtapositions" of many varieties- such as of light and dark, and of gesture and precision.

Schaller keeps a "dream diary" which sits beside his bed and helps him access and channel fleeting dreams and impressions. This diary helps him direct his internal experiences to become more outwardly accessible.

His techniques are extensive and varied; employing Beaux Arts graded washes with modern painterly style brush strokes as well as gestural mark making allows him to produce beautifully subtle blended forms. He mostly mixes his paints on the paper, not his palette. It is the overall expression and emotional effect of the painting that is his goal.



Some useful tips include:

- Don't compare yourself to anyone else.... They can't paint what you do.
- Find out why you paint, paint what you feel and what is your way in?
- You have the answers within you
- Trust yourself and put yourself out there

Schaller is a winner of the 2024 Arthur Ross Award by the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, the 2024 Raphael Award, the Alpha Rho Chi Medal at OSU, a Graham Foundation Grant, and he is a two-time winner of the prestigious Hugh Ferriss Memorial Prize. He is the author of several books: *The Art of Architectural Drawing*, and *Architecture in Watercolor* (winner of an AIA Award).

A third book, a retrospective, *Thomas W Schaller: Architecture of Light* is published by Penguin Random House. His best-selling DVD, *Watercolor: The Power of Design* is published by Streamline Media. His online courses, *Fine Art Mentorship* and the *Power & Poetry of Drawing* are hosted by Terracotta LLC. Schaller is represented in New York City by Gallery 71, and is a Brand Ambassador for numerous companies, including Daniel Smith Artists Materials, Escoda, and Blackwing Pencils.



2025 Associate Members Online Exhibition

The 2025 Associate Members Online Exhibition will be on view from June 12 – August 30, 2025. Submissions were open March 5 to May 8, 2025. For AWS Associate members only, this is an excellent opportunity for current or newly joined Associate members. There are three cash prizes from \$1500 – \$500, as well as three merit awards.

Juror of Selection: Susan Weintraub, AWS, D.F.

Juror of Awards: Paul C. Jackson, AWS, D.F.

Award Winners

Margery Soroka Memorial Award (First Place)

Harsh Agrawal, *Whispers in the Bazaar*

2nd Place

Dana Wiggins Thompson, *Wish You Were Here*

3rd Place

Abel Marquez, *The Nut Connection*

Merit Award (1)

Mark A. Mohr, *Barn Find*

Merit Award (2)

Jianzhong Zhou, *The Green Bakery*

Merit Award (3)

Walter Costilow, *Salt & Pepper*

Accepted Artists

Suzanne Accetta	Janet Doll	Mary Lambeth	Adele Park	Michael Tabor
Michael Adams	Gregory Effinger	Ruth Lefko	Rick Parker	Qingjun Takacs
Donald Aggerbeck	Kathleen Eichler	Chaolei Liang	Hugh Partridge	Hock Ng Tan
Harsh Agrawal	Donald Farrell	Jessica Lily	Cynthia Peterson	Alicia Tan
Diana Aliberti	June Fisher-Markowitz	Eric Lin	David Rankin	Nina Tarnuzzer
Rick Anderson	Gary Friedman	Shengbo Long	Thomas Rebek	Bruce Tatman
Todd Anderson	Juve Furtado	Amanda Low Ai Yan	Linda Renaud	Don Taylor
Brenda Ann	Antoaneta Georgieva	Nancy Maas	Christine Rhodes	Dana Thompson
Kim Arntzen	Arlene Ginsburg	Larry Mallory	April Rimpo	Phyllis Tseng
Poppy Balser	Marina Goldberg	Arlene Mann	Arlene Robbins	Carmella
Robin Becic	Ken Graning	Abel Marquez	Max Robinson	Tulizewski
Joyce Bell	John Grinstead	Yolande McAlevey	Michele Rofrano	Patricia Urbanski
Cindy Bender	Ann Hart	Heather McCullough	Libby Rudolf	Rachel Varner
Wendy Berube	Md. Mahmudul Hasan	Mark McDermott	Christina M. Scalise	Andrea Walker
Pauline Boston	Maryam Hashemian Esfahani	Anik McGrory	Karen Schaaf	Daniel Walworth
Carol Brody	Brad Hastings	Ruth E. Miller	Victoria Selby	Ben Wang
Maryann Burton	Tom Hedderich	Mark Mohr	Christopher Seubert	Winifred Way
Mary Ellen Carrier	Travis Hicks	Carol Montgomery	Richard Siegel	Frank Wengen
Mary Chandler	Kyawt Hnin	Kristie Mooney	Allan Small	Anne Wert
Matt Chatterley	Dorothy Hoeschen	Diane Morgan	William Snow	Dale Whittaker
Ying Chen	Han In Huang Wong	Mary Murphy	Svetlin Sofroniev	Rebecca Wilkinson
Ginger Chen	Dziyana Isakau	Kimberlee Nentwig	Michael Solovyev	Voon Wong
Patricia Choffrut	Alan James	Natalya Nesterova	Thomas Sorrell	Shu-Ching Wu
Kar-Keat Chong	Bei Jian	Diane Nevinsmith	Kristin Stashenko	Hsiu Chuan Wu
Lil Clinard	Chengzhu Jin	Nancy Notarianni	Steve Stein	Lance Wurst
Sally Cooper	Gina Judy	Wendy Low Nyet Choon	Bernie Stein	Liron Yanconsky
Karen Cooper	Maria Kaprielian	Gaylord O'Con	Jane Stoddard	Liu Yang
Walter Costilow	Hangdae Kim	Setsuko Ohara	Caitilin Stolle	XiaoQin Zhang
Diana Dakey	Mary Kirsch	Rick Osann	Sujit Sudhi	Jianzhong Zhou
Gregory Degroat	Kathy Kitz	David Outhwaite	Fredrik Swahn	
Ellen Diederich	Mitzi Lai	Jolene Paige	Rita Szopinski	

159th Annual Exhibition Dates

Entries Open	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
Entries Close	Wednesday, November 12, 2025
Jury of Selection	December 2-7, 2025
Acceptance/ Declined Notice	After December 19, 2025 by email
Receiving Dates	Shipped Work (DAD Trucking): 1/31/26 Hand-Delivered Work (Salmagundi Club) 2/7/26, 10 am - 2 pm
Jury of Awards	Sunday, February 8, 2026
Notice of Awards	After February 17 - NO CALLS PLEASE
Exhibition Opens	Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 1 PM
Opening Reception	Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 6 to 8 PM
Watercolor Evening	Thursday, April 30, 2026, 6 to 8 PM
Annual Meeting	Friday, May 1, 2026 at 4 PM
Cocktails, Awards Dinner	Friday, May 1, 2026 at 5 PM to finish
Exhibition Closes	Friday, May 1, 2026 at 5 PM
Walk-in pickup of Work	Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 10 AM to 2 PM

Make an Impact with AWS

What do your donations go for?

Donations to AWS are used for many purposes, all of which help the organization to thrive and move forward. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of donations from AWS members and patrons, we are able to make the following needed upgrades and purchases this summer:

- A set of dedicated AWS hanging tools: drills, levels, tape measures, hanging wire, etc.
- A laptop for office use and for use during events such as the Awards Dinner
- A tablet to play slideshows on venue equipment during events.

Do you want to make an impact for AWS? You can donate by visiting www.americanwatercolorociety.org/ and clicking the "Donate" tab. Your generosity helps to ensure that the American Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition will continue to present the very best in water media.

A New Collaboration for AWS

Following the unfortunate close of long-time AWS partner Cheap Joes's, AWS is pleased to announce a new collaboration with Oregon-based paint producer M. Graham. M. Graham will provide a small sample set of high quality materials to new Signature members as well as to AWS art-instructor scholarship recipients.



Acts of Recovery

An ArtSpeak Article by Robert Fionda

How does an established art community revive itself from devastation brought on by Hurricane Helene? AWS Submission Chair, Nadine Charlsen has a story to share with our membership that involves the human spirit, resilience and generosity.

Before September 27 2024, the River Arts District was a viable community of 22 buildings that housed businesses, private and co-op galleries, working studios, and home to 700 exhibiting artists located in Asheville, North Carolina. But two days of continuous rain followed by the drenching effects of Hurricane Helene created what AWS Signature watercolorist Nadine Charlsen called “the perfect storm”.

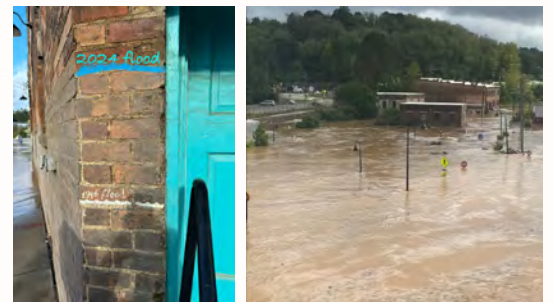
Charlsen explained, “The ground was so saturated with rain and moisture that our local rivers crested 26 feet above their normal height causing a massive flood that historically was not seen since 1916. The lower areas of the River Arts District were left in ruins.” She estimated two hundred and fifty artists lost everything to do with their art; supplies, artwork, studio equipment, computers, furniture, etc. Charlsen sadly paused, “One artist downriver lost his life’s artwork, studio destroyed, over a thousand art books, handmade papers, materials and so much more.”

Charlsen has a working studio in a building she manages in the upper part of the district. “When I finally came to view what happened I was stunned. Our level was dry but below us a flood of tragic flotsam.”

ArtSpeak asked, “What did you feel at that moment?” She answered, “Emotional relief. Parts of our building in the back storage area had some water damage but our studios were Ok.” But not so for others, the district had 22 buildings before the hurricane, 10 buildings were totally closed and may or may not open as art studios. While others are partially or have completely reopened.

Many artists stepped back from their losses and damaged buildings and left Asheville to absorb the shock of the tragedy. Art Speak learned people were numb and needed time and distance to reassess.

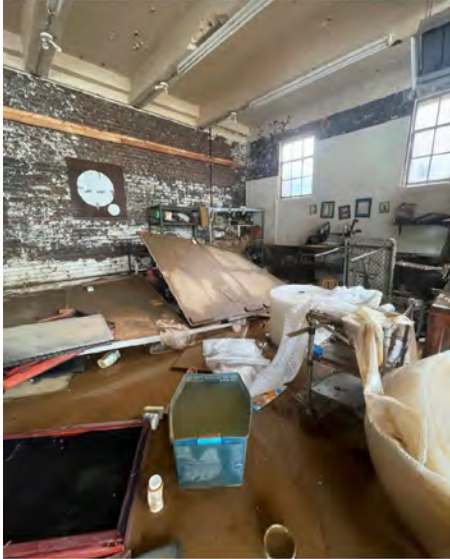
Charlsen also spent time away deciding what to do. She realized, “I didn’t need to help myself - I needed to help others get their art and life back. Coming back from Pennsylvania, I had some ideas. First, keep the upper levels of the river art district open. And with the help of the River Art District Association (RADA) make plans individually and together and get stabilized so the community knows we are here. Second, and just as important, I took to writing art suppliers for help. Getting them to understand our total losses, companies like Cheap Joe’s, Dick Blick, Holbein, Bob Ross and others. Even individuals started donating paints, brushes, and paper from as far as Kansas. I was so surprised by the generosity when we started getting, not packages, but palettes of art supplies from these companies and suddenly, we needed storage to house it all and a local business volunteered space.” Charlsen serves on the RADA board and along with a host of RADA volunteers moved everything from trucks to their makeshift warehouse.





RADA developed a strategy for distributing the art supplies. Charlsen explained, "Lists of artists who were on the lower levels when the flood hit and lost everything were the first to be invited to collect free materials within limits (paint, brushes, etc.). Then we opened to artists in the RADA district regardless of membership. Any art supplies less than professional were donated to the area schools."

Charlsen emphasized, "Providing artists with supplies was not enough. RADA understood that the community needed to know we still existed as an artistic force. So, RADA on November 9th organized an art festival called RADA 1.0. Three city blocks of tents and pop ups with artists from the River Arts District. It was a resounding success. More of a street party of old friends getting reacquainted." That experience has led to other events being scheduled and keeping the arts flourishing in the city of Asheville.



Our last question for Nadine Charlsen, what does she foresee for the River Art District? "I believe it will continue to come back. The lower level will probably become more of a greenway for biking and walking. I think the artist venue will spread out more into Asheville proper. Parking was always a problem in the river area. Collectors may have to spend more time exploring and walking about but that opens up more opportunities".

Time will tell but if the human spirit, resiliency and generosity remain, RADA will continue to be an integral part of Asheville and the arts.

Editor's Note:

If anyone would like to donate supplies even at this late date you should contact Nadine Charlsen, 917-656-1313 (call or text) or email nlcharlsen@gmail.com. The location and volunteers vary from month to month. She will give you an address or person to contact.



ArtSpeak welcomes comments and ideas for future articles from membership. Please write Robtart@juno.com with the subject line: ArtSpeak.

AWS Member News

Signature Members

“All About Boston” was a solo retrospective exhibition of cityscapes in oil and watercolor by nationally recognized artist and prominent local architect **Frederick Kubitz, AWS**. The exhibition hung in the Guild’s Newbury Street gallery from March 30th – April 27th and commemorated the 95 year old artist’s four decades-long painting career inspired by the city he helped to create.



Suzanne Reed Fine, AWS, SW, GWS of Columbus, GA, has been awarded a fellowship by the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA). Reed Fine will be among more than 20 other Fellows focusing on their own creative projects at this working retreat for writers, visual artists, and composers. One of the largest year-round artist residency programs, VCCA typically hosts over 400 artist-Fellows annually at Mt. San Angelo in Amherst, Virginia, and 50 annually at the Moulin à Nef in Auvillar, France. The artists who come to VCCA, whether emerging or established, are selected through competitive peer review on the basis of the important or innovative work they are doing in their respective fields.

There is a catalogue available of the works of the late **Sue Wise, AWS, DF, LM**. Title: *Sue Wise, Catalogue of Her Paintings* Author: Susan Wise, copyright 2024. If interested in purchasing a copy, contact Susan Wise (Sue’s daughter): wisesusan@gmail.com, with "Sue Wise Catalogue" in the subject line; or call (303) 776-0604.



Associate Members



Carol Z. Brody NWS, TWSA was awarded the Silver Medal of Honor in the Audubon Artists 82nd Annual Exhibition in New York City, for her painting, “Party Papers, Ribbons and Confetti.” The exhibition is online and can be viewed until Dec. 1, 2025, by going to the Audubon website, www.audubonartists.org.

Welcoming New AWS Signature Members



Alisa Shea was talked out of an art degree by her parents, so she holds a BS in Occupational Therapy and a Masters of Public Health, both from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Alisa has worked as an acute care occupational therapist as well as a health outcomes researcher at Duke University, and has authored nearly two dozen peer-reviewed academic journal articles, including four papers in the Journal of the American Medical Association. In 2013, she decided she could no longer defer her artistic goals, took “Watercolor Kindergarten for Adults” at her local art league, and subsequently quit her job to pursue painting full time.

Alisa is a Signature member of the National Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, and the Watercolor Honor Society, and is a juried member of the International Guild of Realism. She has been featured in publications including The Artist’s Magazine, International Artist, Watercolor Artist, The Art of Watercolour, and Fine Art Connoisseur, as well as many editions of the Splash-Best of Watercolor series—taking first place in Splash 2024.

Alisa lives and works in Northport, New York with her husband, two sons, and one beautiful English bulldog. She paints at an easel in the kitchen.

Bivenne Harvey Staiger’s journey as an artist began and continues with generous exposure to all the arts, particularly drawing and painting, architecture, textiles, and garden design. She also works in oil and pastel, beadwork and embroidery, scraperboards, collage, and more. Color, line, value, and shape are integral to designs she creates in all these media, and she is primarily inspired by nature-based themes. In her watercolor work, she likes to create impact through large scale imagery, bright colors, and high value contrast.



Known for her vibrant wildlife and floral paintings, Bivenne is the recipient of many prestigious awards for her work in watercolor, including the Silver Medal from American Watercolor Society’s 152nd Annual Exhibition (2019), which was also selected as part of the AWS Travel Exhibition. She was a featured artist in Watercolor Artist magazine’s January/February 2020 issue, is the author of *White! Light! Bright! How to Make Your Backgrounds Support and Enhance Your Watercolor Paintings* (2022, Schiffer Publishing), and writes a blog on her painting techniques (<https://bivennesartblog.wordpress.com>). Illustrator of the children’s book *I Love You as Much As...* by Sarah Caratasios (2024), Bivenne offers classes, workshops, and demonstrations in watercolor throughout the southern New England region and has for decades been sharing her particular love for watercolor.

Bivenne is represented by Spectrum Art Gallery in Centerbrook, CT.

<http://www.bivennefineart.com>



David Belling

Born Milwaukee, Wisconsin November 30 1934

Education: Boys Technical High School 1945 to 1949

1957-1959 Military Service Army

1960-1980 Freelance Graphic Designer for Advertising

1981-1987 Partner, Creative Director of Advertising Agency, Marketing Group Inc.

1988-1990 Vice President, Art Director of Advertising Agency Hoffman York & Compton

Continued on next page

1991 Moved to Cape Coral, Florida
 1991-2000 Creative Director of Advertising Agency, Tuzee Associates
 2001-2002 Creative Director of Advertising Agency BVK McDonald
 2003 Retired and started to paint watercolors full time
 2021 Moved back to Milwaukee, Wisconsin

AWARDS

Signature Member American Watercolor Society
 Distinguished Signature Member Florida Watercolor Society
 Signature Member American Society Marine Artists
 Signature Member Mid-Southern Watercolorist
 Signature Member Red River Watercolor Society

Straightforward and welcoming, bold and realistic...David Belling's watercolor style captures the spirit of the timeless beauty he finds in nature and living history.

He is one with his subjects... It's been said that his structures lean from the paper, yearning to tell their tales. "When I see something that retains a link with the past, I'm drawn to it. My aim is to open the viewer's eye to history that is still in use in some fashion, and stir memories."

Belling's art career started in Wisconsin, first as a freelance designer, and later as creative director and advertising agency partner. He always painted in his free time, and his watercolors can be found in many corporate and private Midwest collections.

David R. Becker is an award-winning artist, illustrator, and instructor known for his work in watercolor/gouache. A graduate of the American Academy of Art in Chicago, David began his career in illustration at major agencies like J. Walter Thompson and FCB, while simultaneously pursuing fine art and teaching nationwide. He is the author of *Watercolor Composition Made Easy* and *How to Sketch with Watercolor*, and has been featured in *International Artist*, *Watercolor Magic*, and *The Artist's Magazine*. A signature member of the American Watercolor Society and Transparent Watercolor Society of America, he has earned numerous awards, including recognition at every plein-air competition he's entered since 2020. David is a highly sought-after instructor, teaching since 1983 at major workshops and art schools. He also hosts a popular weekly live paint-along on YouTube, followed by students around the world.



Jack Haran, of Duxbury MA, has an Evening School Certificate from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and BS Fine Arts from Northeastern University. Jack served as president of the New England Watercolor Society (NEWS) and president of North River Arts Society (NRAS). He owes his devotion to watercolors to having viewed Winslow Homer's watercolor "Blue Boat", because of that interaction; he became determined to someday paint like that! He is still working at it, always learning. He has traveled extensively in Europe, always with his sketchbook.

He is fortunate to have studied with Alvaro Castagnet and Joseph Zbukvic. He has coordinated watercolor workshops with international artists, i.e. Joseph Zbukvic, Alvaro Castagnet, John Salminen, Don Andrews, Thomas Schaller, Iain Stewart, Tom Lynch and Frank Webb. He has taught watercolor classes at the North River Arts Society, Marshfield, MA the Art Complex Museum, Duxbury, MA and the South Shore Arts Center, Cohasset, MA.
Continued on next page

His most prestigious awards are the Di Di Deglin Award at the 145 th American Watercolor Society(AWS) Show, first Place, Rhode Island Watercolor Society(RIWS) National Show 2018 and the Robert Douglas Hunter award at The Guild of Boston Artists.

Jack also a skilled draughtsman, has exhibited in a number of solo, group and juried shows over the last 35 plus years. These shows have included local, regional, national and international exhibits, where he has received numerous awards for his watercolors and drawings.

Jack is a signature member of AWS, NEWS, NRAS, RIWS, a Gallery Artist with the Cape Cod Art Association, South Shore Art Center and Plymouth Guild of Artists. His works are part of collections at Georgetown University – study center - Fiesole, Italy, and Cultural Museum in Colonia de Sacramento, Uruguay as well as private collections. Jack's love of watercolors led him to acquire an extensive collection of contemporary watercolors representing artists from around the world.

Juliette Watts, Collingswood, NJ, has a BFA in Graphic Communication and Illustration from Washington University in St. Louis. Her early career began as a staff medical illustrator at a metropolitan hospital, later expanding into botanical and entomological illustration for the U.S. Forest Service. Since retiring in 2019, Juliette has devoted herself fully to watercolor painting.



She currently teaches and hosts a life drawing workshop at the Philadelphia Plastic Club and participates in the SoulsShot Portrait Project, creating memorial portraits in collaboration with families affected by gun violence.

Juliette is a member of both the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators and the Philadelphia Plastic Club. She recently became a signature member of the American Watercolor Society—fulfilling a longtime dream and following in the footsteps of her mother, Barbara G. Watts, an AWS Gold Medalist and major artistic influence. As a young student, Juliette accompanied her mother to workshops and lectures led by watercolor luminaries such as John Pike and Rex Brandt. She has also studied with renowned artists including John Salminen, botanical painter Carol Woodin, and portrait artist Ali Cavanaugh.

Her work has received multiple awards, including life drawing honors from the Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial and painting prizes from the Philadelphia Plastic Club, such as the Dorothy Wackerman Hutton Prize, the Raymond K. Naylor Prize and the 2025 Silver Member's Medal. Juliette has exhibited in numerous juried shows throughout the Philadelphia region, participated in three small group exhibitions at Eilandarts Center in Merchantville, NJ, and held a solo exhibition in May 2025 at the Bob Jackson Gallery in Philadelphia.

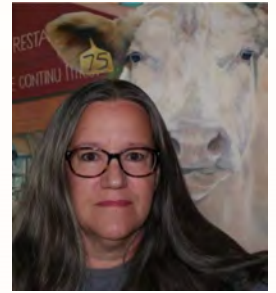


Mark D. Bird, Louisville, KY, has enjoyed a professional career of over forty years as a distinguished architectural illustrator and interior designer, working with many of the world's foremost architects and designers. Additionally, Mr. Bird has produced fine-art commemorative print editions for public and private events, businesses, agencies and a multitude of clientele. His works hang in private and corporate collections across the globe.

In 2017, he began the next chapter of his life as a fine artist, focusing on the art of architecture. He travels the world in search of inspiring, architecturally significant subjects and records his visions through his skillful style and inherent senses of emotion and interpretation. Since embarking on this path, he has acquired Signature Memberships in the American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, Kentucky Watercolor Society and Missouri Watercolor Society, and has received numerous awards from these Societies for his work.

Mary Shira - www.maryshira.com - maryeshira@gmail.com

At the age of fourteen I studied watercolor at The Art Students League in Manhattan under the instruction of Mario Cooper, then President of The American Watercolor Society and so began my love of the medium. I started working as a professional artist while still in graduate school. I worked mornings at Belmont Park and did my graduate thesis on the horses at Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney's stable. This began my involvement with painting from the nature I found around me. Working with thoroughbreds I learned about horse anatomy and confirmation. Since then I have worked to portray the horse as an individual with a unique view of the world. The horse is the most fecund animal in the history of art. After the human form it is the most painted animal in Western art and yet it lacks gravitas in contemporary art. After moving to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia my art has evolved to include more of the animal life around me, draft horses, wildlife and the landscape. I have empathy for animals and I like to think of my paintings as scenes from my life. My paintings are dedicated to an imagery that, first and foremost, is meaningful to me. But art that endures must also inspire the viewer. Once I choose my subject, what interests me the most is the very act of laying paint to paper. I want my work to be visually luscious and sensual, so my paintings are ultimately about painting.



In addition, since moving to the Valley, I have been an Instructor with the School of Art and Art History at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, the Art Department at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, VA and Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, VA. I also work as a professional illustrator with watercolor as my medium. My art has appeared in a wide variety of venues from illustrating the Latin Program for Rosetta Stone to Artist in Residence for Victoria Magazine.

EDUCATION

MS Ed – St. John's University, New York, New York

MFA – Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York

BFA – St. John's University, New York, New York

Certificate – L'Accademia Di Belle Arti, Perugia, Italy



Michael Kotarba is a plein air and studio painter living in Baltimore, Maryland. He received a Bachelor's degree in fine art from the Maryland Institute College of Art. Working as a designer and art director for 30 years, he considers himself fortunate to have made a modest living in the graphic arts.

His return to painting began on a trip to the Maine seacoast and has continued through visits to the Mid-Atlantic, Florida, California, the Southwest and New England.

Along the way, he has studied the treasury of great work by past and contemporary artists in many galleries and museums. He and his wife, Kathleen have more books on art than they probably should.

As an associate member of the American Watercolor Society, Michael was honored to be included in past Annual exhibitions. He is a signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society and has exhibited yearly in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Exhibition since 2010. He was juried into the Plein Air Magazine Salon in 2023 and 2024. A signature member of the Mid-Atlantic Plein Air Painters Association, Michael served on that board for five years.

"I continue to be drawn to and challenged by the privilege to record my own peculiar view. I strive to express the pleasure in seeing and the adventure in picture making. I hope that my best choices are recognized and my mistakes are forgiven."

Myhanh T. Bosse grew up in Vietnam with very little art exposure. She emigrated to the United States as a refugee, graduated from Rutgers College, then Rutgers Medical School in New Jersey and pursued a career in gastroenterology and nutrition. She settled in Doylestown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and discovered watercolor through the Community School adult classes with Marcia Weikert in 2000.



Myhanh's observation skills as a physician and eye for photography led her to paint with precision and fine detail. She enjoys travel with her husband and draws inspiration for her painting from "still life" of outdoor markets, everyday people and scenes that tell a story, convey a feeling or attitude, as well as different cultural identities and from work of other artists. Watercolor painting has enabled her to become more aware of the beauty and excitement that surrounds her. She is inspired to improve her skills and techniques to better express her experiences.

Over the years she has exhibited in regional and international juried shows with awards from the Doylestown Art League, Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Philadelphia Watercolor Society, Phillips' Mill Art Exhibition, Meadowood Juried Art Show. She is a signature member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Philadelphia Watercolor Society, Baltimore Watercolor Society, Garden State Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society.



Paul Van Cleven is a self-taught watercolorist based in Bruges, Belgium. He was raised in a creative household, his father an architect and his mother an artist. He was introduced to the world of art from a young age, receiving early guidance that laid the foundation for his artistic journey.

After a demanding business career, Paul returned to his artistic roots at the age of forty, embracing watercolor as his primary medium. Since then, he has exhibited his work widely across Europe and beyond, earning nominations and awards that reflect the growing recognition of his talent.

Paul's work is driven by a deep desire to express emotion and experience through paint. For him, art is a way to tell stories, to build connections, and to share a personal yet universal perspective on the world. He is committed not only to refining his technique, but to creating pieces that resonate with others works that move, inspire, and linger.

Continually exploring new styles and expanding his creative voice, Paul strives to push artistic boundaries. His ultimate hope is that his work leaves a lasting impression and contributes to a richer cultural and emotional understanding.

Prafull B. Sawant was born in 1979 at Nasik, India. He has long been considered one of the foremost Realistic artists in the world. He is a highly sought after around the world for his demonstrations, international workshops, lectures and exhibits. He is frequently invited for Plain Air workshops, to jury international competitions and prestigious Invitational exhibitions and events such as "Biennale d'aquarelle du bout du lac d'annecy, France (2025) "3ème Festival International de peinture de plein air sur grand format" Paris, France (2019, 2020), "Moscow International Watercolor Festival" Russia (2017), "Artlife Fest-2018 and 2019, 2022 " in Moscow ,Russia, "5th Lushan International Watercolor Festival" in China (2014), "Qingdao Art Museum" in China (2014), "Festival De International Aquarela" in Peru (2019) Fabriano In Aquarello,Italy (2016, 2018, 2019, 2023) Watercolor & Spirit International Watercolor Triennial , Sofia ,Bulgaria, -2022 ,Finike International Watercolor Festival , Finike, Turkey -2022 and more. *Continued on the next page*



He has 15 solo and more than 100 international Exhibition by invitation on his Credit. He has won 48 Awards and Scholarships in National and State Levels. He has more than 25 years teaching experience in field of art . He has been invited for the international watercolor and oil colors workshops from the famous academies, Ateliers & schools from France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Italy, USA, Malta, Spain, Bulgaria, China, Russia, Israel, UAE , Philippines, Mexico, Peru, Malaysia. He has successfully taught more than 100 workshops internationally. More than 2000 students from over all the world learned from Prafull Sawant in physical workshops and more than 10,000 students by online workshops. His upcoming workshop at Riverside workshops in New York, US is July 2025.



Rick Surowicz, a painter currently living in Medina, Ohio, attended the Columbus College of Art and Design until a lack of funding forced him in another direction. While spending four years in the Air Force working the missile fields of Wyoming, he continued his education receiving a BS degree in Manufacturing Technology. After leaving the military, Rick began a 30-year manufacturing career in plant management. Rick, however, continued his interest in art, taking several workshops with Frederick C. Graff in the early 90's.

Inspired by the teachings of Fred, he discovered how much he enjoyed the challenges of transparent watercolor. After the birth of his son in 2000, Rick took a break from his art to focus on his family and a career in manufacturing. He did not return to painting until 2016. His paintings have since been juried into exhibitions of the American Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, Louisiana Watercolor Society, Georgia Watercolor Society, Ohio Watercolor Society, Splash 21 , along with numerous awards. Most recently Rick earned the AWS Fred E. Albrecht Memorial award, TWSA Lehmann Memorial Award, and the OWS Silver Medal. Watercolor Artist Magazine did an eight-page feature article on his work in their 2021 Summer edition. His YouTube channel has over 67,000 subscribers with over 5 million views. Rick is a signature member of the Ohio Watercolor Society and recently served two terms as a trustee. Today he keeps busy full time with his online instruction where he has conducted over 120 online classes since 2020.

Ruth Armitage is a multidisciplinary artist based in West Linn, Oregon, known for her dynamic use of color and expressive brushwork in both abstract compositions and plein-air landscapes. Her paintings delve into the emotional terrain of human experience, inviting viewers to connect on a visceral level.



Ruth's work has gained national attention through numerous exhibitions and publications, including a recent 8-page feature in Watercolor Artist magazine (Spring 2024) and a profile on Oregon Public Broadcasting's Oregon Art Beat. Her artwork is represented by Waterstone Gallery and the Portland Art Museum's Rental Sales Gallery in Portland, as well as Earthworks Gallery in Yachats, Oregon.

A passionate educator, Ruth is recognized for her ability to inspire and guide students in the creative process. She has juried exhibitions at the national, state, and local levels, and finds deep fulfillment in witnessing her students' breakthroughs in the classroom. Testimonials from her workshops speak to her supportive teaching style and the transformative impact of her instruction. Ruth lives and maintains her studio practice in West Linn, Oregon. www.rutharmitage.com



Dr. Steven Lotysz DDS (Lotus) is an award-winning landscape artist and world renowned golf themed commercial artist. Lotysz, a 35-year career retired dentist, paints non golf related paintings using his real name while under his golf artist pen name, Steve Lotus, he paints for golf's major championships.

Steve Lotysz paintings have been won awards at many premier painting exhibitions including the American Watercolor Society, of which he is now a signature member, and the Transparent (once Midwest) Watercolor Society as a signature member for 25 years. He has also earned awards in numerous national art magazine competitions, credits in painting books and a piece of his work has been acquired by the Neville Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He is comfortable with both realistic and impressionistic styles with subject matter ranging widely from coastal landscapes to urban scenes. Steve and his wife Sue operated a local art gallery, White Street Gallery, for 20 years and there are plans to open a new Lotysz website soon.

As Steve Lotus, www.stevelotus.com, one of golf's premier golf themed artists, he has produced a series of paintings that depict some of the world's finest courses hosting golf's leading major championships. His paintings hang in the art collections of many prominent clubs including Royal Liverpool Golf Club and the Augusta National Golf Club. Steve was also featured at a one-man show at the prestigious Chicago Union League Club as 2012 Ryder Cup co-artist with the late Leroy Neiman. In 2025 he is commissioned to paint for the PGA, the British Open and the Ryder Cup Championships which will mark his 53rd major championship commission.

Steve first pursued a career in commercial art at Northern Illinois University but later changed his major to biology to pursue a career in dentistry. A serious illness at 35 led to a reaffirmation of his lifelong Christian faith and a return to painting after a 7-year hiatus to establish his dental practice. A symbol of his faith sits beside his signature in every painting since.

Thein Shwe Kyi studied fine art at the State School of Fine Art, Yangon, Myanmar. Then he continued his artistic journey and created many illustrations, graphic designs, digital arts and magazine covers.

Although he used both acrylic and watercolor in his paintings, he favors more for the watercolor and has been painting more in watercolor so far.

He has participated in the art show by the IWS International Watercolor Society. He also received the Gold Award at the 2021 Truly Watercolor International Juried Online Exhibition. In 2021 Spring Malaysia International Online Juried Art Competition "Figures & Faces", he got the outstanding Award. He participated as a jury at the Malaysia International Online Juried Art Competition in 2023. In the same year, he was also selected to participate in the American Watercolor Society (AWS), and his works have been exhibited from 2024 to 2025. And he recently became a Signature member in the American Watercolor Society (AWS).



With a passion for travelling, he has encountered diverse ways of life and cultural traditions of different ethnicities which he documents and transforms into paintings. Capturing these experiences through watercolor brings him a sense of excitement and inspiration.



Yong Wang is from Qinhuangdao, China and holds a bachelor's degree in literature. He once had a full - time job teaching art at a directly - affiliated high school in the Qinhuangdao area. In 2013, he left the school and went on to open his own studio in the region, where he teaches painting and offers watercolor training courses. He participated in the "Special Fund for the Development of Literature and Art in China - Training and Funding Project for Literary and Artistic Talents", specifically the 2019 Youth Literary and Artistic Talents Training (Watercolor) organized by the Art Committee of the China Artists Association, and successfully completed the program.

In 2019, at the invitation of the European Times, he held a Vienna Watercolor Painting Exhibition at the European Times Cultural Center in Austria. Many of the exhibited works were privately collected. His watercolor works have been included in official magazines such as Art, People's Education, Art Newspaper, Art Record, Art Panorama, as well as in the "12th Five - Year Plan Textbooks for Fine Arts Majors in Institutions of Higher Learning in the 21st Century". His watercolor works were selected for Issues 24 and 25 of the "SPLASH - Best of Watercolor" series of the American Artist magazine.

He began participating in art exhibitions in 2004, In 2009, his watercolor work "TaMen" was exhibited in the '11th National Art Exhibition' and won the silver award in the Hebel Province Selection Exhibition, In 2010, his watercolor work "Duan" was exhibited in the "Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolor Biennial Exhibition" and won the top prize. The winning work was collected by the organizer. In the same year, he became a member of the China Artists Association (CAA). In 2025, he became a Signature Member of the American Watercolor Society (AWS). His watercolor paintings have participated in the 211th and 213th International Exhibitions of the Royal Watercolor Society in the UK.

Ways to Give Back

The organization Patriot Art Foundation is looking for art instructors to teach online to VA Clinics. They are in need of instructors from the West Coast but can always use others to fill in.

About Patriot Art Foundation:

In 2019, Mary Whyte's groundbreaking traveling exhibition of 50 watercolors called We the People: Portraits of Veterans in America opened to the public in Charleston, South Carolina. In the first six weeks alone over 22,000 people viewed the collection. The response, especially from veterans, confirmed Whyte's belief in art's extraordinary power to communicate and connect. And so, what began as fifty portraits turned into a national mission giving veterans a means of finding whole health through art and self expression.

**If you have a heart for veterans, art and teaching, contact info@patriotartfoundation.org.
See more here: <https://www.patriotartfoundation.org/mission/>.**

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of these Signature Members whose great talents added to the long history of the American Watercolor Society

Elaine Bowers, AWS

May 15, 1956 – February 23, 2025

Cheng-Khee Chee, AWS, D.F.

Cheng-Khee Chee, Associate Professor Emeritus at UMD and world-renowned watercolor artist who called Duluth, MN his home for over sixty years, passed away peacefully on April 6, 2025.

He received his undergraduate degree in Chinese Literature and History at Nanyang University in Singapore where he met his future wife Sing-Bee and later received a master's degree in library science from the University of MN Twin Cities. He eventually took a position at the University of MN Duluth.



Painting had always been Cheng-Khee's passion. In addition to his library position, he began teaching watercolor courses at UMD, becoming an Assistant Professor in 1981 and Associate Professor in 1988, and receiving the University of MN's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1994. Cheng-Khee took early retirement that same year to become a full-time artist.

Cheng-Khee is survived by his loving wife, Sing-Bee, his children, Yi-Hung (Wenhui and children Ling-jet & Elise), Yi-Min (Katie and children Justin, Iva, Ella & Mia), Wan-Ying (Kevin and children Calvin & William), and Yen-Ying (Kar-Keat and children Ian & Beatrice). His 10 grandchildren were a source of great joy to him. He is also survived by his sister Ayu Xu, niece Xiucang Xu (Minggui Liu), grand-nieces Huimin Liu (Feng Qian and son Zachary Qian-Liu) and Feng Liu (Tianyi Liu), and many relatives in China.



Steve Zazenski, AWS

December 7, 1948 — January 29, 2025

Steve Zazenski, forever the "Bayonne artist," passed away at his home in New Hope, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, surrounded by his wife of 54 years, Kathy, and daughters Katie and Laurie.

A Signature member of the American Watercolor Society (AWS) since 2015, Steve was renowned for his watercolor, and later gouache, landscapes. In the 1980s, Steve began developing a series of paintings, which became known as the "Bayonne prints," featuring prominent cultural and architectural points in the city he knew best, like the 8th Street Station, the Bayonne Bridge, Uncle Milt's, and Double Hill at Hudson County Park. Teaching was also an important part of Steve's professional life, sharing his love of painting with students of all ages, in schools, workshops, and private settings.

Continued on the next page

Steve is survived by his wife and partner of more than 60 years, Kathy (New Hope, PA), daughter Katie (Warsaw, Poland), daughter Laurie, son-in-law Sam, and beloved grandsons, Ben and Teddy (Flemington, NJ).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

Raymond E Andreotti, AWS

Raymond E Andreotti, 83 of Hopedale, MA, passed away peacefully on December 25 at Harbor Point of Centerville. Ray was a man of remarkable character, unwavering integrity, and boundless love. Born on September 6, 1940 to the late Raymond and Concetta (Fino) Andreotti of Milford, he lived a life that touched the hearts of everyone fortunate enough to know him. He was a devoted husband, a loving father and grandfather, and a cherished friend.



Ray proudly served as the quarterback for the Scarlet Hawks during his time at Milford High School before graduating in 1958 and pursuing higher education at Tufts University. Following his academic journey, Ray embarked on a fulfilling career as a biochemist at the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories in Natick, MA, where he dedicated 37 years of service. Upon retirement, he redirected his focus to his lifelong passion for art. Ray achieved recognition as a longstanding member of the prestigious American Watercolor Society, earning numerous awards in national, regional, and local art exhibitions. He was also affiliated with the New England Watercolor Society, Rhode Island Watercolor Society, and Academic Artists Association, showcasing his accomplished pieces inspired by his travels. Ray had a deep affection for capturing the beauty of his Italian heritage, family and friends, the New England landscape, and his cherished hometown of Hopedale, MA. Beyond his artistic pursuits, Ray actively contributed to Hopedale, serving on the Finance Committee, Cultural Council, Arts Council, and Historical Commission. An enthusiastic golfer, he was a member of the Hopedale Country Club, relishing rounds with his longtime friends.

Ray's spiritual devotion led him to serve as a lector and a valued member of the community at Sacred Heart Church in Hopedale. However, his greatest source of love was his 59-year marriage to his wife Joanne. Raymond is survived by his wife Joanne, son R. Michael Andreotti and his wife Alaina of Brunswick, ME, Gina M Kovach and husband Steve of Brewster, grandchildren Steven, Leah and Evan Andreotti and Jared, Kelsey, Ellie Kovach.

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Board Member

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Vice President/Board Member/Chair,
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Teresa Cromwell
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AWS Makes Daily News!

Be sure to check the AWS social media pages and our website for updates between our newsletters. Visit our website at americanwatercolorsociety.org or our YouTube channel, Instagram, Facebook, or LinkedIn by typing in American Watercolor Society on any of these platforms.

Be Part of the Next AWS Newsletter

We always look forward to hearing updates from our talented AWS members. If you would like your exciting news and accomplishments to be featured in the next AWS newsletter, please submit this material to the email address newsletter@americanwatercolorsociety.org. Items received before June 1st of each year will be included in the Summer Newsletter. Items received before December 1st will be included in the Winter Newsletter. You may also send your material through the mail to the AWS office at 47 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003.

When submitting news items, all events must be dated by month and year. Submissions may include, but are not limited to, awards, publications, solo or small group shows, invitationals, serving on juries, additions to permanent collections, works in print, and unusual art adventures. Please do not include workshops, admission of entries to juried exhibitions, or inclusions in art biographical publications.

We have a talented group of Signature and Associate Members and we are proud of all of you. Election to membership in other art groups is not published in our Newsletter, but may be put on file in the AWS office. Congratulations to all our artists and to all who have received special recognition!

