

President's Letter

Dear Members,

As we move ahead into 2026, I am excited to share the many events we have planned for the upcoming year. The centerpiece, as always, will be the 159th Annual International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society, scheduled to run from April 7 to May 1, 2026. Our opening reception will be held at the Salmagundi Club in New York City on Tuesday, April 7th, from 6 PM to 8 PM. I hope you will be able to join us for this significant event!



In early December, our esteemed Jury of Selection, comprising Kathrine Amble, Xi Guo, Mark Mehaffey, and Dean Mitchell, along with myself, convened to finalize our selections. I extend my deepest gratitude to them for their time and efforts. A special thanks also goes to our Exhibitions Submissions Chair, Nadine Charlsen, and our Executive Director, Charity Henderson Vince, for their dedication and hard work.

Looking ahead, our Jurors of Awards - Elaine Daily-Birnbaum, William Hook, and Ken Goldman, will meet in person in New York on February 8 to determine the award winners. Thank you in advance for your commitment and expertise!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Watercolor Evening demonstration featuring the talented Stephen Quiller. You can attend this event in person or via Zoom on Thursday, April 30th at 6 PM.

Additionally, our General Meeting, Dinner, and Awards Night will take place on Friday, May 1st. We are thrilled to welcome John Roman, Assistant Professor of Illustration at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, as our guest speaker. His presentation will focus on the creative use of perspective in the history of art. This evening is always a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow artists, and I sincerely hope you'll be able to attend.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that the 2026 Associate Members Online Exhibition will occur in June. This juried show is a fantastic opportunity for both current and new Associate members to showcase their work. Please remember that only AWS Associate members may enter.

Thank you for your continued support and being an essential part of our artistic community. I look forward to another remarkable year ahead, filled with creativity and the joy of sharing our passion for watercolor!

Warm regards,

Joel Popadics
President, American Watercolor Society



159th International Exhibition



The 159th Annual International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society will be held April 7 – May 1, 2026, at the historic Salmagundi Club in NYC. There will be an opening reception on Tuesday, April 7th from 6–8 pm, and a Watercolor Evening demonstration by Stephen Quiller, AWS, D.F., on Thursday, April 30th at 6 pm. The demo will be available both live and through Zoom.

Submissions to the 159th Exhibition closed Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at noon EST, and notifications were sent December 19th, 2025. Selection jurors for the 159th were Joel Popadics, AWS, Dean Mitchell, AWS, DF, Xi Guo, AWS, Mark Mehaffey, AWS, DF, and Kathrine Amble. This year saw over 1,000 entries submitted for consideration, as is typical for the International Exhibitions.

Awards jurying will take place on February 8th, with jurors Elaine Daily-Birnbaum, AWS, DF, William G. Hook, AWS, DF, and Ken Goldman, AWS, DF. Selections for the Traveling Exhibition will also be made at this time.



2026 International Exhibition Timeline



159th International Exhibition Accepted Artists

Suzanne Accetta, AWS*
 Harsh Agrawal
 Kathrine Amble
 Efe Arabaci
 Poppy Balser, AWS*
 Karen Barnes, AWS*
 Sean Barrett, AWS
 Janet Means Belich, AWS
 David Belling, AWS
 Shari Blaukopf, AWS
 Kathryn Burri
 Ken Call, AWS, D.F.
 Anthony Cheah
 Yong Chen
 Chung-Wei Chien, AWS, D.F.
 Gonzalo Cid, AWS
 Kevin Clifford, AWS*
 Deborah Conn
 Elaine Daily-Birnbaum, AWS, D.F.
 Jenny Davis
 Tanya Davis
 Katherine C. Davis, AWS*
 Christian Derdoski, AWS*
 Jackie Dorsey, AWS
 Gary C. Eckhart, AWS*
 Kelly Eddington, AWS*
 Sterling Edwards
 Robin Erickson, AWS
 Helen Eriksdotter
 Andrew Evansen, AWS, D.F.
 Xiqiang Fei, AWS
 Ryan Fox, AWS
 Karen Frey, AWS
 Qian Gao, AWS
 Vicente García Fuentes
 Ken Goldman, AWS
 Laurie A. Goldstein-Warren, AWS
 Frederick C. Graff, AWS, D.F.
 Ken Graning, AWS*
 Jean H. Grastorf, AWS, D.F.
 Rachael Grimm, AWS*
 Mark Grosserode, AWS*
 Xi Guo, AWS
 Bruce Handford, AWS
 Lynne N. Hardwick, AWS*
 Susan Walsh Harper
 Gayle Havens
 Tom Hedderich
 Karen L. Heidler
 Albina P. Herron
 Ruth Ellen Hoag, AWS
 William G. Hook, AWS
 Jasmine Huang, AWS
 Peter V. Jablow, AWS
 Mary Jansen, AWS*
 JJ Jiang, AWS*

Sun Jiangang, AWS
 Joel Johnson, AWS*
 Júlio Jorge, AWS*
 Jai Kim
 Chris Krupinski, AWS, D.F.
 Thein Shwe Kyi, AWS
 Louise Lachance
 Francis Leavey
 Yan Liang, AWS
 Hsiang Lu Lim, AWS
 Ying Liu
 Kerk Hwang Lok, AWS
 Nick Long, AWS
 Pablo Ruben, AWS
 Lynne A. Magee, AWS
 Robin Lee Makowski, AWS*
 Antonio Masi, AWS, D.F., P.E., L.M.
 Mick McAndrews
 Dan McCrary, AWS*
 Mark McDermott, AWS*
 Angus McEwan, AWS
 James McFarlane, AWS, P.E., L.M.
 Laurel Lake McGuire
 Jeannie McGuire, AWS
 Carol McSweeney, AWS
 Mark E. Mehaffey, AWS, D.F.
 Rebecca Mentz, AWS*
 Christine Misencik-Bunn, AWS
 Dean Mitchell, AWS, D.F.
 Pat Moseuk, AWS
 Aung Myat
 Lily Nan
 Michelle Nixon, AWS*
 Bob Noreika, AWS
 Robert J. O'Brien, AWS
 Roberta Oliver, AWS
 John Jude Palencar, AWS
 Jean Pederson, AWS
 Ann K. Pember, AWS
 Luis Zarate Perez
 Robert Perkowski
 Joel Popadics, AWS
 Lynn D. Pratt, AWS
 Lana Privitera, AWS
 Stephen Quiller, AWS, D.F.
 Manish Rajguru
 Ian Ramsay, AWS

Thomas Rebek, AWS*
 J. Anna Roberts
 Laura B. Robinson
 Steve Rogers, AWS
 Janet Rogers, AWS
 Irena Roman, AWS, D.F.
 John T. Salminen, AWS, D.F.
 August Sandström
 Joseph Santos, AWS
 Karen Noll Schaaf
 Thomas W. Schaller, AWS
 Jose A. Sebourne, AWS
 Wu Shang-Fen
 Hong Shen
 Mei Shu
 Burton P. Silverman, AWS, D.F.
 Kathy Simon-McDonald
 Richard Russell Sney, AWS
 Svetlin Sofroniev, AWS*
 Eduardo I. Solana
 Mattilyn Grace Stacy
 Nancy M. Stark, AWS
 Susan M. Stuller
 Huiling Sun
 Richard Surowicz, AWS
 Lisa R. Tennant
 Phyllis Tseng, AWS*
 Mary Velasquez-Bailey
 Andrea Walker
 Carrie Waller, AWS
 Yong Wang, AWS
 Lin Wang
 Lorraine Watry, AWS*
 Sandra Webster
 Catherine Welner, AWS
 William C. Wright, AWS
 Jian Wu, AWS
 Christopher R. Wynn
 Cai Yaming
 Scott Yelonek, AWS*
 Choon Seng Yeoh, AWS
 Dongmei Yin
 Barbara Yoerg, AWS
 Xiaochang Zhang, AWS
 Li Zhao, AWS*
 Jianzhong Zhou
 Jody Ziehm



*New Signature member

2026 Watercolor Evening with Stephen Quiller

Stephen Quiller, AWS, D.F., will present the 2026 AWS Watercolor Evening Demonstration on April 30th, 2026, both live and on Zoom. Registration will begin in February.

Stephen is an internationally known painter and is a Dolphin Fellow and signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, National Society for Painters in Acrylic and Casein, Rocky Mountain National Watermedia, and Watercolor West. He has received the 2018 Silver Medal and the 2014 Gold Medal of Honor at the American Watercolor Society's International Exhibitions as well as many other honors.

Known for water media and color, Stephen has written seven best selling books on the subjects including *Color Choices*, *Acrylic Painting Techniques*, *Water Media Painting With Stephen Quiller*, *Painters Guide to Color*, and *Casein Painting With Stephen Quiller*. He has created twenty artist instructional videos and DVDs on color, composition and watermedia.

Stephen's paintings have been on covers and the subjects of articles in many leading art magazines. He has served as a juror for most of the regional and international watermedia exhibitions and conducts a limited number of national and international seminars annually. However, he continues to spend most of his time painting on-location or at his studio in Creede, located near the headwaters of the Rio Grande in southern Colorado.

He aspires to capture the essence, the rhythm and spirit of the San Juans. He has painted professionally since 1972 and his works are enthusiastically collected. He and his wife Marta live in Creede, Colorado and during the summer months run the Quiller Gallery where his works are on view. To view his work and learn more go to www.quillergallery.com.



Stephen gives a sneak preview of his demonstration as below:

"Color is the most expressive and emotional of all the elements of design and I have spent the last 40 years focusing on how it can best be used by painters. Based on 200 years of color theory used by the PreRaphaelites, Impressionists and Post Impressionists, the Ashcan School, as well as Op Art.

I will spend the first 30 minutes doing small studies, conveying how they can be used to create beautiful, harmonious color and many different ways to create neutrals and semi neutrals, bringing color to life. "Neutrals make the pure few sing"! My watercolor palette has been designed like the color wheel and it is an educational tool.

My primary demo will be the use of color with water media. I will start by working on toned, rough watercolor paper. Because I live in the mountains of Colorado, I will choose a theme and subject matter that relates to my region. On this toned surface, I will discuss and then apply granulating and staining watercolor while the paper is drying and will then lift back to the undertone and apply more watercolor to develop the subject. Finally, when the painting is close to finished, I will apply some opaque notes and shapes to add to the various visual qualities."

159th Awards Dinner Guest Speaker John Roman "Make a Point with the Vanishing Point"



John Roman, is an author, illustrator, and college art professor at Massachusetts College of Art and Design. A graduate of Suffolk University's New England School of Art and Design in Boston, he specializes in creative, illustrated maps that capture the technical aspects of a site in a "fun" yet informative style. John's conceptual, cartographic art has appeared in numerous national and international publications including TIME, Yankee Magazine, Sports Illustrated, The Wall Street Journal and in Germany's Walden magazine. Roman's illustrations have won recognition from The New York Society of Illustrators, the Los Angeles Society of Illustrators, Communication Arts, the American Society of Architectural Illustrators, and most recently, a 2025 Silver Medal from the University and College Designers Association annual competition. Many of Roman's original maps are included in the Boston Public Library's Leventhal Map Center collection.

In 2014 Simon & Schuster's HOW Books contacted John to write a book about his distinctive approach to illustrated maps. The result was, *The Art of Illustrated Maps: A Complete Guide to Creative Mapmaking's History, Process and Inspiration* (2015, hardcover). In addition, Roman has been a feature-story writer for *Artists Magazine* since 1991, and he's written for other national art magazines including *Drawing* magazine, *Communication Arts*, *Print*, and *Professional Artist*.

John has taught perspective drawing at Syracuse University, The New England School of Art and Design, and, since 1993, at Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. John, and his wife, Irena, continue their careers as artists from their home studio in the seaside village of Scituate, Massachusetts.

John's topic of discussion at the AWS Awards Dinner will focus on his essays about "perspective," specifically on how the early Renaissance artists used the "vanishing point" not only to create three-dimensional depth in their art, but to manipulate the viewer's attention into and around a painting. The presentation will be based on John's *Artists Magazine* Sept./Oct. 2024 essay, "Make a Point with the Vanishing Point." In the talk, John will show how perspective has not only been an artist's tool for representational art, but also a valuable design method for visual storytelling since perspective's inception in the 1400s.

ArtSpeak by Robert Fionda "Knowing How to Start"

En plein air painting has captivated artists for centuries. But when John Goffe Rand invented the first collapsible-like metal paint tube in 1841, William Winsor immediately sought the patent and added one essential improvement to this design: the all-important screw cap. Thus the paint tube we know and love was born and the flood gate opened.

Now generations of artists could conveniently venture "outside" and paint the colors of nature in a variety of different lights and locations near and far. And so did the challenges of what to paint and how to do it.



ArtSpeak decided to ask noted instructor and artist, Mark Mehaffey (AWS Signature) about his observations and insights after teaching a series of summer courses titled, Plein Air 2024, for novice and intermediate artists at Interlochen Center for the Arts, Michigan.

Putting aside equipment, supplies and palette considerations, ArtSpeak was more interested in Mehaffey's advice for making informed first choices in what to paint and how to begin? Mark remarked, "Painting is often about solving a problem. With plein air, artists, especially beginners, are usually interested in making something look like something. Can we match the color? Is that darker or lighter than something else? Many problems but so little time. Which all makes sense but too often that way of thinking can limit you."

He then emphasized, "Rather our goal should be to design a GOOD painting, not to necessarily replicate what we see."

Mehaffey continued, "Use what you see as an excuse to make a visually interesting painting. What you leave out is sometimes more important than what you leave in. Decide what is IMPORTANT TO YOU and make that the focus of your painting. Remember you are in control, don't let what you see overwhelm you. Feel free to subtract, add, move "things" (shapes) around to make the composition more interesting or dramatic."

Mehaffey added that a quick, five minute sketch goes a long way in helping you bring order to your composition and offers a visual roadmap for the painting. That sketch is a way of solving problems ahead of time rather than halfway into the painting process.

Landscapes can be chaotic, loaded with details and distractions. Beginners get caught up with all the nuances and want to paint it all. Mehaffey again stressed, "Look for the big shapes and try using the LEAST number of shapes possible. Simplify what you see and save any smaller shapes for your focal point."

In closing, Mark Mehaffey added one more thought. "Picasso said, "Art is damn hard work." But I also believe you should have fun...and not turn the plein air experience into an activity filled with self-pressure."

ArtSpeak welcomes your comments or suggestions for future subjects. Please email to robtart@juno.com. Thank you.

AWS Member News

Gina Judy will be in a Tuscarawas Center for the Arts Summer Invitational exhibit in New Philadelphia, OH. Also, she was also named recently to signature-membership of the Louisiana Watercolor Society, and won an award in the North West Watercolor Society Juried Online and highly-competitive Membership Exhibition.

Alexis Lavine, AWS, NWS has been awarded The Beechmont First and Gold Medallion at the 44th Annual Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors for her painting "Raising the Roof."

She also won First Prize in the 41st National Exhibition of the Illinois Watercolor Society in May for her painting "Smoke Break."

In addition, she was the National Exhibition juror and workshop instructor for the South Carolina Watermedia Society in September 2025.



"Raising the Roof"



"Smoke Break"

L. S. Eldridge, AWS was awarded First Place – the Kenneth M. Shuck Memorial Award for her painting "Hashtag Harmony" at Watercolor USA 2025. The exhibit was juried by Paul Jackson. The exhibit was on display at the Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin, Missouri from August 23rd until October 11, 2025. Watercolor USA is a national show usually held at the Springfield Museum of Art, but is temporarily at Spiva while the museum is being renovated/rebuilt.



"Citrus in a Jar"

Frank Spino's "Citrus in a Jar" (22" x 15") received the Thorton Oakley Memorial Award in the 125th Philadelphia International Exhibition of Works on Paper. His "Colossal Citrus" (40" x 40") received the Baltimore Watercolor Society Special Creativity Award at the 2025 BWS Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition and "Hard Rock, Soft Citrus" (15" x 22") received the Philadelphia Watercolor Society Award of Excellence in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society's 46th Annual International Juried Exhibition.

In Memoriam

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

Leslie (Les) McDonald, Jr., AWS, passed away at Houston Hospice on September 25, 2025, at age eighty-one. He is remembered for his passion for realistic watercolor art, commitment to teaching, and love of fishing and hunting.

Born in Victoria, Texas, on December 22, 1943, to Leslie C. McDonald and Patricia Hunt McDonald, Les spent much of his formative years in Port O'Connor, Texas. There, he developed a deep appreciation for nature and cultivated his love for hunting and fishing. Les attended Calhoun High School in Port Lavaca, Texas, graduating in 1962. During his high school years, he was an accomplished track



and field athlete and played the trumpet with enthusiasm. He continued his studies at Sam Houston State College, earning a degree in commercial art and photography in 1967. On June 14, 1969, Les married Dianne Roberts, the love of his life, in Victoria, Texas. They were married for 56 years, sharing countless joyful experiences, a deep sense of excitement, and a strong mutual commitment throughout their time together.

Les began his professional career as a graphic artist, working for a variety of advertising agencies. He then joined colleagues to start new agencies, showing ambitious spirit. In 1986, during a period of economic recession, Les decided to leave the advertising world and devoted himself fully to his passion for art. He collaborated closely with conservation organizations, creating paintings that depicted diverse wildlife and earning varied awards for his contributions. Les exhibited his artwork at prominent wildlife art shows across the country and at notable Texas events such as the 4th of July Rockport Art Festival. As an active member of the Watercolor Arts Society of Houston (WAS-H), Les participated in various exhibitions and competitions, where he received numerous accolades. Driven by a desire to share his expertise, he taught classes at WAS-H and other venues, inspiring other aspiring artists. One of his proudest achievements was his designation as a Signature member in the American Watercolor Society in 2024.

Les's parents preceded him in death. His brothers, Patrick (K), and Wick (Sheryl), along with his cherished wife, Dianne, survive him. He was a proud uncle to Claire Bornholdt (Chad), Wilkins McDonald (Jodi), and Sean Roberts, and a great uncle to Ashley Mach and Victoria McDonald.

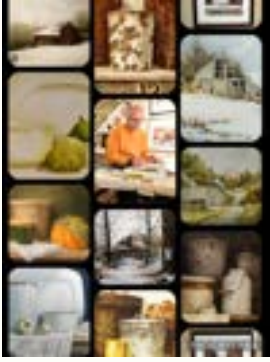
Elaine Hahn McIntyre, AWS, 83, born Elaine Grace Schaedler on September 24, 1941, and known professionally as Elaine Hahn, passed away quietly on Monday afternoon, March 10, 2025 with family by her side.



Elaine Hahn, a fine artist and native of Kansas City, Missouri, held a BA and MA in Art from the University of Missouri, and studied with noted artists throughout the United States, England and Mexico. Her early career was influenced by her experience at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City. Her paintings have achieved prominence through acceptance and awards in major national juried exhibitions. Her works are included in private and corporate collections throughout the United States. She taught art and conducted workshops in the U.S. and Europe and served as a judge in art shows on the local, regional and national levels. She held Signature memberships in the following organizations: Oil Painters of America, American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, Miniature Artists of America, American Women Artists, American Society of Marine Artists, International Guild of Realism, Art Renewal Center Living Artist.

While gaining a national reputation for her watercolors, she later worked in both Watercolor and Oils bringing a new dimension to her work. She primarily worked from her studio on the Gulf of Mexico in Florida, where she focused her efforts on developing and expanding her painting techniques, capturing images of the beautiful coastal and marine subjects in the area. She was also a fine plein air artist, painting outdoors during her many travels.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, Mildred Lee Bailey Schaedler and John Joseph "Jack" Schaedler. She is survived by her beloved family: Byron G. McIntyre, her husband of 34 years and partner in their business, Elaine Hahn Fine Art; her sister, Susan West and spouse Charley; her sister, Mary Lee Sharp; her brother, Mark Schaedler; her son, Joey Hahn, spouse Allison, and their children, Jack and Grace; her daughter, Jill Mills, spouse Victor, and their children, Bailey, Sawyer and Oliver; her stepson, Eric McIntyre; her stepson, Kipp McIntyre and spouse Stephanie; her stepson, Scott McIntyre, his daughter, Haley, her spouse Logan, and their two children, and his son, Drew; as well as many cherished nieces, nephews and friends.



Gary Eckhart, AWS, Warren, VT

Members of the art community regarded Gary as the heart and soul of the Mad River Valley art world. A kind and generous teacher and leader, he will be deeply missed. A mentor to many artists around the state of Vermont, Gary was incredibly giving with his knowledge. He was a patient and encouraging teacher, inspiring to other accomplished artists, those just beginning and everyone in between. We will miss his kindness, generosity and sense of humor.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Valley Artists Guild will help keep his memory and legacy alive.

Valley Artists Guild
PO Box 674
Waitsfield, VT 05673
Or ValleyArtistsGuild.com

Patricia Safir, AWS, was born January 22, 1944, the longtime San Antonio native passed away September 10, 2025. After attending Lee High School and graduating from the University of Texas, she spent years working in the education and insurance fields. However, she found her true passion in painting.



Pat won numerous awards for her beautiful watercolor paintings and earned signature memberships in the Texas Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, and Western Federation of Watercolor Societies. She was also a member of the Southwestern Watercolor Society and the San Antonio Art League. Some of her fondest memories were of the group travel painting trips she took, and she cherished the lifelong friends that she made. She enjoyed painting both landmarks and still-lives with some of her paintings in the collections of the San Antonio Conservative Society, but she discovered late in her painting career that her most favorite subjects were portraits of pets for dog and cat lovers. She loved giving painting lessons and talked about helping her students 'paint with their own style'. One of her greatest joys was teaching her granddaughter how to paint.

As a longtime dog and cat lover herself, Pat spent years volunteering, fostering rescues and painting for the Cocker Spaniel Rescue, even adopting several of their rescues as her own. She could also be found feeding the neighborhood cats and there was always a cat in the house.

She is survived by her brother and sister William Zimmermann and Judy Mixon; son and daughter-in law David and Melinda Safir; and two grandchildren Jackson and Joelle Safir; as well as numerous friends and family members.

AWS Governance

Joel Popadics
President/Board Member

Carole McDermott
Vice President/Board Member/Chair,
Student Scholarships

Teresa Cromwell
Recording Secretary

Antonio Masi
President Emeritus

Nadine Charlsen
Board Member/Chair, Submissions

Susan Weintraub,
Board Member/Chair,
Signature Candidates

Susan Hope Fogel,
Treasurer/Board Member

Frederick C. Graff
Board Member

Donna Lewis
Chair, Demonstrations

Kathryn Keller Larkins,
Board Member

Robert O'Brien
Chair, Instructor Scholarships

AWS Office

Charity Henderson Vince
Executive Director

Emily Keleher
Office Assistant

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!