



Watercolor Artists Of Sacramento Horizons

WASH Newsletter

November/December 2020

WASH Board Members

Elected Positions:

President Ralph F. Wilson

Secretary Rhonda Canby

Treasurer Edward Bostley

Program Chair Thomas Adams

Show Chairman AlysLynn Lemke

Membership Chair Sally Bostley

Liaison with SacArts Nancy Wedick

Newsletter Editor Sandie Mele

Appointed Positions:

Scholarship Kaye Lochridge

Scholarship Jan Curry

Webmaster Gary Mele

Hospitality Barbara Little

Hospitality Cyndy Spita

Social Media Helen Plenert

Video Library Charlotte Richmond

WASH Website:

<https://www.sacramentowatercolor.org>

SacArts Center Website:

<https://www.sacfinearts.org>

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Creative Sight

by Ralph F. Wilson, WASH President

Artists – true artists, that is – have the gift of special sight. They can see what others do not. But this artistic gift of sight is often confused.

The first level of artistic sight, of course, is careful observation. You learn to draw what you see, but to realize what you're "seeing" takes work. Anyone can draw a stick figure, but with a bit of training, most can learn to draw the basics of the human figure. This requires careful study of human anatomy. What are the proportions of the figure? How many "heads" high, etc. How high on the skull are the eyes placed? Does this take creativity? Not so much. But it requires practice in careful observation and a growing skill in draftsmanship. It's the ground floor of becoming an artist.

But there's another kind of sight even more important, the gift of creative sight. The ability to see differently, to see creatively. To see like van Gogh or Wyeth or Homer.

When I first started painting, I thought success was to exactly reproduce the photo I was working with. I had to render it accurately down to the details. And there I got stuck. I became a better craftsman, but not more creative.

After ever-so-many months, I was finally able to move a tree or a mountain (without feeling guilty) to improve the composition. Or lighten something that was darker in nature in

Message from the Editor

Wondering who to contact for information about workshops, shows, meetings, etc., or how to post announcements on Facebook, the WASH Newsletter or the WASH website? **Send a note to my email: nelson.sandie@comcast.net**



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order to move the eye around the painting. I'm getting freer, but I still have a way to go!

How can we break out of creative straight-jackets? One way is to make quick, thumbnail sketches before painting, trying various croppings to see which is most interesting, most attention grabbing. What part of a scene captures your interest? Zero in on that. How can I crop so as to emphasize that? What can I discard that distracts from the focus of my interest?

What I am describing is what Ian Roberts calls "[Developing Curiosity of Vision.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-UWaAmYP0)" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-UWaAmYP0>) The more creative you become, the more your paintings become interesting, rather than just "nice."

A couple of weeks ago I was going through old photos to find something inspiring to paint, something that would catch my eye. I came across a photo of tomatoes connected by awkward, angular vines. I love the way the smooth red-orange globes contrast with these crooked green vines. After half a dozen possible croppings, I found one that got me excited. I guess that's creative vision.

Then I saw a photo of the steam locomotive on Vernon St. in Roseville that I had painted years ago. I considered a front on, a 3/4 angle, or a side view. But what interested me about the engine were the massive driving wheels connected by side rods. I wanted to capture the power bound up in them. I ended up with a crop of a 3/4 view of just those three driving wheels and their accompanying tanks, rods, and track. I can hardly wait to see how it comes out!

This process of finding what to paint is part of the "curiosity of vision" that Roberts is talking about -- learning to see something in a unique and exciting way that will force the viewer to look twice, rather than give just a passing glance.

I've been slow getting here, but I'm finding it exciting! What would *you* need to do to stimulate your *own* creative sight?

NEW MEMBERS

Sally Bostley, Membership Chair, is happy to report we now have 135 members and the renewals have started coming in for next year. Remember that we now join for a full year so no matter when you join, you have a full year of WASH membership. Welcome 4 new members!

Alexander Arui, Sacramento
Lori Franz, Sacramento
Judy Hawkins, Elverta
Ellen Mechling, Placerville

Lori Franz is one of 16 resident artists at The Art Studios Sacramento. Her works are on display there during every 2nd Saturday Art Walk between 6-9 pm and by appointment. You can visit her web site at <https://www.lorifranzartist.com/> and we are happy to welcome Lori as one of the newest member of WASH.





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JOIN US!

Whether you're exploring painting with watercolors or have used the media for many years, we have workshops, demonstrations and watercolor shows for you! To become a member of WASH, join Sacramento Fine Arts Center (SFAC, also known as Sac Arts) and select WASH as an optional club membership. See <https://www.sacfinearts.org>.

Go with the Flow

**WASH 42nd Annual Open Exhibition
August 25 – October 25**

The exhibit will be online on the WASH
Website: [Go With the Flow Gallery](#)

ON WITH THE SHOW

by AlysLynn, 2020 Show Coordinator

It's up! Our 42nd Annual Open Exhibition "Go with the Flow 2020" is online thanks to our webmaster, Gary Mele our first ever online show is live. To see all of the winners and exhibiting artists, see our [Website](#). The show will run through November 25th. See all the winners here:

[WASH 42nd Annual Open Show Awards](#)

Congratulations to all the accepted artists and award winners!

Best of Show

"Flying Squirrel #2"

By Steve Walters



First Award of Excellence

"Squeeze the Day"

Susy Soulies



Thank you to our judge, Dale Laitinen, for both selecting and awarding this show.



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WASH PAINTING OF THE MONTH CONTEST

Another month, another great Painting of the Month Contest! We had 28 entered September and 18 entered in October. Thank you everyone! As you might have noticed, the purpose of the Painting of the Month is to bring us together as a community of artists. Sharing our thoughts and paintings during the meeting is helping keep the feeling of fellowship that we are lacking at this time.

The Painting of the Month Contest is free to all members and one painting may be entered per month. Non-members are allowed a one-time entry and encouraged to join. We would like all the contestants to come to the general Zoom meeting and say a few words about their painting after the demo.

SEPTEMBER PAINTING OF THE MONTH

1st Place - "*The Gathering*" by Colleen Reynolds



Congratulations to the winners!
2nd Place Tie - "*The Painter Lady's Challenge*"
(a self-portrait challenge to the members)
by Jo Kopp



2nd Place Tie - "*To Be Yourself*" by Neelu Manish



3rd Place- "*Clouds Over the Great Rift Valley, Kenya*" by Ralph Wilson





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OCTOBER PAINTING OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the winners!

1st Place – “*The Gang*” by Sue Davis



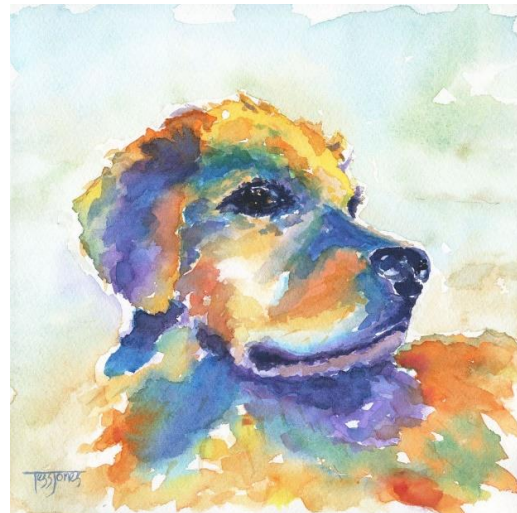
2nd Place – “*It’s Me*” by Helen Plenert



3rd Place tie – “*The 2020 Blues*”
by AlysLynn Lemke



3rd Place tie – “*Golden Boy*”
by Tess Jones





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ANNOUNCING THE PAINTING OF THE YEAR CONTEST!

The Painting of the Month Contest will be culminating in our 1st ever Painting of the Year Contest, January 11, 2021.

All 2020 Painting of the Month entries are entered automatically. If you are a member, have joined or renewed your membership to WASH your painting is eligible.

This is a judged online show. Judge of Awards will be Dan Petersen, artist and teacher at Modesto City College for 35 years.
www.petersenwatercolor.com

All standard art contest rules apply, see our prospectus from past shows. Winners from WASH or SFAC shows cannot be included.

Divisions: Amateur, Intermediate Amateur, Advanced Amateur/Professional.
Artist will decide the division to enter. Ribbons will be awarded.

Categories:
Still Life and Indoor Scene
Landscape/Seascape
People - portraits or figures
Architecture & Machinery
Animals and Wildlife
Flowers and Plants
Abstract/Other

If you entered a painting in the physical Painting of the Month contest from January, February or March of 2020, please send an image of your entries to AlysLynn@att.net to be included in the Painting of the Year Contest.

NOVEMBER MEETING DEMONSTRATION



Our November monthly Zoom meeting and demonstration will be on November 9 at 1:30. We're fortunate to have a live Zoom demonstration by artist Sterling Edwards.

Sterling Edwards is a contemporary water media artist, teacher, author, and art juror who is originally from Kansas City, Missouri. He has been a resident of North Carolina since 1973. Following a twenty-year career as a law enforcement officer and a firefighter, he made a commitment in 1993 to pursue his passion for art and begin a second career as a visual artist. Sterling has been studying art since the age of twelve, and although self-taught, has developed a unique and expressive style of painting that has gained international recognition and the respect of his peers, students, and art collectors. Most of Sterling's paintings are interpretive statements that personify his intuitive and creative sense of design and color, ranging from abstract expressionism to traditional. He is a sought-after international workshop instructor and is often selected to jury national and international art competitions. Sterling is also the designer of a signature line of multi-media paint brushes and a watercolor palette that are marketed internationally through his website store, painting workshops, and retail art supply stores.



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Sterling has been featured in **"Watercolor Magic Magazine's"**, **"Ones to Watch"**, in **"Watercolor Artist Magazine"**, and in **"The New Palette Magazine"**. In 2007, he was awarded a signature membership in the **Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour gg (CSPWC)**, an international transparent watercolor society based in Toronto, Canada. In 2010, Sterling was awarded a signature membership in the esteemed **Transparent Watercolor Society of America (TWSA)**. He is the author of the best-selling North Light book, **"Creating Luminous Watercolor Landscapes, a Four Step Process"**, and is a featured artist in numerous other books by various national and international publishers including; **"Best of America Watermedia"**, by Kennedy Publishing and **"Masters of Watercolor"**, written by Russian artist and author, Konstantin Sterkhov in 2015. In 2013, Sterling was honored to have been invited into the **International Watercolor Society (IWS)**, which is headquartered in Teos, Turkey. In 2015 he was awarded the designation of a **"Bonafide" Whiskey Painter** and bestowed with a lifetime signature membership in the internationally renowned **Whiskey Painters of America (WPA)**, the most unique and exclusive miniature painting society in the world with a membership that is strictly limited to 150 artists worldwide.

In 2017 he was awarded signature membership status in the revered **National Watercolor Society (NWS)**.

Today Sterling's book, signature line of products, artist workshops, and instructional videos are employed by thousands of artists worldwide. His award-winning water media paintings are in numerous national and international private and corporate collections. Sterling works from his home studio in Lewisville, North Carolina.

"Asymetric" by Sterling Edwards



"FlummoX" by Sterling Edwards



"Intarsia" by Sterling Edwards

