



Watercolor Artists Of Sacramento Horizons

WASH Newsletter

January/February, 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Doing our Best

Welcome back from your holidays! I always look forward to the new year with the expectation that I'll soon find the perfect inspiration for my next painting, that I'll see all of the potential it holds for a great watercolor and that I'll execute my painting to achieve that potential. I admit this is a bit grandiose, but so what? I think motivation is what creates the initiative to begin a new picture, and it's certainly more fun to approach a picture with visions of grandeur. Maybe it's also necessary for us to learn new ways to improve. If we don't try to do our best, how will we move forward from the warmth of what we already know?

Perhaps I should be clearer. What I'm thinking about is how to improve a painting of a subject that didn't turn out the way I wanted it to. You know the one. "I can improve this picture if I'd only have done it this way...". Heck, I have one picture I've done 5 times – hence the need for the following.

Improving a difficult subject requires a plan. Something that says this is what I want to change and how I want this picture to proceed to make the change. But a plan also provides us with something essential to improvement; a benchmark to see where the procedure we followed (or didn't follow) created a beautiful surprise, the value we anticipated or has detracted from our goal. I'm sure that you've tried repainting a favorite subject only to end up in the same place. It's easy to get lost in a picture and create different mistakes with each iteration. A plan provides an opportunity to be more deliberate – ideally to know where we went wrong or which steps in which order are essential to our own style of painting. If this feels like a very deliberate process to make a better picture, you're right. I think this works best for your difficult problems. It's too much for simple issues. It will force you to design and track your process so it will be easier to know what works for you. It will help you to get better at critically analyzing your pictures. Write down the aspects of your picture you like and which you don't. The more explicit you can be the more valuable the comment. Then modify your plan and do the next version until you're satisfied.

Of course, the next step is to recall how you've changed your paintings and the consequences of those changes (what you've learned), so in six months you don't start all over. The new advice to myself and to you is to write yourself a note regarding what worked, and ideally, keep it in your sketch book with your plans so you can find them later and remember. Just by writing what you've learned down usually stores the improvement for later recall. But just in case, you'll have your notes.

Chris.



Above image by Dale Laitinen, coming to WASH in May.

IMPORTANT ITEMS:

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 140 MEMBERS.

WELCOME new members **MICHELLE COX**, Fair Oaks, and **SHERI ZAPARA**, Sacramento.

Remember, you get a full year of membership no matter when you renew so don't be afraid to renew early. You won't lose a day! The year gets added to your current renewal date.

Be sure to send any **address, phone** and/or **email changes** to Membership Chair **SALLY BOSTLEY** at sbostley@earthlink.net or 916-797-0833.

Note from your Newsletter Editor: The WASH newsletter is published and emailed to all members in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for the March/April newsletter will be February 20. Thank you! ronnierector@yahoo.com

Follow us online at:

Website: <https://www.sacramentowatercolor.org/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/WASH.WatercolorArtistsofSacramentoHorizons)

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We really need a computer literate volunteer or two! Please consider lending a hand. Not only will you get to know more WASH members; you'll take the pressure off our other fine volunteers. Reach out to any Board member for details.



Sacramento Fine Arts announces their 2024 Show Calendar*:

Second Chances, January 2- 27. Magnum Opus, January 30 – February 24. Celebrating the Figure, February 27 – March 16. Mira Loma High, March 19 – 30. Awash with Color- WASH, April 2 – 20. NCA Member Show, April 23 – May 11. Animal House, May 14 – June 8. California Landscapes, June 11 – July 6. Go With the Flow- WASH, July 9 – August 3. American Watercolor Society 157th Traveling Exhibit, August 6 – 31. Ars Gratia Artis, September 3- 28. Bold Expressions - NCA, October 1 – 26. Good Versus Evil, October 29 – November 30. San Juan Unified School District, December 3 – 14.

*These dates are subject to change. Information about these shows and how to enter will appear on the SFA website.

EXHIBIT NEWS:

Sacramento Fine Arts “**Second Chances**” exhibit will hang January 2—27, 2024. A reception is planned for January 13, at 5:30 p.m. Pick-up will be January 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.sacfinearts.org.

SFA’s annual “**Magnum Opus**” exhibit will hang January 30—February 26, 2024. Entry deadline is midnight on January 3, 2024. The judge for this show will be Patris Miller. Receiving will be by appointment, January 26 & 27. Pick-up will be February 24, 4-5 p.m. A reception is scheduled for February 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the American Watercolor Society’s traveling show, once again coming to the SFA center August 6 through 31 in Galleries 1, through 3 and in the foyer. SFA is only one of six venues across the USA to hold this event...quite the honor!

PAINTING OF THE MONTH:

Painting of the Month was brought back as a “live” event at the November membership meeting. Four paintings were on display in Gallery 3. **DAVID PETERSEN’S** “Santa’s Visit” won 1st place, and **B J TAYLOR’S** landscape took 2nd. Congratulations, and thank you to those who participated!

The **Painting of the Month** contest is free to all members. One painting may be entered per meeting. Non-members are allowed a one-time entry and encouraged to join. The winning painting may be hung at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center until the next General Meeting. It should be framed and ready to be hung when submitted. It may be entered in following WASH shows. Bring your painting to the **January 8** meeting for entry.



In 2024, the Sierra Watercolor Society in Reno will be hosting workshops by **Ian Stewart** (3/6-3/9), **Jeannie Vodden** (5/8-5/11), **Lisa Jefferson** (6/20-6/22), **Brenda Swenson** (8/14-8/17) and **David R. Smith** (10/16-10/19) at their new location within the Reno Public Market. More information can be found at their website: www.sierrawatercolorsociety.com. Except for Lisa Jefferson, free public demonstrations by each of the artists will be held on the Saturday after their scheduled workshops, from 1 to 3 p.m. Plus, there’s a great new hotel right across the street from the new meeting location. Good reasons to drive ‘over the hill!’ Feel free to email their President, **RONNIE RECTOR**, if you have any questions—ronnierector@yahoo.com.

WORKSHOP AND DEMO NEWS:

Join WASH Monday, January 8th at 1:30pm to have your artwork critiqued by Marina Goldberg!

As a classically trained artist from Saint Petersburg, Russia, Marina began her artistic journey at the age of six. She was classically trained as an artist at the Stieglitz Art Academy in Russia, and earned her degree in painting at the San Francisco Art Institute. Marina is a signature member of California Watercolor Association. With experience as an illustrator, graphic designer, and virtual environmental artist, Marina has gravitated towards watercolor for the past 50 years. Her proudest accomplishments are being published in "Splash 23," the best of watercolor magazines, and being invited guest artist in Masters of Watercolor Events. These were held in Fabriano, Italy and IWM in Thessaloniki, Greece. She enjoys painting still lifes, landscapes, and portraits. On Monday, January 8th, Marina will demonstrate how she paints the figure in watercolor. She enjoys working impressionistically and alla prima (directly painting on the paper without a sketch). Marina will discuss how she always tries to convey character in her portraiture and how she enjoys getting to know the person she is painting.



Come in person or watch on Zoom Monday, January 8th at 1:30pm! We will see you there!

In March, **Eileen Ormiston** will present possibly a koi pond painting, and **Dale Laitinen** is signed up to present in May.

Janet Rogers is scheduled for a workshop on 3D Portraits May 13-15, 2024.

Discussions being held about other possible locations for WASH workshops, as it's sometimes difficult to book time at SFA—their calendar gets very full. If you have any ideas, please talk with **CINDY FARMER**.



Above image by Eileen Ormiston, coming to WASH in March.



Above image by Janet Rogers, coming in May.

WORKSHOP AND DEMO NEWS, CONTINUED:



*Professor Li's Atelier**

Join us for a six-week WASH Watercolor Class at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, 5330 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA, 95608, with award winning artist and art professor Dongfeng Li.

Friday, February 2, 1:00-4:00
 Friday, February 9, 1:00-4:00
 Friday, February 16, 1:00-4:00
 Friday, February 23, 1:00-4:00
 Friday, March 1, 1:00-4:00
 Friday, March 8, 1:00-4:00

This is a six-week class series which includes a weekly topic (e.g. values, composition, etc.), painting demonstrations on both watercolor paper and Yupo, and individual instruction by Professor Li. Students may paint on either watercolor paper or Yupo. Students may follow along with Professor Li's demo or paint a subject of their choosing. This is your studio time with Professor Li.

To register for this workshop, please text Cindy Farmer at: (916)749-9970. Please leave your name, your phone number, and your email address. Final date for registration is January 26, 2024. Beginning January 15 and upon receipt of payment a supply list and any additional instructions will be sent out to participants.

*Atelier is a French term meaning an artist's studio or workroom or workshop.

Cost: \$320 for WASH Members
 \$350 for non-members

