

MNWScalendar

Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

January 11
Potluck and Robin Berry TWSA Slide Show

January 13 & 14.....
Fred Dingler Workshop

February 8.....
Mark Granlund Presentation

March 8.....
Nancy Carney Presentation

March 24 & 25.....
Dan Wiemer Workshop

April 30.....
Ron Ransom Workshop

LOCATION: Christ Presbyterian Church,
6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN
(Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)
www.minnesotawatercolors.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MnWS Membership Dues:

- o Single: \$28
- o Couple/Family: \$35
- o Seniors (65+): \$23

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o Check here to have your name removed from the list sent to our exhibition award donors who mail product information to our members.

Mail your application and check payable to Minnesota Watercolor Society to:

Marian Alstad, Membership Chair
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— MnWS Mission Statement —
"To further development of the watercolor artist by providing a supportive environment with education and exhibition opportunities, and to promote public appreciation and greater visibility of the art."

4011 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407-3142



BrushStrokes

Volume 27 Number 1

January 2007

Growing Up with Art — our January speaker, Robin Berry



There never was a time I didn't think of myself as an artist. My parents, Norman and Doris York, and godparents, Lois and Harry Heim, were all artists. I was surrounded by painters and never knew I wasn't one. As a toddler I was allowed to play in my dad's home studio. He loved painting in watercolor. My mom had an excellent design sense. My godparents are both award winning watercolorists and active members of MNWS."

Robin Berry is a transparent watercolorist. She has been a professional artist for 32 years. Her first artistic life began in 1975 as a porcelain potter and sculptor and lasted almost 20 years. In that time, she became a nationally recognized porcelain artist and her distinctive white-on-white pieces were exhibited and sold in galleries and shops across the country and still can be found in many private collections.

In 1990 Robin's second artistic life emerged as she changed her direction and her medium from porcelain to painting and illustration, focusing exclusively on transparent watercolor. Today, her paintings are juried into national shows, winning awards and competitions, as well as being selected for publication in various books and magazines, such as the Splash series.

In both careers, the main source of her inspiration has been the same—a passion for light, motion and color, and a love of birds and flowers. "Nothing makes my heart beat faster than seeing an egret reflected in the still water of the wild life refuge or taking flight from a sunlit lake."

POTLUCK

in January and everybody is invited to bring a dish to share. This will be followed by the TWSA slide show, with narration by Robin Berry. Members are encouraged to bring along 2 or 3 slides of their own for a MNWS slide show which will round out the evening.

For me it is essential to have a close and personal connection to the subject of each painting. I want to go beyond any particular photo or sketch to a deeper truth about my subject. My paintings require accurate and expressive drawing. I want the subject to be anatomically correct and placed on the page so that the design mirrors its grace and beauty. I love the dance of light and color in the shadows and the soft edges created by the motion of flight or wind."

Robin is a signature member of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, a decade-long goal, and the Worldwide Nature Artists Group. In addition, she is a juried member of Watercolor West and associate member of the National Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society. She has been a member of the Minnesota Watercolor Society for longer than she can remember. Recent honors include TWSA's Skyledge Award for Razzle Dazzle which also won the St. Cuthbert's Mill award at Watercolor West. Another painting, Grooming Snowy, was an award winner in Watercolor Magic's Watermedia Showcase 2005, published in their 2006 calendar as well as in Splash 9. Robin is represented in the permanent collection of bird drawings at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum and in many private collections. She can be reached at (tabetberrystudio@comcast.net). More of her work can be seen on the following two websites:

http://www.natureartists.com/robin_berry.asp
<http://www.originalbirdart.com/berry.htm>

Spring Tonic
MnWS Spring Exhibition
See application inside.
Slides must be turned in by **February 14!**



Razzle-Dazzle by Robin Berry



Captive Osprey by Robin Berry

MESSAGE from the President



Artists are like agates.

In college an instructor once told me to succeed as an artist you had to have a distinct style. So I went back to my dorm room on Friday in the hopes of developing a style by Monday. It doesn't quite work that way I found out. It's like trying to develop a personality over the weekend. A style is developed over the years. It's the books you read, the classes you take, the exhibits you absorb and the paintings you paint. It is literally layer after layer after layer of learning experiences.

Award winning artist, John Salminen, says he steals a little of this artist and steals a little of that artist, puts it in his blender and out comes his personal style. And, oh, what a distinctive style it is!

As a watercolor society we offer great experiences for the artist, from presentations to demos to workshops. Everyone takes something different away from these experiences and runs it through their personal blender. We absorb differently and process differently, thus the more personal our style becomes. We accumulate our distinctive layers of experience, like bands in an agate...we all become unique stones.

Happy Painting!

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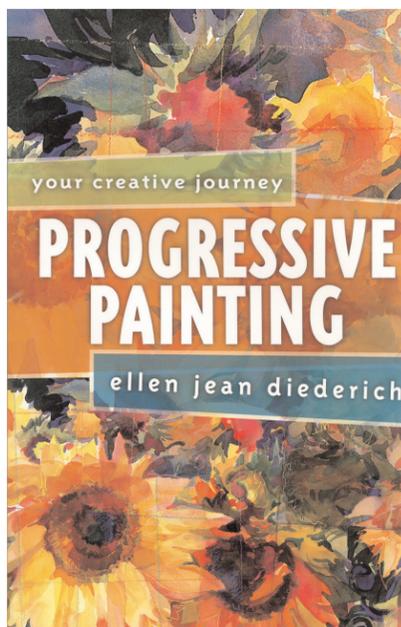
by Ellen Jean Diederich—Review by Kris Fretheim

This is a fine little book.

It's beautifully designed and sparkling with gems of wisdom. I particularly like Ellen Jean Diederich's friendly and forthright style of writing. It's as though she were sitting next to you discussing art making over a cup of coffee. There's helpful information here for everyone from business advice to a thorough discussion of the particulars of how to paint.

The book nudges us to pay attention to content, the subject of our paintings, our relationship to our work, the affect of our thoughts on how we paint. Our subjective views of the world are the prime ingredients of artistic expression. When you study your subject matter with your heart as well as your head, there is a shift in your work. The paradox is that it isn't necessarily a visible shift, as much as it's one of resonance.

The book can be purchased through North Light, Ellen's website at <http://www.givinity.com>, or your favorite bookstore.
ISBN # 978-0-9728654-3-2



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HOW TO REACH US:

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BrushStrokes Newsletter

BrushStrokes is published monthly, September through June. Deadlines are the 15th of the month. Send letters to the editor and art related stories that help inform or educate members to:

MnWS BrushStrokes Editor
16800 Blenheim Way
Minnetonka, MN 55345
cjmay@eganco.com

Advertising Placement
For ad rates or to place advertising, contact

MnWS Workshops

►Fred Dingler Workshop, "Nothing Personal, but How are Your Values?"

(Watercolor workshop that will cover values and colors with extra punch!) Jan. 13-14 (Sat. and Sun.) at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Cost is \$95. Contact: Susan Zinschlag 651-437-9327 or email: s.m.zinschlag@att.net

►Dan Wiemer Workshop, "Strong and Simple." March 24-25 at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Cost is \$95. Dan promises to cover these topics:

1. Good paintings start with good abstract design. Strong value shapes are key in the painting process.
2. Simplify and be direct. (Less is so much more.)
3. Descriptive shapes with exciting edges can replace too much detail.

Dan also believes that students should allow themselves to have fun. I'm sure all of you know by the way that Dan conducts our meetings, that he's easy-going, fun, and has a great personality. This is bound to be a winner of a workshop! For more information contact Susan Zinschlag 651-437-9327 e-mail: s.m.zinschlag@att.net

SPRING TONIC

The MnWS Spring Exhibition
Minnetonka Art Center
April 5, 2007

The 2007 Spring Juried Exhibition will be held in the lovely gallery at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts and we are very pleased to welcome Sally Johnson as our judge for this show. Sally Johnson has been the Director of the very popular Groveland Gallery since 1984. Groveland Gallery is well-known for representing the work of prominent Midwestern artists and placing work in large corporations and museums, such as the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Ms. Johnson has been a juror for numerous exhibitions, grants and fellowship programs and has also lectured at many colleges and art centers throughout Minnesota. She has worked as a consulting curator and advisor to numerous corporate collections. Ms. Johnson was educated at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina, Macalester College in St Paul, and received her B.F.A. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1977. She currently lives in St. Paul. Most important to the members of the Minnesota Watercolor Society, she will provide us with a diverse and quality show and will present awards with insight. Now we need the members to step forward with their work and this will be a great show!

Slides must be handed in by February 14, 2007

Questions, contact Deb Chapin at 952-890-8684

►Calvin deRuyter will be teaching a new series of classes at the Studio at Rush Creek in Maple Grove during January and February. Go to <http://www.studio-rush.com> to find out more about the classes and costs or call 763.315.3001 to register. Included in this series are: "Painting Fruits/Vegetables", "Painting Sunsets", "Using Color Creatively In Landscapes", "Watercolor On Canvas", and "Painting Water." Class sizes are extremely limited for maximizing individual attention. (www.CalsPortfolio.net)

►Karlyn Holman—Prague and the Czech Republic, August 30 to September 13. Paint in this beautifully preserved city. \$3450.00 without airfare. Call 715-373-2922 or www.karlynholman.com
Bulgaria, September 13-27. Paint and tour this amazing country with Karlyn and Stella Canfield. \$2850.00 without airfare. Call 715-373-2922 or www.karlynholman.com

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Coming in the Spring!

April 30 - May 4

Ron Ranson Workshop!

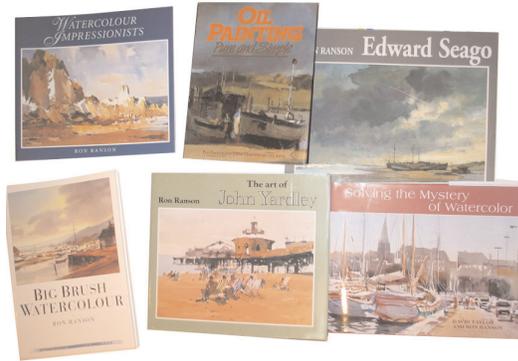
Sign up now to be sure to get in. Cost is \$395 for members or \$435 for non-members. Ron Ranson is a nationally known artist and his extensive experience of painting and teaching has formed the basis of a number of very successful books, including: *Big Brush Watercolor*, *Watercolor Fast and Loose*, and *Watercolor Impressionist*. More detailed registration will follow in the next newsletter. This workshop is bound to fill up fast! Call or email Karen Knutson now to get on the list. Phone (952-934-0876) or email: karen@karenknutson.com

the WORKshopper

Send *Workshop* listings to: *Workshopper*, 16800 Blenheim Way, Minnetonka, MN 55345, or email to cjmay@eganco.com

Rubbing Elbows with an Icon — by Andy Evansen

I began learning watercolor the way most everyone does, I believe. I took a few classes on the basics, and bought several 'how-to' books on the medium. I stopped buying the how-to books fairly early on, because once I got the technical aspects



down, they left me flat. Other than a new gimmick or two, they didn't offer much. I then discovered a series of books on English watercolorists that were a spark and a huge turning point for me. These weren't instructional books, but more galleries and biographies, and I soon found myself enthused, excited, and learning more about watercolor than ever. I devoured the scores of paintings on the pages, studying them over and over again, amazed at the beautifully clean washes of Edward Seago, the economy and convincing brushwork of John Yardley, and the dedication and talent of my personal favorite, Trevor Chamberlain. I now knew how I wanted to paint.

In addition to the wonderful artwork included inside, these books all had something else in common; they were written by a gentleman named Ron Ranson. I began to wonder about this lucky Englishman who seemed to rub elbows with all my idols. I dis-

covered that not only was he a good writer, but he was a talented painter in his own right, when I bought his book *Big Brush Watercolour*. That title alone could sum up the lessons in workshops I've taught. I'm constantly prodding students to work with a bigger brush on smaller paper. A quick glance through the contents of Ron's book reads like a handout from my class—Distilling the Scene; Tonal Values—the key to it all; Being Bold with Buildings; Seeing Shadows; etc. I soon added other books by Ron to my collection, such as *Watercolor Impressionists*, *Solving the Mystery of Watercolour* (with David Taylor), and once I began oil painting, *Oil Painting Pure and Simple* (with Trevor Chamberlain).

I found my inspiration simply by looking through books on the aforementioned artists. Ron Ranson had the added bonus of spending a great deal of time with them in compiling his material. Words like 'counterchange' (the proximity of dark/light values), 'subtlety,' 'atmosphere,' and 'composition' are peppered throughout the captions and seem to be the cornerstones of Ron's approach as well. We are all, as artists, influenced by others we admire and study. It's an inevitable and necessary part of the continued learning process. It's very evident in his writing that Ron admires these artists a great deal, and looking at his paintings throughout his book, it's also obvious that he practices what he preaches. We're very fortunate to be hosting Ron as our spring workshop instructor. No matter how you paint, or what style you strive for, I'm sure his lessons will be applicable and serve as a reminder that bold strokes, clean colors and good composition go a long way toward making a successful watercolor. I consider him an icon in the world of watercolor, and I can't wait to meet and learn from him this May. See insert for registration to *Ron Ranson workshop*.

/VISUALLY SPEAKING/

Workshop at the Art Center

SPIRITED WATERCOLORS

Instructor: Jeanne Norris Larson

Skill Level: All

This workshop is designed to access that fun part of watercolor painting that will help you find the "zone" where you do your very best work. You will learn how to use the "zoom feature" in your brain to discover new ways of making your landscapes more riveting and your florals more memorable. Emphasis will be on discovering the underlying abstract framework (composition) upon which you hang your realistic or your abstract subjects. The instructor will demonstrate ways of adding new metallic, interference and duo chrome watercolors to your work to add subtle nuances and exciting touches to both your landscapes and florals. Bring your watercolor paint kit!

Enrollment limited to 18; ages 16 and up

C421W Monday - Wednesday, February 19, 20 and 21 (3 sessions)

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

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Minnetonka Center for the Arts

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MEMBER happenings

Send member news to: *BrushStrokes*, 16800 Blenheim Way, Minnetonka, MN 55345, or email to cjmaj@eganco.com. Images are welcome and will be used as space permits.

Welcome!! NEW MEMBERS

We have 365 paid members to date.

Paul Oman
Rebecca Swift
Nancy Hylden

► Members Roz Stendahl and Diane Wesman will be among the 17 artists showing their nature-inspired artworks in "Project Art for Nature: Presence, Essence, Absence," February 10-May 27, 2007 at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The opening reception will be on February 10, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. (There is a \$5 museum admission fee for non-members).

Roz will also be teaching a water-soluble colored pencil workshop: "Field Sketching: Cooperative Wildlife in Dioramas," on Saturday, February 17, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Bell Museum. (Cost is \$25 for Bell members/\$35 for non-members; there is a \$20 supply fee.) All skill levels are welcome.

► Dick Green has a painting accepted into the 2007 Transparent Watercolor Society of America. The annual exhibition will be March 10-July 29 at the Elmhurst Art Museum in Elmhurst, Illinois.

► Jan Fabian Wallake has had a painting accepted into the Transparent Watercolor Society of America 2007 Exhibition.

Northstar News

January: *Andy Evansen*

February: *Calvin deRuyter (part 2) & Dick Green demo - may be ONLY Dick*

March: *Heidi Nelson*

April 16-20: *Robert Burrridge Workshop*

Contact *Georgiana Ruzich 763-424-5164*

*For meeting info contact
Diane Kuenzli, 651-771-6303.*

Meeting location is Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 W. County Rd. C2 at Snelling in Roseville.

www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com

MADELINE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

Many members will be familiar with Madeline Island, the largest and only inhabited of the group of islands known as the Apostles, just off the Wisconsin shore of Lake Superior. It is a beautiful spot with a State Park occupying a quarter of the island, miles of shoreline with dramatic rock formations and sandy beaches. There is camping, fishing and a Robert Trent Jones golf course. The sailing around the islands is considered to be among the best in the world. A four-hour drive from the Twin Cities, the picturesque village of Bayfield is the ferry port for the twenty minute sail to the island.

A new arts school will open on Madeline next spring. Located on a \$750,000 renovated farm, classes will take place in a newly built heated and air-conditioned barn. Student rental accommodation is widely available on the island and in Bayfield. Three to five-day workshops will be offered in all the visual media and will run from April through October. Among early watercolor workshop instructors signing on are John Salminen, Karen Knutson and Karlyn Holman. Dale Redpath of Atelier Lack will teach classical oil painting.

I am very excited about this new project and have joined the board. My family has loved the island for many years. We have recently built a small cottage there where we spend our summers. Madeline is a wonderful painting location.

If you have further interest, please visit the website at www.madelineschool.com or contact me, Keith Donaldson, at (763) 557-1108 or keithdon@comcast.net



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