

TWSA slide show, pot luck and art swap – January 14

The January 14 meeting will include slides of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America (TWSA) show. During the break we will have a pot luck. Please bring a dish to share.

We will also be doing an “Art Swap and Sale.” If you have supplies, equipment, frames, etc. sitting around your studio that you are not using, bring them along to the meeting and maybe you can work some trades.

The MnWS library will also have duplicate books on sale.

There will not be a mini show at the January Meeting

See you there.

Karen Knutson - demo artist on February 11, 2010 “Starting Traditionally, Moving to Abstraction!”



“Golden Beauty”



Karen Knutson will demonstrate on February 11 at the MnWS meeting. The demo will show how to take a traditional subject and make it abstract or at least, semi-abstract. Karen starts every painting, thinking in terms of simple shapes, and good design. How to achieve glowing colors will also be discussed.

“I remember the day that I switched to mainly painting abstract or semi-abstract paintings. A customer had called to have a private studio visit, and had indicated that she loved my contemporary paintings when talking with me on the phone. But when she arrived for the visit, she went straight to a traditional floral, and my heart sank! I had been looking forward to telling her all about my new abstract paintings, the feelings that arise when I paint them, and how they take on a life of their own. I decided on that day, that from now on, I would paint only what is in my heart, not what happens to be selling.” Karen has never regretted that decision. Now, she is better known for her abstracts, and these paintings are the ones that are getting accepted into national juried shows and winning awards!



“Whisper of Nature”

See page 5 for more of Karen's paintings.

Teaching began for Karen Knutson in 1988. She thoroughly loves teaching watercolor and collage, and teaches workshops all over the United States. One annual workshop is co-taught with Pat Undis, where they go to Superior Shores in Two Harbors, MN in February. In 2010, this will be the eleventh annual workshop there, and is sponsored by the Edina Art Center. Karen is a signature member of Transparent Watercolor Society of America (formerly known as Midwest Watercolor Society,) Red River Watercolor Society, the Montana Watercolor Society, and the Northern Plains Watercolor Society, the Minnesota Watercolor Society, the Missouri Watercolor Society, and has had many paintings accepted into many other national shows. Her paintings are featured in *Splash 6*, *Watercolor, Fun and Free*, and *Searching for the Artist Within*, *Watercolor - The Spirit of Spontaneity*, and the magazine, *Watercolor Magic* (Aug. '04). Her website is www.karenknutson.com

from the President



We had a nice turnout for our Easel Night in December with lots of very fine work on display. Members enjoyed the chance to talk with each other and explore new directions. It is always fun to see how other artists work. At our January meeting we will be having an "Art Swap and Sale." If you have supplies, equipment, frames, etc. sitting around your studio that you are not using, bring them along to the meeting and maybe you can work some trades.

While chatting with members at Easel Night, one comment I heard got me to thinking.

One artist expressed some concern about developing a style. My comment to her was she should not worry about it. A style develops as we grow confident in our medium and as we practice our skills. Style is about expression and that is one of the last pieces that gets put in place. We spend a lot of time learning technique and how to apply the paint, but expression is learning to paint what we feel. When we are comfortable with technique, composition and design, color and perspective and all of those other things we learn, we can finally let go and paint intuitively and our style becomes apparent. I remember being surprised the first time someone mentioned that they could tell it was my painting from across the room. How did they know? Expression is about letting go and letting our feelings take control. Too often in watercolor, we try to maintain control, when being a little out of control might yield better results. It is a scary feeling, but exhilarating at the same time.

The accepted wisdom is that mastery comes after 10,000 hours of practice. Let's do the math here: working 5 hours a day, 5 days a week, it would take about 8.3 years of practice to achieve mastery of a skill. I'm not sure we ever achieve mastery of watercolors, but nevertheless, that kind of practice time put in will generate great results. Students ask me how often I paint and it always strikes me as kind of an odd question. I paint every day. It is a big part of my life and I try to at least pick up a brush and practice a bit each day. It is no different than learning to play an instrument. The harder you work, the faster you get results. If you are painting this much, your skills will develop to the point where you don't have to worry about how to put the paint on the paper, but you will be thinking about what you want to say. Always start a painting with a concept: What is this piece about? What attracted me to this scene? What am I trying to say? This will help get you to the point of being able to express your feelings on paper. Keep this concept in mind as the painting progresses and make sure that everything you do points to this concept.

I encourage you in this new year to engage yourself in your painting, to practice each day, if only for 10 minutes. And before you know it, someone will be saying, "I could tell that was your piece from across the room!"

November and December Board Meeting Highlights:

- ▶ Jean Emrich, a MnWS founder, spoke at the November meeting.
- ▶ The library has purchased 10 new books.
- ▶ Deposit for DVD's will be suspended for now.
- ▶ No mini show in January.
- ▶ Looking for venues for the fall and spring shows 2011.
- ▶ We will be purchasing a video camera and projector for use at our meetings to replace the overhead mirror.



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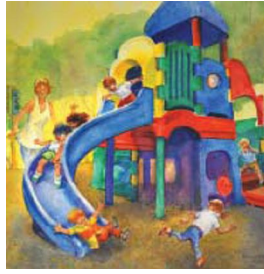
BrushStrokes Newsletter

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tweseman@earthlink.net

Feb. Mini Show

"A Touch of Warmth" is the theme for the February 11 mini show. Make an impact through color temperature.



Minnesota Watercolor Society 2010 Juried Spring Show "Swing into Spring!"

Silverwood Gallery, Visitors Center, St. Anthony, Minnesota

March 16th to April 30th Reception Thursday, March 18th 6 -8:30 PM Awards Ceremony 7 PM

TO ENTER:

Entries must be postmarked by February 5, 2010. Incomplete or unsigned entry forms and forms postmarked after February 5th will be returned. This is a Juried show which is open to all MnWS members in good standing who have paid their dues through May 31, 2010. You may join the Minnesota Watercolor Society or renew your membership by sending a separate check for the membership dues with your entry form and entry fee. Each member may submit two digital entries.

FEES:

The entry fees are \$20 for the first image and \$10 for the second. This is a non-refundable fee. All entry fees support MnWS exhibitions. Make checks payable to Minnesota Watercolor Society. Enclose a separate check for new membership or renewal dues. \$30 for Singles, \$40 for Couples/Family, \$25 Seniors (65 or wiser).

JUROR & AWARDS:

Minnesota Fine artist, award winner and workshop instructor, Greg Lipelt will be our honored judge for this year's show. Awards will be given in the following categories: Best of Show, Emrich/Stordahl Founders Award, First, Second and Third Honors, Awards of Merit, Honorable Mention and People's Choice.

TWO ENTRY OPTIONS:

1. Online Entries: You may enter your paintings online! Send your online entry(s) (Two separate painting images) as a photo attachment to DebMagelssen@Yahoo.com Mail your *Entry Form* (with payment) before the postmarked date of February 5th. I will cross reference your email images with your mailed Entry form. Online images and Entry forms both need to be emailed/mailed in before the entry date!

FORMAT FOR ONLINE ENTRIES:

FILE FORMAT: jpeg, highest quality, no compression

FILE SIZE: Images should be no smaller than 900 pixels in the longest dimension. Make image appear appx. 4"x 6" at 300 dpi. (For Printing purposes)

FILE NAME: Name your file: Last name, First initial, Title of painting.

IMAGE: The image must be orientated correctly (Vertical or Horizontal). Show only the painting-No frames or mats.

2. Mail a CD: For those who cannot send me photo attachments via email, you can mail me a CD. Please use the same format for online entries to make your CD.

Label the CD with a permanent marker: **Artist Name, Title(s) of Artwork, Medium** and make a printed photo of each entry and include with your entry form. CD's will be kept for 90 days after show ends and will be available at the General Meetings.

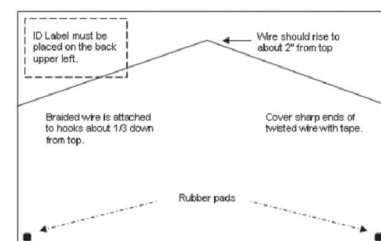
Mail CD's to: **MnWS Spring Show 2010, c/o Deb Magelssen, 21293 Floral Bay Drive N, Forest Lake, MN 55025**

SPECIFICATIONS: All paintings must represent Nature in some form to conform with Silverwood's mission of combining Art and Nature.

PLEASE NOTE: Silverwood Gallery will be printing out gallery labels for each painting exhibited and requires that each artist provides information and a brief description of each painting and how it reflects Nature. (This information is for Silverwood Gallery's secretary) **The label will be positioned next to your painting during the exhibit and will need to include your Name, Title of Artwork, Medium, "Courtesy of Artist", Price, Description.** (In that order). Please email Deb your artist information and description along with your digital entry at DebMagelssen@Yahoo.com In email subject title add: "MnWSLabels and Digital Entry" or mail this information along with your CD entry. Paintings may include non-representational art inspired by Nature. Please call Deb at 651-464-5326 if you have questions regarding specifications, frames and mats. Note: Paintings that do not conform to these standards will not be accepted.

MATting AND FRAMING REQUIREMENTS:

1. White, Off-White and Light Colored Neutral Mats only. No colored or elaborately designed mats.
2. Frames must be simple, sturdy and have wire and hooks mounted 2" from the top of the painting.
3. Maximum exterior frame size is 36" x 44" or 80" total (H&W)
4. Frame size exceeding 53" (H&W) total must have Plexiglass.
5. Recommended: Rubber pads on bottom of corners.



SALES: Paintings may be offered for sale or "Not for Sale" (NFS). Silverwood Gallery receives a 25% commission on all sales. Artist receives 75% of sales. All sales will be handled by Silverwood Gallery. Silverwood Gallery will provide contracts for artists who sell their work. Contracts will be available at the General Meetings for all participants. **Insurance and Liability** is not provided by either MnWS or Silverwood Gallery. Each artist is responsible for providing their own insurance.

DELIVERY OF ARTWORK: Deliver paintings on Monday, March 8th from 5 to 8 pm to: Silverwood Gallery, Visitors Center, 2500 County Road E, St. Anthony, MN You can find directions at www.ThreeRiversPark.org or call 763-559-9000 In extenuating circumstances, members may ship their paintings before March 6th to Deb Magelssen to deliver to Silverwood Gallery. Return shipping/mailling label must be included with shipped artwork. Artwork with no return shipping label will be returned at member's expense.

EXHIBITION CLOSE AND PICK UP: Pick up paintings from Silverwood Gallery on Monday, May 3rd, 5 to 8 PM. No pickups prior to May 3rd. A late fee of \$5 per day will be charged for any painting not picked up.

Minnesota Watercolor Society 2010 Juried Spring Show

ENTRY CHECKLIST

- Completed ALL parts of the entry form? **New this year:** Include with entry a small label (2-3 sentences) describing how your painting is inspired by Nature (*in this format*):
Name, Title, Medium, Price, and Description.
- Included your check for \$20 entry fee? (\$20 for 1st image and \$10 for 2nd)
- Separate check for membership fee or renewal?
- Met matting and framing requirements and painting specification?
- Affixed ID label(s) to the upper left back of your painting(s)?
- Signed your entry form?

READ CAREFULLY - FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY - PRINT ALL INFORMATION - SIGN -
MAIL TO: MnWS Spring Show 2010 C/O Deb Magelssen, 21293 Floral Bay Drive N, Forest Lake, MN 55025

----- ENTRY FORM -----

Artist's Name _____ Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Email Address _____
 Title #1 _____ Image Size (H x W) _____ Frame Size (H x W) _____
 Total Frame (H x W) _____ Price \$ _____ NFS _____ Value (Required) _____
 How inspired by nature? _____

Artist's Name _____ Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ - _____ - _____ Email Address _____
 Title #1 _____ Image Size (H x W) _____ Frame Size (H x W) _____
 Total Frame (H x W) _____ Price \$ _____ NFS _____ Value (Required) _____
 How inspired by nature? _____

Volunteers: Can you help with delivery? Awards? Hospitality? Pick up? You can help make this show a success! It's fun and rewarding.

Check a box: I volunteer to help with the exhibition: Delivery Awards Hospitality Pickup

Digital Images: Entering the show On-Line includes permitting us to make digital images of your exhibited artwork for MnWS archives. These images may be used to create an exhibition catalog. I hereby grant Minnesota Watercolor Society to reproduce my accepted image to help publicize the 2010 Spring Show and Exhibit.

Signature: _____ Date _____

MnWS Spring Show 2010 Exhibition ID Labels.
One for each work of art. Cut entry form away from label before mailing.
Keep labels to attach to your painting.
 Attach the Exhibition ID Labels to the back top left of your artwork.

PLACE ON BACK UPPER LEFT OF PAINTING

Title _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Image Size (HxW) _____

Frame Size (HxW) _____

Total Frame (H + W) _____

Price _____ NFS _____ Value (Required) _____

PLACE ON BACK UPPER LEFT OF PAINTING

Title _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Image Size (HxW) _____

Frame Size (HxW) _____

Total Frame (H + W) _____

Price _____ NFS _____ Value (Required) _____

MnWS NEW MEMBERS

Mary Drier	Carol Spohn
James Butcher	Nancy Hansen
Diane Severe	Joyce Rasmussen
Kathy Lothrop	Scott Litsheim
Kay Schneck	Jeanne Emrich
Virginia Olson	Nanci Yermakoff
James Phelps	

We have 352 paid members.

*(Check the label on your newsletter
to see when your membership dues are due.)*

MEMBER happenings

Send member news to:

BrushStrokes, 10910 Quebec Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55438 or e-mail tweseman@earthlink.net. Images are welcome and used as space permits.

- **Karen Knutson** won Best of Show award with her painting, "Rhythm of Life" at the Northstar Fall Show. She also got accepted into the San Diego Watercolor Society Show, and won a merit award for her painting, "Ship Shape". She also served as judge for the Artists del Norte Society Fall show.
- MnWS members were well represented at Bloomington Art Center's 33rd Annual Juried Art Exhibition:
Fred Dingler (Best of Show), **Terry Genesen Becker** (Merit Award), **Anne-Cecile McElroy**, **Jean Meyer**, **Marilyn Sween**, **Mary Rubbelke**, **Virgina Olson**, **Judy Lieber**, **Susan Zinschlag**, **Mary Norman Hambidge**, **Janet Green**, **Judy Fawcett**, **Molly Bergum**, **Dee Teller**, **Sandra Muzzy**, **Joy Hartl**, **Jim Rogers**, **Jim Phelps**, **Jack O'Leary**, **Catherine Hearinging**, **Doug Lew**, **Mary Axelson** and **Dick Green**.

exhibiting opportunity for MN artists

FOOT IN THE DOOR 4

Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program (MAEP)
February 19 - June 13, 2010
Opening reception: Thursday, February 18

Foot in the Door 4 is an open exhibition for all Minnesota artists, which takes place every ten years at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Since 1980, Foot in the Door has celebrated the diversity and enthusiasm of Minnesota's visual arts community. Submit your work and be part of the state's largest art exhibition!

What qualifies: Any visual media that can fit completely into a 12-inch square box (including the frame)

For details and registration information: Visit the MAEP website: www.artsmia.org/maep

Paintings by Karen Knutson, cont. from page 1.



"Computer Age 5"



"First Sign of Fall 4"



"Ship Shape"

Watercolor Workshop

**May 10-14, 2010
(Monday - Friday)
Charlotte Huntley, AWS**
www.charlottehuntley.com

Creative Color Workshop
Cost \$395 Members
\$435 (Nonmembers)

The most important aspect of a painting is how to let your inventive mind plan your painting so that it will tell your individual story. All this is done before you start painting. Charlotte will present her renowned form of layered pointillism, a major part of the workshop, and how to think creatively. Reference will be made to, "Painting... a QUEST toward Xtraord'nary", which she co-authored with Judi Betts, and will be available for purchase at the workshop.



Workshop Registration

I would like to register for the following workshop(s)

Charlotte Huntley AWS/Creative Color Workshop

May 10-14, 2010 (Mon – Fri)
Members \$395 (Nonmembers) \$435
Deposit \$125 by April 26, 2010
Location: City of New Brighton Family Service Center

For detailed information about the artist or workshop visit our
Web site at: www.minnesotawatercolors.com

For inquiries contact:

Kathleen Sovell, Workshop Chairperson
Phone: 612-374-3195
E-mail: JKSOVELL@comcast.net

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____@_____

MnWS does not share e-mail addresses with others.

Please send fee or \$125 deposit.

Cancellations in writing must be received no later than two weeks prior to workshop to qualify for a full refund. If the workshop is cancelled, money will be promptly refunded.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Minnesota Watercolor Society and mail with form to:

Workshops
Susan Zinschlag
2353 Glacier Way
Hastings, MN 55033-3757
Phone: (651) 437-9327
E-mail: s.m.zinschlag@att.net

MnWS Signature Status

What is signature status? Simply put, it is a way to identify and reward sustained excellence of members of an organization. In February of 2008, the Minnesota Watercolor Society (MnWS) launched their Signature Status Program.

Criteria for signature status: One must earn six points in a five year span to earn signature status in the MnWS.

Here's how you earn points

- ▶ One point is awarded for each piece accepted into our spring juried show.
- ▶ One point for any award won in our fall open show or our spring juried show. All awards – best of show through honorable mention, including the Emrich/Stordahl award – are worth one point. (Exception – the people's choice award would not count for a point.) A person can accumulate multiple points in one show (i.e. Sue gets two pieces accepted into the spring juried show and one piece wins an award. Sue would accumulate three points in this situation.)
- ▶ Volunteerism – roughly ten hours or more of volunteer time a year equals one point. Examples include serving as board members, conducting workshops, doing membership mailings, editing the newsletter, etc. These jobs are essentially covered in the long list of names listed inside the front cover of our newsletter. Only two points can come from volunteering, the other four points must be earned by artwork in shows. (If you don't have any volunteer points, you can still achieve signature status by earning all of your points through your artwork.)
- ▶ Only members paid-up in good standing can retain this status.

MnWS after an artist's name denotes they have achieved signature status. Announcements of new signature members will be done as soon as a person earns that status; usually at the fall and spring show openings. Individuals can contact Dianne Jandt at artistjandt@aol.com to find out their total points.

Visit www.minnesotawatercolors.com for a list of MnWS signature members.

workshops and classes**Want to find classes?**

Visit the MnWS website at www.minnesotawatercolors.com and click the "Happenings" link at the top of the page.

To include your listings on the website please e-mail information to webmaster@minnesotawatercolors.com

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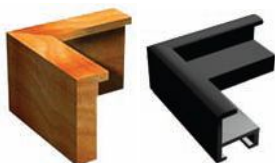


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Fall Show People's Choice Award Winners

"Red Wing Boat Houses"
by Fred Dingler



"Dream Fall 3"
by James Turner

How to flatten a watercolor

by Phyllis Winther

It is easy to remove wrinkles and buckling from a finished watercolor, and restore its original flatness. Obtain a sheet of 1/8" Plexiglas or a discarded sheet of acrylic and a piece of 3/4" particle board (or something similar). Cut both to a size that is at least 3" larger than your paper. (I have a 28" x 36" flattener to fit a full 22" x 30" paper size or anything smaller). Lay the particle board on the floor and put the Plexiglas on a table with your finished watercolor face down on it. Moisten the back thoroughly with a square synthetic sponge, keeping 1/4" from the paper's edge. Lay the picture dry side up on the particle board and blot any moisture with soft tissue. Cover the painting with dry Plexiglas; then pile books or other weights evenly over the surface, and let it dry for several days. If you use material for the base other than particle board spread old computer paper or paper towels on top before you put the picture on, to insure absorption.

**Northstar Meetings**

Held at The Roseville Oval at Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Dr.
Directions from MPLS, take Hwy. 280 to Hwy 36 and East to Snelling North Exit, turn right on County Road C, drive past Hamline Ave. and left into Civic Center Drive before Lexington Ave.

Spring Workshop: April 2010, Christina Acosta, acrylics

The new Northstar web site: www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com.

MnWS calendar

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

- Jan. 14** TWSA slide show,
pot luck & art swap
(details inside)
- Feb. 11** Karen Knutson Demo
- Mar. 18** Spring Show Opening
- Apr. 11** Catherine Hearing Demo
- May 13** Charlotte Huntley Demo

Location: *Christ Presbyterian
Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd.,
Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S.
and Hwy 100)*

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Carol Wingard, Membership Chair
10427 Fawns Way
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

MnWS Membership Dues:

- Single \$30
- Couple/Family: \$40
- Seniors (65+) \$25

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

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



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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."

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