

No Such Thing as Small Art



Jeanne Larson
MNWS's March
demo artist

Isn't it amazing some of the clichés that exist in the art world? When many people imagine an artist's life, they envision Van Gogh and his tortured life in his tiny garret studio with the green chair and crooked table or Lautrec laboring away year after year in the bodegas of Paris while dealing with his physical and social limitations.

While I'm not advocating living the tortured artist's life in order to make great art, it goes without saying that living an artist's dream life sometimes comes with a few detours.

Story continued on page 4.



Minnesota Watercolor Society 2012 Juried Spring Show



"Tulips" by Marilyn Jacobson

"Spring Splendor!"

March 8 - April 30, 2012

Reception and Awards Ceremony:
Thursday, April 12, 6 - 8:00 p.m. Awards at 7 p.m.

Silverwood Gallery

2500 County Road E., St. Anthony, MN

About the Judge

David Feinberg has been a painter and an Associate Professor of drawing and painting in the Art Department at the University of Minnesota for the past forty years. He is also the director of the "Voice To Vision" documentary project, featuring video documentaries that record the process of survivors of genocide working with an interdisciplinary team of diverse student and professional artists to transform their experiences into works of art.

Feinberg received an undergraduate degree from Parsons School of Design, New York, a teaching degree from the State University of New York, New Paltz, and an MFA in painting from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Michigan. He has received the C.E.E. Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award, the Special Events McKnight Grant, the University Board of Regents Outstanding Community Service Award, the University of Minnesota President's Multi-cultural Grant, the Office of Public Engagement ACTION Grant, and the U.S. State department's "Art In Embassy's Program" invited him to display his wall construction, "LIS: Life Is Struggle" at the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, for the next three years.



David Feinberg

from the President

We had a great turn out for Andy Evansen's demo. With so many people attending meetings we have tried to welcome our guests and new members attending for the first time. I hope when you come to a meeting you will seek out these new people. We have a short break and it is difficult to mingle, but a personal hello in the hospitality line will go a long way in letting new people feel welcome. I

want to implement an idea presented by Bonnie Featherstone at the January Board meeting. She suggested that we take a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting to answer some of your questions about MNWS activities or the Board. It may be a time to share your observations or throw out a suggestion. We would like to know how you feel about our website, social websites and newsletter. I would hope we will do this with a good heart. If you have a serious complaint that needs personal contact, please contact me. As President I feel it is important to be there to listen and act on such problems ... at all times.

I have some business to discuss with you. Because we are on the web and in social networks we would like to begin offering space for advertising. In order to do this I would like to have interested members help the board flush out ways to approach advertisers and come up with pricing for online advertising. I would like to get this started this spring. If you would like to contribute your ideas please contact me. Also, it is necessary to expand our list of possible show exhibition sites for the future. Finding a space is difficult with so many groups vying for the same venues. Please contact me with your ideas. My email is chapindeb@comcast.net. We need your help, members. There is a handful of board members and well over 300 members in MNWS. It was apparent that members had ideas for our organization in the survey handed out at two meetings for the Workshop Committee. That committee and other members are taking this survey seriously and will use it in determining the future. This is your organization and we welcome your input and expertise.

Step up and be heard fellow members. If you don't have time to be a board member let us know if you would like to help out. You know that old saying, "Many hands make light work." I have deeply appreciated the help we have for hospitality and the shows. We need your ideas as well. Our strength and stability comes from our membership. All of us need the stimulation and contact of our monthly meetings and when that's not possible there are other ways to make contact, to be a part of a community. Thank you to all the many people in this society who have shared ideas and taken time to help. Remember, we are always a work in progress!

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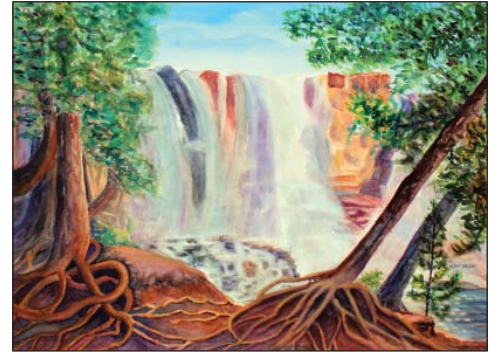
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MEMBER happenings

Send member news to:

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

- ▶ One of **Stephen Nesser's** watercolors was just added to the permanent art collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.
- ▶ Please congratulate **Marian Alstad** who was selected to exhibit in the Bloomington Art Center 35th Annual Members' Juried Exhibition.
- ▶ **Mary Axelson** will be exhibiting at Theatre in the Round March 15 - April 7.
- ▶ **Judy Meyeraan** and **Georgia Kandiko** had watercolors selected for inclusion in Arts in Harmony 2012, 17th Annual International Juried Art Show which runs from February 6 - March 29.
- ▶ **Georgia Kandiko's** painting "Rainforest Climber" was accepted into Missouri Watercolor Society's National Watercolor Show. She also had a gallery showing at the Elk River Government Center from December - January. In March - April she will have an exhibition at Margo's Patisserie on Water Street in Excelsior.
- ▶ **Nancy Patrick Carney** and **Emmy White** have paintings on display at the Hopkins Center for the Arts March 1 - April 8.



"Gooseberry Mist" by Mary Axelson



"Rainforest Climber" by Georgia Kandiko

From the Library

Dear Members,

We are currently missing 75 books from our library that have been checked out a year or more. Several have been out since 2005. Please check your own book collection for possible MNWS books. Books can be returned at the March and May meetings.

Thank you for supporting our library.



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.

Workshops:

Greg Lipelt, April 19-22, (Thursday through Sunday) Portraits

Keiko Tanabe, October 2012

John Salminen, October 2013

Art on a Line: May 17-21

More info is on the Northstar website: www.northstarwatercolorssociety.com.

MNWS Board Minutes

January highlights:

- Discussed workshop survey responses and what steps to take next.
- Board approved to have the newsletter mailed by the printer.
- Board approved joining the Transparent Watercolor Society.
- Working on fall show venue.

February highlights:

- Pursuing venues for exhibiting in 2013 and 2014.
- Pat Undis and Andy Evansen's workshops are filling up.
- 75 books missing from MNWS library.
- Looking for help to start advertising on the Website.

No Such Thing as Small Art Continued From Page 1.

For the past 15 years, our family has accepted the responsibility/ blessing of caring for my husband's special needs brother who lives with us. Also, my 87 year old mother increasingly needs a lot of attention and help on a daily basis. I know many of you have similar life situations and have found it a juggling act to fit in the quiet time needed to paint. Maybe your life story involves the necessity to work a "day job" while pursuing your art, or you're in the middle of raising your wonderful children. We all have our own story and I'm here to tell you a few ways I've discovered to make your goals possible while being mother, father, sister, daughter, brother of the year!

First of all, I've found that there's no such thing as small art. When I first began watercolor, I loved the thrill of painting on a full sheet of paper. That adrenaline rush of working on a large pristine surface was blissful to say the least. I now paint mostly on quarter sheets or smaller and find it as exciting as the bigger sheets. Bigger brushes + smaller paper = success.



I teach 2 weekly classes in my wonderful studio we built a few years ago (just 9 steps from my back door) as well as occasional Saturday Soup Workshops. However, there are times when I just can't

make it into the studio, so I've set up a second "hidden" studio in my living room. It involves a small armoire where I hide my supplies. If I can't make it to the studio for a few days, I can still accomplish a lot in my hidden "mini-studio." This is where I can plan lessons in front of the fireplace, work on my sketches or work on my art blog. (www.jannelarsonart.blogspot.com)

I'll talk in my demo about a few of the techniques I've developed to maximize my creativity when I don't have many hours or days to work. I'll show you some of my small paintings requiring just a small amount of time. Galleries are more than happy to accept smaller works these days and in many cases, they're more marketable than the larger pieces. Another exciting motivator for me is working in series. Even while doing other things, my mind can be expanding on an idea and working toward larger goals.

Although only a few artists can live Monet's Giverny studio life full-time, we can all use our creativity to come up with solutions to make our lives full and artistically productive. I remember one of my favorite artists, Pat Geishecker, when asked where she planned to have a studio in her new "retirement" house, replied,

"Why, every room of the house, of course." I love her attitude that whatever our circumstances, art is not just a small bit of our lives but an integral and essential part of us. We are lucky indeed to be able to do what we love.

Paintings by Jeanne Larson



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 info@minnesotawatercolors.com

Call for Entries

You are invited to exhibit and donate your artwork to the second annual **Art 4 Shelter benefit for Simpson Housing Services homeless shelter**. This fun, high profile, high energy event at beautiful Burnet Gallery in downtown Minneapolis will bring together hundreds of artists and collectors for a special evening of complimentary D'Amico Catering appetizers, free wine, conversation, and art buying! Your 5 x 7 inch work on paper can be any medium (no mat or frame required)! For more information, please go to www.art4shelter.org.

Artwork can be given to Laura VanderMolen at the March MNWS meeting. Laura can be reached for questions at 612-203-9895 or vandermolen_laura@yahoo.com

The **Red River Watercolor Society** is now accepting entries for their **2012 19th Annual National Exhibit**. Deadline is April 1. Please visit www.RedRiverWS.org for details and the prospectus.

Bloomington Theatre and Art Center welcomes exhibition proposals from local and regional artists. Artists who wish to receive an informational prospectus may call 952-563-8570 or print a .pdf version at www.bloomingtonartcenter.com.

Minnesota Watercolor Society Membership Renewal Process

May is fast approaching for the annual MNWS membership renewals. In light of this, as Membership Chair, I thought it would be helpful to revisit the membership renewal process.

Membership fees cover the benefits you receive as a member. Some of these benefits may be the monthly meetings with demo artists, painting workshops, opportunities to exhibit works through the spring and fall shows, and the full color newsletters.

The membership year runs June 1 through May 31.

There are four types of memberships:

1. New Membership

- New memberships are considered for anyone that previously has not been a member of the Minnesota Watercolor Society.
- New memberships may start at any time during the membership year with expiration dates based on the postmark/received dates below:
 - June through November will expire May 31.
 - December through May will expire May 31 of the next year.
- Membership is paid in full at time of application.

2. Current Membership

- There is not a break in membership.
- All renewal payments received on time or within grace period. The requirements to be accepted in a grace period are:
 - Renewal payments must be postmarked/received by the last day of the grace period.
 - The grace period runs through nine months after the May due date (June through the end of February the following year.)
 - The grace period requires a late payment fee of \$5.00 be added to the regular membership dues.

3. Lifetime Membership

- A current membership for 20 consecutive years, based on a June 1 through May 31 membership year.
- Renewal fees are waived effective the year after maintaining a current membership for 20 consecutive years.

4. Reinstated Membership

- A membership that was not renewed by the regular due date.
- A membership that did not meet the requirements of the grace period.
- A membership that eliminates past consecutive current membership years as eligibility for a Lifetime Membership.

If you have any questions about Minnesota Watercolor Society membership, please feel free to contact Carol Wingard via email at cjwin48@hotmail.com or call her at 952-942-7019.



A Bit of Luck March 8 Mini-Show

What is a Mini-Show? It's a way for members to display one painting at our monthly meeting. Participants have the option to submit their work for a critique. The critique is strictly volunteer and not mandatory. Members with a painting on display will be entered into a drawing for a prize. This is a great way to share your work.

Your ideas are WELCOME!

Members, we would like input to launch advertising in our social sites and our Website. A committee is needed to consider who to contact, how to approach new advertisers and what to charge for advertising. We need members on this committee, even if simply through emails. Please help! Contact Deb Chapin at chapindeb@comcast.net.

Watercolor Reflections

Column by Vera Kovacovic, MNWS member

Seduction in Studying Work of Other Artists

Studying works of other artists is a process that helps us discover, improve and reinforce our own style. It will challenge our artistic expression, which is an essential ingredient for artistic growth and authenticity.

Robin Berry, (TWSA) our local Twin Cities artist, wrote in her just published book *Watercolor Secrets*:

Often the urge to paint can come from looking at the work of other artists. She cites **William Lawrence**, who describes the process of being inspired (*Palette Magazine* Sept. – Oct. 2010): “On this trip (to New York) I saw many paintings by two of my favorite painters **Wassily Kandinsky** and **Arshile Gorky**. Seeing their work again ... I decided to get reacquainted with line and color, with the enthusiasm and infatuation I felt in my younger days. We are all at some time seduced by the work of another artist. This can be a very positive influence on our work depending how we incorporate the seduction. As an exercise, imitating another artist’s work can be very informative.”

What Lawrence is describing here is the way artists got inspiration and acquired knowledge through the centuries — and still do in classic art schools ... We are fortunate to live in a digital era where such a search is easy and virtually most of the art world is available to us for both study and inspiration.

Robert Henri in the *The Art Spirit*:

I advise the study of the works of masters ... Look for the way the pictures are laced and bound together by their lines, how they flow in currents which control your sight and your interest. See the masses of light held in size in spite of detail, and the masses of dark, all of such weights and such measures that there is fullness, sufficiency.

Rex Brandt cited in **Guy Lipscomb’s** *Watercolor: Go with the Flow*:

You can easily fall into the trap of wanting to follow the same course as other professionals, but you can’t beat them at their own game.

I heard a painter once say that he is not signing his works simply because he would also have to give credit to all the masters who are present in his work, who inspired him and from whom he had learned: **Matisse, Picasso, Cezanne, Braque, Goya, Pollack, Miro** ...

If you have ideas on what it means to be a watercolorist please e-mail Vera at vkovacovic@comcast.net.



"Bold Brush Watercolor"
5 Day Watercolor Workshop, sponsored by the Minnesota Watercolor Society
Instructor: Andy Evansen, MNWS

Date: May 14 – 18, 2012 (Monday - Friday)

Location: City of New Brighton Family Service Center, 400-10th Street NW, New Brighton, MN 55112

Hours: 9AM to 4 PM daily

Cost: \$395 (MNWS members) \$435 (non-members) A deposit of \$125 or more will secure a spot in the workshop. Registration is due **April 2, 2012**. The balance due must be received by **April 16, 2012**.

Workshop content:

The workshop is designed for the serious student of all levels. Many painters, even experienced ones, get caught up in overworking details at the expense of the overall painting. I strive for an Impressionistic portrayal of the landscape in my watercolors, by concentrating on large shapes and overall design. Leaving something to the imagination is what separates it from the reference photograph. In this class, we'll begin by working on simple value studies to emphasize the connection of shapes. Once these large value shapes are understood we move on to color paintings, using our value studies as road maps. This will allow you to apply the paint boldly and confidently and avoid an overworked, muddy look. I'll demonstrate at least once a day, and will make every attempt to cover most aspects of the landscape, including cars, buildings, figures, water, trees, and skies. I hope you can join me for what promises to be a fun-filled week of painting!



About the artist: Andy Evansen: Andy began painting watercolors as a change from his job as a medical illustrator. After taking workshops early in his career from noted artists Skip Lawrence, Eric Weigardt, and Alvaro Castagnet, he set out to become a serious artist himself. His work gained recognition after winning an international watercolor competition through American Artist magazine, and he has since appeared in multiple issues as well as Watercolor Artist, International Artist, and Plein Air magazines. He served as President of the Minnesota Watercolor Society from 2004-2006, and his award-winning paintings have made him a sought-after workshop instructor who paints and teaches internationally. He judged the 2009 Grand Marais Plein Air completion and the 2010 Northstar Watercolor Society Fall Exhibition, and he exhibited in the prestigious Plein Air Painter of America (P.A.P.A.) 2011 Exhibition and Sale. He has been accepted into the 2012 American Watercolor Society Exhibition. You can view his work at www.andyevansen.com.

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

Lunch is on your own. There is a refrigerator plus map to local restaurants.

Supply list will be sent upon receipt of registration form & payment.

Registration form with payment is due **April 2, 2012**

Send Registration form with payment:

Make checks payable to: **MN Watercolor Society**

Mail to: Susan Zinschlag, 2353 Glacier Way, Hastings, MN 55033-3757

Phone: (651-437-9327) Email: s.m.zinschlag@att.net



----- Detach and Return -----

Andy Evansen Workshop Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

Workshop fee in full: MNWS Members \$395. Non-Members \$435. Amount Enclosed

Deposit needed to hold a spot in the workshop \$125.

Make check payable to MN Watercolor Society

Mail registration form and payment to:
 Susan Zinschlag, Workshop Registration
 2353 Glacier Way
 Hastings, MN 55033-3757

Balance Due

MNWS *calendar*

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

Mar. 8 Jeanne Larson

Apr. 12 Spring Show
"Spring Splendor"
Silverwood Gallery
St. Anthony, MN

May 10 Paul Oman

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

**5 Day Watercolor Workshop
with Andy Evansen
Registration form inside.**

MNWS NEW MEMBERS

Andrea Brosch

M. Kaye Freiberg

Janet Elsberry

Diane Robinson

Judith Carter

Steve Lackore

Pam Gehlen

Katharine Robinson

Pam Rietkerk

Nancy Newman

Karen Rogers

Linda Wilcox

Linda Breyfogle

We have 328 paid members.

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:

- College Student \$15
- 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.

*"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."
— MNWS Mission Statement*

10427 Fawns Way, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-5117

