

## Pat Undis, November Demo Artist

Pat Undis has been painting for most of her life and has put many miles on the brush. She has a degree in Art Education, teaches art, enters shows, and wins many awards. She says “sharing the creative process is a tremendous gift. It is a profound human ability, to create a visual statement. I have been so fortunate to have this purpose in life. I wake up every day excited.”

Pat claims Minnesota Watercolor Society is where she learned how to paint. She moved to Minnesota from Chicago right out of college to be an art teacher. She has been a member of MNWS for over 30 years.

Being a high school art teacher, Pat paints in all media and even plays with clay and other crafty materials, but painting is her true love, watercolor being her first love. She is always on the quest for that creative stream - a series where you can't stop, where the ideas run fast, when the thrill of creating overrides the product. During the past four summers, she has been participating in Plein Air Festivals. She finds painting on location tortured fun.



On November 14, Pat will demonstrate how to design many paintings from one, using the elements of art to focus the exploration of the subject. Her goal is to inspire some new ideas and give artists some fresh ways to explore subjects.



**Important Message from Victor Perlbachs, Fall Show Chairperson**

This is my third year as chair of the Fall Show, and I would like to pass the experience on to the next lucky person. Lucky, I say, because volunteering for this job has allowed me to meet so many of you great artists, and working together with you on the show, and getting to know you has enriched my own experience with watercolor. The reward has been far greater than the investment. Anyone interested in volunteering for the Fall Show Chair position, let me know. It would be great if we had a chair and vice chair, to make the transitions in the future very easy. I will work with you through the next show and beyond if necessary.

## From The President



Hello Members and Friends!

I call myself a “Colorist” and this time of year, I am crazy with my camera trying to capture all the fall color scenes for possible future paintings. Even though I love color, I keep in mind that it is important to create a variety of strong values in my work. To me, establishing values first, then adding color makes the process of painting much easier. The light this time of year creates long cast shadows that add interest in any landscape. Have some fun this season by taking your camera, canvas and sketchbook outdoors to capture some of Mother Nature’s wonders!

“Waterworks!” at Colonial Church of Edina is now passed. Thank you to our fall show chair, Victor Perlbachs, for putting on a beautiful exhibit. Many thanks to our judge, Rachel Flentje, who is the Visual Arts Director at the Bloomington Theatre and Art Center. Congratulations to Judith Meyeraan for her work titled “Grief.” Rachel’s humble expression of what she found in this “Best of Show” piece was a very heartfelt explanation of what is so important in our art which is to have a heart-to-heart connection between the viewer and the artist. I don’t know about you, but I had a tear in my eye watching Judith receive her award. Special congratulations to you, Judith, and all the other award winners!

I know I have mentioned to you that I would do programs if we couldn’t find anyone, but I must admit I do need a break. Therefore, I am at it again...Help! We are looking for a new Program Chairperson to take Wendy’s position. The Program chairperson(s) position involves planning, organizing, and hosting our general meetings. This person(s) also has some freedom to be creative with the month-to-month meeting agenda. Wendy will guide you throughout the year. If you like planning “parties” and if this sounds like you, contact a board member and come on board with us!

Victor Perlbach’s position of Fall Show Chair is ending and we will need a replacement for him. He has already done many of the preparations for next year so you will just need to work with him a bit to gain more knowledge of this fun event. Two people can be co-chairs if you and a friend want to work together. Contact him or a board member if you are interested. We need you!

Remember, too, our Workshop Chairs, Bonnie and Sandy, are looking to choose, teach and train the next two people who will take on the Workshop Chair position. If you are interested, please contact me, Bonnie and/or Sandy or one of our board members!

Our October demo artist was Judy Lieber. Judy’s artistic talent and sense of humor made the evening so much fun. I lost count of how many character sketches she finished in her demo. Each sketch was unique and she captured each person’s personality to a “T.” Way to go, Judy! Thanks for your demo!

Coming up, our November demo artist will be Pat Undis and I am super excited to have her with us. Looking ahead to December, we will have our Holiday Pot Luck and a few other surprises for you that evening. Keep in touch so you don’t miss out!

Happy Painting!

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### BrushStrokes Newsletter

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### MNWS BrushStrokes Editor

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## Watercolor Reflections

Column by Vera Kovacovic, MNWS Member

### GOT NOTAN?

Summer is behind us, and some of us now nurture memories of plein-air outings, "paint-outs" and other painting adventures and experiences.

Recently, I read an article by Mitch Albala (October issue #93 of the International Artist magazine) about the concept of "NOTAN." It is not about the lack of suntan but rather it is a Japanese word for harmony of black and white shapes. It is not a new concept either, since in its many variations it addresses the importance of values and composition. The main idea is about learning how to see shapes in black and white, instead of painting specific objects. Yes, we may have heard about value studies from our teachers at workshops and in our classes, but to manifest this seemingly simple idea takes time and practice.

Notan can be equally applied to landscapes, figure drawing, still life or abstract compositions. Mitch Albala starts with tracing selected reference photos by reducing the image into black and white shapes to establish the basic composition. Only later, he may introduce a midtone(s). Squinting can also assist with differentiation of dark and light shapes, as well as with simplifying the image to its essential shapes, which then can be better manipulated to achieve the most desirable composition.

Andy Evansen, a Minnesota watercolor artist, is very adamant about having his students do value studies, as anyone who has taken his workshops can attest. Andy has an article in the October issue of Watercolor Artist magazine on his approach to a three-value study. It is in the Creativity Workshop section.

Below are links to some resources. Mitch Albala is an oil painter but the concept is worth examining. You can "google" more information on your own, but above all, have fun experimenting. It just may make you a better painter.

*Digital Art Instruction - Project: Self-Portrait Notan*  
[http://www.digitalartinstruction.com/projects/projects/3vNotan\\_index.html](http://www.digitalartinstruction.com/projects/projects/3vNotan_index.html)

*What is Notan*  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAALuHwiOg4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAALuHwiOg4)

*Watercolor Artist magazine, October 2013, Creativity Workshop on three-stage value study*  
<http://www.artistsnetwork.com/articles/art-demos-techniques/creativity-workshop-three-step-watercolor-value-study>

## MNWS NEW MEMBERS

Mary Lynn Bechtel

Christopher Beebe

Elizabeth & Cynthia Glock

Ginger Hallbeck

Patty Healey

Lori Hunter

Shelly Leitheiser

Nanetter and Shahram Missasghi

Buffie Shannon

Carreen & Serenna Svanoe

Gloria Wexler

We have 288 current paid members.

### Some fun facts about our membership

33 Lifetime Members (those members who have a minimum of 20 years of consecutive membership!)

States where our members are located:

1 in Iowa

1 in Arkansas

2 in Arizona

1 in Florida

1 in Georgia

272 in Minnesota

1 in South Dakota

8 in Wisconsin

1 in Wyoming

## Northstar Activities

**Meetings** are held the third Thursday of the month, 7 pm, at The Roseville Oval at Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Dr.

### Workshops:

- Lana Grow, April 7-11, 2014

For more information, visit the Northstar website: [www.northstarwatermedia.com](http://www.northstarwatermedia.com).



# Minnesota Watercolor Society 2013

## 2013 Fall Show Wrap Up

### Victor Perlbachs, Fall Show Chairperson

The show ended its run on October 26, and was a successful show with wonderful art to share with the viewers. The opening reception on September 12 was well attended. My thanks go to the hospitality group headed by Jean Allen for the great treats and decorations, and to Joan Griffith's guitar background music that added elegance to the event. Juror Rachel Flentje did a superb job in describing the merits of the pieces she selected for awards. Whether you agree with her or not, her opening statements gave insight to her process of selection, and I am reprinting some of her remarks here (with her permission).

*Whenever we visit an exhibition we all "judge" the art, right? You've walked down the hall and either to yourself or among your friends you've thought about (or whispered perhaps) what makes that beautiful painting beautiful, or why that other painting isn't quite as successful. You are drawn to a certain painting because of its subject, or color combinations, or composition. You're impressed by an artist's skill level or technique. Assessing the work is completely natural. It is part of the art process: the viewing of the work and the reaction that it creates in the viewer. [...]*

*I get the privilege of sharing my favorites with you knowing that you all understand the challenge this brings: that my choices are just that – MY choices. I may be able to bring 15 plus years of working with hundreds of artists, installing hundreds of shows, getting to choose what looks best where within the gallery walls. I may bring an education of varied art making and instruction and an understanding of where art lies within our cultural and physical history.*

*But I'm not able, nor are any of you able to separate our biases that are so much a part of art viewing. I'm not able to subtract the life experiences which help to inform the reaction I receive when viewing art. I am not able to subtract the many choices I make every day (the food I eat, the clothes I buy, the placement of my furniture, the color I paint my rooms). These choices and so many others also aid in forming my reaction to art. There's no getting around it.*

*So, know that although my choices may not align up with all of your choices (which are, of course, equally valid), know that I take great pleasure in being able to acknowledge these artists publicly tonight – these artists whose work spoke directly to me and created such a positive reaction from me. [...]*



Grief  
Judy Hallbeck Meyeraan  
Best of Show



Urban Scene !!  
Jerrald Ohm  
Emrich-Stordahl Founder's Award



Nightfall  
Jack O'Leary  
First Honor

# Fall Members Show Award Winners



Rothenberg  
David Smith  
Second Honor



Winnipeg  
Nanci Yermakoff  
Third Honor



Untitled  
Karen Knutson  
Award of Merit



Memories (Better)  
Julie Allen  
Award of Merit



Hens & Chicks  
Kristine Fretheim  
Award of Merit



Bunches of Buttons  
Wendy Westlake  
Honorable Mention



Rainy Day in Nice  
Diane Posselt Monroe  
Honorable Mention



Chair  
Janet Green  
Honorable Mention



## December Meeting: Painting, Potluck and Slideshow



December is our month to chill out, have some fun, and get to know our fellow MNWS members a little better. Last year we brought Artist Trading cards and swapped with other members, collecting our favorites. This year, in the spirit of giving, we're going to collect a pile of "mini-masterpieces" for Art4Shelter. Some of you have participated in this program before but if you'd like to know more you can go to [art4shelter.org](http://art4shelter.org). Please bring a 5 x 7 finished painting on paper, no matting or framing. Do not sign the piece on the front, sign on the back with an arrow indicating which way is up.

**\*OR\*** you can bring in your own blank 5 x 7 paper and your paints and create a little gem right on the spot. The room will be set up for painting and you'll be able to work side by side with your fellow members! It should be a fun a night. We'll also be playing a slide show of the works from a national show. It's a potluck so please bring a dish to share. The date is December 12.

### MNWS MEMBER happenings

#### Send member news to:

Brush Strokes, 1455 Jefferson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105 or email [v-dudl@umn.edu](mailto:v-dudl@umn.edu). Images are welcome and used as space permits.

At least seven of our members were juried into the Minnesota State Fair 102nd Fine Arts Exhibit in the Watercolor, Gouache, Casein, Tempera class: **Julie Allen, Barbara Duffy, Jeanne Long, Emmy White, Nanci Yermakoff, Mary Sue Krueger** who was awarded an Honorable Mention, and **Mary Axelson** who placed fourth with her painting "True Colors II."

**Mary Axelson** was accepted into the International Society of Experimental Artists (ISEA) 22nd Annual Art Exhibit in Sanibel, FL, Oct 18 to Nov 27, 2013.

**Tara Sweeney's** watercolors are featured in l'Art de l'Aquarelle/ The Art of Watercolour, Fall 2013, issue #12, Diverti Editions, Paris, <http://www.boutiquedesartistes.fr/the-art-of-watercolour-n-13.html>

**Barbara Duffy's** painting, 'Butterfly Garden,' was chosen for the 37th Annual Bloomington Art Center's Juried Art Exhibition.

**Bonnie Featherstone** has organized a show entitled "The Best of Bonnie & Friends" that includes seventeen MNWS members (plus herself). The show will be from December 19, 2013 to February 1, 2014 at the Burnsville Performing Arts Center Gallery. MNWS members with works on display will include **Susan Beckman, Mary Brainard, Nancy Carney, Bonnie Crouch, Andy Evansen, Suz Galloway, Cathering Hearing, Georgia Kandiko, Karen Knutson, Sandy Koeger, Mary Sue Krueger, Judy Lieber, Jan McLansborough, Diane Posselt Monroe, Sandra Muzzy, Jack O'Leary, and Dan Wiemer.**



### Opportunities for Artists

The **Red River Watercolor Society** has put out the call for the 2014 Annual National Juried Water Media Exhibition. Deadline for entries is April 4, 2014. Learn all about the exhibition and download the prospectus at [redriverws.org](http://redriverws.org).

**Artists del Norte** has been inspiring artists in the northern suburbs since 1976. Their goal is for artists to share talent, friendships and information through shows, workshops and other art events. Meetings are held March-October on the last Tuesday of the month at the Banfill Locke Center for the Arts. An upcoming workshop, "Experimental Acrylic Encounter with Linda Kemp," will take place April 21 and 22. For more information on the workshop, call Cherene at 763-389-4989 or Linda at 763-208-0177. For more information on the group, visit their website at <http://artistsdelnorte.squarespace.com/>



**Two Day Weekend Watercolor Workshop with DAN WIEMER**  
**(FOR ALL LEVELS)**  
**CREATE DRAMA IN YOUR WATERCOLORS**

**Dates: January 18 & 19, 2014**

**Location: Burnsville Performing Arts Center, 12600 Nicollet Blvd. Burnsville MN 55337.**

**Cost: \$125.00**

**Cancellations: in writing, must be received no later than 2 weeks prior to workshop. If workshop is cancelled you will receive a full refund.**

**Hours: Saturday, 9:00-4:00 - Sunday, 12:00-5:00**

**Lunch: Restaurants are within walking distance or you may bring your own lunch.**

**Supply List: This will be sent upon receipt of registration form and payment.**

**Registration form and payment due: December 1, 2013**

**Make check payable to: MNWS**

**Mail to: Sandy Koeger, Workshop Registration, 6695 Flycatcher Lane, Apple Valley, MN 55124 Phone (952) 891-2345 E-mail zzandy@aol.com**



**About the artist: Dan Wiemer trained as a Graphic Artist and is a past president of MNWS. For him, the process is the product. His work is a reflection of his love of the natural world and it expresses an energy and directness. He finds the rhythms in the scene that translate into exciting motifs. The majority of his work is created in watermedia. He utilizes the opaque nature of acrylic and the transparent qualities of watercolor to create contrasts.**



**About the Workshop: We will create more dramatic paintings by creating contrasts. Value, color and intensity contrasts will lead the viewer into the paintings and to the focal points. Create more tension in your work by thinking about design in the early phase—find rhythms and paths of interest. Enjoy a fun and fast paced workshop from a longtime watercolor instructor.**

**Detach and Return**

**Dan Wiemer Registration Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: ( ) - E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Fee in full: MNWS members \$125.00 - Non-Members \$150.00**

**Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to MNWS.**

**Mail registration form and payment to:**

**Sandy Koeger, Workshop Registration, 6695 Flycatcher Lane, Apple Valley, MN 55124**



## MNWS *calendar*

Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m., **except** June, July, and August

**Nov 14** Pat Undis Demonstration

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

**Dec 12** Painting, Potluck and Slideshow

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

## UPCOMING MNWS WORKSHOPS

DAN WIEMER: 2 DAY, January 18-19, 2014  
Registration form on page 7.

TARA SWEENEY: 2 DAY, May 17-18, 2014  
This workshop is limited to 15 participants.

ALVARO CASTAGNET: 4 DAY, October 16-19, 2014  
This workshop is full but you may get on the waiting list by calling Sandy Koeger at 952-891-2345.

## 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:

- o College Student \$15
- o Single \$30
- o Couple/Family \$40
- o Seniors (65+) \$25

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

o 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

