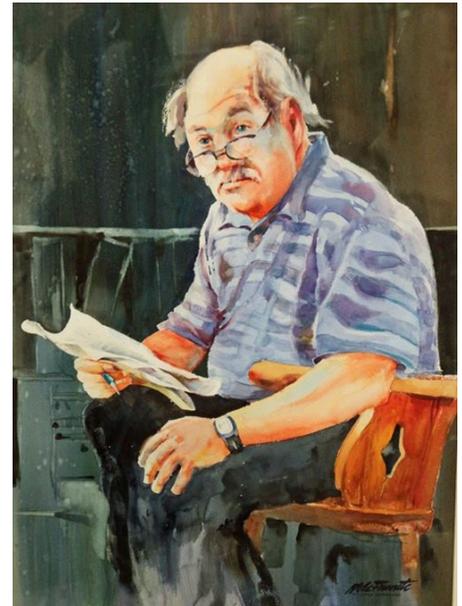


Demo Artist for September 11 - Nels Femrite

Be sure to join us for the first MNWS meeting of the fall season. On September 11, we will be treated to a demo of Nels Femrite painting a watercolor portrait using a live model. There is a remarkable freshness in Nels' portraits which he attributes to using pure colors, allowing them to mix on the paper. He pays careful attention to the mouth in order to capture a good likeness.

Nels Femrite was a self-employed, free-lance sign and commercial pictorial painter for 35 years. In retirement he maintains his studio in White Bear Lake, and teaches watercolor painting during summers there. He enjoys winters in Palm Desert, CA, painting outdoors, and occasionally teaching and demonstrating. Nels paints outdoors in all mediums. Watercolors are the most interesting to him because they are unpredictable. He likes to say, "With each new painting I feel like I am on an exciting voyage of discovery. What new thing will this medium teach me today?"



Nels is a widely collected artist and respected teacher. He has won many "Best of Show" and "People's Choice" awards for his landscapes in the Northstar Watermedia Society, Coachella Valley Watercolor Society, Riverside County Date Fair, and "Northern Lights," a five state exhibition at Century College, White Bear Lake, MN. He is also an excellent portraitist, and was awarded "Best of Show" in the Northstar Watermedia Society 2012 Members' Show. Nels captures the essence of the subject with a masterful brush stroke. His paintings are vibrant and fresh.



From The President



Hello Members!

I can hardly believe I'm writing this column as the MNWS president! I certainly never expected to be in this position.

When I joined the society about twelve years ago I was a novice painter. Terms like "wash," "glazing" or "value pattern" meant nothing to me. But that's the remarkable thing about belonging to a society of painters. Within a society we find help, encouragement and training for our artistic goals. There's no doubt in my mind that if I hadn't been a part of MNWS, and early on Northstar Watercolor Society, I wouldn't know half of what I know now.

I'm amazed at the generosity of the artists within our group. We are privileged to have so many extraordinarily talented painters who thoughtfully and skillfully share their knowledge. I don't have space to list the names of all the artists who've contributed to my own journey and I'm sure you have your own "Who's Who" of instructors that you are indebted to. I'm also grateful for those who generously give of their time to organize our meetings, newsletters, exhibits, website, and workshops.

I recently heard from a member on the Board of the Iowa Watercolor Society and he said after looking at our website, "I'm jealous of all the activities and opportunities you have within your society!" He's right! We do have an amazing thing going with MNWS, but we need your help to keep it going. We currently have a few openings on the Board. We're looking for a Secretary, Vice President and a replacement for our Fall Show chairman Victor Perlbachs. If you have an interest in or questions about any of these positions please talk to a Board member.

Clare Ritter will be moving into a new position on the Board. We welcome her and Mary Axelson as our new Workshop co-chairs. We also welcome Molly Bergum as our new Hospitality chairperson. Thank you ladies for stepping up and helping us keep our society running strong!

Thank you! I look forward to seeing you at our Fall meeting on September 11 and hearing about your painting adventures over the summer. See you soon!

Wendy Westlake

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

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westlakewatercolor@yahoo.com

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Northstar Liaison OPEN

BRUSHSTROKES

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Website

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September/October, November/December

MNWS BrushStrokes Editor

1455 Jefferson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105
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Watercolor Reflections

Column by Vera Kovacovic, MNWS Member

MAKING ART IS GOOD FOR YOUR BRAIN

The time for a new season of painting, art, and community gatherings is here again. We all had our summer experiences to draw on (PUN INTENDED) and will continue to manifest them artistically. And as a bonus, there is now a way to show us the scientifically proven benefits of creating visual art on the brain and soul, so please consider the lines below. I don't think we really need much convincing but here it is.

The following excerpt is from an article by Katherine Brooks who is the Senior Arts and Culture Editor of the Huffington Post. The full article can be found at:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/08/how-art-changes-your-brain_n_5567050.html

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life," so Pablo Picasso once famously proclaimed. Though we expect the pompous Cubist was being his usual haughty self when he uttered the well known quote, his belief in art's *transcendent* qualities might not be too far from the scientific mark.

New cognitive research out of Germany suggests that "the production of visual art improves effective interaction" between parts of the brain. The study, conducted on a small population of newly retired individuals (28 people between the ages of 62 and 70), concludes that making art could delay or even negate age-related decline of certain brain functions...

While the study was small, its conclusions are intriguing, and could shed light on art's effect on aging individuals. "Picasso and Matisse produced work until their deaths at ages 91 and 84, respectively, while Louise Bourgeois...worked steadily until she died at 98. Their art was driven by fervent creative passion, but what if it was also the thing keeping them lucid?" Hyperallergic's Laura C. Mallonee asks.

As Judy Chicago remarked in a past interview with HuffPost, "Artists don't retire. Every artist's dream is to drop dead while they're working." Maybe it's not their dream, it's just their M.O.

Northstar Activities

Members' Meetings are usually the third Thursday of each month, 7 pm, at the Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN.

- September 18 - demo by Andy Evansen
- Monday, October 13 - demo by Nancy Patrick Carney
- November 20 - demo by Dan Wiemer

Workshop: Dan Wiemer, October 28-31

For more information about the Northstar Watermedia Society and their activities, visit the website: www.northstarwatermedia.com.

September 11 Mini-Show: Summer Treasures

A Mini-Show is a way for members to display one painting at our monthly meeting. Participants may also opt to submit their work for a critique. Members with a painting on display will be entered into a drawing for a prize. This is a great way to share your work.

2014 MNWS Fall Exhibition

This year's Fall Members Show will be at The Ames Center, in Burnsville. That's the new name for the Burnsville Performing Arts Center. It is located at 12600 Nicollet Avenue, Burnsville, MN. Please join us on Thursday, October 23, 6 to 8 pm, for the Awards Reception! [**Note:** this reception will serve as the October meeting of the MNWS.] If you miss the reception, you will still have plenty of opportunity to see the show. The show runs from October 23 to November 30.

The theme for the show is "Inspired Images" and the juror for awards is Fred Dingler. If you are still thinking about entering the show, the deadline is September 19th, or when we have 65 entries, whichever comes first, so enter as soon as possible. The full prospectus can be found in the Summer issue of the newsletter or on the MNWS website at http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com/p_events.html.

Here are a few important reminders for those who have entered the show:

1. Please submit a digital image of your piece if you haven't already. Follow the instructions on the website to do this. The juror will be viewing them prior to the drop off day.
2. Drop off of art is on **Monday**, October 20th from 11:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M., at the Ames Center.

Exhibition Schedule

9/19 Postmark/payment deadline, or when the first 65 entries are received, whichever comes first.

10/20 Drop off at Gallery 11am-2pm

10/23 Exhibition opens

10/23 Reception 6-8pm (Awards 7pm)

11/30 Exhibition ends

12/1 Pick up at Gallery 11am-2pm



Free At Last | Diane Posselt Monroe
Honorable Mention, 2014 MNWS Spring Exhibition

More Changes on the MNWS Board of Directors

We have two new volunteers on the Board of Directors and another person who is changing duties. We extend a huge welcome to Mary Axelson and Molly Bergum, and a heartfelt thank you to Clare Ritter for remaining on the Board, but in a different position. Right now, all three are in a transition stage before fully moving into their positions as of January 1, 2015.

Clare Ritter will be relinquishing her position as Hospitality Chair to Molly Bergum. Then she will move over to Workshops to team up with Mary Axelson. Clare and Mary will be the new Workshop Co-chairs.

The Board is still not complete, however. We have a number of open positions and urge you to seriously consider volunteering to take over one of these: Vice President, Secretary, Fall Show Chair, Northstar Liaison.

MNWS MEMBER happenings

Send member news to:

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

Tara Sweeney's solo exhibition, "Close to Home: A Visual Journal" is on view through October 23 at the Gage Family Gallery, Augsburg College.

The following MNWS members had paintings accepted into the Red River Watercolor Society 21st Annual National Juried Watermedia Exhibition: **Mary Axelson, Joyce Ells, Judy Fawcett, Suz Galloway** (Merit Award), **Richard Graves, Patty Healy** (Red River Regional Award), **Catherine Hearing, Georgia Kandiko, Deb Magelssen, Tara Sweeney** (Merit Award), **Susan Fryer Voigt, Wendy Westlake.**

Mary Ellen Drier's watercolor, "Waiting for Spring," was accepted by the Savage 2014 Spring Juried Art Show. Also, her watercolor, "Modern Round-Up," was accepted by Artists del Norte 2014 Spring Juried Art Show.



Mary Ellen Drier
Modern Round-Up

Mary Axelson has three paintings in an exhibition at the Minneapolis Convention Center as part of Corporate Art Force's SmartArt Rotating Art Program through December 2014.

Wendy Westlake will open her home and studio as part of Art Splash, an artcrawl in the Zumbro River area Saturday, September 20th 10am-4pm. Go to zaac.org for a map of artist locations.

The following MNWS members had paintings accepted into the 2014 Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Show: **Elizabeth Franklin, Dick Green, Catherine Hearing** (1st Place), **Sonja Hutchinson, Jeanne Long** (Honorable Mention), **Diane P. Monroe, David Smith, Linda Stout, Tara Sweeney** (4th Place), **Beverly Wood, Nanci Yermakoff** (Honorable Mention). Also, **Judy Lieber's** pastel won 3rd place.

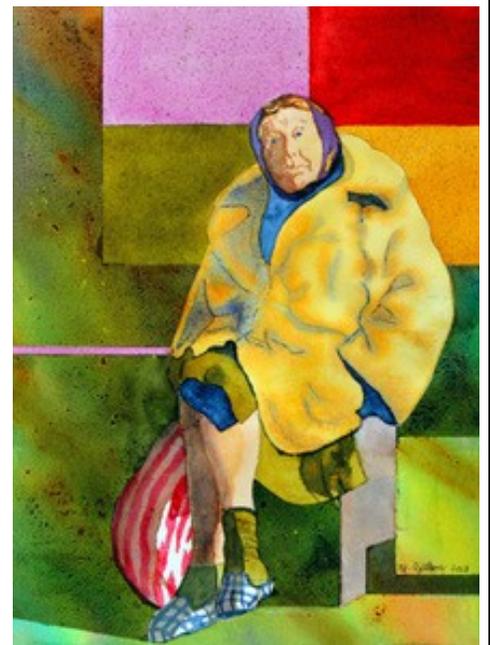
Meet our Board Members by way of their Art

As space allows, we would like to introduce our Board Members in the newsletter by including a painting or two by one or more of them. In this issue, we bring you two Board Members: Sonja Hutchinson, Secretary, and Mary Axelson, transitioning to Workshop Co-chair.



Mary Axelson
"True Colors III"
ISEA 23rd Annual
International Art Exhibit in
San Pedro, CA and Red
River Watercolor Society
21st Annual National Juried
Watermedia Exhibition

◀
Sonja Hutchinson
"Seaworthy"
2014 Minnesota State Fair
Fine Arts Show





Weekend workshop sponsored by the Minnesota Watercolor Society

ACRYLICS/WATERCOLOR ABSTRACT WORKSHOP WITH LISA FERTIG

Dates: January 17th & 18th, 2015

Location: Bloomington Art Center, 1899 W. Old Shakopee Road Bloomington, MN 55431

Cost: \$125.00 for members, \$150.00 for non-members

Cancellations: must be received in writing 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: You may bring a bag lunch for Saturday.

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

Registration form and payment due: December 15th, 2015

EARLY SIGN UP IS RECOMMENDED

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 WORKSHOP: This exciting, energy filled workshop will challenge students with innovative and fascinating techniques and materials that will allow new dimensions for artistic expression. As the painting develops it is merely a stimulus, a means of spurring the imagination to arrive at an image that can stand by itself. This process is mentally stimulating and far more of a challenge. With this approach you cannot force your will upon the painting.

ABOUT THE ARTIST: The desire to create has been instilled in me since early childhood. I grew up in Duluth where I learned to appreciate the beauty of nature and the changing of the seasons. I paint in two distinct styles, representational and abstract. For one, I venture out. For the other, I venture in. When painting in abstract, I travel inward, exploring and responding to progressions of thought and emotions. I received my formal training in the Fine Arts Program at the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Illinois, with further study at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and Atelier Lack in Minneapolis. My award winning art is shown in galleries throughout the Minnesota area, has received awards in competitions and is held in numerous private and corporate collections. Go to www.lisafertig.com to view my work.



Registration form is on page 7.

Registration Form for Lisa Fertig Workshop

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

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

Detach and Return

MNWS NEW MEMBERS

Christin Congdon
Larry and Martha Foster
Debbie Harvieux
Diane Knights
Lucy Ann LeMay
David Tomlinson

Welcome New Members!

We have 221 current paid members.

Note: Many previous members have not yet renewed their membership. We hope they will do so soon!

UPCOMING MNWS WORKSHOPS

ALVARO CASTAGNET: Both October 2014 workshops are full. There are waiting lists for both.

LISA FERTIG: 2-day, Jan. 17-18, 2015. Registration details are on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

PAT WEAVER: 3½-day, April 23-26, 2015

Questions? Call or email Sandy Koeger: 952-891-2345,
zzandy@aol.com.

Opportunities for Artists

Call for Artists — Scott County Art Crawl

Oct. 18, 9-5. Booths are indoors and centralized in Savage, MN.
Entry deadline Sept. 22.

https://www.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=2035&sortby=fair_name&apply=yes

Submissions are currently being accepted for the **9th volume of "International Contemporary Artists"**, an outstanding publication featuring virtually all forms of contemporary art. To learn more about the book go to: www.incoartists.com.

MNWS calendar

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

Sept 11 Nels Femrite Demonstration

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

Oct 23 Fall Show Opening and Awards Reception, 6:00 to 8 pm

Location: The Ames Center, 12600 Nicollet Ave., Burnsville, MN

Nov 13 David Smith Demonstration

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

Lisa Fertig Workshop Info and Registration Form Inside

Inspired Images, 2014 MNWS Fall Exhibition
October 23 to November 30, 2014

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 the 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

