

# MNWS CALENDAR



See Inside  
Artistry  
Awash...

Panel  
answers  
last  
question

Wash-off  
Competition  
Photos

Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Sept.- May only.  
Location: Christ Presbyterian Church,  
6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN  
(Corner of 70<sup>th</sup> St. S. and Hwy 100).

**NOV 5 ... Fall 2016 Exhibition  
Opening Reception**

**DEC 8 .... Catherine Hearing Demo  
"Painting Big Water!"**



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

Flower and butterfly painting with collage by Carol Wingard, Membership Chair

**SEE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ON PAGE 3**

www.minnesotawatercolors.com  
"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





MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

# Brush Strokes

Volume 37, Number 6    www.minnesotawatercolors.com    November/December 2016



## Painting Big Water!

**Demo by Catherine Hearing**



**Thursday, December 8  
at 7:00 p.m.  
CPC location**

*"I like to paint water by using the characteristics of water itself. Flowing, running, blending color are all possible by letting the water do the work. This allows for maximum transparency and the best possible color mixing. For this demo, I will be showing you how I harness that water and make it work for me."*

**See Page 7**

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## From the President

### Hello Artist Friends And Members!

*This season has been "Awash" with opportunities* for our members and I hope you have had a chance to soak in some inspiration. The artist's panel of John Salminen, Andy Evansen and Nanci Yermakoff kicked off our season with a discussion of topics ranging from palettes and process to worldwide watercolor markets. If you missed this special evening, our friends and hosts at Artistry recorded the event and the link can be found on our website at: [www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com).

We had enthusiastic participation in Fall Exhibition registrations. Save the date for the opening reception at the Lakeville Fine Arts Center on Saturday, November 5 from 5:00-8:00 pm with an awards ceremony at 6:00. As usual, our fall exhibition takes the place of our member meeting.

Coming up, I hope to see you at our next regularly scheduled members meeting on December 8 at Christ Presbyterian Church. You are in for a treat with Catherine Hearing doing a demonstration of her approach to Big Water. Please share my special thanks to Tara Sweeney and Marilyn Jacobson who have put together the programming for us this year ... and there is more to come in 2017!

It is amazing what we can do with a few talented and dedicated volunteers. Join me in thanking Carol Wingard for all her contributions as our membership chair. She maintains our membership records and welcomes new members at our meetings. We need your help to fulfill her role as she moves on. Please reach out to Carol or me as soon as possible if you can assist us and join our Board.

Finally, please help me extend a warm welcome to Louise Hall who has joined our Board as Hospitality Chair. Let's share a cup of coffee or tea at our next meeting. See you soon.

-Sonja



### MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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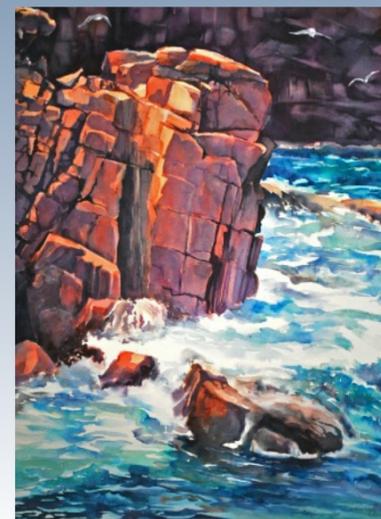
**Northstar Liaison** (Open)

Website: [www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com)

**MNWS BRUSH STROKES NEWSLETTER**  
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Catherine Hearing is a self-taught artist with more than 40 years of experience in watercolor. She works from her home studio in Lake Elmo, where she can observe the rural landscapes that she loves to paint. Catherine maintains a full schedule of teaching and workshops with classes at White Bear Center for the Arts and Minnetonka Center for the Arts in the Twin Cities. Her classes include basic watercolor technique, landscapes, still life, composition and color theory.

"My inspiration is most often found in the natural world, not necessarily in the sweeping landscape vista, but more often in the subtle color, light and form of things

## Painting Big Water!

(Continued from page 1)

Water is a favorite subject for me to paint. It is ideally suited to the watercolor medium because of the transparency of the colors. It can be intimidating until you take the time to study and observe it.

I have spent many hours watching water in its many different forms, analyzing its patterns, structure and movement. What I discovered is that it always comes back to those basics of shapes and values. Broken patterns of waves have a value structure of light, mid-gray and dark values. Big waves have the same value structure, as do flowing streams. Knowing this, along with some observed shapes, we can simplify a complicated subject and put it onto paper.

Painting is about observation. The artist looks at her subject, analyses it for form, shape and value, and then transfers that to the paper. Painting from life develops this important skill by allowing the artist to observe the object from all sides and "feel" its form with her eyes. When working from a photograph, there are only two dimensions with which to work and the artist ends up filling in some blanks. Observation is key here, as well. If the artist has observed her subject carefully, her memory of the subject helps to fill in those blanks.

Hope to see you December 8. Let's paint some "big water!"

seen close at hand." She wants her viewers to share her fascination with shadows and light and find excitement in viewing ordinary objects in beautiful light. Watercolor has become her favorite medium because of its unique ability to capture the essence of light. Catherine is a past president of the Minnesota Watercolor Society, and holds signature status in the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, Watercolor USA Honor Society, Minnesota Watercolor Society, Missouri Watercolor Society, Louisiana Watercolor Society and Red River Watercolor Society. She has received many local and national awards including recently: Adirondack National Exhibition of American Watercolors (Trails and Streams Medallion & Pulsifer Award), Watercolor USA (Museum purchase award), Minnesota Watercolor Society (Best of Show 2014, 2015) and Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition (1st Place 2014). Her work has been published in Northlight Book's "Splash 14" and "Splash 16" watercolor books.

Her work is found in public collections including the Springfield Art Museum (MO), Children's Hospital, (Mpls), Hudson Hospital (WI), Stillwater Medical Group (MN) and in numerous private collections.



## MNWS Fall Exhibition 2016

Join us for the Opening Reception!

**Saturday, November 5**

**5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Awards Ceremony with Juror, David Feinberg at 6:00 p.m.**

Lakeville Center for the Arts

20965 Holyoke Avenue

The exhibition will continue until Nov. 30.

Pick up paintings Wednesday, Nov 30, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### Coming Up....

**MNWS Meeting, January 12 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Demo by Marty Owings** "Urban Sketching." He will also be reviewing new portable watermedia materials. Save the date!

**MNWS Spring Exhibition 2017 April through June**

At the University of MN Landscape Arboretum. See the special selling policy of your art along with submission details in the Jan/Feb newsletter and website.

### Opportunities for Artists

**I.C.A Publishing is accepting submissions** for the 12th volume of "International Contemporary Artists" art book; a book that promotes and supports the artists and connects them directly with potential buyers, galleries, art consultants, etc, in an international level. Visit [www.incoartists.com/call-for-artists.html](http://www.incoartists.com/call-for-artists.html) for details.

### MNWS Member Happenings

Continued from page 3

• **Julie Allen** was honored to have her art work, "Luminous Light" juried and selected for publication into the Courage Kenny Holiday Cards 2016. They can be purchased on line or at Lunds & Byerly's around Thanksgiving. It's a great cause and fund raiser for the Courage Kenny Center.



### Northstar Activities

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

#### Workshops:

- Jennifer Stone, Spring, 2017
- Mark Mehaffey, Sept. 19 - 22, 2017

#### Board Members:

- Janice Anderson
- Marilyn Jacobson
- Barb Parisien
- Ann Sisel
- LouAnn Hoppe
- Marie Panlener

For more information about Northstar Watermedia Society and their activities, Visit the website: [www.northstarwatermedia.com](http://www.northstarwatermedia.com)



"Harley's at Work" by Lucy LeMay



"Over the Hills" by Gail Vass



"Horsing Around with Australian Sea Dragons" by Georgia Kandiko

### MNWS New Members

- Axel Schneider
- Hadji Bensfield
- Jan Coleman
- Janet Rajek
- Liz Oppenheimer
- Lori Kroll
- Martin Owings

Welcome New Members!

We have 292 current paid members

### MNWS Member Happenings

Send member news and quality images to Editor, Gail Vass: [Vass@mchsi.com](mailto:Vass@mchsi.com) or [Gail@GladArt.net](mailto:Gail@GladArt.net) (Images used as space permits.)

- **Lucy LeMay** is teaching at the Savage Library Saturdays through November on "Watercolor Tricks", 9:45 AM-12 PM, 4 sessions, \$80.00. Register on the Savage Arts Council website: [savageartscouncil.org/classes/class-registration](http://savageartscouncil.org/classes/class-registration). She was also juried into the State Fair for her painting, "Harley's at Work".
- **Mary Axelson** was awarded second place at the 2016 Plein-Air Aitkin by Judge Raleigh Kinney for her watercolor painting "Summer Dreaming."
- **Gail Vass** has two of her paintings accepted in the Courage Kenny Holiday Card Collection again this year, "Birthplace" and "Over the Hills."
- **Georgia Kandiko** had a piece juried into the 2016 Watercolor West International Exhibition October 15 through December 18 at City of Brea Art Gallery in CA. Watercolor West is one of 2 major totally transparent watercolor societies in the United States. Her painting, "Horsing Around with Australian Sea Dragons," has been awarded the Watercolor West Founders Award.

### Membership Application

#### MNWS Membership Dues:

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail your application and check payable to:

**Minnesota Watercolor Society**

Carol Wingard, Membership Chair

10427 Fawns Way

Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Or you may apply on line at [www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com)

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

# Artistry Awash

## Panel Discussion

The audience awaits for the remaining last question to be answered by the three artists at Bloomington Center for the Arts event as time was cut short. Here it is!

*"You've talked about the external motivations to paint - sales, recognition, gallery representation, museum collections. Tell us what your internal motivations are to paint watercolors; to paint the subject matter we know you for? What makes you get up, go to your studio, pick up a brush when no one is watching, when no one cares but you, and paint? What's in it for you?"*

### 1. Nanci Yarmakoff

"My favorite times to paint are when I have no deadlines or distractions and am able to paint without any expectations of finishing a piece or having it be 'successful'. I enjoy the process of putting paint on the paper and seeing what it will become. Painting is my creative expression - a time for me to be alone and do something I love to do. When I think back to when I started painting my horizon pieces, I was enjoying the process of working in a series and exploring primarily representational images of weather, time of day, or seasons. Now it is color and the flow of the pigment on the paper that interests me. This has led to my recent interest in purely abstract work. I look forward to time alone in the studio. The studio is my space, not just physically but mentally. I enjoy sharing the finished work but thoroughly enjoy the solitary process of painting. Laying in a wash on the horizon pieces can be almost meditative. The abstracts, on the other hand,



### 2. Andy Evansen

"I know it sounds cliché, but I honestly don't know what else I'd do with my life if I wasn't painting. I knew very early on that I had a talent, or ability, that many others didn't. It's no different than someone who loves tinkering with lawnmowers becoming a mechanic, or someone who loves caring for animals becoming a vet... many are blessed with a gift or passion and if we are lucky enough we find ourselves able to do it for a living. When I was a kid, I liked to draw and do those paint-by-numbers. I grew up in rural Wisconsin, with 7 siblings and parents who struggled to give us what we needed. It was an amazing childhood that I wouldn't trade for anything. We all learned to appreciate the simple things in life, and I hope my paintings reflect that. My greatest satisfaction is being able to create a watercolor of a scene that most wouldn't look twice at, let alone choose to paint.



challenge my brain and are more like working out a puzzle. It's a nice balance and, depending on the day, I can choose to work on one or the other. I never know what a finished painting will look like before I start. While completing a piece that I am happy with is always rewarding and my intent, I believe that any painting - even if it ends up in the trash - teaches me something of value for future paintings. I go into the studio to be surprised."

The world moves faster all the time, and I hope my artwork encourages people to slow down and look around, appreciating not only what's half a world away but also what is down the street."

### 3. John Salminen

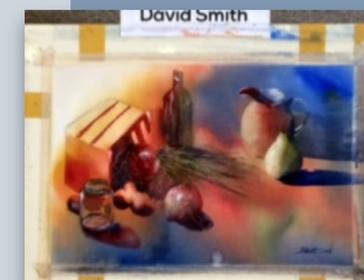
"My motivation to paint is complex. Sales and exhibitions are important to me and are a necessity of the profession, but are separate from what brings me into my studio. My desire to paint is strong and I paint every day. I love the mental stimulation of dealing with complex organizational challenges, the abstract interplay between shapes, the characteristics of transparent pigment and the fact that I've barely scratched the surface of the medium's capability. Ed Whitney said, 'water and pigment left to their own devices will do beautiful things.' I always try to incorporate that spontaneous aspect into my work in spite of my highly controlled process. The organizational challenge keeps me engaged in the process. Once a painting is done, I tend to lose interest in it, and my focus shifts to that blank sheet of paper that will become my next painting. My favorite painting is always the one in progress. I don't try to tell stories or convey messages. I leave that to others. I paint because I love to paint."



Past President of MNWS, Wendy Westlake, talks with David Smith while he paints and sharing some laughs.

## Watercolor "Wash-off" Competition

"Wendy was such a great MC and all the artists were not only entertaining, but came through with nice paintings within the one hour time limit! I'm so glad I squeezed in the time to attend!" -Karen Knutson



David Smith

The finished paintings by the three artists, David Smith, Judy Lieber and Dan Mondloch



Judy Lieber



Dan Mondloch

Photos by Karen Knutson