

September Splendor by Holly Landauer

Were you there? Did you participate?? Did you see the gorgeous watercolors our members worked on this summer?

If not, you can feast your eyes on them during the last few days before the closing of the show on October 8th. What show, you say? Well, the September Splendor Fall 2004 Open Show at the Bloomington Art Center is the show to be at this fall.

The Bloomington Art Center was really great to work with. They provided the refreshments for us this year at the award ceremony along with the hanging expertise, so please if you get a chance to thank them for their generosity DO SO!!!

Our Judge Rick Kochenash gave an excellent presentation on his award choices. Thanks Rick! It was educational and invaluable information.

Congratulations to the 14 award winners and to all the 85 artists and their pieces that are in the show. Check out the award winners' works further inside this edition.

The only low part of the preparations was that we had to turn down over 14 entries this



▲ Fall Show Chair Holly Landauer beams in the background, as judge Rick Kochenash praises Nancy Carney's Best of Show painting "Unity".

year due to numerous last-minute entries. But I would like to thank the Exhibition Committee as they graciously pulled their entries out, so more of you could participate. Thank you from

the bottom of our hearts!!!

Please take some time out of your busy schedule and head to the September Splendor of colors at the B.A.C. to see all the unique and wonderful works on display there. The B.A.C. is located in Bloomington at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd. (just west of 35W, 2 blocks past the Old Shakopee Rd. and 98th St. split.)

For those of you who have a piece in the show--don't forget to pick up your painting on Saturday, October 9th between 11 am and 2 pm.

Have a great Fall and Winter creating new works!!! ■

September Splendor
Award Winners pp. 4-5



October Demo Artist Cheng-Khee Chee

Cheng-Khee Chee hardly needs an introduction for most of our members, but in case you're new to watercolor, here's a bit of background on our September demo artist. This demo is a once-in-a-lifetime event you don't want to miss!

Besides being Associate Professor Emeritus of the University of Minnesota, Chee is a Dolphin Fellow of the American Watercolor Society, Master Watercolorist of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America and a Signature Member of the National Watercolor Society and many other societies. His paintings have earned him over 180 national awards and are represented in numerous public and private collections.

Chee was born in Fujian, China, (continued on p. 3)



▲ October Demo Artist Cheng-Khee Chee.



MESSAGE *from the President*

What's in a name? When it comes to their unborn children, parents research and discuss their decision to great lengths, as they should. This 'label' will soon become a huge part of their child's identity, to the point where it's actually difficult to envision him or her under another name. As 'parents' of our paintings, it's a task that, while not as earth-shattering as naming a child, does hold a certain degree of importance. For the landscape painter, one can simply name the painting after the place, or time of day, or season it was painted. The options for a portrait are equally as obvious. However, it's amazing what a little creativity can do to boost the viewer's enjoyment. While wandering through our Fall Show, I was particularly amused by the titles of several paintings.

Kris Fretheim's close-up view of a large flower surrounded by a couple smaller blossoms had the wonderful title "Hen and Chicks". Deanna Stuhk entitled her beautiful painting of a desert landscape with towering buttes "Park Avenue", and I found myself smiling and spending a little more time viewing it as a result! Martha Davidge could have called her watercolor "Poppies" and it would have been just fine, but she took the opportunity to jazz it up a little with the title "Regalo de Verano". That's a nice upgrade. Perhaps no other style relies as heavily on a meaningful title as abstraction. Our judge, Rick Kochenash, made the point during his comments that an abstract named 'Untitled' makes it very difficult for him to get inside that artist's head. While the artist may want each viewer to come up with their own interpretation, it helps to receive some direction and insight. Think of how you felt while painting it. Or how you want the viewer to feel. These emotions should be at least as important as the actual pictorial representation.

Jan Fabian Wallake's piece was a predominantly blue abstract. The warm splash of orange jumps out, but Rick admitted he was still a bit puzzled by the title "October", as I'm sure others were. So you look closer, and discover that in that orange swath is a tiny bird hunter with his dog, a definite October scene. I wonder how many viewers would have missed this were it not for the title?

I'm as guilty of the 'lame name game' as anyone. As a landscape artist, it's too easy to simply title my paintings from their location. I should know better by now that leaving some ambiguity enhances a viewer's experience. I enjoy listening to people attempting to figure out where a particular scene was painted, relying on their own memories for reference. It may even help a sale. I've had people ask excitedly, "Is this Chicago?", and I reply, "Do you want it to be?" We don't have to overstate the obvious, and the creativity doesn't have to stop with the brush.

Fall Show Reminders!

Last Day to See *September Splendor*:
Friday, October 8

Pick Up Paintings: Saturday, October 9,
between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.



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BrushStrokes Newsletter

BrushStrokes is published monthly, September through June. Deadlines are the 15th of the month. Send letters to the editor and art related stories that help inform or educate members to:

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Baldwin, WI 54002-5155
lbaur@mac.com

(please do not use lbaur@att.net—account no longer active)

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Cheng-Khee Chee

(cont. from p.1)

grew up in Penang, Malaysia and received his BA from Nanyang University in Singapore. He came to the US in 1962 and completed his Masters' at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis). Since 1965 he and his family have lived in Duluth, where he pursued his studio work while teaching on the faculty at the University of Minnesota (Duluth). Since 1994, he has been a full-time artist, and is a much sought-after national show juror and workshop instructor.

Chee's artistic career has been shaped by both East and West experiences and influences. Over the years he has experimented with ways to synthesize the concepts and

To allow us as much time as possible with Cheng-Khee Chee, there will be **no Show and Tell at the October meeting**. Show and Tell will resume at the November meeting. The suggested theme will be published in next month's **BrushStrokes**.

Artist's Statement Cheng-Khee Chee

What inspires me to paint is my strong inner world's subjective response to the outer world's objective reality. My subjective response is influenced by my diverse East-West experiences, tradition, knowledge, and personal cultivation.

My creative process is strongly influenced by Taoist philosophy, finding the most natural and effortless way to express the essence of a specific subject for which I have deep feelings.

Painting in watercolor I feel that feelings and energy from my heart are most directly transmitted through the brush and medium to the sensitive paper surface, transforming into the most direct, honest and true visual marks.

My approach to watercolor painting is a dynamic process and an effort to harmonize opposite elements: ying and yang, intuition and contemplation, emotion and reasoning, incident and intention, subjectivity and objectivity, imagination and reality, abstraction and realism. The end result is the visual realization of my inner being that I hope will communicate on a universal and timeless level.

processes of both traditions. Edward Betts, "living legend" in American watercolor commented that Chee's paintings "are a beautiful and sensitive blending of the Chinese tradition with contemporary treatment and innovations within the watercolor medium in general." Chee's ultimate goal in

painting is to achieve the essence of Tao, the state of effortless creation. He hopes to produce paintings that will be neither East nor West, realism nor abstraction, but contain all elements that communicate on a universal and timeless level. ■

[This article was derived from publicity materials provided by Cheng-Khee Chee.]

Hats Off to the Mad Hatter

by Kris Fretheim

*If you don't throw yourself
into the breakers,
How will you ever meet the one
who frolics in the waves?*

—FROM ZEN SAND

This zen phrase is taped to my computer. I read it every day to awaken and encourage myself. These words came vividly to mind at the going-away party and celebration of Carol Gray's artistic career as she begins her newest adventure in Colorado.

We were celebrating the gift of inspiration her art career has given so many. She shrugs and says she doesn't understand why she's inspiring. And I stood there tongue-tied, wishing I could find words to describe what I see. Carol taught us far more than color mixing. She showed us how to "throw ourselves into the breakers" by sharing the story of her art career with us each step of the way. She throws herself whole-heartedly into her life, her art, with such passion and courage, one cannot help but be inspired by her.



▲ The Mad Hatter herself, Carol Gray.

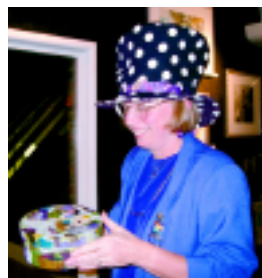
I don't like good-byes so I avoid saying those words. The inspiration I find in Carol, I also find in all of you, supporting and celebrating each other through this life we share with our art. ■

Jury Duty

by Dick Green

I was asked by Bob Meyer, Superintendent of the 93rd Annual Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition to jury the watercolor entries this year. We met at the fine arts building at 9:30 Monday and met with the other jurors. I was assisted by two helpful fellows. There were 154 entries of which I had to select 30 for the exhib- (cont. on p. 6)

See the list of Minnesota Watercolor Society Members juried into the State Fair Exhibition (including awards received) on page 6.



Best Wishes to Carol Gray and her husband, Bob North, from the whole gang at MnWS!



September Splendor!

Bloomington Art Center,
September 3 - October 8, 2004

First Honors ►

“Living Color”, Diane M.
Fedyna



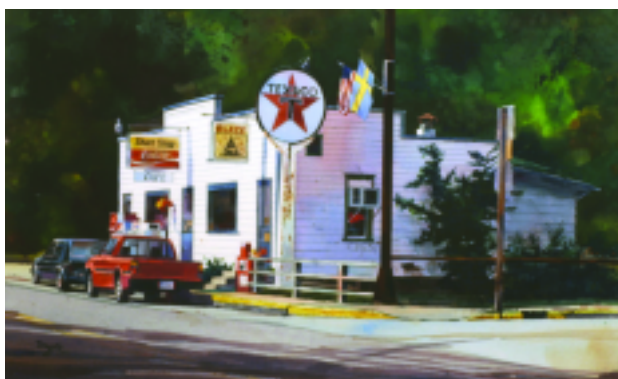
▲Second Honors

“4th Street Sunshower”, Andy Evansen



▼Third Honors

“Spheris”, Priscilla (Cida) Smith



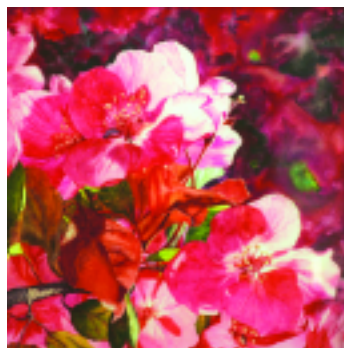
▲Honorable Mention

“Short Stop Cafe”, Fred Dingler



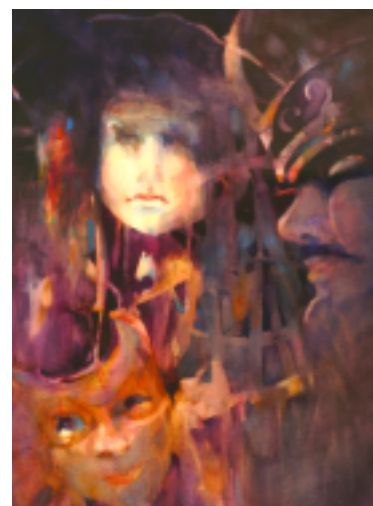
▲Honorable Mention

“Avocados”, Mary Bryan



▲Honorable Mention

“Pink Celebration”,
Lynne Baur



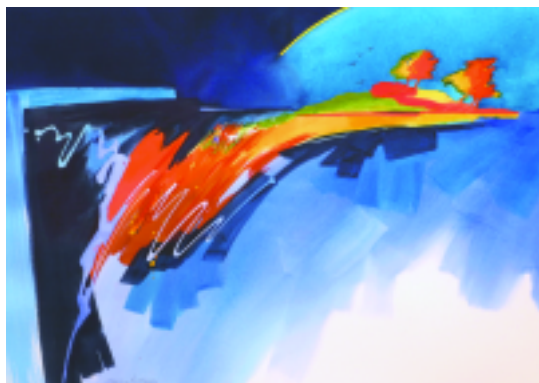
▲Award of Merit

“Carnivale II”, Jean Meyer



▲BEST OF SHOW
“Unity”, Nancy Patrick Carney

Award of Merit▶
“October”,
Jan Fabian Wallake

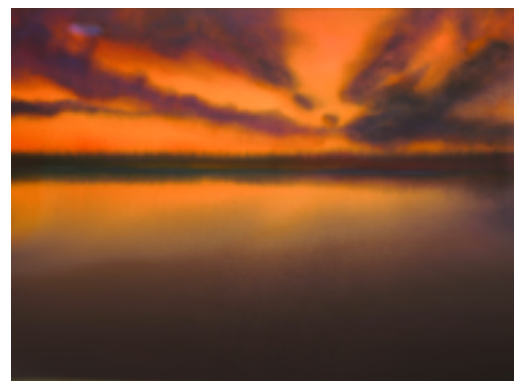


◀Award of Merit
“Mysteries
of the Deep”,
Donna Lewis

Award of Merit▶
“Sunflower”,
Jan Vaughan



**▼Stordahl-Emrich Founders
Award**
“Eagle”, Stephen Frish



▲Award of Merit
“Horizon #22”, Nanci Yermakoff



▲Award of Merit
“Stillwater”, Wendy Westlake

MEMBER happenings

Send member news to: *BrushStrokes*, 1830 Dutch Heritage Ct., Baldwin, WI 54002-5155, or email to lbaur@mac.com.

Nancy Carney has 15 paintings on display at Minneapolis Mayor R. T. Rybeck's office and conference room for the months of September and October through the Art In the Mayor's Office Exhibition Program. You can see them at City Hall, 350 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415 or call 612-673-2597 for information.

Jan Fabian Wallake's painting, "Sun Runners" is featured in North Light Books' *Splash 8*. Also, several passages from her book *Watercolor: Pour It On* have been select-

ed for the upcoming book *The North Light Big Book of Painting Watercolor Flowers*.

Jane Freeman from Bemidji, Minnesota has been juried into the 108th Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Club Exhibition in New York in October. She also will be in the new book by International Artist magazine called *How Did You Paint That? 100 Ways to Paint Still Lifes and Florals Vol. II* which will be out in the spring.

Dick Green's painting in the San Diego Watercolor Society International was selected

for an award of excellence. Dick also has a painting selected for the 36th annual Watercolor West Exhibition in Brea, CA. Another of Dick's paintings has been selected by International Artist to be published in *100 Ways to Paint Your Favorite Subjects*.

Congratulations Everyone! ■

Welcome!!

NEW MEMBERS

We have 338 paid members to date.

- Judith Haeny
- Bobbi Stegora-Bina
- Sandy Koeger
- Diane Fedyna
- Caddy Rowland
- Susan Beckman
- Nick Doyle
- Elizabeth M. Franklin
- Phyllis Winther
- Gail E. Speckman

Jury Duty

(cont. from p. 3)

tion.

I went through all the paintings many times and then began to have the helpers move the paintings into several groupings. I did not look at any names of artists but did recognize a couple by their style. After selecting 30 paintings for the exhibition I had to pick the award winners.

I did not even look at the names of the artists I had selected for the exhibition or those selected for awards, and did not know the names until I got the catalog on August 24th, preview night. I felt this was about as objective as I could be.

This was all challenging but also a honor, so if you are asked to judge a show don't be afraid to say yes. ■

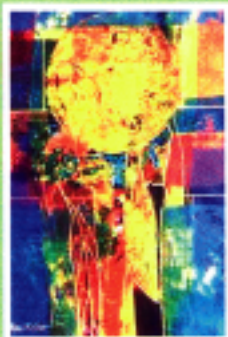
JURIED INTO THE STATE FAIR!

Marian Alstad, acrylic
 Shirley Blake, acrylic and collage
 Linda Brown, watercolor (Award of Merit)
 Agnes Fine, mixed
 Kris Fretheim, watercolor
 Stephen Frish, watercolor (2nd Place)
 Terry Genesen-Becker, watercolor
 Leslie Gerstman, watercolor
 Catherine Hearing, watercolor (Honorable Mention)
 Peter Herzog, watercolor
 Diane Jandt, watercolor
 Teri Dexheimer Joyce, watercolor
 Karen Knutson, watercolor
 Mary Sue Krueger, watercolor
 Doug Lew, watercolor (Honorable Mention)
 Jan Marie Vaughan, watercolor
 Nanci Yermakoff, watercolor (Honorable Mention)
 Susan Zavadil, watercolor

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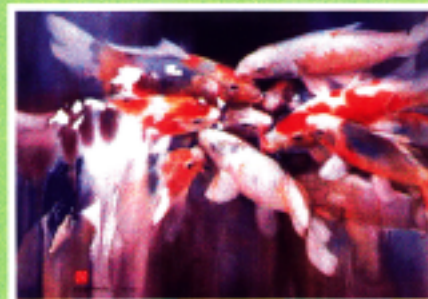
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Lana Grow
November 5-9, 2004

Your Workshop
Headquarters!

Cheng-Khee Chee
June 13-17, 2005



the WORKshopper

Send **Workshop** listings to: *Workshopper*, 1830 Dutch Heritage Ct., Baldwin, WI 54002-5155, or email to lbaur@mac.com.

Marian Alstad.

►Antigua and Lake Atitlan, Guatemala, February 17 to 26, 2005
 ►Ireland, May 5 to 16, 2005
 ►Tuscany, July 9 to 16, 2005
 ►Greece, Sept 29 to Oct 9, 2005
 For details call Marian Alstad at 612-824-6460 or e-mail mard4011@aol.com ■

Jan Fabian Wallake

►2004--Oct. 1-3, Madison Watercolor Society, Madison, WI. Contact: Kaaren Oreck, 608-231-6702
 ►2004-Oct. 18-22 Upstate Visual Arts, Greenville, SC. Contact: Peggy Newton, 864-422-1386
 ►2005- Jan. 10-14 San Diego Watercolor Society, San Diego, CA. Contact: Reesa, 858-483-6566
 ►2006- June 19-23 Art-in-the-Mountains, Bend, Oregon. Contact: Debra Prater,

541-923-2648

►2006- Nov. 11-14 Brevard Watercolor Society, Cape Canaveral, FL. Contact: Linda Neal, 321-751-5520

Jan has a once-a-month, three-hour class in Roseville. If you are interested in joining this fun and friendly group, call Jan at 651-351-1301 (no long term commitment-come when you can, pay only for the class you attend). ■

Nancy Carney

Nancy will be teaching a class in Very Beginning Watercolor Techniques at Minnetonka Center for the Arts, 6 classes on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Nov 9 - Dec 14. Call MCA at 952-473-7361 or go to www.minnetonkaarts.org to register. ■

Upcoming MnWS Workshops

Feb 2005--Weekend Workshop with Andy Evansen

Mar 28--Apr 1, 2005--Karlyn Holman

Oct 11-14, 2005--Ken Hosmer

For MnWS workshop information contact Bonnie Crouch (952-945-0682) or Dianne Jandt (952-891-2375)



▲ Just completed MnWS/BAC Fall 2004 Workshop with Gloria Miller Allen.

Northstar News

Workshops

May 2005: *Carla O'Connor*

Meetings

October 21. *Karlyn Holman demo.*

November 12. *Fall Show Reception 7-9 p.m. (Fall Show is November 6 through December 4 at Century College in White Bear Lake.)*

December 16. *Shirley Blake demo.*

Meeting location is Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 W. County Rd. C2 at Snelling in Roseville.

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MNWS*alendar*

Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

October
October 14: *Cheng-Khee Chee demo.*

November
November 11: *Calvin deRuyter demo.*

December
December 9: *Dessert Potluck. Bring a dessert to share and up to 3 paintings for feedback, comments, helpful hints and ideas.*

January
January 13: *Slides of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America 2004 Annual Juried Exhibition.*

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MnWS Membership Dues:

- ☐ Single: \$25
- ☐ Couple/Family: \$35
- ☐ Seniors (65+) \$20

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Marian Alstad, Membership Chair
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— MnWS Mission Statement