

MNWSalendar

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

Dec. 13—Easel Night

January 10—Slides & Pot luck

February 14—Jan Wallake slide show featuring “pouring on glazes”

March 13—Steve Brumbaugh

April 10—Spring Show

May 8—Doug Lew - Nude Figure Book

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

www.artoptions.com

~ ready made frames

~ Nielsen metal frames

~ custom cut mats and
foamboards

~ framing supplies

~ price sheets available

218-727-8723

218-349-7045

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail your application and check payable to Minnesota Watercolor Society to:

Marian Alstad, Membership Chair
4011 Chicago Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407-3142

MnWS Membership Dues:

- 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.

Wholesale Framing Supplies

Contemporary hardwood frames,
Nielsen metal frames, matboards,
custom cut mats, foamboards, glass &
plexiglass, framing tools & supplies.
Online ordering & framing advice.

www.metroframe.com

Call for a free color catalog.
952-941-6649 / 800-626-3139

METROPOLITAN PICTURE FRAMING



Wet Paint inc.
Artists' Materials & Framing

1684 Grand Avenue Saint Paul
651.698.6431 info@wetpaintart.com
www.wetpaintart.com

Your most complete local source for
watercolors & mediums, brushes,
watercolor papers, pads & blocks

“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

4011 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407-3142



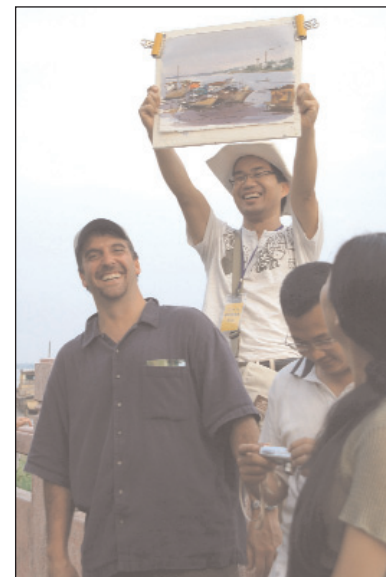
Volume 27 Number 10

December 2007

Use the Painting to Make the Friend

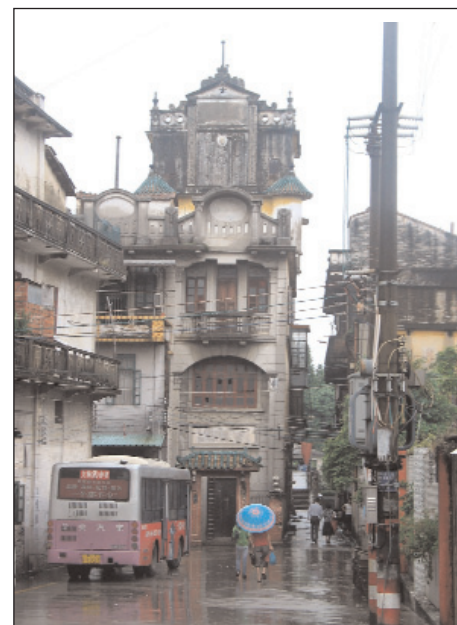
by Andy Evansen

Upon meeting Jason Situ in Charleston this past March, a golden opportunity presented itself. Jason is a Chinese-American landscape painter, and he was looking for a couple of artists to accompany him on a plein-air painting trip to his hometown of Kaiping, China. I'd always wanted to visit China, and the idea of having an interpreter/tour guide was too appealing to pass up. The trip became even more special when I learned that we'd be joined by accomplished artists John Budicin and Kevin and Wanda Macpherson. Wow!!




Andy's Plein-Air Painting

As the date of my departure neared, my excitement was tempered ever-so-slightly by the realization that, other than my flight number, the trip was filled with unknowns. I didn't know



where we were staying (Jason assured us accommodations and meals would be taken care of), didn't know the painting schedule, the other artists, what the weather would be like, and didn't know any Chinese. It would be an adventure, to say the least.

My concerns were laid to rest almost immediately as we arrived at our residence for the week, a beautiful private



Our First Easel Night

Just a reminder that at our next meeting, December 13, we'll have our gigantic “show and tell.” Club members are reminded to arrive a bit early to accommodate the transport of easels and paintings and to allow time for setting up. Our meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. There is an elevator near the entry, but it is small and you may have to use the stairs and make a couple of trips. Participants are asked to bring no more than three paintings for display. Since this is our initial attempt with Easel Night, we may have to “play it by ear,” but our thoughts are to have two shifts, before and after the break. If participants have business cards or websites, they are asked to bring them. The response to the sign up sheet was gratifying—50 of the 75 club members present indicated they would participate.

Way to go clubsters!!



garden/vacation villa of one of Kaiping's prominent citizens. A pleasant, informal get-to-know-each-other meal was enjoyed with members of the Kaiping Art Gallery and Cultural Center.

When our painting began the next day, it was clear this would be an interesting week. As a plein-air painter in Minnesota, you may be viewed as a slight oddity, drawing a curious onlooker or two for a minute. The mobs we dealt with in China made the experience both more difficult and more enjoyable. Celebrity status was enjoyed by all of us, as the students and passers-by seemed truly excited to be part of the whole experience. In fact, after the first day, I didn't have to carry my supplies or set up my easel again, as my ‘entourage’ (as Kevin and Wanda dubbed them) were all too happy to hustle me to my next painting location. And each painting completed was followed by a 20-minute photo-op. What fun!

continued on page 4

MESSAGE from the President



First I want to mention what a wonderful job MarySue Krueger did at the November meeting. As a fellow dog lover and dog painter, I was impressed. She truly captured the spirit of the animals in her watercolor paintings. Her personality shines through in her process.

That evening I also mentioned a great book that I had read, "Art and Fear" by David Bayles and Ted Orland. It is a must read/own for all artists. Several weeks back Peg Hansen, the Red Wing high school art teacher, literally took me by the hand and walked me into the local bookstore and had me order it. I said, "Wow, this must be some book!" And she said, "You'll see." Well, she was right; this is an amazing little book (just over 100 pages). *Art and Fear*—observations on the perils (and rewards) of art making explores the way art gets made, the reasons it often doesn't get made, and the nature of the difficulties that cause so many artists to give up along the way. It explores artist's doubts and fears of failure. As we know, all too well, doubts can come in bunches and we are sometimes our own worst enemy.

"Fears about art making fall into two families: fears about yourself, and fears about your reception by others. In a general way, fears about yourself prevent you from doing your best work, while fears about your reception by others prevent you from doing your own work." I wished I'd written that, but I didn't. As I read I began underlining, circling, and taking notes in the margin. My book became more than slightly used in a hurry.

In a section dealing with an artist's individual style, Bayles and Orland write: "In a sense, habits are style. The unconsidered gesture, the characteristic reaction to subject matter and materials"...Style is not an aspect of good work; it is an aspect of all work. Style is the natural consequence of habit." As an artist I am continually fascinated by process and where people's style comes from.

The book talks about the challenge of uncertainty. It is something we all have to deal with and that it never goes away, no matter how experienced you become. The book suggests we need to reexamine and redefine it. "Uncertainty is the essential, inevitable and all-pervasive companion to your desire to make art. And tolerance for uncertainty is the prerequisite to succeeding."

This is a rich book that is hard to take in all at once. It doesn't answer all your questions, but it sure is thought provoking. The authors write, "Answers are reassuring, but when you're onto something really useful, it will probably take the form of a question. Over the long run, the people with the interesting answers are those who ask the interesting questions." And that's the very thing that led them to write this book.

In our group we have approximately 375 members. We have beginners, dabblers, hobbyists, teachers, semi-professionals, nationally known professionals, and everything in between. Some paint for fun and some paint for a living. When you strip all the descriptions away we're all just artists with a common interest. I think all artists should dive into this book. Sometimes great quotes and words of wisdom are just the pep talk we need. It sure made me think a lot about what I do and why I do it.

Happy Painting,

DAN WIEMER



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Dan Wiemer 651-388-8047
Vice President	CeCeile Hartleib 651-647-6078
Secretary	Steve Brumbaugh
Treasurer	Dianne Jandt 952-891-2375
Exhibition, Fall	Catherine Hearingd 651-777-8158
Exhibition, Spring	Deb Chapin 952-890-8684
Hospitality	Ruth Hoglund 612-866-9741
Librarian	Ruth Valgemae 952-920-3975
Membership	Marian Alstad 612-824-6460
Member-at-large	
Newsletter	Chris May 952-938-5731
Program	Kathleen Sovell 612-374-3195
Publicity	John O'Leary 952-888-0638
Registration	Susan Zinschlag 651-437-9327
Workshop	Karen Knutson 952-934-0876
	Susan Zinschlag 651-437-932
	Dianne Jandt 952-891-2375
Northstar Liason	Emmy White 612-825-8312

PAST PRESIDENTS

2004-2006	Andrew Evansen
2002-2004	Sandra Muzzy
2000-2002	Keith Donaldson
1998-2000	David Rickert
1996-1998	Jan Fabian Wallake
1994-1996	MarySue Krueger
1992-1994	Carol Gray
1990-1992	Gwen Leopoldt
1988-1990	Harry Heim
1986-1988	Sally Burns
1983-1986	Jeanne Emrich

BRUSHSTROKES

Editor	Chris May 763-475-2089
Advertising Mgr.	Mary Hanson 952-476-6896
Mailings	Beverly Peterson 763-533-7757

HOW TO REACH US:

INFORMATION•VOICE MAIL LINE
952-996-9228

WEB SITE: www.minnesotawatercolors.com

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:

MnWS BrushStrokes Editor
225 Inland Lane No., Plymouth, MN 55447
cjmay@eganco.com

Advertising Placement
For ad rates or to place advertising, contact
Mary Hanson 952-476-6896

Color printing of Brush Strokes is made possible by a general contribution from Engineering Repro Systems

MnWS Workshops

►Nancy Carney—VERY BEGINNING WATERCOLORS

This is a very beginning class to familiarize you with the materials and techniques of transparent watercolors. Color mixing, washes, glazes, color charging, and more.

Tuesdays, Jan. 8-Jan. 29, 2008; 6-9 pm, Minnetonka Center For the Arts 952-473-7361

Thursdays, Jan. 10-Jan. 31, 2008; 12:30-3:30 pm, Northrup King Building 612-961-7075

DEVELOPING YOUR WATERCOLOR STYLE

You've learned the basics techniques—now what? Put the skills you've learned in your beginning classes to work as we explore composition, design, and developing your own person and unique style of painting. Tuesdays, Feb. 5 - Feb. 26, 2008; 6-9pm, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, 952-473-7361

Thursdays, Feb. 7 - Feb. 28, 2008; 12:30-3:30 pm, Northrup King Building, 612-961-7075

IT'S A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

Do your drawings and paintings suffer from a lack of understanding of the principles of perspective? This one-day workshop will help you master the traditional concepts of linear perspective. In the art world, rules were made to be broken—but it helps to know which rules you can break! Sat. Jan. 26, 2008; 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, 952-472-7361

NO MORE FEAR OF THE FIGURE

Nancy Carney's imaginatively stylized paintings often feature colorful, contemporary people. Learn her fun and easy techniques to help conquer your fear of adding figures to your paintings. Lots of unique and motivational ideas packed into two exciting and creative workshop days. Saturday, Jan. 12, 2008; 9 am to 4 pm
Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008; 12 to 5 pm Bloomington Art Center 612-961-7075

►**Mark Polomchek Workshop**—Feb 15-17, 2008 at Jackpot Junction in Morton, MN. (www.polomchek.com)

Class Fees: Questions: call Gretchen Scharmer, 507-822-3793, gkshorse@yahoo.com

►**John Salminen**—Spring Watercolor Workshop at the Duluth Art Institute. John Salminen presents "From Abstraction to Realism." May 5-9, 2008, 9-4; \$400 (\$450 non-members; a \$100 non-refundable deposit is required upon registration.)

To register contact the Duluth Art Institute's business office at (218) 733-7560 or mail registration to: DAI (Attn: Shannon), 506 West Michigan Street, Duluth, MN 55802

►Jan Fabian Wallake

2008- March 26-30, Spokane, WA.

May, Moose Lodge Art Retreat
October, Moose Lodge Art Retreat
October 3-10, New Mexico

2009- May, Moose Lodge Art Retreat

October, Moose Lodge Art Retreat
October 3-10, Houston, TX

Ft. Worth, TX in Sept. 2008

Once-a-Month Painting Class. Held in Roseville. Call 651-351-1301 for information on any of these listings.

Please call 651-351-1301 for more information on any of these workshops.

ArtMaterials

2728 Lyndale Ave, South, Minneapolis, MN 55408-1301
www.ArtMaterialsOnline.com

40% OFF ANY ONE BRUSH

Must present ad to receive discount.
Discount applies to retail price. Exp. 5/31/2008.



MEMBER happenings

Send member news to: *BrushStrokes*, 225 Inland Lane No., Plymouth, MN 55447 or email to cjmay@eganco.com. Images are welcome and will be used as space permits.

continued from page 1

The giving nature of everyone we met on our trip bordered on the ridiculous. Our hosts wouldn't let us pay for anything, drove us around and made sure we had plenty to eat and drink, and were constantly treating us like heads of state. I came home with some wonderful treasures, including a portrait drawn of me by a well-known artist, a stamp of my Chinese name carved by another local artist that I plan on using on all my watercolors from now on, and books galore. In fact, I had trouble getting through Chinese customs because my carry-on weighed too much from all the gifts I kept stuffing in it! (Thanks go to Jason, who stowed most of the books in his luggage for me.)

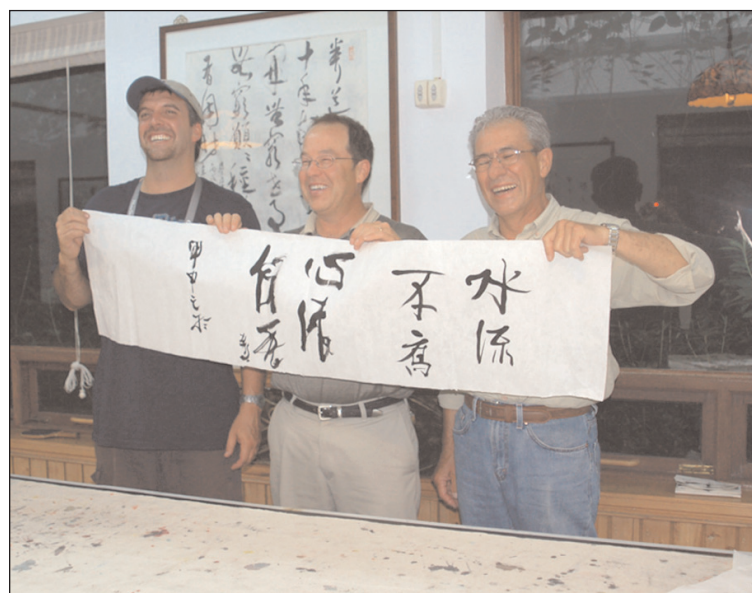
I really wish I'd had the time to learn a little Chinese, because I wanted to thank and find out so much about these wonderful people who made our trip so enjoyable. The language barrier did break down on a couple occasions, though. The first was karaoke night, our first chance to kick back all week. I won't go into the embarrassing details, but suffice it to say that Chinese beer is pretty good, and the Beatles really are world-renowned, as we all belted out 'Hey Jude' together.

The second was on the evening where we were treated to a calligraphy lesson by Raymond, an impressive man whose powerful writing was artwork in itself. After getting a good laugh watching Kevin, John, and I attempt it, he wrote out a saying that was loosely translated to us by Jason as meaning 'Use the Painting to Make the Friend'. I think that summed up our trip very nicely.

► **Deb Magelssen** will have a solo show, Sunday, December 2, 2007, at Cornerstone Books & Gifts in Arden Hills. It is in conjunction with her church's Christmas Play, "The Christmas Window." Cornerstone Books & Gifts is located in the church, through Door B. The address is North Heights Lutheran Church, 1700 West Highway 96, Arden Hills, MN 55112.

She will be showing a large portion of her work from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Questions call, 651-464-5326, cell: 651-285-2932 or email: DebMagelssen@Yahoo.com

► **CeCeile Hartleib** will have an Open House/Holiday Sale at her studio on Dec. 8 from 10 am to 6 pm. Her studio is located at 106 Water St. W., #402, St. Paul, MN, 55107. Call 651-647-6078 (home) or 651-592-1877 (cell phone) for further information.



Andy Evansen, Kevin Macpherson, and John Budicin attempting calligraphy.



There will be no Mini Show during the December meeting. The winner of the Mini Show drawing at the November meeting was **Georgia Kandiko**.



exhibits

Send Workshop listings to: *Workshopper*, 225 Inland Lane, Plymouth, MN 55447, or email to cjmay@eganco.com

EDINA ART CENTER: "Faculty Exhibit," features artwork created by over 50 Artists who teach at Edina Art Center. Jan. 10 thru Feb. 25, 4701 W 64th St., Edina. 612-915-6600

Featured Artists: Over 50 faculty artists

Artists' Media: Drawing, Painting, Pottery, Sculpture, Photography, Mixed Media

Opening Reception Date: Thurs., Jan. 10, 2008

Reception Hours: 5-8 p.m.

Artists will be present

Gallery Information

Foss Gallery at the Edina Art Center

4701 W. 64th Street

Edina, Minnesota 55435

Phone: 612-915-6600

Fax: 612-915-6601

E-mail: artcenter@ci.edina.mn.us

Web address: www.EdinaArtCenter.com

Normal Gallery Hours: Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Fri.: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Sat.: 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

NORTHSTAR MEETINGS

Northstar Meetings—The Roseville Oval at Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Dr. Directions from Minneapolis, 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 you get to Lexington Ave.

Upcoming Programs:

December 22 (correction from last notice) Frank Wetzel demo

January 17 Jeanne Larson, demo

February 21 Frank Zeller, using computers

Upcoming Workshops:

April 2008 Michael Schlichting "acrylics"

October 2008 Tom Francesconi



MnWS NEW MEMBERS

Larry B. Johnson
Mary Rogers
Linda L. Murray

We have **371** paid members to date.

(Check the label on your newsletter to see when your membership dues are due.)

/VISUALLY SPEAKING/

Minnetonka Center for the Arts

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION : TRY A NEW CLASS AT THE ART CENTER

CONTINUING WATERCOLOR II

Instructor: Terry Genesen-Becker

Skill Level: Intermediate

Continue developing skills and personal expression in a course that encourages exploration while increasing familiarity with watercolor techniques. General emphasis on individual confidence and growth. Bring supplies to first class. Prerequisite: Watercolor Basics or instructor's permission. Call for more details!

Enrollment limited to 15; ages 16 and up

C426 Thursdays, Jan. 3 - Feb. 21

(8 sessions) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

\$173 Members / \$192 Non-members

2240 North Shore Drive
Orono, MN 55391

952.473.7361, ext. 16
www.minnetonkaARTS.org

Arts of the Holidays
Gift Sale

November 15 - December 22, 2007

80 artists display work in the gallery!
Stop by for lunch M-F 11:30-2:00