

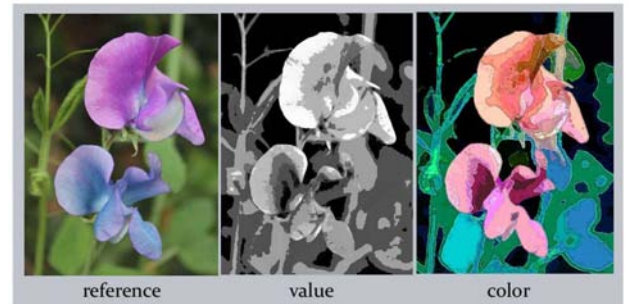
## **Come to the Meeting on January 9!**

### **First half of our meeting: Make Technology Work For You!**

Watercolorists have taken brush to paper for centuries. It's a wonderful low-tech experience so it's not surprising that so many of us have entered into the computer era kicking and screaming. The fact is, we live in a computer driven world. Rather than fight against it, we can embrace the technology that's out there and make our artwork even better than ever!

Deb Magelssen will tell us how to take the best photos of our paintings. She'll discuss lighting conditions, camera angles etc. Wendy Westlake will show us: how to edit photos by cropping, resizing and color correcting; how to use computer software to design a painting; what type of software is best for photo editing/designing.

Wendy's demo will display on the large screen, and she will be using Adobe Photoshop Elements 12. Elements is a fraction of the cost of full blown Photoshop and it does 99% of what the average artist/user needs. If you want to give it a try you can find a free trial on Adobe's home page. Members are encouraged to bring their laptops and follow along with the demo.



### **After the break: Art Supply Swap!**

Did you buy 5 gallons of green gesso and you just haven't used it? Bring it to the art supply swap! This is a chance to clean out your studio and raid someone else's! Bring your paints, supplies, books, equipment or DVDs. You can sell or swap your items. Items for sale should be priced and in good condition. Oh, and bring some cash!

### **From the Bookshelf: a message from Mary Brainard, Librarian**

Thank you to all who have been so diligent in looking on your shelves for books and DVDs belonging to the Society. We've had a number of books returned but are still missing 41 books and two DVDs. The missing DVDs are both by Don Andrews: "Painting with Light" and "How To Loosen Up." They have been missing since March 2011. The missing books date back to 2005 - 2012.

The MNWS Board made the decision to go back to our previous practice of a \$50.00 deposit to borrow a DVD. You will get your check back upon the DVD's return, or we can keep it and you may continue to borrow DVDs without writing another check. If the DVD is two months late, we will cash the check.

Again, thank you everyone for returning your overdue books. I'm happy to have our little treasures back so that others can borrow them.

## From The President



Hello Members and Friends!

As I write this, I am looking out of my window to gently falling snow. It's very peaceful and beautiful. There is something calming about watching snow fall. Some days of painting are stressful especially when I have a deadline coming due. Stress has a notorious way of zapping one's creativity. When I sit in my studio staring at the four walls with no energy or desire to paint, that's when I know I need to take a step back to revitalize. When I finally get some "me" time, I find that painting for the sheer purpose of relaxing is so enjoyable. Looking at the falling snow right now reminds me of how much I love the peaceful feeling I get when I paint. The process of painting is just what I need to unwind, de-stress and relax, and that is why I paint. As we enter into a brand new year, I hope you will find some days to relax and enjoy the simple, peaceful process of painting. Keep Calm and Paint On!

Oh! What fun our December meeting was! Thank you to all who brought the tasty treats for the pot-luck. Members watched a DVD on Carl Dalio titled "Color Power," and other members painted many 5"x7" works of art for Art4Shelter. We had a surprise guest appearance, Megan Rye from Art4Shelter, who graciously complimented our artists on their beautiful artwork and for our giving spirit to help the homeless. Laura was kind enough to pick up all of the paintings at the end of the evening and will deliver them for the fundraising event. You can still contribute if you want to, just contact Laura.

Spring is just around the corner and that means the MNWS Spring Show is underway! I hope you are all gearing up, planning and painting for it. Find the prospectus and entry form via our website and in this issue.

Is your goal to obtain **Signature Status** with us? Members achieve 2 points towards Signature Status for being a board member! Currently the Program Chair and Fall Show Chair positions are open. Our board members are amazingly helpful and supportive to each other and we would all love to have you join us! Contact any board member if you are interested in the Program or Fall Show positions.

Coming up in the January meeting, Wendy Westlake will show us creative tips on how to better our paintings via **Photoshop** and I will do an overview on how to get your paintings photographed, cropped and ready for competitions, exhibitions, websites, etc. In addition, the **Art Supply Swap and Sale** will be held during break time so bring your studio goodies that you don't use, want or need anymore. One artist's junk is another artist's treasure! Take note, too, that same evening our **Mini Show's** theme will be "**Winter Wonderland!**"

May 2014 be full of creative and artistic wonders and surprises! See you in January.

## MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

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- MNWS BrushStrokes Editor**  
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## Watercolor Reflections

Column by Vera Kovacovic, MNWS Member

### NEW YEAR'S ARTISTIC INTENTIONS

*Artists don't get down to work until the pain of working is exceeded by the pain of not working. -- Steven De Staebler*

We are now into the New Year, with new possibilities and a renewed excitement about what art we intend to create in the year to come. YES!

Here are a few thoughts that could help us in accomplishing our artistic intentions. (Notice, I am avoiding the word *resolution* to differentiate from our standard New Year's resolutions such as: to lose weight, to spend more time outdoors...). In other words, the focus is on what will fortify us against self-doubt, procrastination and the fear of failure in creating art.

I will draw on the wisdom of a small book to provide some thoughts on art and artmaking. Some of you may already be familiar with Art & Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking, by David Bayles and Ted Orland.

- TALENT is frequently thought of as “What comes easily.” Wrong! By definition, whatever you have is exactly what you need to produce your best work.
- ART IS MADE BY ORDINARY PEOPLE. Correct! It's hard to imagine the Virgin Mary painting landscapes or Batman throwing pots, because perfect creatures wouldn't need to make art. And so it is that our flaws and weaknesses, while often obstacles to getting work done, are a source of strength as well.
- YOU LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR WORK BY MAKING YOUR WORK, even if a great many pieces will never stand as finished art. The best you can do is make art you care about – and a lots of it!
- ARTMAKING. The hardest part is living your life in such a way that your work gets done. A piece of art is the surface expression of a life lived within productive patterns. Once you have found the work you are meant to do, the particulars of any single piece don't matter all that much.

To conclude, have a great year, keep painting and sharing your art!

### MNWS NEW MEMBERS

Mark Granlund  
 Catherine Kehrwald  
 Sheila Perry  
 Dan and Rita Ryan

We have 301 current paid members.

## People's Choice Award for the 2013 Fall Show



Winding Up the Day  
by Georgia Kandiko

## 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.

- January 16 - demo by Ceceile Hartlieb
- February 20 - demo by Nancy Carney
- March 27 - demo by Mary Pettis

### Workshops:

- Lana Grow, April 7-11, 2014

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



# Perspectives | 2014 MNWS Spring Exhibition

Silverwood Gallery | 2500 County Road East, St. Anthony, MN 55421

## Exhibition Schedule

Fri   2/7	Postmark/payment deadline
Sa   2/22	Artists contacted by email
Su   3/9	Drop off at Gallery 11am-2pm
Th   3/13	Exhibition opens
Th   4/10	Reception 6-8pm (Awards 7pm)
W   4/30	Exhibition ends
Sa   5/3	Pick up at Gallery 11am-2pm

## Artist Eligibility

This juried show is open to all MNWS members in good standing who have paid their dues through May 31, 2014. You may join MNWS or renew your membership by sending a separate check for membership dues with your entry fee, or you may pay online at [www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com).

## Submission Requirements

The mission of Three Rivers Park District (Silverwood Gallery) is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. Therefore the subject matter of your submitted artwork must be related to nature in some way.

All paintings must be original, two-dimensional works in water-based media on a paper surface (including YUPO), that may or may not be altered (e.g., gesso, gel medium), or on canvas or board that has been treated to accept water media, applied in a transparent or opaque manner (no impasto). Collage (no found materials), if used, must be treated with water media only and subordinate to the overall painting. Drawing elements (e.g., ink, pastel, crayons, pencil) are acceptable.

**Copies of other artists' work will not be accepted, nor will copies of published photos or work from photos not taken by the artist.** Paintings must have been completed within the last two years, and not done in a workshop or under the supervision of an instructor. Works previously shown in a MNWS exhibition are not eligible.

## Mat and Frame Requirements

1. White, off-white, and light, neutral mats only. No color mats.
2. Frames must be neutral, simple, and sturdy and have wire and hooks mounted as specified in the diagram on page 5. No color frames.
3. Maximum exterior frame size is 32" W x 40" H.

## Juror: Michelle Ranta

Michelle Ranta is a tenured art professor at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. She teaches a variety of courses including painting, drawing, design, and art appreciation. A native of Sault Ste. Marie, in the upper peninsula of Michigan, Ranta began learning landscape painting with John Keast, a student of the Canadian Group of Seven. She went on to graduate from the University of Michigan with a B.F.A. Ranta received her M.F.A. from the New York Academy of Art in New York City, where she studied with Steven Assail, Martha Earlebacher, and Vincent Desiderio, as well as Sarah Simblet at the Ruskin School of Drawing in Oxford. Her teaching record includes Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor Art Center, Lake Superior State University, and Iowa State University. She has exhibited in numerous shows in New York, Michigan, Iowa, Ontario, and now Minnesota. Still painting the occasional landscape, Ranta now paints realistic portraits and large narrative paintings.

## Awards

Awards will be given in the following categories: Best of Show, Emrich/Stordahl Founder's Award, First, Second and Third Honors, Honorable Mention, Awards of Merit, and People's Choice.



*Blowing in the Wind* by Therésa Weseman  
Honorable Mention, 2013 MNWS Spring Exhibition

## Fees and How to Enter

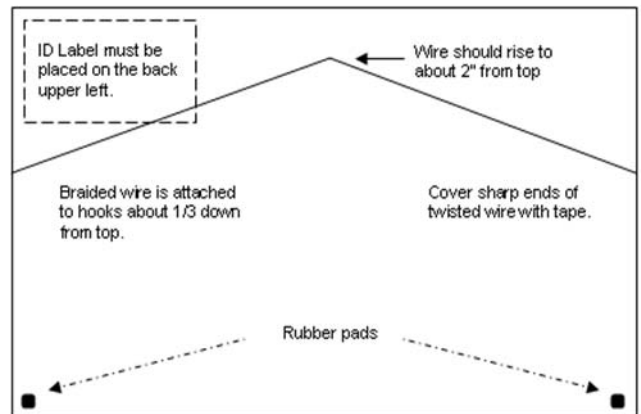
First entry is \$20. Second entry is an additional \$10. All fees are non-refundable and support MNWS exhibitions.

1. Register online at [www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com).
2. Pay entry fee via PayPal when you register OR mail a check to: MNWS Spring Show 2014, c/o Laura Hanson, 244 Sheridan Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405. Make checks payable to Minnesota Watercolor Society. Enclose a separate check for membership dues (\$30 single, \$40 couple/family, \$25 senior (65+), \$15 college student).
3. Email digital images to Laura at [springshow@minnesotawatercolors.com](mailto:springshow@minnesotawatercolors.com). Max 1 MB. Please use your artwork title when saving your images (e.g., Therésa's submission would have been "BlowingintheWind.jpg").
4. Please volunteer! We need help with drop off, installation, hospitality, and pick up. Volunteering is a lot of fun and a great way to meet new friends! You can volunteer online when you register or by emailing Laura.

**All artists who are accepted into the exhibition will be required to sign an Exhibition Agreement with Silverwood Gallery.** If you would like to preview the agreement, please visit [www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com).

## Digital Images

By entering the show you permit us to make digital images of your exhibited artwork for MNWS archives. These images may be used in an exhibition catalog and/or for publicity. They will not be high-resolution images from which illegal copies of your artwork could be created.



## 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.

**Shirley Wilson Blake** won first place in the annual online International Society of Acrylic Painters (ISAP) show with her abstract "I Feel Happy."



"I Feel Happy," by Shirley Wilson Blake

**Wendy Westlake** is showing with the Healing Arts Program, Dec 2013-March 2014. Fifteen paintings in her "Threads of Influence" series are in the show. Opening reception at Hudson Hospitals, February 14, 2014. 6:00-8:00pm.

**Catherine Harding's** painting, "A Walk in the Woods," is included in Splash 14: Light & Color, North Light Books, 2013.

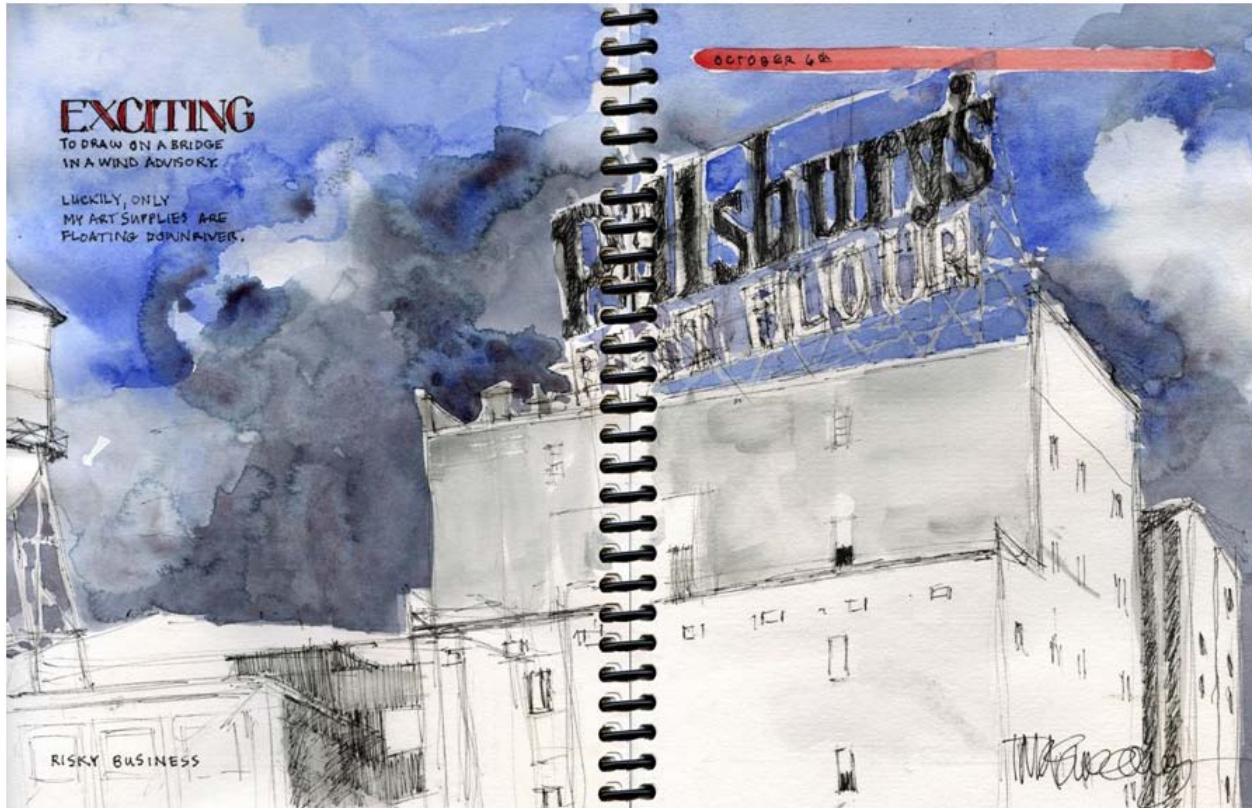
## Opportunities for Artists

### WATERCOLOR MISSOURI INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL OPEN EXHIBITION 2014

Watercolor Missouri International is held in the National Churchill Museum and Library located on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Juror of Selection is Cathy Hegman, AWS, NWS. Juror of Awards is Iain Stewart, NWS. Last day to accept entries: January 16, 2014. For prospectus go to the Missouri Watercolor Society: <http://www.mowsart.com>

## Tara Sweeney Weekend Plein Air Sketching Workshop

*Create a visual journal or sketchbook on location using ink and watercolor.*  
May 17-18, 2014



**May 17, 2014, Saturday, 9:00 – 4:00**  
**May 18, 2014, Sunday, 11:00 – 4:00**

### **Instructor: Tara Sweeney**

Plein air sketching techniques using watercolor and ink are the focus of this watercolor workshop for all levels of ability. We'll use traditional sketching media (supply list follows registration) and observational techniques for creating a visual journal or sketchbook. We'll explore locations on foot near Saint Anthony Main in Minneapolis where the Stone Arch Bridge spans the mighty Mississippi, and historic flour mills coexist with a striking downtown skyline. Yes, we'll sketch figures—diners, walkers, dancers, musicians, dog walkers, and lovers. Bring your curiosity, your most portable gear, and comfortable walking shoes.

Tara has 15 years' experience leading plein air sketching programs to Italy and France. She is professor of drawing and painting at Augsburg College, Minneapolis, and chair of the art department. This workshop is grounded in her road-tested approach to materials, techniques, and composition. Check out her website, [tarasweeneyart.com](http://tarasweeneyart.com), to see more of her work.

**You can sign up now by e-mailing Sandy Koeger at [zzandy@aol.com](mailto:zzandy@aol.com).**



## Lynne Baur, Demo Artist for February 13

How do you think and talk about your working process? An ongoing struggle to learn to control the medium? Do you have a set of techniques that you *can* control, and focus more on what you want to say? Do you strive to loosen up, but worry about just winding up with a big mess? Do you go back and forth between painting freely and then going in to tidy up details and tweak things that didn't quite work out? I believe the look of our work is influenced by how we think about the painting process.

Watercolor is my chosen medium precisely because I can't control it. To me watercolor is a dialog, or better yet, a duet. I invite something to happen, and generally the medium offers me something a bit (or a lot!) different. My hope is not to drown out that maddeningly contrary and subtle voice, but to listen and improvise and sing *with* it. Watercolor offers me creative gifts beyond my own capabilities, if I will only allow it.

Lately, my work has taken a symbolic and metaphorical turn. This has made me more conscious of another duet. The artist's duet between the intuitive, listening, responding spirit and the critical, evaluating, planning mind. My working process has evolved into a conscious intent to keep both voices singing together harmoniously. Your process and goals for your work are likely to be different, but I hope to convince you there's something to be learned by reflecting on the language and metaphors you use to think about your painting process.



The Breaking Veils

Lynne Baur

Find me online at [www.dragonflyspiritstudio.com](http://www.dragonflyspiritstudio.com)

Or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/dragonfly.spirit.art](http://www.facebook.com/dragonfly.spirit.art)



Owl Moon



Willow Maiden Drum

### UPCOMING MNWS WORKSHOPS

DAN WIEMER: 2 DAY, January 18-19, 2014 (*This workshop is full.*)

TARA SWEENEY: 2 DAY, May 17-18, 2014 (*Limited to 15 participants. See description on p. 6.*)

ALVARO CASTAGNET: 4 DAY, October 16-19, 2014 (*This workshop is full.*)

Questions? Call or email Sandy Koeger: 952-891-2345, [zzandy@aol.com](mailto:zzandy@aol.com).

## MNWS calendar

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

**Jan 9** Technology for Art and Art Supply Swap  
*Location: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)*

**Feb 13** Lynne Baur Demonstration  
*Location: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)*

**2014 Spring Show Prospectus Inside!**

**Tara Sweeney Workshop Description on page 6**

## 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

