

Tara Sweeney, Demo Artist for March 13

For 35 years, art and writing have gone hand in hand to support my creative process, first as a magazine art director, then as a freelance book illustrator and designer, and now as a teacher and artist. In recent years, visual journaling has pushed me to take this practice to a new level in my current series, “Close to Home,” where both art *and* text are visible on the finished page. The process of creating an entry for this almanac in watercolor and ink begins with direct observation. I don’t consciously try to find my subject matter. I wait until something captures my attention—the more ordinary it is, the better—then I draw and write to understand it and discover why it has meaning for me. Working from direct observation gives the moment of inspiration urgency. I have to make time to express it or it goes away. I love the surprises of the natural world. It’s a great design system—endlessly varied and a rigorous teacher of gesture, value, color, and light. That doesn’t mean there isn’t room for invention: sometimes I stay inside the lines; and sometimes it’s messier. Making art this way requires me to pay close attention, to stay open until the creative process of observation, reflection, memory, and invention yields results. Maybe best of all, an unintended consequence of telling visual stories is that it inspires others to do the same.



Living Wish

At the March meeting demo I’ll share favorite visual journaling tools, tips, and my creative process. Bring your stories. See you there. -Tara Sweeney (Find me online at: tarasweeneyart.com)



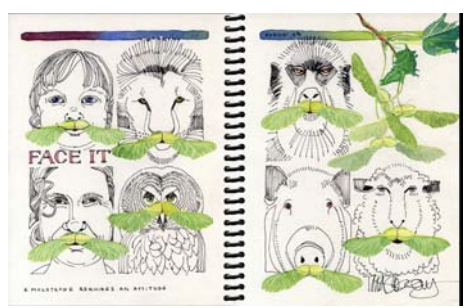
F-Words



Prudence



Terms of Endearment



Face It

From The President



Hello Members and Friends!

As we all start to defrost and anticipate spring, let's continue to do what we love to do and that's painting, supporting each other and meeting together as artists. I want to thank all of you for venturing out on those cold evenings and joining us at our winter meetings. The wise and all knowing snowbirds will be coming back to join us and we look forward to seeing them, too. For those of you who stayed home, we would love to see you again! Come out of your hibernation and let's have a grand gathering at the March meeting.

The January meeting was a blast! Wendy Westlake did a wonderful demo on Photoshop and I did a bit on preparing your art for shows and some art marketing. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening. We had a nice art swap and sale that night, too. It was a bit different than having a demo artist paint for us. We love to hear what you like to see for future programs. Just talk to one of our board members.

Our February meeting was just as fun with Lynne Bauer doing a fabulous demo and giving us a ton of information to help us become better artists. I especially like how she explained how to critique other's art as well as our own and how to approach this sensitive subject. Her demo was wonderful and with all the fun ideas she shared, I'll be sure to be taking a trip to "the land of art products, fun studio stuff and more store" (e.g. Wet Paint or any one of my favorite art supply stores). Thank you, Lynne, for being with us and sharing some great ideas!

We are still in need of a Program chair to take Wendy's position and a Fall Show Chair to take Victor's position. We are coming up close to the end of this year before summer break and these positions need to be filled. 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 at the March 13 meeting, our demo artist will be Tara Sweeney. Don't miss this demo. Tara is a wonderfully talented artist and an excellent art instructor.

Spring is just around the corner and that means the Spring Show is, too. The awards and reception night is Thursday, April 10, 2014, and will be at Silverwood Gallery in St. Anthony starting at 6 o'clock. Please contact Laura Hanson if you can help in any way. More info is on our website.

Thank you also for bringing your art in for the Mini Shows! We now have three tables full of amazing paintings and the numbers just keep increasing. I love to see the variety of works and how talented you all are.

Bring a friend to the next meeting. See you in March!

Deb Magelssen

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

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Watercolor Reflections

Column by Vera Kovacovic, MNWS Member

ART AND ITS FUNCTION IN OUR LIVES

It is always a welcome change, especially after being immersed in the “how to” mode, to refocus by considering different voices about the function of art in our lives.

Sue Monk Kidd, who wrote *The Secret Life of Bees*, had this to say about art at her Westminster Town Hall Forum on the theme “Life is a Story” (Minneapolis 2/11/14): *Creativity (art) is essentially a spiritual experience, it is a conversation with one’s soul.*

Philosopher Alain de Botton and art historian John Armstrong teamed up and came up with seven psychological functions of art, so I chose a few below:

1. REMEMBERING - We want to remember what really matters, and the people we call good artists are, in part, the ones who made the good choices about what to communicate and what to leave out... Art is a way of preserving experiences.
2. HOPE - Our conflicted relationship with beauty presents a peculiar paradox: the most universally admired art is of the “pretty” kind - depictions of cheerful and pleasant scenes, faces... The love of prettiness is often deemed “low” or even “bad” and there is a related fear that prettiness will numb us and leave us insufficiently critical and alert to the injustices surrounding us. These worries, argue the two authors, are misguided. Optimism and hope are something to cherish and not condemn. They are, even as neuroscience indicates, critical in our quest to live well. Cheerfulness is an achievement; hope is something to celebrate.
3. SORROW - One of the unexpectedly important things that art can do for us is teach us how to suffer more successfully... We can see a great deal of artistic achievement as “sublimated” sorrow on the part of the artist, and in its reception, on the part of the audience. Sublimation in art refers to the psychological process of transformation in which base and unimpressive experiences are converted into something noble and fine - exactly what may happen when sorrow meets art.
4. REBALANCING - Few of us are well balanced. Art can put us in touch with concentrated doses of our missing dispositions, and thus restore a measure of equilibrium to our listing inner selves. The task for artists is to find new ways of prying open our eyes to tiresomely familiar, but critically important, ideas about how to lead a balanced and good life. Art can save our lives - through opportune and visceral reminders of balance and goodness, that we should never presume we know enough about.

These selections have been shared from “Brain Pickings” by Maria Popova. For more information, please refer to: Art as Therapy: Alain de Botton on the 7 Psychological Functions of Art | Brain Pickings <http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2013/10/25/art-as-therapy-alain-de-botton-john-armstrong/>



Spring Show Awards Reception, April 10

Perspectives, the 2014 MNWS Spring Exhibition, opens on March 13 at the Silverwood Gallery, 2500 County Road East, St. Anthony, MN 55421, and runs until April 30. We hope you get a chance to see the show, and we especially hope that you will come to the Awards Reception on April 10! The reception is from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. At 7:00 pm that evening, our juror, Michelle Ranta, will be presenting the awards. Michelle is a tenured art professor at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Don't miss her remarks about the show and the award winning entries.

For those of you with works in the show, here are a few dates to remember:

- Drop Off Date: Sunday, March 9, between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm
- Pick Up Date: Saturday, May 3, between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm



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

MNWS NEW MEMBERS

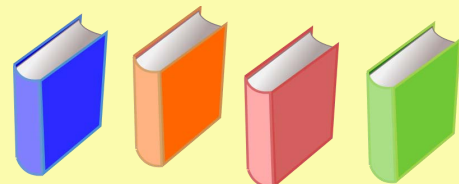
Judith Block
John Grancorvitz
Linda Hansen
Suzanne Hughes
Diane Lerseth
Dennis Murnyak
Jacqueline Pahula
Faye Wallsten

Welcome New Members!

We have 313 current paid members.

From the Bookshelf: a message from Mary Brainard, Librarian

A big thank you to everyone who has
donated books to the MNWS Library!
We very much appreciate your
contributions.



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.

Andy Evansen's painting, "Plying the Pearl River," was accepted into the American Watercolor Society's 2014 show. He also has a solo show at the Wilcock Gallery in Excelsior, opening on March 6th, 5-8:30 pm. And, he is one of the featured presenters at the Plein Air Convention in Monterey, CA, the week of April 4.



Plying the Pearl River
by Andy Evansen

Dick and Jan Green each had two paintings accepted into the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum juried exhibition. The show, "Minnesota Magic," is on display in the Reedy Gallery from Jan 17-March 31. One of Dick's paintings was awarded second place and one of Jan's received honorable mention.

Sandra Muzzy is one of seven artists in the show "Botanical Art in All its Wonder." The exhibit runs from Jan. 13 to May 24, 2014, at the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center lobby gallery on the University of St. Thomas campus. There is a reception at 6 pm on Saturday, April 26.

Joann Perry's watercolor "Magical Triplets, Double Hibiscus," is included in the Women's Caucus for the Arts (WCA) show at the Woman Made Gallery in Chicago.

Julie Allen's painting, "My Games," was awarded Honorable Mention in the Arts in Harmony International Juried Art Show 2014.



My Games
by Julie Allen



Magical Triplets, Double Hibiscus
by Joann Perry

Opportunities for Artists

Call for Entries to 2014 Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition

Deadline for entries is May 12, 2014 (mailed) or May 26, 2014 (online through CaFE). You can find the full prospectus at: <http://tinyurl.com/n227aq6>.

The 8th volume of “International Contemporary Artists” art book is in editing process and I.C.A Publishing is accepting submissions for inclusion. A juried committee is reviewing the submitted works on an ongoing basis and selecting the best works that will be presented in the book. For more information about the book, and for full instructions on how to submit your work, go to www.incoartists.com.

Lake City Arts Festival - Sunday, May 25, 2014. For more information, and to find out how to enter this juried festival, go to: www.lakecityartsfestival.org. Or you may contact Jil Garry at jil@treatsandtreasureslc.com.

National Society of Painters in Casein & Acrylic

Call for entries for the 60th Annual National Juried Exhibition of the National Society of Painters in Casein & Acrylic. Deadline is April 19, 2014. For more information, visit their website at www.nationalsocietyofpaintersincaseinandacrylic.org.

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.

- March 27 - demo by Mary Pettis
- April 7 - demo by Lana Grow
- May 16 to 18 - Art on a Line

Workshops: (registration forms are on the website)

- David Smith, March 8-9, 2014
- Lana Grow, April 7-11, 2014

Plein Air Paint Outs

Join painters from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon each Thursday at venues around the Twin Cities. For more information and the complete schedule, contact Tom Dimock at tom@dimockart.com.

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

Workshops and Classes

To find workshops and classes:

Visit the MNWS website at www.minnesotawatercolors.com and click the “Happenings” link at the top of the page.

To include your listings on the website please e-mail information to info@minnesotawatercolors.com



UPCOMING MNWS WORKSHOPS

TARA SWEENEY: 2 DAY, May 17-18, 2014 (*Limited to 15 participants. This workshop is full with a waiting list.*)

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

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

A Note from the Workshop co-chairs, Sandy Koeger and Bonnie Featherstone:

Those of you who have enrolled in Tara Sweeney's workshop for May 17-18 will receive an official registration form via e-mail around the middle of March.



March 13 Mini-Show: All Things Green

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.

MNWS calendar

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

Mar 13 Tara Sweeney Demonstration
Location: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)

Apr 10 Spring Show Awards Reception, 6:00 to 8:00 pm
Location: Silverwood Gallery, 2500 County Road East, St. Anthony, MN 55421

May 8 Artist Demonstration (to be decided)
Location: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)

Come to the Spring Show Awards Reception on April 10!

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

