

## Demo Artist for May 8 - Calvin deRuyter

Skies have always been important to Calvin deRuyter. In fact the very first three paintings as he honed his unusual approach to watercolors were actually sky paintings. As he developed his landscapes, skies were always integral to the mood that he wished to impart to his viewers, but usually the focus was on unusual color rather than on clouds. That began to shift in 2005 when clouds began to slowly play more and more of an important role in his landscapes.

Clouds became an obsession by 2009 when he started painting them in almost every landscape whether they were light and fluffy, or stormy. He has become particularly interested in storm clouds, not only because of the primal instincts that arise in us when we see them, but also because clouds offer some of the best opportunities to explore the extreme range of colors that are possible in skies.

deRuyter's approach to watercolor, without a palette, and mixing color directly on the surface he is working on, is especially helpful in the painting of his skies. During the demo, he will paint a landscape which focuses on the storm and its effect on color and mood.



Cloud Waves



Grey Skies



Purple Skies

### Membership Renewals

Renewals are due by the end of **May 31, 2014** for members whose membership is expiring in May 2014. The membership year for the Minnesota Watercolor Society runs June 1 through May 31. Feel free to bring your renewal membership fee to the May meeting if that is the most convenient for you. Carol Wingard, membership chairperson, will be at the meeting to take the renewals. There will also be renewal notices sent out in a few weeks via e-mail (or US mail for those who do not have e-mail) to let you know if your membership is expiring and how you can renew online if you prefer.

*(See back page for membership rates.)*

## From The President



Hello Members and Friends!

I am on my second cup of coffee as I write this and I am still thinking about how much fun I had last night at the Spring Show Reception and Awards night. Laura Hanson did an excellent job of organizing another stunning exhibit. Thank you, Laura! The juror, Michelle Ranta accepted the best of the best and her award picks were nothing short of spectacular. It isn't an easy job being a juror and I want to thank Michelle for doing a wonderful job. Congratulations to Best of Show winner, Kristine Fretheim for her piece, "Vajra Vision." Congratulations to all of the award winners. Please find it in your schedule to visit Silverwood Gallery in St. Anthony and see this show!

With a serious case of cabin fever behind me, I've been thinking of getting some outdoor painting done. Plein air painters are already going outside as the weather gets nicer and are happily painting nature, landscapes and whatever else is "out there." Keep in mind that our fellow artist friends at Northstar Watermedia Society organize "Paint Outs" each spring/summer. I've been able to attend a few times as my calendar permits and I've always felt welcomed. It's like going to an artsy homecoming party in the summer. Many of our members are also members of NWS. So if you are looking for some fun plein air paint outs, visit their website at <http://northstarwatermedia.com/resources/group-paint-events>.

As of May, Victor Perlbachs' term as Fall Show chair will be ending and we are looking for a replacement for his position. He already has things nicely set up for the fall show. As next month approaches and terms end, the board is changing and positions are currently being filled by some of our members. If you want to serve on the board with us, now is the time to contact me or one of our board members. As I said before, it's a supportive, friendly and fun group and I'm especially thankful for each person and what they do.

Thank you also for bringing your art in for the Mini Shows! It's been great to see all the new watercolors you are creating. FYI: the May theme will be "Summertime Dreams."

Coming up at the May meeting, May 8th, 2014 – the artist demo will be Calvin deRuyter. Check him out at his website <http://www.calsportfolio.net>. Not only is Calvin a very talented and superb artist but he is an excellent art instructor. I've had the wonderful opportunity to take classes with him and I attribute my new love of landscape painting to him. Of course, he paints other subjects as well and I look forward to seeing what he has in store for us with his demo. He really will inspire you, so please be sure to come to our May meeting. Remember, it's our last one before summer break!

See you at the May meeting! Happy painting!

## MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

### KEY CONTACTS

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BrushStrokes is published January/February, March/April, May/June, Summer, September/October, November/December

### MNWS BrushStrokes Editor

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## Watercolor Reflections

Column by Vera Kovacovic, MNWS Member

*Spring is here, and very fittingly I have come across a free article that could be a gentle nudge for us to do some “spring cleaning” in our studios.*

### Three Tips to Get Your Studio Ready for Spring

It is still super chilly in my neck of the woods, but spring has technically sprung, so what better time to get ourselves and our art ready for the lovely months ahead? We’ve definitely earned it after a dreary winter, so here are 3 tips to get your studio set for all the spring painting, drawing, and art-making that you will be embarking upon.

#### Choose, Purge, and Let It Go!

It might be tedious or difficult when you are in the process, but weeding through your brushes, paints, old works, and the myriad art stuff that we all seem to collect in our studio spaces is really helpful in the long run. You can assess what you actually have, find forgotten supplies, pay forward things you no longer need, and clear away the cobwebs (the mental ones and the ones that might be clinging to the corners of the room) to make way for what you’ll be working on in the next few months. Who knows, maybe something during this process will inspire you in a whole new direction.

#### Wall Yourself In

I’m not advocating closeting yourself in your studio, no worries! But I do think it is rewarding and helpful to surround yourself with inspirations—visual, auditory, and otherwise—that spur your creativity. Looking around my studio space, I have quotes that I love, cutouts of artworks that I aspire to, and Motown tunes that get me in the mood to work (and groove!). Keep the things that inspire you close by. They can be a boon when you hit a rough patch when working.

#### Change Your Perspective

Do you notice how sometimes when you are in a certain room that you do the same things you always seem to do in that room? Snack in the kitchen, watch movies in the living room, take a nap in the bedroom, and so on? If your studio has become a place where you go but don’t feel inspired to create art—or a place where you go less and less—consider changing up the arrangement of the room. A new perspective could be the key to breaking through whatever has been blocking you.

-- <http://www.artistsnetwork.com/competitions/3-tips-to-get-your-studio-ready-for-spring>

## Northstar Activities

On May 16, 17, and 18, **Art on a Line**, North America’s largest art sale, will be hosted by Northstar Watermedia Society in the Fine Arts Building, Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Over 75 members of NWS will have original art for sale. Admission is FREE. There will be 8 art demos during the three days, plus a number of “artists-at-work.” A schedule of demo artists may be found at: [www.northstarwatermediasociety.com/art-on-a-line/](http://www.northstarwatermediasociety.com/art-on-a-line/)

**Artist demo** on June 19 by Grace Haverty, NWS, TWS.

Northstar Watermedia Society will have its first **National Juried Show** at the Hopkins Center for the Arts from September 12 to October 18, 2015. Application information tbd.

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



# Minnesota Watercolor Society 2014

“Perspectives,” the 2014 MNWS Spring Exhibition, held its awards reception on April 10 at the Silverwood Gallery in St. Anthony, MN. The juror, Michelle Ranta, presented awards to fourteen artists, and attendees voted for the People’s Choice Award. Many thanks go to Michelle for her great work, to Laura Hanson for organizing the show, and for all the artists who submitted artwork or volunteered for the show. A big CONGRATULATIONS to all the award winners!



◀  
Artist: Gail Vass  
Title: Fountain D'Light  
Award: Emrich/Stordahl  
Founder's Award

Artist: Julie Allen  
Title: Heavenly Scent  
Award: First Honors  
▼



Artist: Kristine Fretheim  
Title: Vajra Vision  
Award: Best of Show



Artist: Jerome Ritter  
Title: Dave's Farm  
Award: People's Choice



▲  
Artist: Georgia Kandiko  
Title: Fly Away Farm Sheep  
Award: Second Honors



◀  
Artist: Kathy Miller  
Title: Along Spring Creek Road  
Award: Third Honors



# Juried Spring Show Award Winners



Artist: Phyllis Winther  
Title: Princess Grace's Cactus Garden  
Award: Award of Merit



▲  
Artist: Catherine Hearing  
Title: Lake Superior Blues  
Award: Award of Merit



◀  
Artist: Beverly Wood  
Title: Lobster and Baked Potato  
Award: Award of Merit



Artist: Judith Hallbeck Meyeraan  
Title: Survivor II  
Award: Honorable Mention



Artist: Roy Lindaas  
Title: Grandma's Cottage  
Award: Honorable Mention



Artist: Dick Green  
Title: Forest  
Award: Honorable Mention



Artist: Judy Lieber  
Title: The Alley and Beyond - Spring!  
Award: Honorable Mention



Artist: Steve Lackore  
Title: Pears Illuminated  
Award: Honorable Mention



Artist: Diane Posselt Monroe  
Title: Free at Last  
Award: Honorable Mention

## 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.

**David Smith's** "Autumn Light" was accepted into the American Watercolor Society's 2014 Show. His painting, "Just Passing Through," received Best Watercolor in the Arts in Harmony International Juried Art Show 2014.

**Kate Halverson, Wendy Westlake, and Dan Wiemer** each have a painting in the Crossings' 13th Annual Poet -Artist Collaboration exhibit. The reception is May 10 at 6:30 pm and the exhibit runs through May 15 at the Crossings Gallery in Zumbrota, MN.

**Mary Axelson** had 20 art pieces selected for the 2014 Corporate Art Force SmartArt Rotating Art Program. Her painting, "Into the Mist I," was selected as Signature Artwork for the 22nd Annual Ginnie Adams Watercolor Show, Dakota County Historical Society Museum, South St Paul, May 31 to July 24, 2014. And her work was also accepted into the Phipps Center for the Arts "Healing Arts" program with a show at Croixdale, Bayport, MN from June 18 to September 14, 2014.



Mary Axelson  
Into the Mist I

**Robert Jeffery** will have about 25 paintings on exhibit at the Hopkins Center for the Arts from June 26 through July 27 with the Opening Reception on June 28th from 7 to 9 pm.



David Smith  
Autumn Light



Robert Jeffery  
Gabriel



## MNWS Workshop News

Tara Sweeney's Urban Sketching Workshop takes place May 17th-18th. This is the first plein air workshop experience for our members. It is full.

The October 2014 Alvaro Castagnet Workshops are both full. We will still maintain waiting lists for both.

The next scheduled 2-day workshop is Jan. 17th-18th, 2015, with Lisa Fertig at the BTAC in Bloomington. Watch for sign up dates in the September/October MNWS Newsletter.

Do any of our members have an artist workshop instructor 'wish list?' Please send these names to Sandy, [zzandy@aol.com](mailto:zzandy@aol.com), or Bonnie, [bfeather@usfamily.net](mailto:bfeather@usfamily.net). We will pass them on to the new incoming Workshop Co-Chairs, Mary Axelson and Clare Ritter, who take over January 1, 2015.

Bonnie Featherstone and Sandy Koeger, MNWS Workshop Co-Chairs

### May 8 Mini-Show: Summertime Dreams

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 NEW MEMBERS

Judith Block  
Warren D'Mosier  
Deborah Everson  
John Grancorvitz  
Linda Hansen  
Suzanne Hughes  
Diane Lerseth  
Vivian Mittelstaedt  
Dennis Murnyak  
Bonnie Smith

**Welcome New Members!**

We have 320 current paid members.

#### Workshops and Classes

**To find workshops and classes:**

Visit the MNWS website at [www.minnesotawatercolors.com](http://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](mailto:info@minnesotawatercolors.com)

MNWS *calendar*

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

**May 8** Calvin deRuyter Demonstration  
*Location: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)*

No meetings in June, July and August.

**Cal deRuyter is the demo artist for  
May 8!**



Wheat Fields

**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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“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