

Georgia Kandiko, January 8 Demo Artist

If anyone asked me at 9 years old, “What are you going to be when you grow up?” I immediately said, “An artist!” I was in the middle of a large non-art oriented family, not gifted in drawing, and didn’t faze in well with art taught in school, so by fourth grade I quit identifying myself as an artist. I was still ‘the artistic type,’ hypersensitive, collected markers, always had great assignment notebook illustrations, haunted Chicago’s Art Institute, and then any other art museums wherever I landed, but I studied science, then business in school.

It wasn’t until I was crazy busy running a household with an infant, toddler, and preschooler that I thought, “When I have some time to myself, I have to take a watercolor class.” Once I started, I was hooked. I worked hard learning to draw. The painting part always felt wonderful and natural. Now I teach art classes and workshops. I display my work at galleries and public places; I do commission work, and have had some interesting installations of my mosaic work.



I enter show competitions because I think it is fun but also because it raises my profile and gives me something to claim on a resume since I did not attend a formal art school. I am so happy when I paint. Now if you ask me, “What kind of work do you do?” I get to say, “I am an artist!”



I had been flirting with painting atmospheric cityscapes all last summer, anticipating Alvaro Castagnet’s fall workshop. Now that I have had some time to absorb, practice, and assimilate the techniques that Alvaro presented, I plan to demo an atmospheric scene from Orvieto, Italy. I plan to use wash techniques, try people, and maybe use my “needle” brush for finishing details.

-Georgia Kandiko



From The President



Hello Members!

Happy 2015! How time flies!

We had a couple of wonderful months with a demo from David Smith in November and our December pot-luck.

It was great to see Megan Rye, a representative of Art4Shelter at our December meeting. She was so grateful for all your generous and beautiful donations to that organization and I was proud to see a table full of gorgeous 5 x 7's and 8 x 10's going to that worthy cause.

A new year often prompts one to reflect on the past and to make goals for the future. The same can be said for our Minnesota Watercolor Society. I've only been the president for a few short months but already I've learned that our members care deeply about their Society. They often have suggestions for improvements. Your board is listening! We are in the process of putting together a survey which we hope will give us a better understanding of our membership and the needs and expectations of our members. Please be watching our website for more information.

We've recently had some changes to our board; we welcome Sonja Hutchinson as Vice President. Sonja has served on our board in a variety of positions for many years and we're so grateful she's willing to take on this new assignment. We also welcome Carol Larson as Treasurer. Thank you Carol! You may have noticed the personnel shuffle which leads me to my point. We are currently in search of a Fall Show Chair and a Spring Show Chair. If you think one of these spots might be right for you please ask a Board member or one of the past or current show chairs (Victor Perlbachs or Laura Hanson) about the job. It really is a great way to meet artists and make friends. You don't have to take on the job alone. We're encouraging people to co-chair or even assemble their own committee to handle the job.

The new year will bring many opportunities with it. We look forward to our January demo by Georgia Kandiko and our February demo by Marie Hammond. You'll find information about our Spring Show in this issue as well. Although it's sub-zero now, spring will be here before we know it and we are planning for our Member's Day in June. You'll see more information about that in the next newsletter. Until then, think warm thoughts and happy painting!

Wendy Westlake

Many thanks to Bonnie Featherstone and Sandy Koeger, our outgoing Workshop Co-chairs, for all of their fine work over the past four years!

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

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Northstar Liaison OPEN

BRUSHSTROKES

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MNWS BrushStrokes Editor

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2014 MNWS Fall Show Wrap-up

This year's show at the Ames Center in Burnsville was another success with 65 paintings showing "what inspired" each artist. A wide range of subjects and excellent work treated all who attended the show during its run from October 23 to November 30. At the awards reception we heard juror Fred Dinger's comments on what he looked for when selecting the award recipients. Everyone there came away with useful knowledge to carry forward in their journey with watermedia.

Once again, I thank Jean Allen and her hospitality crew for the reception treats and decorations. Joan Griffith provided entertaining background music, adding to the festive atmosphere. Therésa Weseman did a wonderful job designing the posters and postcards for the show, and she arranged for the press releases and the Star Tribune reporter who attended the reception and wrote a great follow up article. Good work Therésa!

I also thank all of the members who volunteered for various tasks, it's great to have the support. Last but not least, Kelsey Covart and her staff at the Ames Center were so accommodating and responsive to our needs. Next year's Fall Show will be back at the Ames and we are excited to once again be in that beautiful gallery space.

This was my fourth and last year as Fall Show Chair. I have been honored to work with so many fellow artists. It has been a rewarding experience, and whoever follows will see that you get back way more than you put in!

Thanks again,
Vic Perlbachs

MNWS NEW MEMBERS

Rose Rockney
Doris Kraemer
Connie Larson

Welcome New Members!

We have 275 current paid members.

hydro+dynamics

2015 MNWS SPRING EXHIBITION

Minnetonka Center for the Arts



VAJRA VISION | KRISTINE FRETHEIM
Best of Show, 2014 MNWS Spring Exhibition

2015 SPRING EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Fri | 2/6 Entry deadline
Sat | 2/21 **NEW:** Selected works posted online
Sat | 3/7 Drop off at MCA (11-2pm)
Thu | 3/12 Opening reception (6-8pm; awards at 7)
Thu | 4/9 Exhibition closes
Sat | 4/11 Pick up at MCA (11-2pm)

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

This juried show is open to all MNWS members in good standing who have paid their dues through May 2015.

ENTRY FEES AND REQUIREMENTS

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

Please note: All entries must be priced for sale.

For complete information or to submit an entry, please visit minnesotawatercolors.com.

SHARING ALVARO CASTAGNET

By Bonnie Dyer Featherstone, Outgoing Workshop Co-Chair

“Ladies and Gentlemen!” With that greeting daily, the only international watercolor workshop artist hosted by MNWS, Alvaro Castagnet, took the stage. The master painter was a dynamic presence. He had the ability to express his intensely felt creative knowledge verbally and through his well practiced painting skills.

Alvaro embraces watercolor saying “water is the vehicle.” His vision for a potential piece is honed by exploring large urban settings which he physically walks through while feeling, smelling and immersing himself in the moment. He seeks the sentiment and mood of the subject he will bring to life.

By painting into the light, he creates atmosphere by using *sfumato*, Italian for fumes/smoke, which softens and enhances the light source throughout the piece. While painting he will establish “the mother color” which then will help to harmonize all colors in the piece. This is the color created by using/mixing the colors of his basic palette plus a neutral tint.

Whether he sets up en plein air or in the studio, he uses only one cup-sized water container the entire time he is painting the piece. He loves and embraces his dirty water. He also favors his own brand of organic brushes, usually very large, to fully load with water and color. He uses a sponge, the table (or any available surface) when he is into his painting. His custom-made travel brass palette is made in England. It shows mixed colors accurately and doesn’t deteriorate. He favors Arches 140#, 300gram, cold press rough paper.

His bright, clean yellows, reds, blues and white are applied by dipping a clean smaller brush directly into the tube and then applied with deft strokes where required for finishing touches, i.e. tail lights, flags, etc.

He asked the class “what do you do with all that writing in those notebooks?” So this article is to share with you a few of my notes and the ones to which I will refer, so that I can always bring back his voice and words of wisdom. In a workshop, sometimes I listen so intently that I can’t think...

Personally, I learned:

- To take my time to connect spiritually and emotionally with what I want to say in my painting. Get centered before picking up a brush.
- To stay childlike and naïve when approaching my own work or someone else’s.
- To take my painting to the next level by declaring from the first brush stroke where I am going. Value my strokes “as though I were paying \$10.00 per stroke.” (Alvaro can complete a master piece in an hour using thoughtful stroke choices.)
- To sharpen my eye and brain to better evaluate my own work (a huge breakthrough for me).
- To enjoy and take the time to think, evaluate and appreciate the exhausting and excellent opportunity that was provided by MNWS.

Northstar Activities

Members’ Meetings are usually the third Thursday of each month, 7 pm, at the Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, MN.

- January 15 - demo by Dan Mondloch
- May 29-30 - Artists’ Market (formerly Art on a Line)

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

Opportunities for Artists

Call for Entries: Red River Watercolor Society, 22nd Annual National Watermedia Exhibition, June 21 through July 31, 2015. Deadline for entry is April 1, 2015. For more information, go to redriverws.org/Wordpress/events/

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.

Sonja Hutchinson received an honorable mention for her painting "Unbridled" in the fall members exhibit of the Minnesota Artists Association. Also, her painting "Seaworthy" was accepted into the 20th Annual Arts in Harmony 2015 International Show. The exhibit is February 2 to March 26, 2015, in Elk River, MN.



Sonja Hutchinson
Unbridled



Mary Axelson, "Ephemera"

Mary Axelson's watercolor "Ephemera" won an Honorable Mention at the 38th Annual Bloomington Art Center Members' Show. She also has a solo exhibition, "Breath of the North Shore," at the National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, MN, Nov 10, 2014 to January 22, 2015. And her work was accepted into the Phipps Center for the Arts "Healing Arts" program with a show at Hudson Hospital, Hudson, MN from Feb 18 to May 17, 2015.

THE MNWS FOUNDERS' AWARD

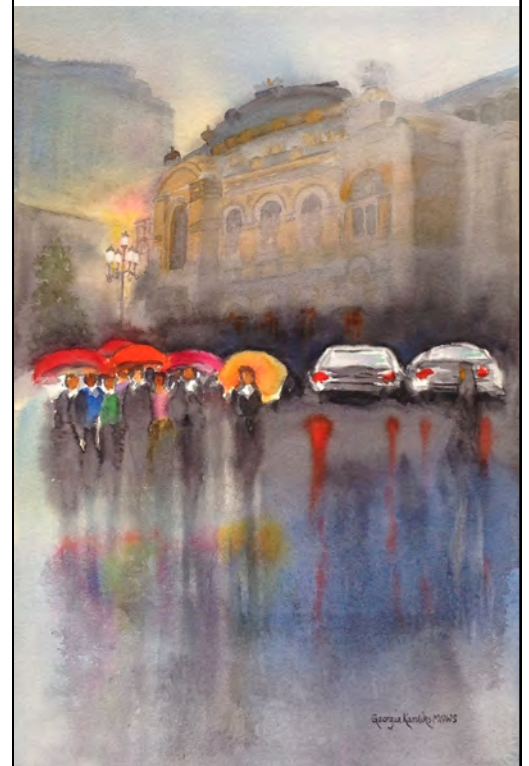
By Marian Alstad, MNWS Historian

As historian of MNWS, I was asked by President Wendy Westlake to give our members some of the background on "The Founders' Award" which has been part of our regular exhibitions for several years.

The organization was formed in 1982 by two women, Jeanette Stordal and Jeanne Emrich, who wanted to bring watercolor painters together to share the love of the medium, explore techniques, bring in demonstration artists, have shows and more. The first meeting was held at the Edina Art Center in January 1983. In attendance were many students of a former watercolor instructor named Kay Sharkey. Jeanne Emrich was elected the first president, Jeanette Stordahl was the first membership chair. Attendance grew quickly and soon membership had more than doubled. Bylaws were drafted by Jeanne, shows and demos were scheduled and the Twin Cities Watercolor Society went into full swing. Jeanette visited all the local art fairs to recruit new members. That is when I joined the society. Jeanette was very excited about the start of a watercolor society.

Jeanette passed away in 1987 when Harry Heim was president. At that time I volunteered to be the interim membership chair and I stayed with that job for 23 years. President Jan Wallake and the board changed the name to the MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY in order to become more nationally visible. Around that time it was also decided to honor Jeanette and Jeanne at each of our shows by creating the FOUNDERS' AWARD.

The Fall Show People's Choice Award goes to Georgia Kandiko for her painting, "Rainy Night, Kiev Opera House"



PAT WEAVER 4-DAY WORKSHOP

For all levels

“WATERCOLOR SIMPLIFIED”

Date: APRIL 23-26, 2015

Location: AMES CENTER, 12600 NICOLLET AVE., BURNSVILLE, MN 55337

Hours: 9 AM to 4 PM daily

Cost: \$350. A deposit of \$175.00 or more will secure a spot in the workshop. Balance is due 30 days prior to start of workshop.

Cancellations: must be in writing 30 days prior to start of workshop for a full refund minus \$15.00 service fee. After that, no refund unless space can be filled from the waiting list. In that case, full refund minus \$15.00 service fee.

Supply List: will be sent after final payment.

Lunch: on your own, several restaurants within walking distance.



ABOUT THE ARTIST: Pat Weaver is an internationally recognized artist with more than 30 years of experience. She is known for her spontaneous and direct watercolor work. Her love, knowledge and command of the watercolor medium are passed on to the hundreds of students who have taken her painting workshops.

COURSE CONTENT: Any subject may be painted in this workshop, including animals, florals, landscapes, portrait/figure. Individual instruction throughout each day, along with demo/lecture each morning. This is a very informative, energetic workshop. Be prepared to learn and be inspired.

Make checks payable to MNWS.

Mail to: Clare Ritter, 4108 Sheridan Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55410

Phone: 612-618-7274

E-Mail: ritte009@umn.edu



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FOR PAT WEAVER

Name _____

Address _____



Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Email _____

Workshop fee in full: \$350.00

Deposit needed to hold a spot in the workshop \$175.00

MAKE A COPY AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Demo Artist for February is Marie Hammond

Marie Hammond is a watermedia artist who grew up in northern Minnesota. Her love of the lake country landscape is reflected in her paintings. She says, “my artwork expresses my love of trees and nature. I find meaning, inspiration, and color in the beauty of nature for my life and paintings.”

Marie has a B.A. in studio arts from the University of Minnesota and has taught many watercolor and drawing classes. She has also worked as an art therapist and has traveled to and lived in many countries. Her work has won awards, been published in magazines, and can be found in public and private collections.

On February 12, Marie will paint a landscape in watercolor and casein, using one of her own sketch books for reference. She enjoys a direct wet into wet watercolor approach taking advantage of the surprises this technique gives the artist. She has been using casein to enhance and abstract the rhythm of the elements in nature. Casein is an inexpensive, milk-based paint that can be transparent, translucent or opaque. This paint, one of the oldest mediums for artists, dries to a beautiful, velvety, matte finish and is very permanent. This allows the artist many options for interpreting nature in a new way.



UPCOMING MNWS WORKSHOPS

■ LISA FERTIG: 2-day, Jan. 17-18, 2015.

■ PAT WEAVER: 4-day, April 23-26, 2015

■ Questions? Call or email Clare Ritter: 612-618-7274,
■ ritte009@umn.edu.

LOST SCARF

Left on the floor after the Fall Show Reception at the Ames Center. Marian Alstad has saved it for the owner.

Call 612-824-6460.

MNWS calendar

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

- Jan 08** Georgia Kandiko Demonstration
Location: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)
- Feb 12** Marie Hammond Demonstration
Location: Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN (Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100)
- Mar 12** Spring Show Reception and Awards Presentation
Location: Minnetonka Center for the Arts, 2240 North Shore Dr., Wayzata, MN

INSIDE!

Spring Show Information and Pat Weaver Workshop Registration

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.

--MNWS Mission Statement

“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.”

10427 Fawns Way, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-5117

