



10427 Fawns Way, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-5117

www.minnesotawatercolors.com

*"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*

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MNWS CALENDAR

**Hurry
and register
for the
Spring
Exhibition
and
Kathleen
Conover
Workshop!**
•
**Studio Tour
Inside!**

Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Sept.- May only.
Location: Christ Presbyterian Church,
6901 Normandale Blvd., Edina, MN
(Corner of 70th St. S. and Hwy 100).

MARCH 9... Wendy Westlake Demo

**APRIL 13... Spring Exhibition
Opening Reception**

**SAVE THE DATE, SATURDAY, JUNE 10...
MNWS Members' Day with 3 Artist Demos!**



By Clare Ritter, Workshop Chair

SEE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ON PAGE 3



Brush Strokes

Volume 38, Number 2

www.minnesotawatercolors.com

March/April 2017

Wendy Westlake Demonstrates Her Signature Approach to Alcohol Inks March 9

This unique paint does most of the work all by itself. Alcohol inks make amazing designs and puddles of color when applied to Yupo paper. Wendy creates the ink designs and then embellishes with permanent marker pens. She says, "It's like a Zentangle that you make yourself from start to finish."

Wendy is an award winning watercolor artist and past president of the MN Watercolor Society. She lives in Zumbrota, MN and recently opened a gallery in Rochester MN. "My goal as an artist is to capture the elusive. I respond to what I see in the natural world by putting paint to paper or canvas. Colors and their relationships, the play of shapes, the mixing of paint textures and thicknesses are all parts of the sum. When I succeed, I feel joy."

7:00 p.m.

From the President

Hello Artist Friends And Members!

During these winter months, I've been experimenting with mixing shades of grey to capture our stark winter landscape. And it is fun to move around my palette to find unexpected color combinations for snow. And yet at this time of year, I'm a little tired of seeing grey. If you are too, then mark your calendar for our March 9 meeting. Our past president Wendy Westlake will bring us some beautiful blooming color using alcohol inks on Yupo. During Wendy's demonstration, she will show us how she transforms puddles of organic shapes and color into fabulous florals.

In the meantime, it is time to show us what you've been working on. Be sure to complete your submission for our upcoming Spring Show now. The entry deadline is March 5. More information is available in this edition of our newsletter and on our website minnesotawatercolors.com.

For those of you who want to kickstart your creative energy, sign up for Kathleen Conover's upcoming workshop "Chaos to Order." This workshop is for artists with a sense of adventure and desire to bring their individual expression to the next level. You can view an introduction to Kathleen's process on her website at KathleenConover.com.

Our Board is brimming with an influx of creative energy too. Please join me in welcoming these new volunteers.

- **Kathy Schur** has joined Clare Ritter as co-chair of our wonderful workshops
- **Joel Kaplan** has stepped up to co-chair our monthly programs along side Tara Sweeney
- **Kelly Kastner** has come forward to manage PR and to help you stay informed about all things MNWS
- **Hadji Benfield** has volunteered to take over as our membership chair

We are most grateful for the commitment and support of these individuals. Our organization is enlivened through the contributions of so many talented individuals. Please reach out to any of our Board members if you'd like to get more involved with MNWS.

Think Spring,
Sonja



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Northstar Liaison (Open)

Website: www.minnesotawatercolors.com

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Watercolor Reflections

By Vera Kovacovic

This issue I will introduce you to an exceptional artist, who is respected and honored nationally and internationally - Carla O'Connor. Carla is mostly a figurative painter, but is also inspired by the sights and colors of the Pacific Northwest Puget Sound to create abstract landscapes. The text below is from an interview with The Wandering Educators (wanderingeducators.com) organization.

"...In her watercolor paintings, Carla achieves a quiet complexity through the well balanced juxtaposition of light and dark, of bright and muted colors. Busy areas shifting into quiet zones take the eyes on an adventurous journey. There is a lot of movement in Carla's paintings, splashing drops, spheres and other shapes travel over geometrical color fields in the background, enhancing the beauty of the central human figures in Carla's dreamlike compositions.

Where and how are you inspired?

The human form has always been my deepest inspiration. However, upon moving to the Pacific NW, I fell in love with the rocky shore of Puget Sound. I seasawed between figure work and abstract landscapes until I realized I was fragmented and both subjects were suffering. Settling on the landscapes led to a series called "Rock Rhythms" and gave me national recognition, inclusion in books of others, and numerous magazine articles. At the conclusion of the series, I was able to return to figurative work all the better. A recent local exhibit exploring the tradition and history of wearing masks in all cultures and through the centuries was the inspiration for a large body of work. But usually, I have found that the best inspiration comes from getting in the studio daily and just plain working – and working hard!

What materials do you prefer?

Since I was classically trained in oils, it was a smooth transition to acrylics on canvas and then to watercolor on paper. I have always been a two dimensional artist and it was usually someone's work that I admired that led to each change of medium. I added Gouache to my works on paper in order to give variance to the surface and more subtlety to colors..."

Opportunities for Artists

Art 4 Shelter

Art 4 Shelter is a benefit for Simpson Housing for the homeless and MNWS members have donated art to this fund-raiser for several years. You are invited to donate one or more 5" X 7" paintings (any media), unwrapped and unmounted. **Submission forms will be available at the March MNWS meeting, and donated art must be turned in by the March meeting.** Each art piece sold will provide one night's housing plus two meals for a homeless man or woman. Additional information and submission forms may be downloaded from Art4Shelter.org. The one-day sale will be May 10, 2017, Le Meridian Chambers, Minneapolis. There will be a preview from 6-7 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres, followed by the sale from 7-9 p.m. This is a fun event to watch the artwork getting purchased and MNWS members are among the best pieces!



Figurative Paintings By Carla O'Connor

Northstar Activities

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

Programs:

- Springboard for the Arts, March

Members' Exhibition:

April 1 – 30, 2017 at the White Bear Unitarian Church, reception April 20.

Workshop:

- Jennifer Stone
Tuesday-Friday, April 25-28, 2017 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
North Oaks Community Room, Workshop fee:
\$350 members, \$375 non-members.

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

Artist Studio Tour

Step inside and see the creative work space of our members!



Patt Nelson's "Country Thyme Garden" Barn Studio



Delighted to be living her country dream on a small environmental lake in Spicer, Minnesota, Patt Nelson enjoys her artistic expression with flower gardens and watercolor painting.

After the sudden death of her husband and her diagnosis with cancer, she discovered that God and watercolor painting brought her through the long tough recovery. She is a self-taught and self-motivated watercolorist. "I enjoy working in the barn, where my Grandpa had milking cows, because my mind is free of distractions. I work toward an impressionistic portrayal in my work, leaning toward abstract. I want to maintain art that leaves room for the viewer's imagination and interpretation of the details so as to enhance their enjoyment."

Patt sponsors artistic friends and a variety of professional artists to teach in her barn studio and garden. She also began a local art club called, W.W. (Watercolor WannaBees) for beginners in watercolor and home schoolers who meet in the barn once a week. She has another art club of 30 members and a garden club that enjoy meeting at her studio barn and beautiful country garden, as well. You can visit her web page, "Country Thyme Garden" at www.outdoorgardenwedding.com/shop.html.

Other artists find
Patt's country setting
a place of inspiration
for plein air painting.



Cida Smith with her painting, "Three is a Crowd"

MNWS New Signature Members

- Stephen Lackore
- Vera Kovacovic

Congratulations!

MNWS New Members

- Joseph Capecci
- Ruth Litterick
- Bev Luttio
- Travis Poelle
- Tam Strand
- Lei Yang

Welcome
New Members!

We have 312 current
paid members.

MNWS Member Happenings

Send member news and quality images to Editor, Gail Vass:
Vass@mchsi.com or Gail@GladArt.net (Images used as space permits.)

- **Cida Smith** is excited and honored to have won best of show with her painting, "Three is a Crowd" at the Tubac Center of the Arts Exhibit "Arizona Aqueous XXXI," Jan 20 - Feb 26. It is a national juried show in Tubac, Arizona.
- **Andy Evansen** will be juror and workshop instructor for Red River Watercolor Society's 24th National Show. Deadline for art submissions is March 1.
- **Karen Knutson, Suz Galloway, Sonja Hutchinson and Mary Drier** have work juried into the 2017 Arts in Harmony International Exhibition. The show runs until March 30 in Blaine City Hall.

Membership Application

MNWS Membership Dues:

- College Student **-\$15** •Single **-\$30**
- Couple/Family **-\$40** •Seniors (65+) **-\$25**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Mail your application and check payable to:

Minnesota Watercolor Society

Carol Wingard, Membership Chair

10427 Fawns Way

Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Or you may apply on line at www.minnesotawatercolors.com

☐ Check here to have your name removed from the list sent to our exhibition award donors who mail product information to our members.

MNWS SPRING EXHIBITION 2017

Opening Reception Thursday, April 13

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Awards 7:15 p.m.

With Juror: Lyz Wendland

Lecturer of Art at University of Wisconsin - River Falls,
Adjunct Instructor at Augsburg College - Minneapolis, MN
and Instructor at Minneapolis College of Art & Design -
Minneapolis, MN

In the Reedy Gallery
At University of Minnesota
Landscape Arboretum

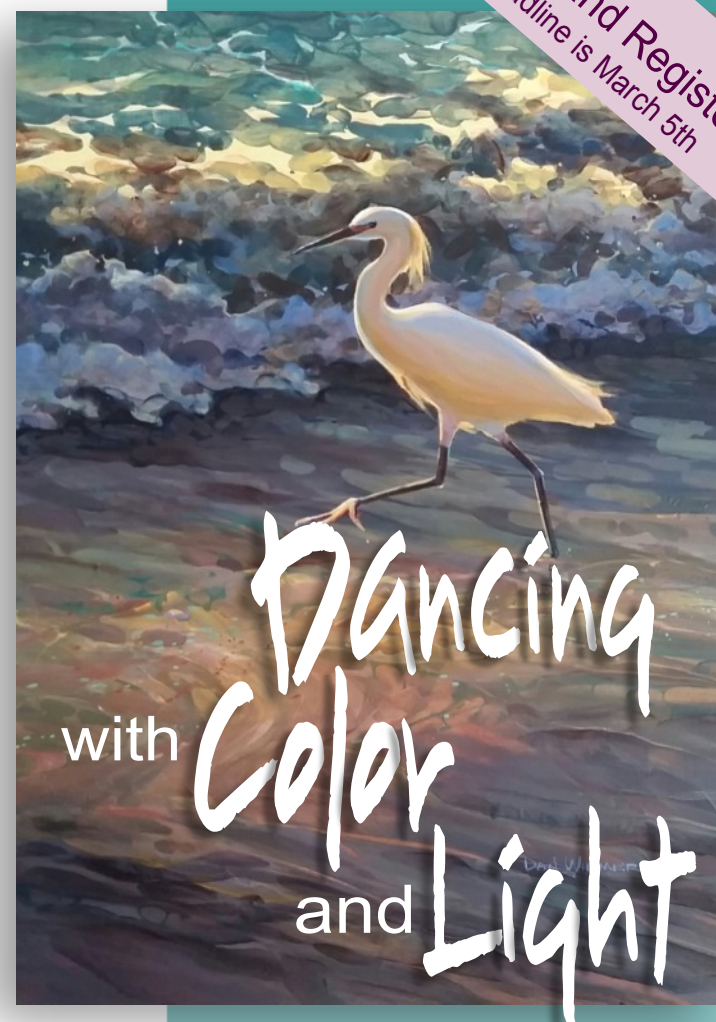
3675 Arboretum Drive, (State Hwy 5)
Chaska, MN

Free Admission for the Opening Reception.
Artists who are juried in will get a free pass
for the two-month exhibition.

When entering your paintings, please consider that the Arboretum deducts a 50% commission from sold pieces. To secure the two-month exhibition time, Arboretum Reedy Gallery Curator, Wendy DePaolis requested a special selling policy. Wendy will allow out of town visitors wishing to purchase paintings to take them before the end of the show. Painters of sold and taken paintings will be requested to submit alternate paintings to fill the exhibition spaces. High resolution photographs of sold and taken pieces will be posted along with the alternate pieces.

To submit entries to the MNWS 2017 Spring Show...

Go to minnesotawatercolors.com and click on "Exhibitions." Click on "Exhibition Rules" and READ the requirements. Then click on "Spring Show." READ through the information and mark the important dates on your calendar. Click on the word "here" in the paragraph to fill out submission entry. Fill out entry information on the page that comes up. Click "Submit." Pay through PayPal or mail a check to Georgia Kandiko, 3870 Maple Shores Drive, Excelsior, MN 55331. Send your RESIZED (no larger than 1 MB) images to Georgia at gkandiko@gmail.com.



Painting by Dan Wiemer

Spring Exhibition Schedule:

March 5 - Submissions close

March 17 - Selected works posted
on-line

April 11 - Drop off at Arboretum 2-5 p.m.

April 12 - Art hanging in the
Reedy Gallery

April 13 - Opening Reception 6-8 p.m.
Awards at 7:15 p.m.

June 18 - Exhibition closes

June 19 - Art pick-up at Arboretum
2-5 p.m.

Hurry and Register!
Deadline is March 5th

WATERMEDIA WORKSHOP with KATHLEEN CONOVER



"Chaos to Order"

May 31 - June 3, 2017

Wednesday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Artistry, 1800 Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN

Experience level: beginner to advanced

COURSE CONTENT: Starting a painting with color, texture, gestural marks and layers may seem like "chaos," but it delivers vital energy that is not only fun and intuitive but necessary. Great design and composition are the elements that bring "order" to a rich start and turn it into an attention-getting and expressive finished painting. Beginner or advanced, you are encouraged to discover and explore your unique expression and personal imagery in realism, abstraction or non-objective. Demonstrations, an 8 page syllabus plus handouts, individual attention and independent work time will enable understanding and application of new information and processes. Specific lessons on texture building, color concepts, layering, how to do a value study, understanding design principles and elements, and more will be presented. "Most of all," Kathleen says, "I want to help each artist advance to the next level in their work - no matter where they start." Bring your sense of adventure and enthusiasm for this high energy, fully packed workshop. An introduction to Kathleen's teaching is included in a three part video in "Workshops" on her web site: KathleenConover.com.

Kathleen Conover divides her time among painting, teaching, judging and gallery ownership (20 years). She holds signature status in several international and national organizations. Kathleen has garnered numerous awards and her work is included in many books. Most recently she is honored to have invitations to several International Watercolor Society exhibitions including: China, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Taiwan and Thailand.



WORKSHOP REGISTRATION For Kathleen Conover

Name _____ Member _____ Nonmember _____

Address _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____

\$100 deposit secures a spot in the workshop

Fees: Register before March 1: Members: \$400 Non-members: \$410

Register after March 1: Members: \$420 Non-members: \$430

Final payment due April 25 **Cancellations:** in writing prior to April 1 for a full refund minus \$15.00 service fee.

No refund after April 1 unless spot can be filled from waiting list. Then, full refund minus \$15 service fee. Supply list will be sent after final payment. Lunch is on your own.

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

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