

# Brush Strokes

Volume 39, Number 1

www.minnesotawatercolors.com

Jan/Feb 2018

## January Meeting

### Keren Kroul Demonstrates Her Watercolor and Cut Paper

Thursday, January 11th at 7pm

Keren Kroul, MFA, BA

Christ Presbyterian Church

6901 Normandale Road, Edina, MN 55435

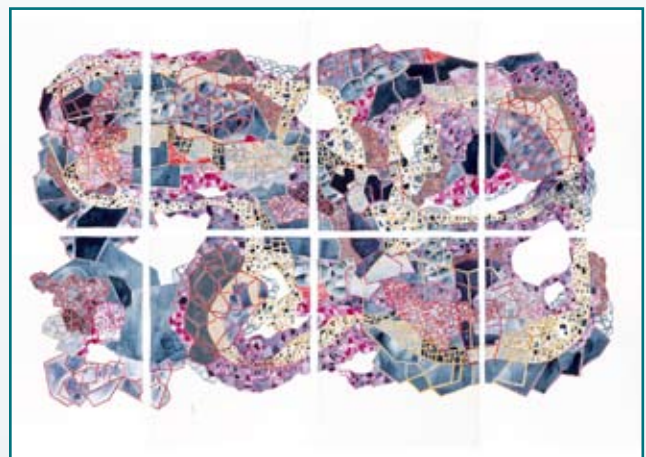
Keren Kroul works with watercolor on paper to create dense and rhythmic organic formations. Made of meticulous lines and delicate watercolor washes, they expand over several sheets of paper, reaching dimensions as large as 8 feet by 13 feet. Inspired by memories, neural pathways, and natural elements, her works on paper are landscapes of the mind.

Keren will demonstrate her working style and share her influences during this demonstration.

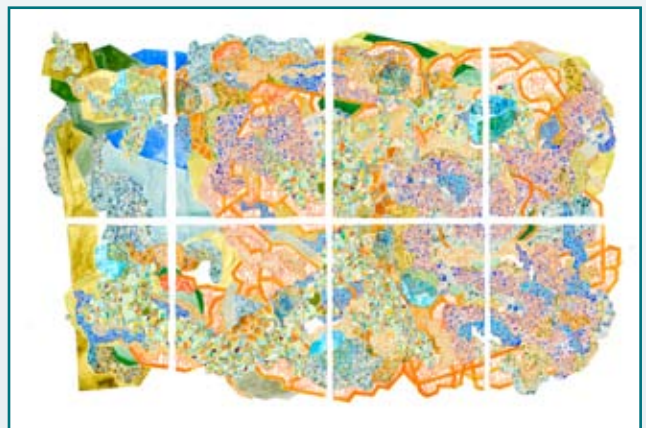
Born in Haifa, Israel, to an Argentinean father and Israeli mother, Keren was raised in Mexico City and Costa Rica, and currently lives in Minneapolis, MN. She holds an MFA in Painting from Parsons School of Design (NY) and a BA in Fine Arts from Brandeis University (MA).

*Keren's work has been exhibited at the Minnesota Museum of American Art, Rockford Art Museum, Duluth Art Institute, Art Museum of the University of Memphis, Revolving Museum, and Soo Visual Arts Center, among others. She was featured in the 2016 season of MN Original (TPT-Twin Cities PBS), and was a 2D finalist at ArtPrize in 2016. Keren is a 2015 and 2017 recipient of the Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative Grant, and a 2017 Jerome Emerging Artist at the Rochester Art Center (MN). She teaches painting and drawing at Augsburg College, the Minnetonka Center for the Arts, and the MITY program at Macalester College.*

<http://www.kerengkroul.com/>



Amorphous Longing Pink" 2016, watercolor on paper, 60"x96



Suspended Thought" 2016, watercolor on paper, 60"x96

# From the President

## Hello Artist Friends and Members!

As we ring in the New Year, make a resolution to get inspired with the Minnesota Watercolor Society and bring a friend to join us. There is a veritable feast of artist demos lined up for our members beginning in 2018. For starters, Keren Kroul will share her unique, organic watercolors at our January 11th meeting. Come learn how Keren creates her oversized 'landscapes of the mind.' Then on February 8th, MarySue Kruger will treat us to a demo of her fresh and playful pet portraits. Both events are at 7:00 pm at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina.

In case you missed it, we had a silent auction during our November meeting to retire our watercolor DVD collection. The event also marked the retirement of Mary Brainerd as our librarian for more than a decade. Special thanks go to Mary for her steadfast commitment to maintaining these resources for our members. She has handed off her librarian responsibilities to Hadji Benfield. Please welcome Hadji as she brings in book selections for you to check out at our upcoming meetings. Do you have a special technique or artist in mind to inform your next project? Now you can browse our book inventory in advance of our meetings to request a particular book. Check it out at [minnesotawatercolors.com/resources/](http://minnesotawatercolors.com/resources/)

Some of our finest resources are volunteer board members. We are excited to have Beverly Wood sign up to co-chair our workshop team with Kathy Schur. Beverly is replacing Clare Ritter on the team that creates stimulating, immersive workshops for our members. While on the subject, our Spring Workshop is creating quite a buzz. We will be co-hosting a John Salminen workshop with the Minnetonka Center for the Arts during our Spring Exhibition.

Keep your sights on the entry dates for "Spring Contrasts" as the cold winter months drive us inside. March will be here before you know it. Details for how to sign-up for the John Salminen workshop and to enter the Spring Exhibition can be found on page 4-5 and on our website.

It is exciting and rewarding to work with Board members who share a common interest in watercolor. The door is open for your contributions. Our goal is to help each other in our mission to support the development of watercolor artists. If you are interested in joining the Board, reach out to any of our current Board members to learn how you can get involved.

See you soon.  
Sonja



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MNWS BRUSH STROKES NEWSLETTER

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# Minnesota Watercolor Society February Meeting



"Marnie and Irving," watercolor, 12 x 16 inches



"Gus, 'Livin' Large," watercolor, 18 x 24 inches

## MarySue Kruger to Demonstrate Her Animal Portraits Approach

Thursday, February 8th at 7 pm

At Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Road, Edina, MN 55435

Eden Prairie artist MarySue Krueger will demonstrate her approach to animal portraits, beginning with a wet-into-wet underpainting and progressing to the final details that capture the individual spirit of her subject.

Beginning her watercolor journey in 1976, MarySue painted in a corner of her kitchen while on leave from her position as Creative Services Director for a CBS TV affiliate after the birth of her first child. A 1962 graduate of the University of Illinois with a BA in Communications, she took post-grad classes in watercolor through the U of I College of Fine and Applied Arts. She chose to embrace a realistic approach to her subject matter in lieu of the abstract and outré artistic conventions popular in the 1970s.

Moving to Minnesota in 1988, she pursued a freelance career in video production. She joined the Minnesota Watercolor Society, and honed her watercolor skills through many workshops sponsored by the organization. She began specializing in animal portraits in 2000, and continues to find her animal subjects a source of endless fascination and satisfaction.

MarySue is a lifetime and signature member of MNWS, having served as Exhibition Chair and President of the organization. Her work hangs in private collections and has won awards in MNWS exhibitions and the Minnesota State Fair. She continues her love affair with water media by currently exploring the world of acrylic painting.

MarySue Kruger [marysuekrueger.com](http://marysuekrueger.com)

### Northstar Water Media Society News

Meeting on the third  
Thursday of most months  
at 7 pm in the Rose Room,  
Roseville Skating Center  
2661 Civic Center Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113

Guests are welcome.

Jan. 18: Presentation on  
color theory by David  
Feinberg

Feb. 15: TBD

Mar. 15: Demonstration  
by Nels Femrite

<http://northstarwatermedia.com/>

# Watercolor Spring Workshop

**Realism Through Design** workshop is 5 days from 9 am–4 pm that will include demonstrations, critiques and lots of individual help. Artists are encouraged to expand on their current levels of understanding and become more comfortable applying the principles and elements of design to their work. John is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society – Dolphin Fellowship, the National Watercolor Society, and the Transparent Watercolor Society of America – Distinguished Master. He has served on the board of the TWSA and is a current board member of the American Watercolor Society. He is the first American to be awarded membership in the Australian Watercolour Institute.

**FEES:** \$650. The full fee is due with registration. Withdrawal after acceptance incurs the following fees:  
• Before February, \$100. • February 10 to March 1, \$325. • After March 1, \$650.

**PRODEDURES:** Admittance will be by separate lotteries for MN Watercolor Society and Minnetonka Art Center members. You will need to send application and total fee when you apply. Applications should be received prior to Lottery date which is January 26, 2018. You must be a member of one organization at the time you apply. People who are members of both Minnetonka and MN Watercolor must choose one lottery.

**Questions:** MNWS contact Kathy Schur, phone 651-455-0285 or email [kathy.schur@inbox.com](mailto:kathy.schur@inbox.com)

## Watercolor Reflections

by Vera Kovacovic

### THE SKILL OF EDITING

In my own painting and equally when I teach, I became more attentive to the importance of training the eye how to see. In other words, it is about the ability to edit, to know what to leave out and how to make a good/great painting out of a seemingly insignificant reference picture. Or, in case of when we paint outside, where we are presented with overwhelming amount of visual information being able to decide what to leave out.

Editing a reference photo is not an intuitive process. It takes a very conscious mindset, and realization that we are NOT “married” to the idea of depicting every tree, car, and building that we see, or having to paint the sky blue. So, do take the “artistic license” to move trees, eliminate cars (they are not easy to paint), all in the service to improve the composition, emphasize value, connect shapes, enhance and change color.

In his book “Painting Successful Watercolours from Photographs”, Geoff Kersey provides excellent examples of the editing process. He shows the initial reference photo and a finished painting. Take a closer look at his process with the link below to see his sketches and details about the choices he made. Note: Squinting your eyes helps a lot!??  
[http://www.geoffkersey.co.uk/lake\\_in\\_spring.html](http://www.geoffkersey.co.uk/lake_in_spring.html)





# Minnesota Watercolor Society

*The Minnesota Watercolor Society and Minnetonka Center for the Arts are co-hosting this event.*



*Carrousel de Paris*



*Summit Avenue*

## 2018 Spring Workshop JOHN SALMINEN

*At the Minnetonka Center for the Arts, April, 9–13, 2018*

*2240 North Shore Drive, Wayzata, MN 55391-9347*

*Held in the Minnetonka Center for the Arts Gallery.*

**REGISTRATION** for John Salminen's Workshop will be only taken by the Minnetonka Center for the Arts

Name \_\_\_\_\_ I am a Member of MN Watercolor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**US MAIL REGISTRATION:** Checks only. Send check with full registration to:

Minnetonka Center for Art, John Salminen Workshop, 2240 North Shore Drive, Wayzata, MN 55391-9347

**PHONE REGISTRATION:** 952-473-7361 ext. 160 Credit card only, Visa or MasterCard accepted

# Spring Show

## 2018 Spring Juried Exhibition SPRING CONTRASTS at Minnetonka Center for the Arts

Friday, April 13th through May 11th, 2018



Silver Dollar by Leslie Wilson



Majestic Mt. Diablo by Leslie Wilson



Bridges by John Salminen, Painting of the old fishing pier in Duluth, MN



# Minnesota Watercolor Society

*Mark this event on your calendar and join us for the Spring Show at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts.*

Submission of art for Leslie Wilson's selection from January 6th–March 10th

Opening reception is Friday, April 13th from 6 pm–8 pm

Awards by John Salminen at 7 pm at the

Minnetonka Center for the Arts, 2240 North Shore Drive, Wayzata, MN 55391

**Minnesota artist John Salminen will judge** the paintings accepted into the MNWS 2018 Spring Exhibition! John Salminen earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota. He lives and works in Duluth, Minnesota. John teaches workshops, makes presentations and participates in painting events around the world. We are honored to have him present awards for the spring show. <http://www.johnsalminen.com/>

**Walnut Creek, California artist Leslie Wilson will select** the paintings for the show. She will select the paintings for our show. Leslie paints original watercolor paintings and commissions including landscapes, still life and figures in an impressionistic style. She also teaches continuing watercolor classes. She has focused on watercolor painting for more than 25 years, capturing the moment in vibrant light and color, both en plein air and in the studio. She loves transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary and reminding people of the places they have been, the people they have met, and the truly remarkable light and color in our world. Leslie earned a B.A. in Secondary Art Education from the University of Maryland. <http://www.lesliewilson.net>

#### Ms. Wilson's Recent Recognition:

2018 California Watercolor Association, National Exhibition, Acceptance "Silver Dollars"

2017 California Watercolor Association, Honorable Mention, Lindsay Dirx Gallery "Cunningham Cabin"

2014 Walnut Creek Paint Out, 1st Place "Majestic Mount Diablo"

Published: North Light Books, Splash 11, Spring 2010 "The Other Side of the Mountain"

#### Memberships:

Signature Member, California Watercolor Association [www.californiawatercolor.org](http://www.californiawatercolor.org)

Signature Member, San Diego Watercolor Society [www.sdws.org](http://www.sdws.org)

Valley Art Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA [www.valleyartgallery.org](http://www.valleyartgallery.org)

**Artists may submit** up to two paintings starting January 6th through March 10th. This is a juried show for MNWS members only. If you are not currently a member of the society, you can join when you submit your painting(s). Exhibition rules and entry information can be found on page 5 and 6 in this newsletter and the MNWS website:

[www.minnesotawatercolors.com/exhibitions/](http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com/exhibitions/)

If you have questions, please contact the spring show chairperson, Mary Deziel at 952-358-0802 or email [m.deziel@mchsi.com](mailto:m.deziel@mchsi.com)



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[www.facebook.com/groups/MinnesotaWatercolors](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MinnesotaWatercolors)

*"To further the development of the  
watercolor artist by providing a  
supportive environment with education,  
exhibition opportunities, promotion  
of public appreciation and  
greater visibility of the art."*

*Minnesota Watercolor Society Mission Statement*

*To become a member of the MNWS please visit our website at  
<http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com/join/>*

## MNWS CALENDAR

WELCOME!

### **MNWS** *New Members*

Andrea Bergstrom

Celeste Kanli

Gail Thompson

Kay Withington

Lori Grafing

Nanette Lee

Sarah Guy-Levar

**We have 309  
current  
paid members**

Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm September–May only.  
Usually at Christ Presbyterian Church, 6801 Normandale Road, Edina, MN  
(Corner of 70th Street and Highway 100) Check our website for locations that may vary.

January 11th, Thursday  
Demo Artist: Keren Kroul

March 8th, Thursday  
Demo Artist: Bonnie Featherstone

February 8th, Thursday  
Demo Artist: MarySue Kruger

April 13th, Friday  
Spring Exhibition Opening Reception



## MEMBER HAPPENINGS

Check our facebook page for more member happenings at [www.facebook.com/groups/MinnesotaWatercolors](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MinnesotaWatercolors)



### **Peoples Choice Award**

Congratulations to David Smith! He  
received the most votes for his painting,  
"Stunning Still Life" at the MNWS  
Fall Exhibition 2017.