Waterworks

L. L. McGuire, Ed. May, June, July 2018

Respite and Sanctuary…

There is an old saying that "life" is what happens while you are busy making other plans. The truth of this adage was made clear to me last week when my mother was returned to the hospital in Ft. Collins. She had cracked her pelvis in a fall last month but had seemingly recovered. This was a set of new, and as yet undiagnosed, problems that made her very ill. Driving the 797 miles to Colorado non-stop, alone and without a radio, gives the mind a lot of time to worry and dwell on unhappy possibilities. Spending three days visiting her, talking with the health care providers and meeting with my sister was by turns encouraging and frustrating. It became apparent that at 96 years of age, my mother's life, while not immediately threatened, is entering that last phase where a continuing series of health issues will probably be the normal state of affairs. Driving home on Friday, I could see where for the foreseeable future, the plans Betty and I have made will no doubt be revised in light of this new reality.

I don't mean for this message to be overly gloomy. My sister and I had planned for mom's final years and had the living arrangements made. But the nature of the illness means that all those preparations will probably have to be altered, in ways we don't yet understand. I know many of you have dealt with similar situations and can relate to the consternation and worry that such developments bring. What I do know is that the travels and concerns had worn me out and arriving home in Boise was a welcome respite to the continuous worry of the previous week.

Finally, yesterday afternoon, I was able to spend a few hours in my studio area in the garage, working on the painting I had left a week ago. After a while, the comfortable routine of finding the right color, wetting the paper and bringing the image to life with the application of the brush (a #2 round of course) lifted the burden of the past few days and I felt calmer and more relaxed. For me, that is one of the most precious miracles of art. Your studio space and the art you create are a sanctuary for the mind and spirit. At least for me, when engaged with a project, my mind is occupied and at peace – the outside world and all its problems is banished from my consciousness. I hope each of you also has a place, a sanctuary, where your art is your only concern and your sole focus. And I hope each of you also finds the same respite from all the concerns of daily life when you are in that place. You can go there, leave the world behind to make art, and come away refreshed and at peace.

- Dennis

THE LOADED BRUSH

By Dwight Williams

Trust Your Good Luck

If you have done more than a few watercolors there have been times when something extra special happens while painting. We've heard these moments called "happy accidents". They are happy, but accidents? Maybe not. It may be a lucky moment of discovery. Almost like magic. It may be the advancement of your skill.

Real accidents can happen, messy and not good. It does happen. Recently I tore up and trashed several large pieces of what had been really nice rag paper. Both sides had been painted, wash-off was tried. They were beyond reasonable use. The paper was truly worn away. Out they went. I call that quality control. I'll bet you've done that also.

And…there are times when good things happen that we try to duplicate and it's not always easy. It might even be the very part of that painting that catches the eye of the public or a juror. If something happens that mysteriously adds to your collection of skills consider yourself lucky and keep it if you can.

I have a quote saved from a long ago. It's from the great American author Tennessee Williams. Maybe it speaks to our subject even though he was, of course, talking about his art of writing. He said, "Yes, I have tricks in my pocket, I have things up my sleeve. But I am the opposite of a stage magician. He gives you illusion that has the appearance of truth. I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion."

Is that not an honorable goal of any artist? Your painting or mine may be simple and only a small slice of life, but the truth, indeed!

Over the decades I have painted watercolors I have discovered several things by so-called happy accident. I keep them in my pocket, up my sleeve. That sounds like a secret. Not so, I have no secrets but I have discovered several things that may still be unique in my work.

Some of you have watched me "paint" with old kitchen pot scrapers, my fingers, brushes chopped into weird shapes, self-made rubber stamps, a worn paper towel in my left hand and anything else that gets the result I'm looking for. Here is some of that "junk". If you have extra and strange ways of painting, we'd be delighted to see that. Whatever is in your pocket or up your sleeve, be friendly and show us

Dwight

Discipline in Line

Linda Aman

Aman Arts

I am in Maui Hawaii today with my family on vacation and am reminded that as artists we have a heightened awareness of the visual. The beauty around me is vivid as it is for my family, but my language differs. We live in a visual world that is defined by seeing things differently, part of what makes us who we are. I am thinking -- Is the ocean a little more phthalocyanine blue red shade or turquoise? Are the values around me mid tone or deep and rich, are the shapes more organic or geometric? Fortunately my family is used to my language and are not surprised by my descriptions. My mind wanders into the artist thoughts often. It is exciting and travel always adds to my images that will have to be expressed in the visual.

Each year I choose 2 to 3 different elements and principles of art to focus on. This year, one area I have been exploring with determination is "line." I see so many wonderful lines here… the horizontal waves of the ocean that are in constant change, the verticals of the palm trees and the organic of the tropical plants to mention just a few.

This year I am simplifying line in new ways. Often you would not recognize the lines source in my paintings as would be the case of this week. I will be abstracting and rearranging what I see to take my art to new levels along with mixing new medias and color choices to my watercolors.

My "Exploratory Territory" as I call it, has been successful getting me into regional and national shows this past two years. One way I have used as educational, is drawing line exercises (see "Disciplines in Line" video on my youtube channel amanarts) as well as rearranging the lines in shapes. I work within many of the "rules" of art along with strategic breaking of rules.

Since I focus each year on different elements and principles in my work, I am adding to my knowledge of past years. As these disciplines add up I feel I am getting a wide range of possibilities opening up and keeping me engaged in my past work but also staying fresh with the new discoveries.

I wrote this article to present thoughts to you that I have found are helping my work and other artists. As I teach I see other artists come to new levels of expertise in their work as well. Line, color, shape, value, composition, etc. choose one or two to ponder a little more in your art. If I live a very long life, I may have just opened a broader education than if I hadn't put the effort into the discovery of the What If? I would enjoy hearing from you as you put some new discoveries on your art surfaces. I continue on… Exploratory Territory in Disciplines of Line! Come join me.

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AmanArts YouTube

Album art design for James Blake's, Overgrown. Combining hand done elements with digital, watercolor and ink prints of flowers in their various stages of life were created, then scanned in and formatted into the package design. As the cd is opened, the flowers, beginning in their end stages, revert back to their beginning as buds, symbolizing new life.

IWS 2018 Student Scholarship Winner

Ellery Pearson is an Oregon born-and-raised artist currently studying Graphic Design with a minor in Studio Art at Northwest Nazarene University. She began creating art, whether it was drawing, painting, or sculptures out of recycled materials, at a very young age due to the influence of her mother. Now at NNU, Ellery enjoys being able to incorporate hand done, fine art elements into graphic design such as packaging, posters, and branding. At NNU's juried student art show, she was awarded second place for poster and typeface design, and was presented with the Idaho Watercolor Society's student scholarship. After she is finished with school in the Spring of 2019, Ellery hopes to find a job at a design firm where she can continue to apply her problem solving skills to graphic design, learn from experienced professionals, and grow as an artist.

Notable Notes

Save the Date:

Leslie Redhead of the South Central region has volunteered to be our next guest instructor for the **Fall Workshop** to be held in conjunction with the **annual meeting** in September. The workshop will be held at the Nazareth Center on **Friday and Saturday, September 21 - 22, 2018, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.** Lunch will be included on both days. Please watch for the prospectus to come soon.

Our **IWS Annual Show at BSU** is coming up June 2-27, 2018 with the opening reception June 8th 5:30-7 with awards ceremony at 7. For those with paintings in the show, don't forget May 31st is the day to hand deliver between 9-11. You will make the volunteers day if you can be there closer to 9! Shipped paintings should arrive at BSU between May 15-27.

In an effort to make attending meetings easier, the IWS Board will coordinate its meetings with the WFWS2020 planning group whenever possible.
For next month, the Board Meeting will be held the morning of May 18th, between 10:00 – 11:30 pm, at Anne Sorensen's studio before the WFWS2020 meeting.

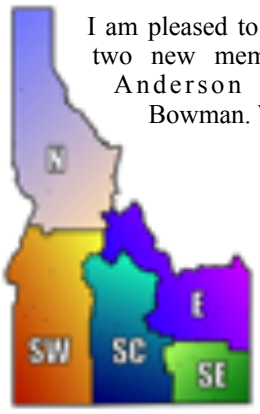
Opportunity Knocking: The Art Source Gallery's Annual Juried Show is accepting entries through May 26th deadline. Look on the Art Source Gallery's website under juried show for the prospectus and link to application or pick up a paper copy at the gallery. Show runs July 1-28th 2018

REGIONAL NEWS

The **Southwest** region continues to meet-to-critique on the first Monday of the month, and a small but quality group paints Thursday afternoons, both at Hope Lutheran Church. Since the last newsletter, we have had two fun special events. Mareth Warren inspired us with ways to think through planning our art. Also, Lauren Johnson demonstrated and guided us in ways to make our paintings vibrant with wet into wet use of a three color palette. Thanks to both Lauren and Mareth for giving of their time and talent!
Upcoming events include cardmaking at Hope Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 28th from 1 pm to 3 pm. In an effort to make the gift bags for WFWS20 special, we are painting 26 original greeting cards which depict something that is unique to or at least found in the Southwest region. If you cannot make it to our paint-together, we would love to have you donate a card. They can be any normal card size and should have on the back: Artist, Region, Title of the painting, What the painting depicts.
On May 26th, we will meet together to paint en plein air at Jean Ah Fong's house from 10 am to 12 noon (or whenever you get hungry). I'll have the coffee on! - Thanks, Jean

From the **North Region**:The scholarship due to go to the University of Idaho student is in limbo at present. The committee has been very slow to respond and when they did, they asked if the scholarship can be shared by two deserving students. I don't know and no decision has been made about it yet.
We are busy painting cards for IWS hosting of WFWS in 2020 per Cherry's request. Our goal is to paint images representing North Idaho. It is great fun to anticipate the various subjects such as sailboats on Lake Pend d'Oreille, McCall landscapes, and lots of beautiful places and things between.
Madame writer deals with health issues but it is best to think about art, gardening, good books and other positive things. My husband thinks about butter brickle. Huh!

Southeast Region has been busy. Bob Beason donated an evening to us discussing some ways to draw in preparation for watercolor paintings. He also spent some time critiquing a painting which was valuable to us all.
Next month we plan on taking an idea form Linda Carlson on getting together to paint the cards requested for Western Federation gathering here in 2020. Please bring photos of our region to use and to share. Snacks will be provided as well as the note cards. We will meet at 6:30 to give us more time to produce our mini paintings. The group seemed to look forward to the activity.



I am pleased to see we have two new members, Peggy Anderson and Dawn Bowman. **Welcome.**

Here is the news for:
South Central IWS region:
Spring sunshine is surely going to show up soon so we can paint beyond the grays! Those lively spring greens are a challenge and a welcome change. Bring it on!
We will attempt those spring colors at our 2nd Tuesday in May painting session with an outdoor site where we can capture spring with watercolors on paper.
After our May session, we will be taking a break from painting sessions over the summer, and will start back in September with lively 2nd Tuesday painting get togethers.

During the summer, we look forward to hosting our IWS Regional Show at the Twin Falls Center for the Arts lobby gallery during the month of June. This show will feature artists from our large region which includes members from Twin Falls, Burley, Ketchum, Wendell, Filer, and Buhl. This show is always well received by the visitors to the Center. Then in July we move on to host the Traveling Show at the Center. Local residents tell me they look forward to this show each year due to the quality of the work and the opportunity to see award winners from all over Idaho.
Connie Pepper
conniepepper@cableone.net

East Region News
In March we watched the movie, "Loving Vincent". Awesome production especially considering how many artists it took to paint each individual moment in this animated film. If you have not seen it, we highly recommend it. Get it on a Amazon. One other artsy thing: The May issue of National Geographic magazine has a big article on Picasso. National Geographic TV also will be having a series on him. Check it out.
April has us traveling to Rexburg to visit Lori Price's studio and telling us about her art journey. We are then heading to Brigham Young University-Idaho which is close by to visit the Spori Art Gallery. They have a great plein air exhibit on.
In May we are planning a tour of some of our artist's studios. It is always interesting to see the environment in which artists paint.
If you are in Idaho Falls any time soon, please visit the Art Museum of Eastern Idaho. East Region has its spring show going and it is quite lovely. We have devoted an entire wall to the watercolors of Marjorie Clearwater. She was a great influence in the Idaho Falls art community and was a member of East Region. She passed away recently.
"That's All Folks"
Linda Carlson, East Region Rep.

2020 WFWS-45 Update…

Save the Date! June 4-7, 2020 Event

Great news! Save the date!!! We have a venue! IWS will be hosting the 45th Annual Juried WFWS Exhibition (Western Federation of Watercolor Societies) in Boise, Idaho June through July, 2020.

This show will be held at the newly and exquisitely remodeled **Idaho Historical Museum in Boise from June through July, 2020**. Convention (mini-classes), Trade Show, accommodations and Welcome will be held at the **Riverside Hotel June 4-7th, 2020**. The Juried Exhibition Banquet, Awards and Reception will be held **June 6th** at the Museum in the late afternoon.

We hope you will all plan to join us (all regions) for this monumental event for Idaho and IWS! The best watercolors of the west, as well as out-of-state artists and a Watermedia Convention will converge for the 1st time in Boise, Idaho! This is a huge planning and budget event for IWS, and a first! What a great opportunity to share our love and passion for painting in watercolor with fellow Idaho artists, WFWS artists from all over the western USA, and the general public! We hope to also increase awareness, build unity, network with artists from other states, foster growth and vision, and HAVE FUN!

This is a statewide event and participation from all regions will add to 2020 WFWS's success! Plan to come together and share a room. Special hotel pricing at the Riverside is being negotiated.

Internationally known **Juror Stephen Quiller** will jury and conduct a 4 day workshop **May 6-9th, 2020**. He will also be giving a public demo/talk during that same week.

We have an awesome team of IWS artists and spouses and friends putting on this event. Planning and work has begun! If you would like to join in on the planning, fun, work and the comradery, please contact Pam Grant or Anne Sorensen. Let us know your skill set and interests and we will love to have you on the team! A team leader will then contact you. Teams meet independently or by email with their Team Leaders. If you prefer to make a donation or you or your business would like to be one of the patrons, we welcome that also.

IWS-100 Club: Thank you to those who have donated $100 towards 2020-WFWS! $1900 has been received and we encourage all of you who can to contribute $100 towards this worthy cause. Send your check for $100 earmarked with " IWS100" to Louann Krueger 1300 W Birch Ct, Boise, ID 83702.

WATERCOLORS ROCK in the Gem State! 2020

The next **WFWS Team Meet and Eat will be Friday, May 18th from 12-2:30 pm**. Please bring a potluck dish of your choice. 2725 N Duane Dr, Meridian ID (Sorensen Studio). You will hear the updates on plans for this event as well as a recap of this year's WFWS Exhibitions in Tucson May 3-5th from our WFWS Delegates. Hopefully, we will be able to show you slides of this year's Juried Exhibition! The WFWS Meet and Eat Team Meetings will be held quarterly approximately.

Thank you,

Anne Watson Sorensen, 2020 WFWS Project Chairman aewatsonart@aol.com
(208)870-2570

Pam Grant, 2020 WFWS Project Co-Chair pamgrant@fmtc.com
(208)739-3440

Idaho Watercolor Society
PO Box 9093
Boise ID 84707-3093

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