



Waterworks

Jean Nelson Ah Fong

May, June, July 2022

From Our President:

May 2022

It is finally Spring...well at least some days it is! But that is spring in Idaho, isn't it! So good to see leaves peeking out from the bare branches and the grass turning green! It is also good to hear about so many Idaho Watercolor Society activities.

Capitol Rotunda Show – Bonnie Liles and Beth Trott did an amazing job creating our first Rotunda show in 3 years. We had 70 entries and a few new aspects. We offered a People's Choice award, which garnered over 400 votes from the public. Bonnie and Beth offered a reception which was not only well-attended, but actually crowded. I loved it! Look for more details in Bonnie and Beth's Newsletter article.

WFWS Exhibition – I feel so proud of all our IWS members who entered WFWS this year. Of all those who entered, 16 were juried in. I'm not sure, but I think that is a record! I hope that many of you are going to make it to Albuquerque for the festivities and awards ceremony. It is a spectacularly colorful part of our country.

Annual IWS Exhibition – Our juror has made her selections and we have 45 amazing watercolors for our Juried Show this year. Scott Muscolo is working diligently to make this initial showing at Boise State a spectacular event. Anne Abgott's workshop is full, and she is looking forward to visiting Boise for the first time. I hope to see many of you in person at the BSU Student Union Hatch Ballroom for our Awards Ceremony. Friday, June 3rd at 7:00pm

Experimental Exhibition – Your board put their heads together and thought we might try something new. In an effort to get us out of our painting comfort zones, we created an additional juried exhibition with a fun twist. We titled it ANYTHING GOES! This show will be on-line only, so no framing and shipping expenses. Try something new and experiment a little with your painting. New substrate, new type of paint, new technique...it doesn't matter. Just as long as you think out-of-the-box and what you submit is "new for you". Ruth Armitage, a well-known abstract painter from Oregon will jury the show. Three top winners will be selected, and their work displayed at the annual meeting. A prospectus has already been emailed to you with more details.

Some Plein Air Fun – We have been talking with several folks from PAPI...Plein Air Painters of Idaho and they are interested in some collaborative events. More information and details to come as we nail down some opportunities to paint together in various parts of the State.

Wishing you an inspirational spring, and if you feel the need to split your spare time between gardening and painting...go paint in your garden!

Cheers,

Carol HasBrouck Browning

Your IWS President

Expand your Horizons

Linda Aman – Aman Arts

I am excited to see we have a new art show that encourages us to try different painting styles or other water media. Over the last couple years of Covid I was amazed at how many of my nontraditional paintings sold. Many people were working from home, and they wanted something different that gave them beauty, especially behind their Zoom meetings. Most every sale was the first time they purchased an abstract. When I asked why they bought one of my abstract paintings, they stated they had no idea, but it held their attention. I found it interesting that most of the clients said they don't generally like abstracts. They asked, "Why am I buying this, why do I like it". As I asked them questions, I found a common theme. The paintings showed thoughtful composition, elements, and principles of design. This is something I keep in mind as I play, experiment, and create the new mediums or styles I produce.

Experiment: use your current knowledge and bring it to a new level. Several years ago, I started trying more mixed media with my watercolors. Before that time, I was a purist with watercolor only. I am happy I took that time to really understand and perfect some of my personal methods. As I stepped out in new mediums along with the watercolor it helped me not only make a series of new paintings but helped me improve in my pure watercolor methods as well. Most of the time when I work on a painting, I am striving more for education than results. This for me turns those paintings into exciting new directions and often a series of paintings. I of course want every painting to work out and be a prize winner! But I find I learn more with the struggle of making something work in new territory. We will never end our education, which is great, because we have so much to look forward to. "It is just a piece of paper with an education to be had," quotes Linda Aman.

Below are just a few thoughts

- Give your painting a title first (the title can always be changed)
- Use words to describe your next idea-write them down.
- Create thoughtful personal expressions-such as embed words into your paintings or use asemic writing.
- Use new colors, materials, and compositions, etc. and predict what they might become together.
- Write what you love and what you don't – Ask-What do I have and what don't I have? Such as your elements and principles of design etc. Feature what you love.
- Use an old painting and reinvent it and you will be amazed at the outcome.
- Play music-I like loud jazz music as it helps me be bold and expressive.
- Have fun- Don't rush the play experiment time.
- Slow way down on the finish-ask yourself a lot of questions.



Remember "It is just a piece of paper with an education to be had"

quote Linda Aman

Please email me linda@amanarts.com if this has encouraged you. Blessings, Linda Aman © May 2022

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THE LOADED BRUSH



By Dwight Williams

These thoughts are certainly not unique from me.
Many other artists have thought about this.
In fact, most of you work from at least some of these thoughts.
I just put them down and keep them always on my mind.

The Williams Philosophy of Watercolor

Composition is always the main thing.

Begin each painting as an abstract, even in a detailed, realistic work.

Keep it simple. Three value thinking is usually enough.

Experiment with color mixes. Even "crazy" ones.

Now and then try some new colors.

Become your own best critic. Don't be too easily satisfied.

Hone your own style. Learn to like your own processes.

Work for rhythm and harmony. You'll know it when you see it.

Don't stop at other's suggestions..but listen

Investigate & experiment on your own.

Constantly ask yourself, "What could be?"

Don't accept the obvious, look for your own touch & viewpoint.

Be impulsive and audacious.

See what you can get away with.

"A good painting is a lie... that tells the truth."

Take some risks, make some mistakes.

Never stop painting, drawing, thinking.

State News

2022 Rotunda Show after two years absence presented an exceptional show. Sixty-eight paintings added a colorful splash to the Capitol Building for ten days. The many paintings were of excellent quality and varied subjects. The Voter's Choice Award was a tie between Drenda Duff and Sharon Herther, who each received an award of \$150.00. We thank the many artists who were in the show. Also, we thank and commend the many volunteers who made this show One of The Best presented by Idaho Watercolor Society at the Rotunda. Bonnie J. Liles and Beth Trott. "

The Voter's Choice Award runners up were: 2nd Place - Jane Shimon, "Happy Hour" 3rd Place - Beth Trott, "Laws and Roses" 4th Place - Anne Watson Sorensen, "Pond-er #8" When we informed the IWS Board that we had TWO 1st Place winners they generously increased the award amount from \$200 to \$300, so that each artist could receive \$150. It's quite remarkable that we had a tie, considering there were over 400 votes cast by attendees of the Rotunda Show! Visitors were from all across the State of Idaho. Many more were from other Northwestern states and some were as far away as Alabama, Tennessee and even London and Zimbabwe! Congratulations are in order, not only to our Voter's Choice Award Winners, but to each and every artist who participated in bringing this outstanding exhibition to the public. Our members represented the Idaho Watercolor Society, and our beloved medium, with passion, skill and grace. Thank you and BRAVO!

Regional News

North Region

IWS North Region Member Show in Moscow

Gabriella Ball, Peggy Conrad, Cathy Gottschalk, Bobbi Kelly, Cheryl Root, and Jan Vogtman will show work at the Moscow Food Coop during the month of May along with other members of the Palouse Watercolor Socius.

Congratulations again to Jessica Bryant! She just received notice that her painting titled 'Reclamation' was accepted into this year's Watercolor USA Juried exhibition at the Springfield Art Museum (6/4/22-8/28/22).

She was also awarded Best Watercolor and Gouache last month for "North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, and is now a semi-finalist for the 11th Annual Plein-air Salon competition, with a grand prize of \$15,000.



South Central News

Summer is just around the corner, so our IWS members will be meeting informally during the summer with spontaneous plein air paint outs for those who want to get out and paint. We will still meet in May on the 2nd Tuesday at the Twin Falls Center for the Arts, but will suspend those meetings over the busy summer and start up again in September.

Also, we are pleased that three of our South Central members will have paintings in the annual show. Best wishes go to Linda Gray, Elizabeth LaRowe and Connie Pepper.

Thanks to all who have worked so hard again this year to make this show possible!

Southwest Region News

Our region held two exciting and informative workshops this quarter. The first was presented by Elizabeth LaRowe on preserving watercolors without glass. This was new content from anything we have had in the past so we learned something new while having a great time. We experienced varnishing, waxing, and adhering watercolors on cradled panels, and we also tried painting on watercolor canvas. Thank you, Betsy, for a great workshop!

National and international award-winning watercolor painter, Joyce Green presented "Painting Whitewater". Those attending Joyce's workshop expressed enthusiasm about both content and style! Joyce offers humor, experience, and is a wealth of knowledge on the subject. Her whitewater painting, "Aqua Anthem" led to a signature membership in the American Watercolor Society, so she knows her stuff! One of the main skills presented was how to mask areas for whitewater. We were excited about the number of new members attending!

Lynn McConnell is pleased to have been selected as the Featured Artist at the Garden City Library from April 26 - June 7, 2022. If you find yourself with some spare time, stop by to see some new as well as older works. The address is 6015 Glenwood Street, Garden City, ID 83714. They are open Monday through Saturday - check their website for times.

East Region

Starting in March, Les Scott took over as the representative for the East Region replacing long time representative Linda Carlson. We want to thank Linda for representing this region for many years and wish her the best of luck as she moves across the country to be closer to her children.

Les is a native of Idaho Falls and grew up camping, hunting, fishing, and playing sports. He obtained a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Idaho State University and spent the next 33 years working for the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). He now works for the INL on a part-time basis which gives him more time for art. He is an avid photographer and his current medium of choice is watercolor. He has been a member of the Idaho Watercolor Society since 2019 and also serves on The Art Museum (TAM) of Eastern Idaho Board of Directors as the Museum Artist Liaison. In 2019 he received a dollar matching scholarship from The Idaho Commission on the Arts to attend the "My Artrepreneur Program" workshop. This program is intended to help artists obtain expertise with developing a sustainable career in the arts. Les has been married to his "awesome" wife Stacy for almost 30 years and they have one adult son.

We would like to welcome recent new members Davette Bogart, Cynthia Bowman, and Stacy Scott to the East Region.

East Region Awards:

Name	Exhibit
Brad Schultz	Western Federation Watercolor Society – 2022 Annual Juried Exhibit
Carma Hobbs	Idaho Falls Arts Council – 2022 Annual National Juried Exhibit
Carma Hobbs	IWS Annual Juried Membership Exhibition
Kathy Whitaker	Western Federation Watercolor Society – 2022 Annual Juried Exhibit
Kathy Whitaker	IWS Annual Juried Membership Exhibition -2022
Kerri Lindstrom	IWS Annual Juried Membership Exhibition -2022
Les Scott	Idaho Falls Arts Council – 2022 Annual National Juried Exhibit
Les Scott	IWS Annual Juried Membership Exhibition -2022
Linda Aman	Idaho Falls Arts Council – 2022 Annual National Juried Exhibit
Linda Carlson	IWS Annual Juried Membership Exhibition -2022
Sally Ellis	IWS Annual Juried Membership Exhibition -2022
Sue Tyler	Idaho Falls Arts Council – 2022 Annual National Juried Exhibit
Susan Snyder	IWS Annual Juried Membership Exhibition -2022
Teresa Wade	IWS Annual Juried Membership Exhibition -2022

New Member Profiles

JEAN SPINOSA

We welcome Jean as a new member of IWS' North Region. In writing these profiles, I note a common thread among artists that their interest in art began as a child. In Jean's case, she loved to draw horses. She says that she "was hooked" on watercolor after a high school art class. As with many of us, she took a break from art during which she pursued an education, career, and starting a family. Following high school, she entered the White Plains School of Nursing and, after graduation, married and moved to Iowa City, IA where her husband pursued graduate studies. That was followed by several moves and three children. They eventually settled in Boise where Jean worked for the Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital for 25 years. When she retired, Jean resumed painting and took lessons from local artists and attended art workshops and classes at Boise State University. She joined IWS in 2006 and began participating in local shows in Boise including the annual Capitol Rotunda Show, the outdoor event called Arts and Roses at Julia Davis Park, and downtown Boise' First Thursday. Jean also showed at Sandpoint Farmer's Market and says that the Pend Oreille Arts Council offered her many venues at which to display her work. Jean's subjects of interest include landscapes, wildlife, and wildflowers. Her inspiration comes from living among "our spectacular area of mountains, lakes and forests" as well as her travels before the pandemic; Tuscany, Sardinia, Basilicata, and Calabria where her grandparents and husband had lived. Pet portraits, she says, "have become almost an obsession" because she loves to try and "capture individual personalities." Jean lives in Sagle and enjoys having her three sons and their families nearby.



Jack Dykstra

An artist friend in Whitefish, Jane Kleinschmidt, years ago lived in Boise and suggested joining the Idaho Society when we got to Boise. Looking forward to meeting you and other watercolor painters. Really looking forward to getting out of studio to paint on location as the weather warms. Though we have frequently visited our grown children who have lived in Boise many years, we have plenty of new things to explore and paint throughout Idaho.

Jack's work can be seen at jackdykstrafineart.com

Patricia McClung

Born in Lexington, VA, I rarely ventured outside small Southern towns until I spent my college junior year abroad. No doubt that's the reason that to this day, I am still a bit awestruck by new places--which are the inspiration for and subject of my work. Another significant autobiographical detail is that I have always pieced together layered things--clothes, quilts, silkscreen prints, books, pictures--when I wasn't at day jobs, as an academic librarian, bibliographer, writer, editor, project manager. When my children went to college, I returned to school as well, eventually 'emerging' as an artist who still makes layered things, this time in the form of photograph collages. After 40 years living in the Bay Area, I moved with my husband to Boise, ID (following toddler grandchildren). Inspired by the beauty of our high desert location, I am currently working on two Idaho landscape series. My collages and other work are in private and corporate collections. Patricia's work can be seen at patriciamcclung.com.

In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of Marilyn Garrison. One of our early members, she was important in the starting and running of Art and Roses, and ran the Rotunda Show for many years. She worked hard for the IWS and later she worked hard for the Nampa Art Guild.

IWS BOARD OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

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Rotunda Exhibition Bonnie Liles and Beth Trott 2022 Annual Show Scott Muscolo

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2022 Sept Workshop Chair Open- Dennis Hayzlett acting

SW Rep Cathy Anderson E Rep Les Scott SE Rep Neila Loeb North Rep Cheryl Root and Peggy Conrad. SC Rep Connie Pepper

Submissions for member news should be sent to jnahfong@gmail.com with the subject "IWS Newsletter". The newsletter goes out quarterly and the deadlines are end of third week in January, April, July and October.



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