



Waterworks

Jean Nelson Ah Fong

September, October, November 2022

From Our President:

Fall 2022

Summer is in the rearview mirror and at our last Newsletter writing, we were just beginning in-person activities for IWS. Our Capitol Rotunda show was an amazing success. We were looking forward to a robust WFWS show in Albuquerque and the opening of our annual juried show and workshop. Both of those events are now successfully behind us.

WFWS Exhibition – We can boast that 16 of our members were accepted into this prestigious regional show and Hugh Mossman, received an award for his “Angling Shapes” painting. Congratulations Hugh!

Annual IWS Exhibition – For the first time in several years, our Annual Juried Show could be seen in-person and we celebrated with a reception and awards ceremony at Boise State. Anne Abgott’s workshop was a ‘colorful’ success. Not sure whether it was our artists or Anne herself that had the most fun.

Experimental Exhibition – In an effort to keep the momentum going, we created our first (hopefully annual) digital show, entitled “Anything Goes”. The show was organized by Cherry Woodbury. Forty-three of our members stepped out of their comfort zone and painted on a different surface; with different medium; or new subject matter. Nationally acclaimed abstract artist, Ruth Armitage, from the Watercolor Society of Oregon, juried this on-line show and selected three winning works. They will be unveiled, and winners announced, at the Annual Meeting in Idaho Falls.

Annual Meeting – At this writing, the Annual Meeting and Art Talks will take place this coming weekend...September 9-10 at the Carr Gallery, in Idaho Falls. It is fun to vary the locations for our Annual Member Meetings and get to know so many talented artists from across the State. Five of our members will share their knowledge and talent in the form of Art Talks. We will tour the art museum and Japanese gardens and even do a little plein air painting on Saturday.

Prior to that meeting a separate email will be sent with the proposed budget for 2023 and any topics that need membership vote.

Strategic Planning – The day before the annual meeting, IWS will initiate a strategic planning process. A small group of members has volunteered to help us tackle topics like: Who do we want to be in 5 years? How do we identify opportunities and needs? How do we remain a relevant and vital organization for our members, and potential members. This will be a process that will take us well into next year, but if we plan carefully and creatively, IWS will remain a valuable resource for our artists. One of the benefits of our WFWS membership is the collaboration of delegates. Many arts organizations, like ours are experiencing some of the same challenges. We anticipate sharing resources and ideas with other watercolor organizations, and we will keep you posted of progress in each newsletter.

Some Plein Air Fun – We have made exciting progress with this collaborative idea. Gabriel Stockton, internationally recognized artist with the San Diego Watercolor Society (SDWS), will conduct a one-day plein air outing on Saturday, April 8, 2023. (MARK YOUR CALENDARS!). This activity will be held in conjunction with the Plein Air Painters of Idaho (PAPI). Dennis Hayzlett is taking the lead on this project. Gabriel Stockton serves as the plein air manager for SDWS; brand ambassador for Daniel Smith and he travels across the country conducting plein air workshops.

Your IWS Board is working diligently to develop opportunities and programs that you find exciting, challenging, and beneficial to your artistic goals. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Carol HasBrouck Browning

IWS President

Fibonacci Eggsperiment

Linda Aman – Aman Arts

“Be Determined Like the Weeds in My Garden”

I thought I would write a lighthearted encouragement analogy.

I have been weeding my garden and lawn. I am amazed how quickly weeds grow even when we “weed and feed” pull them and discourage them. The other day when I was out in the heat all I could think of is I need to have the determination of a weed. I often think what I want to grow does not and what I want gone appears strong and in large invasive numbers. I can feel that way about my art.

So, if I take on the strength of a weed but the beauty of a garden I can create and duplicate amazing outcomes in my art. I can repeat and grow the areas of my work. It can be beautiful, experimental, unique, and creative in my own way. I don’t have to give up when the unwanted shows up. I can get rid of or reinvent the ugly. I can keep making my art until it satisfies me with what I wanted. It is not always what others see in beauty. It is what brings me joy.

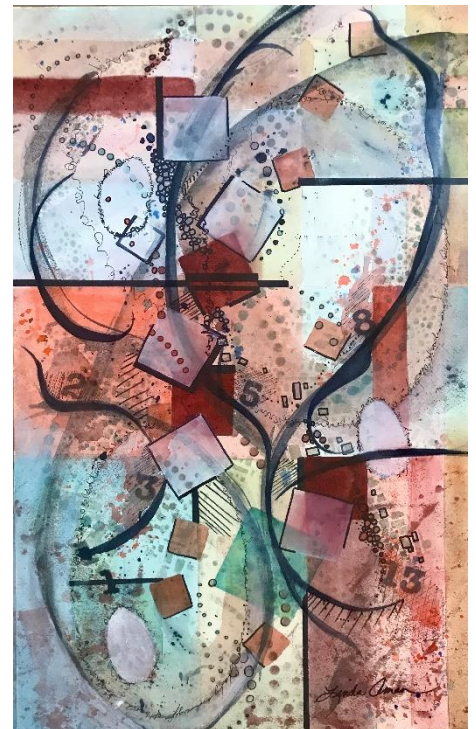
I am pleased the IWS has the show “Anything Goes”. It pushed all of us to think in a new direction. For me it started with buying chicken eggs at a farm that were colors I had never seen. Then I found more colors of chicken eggs. I used a new color pallet of natural eggshell colors. It was amazing to find how many egg colors there are. Matching the watercolors to twenty-seven of the egg colors was a good challenge for me. I made an abstract painting in watercolor using a grid and other compositions. I like my outcome and am very satisfied with what I learned. One thing I learned is how to match twenty-seven egg colors! I match up colors in watercolor for myself and my art students all the time, but not

that many in one painting. Also new for me was using a semi grid composition to work the colors and shapes to a pleasing abstract. I rarely use this style of a grid and the asemic writing in pen also helped in the harmony of the art.

I worked at taking out of the “weeds” stuff I do not like and creating something only I need to enjoy and like the art.

Be determined as a weed and try innovative ideas and enjoy the education you gain. Your one thing you learned today will go to the next ideas. Don’t let the weeds (the ugly) get in your way. Keep moving forward and enjoy the process.

Linda Aman-Aman Arts www.amanarts.com ©Linda Aman Sept. 2022



THE LOADED BRUSH



By Dwight Williams

Several IWS members have lately expressed an interest in what I have called Puddle Painting (Okay! Okay! no jokes). So, I decided to give a few details. But first a bit of how I got into this.

Years ago, the art work of David Levine got my attention. He was best known for his super cartoons of important folks. He was famous for the caricatures in *The New York Review of Books* but I discovered that his watercolors were just as good though not as well known. They depicted the people of New York working in the garment district, playing at the beaches, and many portraits.

It was the "puddling" of his paintings I thought I'd try.

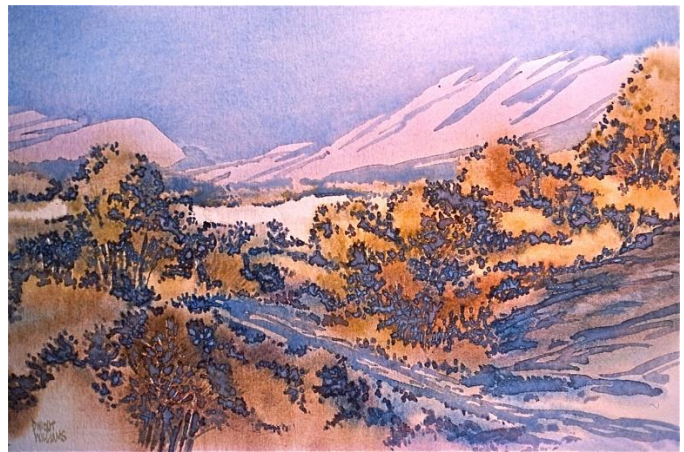
The process is the wetting of spots of paint enough so the color is carried some to the edge of the puddle, which as it dries, tends to slightly outline the puddle shape with its color. The puddles are helped on carrying color to the edge by mixing Davy's Gray with the paint or into the standing-colored puddle.

I also found that the only Davy's Gray that really works well, because of finely ground slate in the gray mix, was Winsor & Newton.

Each puddle needs to dry before you puddle on top of the previous example. The whole process needs a flat surface and takes a while to dry between layers of puddles.

I may have carried the whole idea to extremes with puddles on top of puddles again and again until the paper sizing was washed away.

Here are two Idaho scenes from my older painting days.



The two following pieces need some explaining. The first here is the sculpture of a knight high in the walls of Yorkminster, York, England. The next one is a semi-copy of a photo someone else took and thus has never left my studio in any fashion except in this article. I call him *The Septic*, with puddled face shadows and stripes on the shirt.



Regional News

IWS North Region News—August 2022

Jessica Bryant

North Region member Jessica L Bryant has earned Signature Membership with the National Watercolor Society. Her painting, *Owyhee Sunset*, was juried into this year's NWS International Exhibition. Jessica earned her signature membership in the American Watercolor Society in 2021, and Northwest Watercolor Society in 2017. The NWS is one of the top three watercolor organizations, along with AWS and the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, who have exhibited her work this summer. A panel of jurors did a portfolio review of the 40-some artists who were up for review this year, and chose just 13. "I am beyond honored, and as I'm sure you can tell, thrilled! In October I'll head to Los Angeles for the awards reception to receive my official certificate."



Two Month Show at the Chamber of Commerce, Moscow

Several members of IWS North Region, also members of the Palouse Watercolor Socius, will participate in a PWS exhibition showing from September 1-October 24. A reception will take place on October 20th as part of the opening events of the coming season of Moscow's Artwalk. IWS North Region members who have paintings in this show are: Gabriella Ball, Cathy Gottschalk, Bobbi Kelly, Ryan Law, Cheryll Root, Judy Mousseau, and Jan Vogtman.

Cheryll Root

Has a solo show scheduled from November 1-17 at Moscow Food Coop. She plans to donate 100% of any sales proceeds towards support for the Humane Society of the Palouse.

South Central News

South Central members are coming back to the Twin Falls Center for the Arts in September for our regular 2nd Tuesday meetings. Magic Valley Arts Council opens its classroom to painters each month and we look forward to getting together to explore painting techniques and share what we have been working on. In September we will be exploring color schemes and patterns for paintings. We always enjoy our time together talking art.

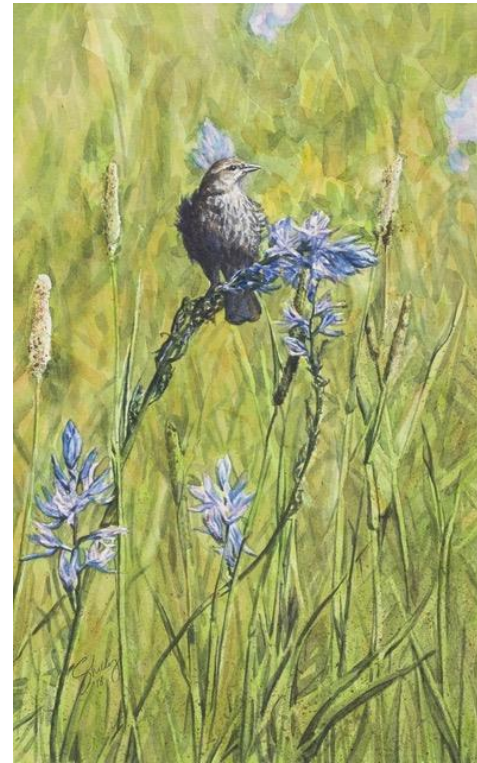
The Traveling Show was a big hit with visitors to the Lobby Gallery at Twin Falls Center of the Arts during July and August. Comments were complimentary and supportive of the amazing pieces. We thank Magic Valley Arts Council for their continued efforts to partner with IWS in hosting the Traveling Show. Our congratulations to our own Elizabeth LaRowe. It was wonderful having her piece displayed along with the other Annual Show winners!

IWS members received the top three watercolor awards in the "Art & Soul" contest here in Twin Falls, Shelly Johnson got 3rd, Anne Sorenson, 2nd, and Connie Pepper got the first place in the watercolor category.

Connie Pepper – The Take Off



Shelly Johnson – The Thrasher



Anne Watson Sorenson – Mother's Earth

East Region

Our last regional meeting was held on May 25 and Les Scott gave a mini demo on using Photoshop Elements to help with composition. The group had a great discussion on how to use *notan* to look for interesting compositions. The remainder of the meeting was spent critiquing members' paintings. We will be starting up our regular meetings again this fall after things slow down a little.

We have a regional show opening at the Willard Art Center in Idaho Falls on September 1st. Our theme for this year's show is "Here We Have Idaho". This will also include the IWS Traveling Show, and the opening is in conjunction with the monthly Gallery Walk in downtown Idaho Falls, so we are hoping for a big crowd.

We would like to welcome new members Ambria Stott, Betty Heath, Marina Zavalova, Marilyn Morgan, Pegge Steele, and Diane Hill to the East Region

Southwest Region

SW Region is having a Fall Show at the Boise Plaza building (formerly Boise Cascade) beginning Oct 3-28. This is an unjuried show, open to anyone. It's a beautiful space, and will be magnificent!

Dwight Williams and Hugh Mossman led a fabulous workshop on August 27th! They combined their efforts to show us several fun techniques which included some "fixes and tricks." We were inspired just watching them paint. We were also invigorated by Scott Muscolo's cookies and enjoyed seeing our old friends. Thank you, Dwight and Hugh!

New Member Profiles

Ingrid Freeman--Hi! I'm Ingrid Freeman and am excited to join the IWS. I was born and bred in South Africa and moved to the USA in 2003 when my husband and I were recruited because of a shortage of pharmacists. It's been an exciting journey for us and our three (now adult) kids. We moved to Boise 2 1/2 years ago and last year I decided that it was time to retire. I had no idea what I was going to do and within weeks I spotted a watercolor tutorial on Instagram. Although I had never picked up a paintbrush before, or considered myself to be even remotely artistic, I fell in love and have developed a passion for painting. All of this was during the pandemic and everything I learned was through YouTube tutorials. I've joined IWS in the hope to learn more and meet new people.



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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.



Idaho Watercolor Society
PO Box 9093
Boise ID 84707-3093

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