



# Waterworks

Jean Nelson Ah Fong – Editor

March, April, May 2023

March 2023

Fellow watercolor artists,

We are already in the third month of 2023 and IWS is again off to a busy start.

**“Thank You”** – Two of our dedicated Board volunteers have decided to hang up their spurs: Marjorie Reinecker, our correspondence secretary, and Carol Spoor, our treasurer. The talent and commitment to their responsibilities for IWS will be greatly missed. We are hoping they will continue to participate in our shows, critiques, and workshops.

IWS could not function without so many of you serving in volunteer capacities, so it is with gratitude that we welcome Dennis Hayzlett as treasurer and Jane Wilson as corresponding secretary. Thanks to you both!

**AWS** – We are exceedingly proud to announce that Jessica Bryant and Joyce Green, have both been accepted into the 156<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society. The show will be hung at the Salmagundi Club in NYC in April.

**WFWS** – In addition, eight of our talented artists have also been accepted into the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibition in Dallas: Steve Gruber, Joyce Green, Lynn McConnell, Linda Aman, Susan Snyder, Sharon Herther, Marina Zavalova, and Shelly Johnson. Congratulations and good luck to each of you.

**Rotunda Show** – Beth Trott and Bonnie Liles are creating an exciting show at our Statehouse in Boise. A viewers’ favorite award will be offered again this year and with all the publicity these ladies have put together, we will undoubtedly exceed the 460 visitors we had last year. Many thanks to all the volunteers that make this show possible.

**Joint Membership with Plein Air Painters of Idaho (PAPI)** - This joint venture is new territory for IWS and the board was pleased to see that we have over 40 members that now belong to both painting organizations. We are confident that an infusion of different techniques, fresh ideas and new faces will be a positive force for both groups.

**Plein Air Workshop** - Our first joint event will take place April 8 in Star, Idaho. We are excited to have renowned plein air painter, Gabriel Stockton, from the San Diego Watercolor Society as our instructor that day. A registration form with details of the event went out recently.

**Annual IWS Exhibition** – Because paintings from the 2022 traveling show just recently returned from the gallery in Lewiston, it seems impossible that we are well into the planning phase of the Annual Exhibition for 2023. Scott Muscolo, our exhibition chairman tells me we have over 70

entries and he is expecting many more before our deadline on March 8...less than 2 weeks away. I talked with our juror and workshop instructor, Robin Poteet, recently and she is looking forward to her first visit to Idaho. Evidently several members of the Virginia Watercolor Society grew up in Idaho and are singing the praises of the beauty of our State.

**Marketing and Promotion** – The board has heard from many of you that IWS sorely lacks appropriate promotion and marketing to make our exhibitions, workshops, and membership recruitment more effective. Nancy Inaba, our IWS Secretary and I are headed to McCall to spend the day with one of our members who is a graphic designer and marketing professional. Keep your fingers crossed!

**Experimental Exhibition Take II** – Plans have not begun for this event, as yet, but the Board heard so many positive comments about how fun it was to get out of our comfort zones that we would like to encourage experimentation through another on-line exhibition this year. Watch for more details.

**Strategic Planning** – This group is making progress toward the goals identified at our annual meeting last year and we will be sharing progress in the coming months with the intention of unveiling a 5-year plan at our Annual Meeting this year. Mark your calendar for September 15-16. Location still in progress.

Your IWS Board hopes you are as excited about the many events and programs as we are. Our goal is that you find them exciting, challenging, and beneficial to your artistic goals. We always welcome your suggestions and ideas.

Carol HasBrouck Browning

IWS President

WELCOME TO THE NEW DUAL MEMBERS!

We are very excited to be able to offer our members the opportunity to sign up for Dual Membership with the IWS and PAPI (Plein Air Painters of Idaho) membership.

PAPI is an organization dedicated to plein air (outdoor) painting that welcomes painters of all mediums. They gather regularly to paint together at various locations around the valley and are very welcoming and helpful to those of us who are new to plein air painting. They also offer a number of workshops and get-togethers throughout the year.

You can check out their page on FaceBook (Plein-AirPaintersof Idaho) or their website ([www.pleinairpaintersofidaho.com](http://www.pleinairpaintersofidaho.com)) to get more into.

Cost of the dual membership in both groups is \$70, which is a savings of \$20 if you were to pay separately.

Happy Painting!

Lynn McConnell

# THE LOADED BRUSH



**By Dwight Williams**

Years ago, when we would spend a lot of our time preparing for summer festivals and winter open houses there were often negative voices about watercolor painting. It was in the minds of some, as in older days, something for young folks to do. They thought it was only a good exercise to become socially acceptable.

It's still a great thing for people of all ages and it's more than just exercise for the genteel. It is, indeed, a serious art form for all.

But, need I tell the readers here that?

As an answer to the public who may think watercolor painting is only a workup to greater media, I want to share a comment I used to hang in my outdoor booth. It's from the London Times, April 14, 1886.

## The Great Water-Colour Controversy

The general point on which the natural feeling of the public needs confirmation against troublesome gossip is the essential quality and value of water-colour painting as a piece of polite art.

Pure old water-colour painting, on pure old paper, made of honest old rags.

There is no China painting, no glass painting, no tempera, no oil, wax, varnish or twenty-chimney-power-extract-of-everything painting which can compare with the quiet and tender virtue of water-colour in its proper use and place.

Properly taken care of, as a well-educated person takes also of books and furniture, a water-colour is safe for centuries; out of direct sunlight it will show no failing on your room-wall till you need it no more.

## John Ruskin

In a letter to the Times of London  
April 14, 1886

*This is good thinking about the general work of watercolor, but I wonder about the "quiet and tender" part. Sometimes if things are going well the burst of energy is anything but quiet and tender around my studio. To me, it's often the gamble of what happens beyond mere careful control that keeps me going.*

# Why Abstract?

Linda Aman

Abstract art has always been a mystery to me. Some pieces speak to me, while others seem like a jumbled mess. However, over the years, I've realized that the mystery of abstract is not so mysterious for what I want to try in my own art. Recently, I have been creating more abstract pieces, and I've discovered in creating my abstractions, I am "playing" and experimenting with purpose and intentional design. My process involves planning, thinking, and a lot of researching to get me to the painting surface with more information. (I average about 80-100 paintings a year to keep me growing).

During the Covid lockdowns, I noticed that I was selling more of my abstract pieces. Many of my clients wanted something different in their home or behind them during Zoom meetings. Customers would often ask me why they were buying my abstract art when they typically don't like abstracts. I shared with them how they could find something to follow and be comfortable with the colors, design, hidden compositions, or the emotions my pieces conveyed. I explained to them that my art had pathways and used elements and principles of composition in new and fascinating ways.

For me, the mystery of abstract is continuing, but my clues are growing. Using good design, elements and principles presented in new inventive ways and helping the viewer find the area I want them to land on. Whether it is in my realism painting or abstractions, the variety of work keeps me motivated and improves all my artwork.

I am on a journey, not a race, and I am slowly but steadily getting to my destination, which I have the rest of my life to strive toward.

Keep painting and experimenting.

Thank you for being on the journey with me in our art.

**What article would you like next?**

**An article about "How to get or keep motivated? or Artist Journey?"**

**Email me. [linda@amanarts.com](mailto:linda@amanarts.com)**

**Linda Aman-Aman Arts ©Mar 2023**



***Strategic Chaos in WFWS 2023***

## *Regional News*

### **IWS North Region News—March 2023**

Cheryll Root passed along this information from one of Jessica Bryant's recent newsletters.

My work is in the current issue of PleinAir Magazine (February/March), part of an article about outdoor ethics for painters. Last summer, when I was interviewed for a feature that was published last fall, I got into a conversation with the author about responsible recreation and the impact artists can have on the outdoors. He was interested in writing on the topic, so I gave him recommendations of other artists and resource experts to talk to. It was a pleasant surprise to see the article this month, which also features quotes by another artist I've long admired and a good friend of mine who's a resource expert.

Next month is Western Art Week in Great Falls, MT. I will have work in the March in Montana auction, at the Coeur d'Alene Galleries room (in the Elk's Lodge), and I'll have a booth at the Best of the West show in the EXPO center. If you love art, and enjoy travel, I highly recommend spending a few days in Great Falls to take it all in. There are so very many shows and events to see, plus other things in town from antiquing to a visit to the Charlie Russell Museum. Events run March 16-19.

### **South Central News**

South Central IWS members are a diverse group with members in Twin Falls, Jerome, Buhl, Burley, Wendell, Hailey, Sun Valley, and Red Lodge, Mt. We are spread out, but have a regular monthly meeting date to get together to paint as well as share current paintings in progress, art questions, critiques, and laughs. Since we are so spread out, not all members can make it each month to our meetings. To help stay connected, painting info, ideas and challenges for paintings as well as internet links for at home activities are sent out each month. For those who can attend, the monthly meetings help to spark painting energy. In February, our focus was the color red, and we also spent some time viewing the new show in the Full Moon Gallery. The Gallery has changed to an open gallery where anyone can apply to be in the show, and it brought in a wide variety of work by new artists for us to study and enjoy. At our March meeting we will be trying techniques and ideas for abstract painting options using watercolor. You are welcome to join us anytime!

### **IWS East Region**

We held a regional meeting in December where we conducted an interactive discussion/demonstration on some of the various techniques for adding texture with watercolor paint. I think one of the big surprises was on how to use a mouth atomizer to apply paint. We only made a very small a mess in Linda Aman's studio demonstrating this. Our next regional meeting is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> and our main topic of discussion will be on "granulation".

Currently our region has 24 paintings on display in the administration building at the College of Eastern Idaho in Idaho Falls. This exhibit will be on display until February 28. After this our next big regional exhibit will be at The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho (TAM) which will run from May 4<sup>th</sup> through June 24<sup>th</sup>. This is great timing for our show at TAM since it coincides with the North American Brewers Association Beer Festival which contributes to several local non-profit organizations including TAM.

Between Beer Fest support and the start of the Idaho Falls Gallery Walk this show will get a lot of visitors.

Congratulations to the following regional members who have been accepted into juried exhibits so far this year:

Name	Juried Exhibit
Linda Aman	Western Federation Watercolor Societies 48 <sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition
Linda Aman	Idaho Falls Arts Council 2023 Annual National Juried Exhibition
Carma Hobbs	Idaho Falls Arts Council 2023 Annual National Juried Exhibition
Min Puno	Idaho Falls Arts Council 2023 Annual National Juried Exhibition
Les Scott	Idaho Falls Arts Council 2023 Annual National Juried Exhibition
Susan Snyder	Western Federation Watercolor Societies 48 <sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition
Marina Zavalova	Western Federation Watercolor Societies 48 <sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition

Here's news about Gloria Miller Allen.

First, she's been accepted to be artist in residence in Capitol Reef National Park next autumn. From mid Sept to mid Oct.

Secondly, she's been asked to serve as alternate judge for the NWS this spring for the international show. She has judged National shows before, but not for NWS. It was an honor for her and our club that she be asked!

## 2023 Rotunda

The Idaho Watercolor Society is proud to announce the 39th Annual Capitol Rotunda Art Show will be returning this Spring! Beginning at 2pm on March 4th and hanging until March 17th, the show will be free and available for the public to view during normal Capitol Building hours. IWS Member's watercolor paintings will be displayed in the Rotunda on the 4th floor of the Idaho State Capitol Building, located in downtown Boise.

Visitors will enjoy over 70 different paintings, seeing a wide variety of ways in which watercolor can be used. Attendees will even get to vote on their favorite painting for the Visitors Choice Award, whose winner receives a cash award!

On March 11th (11am - 2pm) come meet and speak with many of the artists participating in the exhibition, plus enjoy some light refreshments at the Artists' Reception. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the beautiful paintings, created by Idaho artists, on display in this historic location.

More news in the next newsletter!

**The Idaho Watercolor Society Presents:**

***The 39th Annual Capitol Rotunda Art Show***



**March 4 - 17, 2023**  
4th Floor Capitol Rotunda, Downtown Boise  
**FREE and Open to the Public**

Paintings (Left to Right): Paula Guth, Susan Snyder and Lynn McConnell - [www.idahowatercolorssociety.org](http://www.idahowatercolorssociety.org)

## Annual IWS Workshop

There are still a few openings in the Annual Workshop taught by Robin Poteet, <https://www.robinpoteet.com/>, our State Exhibition juror. It will be held at Eagle Hills Church from May 31<sup>st</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 until 4 each day. The cost is \$599 and includes lunch. Email Susan Kluksdal at [gskluksdal@gmail.com](mailto:gskluksdal@gmail.com) to join the workshop or ask questions.

Send this form to Susan Kluksdal *after email entry confirmation*.

Check # made out to IWS \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to volunteer for: Set up at 4 pm Tuesday afternoon the 30<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Making Coffee \_\_\_\_\_ Take down and clean up \_\_\_\_\_

Projector expert \_\_\_\_\_

## Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS)

For over a decade, membership in WFWS has offered all IWS artists the opportunity to enter their artwork in a larger forum than our own annual juried show. This gives our members the experience of competing in a larger venue and one that provides a stepping stone to national level exhibitions. The response from IWS artists has been noteworthy and many have achieved regional level awards and WFWS signature status.

For the past 10 years I have been actively involved as either delegate or alternate delegate to WFWS and have had the chance to participate in exhibition preparation and management in all of the different state society venues. It has been a fascinating and rewarding learning experience. In 2020, Anne Sorensen and Pam Grant, along with dozens of hardworking volunteers, planned, coordinated and delivered a beautiful and successful show despite obstacles that arose from the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2030, it will once again be our turn to host the annual exhibition here in Idaho.

With 2030 just a few years away, it is time for new leadership to emerge from the ranks of IWS members and begin the planning for our next exhibition. The first step in developing our exhibition leadership group is for new people to take over as delegate and alternate delegate for IWS. It is time for my stint as delegate to come to end and we currently do not have an alternate delegate to take over the responsibility. I am asking those of you who have enjoyed our membership in Western Fed to step forward to ensure that IWS members will continue to have this opportunity in the future. There is plenty of time for new volunteers to learn the ins and outs of WFWS exhibitions before our next hosting experience. I will stay on for a year as advisor to the new delegates to make sure they fully understand and are comfortable with all WFWS activities and processes.

If you are interested in participating in this gratifying activity, please send me or Carol Browning a note. I will be glad to talk with anyone considering this position to discuss the requirements of the job in more detail.

Thank you,

Dennis Hayzlett

## Important dates:

March 8 Deadline for entry into Idaho State Juried Exhibition  
March 11 Rotunda reception  
March 18 Rotunda take down  
April 8 Plein Aire Workshop  
April 19 Notification of juror's selection  
May 31 – June 3 State Workshop  
June 2 Critique/Awards Ceremony  
June 23 Show take down

### IWS BOARD OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President Carol HasBrouck Browning  
Vice President Don Belts  
Past President Dennis Hayzlett  
Treasurer Dennis Hayzlett  
Recording Secretary Nancy Inaba  
WFWS Delegate Dennis Hayzlett  
Corresponding Secretary Jane Wilson  
Membership Chair Lynn McConnell  
Statewide Communication Chair Renee Galligher

Southwest Email Chair Karyn deKramer  
Historical Advisor Dwight Williams  
Website and Social Media Dennis Hayzlett/Renee Galligher/Jane Shimon/Katie Harris  
Graphic Designer Open position  
Rotunda Exhibition Bonnie Liles and Beth Trott 2022  
Annual Show Scott Muscolo  
Travelling show Coordinator Teresa Wade  
SW Rep Cathy Anderson: E Rep Les Scott and Michele Johnson: SE Rep Neila Loeb and Barbara North: North Rep Cheryll Root: SC Rep Connie Pepper

**Submissions for member news should be sent to [jnahfong@gmail.com](mailto:jnahfong@gmail.com) with the subject "IWS Newsletter". The newsletter goes out quarterly and the deadlines are end of third week in**