



Waterworks

Jean Nelson Ah Fong

September, October, November 2023

From Our President:

What a summer this has been for IWS and September is even busier.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION - Scott Muscolo and his volunteers put on a great annual exhibition at Initial Point Gallery in Meridian. We asked Robin Poteet, our juror this year, to make selections based on the **best** paintings submitted. Jurors will sometimes try to create a “balanced” show...some landscapes, some portraits, some abstracts, etc. We also gave her latitude to select up to 55 paintings. She felt the 53 selected were the best of the best. Based on comments from visitors to the show both in Meridian and Twin Falls, Scott and his team feel that Robin Poteet’s selections made for a great show. It took numerous volunteers to pull off such an exceptional exhibition and traveling show. Thanks to you all.

SNEAK PEEK FOR NEXT YEAR - Speaking of IWS Annual Exhibitions, we have contracts for jurors for both 2024 and 2025. Next year Chris Stubbs, portrait and animal artist from Oregon will be our juror and workshop instructor. In 2025 we have a contract with Kathleen Giles of Niagara, New York. We have also negotiated exhibition space with the Riverside Hotel in Garden City for both years. Scott will have the prospectus ready to distribute in December. One of the benefits of exhibiting at the Riverside, is that they have more space than in other venues, wonderful foot traffic and want our paintings on exhibition for 2 months, so we will open in early May and as usual, take the show down the end of June.

ANNUAL MEETING - By the time this newsletter gets to you, many of us will be packing for our annual meeting at Tamarack Resort, near Donnelly, ID. As we already told you, there will be a seminar on Friday titled “The Business of Art”, led by Anne Sorenson, Nelli Garibayn and Dave Galligher. Saturday will include a plein air paint out, led by Larry Boyd; a landscape workshop taught by Jack Dykstra and of course our annual banquet and business meeting. You have been sent several emails with documents to vote on: A ballot for board member elections; a revised policy manual; a proposal for a member scholarship project; and several options for an IWS logo update. Yet to come this week will be the proposed budget for 2024. Please take time to review these documents and vote your preferences.

At the end of September, I will have served as your president for 2 years. Don’t think I have enjoyed anything as much as getting to know, and working with, so many of you. Thank you for your ideas, creativity, and support. You all make me proud to be part of IWS.

Carol HasBrouck Browning

IWS President

“Compelled to Compare”

Exploring My Art in Relation to Other Fine Art

I do art almost every day. Whether I am painting, teaching, preparing, or immersing myself in study, my connection to art is continual.

Lately I have been painting steadily and producing a lot of new venues of art in series that are distinct from my previous works. A major reason is my passion to be Compelled to Compare.

For me it is the study of the past work of Master Artists in history as well as what is current today. As I study, I look for the “Things I Love” in their work and why it was successful.

I use my understanding of composition, elements, and principles to discover why I think their work became famous, popular, engaging and communicates well with the viewer.

Years of viewing and creating art have compelled me forward. I am now more intentional in how I use those studies to put into practice my personal art and expression.

I am excited about where my art is going. Also, accepting that not everyone will understand my new art or enjoy it.

I am on a personal journey to have my art stand out as unique “Linda Aman” work that is new and fresh. I will always continue my more realistic art of florals etc. But the abstract has caught my interest to go to a deeper understanding of what I love and want to express with emotion.

My method is to Compare my thoughts using the Compelling art I find of other artists. My ideas are never a copy of their work. But more of a comparison of methods, use of composition, elements of line, shape, value, to add into my own style and expressions. I am very intentional and yet find a large freedom to “play” invent and resolve as I go along the process.

One of the rewards has been getting into shows and sales that are in the brand-new series.

5 Tips for Comparing your work to another artist.

1. **Study and Research:** Familiarize yourself with artists you enjoy, current, and Masters of the past. Visit fine art shows, museums, and galleries. Define what you love.
2. **Style and Techniques:** Study style, their techniques, materials, use of color, compositions, overall expressions. Ponder how your art could improve using these thoughts in your personal way.
3. **Subjects and Content:** Did the artists you are studying have similar themes, subjects, visual impact as you strive to have? Think of a series to accomplish your goal.
4. **Impact and Innovation:** Did the artist challenge the norm or contribute to the growth of their medium. Did the artist contribute to the world around them?
5. **Personal Voice and Expression.** Seek similar approaches of emotional influence, self-expressions evident in their art.

Conclusion:

This is a short article of the ways I use my study to enhance and develop my art to a new level. I hope this inspired you to go deeper with your exploration. Discover your personal thoughts to improve your art and keep having an excitement to the next blank surface in front of you.

Linda Aman – Aman Arts linda@amanart.com for comments

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PS. If you find this article inspirational, please email me.



THE LOADED BRUSH



By Hugh Mossman

ORIGINAL ART?

Recently I submitted a question to an art web page concerning what constitutes original art. I posted a photo of my watercolor and another watercolor from a well-known artist whom I admire, Eugen

Chisnicean. I indicated that I was inspired by Eugen's use of color and had I not seen his watercolor, I would not have painted mine. The responses to my post were interesting, so I am repeating the exercise here.

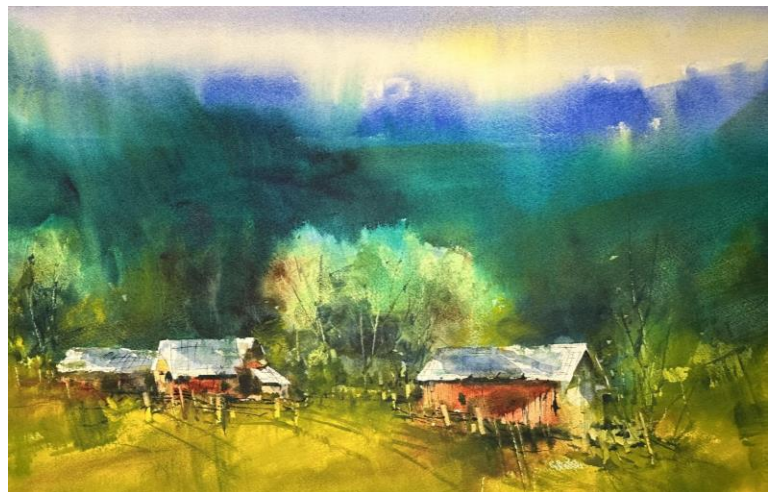


The first watercolor is Chisnicean's and the second one is mine. I changed the composition, values and subject somewhat, but tried (without too much success) to replicate the colors. Clearly, I was inspired to paint by his work, but tried to put my own spin on it. Most responses to my post stated my work was original, although it was a derivative work. The consensus seemed to be that many subjects, color

schemes, and compositions of famous artists have been the inspiration for other artists over time. How many vase/floral or old barn paintings have you seen? As long as you are using your own imagination and judgement to create and not merely copy, most people felt the result is original, even though derived or inspired by another. There were some, however, who believed that a truly original piece would not be inspired by another artist's work.

Copyright infringement cases allow the "fair use" of another's work and declare that ideas are not protected by copyright. The "substantial similarity" test is used to determine if a work is unique enough to be an original. It is somewhat like the legal test for pornography, it cannot be precisely defined but, "you know it when you see it".

It is worth pointing out, however, that some organizations require photo references be your own and work from a workshop or in collaboration with others not be submitted for art exhibitions. Certainly there is nothing wrong with trying to copy another's work purely for a learning exercise, but to try to sell, publish or represent the work as yours is not OK. The very nature of art should be to express your own individuality, reflecting your views of the world in your unique style. That form of expression is both fun more interesting to others.



Regional News – Fall 2023

SOUTH CENTRAL NEWS

Connie Pepper

It has been a busy summer and our group is ready to start up our usual meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

During this kick-off session in September, we will be making art of many kinds, but our introductory focus will be on skills learned by a few IWS artists in a recent urban sketcher workshop. Sharing painting with pen and ink with a dash of watercolor in a sketchbook will be the topic. We will be exploring how to get darks into the focal point and shadows and enhancing those darks and shapes with color.

There will be some time spent on drawing quick figures in a painting, and also how to capture vignettes when you have only a small amount of time.

At upcoming sessions our group will meet to share painting adventures and ways of working. The group is a good sounding board for those who are wanting some help or critique. We meet at the Twin Falls Center for the Arts. Come join us if you are in TF on a 2nd Tuesday!

My husband (Mike Pepper) and I have two shows which feature Fish and Flowers. Idaho Art Gallery in Meridian and the Full Moon Gallery in Twin Falls.



IWS EAST REGION NEWS

Les Scott

I must confess that I have been remiss in my duties this summer. Our summers are fast and furious and this summer has been no exception. That said, as we move into the Fall, I am starting to work on some activities for our regional meetings which I intend to start up again in September. Our regional show at The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho finished up on August 12th, and our next regional show will be with the Idaho Falls Arts Council and held in the Willard Gallery opening on November 9th. For this year's show we decided to go with a themed show called "Nostalgia" and use old photographs as inspiration for our paintings. Something new for the show this year will be several awards including "People's Choice," "Curator's Choice" and "Sponsors Choice." I worked with a local trophy shop and together we have come up with some great plaques for the awards.

IWS NORTH REGION MEMBERS' NEWS

Cheryll Root

JESSICA BRYANT

Jessica will be teaching an online workshop for Terracotta on Thursday, September 7 at 9am. It will run 2-3 hours. Participants who sign up through this link will get lifetime access to the recording. https://terracotta.art/explorer_workshop/terracotta-watercolor-watercolor-explorer-program-63

She has new work in the annual Miniatures by the Lake exhibit at Coeur d'Alene Galleries. Reception and fixed price draw will be on Saturday, September 23, 6-8pm.

Jessica's painting, St. Joe River Near Tumbledown Creek, was awarded 3rd place in International Artist Magazine's competition.



PRISCILLA PATTERSON

Accepted Paintings:

- Telling Stories has been accepted into the Bosque Classic in Clifton, Texas.



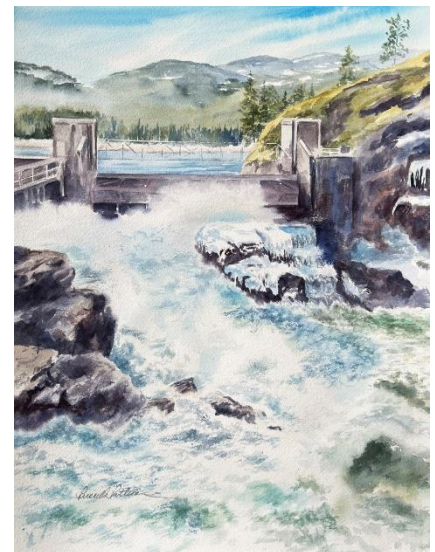
- "Next In Line" has been accepted into the Montana Watercolor Society's 2023 Watermedia Exhibition next month.



- "Fokker DR-1" will be going to the American Society of Aviation Artists exhibition at the Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson. That show will run from October 6 through the end of January, 2024. Priscilla will be doing a presentation on drawing facial features at the Forum there in October.



- Channel "North Dam" was accepted into Fusion Arts' 8th Annual Waterscapes online show.



JACKIE ZUMALT

Jackie's painting, "Sunning," received Honorable Mention at this year's Idaho Watercolor Society juried members' exhibition. She received an award from Art Chowder Magazine, which will feature an image of the painting and information about Jackie in an announcement to appear in the September issue of the magazine.

CONGRATULATES

ART CHOWDER
ARTS + CULTURE MAGAZINE

JACKIE ZUMALT
NWWS, IWS

Prize Winner



Jackie received this recognition as an Art Chowder Magazine prize for her painting "Sunning" at The 43rd Annual Idaho Watercolor Society Juried Membership Exhibition

This honorable mention prize winning piece was inspired by how the sun enhanced the colors of Jackie's plant as it was soaking up the sun. It is completed in Jackie's favorite medium, watercolor on Artistic + Fabriano soft paper. Jackie appreciates how it allows her to layer multiple washes to get the colors and values and luminosity that she's looking for. "My intention while I am painting is to bring my inward experience out into the light."

Jackie has lived on the Camas Prairie since moving there in 1994. She works from her home studio in Grangeville. She has an AA from Shasta College, Redding, CA and a BA in Arts and teaching credential K-12 from CA State University at Sacramento. She has been a Signature Member of the Northwest Watercolor Society since 2009 and the Idaho Watercolor Society since 2015 and has participated in local, regional, national, and international art shows.

Jackie Zumalt
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art viewed at
www.salmonriverartguild.com

IWS NORTH REGION MEMBERS SHOW, Moscow Contemporary Gallery
 Ten members of IWS' North Region will be showing their work at the Moscow Contemporary Gallery (Moscow, ID) from 8/28-9/28. This show runs concurrently to the IWS Traveling Show at the 1912 Center in Moscow. To see the list of participating artists and images of their work visit:
<https://www.moscowcontemporary.org>

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Rep Cheryll Root: 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 February, May, August, and November

