

# Waterworks

Editor Jean Nelson Ah Fong

Winter Edition 2023-2024

## **From Our President:**

Happy Holidays to all of you. 2023 was certainly an active IWS year. I hope each of you felt we provided value for your IWS and joint IWS/PAPI membership and that you are excited about your work and new skills you acquired. The board has had a lot of positive comments.

We have more exciting activities planned for 2024 as well.

RECENT PAST - For those of you who were not able to attend the annual meeting, it was a good one. We had a great landscape workshop by Jack Dykstra; a plein air paint-out in the ghost town of Roseberry, led by Hugh Mossman; an art display and sale both days; and something new...a workshop on "The Business of Art". Friday afternoon was full of amazing tips and ideas garnered from our three speakers. A special thank you goes to our presenters, Anne Sorenson, Nelli Garibayn, and Dave Galligher. As a result, we have tentative plans to dig a little deeper on the business side of art with a 1-day workshop on writing artist statements, details on using Instagram and developing your own websites. Watch for more news coming soon. From what I have heard the traveling show and associated regional workshops have been well-received and well attended. Our first small format show "Color in Motion" in Eagle, was a fun one and gallery owner, Meg Glasgow told me it was the best show she had hung all year. Dave Earnest of Boise, took home the top award. That show was followed shortly by a regional show at the First Presbyterian Church, downtown Boise. The focus was fine music and art.

Carol HasBrouck Browning

IWS President

## Gifts of Gratitude Through Art – Linda Aman- Aman Arts

As the year draws to a close, I find myself contemplating how to bless others naturally, showing gratitude and thanks.

To me gratitude is the quality of being thankful and ready to show appreciation and kindness to others. Our art is not just a product of our creativity; it's a vessel for blessing others.

Creating art is a gift that can touch hearts, evoke empathy, comfort, inspire change, and give peace of mind. Our art can also give excitement, renew energy, encourage self-expression, uplift spirit, and cultivate new ideas. In times of turmoil, uncertainty, loss, or concern, art can provide visual calm and solace.

Here are a few thoughts on how we as artists can brighten someone's day or give a gesture of how we appreciate them.

1. Create some small works of art you can give to neighbors, friends, colleagues etc.
2. Make extra art to give to strangers you see who could use encouragement. (Personally, I keep tiny art in my purse to share with adults and fun stickers for well-behaving children I encounter in stores.)
3. Share stories about your art to engage, entertain, and enlighten them about the purpose of your art.
4. Motivate others to be creative in their own gifting, art, writing, music, baking etc. Help them discover their talents.
5. Donate a painting to a place you are passionate about, like a hospital, community center or organization. My favorite donations are the ones I choose personally.
6. Take your viewer through the gift of a journey. It can be by subject, emotion, color, world travel. Use composition to make pathways, holding them in their journey longer.
7. Support education, donate your extra art supplies to a school. I always find an art teacher or someone in the school I can visit with to be sure the supplies will benefit the students.
8. Remember to encourage and compliment our artists in IWS and other organizations fostering encouragement and support.
9. Express genuine feeling in your paintings, it will resonate with someone.
10. Incorporate uplifting quotes- to refresh hope and joy in your work.

Embrace your gift with intentionality and continuously reflect on the impact of your art. Adapt your approach, cultivate your style, and grow as an artist. This ongoing self-improvement ensures that your art continues to bless and inspire others in meaningful ways.

I am very thankful and grateful for the avenue of creating art. It's my "Mini vacation" and stirs new inspiration. I am so grateful my art can bless others, and that your art impacts others too!

Blessings,

Linda

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## **Save the Date**

We are very excited about our upcoming State Workshop which runs from Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>. Many of our 2023 attendees expressed a desire for a shorter, more affordable workshop, so we have changed from 4 day to 3 day. The workshop will run from 9 am until 4 pm with a 90-minute lunch break. It will be held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise and lunches will be provided. Our workshop presenter (and show juror) is Mrs. Chris Stubbs. Carol has taken a workshop from her, and returned very excited about the experience! She has several specialties. We are planning to send a survey to our membership to ascertain your preferences for her theme. We are not ready for signups yet, but hope you will make your calendars!

## THE LOADED BRUSH



**By Hugh Mossman**

Are You Losing an Edge?

Are you losing an edge in your watercolors? If not, you may be missing an opportunity to make your paintings more interesting.

Many leading art instructors believe that some combination of “lost and found” edges in paintings is something we should strive for. As you know, a lost edge is one that seems to disappear, while a hard edge creates a sharp contrast. In watercolor most lost edges are created on a wet or damp surface or by a lifting process using a sponge or damp tissue. A “found” or hard edge is usually done on dry paper with a contrast in value or color.

The appeal of a lost edge is to add conflict or contrast to your hard edges thereby creating interest. If all edges are the same your painting may be harmonious, but too monotonous. I think some mix or balance with edges is preferable.

We all sometimes fall victim to the practice of trying to achieve reality by including every detail of our subject. Leaving out a few edges is an excellent way to avoid this trap. Leaving something to the imagination of your viewer is more intriguing, and sometimes adds to the reality of the viewer by allowing them to complete the story you are creating. Watercolor is a medium that lends itself to soft transitions where shapes seem to melt into each other and we should take advantage of that.

To demonstrate, I experimented with two paintings of the same subject.

One has predominantly hard edges and the other mostly lost edges. While some may prefer the hard edge version, I hope you can see the benefit of trying to add lost edges to your watercolors.

Happy Holidays and don't lose your edge!



### WFWS News

This in from Shelley Johnson, our WFWS Representative: 35 IWS members entered a total of 87 paintings into WFWS49. This is the most entries from IWS since we hosted in 2020. There were a total of 875 entries from 375 artists from the 10 societies that participate in WFWS. The next big date is 12/13/2023 when we find out which paintings are accepted. Good luck to all who entered!

## Regional News – Fall 2023

### SOUTH CENTRAL NEWS

Connie Pepper

Our South Central Group needed a painting boost. So, a challenge was thrown out. Show up with TWENTY “smalls” painted in a month and bring them to the next meeting to show! And they did! Our November meeting was full of wonderful “smalls”, excitement and compliments.

The guidelines for this adventure were set-up for success. Here are the guidelines we used: Pick a personal theme or series to paint, gather reference materials, decide on paper/support size or format (and prepare 20 pieces, pick a medium and have it ready to go, schedule a time of day that works, have a place set up to sit down each day and work, and paint 20 small paintings based on your theme. With the guidelines in place, our members took the challenge, painted away, and told me that the challenge got them painting! They were feeling good about the process, and felt they had made progress. At our November meeting, we all laid out our paintings to share. The results were so positive and diverse! Paintings were done on paper, aquaboard, and in sketchbooks. The varied approaches were a highlight and resulted in many discussions to learn about techniques and materials. We shared praise, encouragement, and a commitment to do more! The challenge was met!

For our December meeting, we will have our annual holiday celebration. We will get together to paint, have a small painting exchange, a potluck lunch, and lots of cheer. I suspect some of the “smalls” will be part of the exchange! Happy Holidays to all!



## IWS EAST REGION NEWS

### Les Scott

#### East Region News – Winter 2023

Currently we are having our regional show hosted by the Idaho Falls Arts Council at the Willard Art Center in Idaho Falls. The IFAC sponsored an opening reception with snacks and beverages on November 16th. Our theme for this year's show was "Nostalgia" where members were encouraged to use old photographs as inspiration for their paintings. We had a great turnout this year with 41 paintings on display and I would like to congratulate the following award winners.

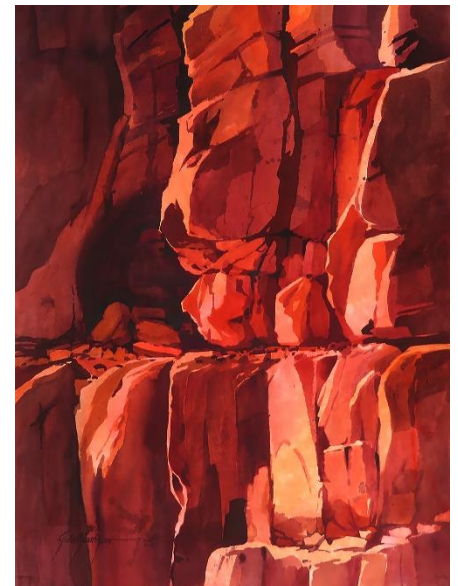
- *Curator's Choice Award* went to **Jean Thurmond** for "Sam, Glacier NP Guide," August 1927.
- *Sponsor's Choice Award* went to **Brad Schulze** for "Depression Era Mood"
- *Sponsor's Choice Award* went to **Gloria Miller Allen** for "JEB and the Pioneer"

We still have a People's Choice Award which will be announced on December 12<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to stop by the Willard Art Center and vote for your favorite.

Our current show also includes the IWS Annual Traveling Show which has been a great success. The last chance to see the Annual Traveling show will be on December 9th and then our Featured Artist's show will go up in its place from December 12<sup>th</sup> through January 9<sup>th</sup>. Our featured artist this year is Susan Snyder who is an extremely talented artist with a variety of work so this should be a great show.

We held 2 regional meeting this last quarter the later of which was a planning meeting for 2024 where we focused on what the artists would like to see as far as demos, workshops, and shows from the region in the coming year.

- Gloria Miller Allen has been asked to serve as alternate juror of selection and also signature review (selecting new signature members) for the National Watercolor Society's International Exhibition in 2025. Here is one of her latest creations:



Les Scott – East Region Director

## SOUTHEAST REGION

### Neila Loeb

We were fortunate to host Hugh Mossman for a most refreshing and informative workshop this month. Judging by the response of our members we will welcome him back in the future.

We are looking forward to our regional show at the Pocatello Art Center in January/February with the theme of “weather” and all that encompasses.

This spring we will host Gloria Miller Allen for a book making workshop, and our own Yidan Guo for a series of in-depth studies in making watercolor from the basics. It should be an exciting spring.



Wishing all of you Happy Holidays from Pocatello!



## *IWS Social Media Group*

The Idaho Watercolor Society has a new Social Media group. Our goal is to bring more exposure to IWS through Instagram and Facebook.

The team consists of Janet Murphy, Katie Harris, and Renee Galligher, with Janet Murphy focusing on Instagram (IG), posting workshops, events and the monthly Zoom Analysis led by Nadine Hergenrider and the in-person critiques led by Scott Muscolo. Katie Harris is concentrating on Facebook (FB) posting PAPI events along with her personal painting tips and tricks. Renee Galligher will oversee the group. We're here to post information on behalf of the regional coordinators as requested. We will also publish new member highlights including any member's exhibits. Please be aware to protect your images, as we post them on IG or FB, we will post the following: All images are the property of the artists and protected by © copyright. All rights reserved. No image can be used without the written permission of the artist. The team we have is extremely talented and ready to post your information. Please contact me with any information you would like posted by emailing me at [reneegalligher@gmail.com](mailto:reneegalligher@gmail.com) and I will pass the information on to either Janet or Katie.

### **New Member Profiles**

Welcome to two new members!

#### **Meredith Bobb**

Hi, I'm Meredith Bobb and I'm originally from the Philadelphia area and moved to Idaho Falls with my husband in 2008. The last few years I've been mostly painting with high flow acrylics on a variety of surfaces. This year I had solo shows at The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho and the Willard Arts Center, so it has been an exciting year for me. Now that my twins are eleven, I've been able to pursue my art more regularly, although it's still tricky to have to stop painting and go cook dinner. I'm curious to see how my imagery working with bones forms and other organic shapes will translate into watercolors. Thank you for welcoming me into the Idaho Watercolor Society, I look forward to meeting other artists throughout the state.



## Dianne Nevarez-Vitar

Hello everyone, my name is Dianne Nevarez-Vitar and my background is in biology, education and languages but art has been one of my lifelong passions. I am originally from New York but grew up in Puerto Rico. There I was exposed to the magic of colorful landscapes, nature and animals and started drawing and painting as a hobby. Along with anatomy, zoology and microbiology courses, I took my electives in drawing and painting. It has been a passion and a hobby drawing and painting in oil for the most part.

Now, after I retired and moved to Idaho, I decided IWS to develop my skills in watercolor painting. I understand it is a non-forgiving medium but I love its fluidity and transparency. Recently, I traveled to France and had the opportunity to paint along Urban Sketchers artists in Paris, Lyon, and Nice and was able to use watercolor and ink. I've included some quick sketches. I am looking forward to participating in IWS and meeting fellow artists.

Note: The portrait was done two years ago and the sketches this past September.





# Call to Artists

Idaho Watercolor Society's  
**40th Annual  
Capitol Rotunda Art Show**  
March 2 - 15, 2024



*Entry Deadline:*  
**February 19, 2024**

More information at  
[Idahowatercolorsociety.org/  
exhibitions](https://idahowatercolorsociety.org/exhibitions)

**2023 Award Winning Artists** - Paula Guth (Center) and Priscilla Patterson (Right)

## Join the Celebration: Call to Artists for the 40th Annual Capitol Rotunda Art Show!

Excitement is brewing as we announce the "Call to Artists" for the 40th Annual Capitol Rotunda Art Show! This landmark year promises to be a celebration of creativity and legacy, and we invite all of our IWS Members from every region of the state to participate. We can't wait to see what inspiration you will bring for such a significant anniversary!

### Event Details:

- Show Dates: Saturday, March 2, 2024 (2 pm) - Friday, March 15, 2024
- Artists' Reception: Saturday, March 9, 2024 - 11 am - 2 pm • *Please note that the Capitol Building is CLOSED on Sundays*

This year, we're streamlining the registration process through ArtCall, making image submission and payment a breeze for everyone! Visit our website's "Exhibitions" page or directly access the prospectus and enter your work at [www.idahowatercolorsociety.org/exhibitions](https://www.idahowatercolorsociety.org/exhibitions). No more postal service hassles— all payments and entry submissions are conveniently handled through ArtCall.

**Membership Reminder:** Ensure your IWS 2024 dues are paid before submitting your entry. If you haven't already, sign up or renew your membership at <https://www.idahowatercolorsociety.org/join/> to qualify for participation.

### Important Deadlines:

- Entry Deadline: February 19, 2024
- Limited Space: Only 75 paintings will be accepted so *if we reach our limit, registration may close before the deadline*. Don't wait to get signed up! You do not need to submit your painting information to ArtCall until the deadline, but you CAN secure your spot in the show by registering early!

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of this extraordinary legacy by submitting your artwork and volunteering to help with setting up, taking down, hosting and promoting the exhibition. Your unique voice matters, and we encourage you to register early, secure your spot, and let your creativity shine at the 40th Annual Capitol Rotunda Art Show!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Beth Trott at 443.824.0624 (call or text) or at [bethtrott@gmail.com](mailto:bethtrott@gmail.com).

*Beth Trott and Bonnie Liles are the 40th Annual Capitol Rotunda Art Show Chairpersons*

## IWS Board and Chairs

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WFWS Delegate: Shelly Johnson

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