



Editor Jean Nelson Ah Fong

Spring Edition 2024

### **From Our President:**

As I write this, the door to the backyard is open and a plethora of sparrows and wrens are raising a ruckus. Such wonderful first signs of spring.

Again, 2024 will be packed with opportunities:

- The always popular, Rotunda Show is at the Statehouse in March
- A Spring workshop at the Riverside Hotel in Garden City happens April 5-6 (sold out – waiting list)
- WFWS show in Phoenix, April 19-21
- Improvements and changes to our IWS website, coming soon
- Our Annual Show is at the Riverside in May and June
- A sold-out (waiting list) workshop with Chris Stubbs in June
- Monthly on-line and in-person critiques
- Annual Meeting, September 13-14 in Boise
- A surprise show in October

Because both the workshops, mentioned above, were sold out in 2 days, several on the board members have been thinking that perhaps we need to consider another workshop this year. So, if you have ideas, get them to your Regional Director or a board member.

As we look forward, I'm very excited that Don Belts has already secured a juror for our 2025 annual show. Check out the paintings of Kathleen Giles. She is amazing. Don is also in talks with JJ Jiang. No contract has been signed, but we are very hopeful to have him as juror and workshop artist for 2026. Keep your fingers crossed!

In closing, I want to share a very special experience I had today. In December, a woman from Eagle contacted IWS through our website. She was looking for a watercolor instructor for her 90 year-old, home-bound mother. I had my first class with her this morning. Jo was delightful and quickly grasped the concept of water to pigment ratio, primary and secondary colors and values. She painted an orange in a white bowl. I was impressed with her brushwork skills.

I learned two things during that class. First, you are never, never too old to learn something new; and second, sharing the joy of watercolor art with others, is mostly a gift to you. So, if you have an opportunity to share your expertise, grab it! You will be so gratified.

Happy painting,

Carol HasBrouck Browning

## **Vacant Board Positions**

Have you wanted to contribute your talents to IWS? We have 3 vacant board positions that we would like to fill. They are:

- Graphic Designer .....Vacant
- IWS Historian ..... Vacant
- Volunteer Coordinator ..... Vacant (this is a new position)

Our board meetings are fun, not too long, can be attended by zoom, and we sometimes get cookies! These positions can all be done without living in the Treasure Valley, so think about helping us out!

## “Creating New Inspiration for 2024” – Linda Aman-Aman Arts

As an artist, the completion of one painting begins the quest for “What do I paint next”?

When

pondering the next piece, I explore various methods to ignite fresh creativity. While my daily routine involves more than just painting – encompassing teaching, research, speaking engagements and planning - each contributes to my artistic journey.

Over the years of practice, I’ve discovered 10 key insights that have not only enriched my own

artistic process but also benefited the artists I mentor and collaborate with. In this list, I provide a glimpse into these transformative points of decision-making. Using this method keeps me on track and maintain ideas for a series or the next set of paintings I will create. While each of these points could be a full article, I am only touching on a few items to ponder.

For a deeper dive into each insight, I invite you to watch my recent “Art Talks” on YouTube, where I elaborate on each point with details and practical tips.

### The Ten Points “How to Create New Inspiration.”

1. List of what I love.
2. Research
3. Repurpose/Reinvent old or failed paintings.
4. Work in a Series
5. Continuing Education
6. Play – Explore
7. Set studio hours.
8. Use quality art supplies.
9. New compositions, styles, directions.
10. Celebrate with Gratitude and Thankfulness

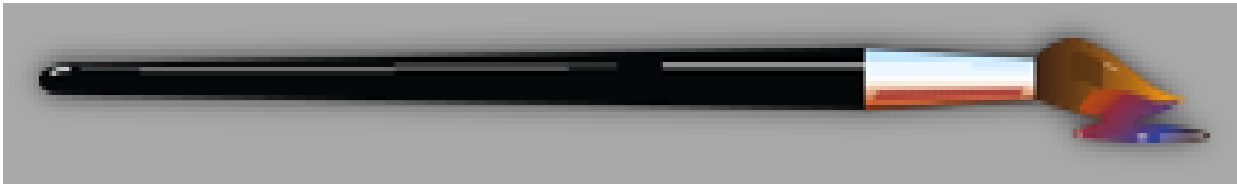
YouTube link for First of 3 “Art Talks” in this series on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UT-izotKe0E&t=47s>

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## THE LOADED BRUSH



**By Hugh Mossman**

COMFORT ZONE DEPARTURES



I think most artists have a comfort zone, a style or subject matter that they like and return to frequently. We can settle into a pattern of painting the same or similar subject, or applying the same or similar elements of design. There is really nothing wrong with this. After all, most of our best work is because we are inspired by something we like and want to share on paper. Why change course when you are finally happy in your own comfort zone?

For some of us, the answer may be don't change, and that could be the right choice. For me, however, I think some departure from my comfort zone can be a positive learning opportunity. For many years I have been primarily a landscape painter. After living in the midwest, I found Idaho's mountains, canyons and rivers offered all the inspiration I needed. In

2007 I had the opportunity to travel to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, a place loaded with Spanish colonial architecture and lively street scenes. These were subjects clearly out of my comfort zone, but begging to be painted in plein air which was also challenging for me. The results were predictable, my nice paper rendered less valuable after each painting. I have been able to return to San Miguel many times, still trying to capture the magic of this place in watercolor. There has been some improvement, but my closet is full of San Miguel watercolors that have only one good side, the one I didn't paint on. Of course, any painting can be a learning experience, but for me, trying to paint unfamiliar subjects on location taught me more. I had to focus more on shape, light, values and less on detail, while paying attention to what worked and what did not. It was similar to art workshops I have attended, which open the door to a style or technique I haven't tried.

I will always still enjoy painting landscapes which, over time, show the influence of my time painting south of the border, hopefully in a positive way. Watercolor is a difficult medium and wanting to stay in your comfort zone is understandable. I think you will find, however, that exploring a fresh subject or style will be worthwhile and rewarding in your artistic journey.



### **News from PAPI**

Greetings, from the Plein Air Painters of Idaho! Our shared membership has proven successful, bringing together IWS watercolor artists and PAPI's diverse artists, working in a host of mediums: oil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, pastels, colored pencils, and more.

Despite our differences, we share a profound love for art, a strong sense of community, and a collective commitment to creating beautiful works.

We've gained valuable insights from your critique sessions and workshops, incorporating these opportunities into our artistic endeavors. PAPI is delighted to welcome IWS members as we embark on a journey to explore Idaho, reveling in the joy of creating art en plein air.

***Dave's PAPI workshop "Plein Air Primer" has openings***

Aug 10 & 11, 2024

Avimor Community Center, 5811 W. Avimor Dr., Boise, ID 83714

**For Details** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/125XwsE2qQhrrs8-2Pher3sTXKpF8gcWU/view?usp=sharing>

**To Join** <https://sites.google.com/view/pleinairpaintersofidaho/join-us?authuser=0>

then scroll down to see Dave's picture and click on the appropriate button to buy and join.

Happy painting,

Tina Cannova

PAPI president

## **Regional News – Spring 2024**

### **From the North**

#### **Cheryll Root**

-Last year I applied to an art call from the World Congress of Fisheries. Since I no longer have the original painting, I applied for the digital portion of the call. My painting, Abstract Fish, was accepted and will be shown digitally on a large screen. The World Congress meets at the Hyatt Regency in Seattle the first week of March and is attended by scientists from around the world.

--I am having a show with another artist (Ryan Law) at the Moscow Food Co-op that hangs through February. We are donating 100% of proceeds from the sales to the Humane Society of the Palouse. 29 paintings are hanging.

### **Southwest Region**

#### **Jennifer Von Bergen**

Many of our IWS Southwest regional members started the year off with a bang participating in the Eagle Extreme Plein Air event where they faced the challenges of cold weather painting. Others kept their brushes wet with daily painting challenges through the month of January, such as the Strada Easel challenge.

Dual members continue to paint weekly at Edwards Greenhouse, Warehouse Food Hall in Boise, various parks, and the nature center. These meetups not only provide inspiration and change of scenery for artists, but develop friendships and camaraderie as well.

Our own Karen Hickman taught a wonderful workshop on portrait painting on February 23 for the Nampa Art Guild, and Beth Trott has an exhibit available to view at the Northwest Lineman College.

The whole region is buzzing in preparation for the IWS Rotunda Show, and some members have also submitted entries for a local "Leap Into Art" show, and the local Vinearts Spring Show "Seasons".

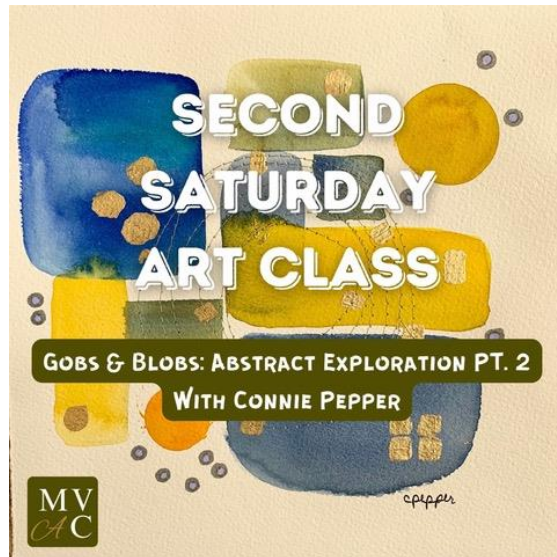
The Southwest art scene is thriving and you can find IWS well represented with members showcasing the beauty and versatility of watercolor.

### South Central Region News Connie Pepper

Our South Central group is small but active! Our local members are working hard to encourage watercolor painting as well as membership in IWS. We have a partner in Magic Valley Arts Council (MVAC) and their mission to provide art learning lessons. We appreciate their promotion of classes and use of their facilities to teach painters about watercolor. The first class offered in watercolor was a session called "Gobs and Blobs" taught by Connie Pepper. This abstract experimentation class was based on the current MVAC show hanging in the Full Moon Gallery. The two-hour session was designed for any level of watercolor experience. It was fun and well attended by budding artists from the area.

In addition to the abstract class, Leslie Lambert is teaching beginning classes in watercolor at MVAC. Leslie's classes include a four Thursdays class called "Create Your Own Reference Book". Painters will work each week on basic watercolor skills and will create their own reference book. (See pictures) The painters will learn to tear paper, paint a graded wash, mix colors, etc. Leslie is also providing a class in watercolor landscapes and reflections class in March called "Thaw: The Art of Reflections and Renewal". ("Thaw" is also a featured theme in the Full Moon Gallery). We are lucky to have Leslie teaching in our area. Upcoming learning opportunities at MVAC include a watercolor class we are working on with Hugh Mossman in May. We are having a lot of fun and learning a lot!! Thanks to MVAC for working with us to increase watercolor awareness and provide classes in the area!





## IWS East Region News Les Scott

Our most recent regional show was in the administration building at the College of Eastern Idaho and ran the month of February. We had 24 paintings in the show and the response from staff and students while we were hanging the show was great. This show definitely falls in line with our mission to “educate the public as to the significance of watercolor painting”. It was also awesome to see some advertising and our paintings displayed on CEI’s digital sign out front.





Our next regional show will be held at The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho (TAM) beginning May 2 nd and ending on June 15 th .

In January we held a paint out at the Museum of Idaho (MOI). This was a great opportunity for us to paint and sketch living rainforest animals in the current MOI exhibit &quot;Under the Canopy&quot; which contains a variety of living specimens such as a sloth, lizards, turtles, and snakes. I hope to continue this event with future exhibits at MOI and have the full support of the MOI staff to make this happen.



I also now have our contract in place for our Fall exhibition with the Idaho Falls Arts Council and have submitted our application to The Art Museum of Eastern Idaho (TAM) for the Spring of 2025.

Les Scott – East Region Director

## New Member Profiles

### **frankie sims**

My name is frankie sims. I'm so happy to be a new member of the Idaho Watercolor Society, happy to get to know, interact with and learn from so many artists whose work I admire.

After decades, frankie sims art, my dream, is coming to life.

I am an expressionist, sometime abstract, artist based in the greater Boise area.

My mind is sent into overdrive by color, color, color. Texture and movement are big players for me too.

Like most artists, my art comes from the heart; it's an expression of love from years of working and living among people in almost every imaginable situation, state of health, and mental condition.

I paint with hope my experiences are reflected in my art and touch others. I try to see beyond the surface, looking and then looking again, to see deeper, find a fresh perspective to reveal in what I create. I have been gifted the great opportunity to open a dedicated gallery inside the Alpine Wellness Clinic in Garden City. It will open with 30 of my paintings, the ongoing exhibition updating with new works.

More of my art is at the Catalyst Arts gallery and gift shop in Boise.

#### Art Background

—as a teen, provided expressionist art, writing, lettering and layout for non-profit organizations newsletters/publications

—just shy of a minor in fine arts when I graduated from USC; degree in broadcast communications.

—on-going art education in classes taken across the country

—years as an award-winning fabric artist in SoCal and Hawaii. Retail sales in Hawaii with my business Lei Puanani of Kauai

—owner, operator, and solo artist for frankie sims art, gallery located inside the Alpine Wellness Clinic, 5655 N Glenwood #105, Garden City

—Membership in TVAA and IWS, formerly in Kauai Society of Artists

—Works shown at the Initial Point Gallery, Apr 2023/ Nampa Civic Center, Summer 2023 / TVAA Gallery Feb 2024 / State Capitol IWS Mar 2024

#### Other Kinda Creative-related Stuff:

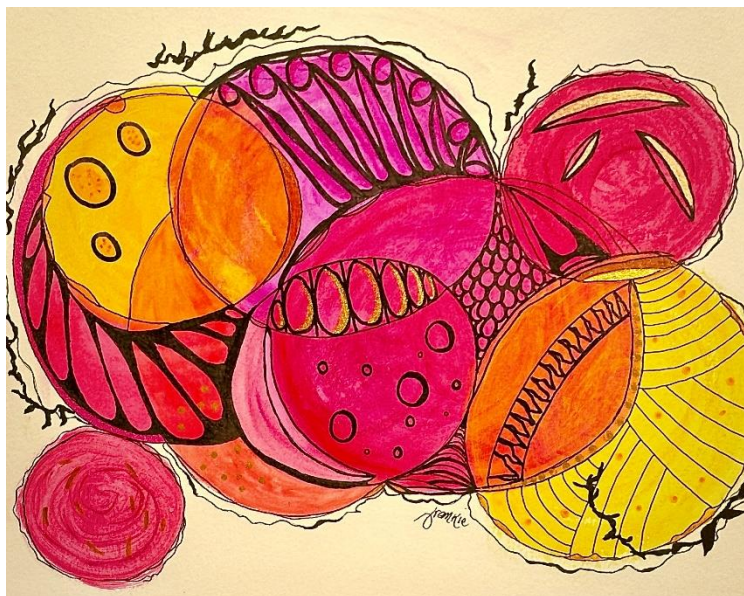
—Writer for CBS, CNN, Fox and local TV and radio in Los Angeles

—Member of the Writers Guild of America

—Recipient of numerous "Golden Mike" awards from the RTNA in So. Cal, and of a Peabody Award

—Professional Hula dancer in Kauai, the only non-Hawaiian member of the halau.  
Thing I feel best about:

—Maintaining daily painting habit since Dec 2021, even when sick with Covid



## Capitol Rotunda Art Show

Capitol Rotunda Show is going on now. In Case you have not seen previous announcements, be sure to attend the reception and have the opportunity to view some wonderful art!

### 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*

## IWS Board and Chairs

President: Carol HasBrouck Browning

Vice President: Don Belts

Past President: Dennis Hayzlett

Treasurer: Dennis Hayzlett

Recording Secretary: Nancy Inaba

WFWS Delegate: Shelly Johnson

Corresponding Secretary: Jane Wilson

Membership Chair: Lynn McConnell

West Email Chair: Karyn deKramer

Communications: Renee Galligher/ Jane Shimon/ Katie Harris/ Janet Murphy

Rotunda Exhibition: Bonnie Liles and Beth Trott

Annual Show: Scott Muscolo

Travelling Show Coordinator: Teresa Wade

West Director: Cathy Anderson and Jennifer Von Bergen

East Director: Les Scott and Michele Johnson

Southeast Director: Neila Loeb and Barbara North

Southcentral Director: Connie Pepper