

July 2014

West Virginia Watercolor Society

WWWS

WEST VIRGINIA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

President's Letter

Art Nerd, Part II: For three years, I sat in a darkened room looking at 35mm slides during my college art history classes thinking I was experiencing art at its best. But projected images, as we now know, never do a painting justice. Not even in today's digital age can we really see the artist's labor of color.



Sad to report that my first experience in an art museum came after I graduated from college (I never took advantage of the school field trips while I was there). Seeing the paintings in person was an overwhelming and emotional experience.

As watercolor artists, we constantly read about our medium as well as seek out top-name artist workshops. But what else can help us in our artistic pursuits? Museums, I say. A visit to an art museum can increase our artistic knowledge.

A van Gogh or Monet is great for inspiration. Nothing makes me want to paint more than a room full of 19th century paintings. Yes, they are usually oil paintings, but much can be gleaned in terms of color and composition. For some, it may be a John Singer Sargent portrait, a great source for the human figure. For me, it has always been the Impressionist artists using their multiple colors to create a painterly surface.

Good design can make a bad painting better. Design is the conscious effort to arrange the elements and subjects into a pleasing and interesting composition. You create relationships with color, eye direction, and leading lines. All of this has been accomplished previously by Caravaggio and Leonardo. Study their arrangements and look for ways to adapt it into your watercolors.

Generally speaking, we are too tied down by the image generated from our cameras. Change it, and combine it with other images. The camera is a great tool but cannot inject expressive design into a painting.

So where does one go to seek these pieces? In West

All Member Exhibition 2014

Oct. 3 - Nov. 3

at the Parkersburg ART Center

- Registration postmarked by **Sept. 15** and sent to Linda Elmer: 46 Dogwood Lane, Fairmont, WV 26554
 - Hand delivery to Parkersburg ART Center must be made no later than **Sept. 27**
- Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday thru Saturday.
Shipping/contact information is on the prospectus.

- Reception from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on **Oct. 10**
Awards presented at 6:30 p.m.

- Painting pickup is **Nov. 4 - 8**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Download the prospectus at www.wvwatercolorssociety.org

WWWS Annual Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 27, 1-3 p.m.

at the Parkersburg ART Center

Virginia, you can find some of the big names at the Clay Center and the Huntington Museum of Art. Northern West Virginia has access to the Carnegie and Frick in Pittsburgh. If you are in the Eastern Panhandle, visit the National Gallery and Portrait museums in Washington D.C. While traveling, the museum of art in Cleveland will surprise you, so do not ever disregard Cleveland as a destination. It has a diverse collection. In Greenville, South Carolina, the county museum owns a very large collection of Andrew Wyeth paintings, a must-see for a watercolorist. Nearby is Bob Jones University. I recommend visiting their campus to see one of the biggest religious art collections in the nation. And need I mention the Metropolitan and MOMA in New York?


Inspiration can always come from the local gallery shows, but the caliber of artists we see in a museum is why we pursue art. Good museum collections will also have the artist's drawings and watercolors. A wider palette of knowledge makes our work more thought provoking. Consider the masters of painting and see their work in person. The museum visit is an experience that every artist should seek if they want to stretch their artistic muscles.

Always keep painting!

Linda Elmer, president

WVWS Member News

Region II – Patricia Roberts

 **Mary Russell** of Charleston reports that she has had two paintings accepted in the Prima Vera exhibit at the Visual Arts Center in Punta Gorda, Fla. Both are watercolors: “Anhinga,” and “Fun, Fun, Fun.”

Also she reports that she and fellow WVWS member **Justine Mounts** of Hanover (Region I) have two watercolor paintings in the Goff Gallery at the Visual Arts Center. Russell’s painting is “The Man with Golden Eyes,” and Mounts’ painting is “Music Man.”

Region III – Joy Cooper

 **Laurie Goldstein-Warren** of Buckhannon won the Dominic G. Congemi Memorial Award in the 2014 Louisiana International Exhibition for “Aztec Splendor.”

In addition, Laurie tells us she has had pieces accepted in the Baltimore Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America (where she also earned signature status), and the Adirondacks Exhibition of American Watercolors.

Laurie will also be teaching at Cheap Joe’s in North Carolina next May. She’ll send us more information on that workshop.

 **Dorothy Sutton** of Arbovale opened her solo exhibition at The Guest House in Lost River on Saturday, April 26. The show has been on display since the opening and features Dorothy’s West Virginia-themed works, including wild animals, birds, flowers, barns and country scenes from our beautiful state.

Dorothy reports that there was an impressive turnout for the opening.


“[The lodge] had full occupancy for the weekend and local people were also there for dinner so we had a great crowd,” Dorothy said. “I was also thankful to see and feel the support of my friends from Hardy County back from the days when I was a resource teacher for the gifted here. Everyone



Jeannine Romano (Region IV) of Lost Creek was the winner of the Holbein, Watercolor Artist, Cheap Joe’s Art Stuff Award at the 2014 Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition hosted by the Baltimore Watercolor Society. Her winning painting was “The Quilter.”

was so interested in my work and I sold prints, cards and originals. I brought the cards and prints home but they will continue to try to sell the framed originals on the wall.”

 **Monica Wilkins** of Shepherdstown was the cover artist for the Spring 2014 issue of Fluent magazine, a regional magazine featuring art, literature and cultural events in the Eastern Panhandle. She was also featured in the magazine article, “Monica Ann Wilkins’ Colorful Story.”

 **Donell McCoy** and **Titi Ferguson** were among the artists participating in Artspring, a four-day celebration of the arts in Tucker County, May 23-26.

Region IV – Katy Crim

 **Betty Neely** of Fairmont was the winner of the West Virginia Watercolor Society Award in Exhibit 60, the annual juried exhibition hosted by the Morgantown Art Association. Betty’s winning painting was “Tsunami.”

 **Judy Mattson Reed** of Salem had a solo show in the Maxwell Gallery at the Randolph County Community Arts Center in Elkins during May.

News & Notes

WVWS seeks officers

The end of 2014 will mark a change of leadership for WVWS. Elections must occur at the **WVWS annual meeting, Saturday, Sept. 27 from 1-3 p.m. at Parkersburg ART Center** (it coincides with painting drop-off for the All-Member show)

If you are interested, or want to nominate someone who is interested in serving, please contact Linda Elmer at arlespai@aol.com or 304-366-9793.

Positions that are needed are **president, vice-president, and treasurer**. As an incentive, all elected positions have FREE membership. All elected positions serve a term of two years.

Newsletter editor needed

In addition to the elected officers, committee chairs are also selected at the annual meeting, and that includes the Newsletter editor.

Fresh eyes and new ideas are needed for the newsletter. Skills required include organization, and comfort using software to resize images and create pages. Software could be Microsoft Word or Publisher, or Adobe PhotoshopElements, or Mac's iWork Pages and iPhoto (just to list a few possibilities - there are more).

If you have questions, contact Kristen Colebank at kcolebank@waitesrunstudios.com. Duties would begin with the first newsletter for 2015, and three newsletters are produced each year. The term lasts for two years.

In memoriam

Signature WVWS member Margaret "Peggy" Issack, 92, passed away on June 30.

Peggy was a co-founder and charter member of the Morgantown Art Association and, through her teaching and guidance, influenced scores of artists in the Morgantown area.



Welcome new members

We are happy to welcome **Cyla Allison** of Hillsboro, **Joyce Anderson** of Spencer, **Mary Grassell** of Hurricane, and **Robert L. Wilson** of St. Albans to WVWS, as well as welcome returning member **Becky Williams** of Buckhannon.

Help WVWS get into galleries!

President Linda Elmer is asking members to assist in updating the society's "Print Portfolio." This portfolio is provided to galleries, if requested, as part of our group exhibit planning.

She is looking for four images and a paragraph bio (which should include contact info) for our members. Send information to Linda digitally at arlespai@aol.com.

Jury for Membership Status is open

WVWS Associate and Juried members are invited to apply for either Juried or Signature status in the society.

The application packet, including instructions, is available for download from the WVWS website or, if you do not have Internet access, contact Linda Elmer for a mailed copy of the jury packet. Call her at 304-366-9793.

Important dates:

September 30 — last day to request packets

October 30 — images and forms postmarked to Linda Elmer for preparation

November/December — Slides/digital images juried by committee

December 30 — Member is notified of results; president and newsletter editor are contacted

Signature show in Martinsburg!

The prospectus for the WVWS Signature Show in Martinsburg, Sept. 5-28, is on the website's home page, ready for downloading. A group delivery of paintings from other regions of the state is planned. Contact Jeannine at jeannine@jromanoart.com or 304-672-0222.

Organizations host workshops



Berkeley Arts Council will host watercolor instructor **Lynn Ferris, AWS, NWS**, for a three-day workshop on "capturing the light" in watercolor, Sept. 15-17, in Martinsburg. Cost will be \$275. Visit www.berkeleyartswv.org to learn more and to register.



The Morgantown Art Association is hosting **David Daniels** for a three-day watercolor workshop, Oct. 24-26, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the MAA Gallery at 5000 Green Bag Road, Morgantown. Cost is \$200 for MAA members and \$225 for non members. Download the flyer from the WVWS Opportunities page.

Aqueous 2014



Best of Show

Christine Rhodes – “Vespers”

Aqueous 2014 Accepted Artists

- “Alley Surprise - Hollyhocks,” **Ronda Albright**, Martinsburg
- “The Artiste,” **Laura Andreini**, Wheeling
- “Stephen,” **Brenda Beatty**, St. Albans
- “Wild Flowers Orange,” **Mary Alice Bowers**, Martinsburg
- “Wild Flowers Blue II,” **Mary Alice Bowers**, Martinsburg
- “Sycamore Fantasy,” **Louise Braddock**, West Union
- “Heirloom,” **Jeanne Brenneman**, Lewisburg
- “Hot Stuff,” **Jeanne Brenneman**, Lewisburg
- “The Robin Snow,” **Karen Ensor Brown**, Buckhannon
- “Fly Fishing at Bowden,” **Karen Ensor Brown**, Buckhannon
- “Passing By,” **Nancy Brown**, Baltimore, Md.
- “Pear Day,” **Adrienne Davis**, Highland, Md.
- “Summer Squall,” **Adrienne Davis**, Highland, Md.
- “4:00 Rain,” **Linda Elmer**, Fairmont
- “Mt. Laurel,” **Deanna Gillum**, Buckhannon
- “After Image,” **Deanna Gillum**, Buckhannon
- “Jingle Dancer,” **Laurie Goldstein-Warren**, Buckhannon
- “Smooth Sounds,” **Laurie Goldstein-Warren**, Buckhannon
- “Hot, Hot, Hot,” **Nancy Kautz**, Harpers Ferry
- “Joe,” **Li Dongfeng**, Morehead, Ky.
- “Healing Rain,” **Li Dongfeng**, Morehead, Ky.
- “Sassafras on the Ridge,” **Sandy McIntire**, Mount Hope
- “Piebald Buck,” **Diane Mitchell**, Clintonville
- “Urban Intersection,” **Rita Montrosse**, Princeton
- “Cherries and Crystal,” **Justine Mounts**, Hanover
- “Fall Harvest,” **Justine Mounts**, Hanover
- “Mother & Daughter,” **Sandra Pealer**, Rangeley, Maine
- “Basket of Oranges,” **Donna Perkins**, Pasadena, Md.
- “Laundry Day,” **Donna Perkins**, Pasadena, Md.
- “Altered Reflection,” **Martha Reynolds**, West Union
- “Matamorphic Formation,” **Martha Reynolds**, West Union
- “Vespers,” **Christine Rhodes**, Parkersburg
- “Muir Woods,” **Janet Rodriguez**, Wheeling
- “Negotiations,” **Jeannine Romano**, Lost Creek
- “Homegrown Sunflowers,” **Debbie Kalt Sisson**, Ripley
- “Goat Herd III,” **Linda J.C. Turner**, Jane Lew
- “Ohio Valley,” **April Waltz**, Wheeling
- “3D Shades,” **April Waltz**, Wheeling
- “Mischief,” **Rema White**, Jane Lew
- “Eastern Panhandle #1,” **Monica Wilkins**, Shepherdstown
- “Beneath the Dome,” **Kay Wilson**, Anderson, Ind.

Aqueous 2014

May 8 - 29, 2014

Wheeling
Artisan Center,
Wheeling

Juror: Sue Pollins



◀ **Donna Perkins**
Award of Excellence - *Basket of Oranges*



◀ **Rema White** - Award of Excellence - *Mischief*



▲ **Dongfeng Li**
Award of Excellence - *Healing Rain*



◀ **Laurie Goldstein-Warren**
Award of Merit - *Smooth Sounds*

Aqueous 2014



▲ **Jeanne Brenneman**
Award of Merit - "Hot Stuff"



◀ **Deanna Gillum**
Award of Merit -
"After Image"



▲ **Mary Alice Bowers**
Honorable Mention -
"Wildflowers Blue II"



▲ **Linda J. C. Turner**
Honorable Mention -
"Goat Herd III"

Aqueous 2014 is online!

If you were not able to see the show in Wheeling, reception photos and a digital slideshow including all the paintings are available on the WVWS website, www.watercolorssociety.org. Click the link on the home page to see more about Aqueous 2014.



Where artists dish on their favorite tools and techniques...

visual effect. I know, it's an oldie, but it works even when invisible.

Janet Rodriguez

When I have ruined both sides of a piece of watercolor paper, I apply three or four coats of thin gesso (after cleaning off as much color as I can). It's better to use thin coats. I apply it to both sides, then I lightly sand them to eliminate streaks. If you have not painted on gesso, you should. It's a little like painting on YUPO™, except it has more tooth, making it great for trees, ground cover, wood, etc.

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Another process I use is running a slow spray of water or a spritz of water from a spray bottle over the painting, which I have over-painted. This process softens the edges and blends colors together (see Janet's examples at right and below). However, be careful about the amount of water or how strong the spray is; otherwise, you could ruin your watercolor. Happy Painting!



Lillie Dawson

Here is some information on a product that I found in my local art supply store that I just love.

Did you ever want to add a little twinkle or sparkle to your watercolor, but couldn't if you wanted to keep your painting purely a true watercolor?

Well now you can add that little hint of luminous color, iridescent shimmer, or a sparkle by using these watercolors – Twinkling H₂O's – a rainbow of sparkling colors one could only dream of.....

They come in sets of six of small glass jars. Some of the different colors you have to choose from are: Iridescent Gold, Iridescent Green, Persimmon, Key Lime, Yellow Rose, Oyster, Sweet Lavender, Hot Cinnamon, Golden Opal, Douglas Fir, and Blue Ice to name a few. I use them to add a special shimmer to the hand decorated envelopes that I create.

I don't remember the price of a set of six small glass jars – they are not too expensive and I have purchased a set of every one they make.

Rema White

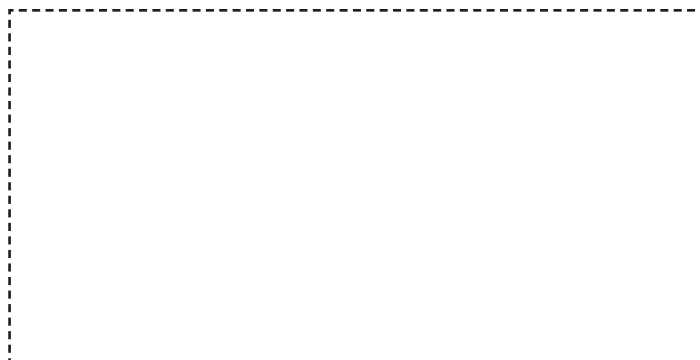
If you find you've placed the wrong color in your painting, scrub out using the color-to-be instead of plain water. Rinse between each lifting and dip in the new color. It avoids the white paper showing when it's undesirable. (I discovered this in an absent-minded moment.)

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A complementary color added alongside, even if it disappears into the paint already there, still brightens the



West Virginia Watercolor Society
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Wardensville, WV 26851



West Virginia Watercolor Society

WVWS Officers

- **Linda Elmer**, president
- **Jeannine Romano**, vice president
- **Bruce Brenneman**, treasurer
- **Katherine Crim**, recording secretary
- **Amy C. Post**, corresponding secretary

WVWS Directors (Trustees)

- **Lou Gates**, Region I
- **Patricia Roberts**, Region II
- **Joy Cooper**, Region III
- **Katherine Crim**, Region IV
- **Janet Hart**, Region V
- **Robert W. Smith**, Region-at-Large

WVWS Committees

- **Jeanne Brenneman**, membership
- **Doncia Franklin**, archives and video library
- **Judy Mattson Reed**, workshops
- **Linda Elmer**, videographer
- **Linda J.C. Turner**, publicity

The West Virginia Watercolor Society actively seeks new associate members. Applicants must be a West Virginia resident at the time of application. Dues are \$30 per year (January to December). Membership applications can be downloaded from the WVWS website, www.wvwatercolorssociety.org, or contact Membership Chair Jeanne Brenneman at bjbrenneman@gmail.com.

Please send newsletter items to:
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Visit the WVWS website
www.wvwatercolorssociety.org