

December 2012

West Virginia Watercolor Society

WVWS
WEST VIRGINIA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

All-Member 2012

Nov. 30 to Jan. 20, 2013

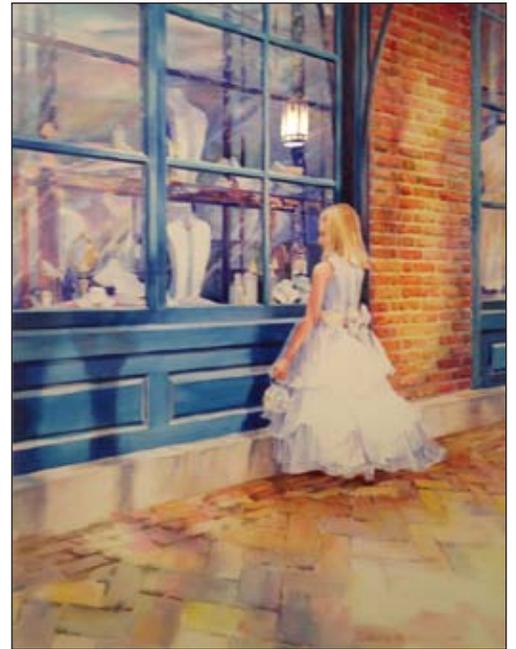
SHOW EXTENDED!

Randolph County Community Arts Center, Elkins
Judged by Michael Doig, professor at Davis & Elkins College

• **Painting pick-up for the All-Member show will be Saturday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

• Arrangements may also be made with RCCAC staff to pick up work during their regular office hours, 10-a.m. to 4 p.m., from Jan. 22-25. *You must call RCCAC at 304-637-2355 to make these special weekday arrangements to ensure that staff will be present.*

ALL-MEMBER EXHIBITION 2012



Congratulations! Katy Crim won best of show at the 2012 All-Member Exhibition currently on display at the Randolph County Community Arts Center in Elkins. Katy (center) along with Linda J.C. Turner (left) and Louise Braddock were among the award winners who attended the show's opening reception on Dec. 7. Katy's winning painting, "Window Shopping," can be seen at right.

The complete award list for the show is: **Katy Crim**, best of show for "Window Shopping;" **Sandra Pealer**, award of excellence for "The Threshold;" **Louise Braddock**, award of merit for "West Virginia Relic;" **Linda J.C. Turner**, honorable mention for "Short Trip;" and **Ken Waddell**, honorable mention for "The Cove."

More on the show, including more painting images, can be found on Page 4.

2013 Dues Reminder: West Virginia Watercolor Society dues notifications were sent out in October. The forms and \$30 yearly payment are due by Jan. 1. Those who pay after the due date are charged an extra \$10 late fee (\$40 total). If you do not renew your membership by Feb. 15, you will lose your membership status (i.e. juried, signature) and must re-apply. Questions? Contact Jeanne and Bruce Brenneman at bjbrenneman@gmail.com, or call 304-645-3050.

WVWS Member News

Region I - Lou Riffe Gates

Marietta Lyall of Lewisburg was

awarded Best of Show at Carnegie Hall's Seasons of Colors reception on Sept. 7. Her acrylic painting "Jazz Around Town" commemorates some of the lively music around Lewisburg. Marietta works from her studio, "A Brush in Time, Studio 60," located west of Lewisburg.



Diane Mitchell of Clintonville, was featured on the promotional postcards for Tamarack's current show in the Dickirson Gallery, "Gifted," which runs through Jan. 18.

Diane is also the newly elected fine arts representative on the Tamarack Artist Advisory Board.

Region II - Patricia Roberts

Sharon Harms of Charleston had a painting included in the 2012 Beckley Art Group Juried Exhibit.

A message from **Joanne Boeger** of Sutton: "How wonderful to see all the beautiful work done by the WV Watercolor Society!!!! Especially by the girls with whom I used to paint! Haven't gotten back to painting yet, but hope to get organised soon! Miss you all!!!!!"

Lil Bias of Charleston has been showing some of her watercolors at Edgewood Summit in Charleston. In one exhibit, in the center's multipurpose room, she exhibited "Summer Blooms." A separate display in the Ridgewood Summit business center included "Gone Fishing," and "Peachy." The exhibition ran through August and September.

Pat Roberts of Charleston was featured in the June-July 2012 edition of *West Virginia South* magazine. She also has had several works displayed around the

state this year in several shows, including a piece in this summer's Best of West Virginia exhibition at Tamarack's Dickirson Gallery in Beckley, as well as a painting in the Dickirson Gallery's "Our Appalachia" exhibit this fall.

Other exhibitions include a painting in WVWS's Aqueduct 2012 juried show in Morgantown, a diptych which was included in the Beckley Art Group's juried show at the Bickey Gallery in Beckley, and two paintings included with the National League of Women exhibit at Charleston's Art Emporium gallery.

Finally, Pat has received word that four of her paintings will permanently hang in the University of Charleston's newly renovated Coffee Tavern within the Geary Student Union.

Bruce and Lillian Bowersock of Ona are proud to announce the grand opening of their Gallery and Art School in a new location. They are now located in River Towers West at 1102 Third Avenue, Suite 104, in Huntington. The building is on the corner of 3rd Avenue and 11th Street and is also known as The Masonic Temple.

Region III - Joy Cooper

Deanna Gillum of Buckhannon won best of show for her watercolor "Color of Music," at the RCCAC Gala Juried Exhibit in August. The show was juried by Michael Christie, artist-in-residence at The Greenbrier Resort. In the photo at right, Deanna is talking with Michael Christie at the show's award reception.



Laurie Goldstein-Warren of Buckhannon shared some exciting news a few months ago. She writes, "I just got the news...my painting, "My Brother's Keeper," was juried into the Shanghai Zhujiajiao International Watercolour Biennial in China. There were over 10,000 entries from 63 countries. Only 200-250 were chosen from those to be exhibited."

The biennial's inaugural exhibition was in 2010.

The 2012 exhibition was juried by an international panel including Chen Xiejun, director of the Shanghai Museum and party secretary for the Shanghai Bureau of Culture and Broadcasting; Chen Xidan, director of Quanhua Watercolour Art Gallery, which is the host gallery for the exhibition; and artists Alvaro Castagnet (Uruguay); Janine Gallizia (Australia); Tony Hunt (United Kingdom); Ong Kim Seng (Singapore); and Nicholas Simmons (USA).

To learn more, visit the website of the biennial at www.watercolourbiennial.com

Laurie also had a solo show at the Randolph County Community Arts Center. The exhibit, "Nothing but the Blues," included 32 watercolors of well-known blues artists, including B.B. King, Pinetop Perkins, and Taj Mahall. The show was on display at the center in Elkins during July and August.

The portraits were developed using a limited four-color palette. As reference material, Laurie used black and white photographs of the musicians, images she collected over months as she attended blues festivals around the country and photographed them during performances.

 **Kristen Colebank** of Wardensville wants to acknowledge the encouragement of WVWS signature member **Rita Montrosse**, who also serves as state representative for the Southern Watercolor Society, a regional watercolor association comprised of members in 18 states, plus the District of Columbia. Kristen joined the Southern Watercolor Society at Rita's urging and submitted work for the upcoming SW juried show. She is very pleased to report that she has had a painting accepted.

"We sometimes need 'angels' to prod us into new challenges – I am glad WVWS includes wonderful artists, teachers, and mentors like Rita who encourage us to move forward in our creative endeavors," said Kristen.

Region IV – Katy Crim

 **Betty Neely** of Fairmont has won several awards for her work in the last several months. She won best of show at Morgantown Art Association's Exhibit 60 show in April, earned an award of excellence at the WVWS Aqueous 2012 show at Morgantown's Arts Monongahela gallery in June, and was awarded third place in the juried Best of West Virginia exhibit at the Dickirson Gallery at Tamarack this summer.

 **Katy Crim** of Clarksburg shared that the group show she participated in with **Linda J.C. Turner** and **Rema White** at Wheeling's Centre Market back during the summer was a success. "The opening was delightful on the 6th [of July] and the show ran through the 30th. Linda has pictures of us at the opening. We were

very well received!"

Katy continued, "Tamarack hosted a wildflower exhibit in which I had two large canvases. The Bluefield Art Center coordinator saw them and wanted to take them there for a show. Although Tamarack also wanted me to show in their Charleston Courthouse exhibit, I had pieces everywhere and had to save them back for fall competitions. I have also been busy on a hydraulic lift 30+ feet in the air painting ceilings at St Mary's Grade School, as well as faux marbleizing the floors."

 **Jeannine Romano** of Lost Creek reports that she has had two paintings accepted into the David L. Dickirson Gallery at Tamarack for the upcoming "Places and Spaces" show. The exhibit will run from Jan. 27-March 15, 2013. The paintings are "The Shopping List" and "The Student." Jeannine is also busy working on her new website, and posting updates on her projects on her blog. Visit and see what she's working on at <http://www.jromanoart.com>

 The Fidel Gallery at 312 Rosemar Road in Parkersburg is now featuring the watercolor paintings of **Judy Mattson Reed** of Salem. The exhibit is a retrospective of her paintings completed during the last 15 years. Fidel Gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. The exhibit will run through Jan. 14, 2013.

Region-at-Large – Robert W. Smith

 **Andrea Schmidt** of West End, N.C., sends a big hug to all her WVWS friends, and wants to share some family news: "Born on Columbus Day -- our daughter had a beautiful baby. [When he was born, he was] in the NICU and was premature at 2 lbs., 10 oz., But now (as of the end of October) he weighs 2 lbs., 14 oz. and is gaining. We are very excited that our daughter and her husband have a beautiful baby boy."

Regarding art news, Andrea has showed in the Art Gallery at Seven Lakes and at the Sandhills Artists League Gallery. She reports she has been busy painting and teaching watercolor and oils/acrylics twice a week in two-hour sessions. She's maintained this teaching schedule for the six years she's been in North Carolina. She's also been teaching one-day and two-day workshops in watercolor, oil and acrylics. She also notes she's continued to learn as well through workshops.

On a personal note, she's also been busy teaching water aerobics and jazzercise classes, and will be traveling to North Dakota to spend some time with her two granddaughters.

2012 All-Member Exhibition



ABOVE LEFT: Katy Crim with her best of show painting, "Window Shopping." **ABOVE RIGHT:** Sandra Pealer's painting "The Threshold," which won an award of excellence. **BELOW:** Louise Braddock with her merit award-winning painting, "West Virginia Relic." **TOP RIGHT:** Linda J.C. Turner with her honorable mention painting, "Short Trip." **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Ken Waddell's honorable mention-winning painting, "The Cove."



2012 WVWS Workshops

This year, WVWS sponsored two watercolor workshops led by WVWS signature member Laurie Goldstein-Warren.

The first workshop was held in August in Canaan Valley at Timberline Resort (the location was switched because of a water line break at Canaan Valley Resort State Park).

The second workshop was in October and was co-sponsored by the Seneca Trail Artist Guild. The session was held at RCCAC in Elkins.

We asked some of the WVWS members who attended the workshops to share their impressions of Laurie's limited palette (Quin Gold, Antwerp Blue, Quin Rose, Cobalt Blue, with some use of Black) and her application of that palette toward portrait painting.



Rita Montrosse – Laurie's approach to watercolor portraits is totally different from any I have studied. Breaking the face into value areas creating an abstract look close up but blending at a distance. Working as I do from realistic to abstract, this workshop was just my cup of tea. Enjoyed it completely.

Grey Darden – In every workshop I've ever been to the instructor demonstrated how to paint, which took a half a day or more. We students sat and watched. Laurie demonstrated and we, at the same time, painted along with her. She gave us lessons on using five colors only, dropping in color on color, brush strokes, lost and found edges, background washes, brushing edges and blending the background with a dry brush, spraying the paper, putting in a first wash of our five colors and kept giving us tips and hints and personal help throughout the three days. We did this together. She showed us how and we practiced the demonstration immediately. What a wonderful experience that sticks firmly in my mind. I gained so much by having direct experience with each skill as it was demonstrated.

Donell McCoy – Laurie's workshop was absolutely stimulating, original, and let us experience a completely new approach to painting portraits (or anything we chose) with only three colors and a fourth once in awhile.



This scene is from the summer workshop, with Laurie's demo and workspace reflected in the mirror above her table.

Laurie's demos were short and to the point and allowed the participants to spend more time putting into practice what she was talking about.

I admit that I was frustrated at first, then remembered the intent of the workshop was to paint and enjoy. Don't think I have ever been in a workshop where everyone was truly nice and interested in the instructor and what was being taught. The workshop was very well organized, fun, and it was wonderful to see each person's reaction to their own painting - they were all pleased!

Martha Russell – The workshop gets rave reviews from me. It was my first and I was a bit apprehensive, but Laurie put me right at ease with her easy manner and positive approach. She walked around and gave attention to everyone. I especially liked the

palette of four colors. It was amazing to see how all the colors of the rainbow could be derived from that limited palette. Another aspect that I found very helpful was how she developed the values by using a black and white photo to pick out the lights and darks as well as the in-betweens. I also have to give kudos to the participating artists who were not only very congenial but sharing and supportive of each other. What a great experience!

Andrea Burke (October workshop) – Taking Laurie Goldstein-Warren's workshop was the nicest thing I have ever done for myself! She is so full of energy and the love of art! Her handouts included tips on drawing, guidelines for getting proportions on faces and bodies correct; composition tips, and step-by-step instructions for using her techniques on a portrait. Plus her brochure and bio! I can't believe this is only the second class she has ever taught – she's incredible! Her demos were thoughtful, and she went from person to person on each step to make sure they understood. She gave so generously of so many tips for marketing ourselves, taking photos, etc. and was wide open for questions and comments.

I'm looking forward to watching her get the national and international recognition she so well deserves. And my life is richer for knowing and my art is and will improve by leaps and bounds because of her.

News & Notes

In memoriam

We have some sad news to report. WVWS lost two of its members this summer.

Ann Childers of Jane Lew passed away on July 4 while visiting with family in Colorado.

Also, **Christine Maxwell** of Petersburg passed away on July 31 in Waynesboro, Va.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of these wonderful ladies.

New WVWS members

We are happy to welcome **Aislinn Lowry** of Princeton, **Bronda K. Boardman** of Saint Albans, and **Karen Brown** of Buckhannon.

Spring WVWS meeting

At this time, we are planning that the next WVWS meeting will be Saturday, March 23, and the likely location will be the Shoney's restaurant in Flatwoods.

We'll send out a meeting notice in the spring with more definitive information. Watch for it!

WVWS members in BAG show

The Beckley Art Group held its 2012 juried exhibit from Aug. 3 to Sept. 16 at the Cynthia Bickey Gallery in Beckley.

According to the BAG website, WVWS members who had work accepted in the show were: **Jerry Birdsong**, **John Coffey**, **Sharon Harms**, **Mary Anne Hodson**, **Deborah Lester**, **Diane Mitchell**, and **Pat Roberts**.

2013-14 officers selected

At the annual meeting in Elkins in November, officers for WVWS were elected to serve two-year terms, from January 2013 to December 2014.

The officers are: Linda Elmer as president; Jeannine Romano as vice president; Katy Crim as recording secretary; Amy Post as corresponding secretary; and Bruce Brenneman as treasurer.

Regional directors are: Region I, Lou Gates; Region II, Patricia Roberts; Region III, Joy Cooper; Region IV, Katy Crim; Region V, Janet Hart; and Region-at-Large, Robert W. Smith.

Committee chairs are: membership, Jeanne

Brenneman; video librarian, Doncia Franklin; workshops, Judy Mattson Reed; videographer, Linda Elmer; newsletter editor, Kristen Colebank; publicity, Linda J.C. Turner; webmaster, Kristen Colebank; archival librarian, Doncia Franklin; and jury, Linda J.C. Turner.

Thank you to all the members who offer their time and energy to serve as officers, regional directors, and committee chairs.

Bylaw changes approved

Two proposed changes to the bylaws were on the ballot at the annual meeting – one that updated the description of the corresponding secretary's duties to reflect communications to the membership via email, and the second clarifying the language in the section that describes the process of attaining WVWS signature membership.

Both of these amendments were approved.

Aqueous 2013

Linda Elmer is working on the schedule for the 2013 WVWS juried exhibition, and she reports that next year's show will return to Morgantown – but this time the show will be at the Monongalia Arts Center – often called the MAC.

The center is located at 107 High St. in Morgantown, down the street from where the juried exhibition was held last year.

Look for the prospectus and more information to come out early in 2013!

Interested in online payments?

Vice President Jeannine Romano led a discussion at the annual meeting regarding potential interest in using the online service Paypal to process dues payments for WVWS.

Put simply, members could click a link on the WVWS website that would allow them to pay dues, either with the member's Paypal account, or by using a credit card. A fee would be charged to WVWS for each transaction made using the Paypal processing system.

It was determined that the membership needed to indicate whether they wanted an online payment option for dues. If there is widespread interest, then the discussion will move forward. Interested? Contact Treasurer Bruce Brenneman at bjbrenneman@gmail.com.

President's Letter

Greetings members, and I hope you will have a chance to see the All-Member Exhibit at the Randolph County Community Arts Center in Elkins. We have agreed to extend our exhibit until Jan. 20. If you are in this exhibit and need your paintings on the original, agreed-upon date, the RCCAC will accommodate your requests. *Please see the contact information for RCCAC in the box on the front page of this newsletter.*



My congratulations to Katy Crim (and also to all the winners) for her Best of Show win. Check out the website for an image of her painting, and images of the other winners' works as well. Once again, it is great to have a show at the Elkins center. The space and lighting are excellent. And we cannot ask for better support than with director Beth King and her volunteers.



During the WVWS November members meeting, we re-elected our current office holders who have all graciously agreed to serve another two-year term.

But we must also look to the future. Two great leaders, Bruce and Jeanne Brenneman, want to give up their

positions after this term. As treasurer and membership chair respectively, they have organized and kept aspects of our group's infrastructure sound and orderly. But they deserve to have a chance to be members at large, free of those responsibilities.

Therefore, we must work now on preparing their successors. We have two years to prepare and train two people to carry on their work. If any member would like to serve in these positions, please contact me at arlespai@aol.com or 304-366-9793.

I cannot thank Bruce and Jeanne enough for their long-term service to this organization. But I know we have many members who are capable of this work. I hope to hear from someone soon.



Our annual workshops have been evolving these past years. In the interest of better accommodating our presenters, we have made a major purchase of an instructor's mirror. Thank you to Laurie Goldstein-Warren for conducting research for the purchase and for housing the mirror and stand. And thank you to Workshop Chair Judy Reed for pursuing top-name presenters.



I am currently working on our prospectus for our 2013 juried show, so look for it within the next month. We will be at the MAC in Morgantown during the month of July.

Vice President Jeannine Romano is also working hard on a special venue for another future signature exhibit (thank you Jeannine).

Have a great holiday and keep painting!

Linda Elmer, president

2013 Workshop update

Instructor: Alexis Lavine

**"Creative Paintings
from Photographs"**

**July 26-28 at Canaan Valley Resort
State Park in Davis, W.Va.**



Workshop coordinator Judy Reed has announced that the 2013 WVWS workshop will be led by artist Alexis Lavine. The focus of the workshop will be learning how to creatively interpret and transform reference photos into paintings.

Alexis studied at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University. She currently lives and works in North Carolina and the Virgin Islands.

Visit her website at <http://www.alexislavineartist.com> to learn more and see some of her work.

More information on the workshop will be coming out this spring. We hope to see you this summer in Canaan Valley!

Painting – one stroke at a time

Kathy Caudill, formerly a resident of West Virginia who now makes her home in Rock Hill, S.C., uses the dry-brush technique to paint meticulously detailed, luminous landscapes in watercolor – with subjects familiar to many of us who love the rural scenery of West Virginia.

As a self-taught artist, Kathy began painting with watercolor more than 30 years ago. As she explains

in a recent artist statement for a Wyeth-themed exhibit in Vero Beach, Fla., “When I began painting in watercolor...I quickly realized that the typical loose and spontaneous approach to the medium did not suit my personality or allow me to achieve the degree of detail in my work that I desired.”

Drybrush is a time-honored technique, akin to the technique used in egg tempera painting where paint is applied with very little moisture on the brush and often with multiple, tiny strokes. Drybrush watercolors are often associated with the works of the late Andrew Wyeth, who painted both egg tempera and drybrush watercolors with magnificent results.

Kathy was kind enough to take time to explain how her drybrush watercolors are created, and shared some of her paintings.



How do you describe and/or define drybrush?

I would describe drybrush as a method of painting, usually with watercolor, using a relatively small amount

of thin stiff paint with very little water. The paint consistency is almost like that of milk, but with most of the moisture wrung from the brush before it is applied to the painting surface.

For you, what are the benefits of using this technique?

For me the benefits of using the drybrush method is that it gives me complete control over the medium. I can achieve a high level of realism with very subtle value changes.

Some artists, however, use drybrush to produce a tex-



“Sandstone Falls” – watercolor and gouache, 14” x 27”

The drybrush technique was used on the rocks, distant trees, and whitewater in this painting. Gouache was added to the leaves in the foreground trees. This painting won Best of Show in the South Carolina Watermedia Society’s 35th Annual Exhibition, July 7 - Sept. 1, 2012.

ured appearance by allowing the brush to skip across the surface of the paper. I prefer to use drybrush in much the same way one would work with egg tempera paint, applying thin layers of paint, sometimes using very fine hatching strokes.

Let’s talk about some basic materials....for you, what brushes work best with drybrush – a particular shape or kind of hair?

I do the bulk of my drybrush work using small round synthetic sable brushes. My favorite brushes are Robert Simmons White Sable brushes in sizes from 3/0 to a number 2. These brushes are able to form a fine point and have a lot of spring to the bristles. They also hold

an amazing amount of paint, allowing me to paint multiple strokes before having to reload the brush.

Do you apply paint with tools other than brushes?

I don't use any other tools besides brushes to apply the paint, but I do use dampened paper towels to soften the paint and double-edge razor blades to remove areas of unwanted paint.

Do you use a preferred paper or board? How does the support's characteristics affect the application of paint?

I typically use Arches 140 lb. cold press watercolor paper for most of my work. I learned to paint in watercolor using this paper and have stuck with it because of its medium surface quality (not too rough or too smooth) and its strength. I do sometimes use Strathmore 500 illustration board, but it does not stand up as well to corrections with the razor blade. It does, however, produce a slightly more delicate and even paint surface than the Arches paper. The drybrush technique works equally well on either support.

Describe your technique. How is the pigment mixed on the palette, how do you manage the pigment in the brush, and how do you apply the pigment?

I start by premixing on my palette two or three of the desired color mixtures which I will be using. I thin the paint with a little water, but am careful not to make extremely runny puddles of color.

I dip my brush into water and into one of the paint mixtures and lay down a more fluid pale wash of base color onto a small area of the painting on which I will be working. I then dry this layer of color with a hair dryer.

Next, I load my brush with color from one of my premixed puddles. I remove some of the moisture from the loaded brush by either wringing the bristles between my fingers or by touching the tip of the brush onto a paper towel before applying the paint to the painting surface. I then apply the damp paint using small strokes, carefully



"The Blue Umbrella" – watercolor and gouache, 15 3/8" x 18 3/4"

The drybrush technique is especially useful in depicting skin tones in portraiture. Drybrush is used throughout this painting to depict the skin, jacket, and other elements in this painting. Gouache is used to enhance the rain effect in the painting. This painting won First Place in watercolor at the South Carolina State Fair Fine Art Exhibition, Oct. 7 - 21, 2012

building the layers on underlying dry layers of paint. I also adjust my color mixtures as necessary as the painting progresses. To prevent the paint strokes from becoming too visible, I sometimes soften them with a wad of slightly dampened paper towel pressed onto the dry painted surface.

Drybrush often seems to require many layers of paint to create the appropriate effect. How do you avoid mud? Do you use a dryer to speed up the process?

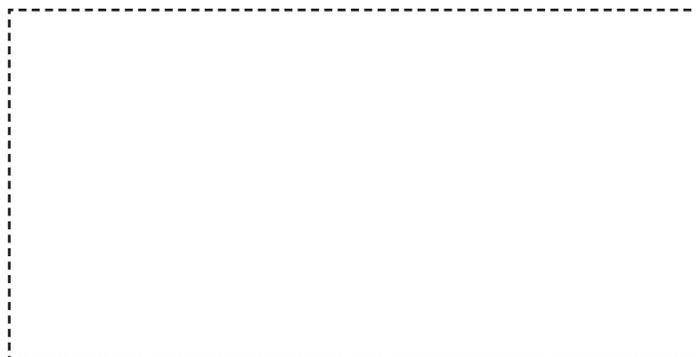
I use a hair dryer to dry between each layer of paint. The layers then visually mix without becoming muddy.

What is a simple exercise that our readers might try if they are interested in learning how to apply paint using a drybrush technique?

Any detailed subject lends itself well to the drybrush technique. A simple easy subject might be a still life painting of a piece of fruit. Start with a wash of the fruit's base color, then build the shadows and form with drybrush strokes of color. Remember to dry each layer of paint with a hair dryer before applying the next layer.



West Virginia Watercolor Society
P.O. Box 66
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:
Kristen Colebank, WVWS newsletter editor
P.O. Box 66, Wardensville, WV 26851
wvwatercolor@gmail.com

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