



JUNE 17, 2022 - 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization A Bi-Monthly Publication

### National award-winning artist, Ryan Fox, is coming to WAS-H!

Four-day workshop - October 3-6, 2022

[Registration](#) opens July 3, 2022. See below for more info.

## This Month's Exhibit



First Place: Harvesting by Larry Spitzberg

## JUNE EXHIBITION

*"Food For Thought"*

June 7 - July 1

[ONLINE GALLERY](#)

The Gallery is open Tues - Sat  
from 10am - 3pm  
1601 West Alabama, Houston, TX

## Gallery Conversations

### June 2022 Gallery Show: "Food for Thought"

By Cissy Geigerman, WAS-H Gallery Co-Director

This month's theme "Food for Thought" did give us a treat! The gallery was endowed with a beautiful array of paintings portraying food, whether it was gathering, cooking, growing, or simply enjoying a bounty of things to eat. It is always amazing to see the variety of interpretations our participants contribute. Many thanks to our volunteers this month, Mansueto Fabugais, Donna Rybiski, and Leisa Patin. This event was also helped tremendously by the expert guidance of Paula Fowler.

Our judge for this show was Amy C. Evans, an award winning artist, writer, and documentarian. She is a graduate of HSPVA and holds a BFA in printmaking from the Maryland Institute College of Art, and an MA in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi. Her paintings have appeared in *Southern Living*, *Southern Cultures*, and the *Oxford American*. Her first book, *A Good Meal is Hard to Find*, features her paintings and writings about southern cooking.

For the show Ms. Evans did her level best to evaluate the offerings and select the winners. Below are her remarks for the winners. As a surprise, though she was not expected

to do this, she also recorded brief comments for ALL the paintings. We suppose this was only natural since she IS a writer. Contact Cissy Geigerman at [gallerydirector@watercolorhouston.org](mailto:gallerydirector@watercolorhouston.org) to learn her comments about your entry.

Below are remarks from our judge and the artists. As an afterword, please read Larry Spitzberg's writing on the merits of painting like Winslow Homer.

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**First Place**  
**Larry Spitzberg**  
*Harvesting*

**Ms. Evans** - This piece really drew me in- the warmth, the brushwork, the action, the subject, the scale. And, for me, it shows a consideration and appreciation for farm workers, which is definitely food for thought.

**Larry Spitzberg** - The painting is recent but the photo is a few years old. I remember getting out

of the car and lugging my heavy camera and zoom lenses to the fields to photograph the laborers bringing in the harvest.

I did the painting twice. I first made a careful drawing of the figures which is unusual for me. I followed the local color throughout and was pleased with the painting. A few days ago i pulled it out to look at it to enter it and thought it was boring and didn't pop. So I wildly without any thinking and without the original photo for reference added sexy colors like wisteria and rose and darkened the few darks that outlined the figures. And it "popped".

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**Second Place**  
**Diane Cox**  
*Salt and Pepper Three Dollars*

**Ms. Evans** - The subject really speaks to me! I love a good treasure hunt and unique treasures. I also love the humor here, the larger-than-life scale and the vibrant colors. I see the birds in conversation, and I love imagining what they're saying.

**Diane Cox** - "Food for Thought" intrigued me as a subject that I haven't explored with my art work. I looked around my kitchen and realized my collection of salt and pepper shakers would be fun to work with. I also had just recently seen an

amazing demo of Aquaboard by Daniela Werneck which inspired me to try Aquaboard. It's fun to work with, give it a try. I enjoyed meeting and talking to Amy Evans the judge for the show. Amy did the beautiful acrylic paintings for "A Good Meal is Hard to Find" cookbook. Thank you Amy and everyone at WAS-H.

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**Third Place**  
**Jackie Liddell**  
*Banana Babies*

**Ms. Evans** - I love this piece for its creative use of media – layering of papers, addition of glitter and the bleeding line work that really gives the subject great detail and texture. I also love how I imagine the artist enjoyed the process and let the materials do their thing.



**Jackie Liddell** - I am inspired by the beauty and found compositions I see all around me. I love tropical settings, so I've created a tropical setting in my own backyard. The large banana flowers evolve into stalks of bananas after the trees are a couple of years old.

I began this piece with an underpainting and then freely drew pen lines that bleed when touched by water. I love the accidents and surprises that occur. Making my own collage papers and gluing them down was another fun addition to this painting. Painting is a journey. There is no end to the possibilities that transparent watercolor with mixed media can take you.



Honorable Mention  
Fontaine Jacobs  
*Jelly Prep*

**Ms. Evans** - Wow, I love this piece! Appreciate the physicality of the mark making, reductive moments, texture, pattern, light, so much action and yet it reads like glass because of the light achieved.

**Fontaine Jacobs** - I have been fascinated with painting glass subjects for a while. When painting on Yupo, the reflections, textures, and highlights are such fun to do! Obstacles on Yupo are few as you can wipe out an area if it is not working and try again. I have painted wine glasses, martini glasses, highball glasses, and canning jars with this same technique. I'm always searching for glass subject matter to paint on Yupo.



Honorable Mention  
Leslie McDonald  
*Fettucine*

**Ms. Evans** - The technical quality of this piece is outstanding, love the contrast and sharp edges, especially around the tomato. The quality of light is outstanding.

#### From a discussion with **Les McDonald** -

A permissioned photo was used for the basis of this painting. Starting with a precise drawing, the background is a dark black made from a rich mix of 3 primary colors. To make the long edges for the fork handle and tines, a special brush very much like a rigger, but longer and wider is useful. It can take some time to practice making smooth edges.

Honorable Mention  
Judith Lutkus  
*La Cucini Italiana*

**Ms. Evans** - I love that this is a still life within a landscape while getting both within a unique "built" environment. Creative composition and use of materials. Great texture.

**Judith Lutkus** - The memory of my mother's Italian





kitchen was the inspiration for this painting. I work in acrylic and mixed media with an emphasis on shapes, balance and harmony. My favorite subject is imagined still life, usually abstracted, using contour drawing as a starting point. I used flexible modeling paste to make an imagined tile floor and placed the window in the background to depict an Italian village. While the vegetables and olive oil jug were painted realistically, I used a warped perspective in the background to create an interesting design.

## Next Month's Exhibit

### July Student/Teacher Show

Deadline to enter: July 6 - register now!

WAS-H students may submit paintings made in class or made using techniques taught at WAS-H. The prospectus defines entrant qualifications.

**Registration has begun.**

Deadline: July 6 @ 3 pm  
Judging: July 9  
Reception: July 10 @ 3pm

Show: July 12 - Aug 2

This show gives WAS-H students an opportunity to "stand out" and to celebrate the WAS-H instructors who have encouraged their artistic journey. There are a few eligibility guidelines specific to this show so be sure to read the prospectus carefully. Only student entries are judged and eligible for prizes.

Questions: contact Cissy or Katie at  
[gallerdirector@watercolorhouston.org](mailto:gallerdirector@watercolorhouston.org)

Teachers, please submit an entry for this show!

- [2022 July Prospectus](#)
- Click [HERE](#) to Register and Pay entry Fee

August Show Theme: Sky - anything with a sky in it!!

## Ryan Fox - Major Workshop



"Turn your old notions of watercolor upside down" with Ryan Fox

Early Bird [Registration](#) opens July 3, 2022

**Major Workshop**  
October 3 - 6, 2022

Featured in *Watercolor Artist Magazine* and *Art of Watercolour*, national award-winning artist Ryan Fox promises to "turn your old notions of watercolor upside down." The first two days of the Workshop will explore wet-onto-wet painting, charging color, intentional water blossoms, scraping, spattering, and adding texture. The second two days will teach a new technique called watercolor batik, using watercolor paint and wax to create batik-style paintings on Japanese rice paper.

Early Bird registration fee for members July 3 - 31 is \$625.00  
Regular fee for members starting August 1 is \$650.00  
Seating is limited to 16 students

For more about Ryan Fox, see <https://rfoxphoto.com>

## Member Article

### From Larry Spitzberg, an afterword:

*The Maverick, Winslow Homer*

As an avid reader of watercolor art history, I always enjoy most reading about the negative reception that anything new seems to bring out in the general population and especially the art critics. You might enjoy knowing that even Winslow Homer was considered a maverick when he first showed his watercolors.

Examples are the Impressionists who got their name given by an unsympathetic critic from Monet's painting "Impression Sunrise". The critic Louis Leroy in 1874 wrote that "Wallpaper in its embryonic state is more finished than this seascape!"

And the word Fauvists from the French Fauves means Wild Beasts!

The watercolor medium is most commonly associated with Britain during the period extending roughly from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century – the so-called Golden Age of watercolor. The tradition began with detailed drawings in graphite or ink and tinted with a restricted range of colored washes. These were later deprecatingly described to watercolor paintings as only "tinted drawings".

Yet I am still surprised at the reaction of some of the critics to an American icon of watercolor painting, Winslow Homer. We consider Homer's paintings so mainstream and so much the epitome of watercolor today!

In the book "The Watercolors of Winslow Homer" by Miles Unger, he writes that "What distinguished Homer's approach from the beginning was the freedom with which he put brush to paper. Writing in 1875 for the Art Journal, one critic complained: "Mr. Homer's style is wonderfully vigorous and original; with a few dashes of the brush, he suggests a picture, but a mere suggestion only, and it is a mistaken eccentricity which prevents finish". In a language that was to echoed frequently in his lifetime, another critic described his watercolors as "mere memorandum blots and exclamation points", though he went on to say, with an ambivalence typical of contemporary responses, that the artists pictures were so "pleasant to look at, we are almost content not to ask Mr. Homer for a finished piece".

So be a maverick like Claude Monet, Henri Matisse, and even like Winslow Homer!

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## Member News

### *A Family Affair*

By Diane Trepagnier

My brother, Carl Trepagnier, recently had his first book published. Needless to say, I am quite proud of him. We have both been honing our crafts for some time now, and it's quite a significant achievement for him to get the book published. So it was with honor



and trepidation when he asked me to paint a cover for his book. But I took on the task and asked him to be honest if the painting did not meet his expectations. As you can see from the photo, the book was published using my painting on the cover.

The book is a historical fiction set against the horrific ship explosion in 1947 in Texas City, Texas. My family and I lived five blocks from where the ship exploded. Fortunately, we all survived. The epilogue in the book recounts our experience.

It was so fun to work together on this and I just like to share.

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### *Shout out to WAS-H's own Carol Rensink from the Royal Drawing School in London.*

Many of you may know Carol Rensink as the head coordinator for the Model Lab program at WAS-H. She developed the program, has been leading it for years, and has been instrumental in developing a quality weekly studio program to draw and paint from live models. She also suggested our use of Padlet for online ZOOM classes that helped make them a success.



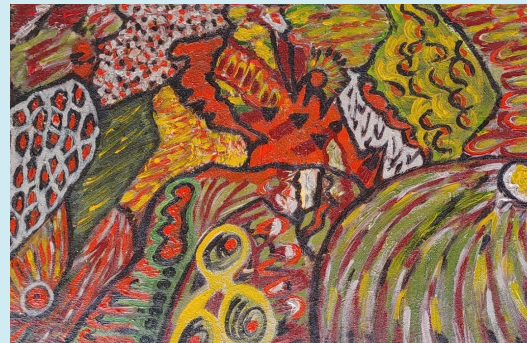
She has been taking online courses from the Royal Drawing School (RDS) since the beginning of the pandemic. They recently profiled her in this lovely article.

<https://www.royaldrawingschool.org/courses/public-courses/student-stories/carol-rensink/> The article mentions her work with WAS-H and provides a lovely profile on Carol.

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### *Olga Shotashvili Freedom of Expression Exhibit*

WAS-H member, Olga Shotashvili, is showing a very personal set of artworks entitled "Freedom of Expression" at the Cultural Center OUR Texas, 2337 Bissonnet, Houston, TX 77005. The exhibit is open now through July 22. You can find more information at [www.OURTX.org](http://www.OURTX.org).



Do you have something you want to share with the WAS-H membership! You can request a blog post by emailing Nancy Moody at [washrag@watercolorhouston.org](mailto:washrag@watercolorhouston.org)

Click [HERE](#) for the latest blog posts.

## Outreach and Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteer Teachers Orientation - Join us to



# find out more!

We frequently receive requests to provide basic watercolor demonstrations or classes to Senior Citizen Communities, Public Libraries, Schools and Assisted Living facilities. Have you ever thought about teaching a class? You don't have to be an expert watercolorist to introduce others to the art! All you need is basic knowledge and a love of art, in addition to some patience and a sense of humor!



We will host a one-hour orientation for those who want to explore sharing your love of watercolor with others. We will discuss how to teach a class, supplies provided, and make suggestions on how to overcome your shyness! If interested, sign up for our Volunteer Orientation Class on the website, under the Activities tab.

## Other Volunteer Opportunities



### *The WAS-H Art Fair Saturday, October 8, 2022*

*Details coming soon!*

### *Get out the clothesline, it's back!*

The WAS-H Art Fair is another great opportunity for you to volunteer AND sell your art at the same time! More information will be coming in July's Newsletter. Limited spaces are available so be sure to be the first to sign-up to participate.



A sad note. Our watercolor colleague Kate Paxton passed away on May 7, 2022. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/san-antonio-tx/kate-paxton-10742860>. There will be a memorial service at Christ the King Lutheran Church of Houston on June 29th at 7:00 pm.

Gallery/Office Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 3 pm  
[Covid Policy](#)

[Classes/Workshops](#)  
[Upcoming Major Workshops](#)  
[Model Lab](#)

[Membership](#)  
[Washrag Blog](#)  
[Calendar of Events](#)



water-media to the greater Houston area with outstanding exhibitions, world-class instruction and dedicated community outreach. Year-round opportunities are provided to every level of painter, from novice to the seasoned expert. Art lovers can also enjoy year-round exhibitions in our gallery in the Museum District.