



August 12, 2022 e-newsletter
A Bi-Monthly Publication

IN THE GALLERY

ONLINE GALLERY

August Exhibit "Skies"

by Cissy Geigerman, WAS-H Gallery Co-Director

How's the weather? Well, it varies as you can tell from the many versions of paintings for this month's "Skies". The challenge was to paint any rendition of a sky and we did have a beautiful array of choices. We had stormy skies, clear skies, starry skies, and sunsets, to name a few. Many thanks to our volunteers this month, Mansueto Fabugais, and Paula Fowler.

Our judge for this show was **Frank Billingsley**, currently a meteorologist for KPRC Houston. He was named a "Houston Treasure" in 2018 and a "Houston Legend" by Houston City Book in 2021. Frank's career includes Best Weathercaster awards from the Associated Press, the Houston Press Club, the Houston Press Newspaper and the Dallas Press Club. In 2020 Frank became an honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy, the highest honor the governor of Texas can bestow on any citizen. Besides his meteorological expertise, Frank has also become a champion of men's health through sharing his own experience of prostate cancer and has advocated for adoptees in his book *Swabbed & Found: An Adopted Man's Journey to Discover His Family Tree* (Bright Sky Press, 2017). Out of Frank's many accolades, his favorite recognition comes from the Houston Chronicle which has named Frank the "Ultimate Weatherman."

The Gallery was very pleased to have so many entries for Mr. Billingsley to evaluate. He was impressed with the variety and range of talent presented, having been a painter himself.

Here's an image of our enthusiastic reception!





GALLERY CONVERSATIONS



1st Place

"No Footprints, End of Summer" by Darlene Dittoe

Frank Billingsley- Excellent detail. Great use of color, light and reflection the whole work feels gentle and lonely.

Ms. Dittoe - I had a wonderful friend of 40 years who I lost last year. She and her husband lived in Delaware. I was visiting them a year ago in the fall and we had gone to the beach in Avalon, New Jersey. She and

I were walking the beach hand in hand. I took many photos of that day and the painting is a compilation of several. Wonderful memories of a special friend and a special time.

Cissy Geigerman: This painting had communicative powers for Frank Billingsley. While not knowing the story behind it, Frank felt something with this painting.

2nd Place

"Sailor's Delight" by Fontaine Jacobs

Frank Billingsley – A lot of color here and I don't like pink, but this grew on me. At the end, a bold and streaming work. I like the flow.

Fontaine Jacobs - I am always fascinated with clouds, they can really take your breath away. In twenty years of sailing, my husband and I saw many brilliant sunsets. This served as my inspiration for this painting. Unlike the judge, I do like pink and wanted to try out a new color combo. Getting a smooth transition of color on Yupo took a lot of paint and water, but the clouds lifted easily.



Frank Billingsley: My eye kept coming over to your painting, I could not deny the hold it had on me.

Fontaine Jacobs: Yes, I also said to myself “that’s a lot of pink!” I held onto it because it seemed to work with rest of what was there.



3rd Place
"The Old Barn"
by Robert Ruhmann

Frank Billingsley – Not all sky has to have something going on. The artist chose a simple blue sky to showcase his talent for realism and it works.

Robert Ruhmann - This barn is located 15 miles north of Wharton, Texas. When I first saw it, I was very intrigued by the texture of the wood and the color of the roof. I could tell that it was very old and had been used for many years. I love to paint old barns because they are a big part of our nation's history. The most challenging part of the painting was the roof. I used a mixture of Burnt Sienna and Red Oxide.

Cissy Geigerman: This painting has a lot of detail. How long did it take you to paint it? Your style

reminds me of Les McDonald do you know him?

Robert Ruhmann: I paint just about every day. This one took a day and a half. Yes, I know Les very well. We find ourselves together at art festivals and shows throughout the season.



Honorable Mention
Katie Steck
"Await"

Frank Billingsley – This piece jumps out and I love the reflections.

Katie Steck – This was inspired by Houston’s amazing skylscapes with its emotive motion and simultaneous stillness. I named it Await so the viewer can decide if the ship is awaiting a storm or just perhaps awaiting adventure.



Honorable Mention
Mohammad Ali Bhatti
"Summertime"

Frank Billingsley – Simple strokes to evoke a solid image. It is obvious this artist can draw. So many times a good painting starts with a good drawing.

Mohammed Ali Bhatti - I was inspired by this countryside view near Conroe. I like the simplicity and quietness of the scene. I took a few clicks and painted with the idea of “less is more”, in watercolor landscape painting. The lower part is

active shades and contrasts to the calm sky.

Cissy Geigerman: Well yes, we know this artist can draw! He is a popular instructor here at WASH and we hope to enjoy his classes for a long while.



Honorable Mention
Rona Lesser
"Sunset Over the River"

Frank Billingsley – Reflection is subtle yet- there and well done.

Rona Lesser – This was taken from a series of photos done on a Victory Cruise ship down the St. Lawrence Seaway. I chose this one for the composition of the contrast of the reflection and the dark lines of the tower. I slowly developed the sky and land forms, and used the same colors to get the water. I had to go back and emphasize the horizon line to separate it from the reflection. The final step was to add the power lines with watercolor pencil. The

reflections and sky were done with lots of layers and wet onto wet.

Frank Billingsley: Did you turn the painting upside down to do the reflections?

Rona Lesser: No, I did it all together, but I did turn it upside down near the end to check if it looked all right.

Upcoming Monthly Exhibit



September Show Theme: *BLUE*

Our next show will feature that glorious color blue. This hue has a rich history of creation and is commonly associated with a range of particular feelings including tranquility, calmness, imagination, cold, distance, sadness, and peace. From ultramarine to azure, the color blue comes in a vast array of compelling color variations and subtle shifts in hue. While other colors are allowed in this show, each painting must feature the color blue as the predominant color, or as a prominent feature/focal point of the piece.

[September Prospectus](#)

Registration: Aug 12th to Sept 7th

[Registration Link](#)

Submit Your Entries by 3pm on Wednesday September 7th

Annual Members Exhibit Coming October 2022

53rd Annual Members Exhibit
(AME)

October 2 - November 3, 2022

by Diane Trepagnier, AME Director

The 53rd Annual Members Exhibit is in October 2022.

Click [HERE](#) for details.

Key Dates:

September 13, 2022 online registration begins: (Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.)

September 20, 2022 drop-off begins: (Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.)

September 29, 2022 3:00pm - DEADLINE of online registration & drop-off

Find more details in the [AME Prospectus](#).

If you have questions, contact Diane Trepagnier, AME Director at 281-253-7562 or ame@watercolorhouston.org.



ACTIVITIES AT WAS-H

2022 Art Fair - October 8



Register for the 2022 Art Fair

Only 4 spaces left!

We are so excited about this year's Art Fair! We expect a good crowd this year. Get your paintings and your sunscreen and join us!
Don't miss out!!

Upcoming Classes/Workshops

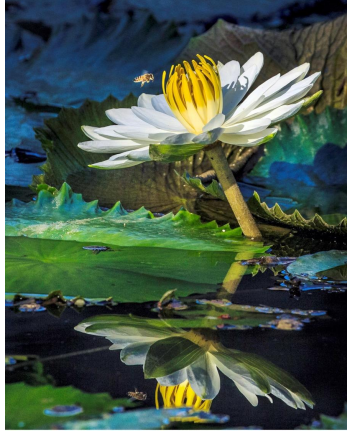


Drawing 101 with Myke Venable

4-Week Class Begins Next Week
Tuesday mornings
August 16, 23, 30, Sept 6
9:00am - 12:00pm

[Register Here](#)





2-Day Workshop with Les McDonald

Lily Pad & Honey Bee
Saturday & Sunday
August 20 & 21
9:30am - 3:30pm
[Register Here](#)



1-Day Workshop with Linda Vanek

Exciting Ways to Paint
Using YUPO Paper!
Friday, September 16
9:30am - 3:30pm
[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Major Workshop



4-Day Workshop

with Ryan Fox.
October 3-6, 2022
For more information: [REGISTER](#)



Award-winning artist, Ryan Fox, will teach our 4-day workshop in October.

WAS-H INTERVIEWS WORKSHOP ARTIST RYAN FOX (Part one)

What has been your path to becoming an artist?
I always was that kid who was doodling on his paper instead of paying attention. I have a BFA degree from the University of Michigan, a ton of drawing classes, only two painting classes. I



enjoyed them but fell in love with photography and did freelance photography work until returning to painting in 2011, when I became a stay-at-home-dad with two boys.

How much time do you spend painting? Do you have a daily routine?

In 2015 when both kids were in school, I moved out of the house into a proper studio and started working full-time. My mornings consist of computer work, emails, marketing, scanning, etc. In the afternoons I try to paint as much as possible, try to do something -- color studies, drawings, paintings.

How would you describe your signature style element or technique?

I try a lot of different things to "avoid" having a technique. However, I know my work bears marks and calligraphy that differentiate my work as mine. I think some of my most successful paintings are watercolor batik and poured watercolors. These are slower paintings that require advanced planning to analyze composition and values. However, I also enjoy painting quickly. Fast paintings take on a life of their own. You're not as emotionally invested in a painting you only spent five minutes drawing. If you make a mistake, it's not that big of a deal.



What is the best work of art you created?

I have a large watercolor batik painting of Amsterdam that is one of my favorite paintings.

However, there is always room for improvement. I always look forward to my next painting because, even though I have ideas for what the finished piece will look like, I am (usually) surprised by the final results. My best piece is not created yet!
To be continued . . .

Enroll in Ryan's upcoming

Workshop at WAS-H [HERE](#).

And watch for Part Two of our Interview with the Artist in a future blog.

Check out all our classes!

Share your news and ideas!

Share your **news** or write an article to submit for the Washrag by sending to our Communications Director, Nancy Moody, at Washrag @watercolorhouston.org

Send your ideas about **classes or workshops** you'd be interested in by emailing our Education Director, Elizabeth Graham, at Education @watercolorhouston.org.

Send your thoughts about **special events** you'd be interested in or other recommendations to our President, Karen Stopnicki, at President @watercolorhouston.org.



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

Gallery/Office Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 3 pm

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

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

Watercolor Art Society-Houston | www.watercolorhouston.org



Founded in 1975, the Watercolor Art Society – Houston (WAS-H) is a non-profit organization bringing the excitement of 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.