IWE
46th
INTERNATIONAL
Watermedia EXHIBITION

2023
Watercolor Art Society - Houston
IWE Chair’s Statement

What a delight to see 358 paintings entered by 183 artists and what a challenge for Juror Brenda Swenson to select 25% to hang in the Exhibition. Every painting was a worthy competitor and not being selected was a reflection only of the competitive process, not of the artist or the art. There were no losers.

An art exhibit is an escape, a temporary getaway to a wild marsh, a sheltered boat cove, a Chinese backyard . . . to mingle with a blacksmith, a desert nomad, an Amazon chieftain . . . to bask inside a sun-dappled cathedral, a sun-drenched living room, a shady former iron foundry . . . to exchange looks with a homesick kitty, an iguana looking for attention, a polar bear in a zoo . . . to relive youth among children with lollipops, a dozing toddler, the twinkle in teenage eyes . . . to see beauty in everyday life, in onions, in beets, in glassware and silver . . .

For their conscientious uncrating, vetting, curating and hanging of 84 paintings from around the world, praise and gratitude go to Mike Doan, Paula Fowler, Carla Gauthier and their Gallery teams.

From among this best-of-the-best, thank you to Judge Brenda Swenson for sharing her own award-winning expertise to select award winners. Gratitude also to Laura McMahon and Louise Bateman for managing the end-to-end awards process from phone calls to applause.

“Cheers!” to Kathleen Church, Patty Armstrong and their crew for a reception bubbling with camaraderie, cuisine and libations. And, for assembling a lasting record and lovely panorama in this Exhibition Catalog, we raise a glass of gratitude to Beth Graham.

With kudos to Kelly Medrano, Nancy Moody and Veronica Keenig for spreading the word, art lovers flocked to IWE. And for making the building “company-ready”, deep appreciation for deep cleaning to Kathleen Church, Darlene Dittoe, Beth Graham and Karen Stopnicki.

To Laura Mossman, last year’s IWE Director, fount of knowledge, smoother of feathers, solution-magician, tireless toiler, and my mentor, I could not have done this without you.

With gratitude for indulging me with this wondrous “escape” called IWE.

Your 46th IWE Chair, Donna Van Fleet

Judge’s Statement

“It’s an honor and privilege to be the Judge of the 46th IWE. My sincere thank-you to the Watercolor Art Society of Houston. I was impressed with the caliber of the submissions. What you see before you is a show of strength, originality and vision, with a good variety of subject, style, and thought-provoking themes.

What do I look for when judging a show? It’s much more than mastery of techniques that brings a viewer back again and again. First of all, it’s the artist’s ability to communicate. I look for the artist to have an emotional connection to what they have created. I want to feel what is being said in the piece. Second, I look for the artist’s ability to utilize design, value, edge quality, color and technique.

In closing, I’d like to say I find no joy in dashing anyone’s hopes and yet it was my job to narrow down the submissions to what I felt was the best. If you weren’t selected, don’t despair, we’ve all been there and will be again. There is always room for growth.”

Brenda Swenson, WW, NWS, SDWS, CWA, Juror and Judge

Brenda has won major awards in juried exhibitions internationally. An active participant in the arts community, she has served as an officer of the California Art Club and has served on the board of directors for the National Watercolor Society and Watercolor West. She’s a Signature Artist in WW, NWWS, SDWS and CWA. Her artwork has been featured in multiple volumes of Splash: Best of Watercolor, An Illustrated Journey, Creative Freedom, Complete Guide to Watercolor, Watercolor Artist, Watercolor Magazine, Watercolor Highlights, Plein Air Magazine and numerous other publications.

Front Cover: John Salminen’s Promenade, 1st Place Award 2023
Dear Friends,

As President of the Watercolor Art Society – Houston, it is with great pleasure to present our Forty-Sixth Annual International Watermedia Exhibition (IWE), debuting on March 5th. Entries came from all over the US, and the far reaches of the world including India and Australia. The exhibition is the finest in watercolor, acrylic and other Watermedia in styles ranging from photorealism to abstract with everything in between and will be on display in our Houston gallery until March 31st.

We were honored to have well-known artist, author, and instructor Brenda Swenson, as this year’s juror and judge. She selected a spectacular exhibition of 84 paintings from over 350 entries, and then spent hours in person thoughtfully judging the awards. I want to thank our IWE Chair, Donna Van Fleet, acting as master juggler, symphony director, thoughtful planner, and pinch-hit chauffeur to make sure our premier event is more fabulous than ever. A special thanks go to our team of the many volunteers who made this event happen.

WAS-H is about a community of art-appreciators, art-makers, and art-teachers coming together with a common passion – art made with Watermedia. I hope you enjoy this outstanding display of art, whether you see it in-person, on our website or through this catalog. Most of all, I hope you will join us and be a part of our community.

With Gratitude,
Karen Stopnicki
President, Watercolor Art Society Houston
With Gratitude

Watercolor Art Society – Houston is grateful for the following generous donors who fund awards:

  Estate of Odette Rubin
  Art Supply on Almeda
  Jack and Annis Bowen Foundation
  Hebert Family
  Friends of E. Thomas Kraycirik
  Watercolor Art Society - Houston Board of Directors

With loving gratitude for the services of those for whom awards are fondly named:

  Odette Rubin Memorial Award
  Margaret Scott Bock Award
  Jack Bowen Award
  Hebert Family Award
  E. Thomas Kraycirik Memorial Award

WAS-H also thanks those whose support added to IWE’s success:

  Cheryl Evans
  Drury Inn & Suites Houston Galleria
  Rick Wells Photography
  H-E-B

And gratitude to our patron donors for their support of our artists, this exhibit, our organization, and the beauty of watercolor media.
### Elite Signature Status

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### Signature Status

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| Christine Albery       | Marguerite Costigan  | Diane Henderson       |
| Ron Anderson           | Lynne Crawford       | Alison Hendry        |
| Del Azios              | Barbara O'Neal       | Hailey Herrera        |
| Wm. Kelly Bailey       | Davis               | Peggy Hoekman         |
| Dick Barlow            | Bridget DeFlora     | Bonnie Hubly          |
| Tanna Bennett          | Pat Dispensiere     | Deborah Hutchinson    |
| David M. Blackwell     | Alma O'Donnelly     | John James            |
| Irene Bolitho          | Lucija Dragovan     | Lynda Jung            |
| Becky Brocato          | Don Edelman         | Susan Keith           |
| Martin Butler          | Eddie Edwards       | Fred Kingwill         |
| Sylvia Cameron         | Peihong Endris      | Karen Knutson         |
| Isabel Capp            | Patrick Faile       | Suzanne               |
| Linda Haag Carter      | Antoaneta Georgieva  | Leatherwood           |
| Jane Chamberlain       | Kim Granhaug        | Annell Livingston     |
| Lee Cohen              | Anna Griffith        | Mike Mazer            |
| Jan McNeil             | Jean McTaggart      | Cookie O Rees         |
| Jean McTaggart         | Mary Lou Metcalf    | Kay Ellis Rekoff      |
| Mary Lou Metcalf       | Cuauhtemoc Murphy   | Kay Reynolds          |
| Laura Hagerman         | Hiep Nguyen         | Leatrice Joy          |
| Mike Serves            | r. mike nichols     | Richard Johnson       |
| William B. Owens       | Mary Basye Nicklow  | Joy Rumscheidt        |
| Anne Hightower-Patterson|                            | Nance Scanland        |
| Reva Power             | William B. Owens    | Cathy Schuster        |
| Kris Preslan           | Anne Hightower-Patterson|                                     |
| Cheryl Presswood       | Mary Quinn           | Jerry V. Seagle       |
| Carolyn H. Puhalski    | Ruth Hill Radcliffe  | Irene Sheytman        |
| Mary Quinn             |                     | Jan Shadrer           |
| Larry Spitzberg        |                     | DeEtta Silvestro      |
| Brandee Standley       |                     | Kristine Smith        |
| Shirley Stronach       |                     | Jean Sommer           |
| Ann Stoudenmire        |                     | Larry Spitzberg       |
| Linda Darke            |                     | Brandee Standley      |
| Swayne                 |                     |                     |
| Anne Treadwell         |                     |                     |
| Carol Watson           |                     |                     |
| Vicky Williamson       |                     |                     |
| Kathleen Zann          |                     |                     |
| Issacson               |                     |                     |
| Jun Zhu                |                     |                     |

46th International Watermedia Exhibition
First Place

“Brilliant shapes from a painter who knows how to direct the eye and create depth of field, shapes, and tones.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

John Salminen, Promenade, Duluth, MN

Second Place

“Stunning use of the bars of the window as a grid pattern, with the light moving in on the window without creating a bull’s eye.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

Dean Mitchell, Angel in the Window, Tampa, FL
Third Place

“Love how the light travels and moves through her body and along the children. The placement of the chairs softens the foreground.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

Lyudmila Tomova, Rehearsal Break, Cary, NC

Odette Ruben Memorial Award

“Love the way the light dances. Brilliantly painted with shadows, forms, and lost edges.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

WAS-H is the very grateful recipient of a bequest from the estate of WAS-H long time Signature Elite member, Odette Ruben. Native to Houston and a skilled watercolor artist, in her life Odette received recognition and many awards throughout Texas and in the Texas Watercolor Society. Odette chose to remember WAS-H in her will by leaving $15,000 for an annual award at the International Watermedia Exhibition. The Odette Ruben Memorial Award of $1000 is to be given each year through 2031.

Susan Keith, Brighter Days Ahead, Murrieta, CA
Jack Bowen Award

“Textures and layers just beautifully handled. The eye doesn’t get trapped in the grid patterns of the net, and the repetitive curvelinear lines give the feel of water.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

The Jack and Annis Bowen Foundation underwrites this prestigious award each year as a part of the International Watermedia Exhibition in memory of Mr. Bowen, who loved watercolors and continues to be a generous supporter of the Watercolor Art Society - Houston through his Foundation.

Cheryl Wooten, Day’s Catch, Canyon Lake, TX

Margaret Scott Bock Award

“Beautiful negative spaces. The lace cascades all the way through and the darks have a beautiful rich and luminous tone.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

WAS-H wishes to extend our deep appreciation to Art Supply on Almeda for their support and patronage for 60 years. They make this award in honor of long-time WAS-H member and Elite Signature artist, Margaret Scott Bock.

Monika Pate, Antiques and Lace, College Station, TX
Hebert Family Award

“This artist paints a young girl with love and compassion without being saccharin sweet. The painting is contemplative and makes one think.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

We are grateful to the Hebert Family for their support and generosity in underwriting this Special Award.

Daniela Werneck, The Blue Butterfly, Katy, TX

E. Thomas Kraycirik Memorial Award

“This “looks” like watercolor with excellent blue color combinations well executed on Yupo. It has good perspective and moves the eye back into the painting from the foreground subjects.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

This Special Award honors the memory of E. Thomas Kraycirik, gifted artist and dedicated supporter of the WAS-H annual International Watermedia Exhibition (IWE). Tom served as Chair of the IWE for three consecutive years, as well as a member of the WAS-H Board for several years.

Ken Call, Red Lollipops, Northbrook, IL
**Board of Directors Award**

“This artist’s style is recognizable. She loves to paint fabric and it shows beautifully.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

This Special Award is made possible by the generosity of current and former members of the WAS-H Board of Directors. WAS-H’s board members are all volunteers, giving of their time and support in countless ways, including by contributing to this award.

**Chris Krupinski, Pears and Squares, Maineville, OH**

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**Special Merit Award**

“Such beautiful light across the face.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

**Xiaochang Zhang, Bride, San Ramon, CA**
Merit Awards

“Eye dazzling- beautifully handled. The limited palette is also beautifully handled.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

Carla Gauthier, Bay Oaks Light, Houston, TX

“Eye dazzler.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

Cindy Brabec-King, Cherry Bomb, Palisade, CO
“Softness of the children against the barred windows is very thought provoking”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

*Richard Tiejun Chao*, *A Window to Your Soul*, Carlton, NSW, Australia

“The light of a modern day cell phone is handled beautifully. The painting is a double portrait.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

*Mehrdad Sedghi*, *Reflection of Silence and Darkness*, Anaheim, CA
Merit Awards

“I can almost hear the wings flapping and love the motion.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

Soon Warren, Dream of Soaring, Fort Worth, TX

“Love the placement, values, and edges.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

Alison Hendry, Missing Charlotte, Houston, TX
Merit Awards

“Catching a moment in time.”
-Brenda Swenson, Judge

**Coleen Reynolds**, *Hair Like Mine*, Carson City, NV

“Beautifully styled seascape with lots of depth.”
-Brenda Swenson, Judge

**Sid Bingham**, *Barking Dogs*, La Crescenta, CA
Merit Awards

Mohammad Bhatti, Desert Nomad, Richmond, TX

“Love the placement and use of the circular motif which repeats throughout the painting.”

- Brenda Swenson, Judge

r. mike nichols, Mom, Salinas, CA

“Always thought provoking.”

- Brenda Swenson, Judge
International Watermedia Exhibition

David Belling, Horizon Marsh, Milwaukee, WI

MaryLou Andrews, The Blacksmith, Virginia Beach, VA

Marilynne Bradley, Sheltered Cove, Sykesville, MD

Glenn Cernosek, Wind Works, Cedar Park, TX

Matthew Bird, Still Life with 17th Century Bottle, Sykesville, MD

Watercolor Art Society - Houston
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Bill Curtis, *Fall in Woodstock*, Houston, TX

Cheryl Evans, *Amazon Chieftain*, Seabrook, TX

Elaine Daily-Birnbaum, *Still Figuring It Out*, Madison, WI

Kristen Dunkelberger, *Zero Sum*, Green Cove Springs, FL
International Watermedia Exhibition

Janet Doll, *The Continuation of Time*, Staunton, IL

Alicia Farris, *Inner Twinkle*, Springfield, MO

Jane Fritz, *Sunrise on the Spires*, Las Vegas, NM

Margit Gergely, *Rotundus*, Sugar Land, TX

Susan Giannantonio, *Ancient Threads*, Humble, TX

Jennifer Gillen, *Florentino’s Little Birds*, Plano, TX
46th International Watermedia Exhibition

Raymond Grossi, *Illinois Working Farm*, Morris, IL

Laurie Hammons, *Pear Reverie*, Houston, TX

Anne Hightower-Patterson, *Dinner At Pearl’s*, Leesville, SC

Laurie Goldstein-Warren, *Westminster Light*, Buckhannon, WV

Dmitry Grudsky, *Coffee Break*, Newark, CA
International Watermedia Exhibition

**Michael Holter**, *The Pipes Are Calling*, Plano, TX

**Tatsiana Harbacheuskaya**, *Helsinki*, Las Vegas, NV

**Tracy Ingham**, *The Kiss*, Rockford, IA

**Fontaine Jacobs**, *Blue Faced Iguana*, Friendswood, TX

**Lynne Hardwick**, *Nomad’s Vision XXXX*, Daniel Island, SC
Ashish Irap, *Rough Backyard*, Thane, Maharashtra, India

Bev Jozwiak, *Casting Shadows*, Vancouver, WA

John James, *Letters to Remember - Falling*, Virginia Beach, VA

Michele Tabor Kimbrough, *Crucian Carnival Series XXVIII*, Marianna, FL

Fred Kingwill, *Buffalo Valley Winter*, Jackson, WY
Jeannie Knod Edwards, *In Vogue II*, Texarkana, AR

Carolyn Latanision, *Iron Foundry Walls*, Bethlehem Steel, Winchester, MA

Tamara Kontrimas, *Century Farm Nova Scotia*, Sugar Land, TX


Carolyn Latanision, *Iron Foundry Walls*, Bethlehem Steel, Winchester, MA

Rebecca Krutsinger, *Occlude*, Xenia, IL
Carolyn Lord, *Just Joey in Full Bloom*, Livermore, CA

Maureen Lewis, *California Captive*, Houston, TX

Mark McDermott, *Castle Hill, Edinburgh*, Anchorage, AK

Les McDonald Jr., *Coffee Worker Homes - Costa Rica*, Houston, TX

International Watermedia Exhibition

Steve J. Morris, *Golden Beets*, Chesterfield, MO

Cynthia Reid, *When the Sun Goes Down We Dance*, Willis, TX

Maria Ruggiero, *Act Soon*, Ann Arbor, MI

Gay Paratore, *Window Washer*, Santa Fe, TX

Katherine Rodgers, *Culinary Blues*, Houston, TX
Thomas Schaller, *Lanterns*, New York, NY

Bonnie Sedlak, *Honu Emerging*, Half Moon Bay, CA

Jan Shrader, *Echo of Whistler*, Houston, TX

Irene Sheytman, *Duomo I*, Houston, TX
International Watermedia Exhibition

Erik Sprohge, *Against the Wind*, Houston, TX

Denise Sperry, *We’re All Linked Together II*, Williamsville, NY

Kathy Simon-McDonald, *Quintessentially Cuban*, Bradenton, FL

Don Taylor, *Wired In - Havanna*, Panama City, FL
E Stoddard, Onions, East Amherst, NY

Zhou Tianya, Oriental Venice, Shenzhen, China

Linda Vanek, Resolution, Houston, TX

Lisa Tennant, Long Day, Killeen, TX
International Watermedia Exhibition

Elizabeth Yarosz-Ash, *Bon Vivant*, Wichita Falls, TX

Keiko Yasuoka, *Summer Table*, Houston, TX

Kathryn Wedge, *Garden Bounty*, Neenah, WI

Stephanie Williams, *Cottonwood Trees 2*, Conroe, TX
Erhu Zhang, *Early Morning of the Empire’s Garden*, Huizhou, China

Vladislav Yeliseyev, *Stroncone Arches*, Sarasota, FL

Stephen Zhang, *Big Day*, Plano, TX