Life at Its Best
by Lynne Woods, Vice-President

Painting alone in the quiet of my home is one of the most peaceful things I can do. I find it both healing and rejuvenating.

Then to balance that alone time, I love sharing with others at WAS-H. As a society, we join together to create meaningful life experiences, through classes, exhibits, paint-ins-outs, and volunteering. Through the act of sharing, we create society—OUR society—the way we want it to be. On a personal level, this social connection enables us to learn new skills, make lasting friendships, and offer an open door of creative participation to the world. For me this balance is life at its best.

Here are some of the “open doors” where we need you now at WAS-H. Please…

- Help the International Exhibit team with receptions, uncrating and recrating paintings, take-in and hanging paintings. Contact Dawna Hasara at dawna.hasara@gmail.com.
- Help the website team; training will be provided. Work from home. Contact Karen Stopnicki at kstopnicki@gmail.com.
- Photographers for Gallery Exhibits, artist demos, and receptions. Contact Louise Bateman at louisehbateman54@gmail.com.
- Reporters for monthly Washrag articles on Demos and Exhibits.
- Videographers for monthly artist demos.
- Building Director changes light bulbs and oversees contractors for repairs.
- Outreach Director coordinates WAS-H’s community services (scholarships to High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and WAS-H volunteers who paint with young cancer patients at Texas Children’s Hospital clinic).

Did You Know?
The WAS-H Membership Directory is now online at www.watercolorhouston.org. If you are a member and you sign in to the WAS-H website, you can go to the Membership page, click on the Membership Directory, and search for a member's phone number or email address. You can also search by zip code to find possible carpool members! Access to this information is limited to current WAS-H members only.

Wanted: Major Workshop Coordinators
by Lynne Woods, Vice-President

Twice each year WAS-H brings a national-level artist to Houston to teach an intensive 3-5-day watermedia workshop. Our guest artist-teachers next year will be Mary Whyte, October 10-12, 2016 and Stephen Quiller, March 13-17, 2017.

WAS-H needs a volunteer to coordinate each of these major workshops.

Overall, the Workshop Coordinator is responsible for participant registration, communication and payment, daily running of the workshop, and final reporting to the Board. In return for his or her service, the Coordinator is not charged a fee to attend the major workshop. After reading the specific duties below, please contact me at lynne.woods@yahoo.com if you would like to be considered for one of these positions.

Specific Duties:
1. Confirm dates and place of workshop with the Vice President. Contact Artist-Instructor and review his/her workshop requirements such as room arrangement, special equipment, and obtain a supply list, etc.
2. Manage the registration process with the aid of the Administrative Assistant.
3. Workshop fees are due six weeks prior to the Workshop. If there is a waiting list, those not paid in full are to be notified that their space will be given to the next person on the waiting list and that their deposit is not refundable.
4. Send supply list, agenda, etc., to all participants. Answer participant questions.
5. Arrange local transportation for the Instructor to and from hotel.
6. During the workshop on a daily basis:
   - Provide nametags.
   - Run the audio-visual equipment. (Training provided. It’s not hard.)
   - Prepare coffee and bring or arrange for snacks.
   - Arrange with a participant(s) to take

(continued on page 3)
General Meeting - February 14
Social 1:30, Meeting 2:00
Demo: Hilary Page

Visual Complements versus Mixing Complements

Most artists know that complementary color pairs can be used for two functions: (1) “Visual Complements” make each other appear more brilliant; and (2) “Mixing Complements” make bright colors more neutral and subtle.

But the color pairs of each type of complement are not the same! Many artists are unaware of the difference and mistakenly mingle the two.

Hilary’s Demo will clarify the difference between Visual and Mixing complements and enable you to make the color in your paintings more dynamic and brilliant than ever before.

Hilary Page is the author of three books: Watercolor Right from the Start, Color Right from the Start, and Hilary Page’s Guide to Watercolor Paints with on-line updates. She is presently completing a book on portraiture titled Portraits Right from the Start.

She has published over fifty magazine articles on art instruction. Galleries of her paintings can be seen at www.hilarypage.com.

Hilary offers a video/DVD illustrating the difference between Visual and Mixing Complements at www.hilarypage.com.

She also has DVDs and VCR videos on Shadows, Watercolor Techniques and Color Mixing and on Portrait

—Beth Graham

From the President
by Beverly Aderholt, President

Dear WAS-H Members,

We have an interesting free opportunity for you this spring which I would like for you to be aware of. We are reinvigorating the Friday Open Studio, which many of you may not have known about. For several years we have had our upstairs studio available on Fridays for group painting anytime there is nothing scheduled there. It has been especially popular in the summers. After receiving several suggestions that we try to give it more structure, we have recruited Diane Burch, a fairly new member who came to us from the San Diego Watercolor Society, to serve as monitor for several weeks each month. Diane is an active birder, so she takes time off from her birding trips also.

After a long stretch of nice days, we decided to try the showing of a DVD by an artist we have recently had at WAS-H as a juror, and then give our participants two Fridays to complete a painting using the ideas presented in the DVD. We have DVDs from Ken Hommer and Eric Wiegardt, and we can order more or borrow from members if it seems to be a useful process. We could end even the session with a group critique based on the specific artist’s illustrations and advice. What do you think? Would you come? Would it help you to learn the secrets of some fine artists and try to apply them to your own paintings? Would you help to facilitate when Diane is birding?

Some ideas work and some don’t. I think this one might. So on the Fridays below 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, we will supply a monitor and the presentation of a well-known artist’s philosophy and techniques. You will come with paint, brushes, good paper, and your lunch, you may be asked to help from time to time.

Open Studio Dates:
February 12, 19, and 26
March 4, 18, and 25

Warm regards to all, Beverly

(continued from page 1)

Wednesday Model Session

The Wednesday Model Session group will continue to meet every Wednesday, 12:30-3:30 (unless there is a workshop scheduled) at WAS-H. Please email me crensink.art@att.net, and I will let you know the model each week before the session. So you all come with your drawing and painting gear and do your own thing for three quiet hours of model time. It is a wonderful opportunity. Carol Rensink, 713-299-4136

January Demo Sarah Kitagawa, Elite Signature Member

Ms. Kitagawa is a member of the National Watercolor Society, the Visual Arts Alliance, and WAS-H. Her works have been honored with numerous awards in local, national, and international shows, exhibitions, and galleries.

Sarah’s paintings attract your eye and spirit from across the room, drawing you in to then see the incredible details the closer you get. In her demo she shared the techniques behind her beautiful, surpassing paintings. You can view her mixed-media paintings at www.sarahkitagawaart.com and the techniques described below will make more sense once (continued on page 6)

Carol Rensink, WAS-H
email: crensink.art@att.net

Member Teachers Listing

Sallie Anderson Studio
Galveston, 409-763-2265

Diana Brandt, Memorial, Houston Beginners to Intermediate, 713-560-2324
watercolor70131@yahoo.com

Barbara Jeffery Clay, AWS
116 Huckleberry Drive
Lake Jackson, TX 77566, 979-292-8058

Susan Giannantoni, Katy, TX, and Mayvelle, NY, lucy@kkcom.com, www.artsandstring.com

Caroline Graham, WAS-H
Museum District
713-644-6389, cgrahamart@hotmail.com

Joanie Hughes
For Beginners (inside 610), 713-426-6767, joanie.hughes@comcast.net

Gay Paratore, BA, MED, TWS, NSA, WAS-H, Classes: Tues. - Santa Fe Studio, Thursdays - TAACCCL, 409-316-1005

Carol Rensink, WAS-H
email: crenink.art@att.net

Mary Rustay, Cell 713-703-1533 Watercolor for seniors at WAS-H, no charge.

A.J. Schenzyner, AWS, NWS, WAS-H
N.W. Houston, 281-444-7524
aj-schenzyner@att.net

Mary Wilbanks, NWS, WHS, WAS-H, Workshops and critiques. 281-370-7879, marywilbanks@gmail.com

Joan Hughes
The Subject is Clouds

Caroline Graham
Sat., Feb. 13, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Caroline Graham
The Subject is Clouds

Margaret Bock and David Muege, Paint-In Co-Coordinators

Paint-In Calendar

2016
March 12, Erik Sprohge, TBA
April 9, Robin Avery, Shapes
May 19, Lee McDonald, Realism
June 11, Gerry Finch, Yupo
July 16, Kim Roots, Collage

*Third week instead of second.

Paint-Out Calendar

2016
February 20, River Oaks Shopping Center
March 19, TBA
April 16, TBA
May 21, TBA

Add Kleenex, designer's white gouache and Chinese white to your reg -

Wet in wet, and adding just the right

amount of opaques.

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Art on the Go

by shiril riccetti

CAROLINE GrahAm’s TRAVELING ADVICE

Workshops in general are a great inspiration. Learning new techniques, seeing with different eyes, pushing size and materials all can become fresh with a new instructor in a weeklong or weekend workshop. But my favorite is the camaraderie of creative folks on location (in plein air) and away from the home-front responsibilities of cooking, cleaning, and driving carpool. Being away and allowing yourself to sink into making art at least 8 hours a day is heavenly. Just confronting a new vista makes everything intriguing, sharpens the eye to differences in light, color, shadows, landscape, vegetation, and all can be investigated in an unhurried and unhurried time frame. Each day builds on what you have learned the day before. It should make you unafraid to sit down anywhere, anytime and capture what you see even with distracting onlookers.

I do not care whether it is West Texas, Nantucket, or before you know it — drive in and submerge yourself for at least a week and soak up the experience. Teaching on location has filled my sketchbooks with information that cannot be understood sitting indoors or reading about art. Over the last 15 years, I started by drawing contour outlines and many members were seen later at the art supply stockpiling on new watermedia supplies for their own adventure.

She starts by drawing a few outlines of her photograph on tracing paper, and then colors in all the dark areas with a dark color, markers in the medium tones with a gray marker, and leaves the light areas clear.

As most of your know, WAS-H participates in the Arts in Medicine (AIM) program at Texas Children’s Hospital by painting with the children each Tuesday. All painting supplies are donated, and we are in dire need of watercolor paper. And size or weight is fine. We can always use watercolor paint sets (please no individual tubes). Please drop off all supplies at WAS-H. The AIM program is a wonderful, enriching experience for the volunteers, and the children love the diversion.

If you would like to join our volunteer list, or would just like more information about the program, please call or email me at 713-695-0383, pam@knox@sbcglobal.net. Your help is greatly appreciated.

(continued from column 2)

The Power and Perils of Change

by Mary Wilbanks, NWS

First, I’ll give an overview of my career, and then recall the changes that I’ve made along the way.

I began as a portrait painter in oil — very realistic, not quite photographic, but the resemblances were remarkable. For many years I painted commissioned portraits of people and families. I painted from life and used a photograph as a helping tool. I began to study watercolor, and to resent the toll on creativity that my commissioned work took. I began to paint faces and figures in watercolor, again with live models. If that person wanted to buy the painting, I was happy to sell it, but I took no more commissioned work. My watercolors were much more free, and I enjoyed doing it. It was surprisingly hard for me. As an oil painter I thought as many did, that watercolors were much easier to use. WRONG! I studied with various teachers (whom I will list at the end of this article). Each change I made, although not drastic for me, aroused questions and doubts about my new work.

For me, change is the __ and the __. The audience decided that Sarah is the ___.

As most of your know, WAS-H participate

I’ve done this for quite a few years, and now I’m again feeling the rumbles of change. My advice to anyone is this: A painter is not a machine. To continue on a path that you aren’t enthusiastic about results in tired, boring work. Eventually even the viewer can sense this.

I have become a Signature member of NWS and WHS as well as several other organizations, and have work in galleries. I’ve done this for quite a few years, and now I’m again feeling the rumbles of change. My advice to anyone is this: A painter is not a machine. To continue on a path that you aren’t enthusiastic about results in tired, boring work. Eventually even the viewer can sense this.

WHAT I’M RUMBLING ABOUT

It’s not just the change in size or materials and techniques with the public and also attract new students to the many class and workshop offerings at WAS-H. If you would like to demo, please email Carla guisgue@yahoo.com. Help with set-up, clean-up, or as a runner during the fair is also welcomed! Email me at tctbwsllon@msn.com to volunteer.

(continued from page 6)

The audience decided that Sarah is the "gora of zen-tam-doodling". She now spends lots of time adding detailed pat-

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We have you viewed them. Throughout her demonstration there were many exciting questions about materials and techniques and many members were seen later at the art supply stockpiling on new watermedia supplies for their own adventure.

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The December “Small Painting” themed WAS-H Gallery Show was a huge success and a cheerful holiday celebration. There were over 127 entries, which was a 50% increase over last year’s entries! We were very fortunate to have Susan Giannantonio, a Past President and Signature Member of WAS-H, as our juror. Susan commented that all the entries were beautifully painted, making it extremely difficult for her to choose the winners. However, after much contemplation and consideration, she finally narrowed her selection down to the following paintings:

1st Place, Erick T. Sprohge, Skinny Skating Santa
2nd Place, Angie Adlerz, Grace
3rd Place, Ruby Allen, Rubicund Range

The reception was well attended, with several paintings sporting the “red dot” indicating that the artwork had been sold. Attendees enjoyed a lavish buffet spread that was enhanced by a beautiful centerpiece designed by Terry Baird. Congratulations to everyone who entered the show, and a special “shout out” to all the winners. And as always, a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who assisted with hanging the show and assisting with the gallery reception – we could not have done it without you!

The January 2016 ‘Abstract’ themed WAS-H Gallery Show attracted 28 different artists who submitted 57 paintings. This was a 42% increase in entries over January 2015! The high quality and different abstract styles of the paintings made it a very exciting and dynamic show. Our juror was Armando Rodriguez. Armando received a BFA in Printmaking from the University of Houston in 1982. He works in many media including photography, printmaking (etching, lithography, and monotype), graphic design and bookmaking. In addition to teaching at Art League Houston, he also works for the Houston Chronicle and in the education department of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

After much contemplation and consideration, he finally narrowed his selection down to the following paintings:

1st Place, M.T. Crump, The Bronze Body
2nd Place, Ruby Allen, True Blue
3rd Place, Nancy Harn-Wagner, October Afterglow

Congratulations to all the artists who entered the show. And as always, a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who assisted hanging the show and assisted with the gallery reception – we could not have done it without you!
Washrag
A monthly publication of the
Watercolor Art Society - Houston
1601 W. Alabama at Mandell, Houston, TX 77006
713•942•9966 • www.watercolorhouston.org

We Offer a 20% DISCOUNT To All WAS-H Members!

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