2017 International Exhibition Opening Reception a Smashing Success

by Dawna Hasara, 2017 International Exhibition Director

Magnificent, world-class water media pieces grace the walls of the WAS-H gallery as the start of the 40th Annual International Exhibition gets off to a vibrant beginning. On Sunday, March 12 the gallery came to life when the International Exhibition team was finally able to open the doors to allow our visitors in to view the glowing art covering our walls.

The day started off with a buzz as guests began arriving at the gallery to view our renowned Juror and workshop instructor, Stephen Quiller, AWS, NWS begin his afternoon demo. By the time he started a little after 2:00 pm, the standing room only crowd was ready for an instructive demo and they weren’t disappointed. Steve gave us a glimpse into his world through a slide show of his studio, the town he lives, his gallery and paintings. He then conducted a fascinating demonstration of watercolor techniques he uses to create his stunning landscapes.

At the conclusion of the demo, the next stop for our (continued on page 6)
Dear WAS-H Members,

On Sunday, April 9th at the General Meeting, we will have our annual election of officers. The demo artist will be Mohammad Ali Bhatti, one of our own wonderful WAS-H teachers and a frequent prize-winning artist. Your attendance at the meeting is extremely important. We need a quorum of 35 members to elect our officers for next year, so I hope to see you there.

I am most proud to report that our Fortieth Annual International Exhibition is absolutely stunning! It will be on display until April 6, 2017. This year’s exceptional entries came from the United States, Singapore, Mexico, Greece, China, Taiwan, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia and Japan. Entries came from 35 states in our own country—the majority from Texas, Florida, California, Illinois, New York and Virginia. We are thrilled to be able to produce an event that attracts talented artists from all over the world and honored to display their work in our galleries.

Our thanks go to our International Exhibition Co-Directors, Dawn Hasara and Anne Gregory as well as Haley Bowen, Mike Doan, Mark Martin, Butler, and the many other volunteers for the work associated with publicizing, setting up our digitized entry system, managing check-in, making sure things were going well at every juncture with the entry system, and hanging the paintings, creating materials for publicity, and planning our gala receptions and awards ceremony.

We are delighted to have had as this year’s juror, pre-eminent multimedia artist, Stephen Quiller, a Dolphin Fellow and signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, National Society for Partners in Acrylic and Casein, Rocky Mountain National Watermedia, and Watercolor West. Stephen had a huge job selecting only 100 paintings from our largest ever 491 entries, and then choosing winners for over $7500 in prizes.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I hope that you enjoy the outstanding display of water media diversity and talent that the 40th International Exhibition has to offer.

Warm regards,

Lynne Woods, President

Art Happenings

Dear Artful Friends,

Over the years you’ve been incredible friends, supporting not only my artistic journey, but also my teaching journey. In the fullness of time, (and as my 27 free online lessons will attest), I’ve come to realize that perhaps my best gifts and contributions to the world of art is that I love to pass on what I know to anyone and everyone who needs it. To hear more about this and other things you can sign up for my Newsletter at https://www.lesleyhumphrey.net/newsletter/

The videos and lots of related materials are now available online on my website, and I have to say that Chris, my web designer and videographer has done an amazing job with everything. I could not be more proud. The videos are: [https://www.lesleyhumphrey.net/video-store/]

The first two are now available. My “Red Ball Demo” and simple still life. I’ve done these two together because they provide the perfect opportunity to share my “12 Lights” which are now being used by artists and even universities throughout the world … and so fundamental to everything I do now, no

(continued on page 4)
Rebecca Klier
Junior Docent

WAS-H Future Major Workshop Artists & Dates

Michael Reardon
www.mreardon.com
October 9-13, 2017

Iain Stewart
http://iainstew.fineartstudioonline.com
March 5-9, 2018

(continued from page 3)

Splash
Pat Dispenziere’s transparent watercolor
The Play of Light VII was juried into the California Watercolor Association 47th National Exhibition by juror Donna Zagotta. The juror of Awards, Linda Doll awarded the painting The Golden Artist Colors, INC. Award. It will be on exhibit at the Harrington Gallery in the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, CA Jan 14-Feb 25, 2017.

WASHINGTON D.C.

WAS-H=40th Anniversary Exhibit

May 13 Shirl Riccetti
June 10 Carol Watson & Beverly Alderholt
July 8 Keiko Yasuoka & Duncan Simmons

Weekly Luncheon Chairman
Mary Rustay, Paint-Out Chairman

Volunteer of the Month
by Alex Tyson, Outreach Director

Daniela Wernke was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and she currently lives in Houston, Texas. She has been an art lover since she was a child. She could stay for hours admiring her mother’s miniature collection in a small china display cabinet, even if she saw it every week, just observing the small details of them. She is passionate about human figures in drawings and sculptures.

She studied drawing and painting techniques in her teen ages, when she found out her love for watercolor.

She holds a bachelor degree in Interior Design, area in which she worked for about 10 years. After she moved with her husband and kids to Australia in 2008, she committed herself full time to her passion, WATERCOLOR.

Daniela Wernke has been volunteering at the Katy campus of Texas Children’s Hospital since it began a couple of years ago. She is a dedicated volunteer that has always been there when needed. For most of this year she was there every Tuesday. Her Artist’s statement says it all. Daniela volunteers from the heart and shares her talents with (continued on page 10)
2017 International Exhibition Opening
Reception a Smashing Success
by Dawna Hasara, 2017 International Exhibition Director
(continued from page 2)

The winners are listed below, congratulations to everyone involved for a successful 40th Annual International Exhibition! Show catalogs are available for purchase at the WAS-H gallery.

Jack Bowen Award: The Night Table, Keiko Yasouka, Houston, TX

Odette Ruben Memorial Award: Off Broadway I, Anne Abbott, Cortez, FL

Board of Directors Award: Sail, Ruby Allen, Friendswood, TX

Honorable Mentions:
On Grandma’s Blanket, Robbie Fitzpatrick, Magnolia, TX
The Iconic Tower, Elaine Daily-Birnbaum, Madison, WI
Bourg St. Maurice, Mark McDermott, Anchorage, AK
Just Before the Rain, Sara Kahn, San Francisco, CA
Sprit of the Dance, Eileen Neill, Anchorage, AK

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WAS-H members were treated to a very special lecture and demonstration by Stephen Quiller at the March General Meeting, which was held in conjunction with the 2017 International Exhibition Award Ceremony and Reception.

Stephen is an internationally known painter who has written six books on water media and produced several instructional videos. He is a Dolphin Fellow and signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, National Society for Painters in Acrylic and Casein, Rocky Mountain National Water Media and Watercolor West.

He began his presentation with a video tour of his stunning studio and gallery in Creede, Colorado. The studio is located at 9,000 feet, on eight acres, at the headwater of the Rio Grande, with breathtaking views of the San Juan Mountains and beautiful north light for painting. By his studio front door, he keeps his fly-fishing gear, so when “paint is drying” or he wants a break, he can wander down to the river and indulge another one of his passions.

Besides authoring several books, he has also developed the Quiller Paint Palate and Color Wheel, which are used by artists all over the world. Several WAS-H artists, including our President, Lynne Woods, are devotees of using both items. In addition, he became frustrated with several different watercolor paint lines, so he teamed up with the Jack Richeson & Company to develop his own line of paints, which are made “the old fashioned way” – stone ground and hand made in Belgium.

He almost exclusively uses Waterford paper, which has an external sizing, allowing him more freedom to “lift” paint from the surface, going back to white. As for the water media he uses, besides his water color paints, he also paints using gouache, casein and acrylic.

Stephen narrated a slide show of his paintings, many done on location all over the world, including Scotland, Tuscany, Italy, Oaxaca Mexico and China. In addition to painting internationally, he also hosts workshops at his Creede Studio three times per year.

They are so popular that they fill up over a year in advance. He enjoys hiking in the high country or cross-country skiing in the winter. Although, he did warn the group to always be prepared when being out alone in the winter.

One time, he drove to a cross-country trail head for some late afternoon cross-country skiing in the woods. When he returned to the car, his battery was dead. “No problem, I will just call my wife, Marta. Uh-oh, my phone battery is dead.”

Happy ending to the story, he hiked
AN ARTISTIC PLACE
Whether you see it in a magazine, or remember it through old photos, or actually are able to place your presence in a place, the question is asked: “In your travels, is there a place that remains a sweet memory and still takes your breath away, and puts a smile on your face?”
Margaret Scott Rock chose St. Paul De-Vence, France. She remarked that traveling with artists she knew made the Steven Quiller’s Workshop “more memorable.” And this was years ago.
Jan McNeill, coincidentally, chose France. “I’ve been to Provence twice now and have loved it both times! My most recent trip was in October, 2016, with other WAS-H paint . . . it was very memorable.”

What makes it so memorable? Both artists remarked that being with artists they knew added to the fun. Margaret was enamored by the beauty of the place and the charming and friendly people. Jan adds: “I especially loved the places where Cezanne, van Gogh, Chagall and Matisse lived.” She was thrilled to paint “plain air” in those places where Cezanne, van Gogh, Chagall and Matisse lived. “I grabbed my camera, then my sketchbook and wrote down the description of the colors. And this was the second time that week, because the first time I saw this outstanding sight, I squealed. I hear that artists are allowed to acknowledge beauty.”

Dig into your memory banks, and find the moments that take your breath away. Write down those moments and then dig further, the scene may pop up again . . . and you will be ready . . . with a smile and a brush.

Carpe Diem. Shirl Riccetti If you have any travel or art stories, please contact me: sriccetti@comcast.net

Learning to paint is like taking a trip on a train. We pack our things and off we go on an amazing adventure. We meet some very interesting people along the way. We learn about ourselves and meet challenges at every pass. Sometimes we need to get off the train but we can always jump on again when the urge strikes us. After almost sixteen years on traveling this art train I realize that it’s not the destination that counts. It is the journey! There are always new passengers to meet and enriching ideas formulating as we venture onward. I want to share with you a quote if you are about to disembark the art train for parts unknown. You may not just be stopping but quitting . . . giving up on yourself . . . read this first! “Nobody tells this to people who are beginners, “I wish someone had told me.” All of us do creative work get into it because we have good taste. But there is this gap. For the first couple of years you make stuff, it’s just not that good. It’s trying to be good, it has potential, but it is not. But your taste, the thing that got you into the game, is still killer. And your taste is why your work disappoints you. A lot of people never get past this phase; they quit. Most people I know who do interesting, creative work, went through years of this. We know our work doesn’t have this special thing that we want it to have. We all go through this. And if you are starting out or are still in this phase, you gotta know its normal and the most important thing is to do a lot of work. Put yourself on a deadline so that every week you finish one piece. Its only by going through a volume of work that you will close this gap, and your work will be as good as your ambition. And I took longer to figure out how to do this than anyone I’ve ever met. Its gonna take a while. You just gotta light your way through.” Ira Glass.

So I say to you keep your bag always ready . . . jump on board . . . and keep going!

Jan comments: “My last day on the French Riviera was especially memorable. My painting group did a group painting exercise outside in the lovely gardens of our hotel. We then realized that right in Front of us, was a gorgeous early morning view of a sunlit vineyard and farmhouse that Chagall himself had lived in!”

She immediately did a small watercolor sketch, and painted a larger version after returning home. And she added that her husband made a custom wood frame for the painting, making it “a special memory.”

One of my most colorful artistic memories comes from traveling in a bus in Umbria, Italy, at almost dusk. On the hills, was a silhouette of a castle and trunks and new undergrowth taking root. He named the series, “Beauty and the Burn” and actually used charcoal from the remains of the burned woods. He then switched gears and did a live demo, telling us to “Visualize painting, before ever putting paint on the paper, and especially while wetting the paper with water.” He also told us, “Not to force a painting from the paper, listen to what the paper is saying to you.” Although he admits, several of his students state that their paper does not speak to them, or if it does it appears to be “speaking a different language!” It was amazing to watch him paint a beautiful mountain scene, using a minimal watercolor palate and some gouache with mostly large flat brushes in less than 45 minutes.

Thank you Stephen Quiller for sharing your beautiful paintings, artistry and wisdom with the WAS-H community.

The Hermann Park Zoo Gate Paint-Out, those attending were Beverly Aderholt, Barbara Fowler, Dale and Frank Hill, and Veronica Koening. There may have been others who painted in different areas of the park. The ducks on the lake and people watching was lots of fun!

Out of This World Travel Presents: AN IMPRESSIONIST JOURNEY THROUGH NORMANDY Sketching with Susan Giannantoni September 27 to October 4, 2017 Details: www.outofthisworldtravel.net Or email Susan at LUCHOU2@gmail.com

By Robin Avery

NEW MEMBERS
Kerry Dawson
Wendy Freeman
Beverly Hanson
Nancy Kling
Lan Meggs
Jean Ross
Jessica Van Slyke
Maureen White
Kimberly Zbranek
Junies Zhang

(continued from page 6)

8 April 2017
The clean, light-filled upstairs studio classroom invites us to come in, step up to the challenge of creating some new art. The walls are clean and painted, the carpet cleaned but ‘Where is the artwork that was hanging on the walls before the new paint?’ Some of the artwork looked tired, but still inspired us to paint. I miss the familiar art.

Some volunteers step up to help and then there is Les McDonald Jr. Elite Watercolor artist and workshop presenter at WAS-H, who revived the missing artworks. Les agreed to update the paintings that have been hanging in the WAS-H building for at least 10 years. Les, worked tirelessly for two weeks searching out framing materials, finding framers for the extra-large artworks and repairing the tired frames. He completed the task of reparing, reframing, placing acid-free mats, back reformatting and cleaning in two weeks.

Placement and hanging the artwork is next so watch for these artworks as they come hang to inspire us again.

WAS-H is a haven, a place to grow and to learn in a beautiful place.

Thank you, Les McDonald Jr, for the extraordinary effort you gave to WAS-H in February 2017.

Les is standing by Marge Brichler’s painting ‘Federation Sara-bundance’ Marge described her watercolor paintings as; ‘I want to be able to record in watercolor, a person’s soul, to capture that certain fleeting mood, with all the subtle drama that I can only achieve through watercolor, and do it spontaneously, as to not lose my feelings toward the subject,’ she wrote.

Looking for some new inspiration for your paintings? Has Houston got an opportunity for you!

Houston is in for a treat on April 25 & 26 (10:00 am - 5:00 pm) this year! Florence, one of the nation’s largest competitive flower shows, is held biennially at the MFAH Beck Building. The Garden Club of Houston, the River Oaks Garden Club, and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston collaborate on floral and horticulture arrangements. Designers are challenged to pull inspiration from dresses and paintings in the Museum’s permanent collection.

This year the theme is “Waves” – reflected in all the exhibits on view.

A special conservation exhibition titled “Water, Water, Everywhere” is intended to increase awareness of how choosing native plants can improve water quality and mitigate storm water flow, etc. The Florence exhibi is held in the MFAH Beck building. If you are a MFAH member, admission is free – oth-

Where is the Art that used to hang in the upstairs studio classroom?

by Jan McNell, WAS-H Historian
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