

February 2018



January 2018 Gallery Exhibit: HOPE

Houston artist and long-time WAS-H friend and instructor **Ellen Orseck** judged the January Monthly Exhibit. Her prevailing comment on all the work was that each piece, in its own way, spoke to the much needed quality of HOPE in our world today.

The winners are:

1st Place - **Christine Bunger** "See the Light"

2nd Place - **Lynda Jung** "No Time Is the Right Time"

3rd Place - **Fred Kingwill** "The Future—Robin's Eggs"

Honorable Mentions awarded to:

Sana Shaw "Awakening of the Star"

Richard Scruggs "El Camino Pilgrims"

Robin Beckwith "Fragments of Imagined Spring"

Liz Hill "Leopard Hat"

Each of the first three winners draws the viewer into the center of the painting and beyond! **Chris Bunger's** stunning copse of tall trees reaching for the sky and light draws us out of the current darkness of the world to a spiritual point of light and hope and life. **Lynda Jung's** reflection on time stretches us to think of time past, present and future, within the clock-like piece she places organic and non-organic elements of life.



1st place - Christine Bunger "See the Light"



2nd place - Lynda Jung "No Time Is the Right Time"



3rd place - Fred Kingwill "The Future—Robin's Eggs"

Fred Kingwill's small piece uses the circular, womb-like nature of the nest holding the promise of new life to strengthen our hope in the future. Ellen also found it interesting that each of these pieces effectively broke the traditional rule of not centering the focal point on the page. It is the quality of BEYONDNESS and HOPE IN THE FUTURE in each of the pieces that makes the break successful!

January 2018 Gallery Reception



1st place winner Christine Bunger with juror Ellen Orseck



2nd place winner Lynda Jung with Ellen Orseck

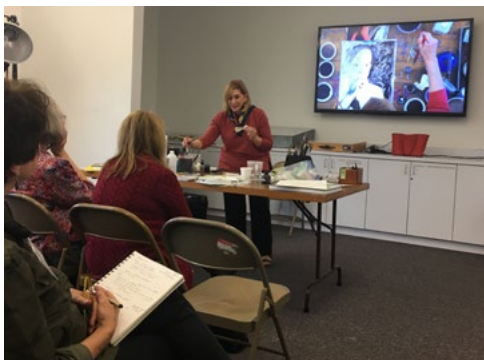


3rd place winner Fred Kingwill with the juror

January General Meeting

WAS-H HOSTED ELLEN ORSECK AS JANUARY 2018'S "FEATURD DEMO ARTIST"

By Laura J. McMahon, Vice President



At the January General Meeting, Ellen Orseck, who teaches watercolor at Rice University's Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies and will be offering a class on color theory at WAS-H in the spring of 2018, gave a short lecture followed by a demonstration painting with various types of ink and watercolor. She discussed the history of ink, painting in a tonal way, painting with ink versus outlining, and creating a value study with ink. She then demonstrated painting an abstract with different inks and watercolor, followed by a portrait with ink and watercolor, the first demo on Yupo and the second on watercolor paper, demonstrating the different technique on each surface. She showed us how to use the power of ink to create darks faster and how to effectively combine the ink with watercolor. Members were captivated by her demo which seemed to fly by. Many thanks to Ellen for sharing her knowledge and techniques with us.

December 2017 Gallery Exhibit

WAS-H was delighted to welcome back past president Gerry Finch to judge our popular December "Small Painting" show. Gerry's enthusiasm both as an artist and as a supporter of WAS-H was evident as she wandered through the gallery commenting again and again on the quality of the work. Additionally, she spoke of the importance of having the title of the work correspond with the show's theme, especially if the piece is abstract and not easily identifiable with the theme. "It feels cold!" Gerry almost shivered looking at Sana's First Place piece. Diantha's work draws the viewer right into the scene . . . and beyond. While the gentleness of Patty's "Sounds of Silence" draws a hush.

December 2017 Gallery Exhibit (cont.)

1st Place Sana Shaw - "Christmas Celebration"
 2nd Place Diantha Sneed - "Follow the Star"
 3rd Place Patty Browning - "Sounds of Silence"

Honorable Mention:

Karen Lindeman - Eastern Star
 Robin Avery - Swinging and Swaying
 Fred Kingwill - Christmas Chickadees

Susan Tsai - Dreamland
 Cecelia Hodges - Silent Night
 Laurie Hammons - Jingle Bells
 Jan McNeill - Pussywillows
 Susan Giannantonio - Sapin de Noel
 Haley Bowen - Elk and Eucalyptus
 Robin Beckwith - Within the Heart of Winter: The Promise of Spring



1st Place "Christmas Celebration" by Sana Shaw



2nd Place "Follow the Star" by Dianatha Sneed



3rd Place "Sounds of Silence" by Patty Browning

WAS-H OFFICE

1601 W. Alabama at Mandell

Open Tuesday – Saturday

10:00am – 3:00pm

For information, please
contact:

Martin Butler, Administrative

Assistant 713-942-9966

www.watercolorhouston.org

email: was-h@sbcglobal.net

Washrag Newsletter INFO:

**DEADLINE FOR MEMBERS
TO SUBMIT ARTICLES
FOR THE MARCH 2018
WASHRAG IS 4:00 p.m.,
FEBRUARY 9, 2018.**

Material not received by the
deadline will appear in the next
month's Washrag. Please submit
items via email to **laura.mcma-
hon@att.net** and **kсенияannis@
yahoo.com**

ADVERTISING RATES:

Full page...7.5" by 10" \$75

Half page...7.5" by 4.7" \$50

Quarter page...3.7"x 4.7" \$25

One column...30 words \$15

Area Teachers Listing \$25/yr.

Column ads should be typed.

All other ads must be print-ready.

Photos must be 300 dpi.

Wednesday Model Session



The Wednesday Model Session group will continue to meet every Wednesday, 12:30pm – 3:30pm (unless there is a workshop scheduled) at WAS-H. Please email me Rensink.art@att.net and I will let you know the model each week before the session. So y'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.

Monitor: **Carol Rensink**, 713-299-4136 or wedwash@gmail.com

February 2018 Events Calendar

February 3 Take in for monthly show**February 4** General meeting and demo,
monthly show reception**February 9** Open Studio for members**February 10** Monthly paint-in with

Caroline Graham: Sketchbooks

February 17 Paint-out**February 21** Wine Down Wednesday

Donate to WAS-H

Randall's offer 1% of your purchase with their Good Neighbor Program. Register at the courtesy booth with WAS-H's ID #4553. Every time you use your Randall's Remarkable Card, WAS-H will receive a credit.

Amazon donates \$.05 to WAS-H for every \$10 you spend! When shopping online, click SMILEAMAZON.COM

Member Teachers Listing

Sallie Anderson Studio, 409-763-2265
Sallie Anderson Fine Arts.com
Galveston

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

Peihong Endris, WAS-H, 713-206-3668
Chinese Brush Painting
Peihong1512@gmail.com

Carla Gauthier, NWS, 281-384-2473,
League City, Carla.gauthier@yahoo.com

Susan Giannantonio, Katy, TX &
Mayville, NY lucholiz@gmail.com,
www.susangiannantonio.com

Caroline Graham, WAS-H,
713-664-6589, Museum District,
crahamart@hotmail.com

Janet Hassinger, 409-457-4527,
Galveston
www.janethassinger.com

Joanie Hughes, WAS-H
Beginner Watercolor
713-426-6767
joan-hughes@comcast.net

Gay Paratore, BA, MEd, NWS,
NSA, TWS, WAS-H, 409-316-1005,
NSArtists.org
Butler and Woodlawn Museums &
Studio

Carol Rensink, WAS-H
Figure Drawing & Anatomy
713-299-4136, crensink.art@att.net

Mary Rustay, WAS-H, 713-703-1533
Watercolor for Seniors

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



From the President

Greetings,

I want to thank everyone who donated to our 2017 Annual Fund Drive and, while we didn't reach our targeted goal, the WAS-H Board is grateful for the support shown from our membership, especially as the Houston community continues to recover from Hurricane Harvey.

The New Year is already one month old, and I am keeping up my resolution to get back to watercolor painting, as well as continuing my attempt at mastering figure drawing. I started off the month taking Carla Gauthier's Paint-In on working with greens, watching **Ellen Orseck's** demo on ink and watercolor at our January General Meeting and then taking **Carol Rensink's** drawing class. All have me "jump-started" to keep my resolution. Plus, one "free" benefit of being a WAS-H member is "Friday Open Studios" coordinated by WAS-H volunteer, **Diane Burch**. This year we started with a color theory DVD by Jeanne Dobie. What a way to start the New Year!

I also have one of those "page a day" calendars on my kitchen table. This particular calendar highlights a work of art from galleries and private collections. So every morning, while I'm sipping my decaf coffee, wishing I were drinking a double espresso, I get exposed to different art forms, some of which inspire me and some have me asking, "What was that artist thinking?" My father was a rigid, left-brained stereotypical 1950s and 1960s era dad. And, while I loved him dearly, he thought and verbalized his belief that, "All artists were kooks." He must be turning over in his grave, given the fact that I proudly label myself as one of those "kooks"—sorry Dad.

Your WAS-H Board continues to work behind the scenes, ensuring that our operations run smoothly. Our upstairs carpet cleaning was completed in December, we are working to have our upstairs screens recalibrated to ensure that the color is "true," and we are still planning on upgrading our IT equipment. All of these plans were delayed by Hurricane Harvey, so bear with us if things are not moving along as swiftly as originally planned.

Please read the article in this Washrag issue entitled, "Where Do We Go From Here?" Your board wants to hear from you regarding your concerns and worries for WASH's future, what do you "love" about WAS-H and want to remain the same, and what you would like to see happen in the future of WAS-H.

We are getting into "high gear" for our 41st International Watermedia Exhibition (IWE) this March, with juror Iain Stewart. Iain Stewart's 5-day major workshop is full, but if you are interested, put your name on the waitlist as last minute cancellations do occur.

We are a volunteer run organization, so please consider volunteering as your time permits. We have several opportunities coming up during the IWE, with various days, times and hours. Go to **Volunteers page on WAS-H website** and click "Sign-Up Genius" to find out the many opportunities that are available.

And as always, please let me know when we don't meet your expectations and also when we do!

Best,

Louise H. Bateman, President

Celebrating New WAS-H Members of Nov/Dec '17

Lech Borowicz
Mike Caswell
Britt Dearman
Jill Hansen
David Kyle
Diantha Sneed

Zara Tabatabaei
Andrea Turner
Yeva Zobova
Marianne Smith
Roberta Dyer
Olga Flores Díaz

Sandra Fuchs
Julia Golovko
Ying Jiang
Theresa Austin
Hiu Tung Clark
Antoaneta Georgieva



Upcoming Monthly Exhibits

February 4, 2018 - The Magic and Mystery of the Southwest. February's theme invites artists to express the beauty, magic and mystery of the Southwest in traditional paintings. Landscape, the human figure and abstract pieces can reveal the hidden secrets of our land and its culture and people. This show and theme dovetail with Houston's celebration of its annual Rodeo. Juror: Tina Bohlman (See "February Demo Artist" in this issue of the Washrag).

April 7, 2018 – Theme: General.

May 5, 2018 – Theme: The Human Person Enters Your Painting.

Whether you are painting a portrait, clothed or unclothed, or a figure that tells a story like Mary Whyte's and Andrew Whyte's images, the human person adds extraordinary depth and richness to our work. In this show artists are invited to make the human figure in all its complexity and beauty more central to the story. Classical figure work as well as abstract representations of people are welcome.

June 3, 2018 – Theme: General.

July 8, 2018 – Theme: Student Show

August 5, 2018 – Theme: Summertime and the Livin' is Easy.

Get Ready for the Art Fair!

by Theresa Wilson, Art Fair Coordinator

The WASH Art Fair returns on Saturday, March 24, 11 am – 4 pm. The Fair is a great opportunity for our members to offer their original paintings, fine art prints and cards for sale to the public. The \$20 registration fee (\$25 on or after March 10) will reserve your choice of a table or 10x10 space in the WASH parking lot. Artists may team up to share



a table or booth space, but each artist must submit a form and registration fee. In the event of rain, we will move all the fun indoors. The parking lot limits us to approximately 20 spaces, so don't delay registering if you want to participate as a seller. Full details can be found on the registration form. Register online at the WAS-H website, <https://watercolorhouston.org> - Art Fair.

Member painting demos will be scheduled throughout the day. This is a great chance to share some techniques with the public and also attract new students to the many class and workshop offerings at WASH. If you would like to demo, or can help with set-up, clean-up, or cashiering during the fair, please email Theresa Wilson at ttcbwilson@aol.com to volunteer.

Splash

Daniela Werneck just won 5th place in the Outside the Box category of the Portrait Society of America's 2017 Annual Members Only competition for her painting, "Tired of the Way Things Have Been".

Resurgence procured **Susan Giannantonio's** painting "Bike Jam" for an article in its magazine. View it at this link <https://www.resurgence.org/magazine/article5032-peddalling-on-a-bumpy-road.html>.

February 2018 Featured Demo Artist

General Meeting February 4
Social 1:30 p.m., Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Demo: 2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tina Bohlman

FEBRUARY 2018 FEATURED DEMO ARTIST TINA BOHLMAN: SHARING INFORMATION

By Laura J. McMahon, Vice-President



We are delighted to host Tina Bohlman as our featured demo artist at the February General meeting. A Texas native, Tina Bohlman uses the state in which she was raised as both the inspiration and the canvas for her art. A self-taught artist, Tina is well versed in several mediums but favors watercolor and oil to create breathtaking plein air paintings and brilliant rural landscapes. She says, "While it's important to look ahead and plan for the future, an artist must also be "in the moment—the now." She adds, "Nothing compares to working from life for inspiration and capturing light and emotion. Working plein air—especially in watercolor—requires strong technical skills and a large measure of intestinal fortitude. As the light changes moment by moment, every stroke must be without hesitation. It's a marathon race with the sun; spirited, emotional....and exhausting!" Tina will share information during

her demo painting, giving as much information as she can about technique, materials, equipment and process. She encourages us to ask questions and make comments during the demo.

Tina is a veteran of numerous competition plein air and "quick draw" events annually, including Plein Air Easton (Maryland), Plein Air Southwest - Outdoor Painters Society, Sedona Plein Air Festival-Sedona AZ, En Plein Air Texas-San Angelo, TX, and Paint the Parks-Estes Park, CO. In a career spanning 40 years, she has made quite an impact in her field, earning more than 60 awards—two-thirds within the past 10 years, including four Best in Show titles. In addition to exhibiting, participating in competition events and taking commissions for her work, she is the founder and chairperson of the annual "Paint Historic Waxahachie", a plein air event which celebrated its 12th anniversary in 2017, showcasing more than 50 artists. Her work is collected worldwide; her originals hang in private and corporate collections in 34 states, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Republic of Benin, West Africa.

She also is a signature member of Outdoor Painters Society (Master Signature and current President), Artist of Texas (Master Signature), Women Artists of the West; International Plein Air Painters (Advisory Board), and Contemporary Fine Art International.

Join us on February 4, 2018. Our social will begin at 1:30 p.m., followed by a short General Meeting at 2:00 p.m. Tina Bohlman will start her demo at 2:15 p.m., and we then will move to the Gallery for the awards presentation and reception for the February Monthly Exhibit. We look forward to seeing you there!



Art on "The Go"

"Freezing and the Frick" by Louise H. Bateman

The last week in December, my husband and I traveled to New York City to visit my daughter. My goal, besides spending time with my daughter, was to take my husband to the Michelangelo exhibit at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, which I had been fortunate enough to have viewed already in November. The New York Times billed it as a "Once in a lifetime, must see exhibit of the season!"

We arrived in New York just as an arctic cold front pushed on through, with daytime highs around 10 degrees. Undaunted, we bundled up, left my daughter's apartment on the Upper West Side, rode the C train to 86th St. and walked across Central Park. Normally I love this walk along the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis reservoir, but not that day as I was freezing, and my only goal was to get to The Met as quickly as possible. As we walked, I could see the "Temple of Dendur" wing and knew we would be quickly inside, warming up, and I would be "drooling" over Michelangelo. Well, as we turned the corner on 5th Avenue to The Met—OMG—the line was unbelievably long. It started at the main entrance staircase, went down along the plaza fountains to the corner and then snaked back to the entrance. It was a 1 ½ to 2 hour wait to get in!!!!

After a quick family "huddle", we opted for "Plan B" and walked the 10 blocks down 5th Avenue to The Frick. Did I say my toes were now numb? The Frick Collection is amazing, so much art. I loved the Boucher Room, Fragonard Room and, my favorite, "The Promenade" by Renoir. Plus the Frick had heat!!! We watched a short video regarding the life of Henry Clay Frick and found out that he owned most of the mining operations in Pennsylvania in the 1800s. My maternal grandfather, John Joseph Tomshe, b. 1889, was a coal miner in Hazelton, PA, leaving 3rd grade to work the mines.

I have to admit I had mixed emotions about my visit, after learning that this beautiful "Gilded Age" mansion and art collection, which I was enjoying immensely, was, in a way, funded by the labors of my German grandfather over 100 years ago in the Pennsylvania coal mines. Just some thoughts . . .

March 2018 Paint-In

with **Liz Hill**

Saturday, March 10, 2018

9:00-9:30 a.m. setup by attendees

9:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m. class – lecture, demo, and painting

3:00-3:30 p.m. cleanup

Contact: Jan McNeill jan.mcneill@att.net or David Muegge 713-645-8711.

Join **Liz Hill** for the March 10th paint-in. She will show you how to design and place your shapes successfully, do a small value study, put your collage where it will have the most impact, and incorporate texture for a rich surface. For this day of fun, you will need a half sheet of watercolor paper as well as all of your painting supplies. You also will need mat medium. Think of anything to enrich your painting. If you collect collage papers, by all means bring them. Liz will supply some also. You may paint on any surface you choose, but a full sheet of watercolor paper is hard to address with limited space.

Bring a landscape photo that has personal meaning to you. It could be a vacation photo or your own back yard. Come join in the fun and you are guaranteed a finished painting. Contact Liz with any questions at Lizhill4u@aol.com.



2018 International Watermedia Exhibition

Meet Iain Stewart

By Tom Kraycirik, IWE Co-Director



Creating a work for a juried show is daunting. Actually, judging the work can be just as formidable. That is the way this year's IWE juror Iain Stewart expressed himself about his up-coming visit to Houston to select honors for WAS-H's 41st. International Watermedia Exhibition (IWE) which will open on March 4th.

Iain Stewart, artist and architectural illustrator, is a signature member of both the American and National Watercolor Societies. His work has received numerous awards in international competitions as well. His paintings can be seen in magazines such as Watercolor Artist magazine, Southern Living, Better Homes and Gardens, The Robb Report and the international publication of the The Art of Water Colour. He is a sought-after juror and workshop instructor. He also teaches architectural design at Auburn University.

"One of the great pleasures of judging," Stewart says, "is actually 'meeting' the paintings to be judged." Computer images of works which are submitted for acceptance to the exhibition tell of quality and execution, but to be in the presence of the actual works carries the complete impact, he said.

"I spend a great deal of time in the selection process," he said. "I try to treat my assessment with the same care I would expect if my works were being evaluated . . . These works carry the hopes and dreams of their artists. I am very aware of and sensitive to that."

Stewart said that when judging, his own painting methods and perspectives take a back seat to the various style and media presentation of contestants. Years of grading his Auburn University students' work demanded a thorough sense of impartiality when evaluating the work of others. Often times, like other judges have voiced, he said that he even surprised himself at the works he selected for top honors.

Stewart began his business of Iain Stewart Architectural Illustration in 1996. He expanded his focus to include fine art in 2009. While the architectural illustration business is ongoing, the inclusion of the fine art business has opened up the doors of his studio to the world, he said. Disciplines and deadlines of architectural illustration kept him laboring in his studio for the most part. Fine art and teaching allows him to travel, meet like-minded persons and enjoy the sights and sounds of the world.

Stewart will be our guest demo artist at the General Meeting on March 4th, during which he will demonstrate his watercolor painting style. He also will be conducting a workshop for WAS-H from March 5th through 9th, following the opening of the IWE on March 4th. The WAS-H workshop is just one of a full calendar of engagements for the artist that sees him travel-ing west coast to east coast and Italy as well in 2018. We encourage you to register on the wait-list for Iain Stewart's workshop at WAS-H, as we very often have last minute cancellations.

No stranger to Houston, he a conducted workshop for WAS-H several years ago and was impressed by our state-of-the-art facilities and the graciousness of the membership.

"I particularly like doing a workshop in Houston," Stewart said, "You have this wonderful practice of dining with the instructor. I really enjoy visiting with the membership, getting to know them, and taking in the local scene. "It is something unique to WAS-H."

On Sunday, March 4th, we will meet for social time at 1:30 p.m., followed by the General Meeting at 2:00 p.m. and Iain Stewart's demo at 2:15 p.m. The IWE awards presentation will begin at 3:30 p.m., followed by the opening reception.

2018 International Watermedia Exhibition

Update on the 2018 IWE

By Heather Jones Taylor, IWE Co-Director

The IWE team has been busy attracting artists from all over the world to participate in our 2018 annual exhibit, with 215 artists submitting 404 paintings. For over forty years, this month-long event has been a well-respected staple in Houston's art community, and we anticipate that many attendees this year will join us in the WAS-H Gallery. The IWE team was able to secure several sponsorships worth over \$1,000 and confirm Karbach Brewery as an in-kind beer sponsor for the Opening Reception on March 4th and the VIP Art Lover's Reception on March 8. Other sponsors for the IWE and festivities (as of the date this Washrag went to print) include the accounting and business advisory firm of EEPB P.C. and Art Supply on Main.

Additionally, the IWE will be promoted in the Houston Chronicle, Art Valet and in Texas Monthly's February newsletter. The IWE also will be featured in Texas Monthly's special section for things to do in Texas. The IWE was featured in Professional Artist in November, and we are still working on securing other media placements before the exhibit.

We encourage you to sign up to volunteer for the IWE at Sign-Up Genius on the WAS-H website.

Please mark your calendars for the below events, all taking place at WAS-H:

General Meeting: Sunday, March 4, 2018, 2:00 p.m. (social begins at 1:30 p.m.)

Juror Iain Stewart's demo: Sunday, March 4, 2018, 2:15p.m. – 3:30 pm

Awards Presentation: March 4, 2018 3:30 p.m.

Opening Reception: March 4, 2018, following the Awards Presentation.

Iain Stewart's Major Workshop: March 5-9, 2018

Art Lover's Reception: Thursday March 8, 2018 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Last day to view Exhibition: Thursday, April 5, 2018

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you there!

Where Do We Go From Here?

By Lousie Bateman, President

A thought provoking question, especially if you are asking any member of WAS-H, and, perhaps, why ask the question at all? WAS-H has been a highly successful, dynamic and growing organization since its inception in 1969. We own our own building, have over 665 members, offer a plethora of workshops (over 20 this spring), host 2 major workshops a year, hold monthly shows, paint-ins, paint outs and more.

As WAS-H President, I think it judicious to step back and take inventory of what we have accomplished, what we need to do to sustain our success, what we need to do differently (if anything) and what worries us about WAS-H.

To that end, at the April General meeting, we will begin by asking our members a few questions:

1. What worries or concerns do you have for WAS-H?
2. What do you "love" about WAS-H and not want to lose?
3. What do you hope for the future of WAS-H?

The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and we will have a facilitator. For those members not able to attend the meeting, we will also have participation available on-line.

Please plan on attending, and as always you can email me with your thoughts.

New Year's Painting Resolutions

By Carla Gauthier, WAS-H teacher

New Year's resolutions.....it is already February, and according to statistics, most of us have already broken those resolutions! We are creatures of habit, doing what we feel comfortable with, what we have always done. Instead of resolutions we should try to form NEW HABITS. It takes about 6 weeks to form a new habit, for the new behaviors to take root. You can focus on the change for that short amount of time. Wouldn't it be great as we greet the New Year in 2019 having made a small leap artistically?

- Pick up a brush, every day, even if it's only for 15 minutes. Put painting first, and fit other errands and chores around that, instead of the other way around
- Make a vision board or book for inspiration– pictures of artists' work you admire, subject ideas, color inspiration
- Learn to draw using Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain
- Set aside time for art appreciation – visit a museum or gallery, peruse a new art book, explore local architecture, see a play
- Learn to draw from life to heighten observation – Wednesday afternoon Life Drawing at WAS-H makes it easy!
- Vow to paint bigger.....or smaller.....or on a different painting surface
- Always leave your painting on a good note if you can – nobody wants to return to problems that need solving
- Paint your Greeting Cards for the year (sorry Hallmark!)
- Buy a sketchbook AND FILL IT UP! Draw every day. Keep it by your bedside, or by the TV, or in the car.
- Try a new genre – portraiture, landscapes, still life, abstraction....and give yourself permission to learn before judging your results.
- Mat those finished paintings, frame them, create an art wall in your home and change it out regularly
- Pick a new limited palette of colors and work it on every painting– less colors but more unity
- Decide to use up what you already own – paper – both sides, paints -every drop, markers, crayons, acrylics
- Do a materials swap with artist friends – trade what you don't use, get something new to try.
- Form a critique group – ask painting friends to meet regularly to inspire and strengthen new work
- Check out the newest books in the WAS-H library. Learn one new thing to strengthen your art
- Try a new media or product – but stick it out, until you feel comfortable incorporating it into your painting style
- Take a new class to challenge your creativity – Houston and WAS-H have many possibilities
- Enter an art show – at WAS-H, online or in our great city
- Join a Paint-Out. Join a Paint-In. Or get a group together to paint on a day that works for you.
- Volunteer at WAS-H – meet amazing people who will inspire you to find time to paint.

Often you need to drop a bad habit in order to find time to make a new habit happen. What is your biggest time waster? Go on a Facebook or computer diet. Clean house when the sun goes down. Stop reading and reading about other artists and pick up a brush! Give the gift of time to yourself and nurture your talent. When things get off track, don't worry, just start back in when life settles down. Think about what that will feel like in January 2019!

A Big Thank You!

A huge thanks to Jack Ayres who defrosted the refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen in December before the holidays. As anyone who has ever defrosted a refrigerator without a self-defrost feature knows, it is a big, "cold" job. Many thanks for this and for everything else you do for WAS-H, Jack!

Wine Down Wednesdays

Do you want to make art, but don't have the appropriate studio space to create in peace? Interested in socializing with other young adults, local artists, and creatives? Join WAS-H for our new monthly, recurring event, Wine Down Wednesdays, and use our studio to work on current/new art projects while sipping on wine, for free!

Once a month the WAS-H upstairs studio will be open for you to make art. Enjoy our three flat-screen TV's, Wi-Fi connection, overhead lighting, kitchen space, and long work tables and chairs.

Next Wine Down Wednesday Date: **Wednesday, February 21, 2018, 6-9pm**

Bring your art supplies, a bottle of wine, your friends, and make art together! Together we can think creatively, explore artful conversation and ideas, find empowerment through art, and grow a blossoming young adult community. This monthly event is free and open to the public. There is no instruction. Parking is available on site or on the street. Please do not park in the Menil parking lot. Guest list limited to those over 21 years of age.

Save your spot online at <https://watercolorhouston.org/event-2690935>

Email khaleybowen@gmail.com for questions and/or more information.

**Art projects are chosen by the artist. WAS-H does not provide materials or wine. Alcohol limited to wine and beer.*

***Event is open only to those over 21 years of age. Participants must sign in at front door.*

****Materials limited to watermedia, such as watercolor, gesso, acrylic, and also, collage, pastels, and drawing materials. We will not provide space for clay, oil paint, any industrial works, or installation work (or any other work that is potentially harmful to our tables, floors, and/or disruptive).*

Outreach Volunteer Opportunity

by Anna Griffith, Outreach Director

Arts in Medicine (AIM) Program at Texas Children's Hospital

If you're looking for a rewarding outreach opportunity, please consider sharing your time and love of watercolor painting by volunteering for the Arts in Medicine Program at the Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Centers. There are volunteer opportunities at the Medical Center and West Houston Clinical Care locations. Every Tuesday morning for two hours, volunteers share their time with children in the outpatient clinic waiting for treatment. On the days you choose to volunteer, your presence will help transform long waiting times into creative, stress relieving moments where time passes quickly and the kids can experience the joy of being a child.

If bringing joy to a sick child touches your heart and you would like more information, please send me an email with your phone number at griffith_anna@comcast.net. Looking forward to hearing from you. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the current faithful volunteers who make this outreach program a success. Your generosity and time are so precious to the lives of the children you touch each week. THANK YOU!

Call for Entries

This coming October 2018, the Philadelphia Water Color Society (PWCS) will be hosting the 118th Anniversary International Exhibition of Works on Paper. The exhibition will include not only watercolors but pastel, acrylic, graphite, gouache, charcoal, pen & ink, colored pencil and hand pulled prints.

The Juror of Selection for the 118th exhibition is Alan Wylie of British Columbia. The Judge of Awards is Alvaro Castagnet who resides in Montevideo, Uruguay when not traveling the globe giving workshops. Alvaro has just been featured in the most recent edition of Watercolor Magazine (February. 2018).

PWCS is reaching out to invite WAS-H members to participate. There are over 25 cash awards ranging from \$100.00 to \$ 1500.00. Online digital entry begins April 1, 2018 and concludes on July 15, 2018. More information regarding the prospectus and submission information is available at www.pwcsociety.org.

PWCS was founded in 1900 to bring attention to those artists using aqueous media and held its first exhibition at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

The Starving Artist Cooks

By Tom Kraycirik, IWE Co-Director

Avocado Toast

You are hungry, but you don't want to stop painting to eat. The creative muse is driving you forward, but your insides are growling for fuel. How do you satisfy both? What can you create in time to keep the muse amused while filling your insides with something tasty and substantial?

Well in San Francisco, coffee shops and snack bars are charging \$10 a pop for "Avocado Toast." This dish couldn't be more simple. It is a great early morning starter and a quick pick-me up for the afternoon hungries.

Ready? Three steps:

1. Toast bread. (In San Francisco they use sour dough bread, but just about any interesting bread will do.)
2. Generously top with mashed avocado. Slice some ripe avocados and mash directly on the bread. Saves cleanup, but you had better use substantial toast.
3. Season. Many use "bagel seasoning". Trader Joe's has a concoction called "Everything But The Bagel," which does nicely. Others sprinkle Parmesan Cheese and just a sprinkle of red pepper flakes. In any event, you want to have something to add a salty taste to the avocado and possibly something to create a taste sparkle...sort of like what saved whites do for your painting.

That's it. Now go paint.

Revolutionary Pie (Grab Whatever Pie)

Haven't been to the grocery store in a while and you are short of a few things to make that batch of chocolate eclairs for the WAS-H monthly reception? Be revolutionary.

Well, revolutionary in the sense of cobbling together a quick dessert from ingredients that almost all early Americans had on hand in their larder. Most of us don't realize that fresh butter lasts in a somewhat cool, air tight crock for two weeks or so, and that fresh eggs will last about one month without refrigeration.

Below is a 150 year old or more recipe that was recorded in the Carolinas so far back that no one can accurately tell its origin. It started out as "Jest Pie" in the back woods because it had no distinguishing ingredients. Over time took on the more gentrified title of "Chess Pie."

Chess Pie - Phil Cox of Rolesville, N.C.

3 eggs

1 1/2 cups sugar

1 stick of butter, melted

1 tbsp. vinegar

1 tsp. vanilla

1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

1/2 cup raisins (optional)

1/2 cup coconut (optional)

Beat eggs well. Gradually stir in sugar, butter, and vinegar.

Blend until smooth. Add vanilla and optional items if desired.

Stir until evenly distributed.

Divide between two unbaked pastry pie shells.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. (depending on your oven).

Pie filling basically involves five ingredients with options to augment as your taste desires.

You can save on dishwashing plates and forks by making Chess Tarts. Line shallow, greased muffin pans with pastry dough. Fill pastry cups about 3/4 full. Reduce your baking time by about 5 minutes or so.

[Editor's Note: the WAS-H board members recently were treated to the muffins, and not a crumb was left!]



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

1601 W. Alabama at Mandell, Houston, TX 77006

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