



February 2014

Washrag

N E W S L E T T E R

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

Watercolor Art Fair at WAS-H Saturday, March 15, 2014, in conjunction with our 37th Annual International Exhibition

by Susan Giannantonio, Art Fair Co-Chair

We had a delightful time at our 2013 Spring Art Fair, and it is time once again to sign up for this year. Space is limited, and the event is nearly upon us!

WAS-H's Art Fair guests will have the opportunity to see a parking lot filled with beautiful paintings and then pop in to visit WAS-H's 37th Annual International Exhibition. There will be plenty of parking in the Menil lot on Alabama as well as the surrounding area.

- WAS-H Art Fair hours: 11 am to 6 pm.
- Fee to register for one of 16 10' x 10' spaces or for one of 2 spaces, 8 x 8': \$15 fee to register prior to March 1; \$25 after March 1.
- **NEW** – Artists are requested to donate a piece of merchandise, (painting, print, cards, etc.), valued less than \$100, for an hourly raffle!
- Shared spaces permitted; each artist, however, must pay registration fee.
- Tents permitted.
- All original and printed artwork must have \$30 minimum price.



- WAS-H will retain 20% of all sales.
- Artists are asked to donate one item, valued under \$100, for hourly raffle.
- Prints and giclees must be labeled PRINT on front of piece.
- No minimum price for note cards.
- Specific details and registration form soon available on our WAS-H website and at the WAS-H office.

Note: This event is successful because of wonderful folks who volunteer each year for a variety of positions. Please contact Susan Giannantonio – lucholiz@gmail.com – or by phone, 281 347-9043, if you are willing and able to help:

1. Set-up committee: Tables, clotheslines, signage, participant nametags, WAS-H membership forms
2. Advertising: Ads, banners, and signage
3. Schedule Demo artist line-up for WAS-H upstairs (one-hour demos were

very popular with WAS-H visitors in the past)

4. Event: Raffle, Cashier, Children's Table, Cleanup

Events Calendar

February

Monthly Show Take-In – Feb 1, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Board Meeting – Feb. 3, 9:30 am

Gallery Reception – Feb. 7, 6-8 pm

Paint-Out – Feb. 8, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

General Meeting – Feb. 9, 1:30 pm

Demo – Joanie Hughes, 2 pm

Paint-In – Jan. 22, 9 am - 3:30 pm

Robin Avery

Wed. Figure Painting – 12:30-3:30 pm, (except WAS-H holidays or special events)

Open Studio – Fri., 10:30 am - 2:30 pm (when no workshops are scheduled)

WAS-H OFFICE

1601 West Alabama at Mandell

Open Tuesday–Saturday

10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For information please contact:

Martin Butler, Administrative Assistant
713-942-9966

www.watercolorhouston.org

email: was-h@sbcglobal.net

WASHRAG INFORMATION

DEADLINE for copy, photographs and advertising for the *Washrag* is 4:00 pm, the 5th of each month except June and December. Material not received by the deadline will appear in the next month's *Washrag*. Please submit items via email or typed.

ADVERTISING RATES

Effective September 2001

Full page (7.5" by 10") \$75

Half page (7.5" by 4.7") \$50

Quarter page (3.7" by 4.7") \$25

One column (30 words) \$15

Area Teachers Listing \$25 (per year)

Payments for *Washrag* ads must be received no later than the 10th. Please mail check to WAS-H.

Column ads should be typed. All other ads must be print-ready. Photos must be 300 dpi. Submit material to:

WAS-H 713-942-9966

1601 West Alabama, Houston, TX 77006,
or via email to Rosalie Ramsden, ramsdendesign@earthlink.net. Please put WAS-H in subject line of your email.

Wednesday Model Session

The Wednesday Model Lab 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 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. Carol Rensink, 713-524-5146.



Recent model for Wednesday model lab group



Next General Meeting-February 9 Social 1:30, Meeting 2:00 Demo: Joanie Hughes

Meeting Demo

by Beverly Aderholt Vice-President

All of you know Joanie Hughes, one of our beloved instructors of beginning watercolor. You may also know that one of her favorite subjects is animal portraits. We are so happy to have Joanie as our demo artist for the February 9 General Meeting Demo. Joanie will demonstrate from start to finish how to capture the soul of your favorite pet. Don't miss her demo!



Owl by Joanie Hughes

Hilary Page's January Demo

by Beverly Aderholt Vice-President



Members of WAS-H were treated to a demo by a familiar figure to many of our members, Hilary Page of Houston. Hilary was active at WAS-H in the 1980s, but has turned to painting, writing books and articles, and enjoying her grandchildren. Her presentation to us was a painting of birches in which she demonstrated how to achieve a beautiful impression of depth. She did this with both her drawing and her painting. In the drawing she used different sizes, with the closer trees being larger and touching the top and bottom of the paper. She painted wet on wet with a limited palette of quinachrodone magenta, cobalt blue, and Winsor lemon, creating beautiful colors and lovely greys. Since Hilary has done much research and written a book on the properties of watercolor paint, she gave the members a wealth of information on paints as she painted. She painted and discussed reflections, shadows, and negative painting as she created *Swinging Birches*. Then she ended by reading Robert Frost's poem "The Birch Swinger" to an enthusiastic round of applause.

Get Well Wishes To Jim Woodall!

Beloved Senior Watercolor Class Member incurred a severe injury to his leg due to a fall. Jim is in rehab to slowly recover after a week in the hospital. I know he would have his spirits lifted if he received get well cards/

wishes or a small original watercolor "card" from WAS-H.

Members! Please send to his home address: Jim Woodall, 12531 Westerley, (77079). Let's let him know he is missed! Thanks, Mary Rustay



From the Presidents

Co-Presidents Susenne Telage and Jan Shrader

by Jan Shrader, Co-President

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a happy new year. The deadline for the membership show is January 17. I hope you are farther along with your painting than I am.

We have several changes coming in the new year. After many years as Webmasters for WAS-H, Dave and Carrie Maloney have decided to retire. They have done a wonderful job, and we are all so grateful for their service. Thank you, Dave and Carrie. We will miss you. Marie Schaer has volunteered to take over the position of Webmaster. We are all so grateful; it takes a very special person to be Webmaster for WAS-H.

We are looking at a new hanging system for the monthly shows. Hopefully, the new system will make the time to hang the show quicker and we won't leave holes in the wall.

I have a bright idea that I would like to throw out and see if anyone would like to be in charge. We have several members who cannot drive at night. It would be so nice if we could pair those members who live close so they could get a ride to the receptions. If you are interested in this please let me know.

Once again, I am wishing everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Jan Shrader

Member Teachers Listing

Sallie Anderson Studio

Galveston, 409-763-2265

Portia Bell, BFA

Beginners to Intermediate at
WAS-H, 281-530-8999

David M. Blackwell

832-656-5171, dmbblackwellartist@gmail.com

Diana Brandt, Memorial, Houston

Beginners to Intermediate, 713-560-2324
watercolor70131@yahoo.com

Barbara Jeffery Clay, AWS

116 Huckleberry Dr.
Lake Jackson, TX 77566, 979-292-8058

Susan Giannantonio, Katy, TX, and

Mayville, NY, lucholiz@gmail.com,
www.artandstring.com

Caroline Graham, WAS-H

Museum District
713-664-6589, cgrahamart@msn.com

Joanie Hughes

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

Nellie Kress, WAS-H, TWS

Katy, 281-347-0248, nkkress@msn.com

Gay Paratore, BA, MEd, TWS, NSA,

WAS-H, Classes: Tues. - Santa Fe Studio,
Thursdays - TAACCL, 409-316-1005

Carol Slobin, WAS-H

Bellaire area
281-565-1650, carolslobin@comcast.net

Shirley Sterling, NWS, TWS, WFS, WAS-H

Clear Lake, 281-474-4214

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

A.J. Schexnayder, AWS, NWS, WAS-H

N.W. Houston, 281-444-7524
aj-schexnayder@att.net

Marsha Harris Solomon, TWS-PS, NWO, NMWS, AWA, WAS-H

713-266-9173 marshasolomon@comcast.net

Mary Wilbanks, NWS, TWS-PS,

WAS-H, Workshops and critiques. 281-370-7879, marywilbanks@gmail.com



3433 West Alabama, Suite C, Houston, TX 77027
713.877.8466 Facsimile 713.877.8557
craig@speedyprinting.net

February Classes or Workshops

Follow Me in Watercolor



Mark Stewart, www.markstewartwatercolor.com, 713-464-8402

Tuesdays, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, February 4, 11, 18, 25; \$150

Participants will be led in a "follow me" fashion to explore still life, landscape, figurative, and portrait subjects in four 3-hour sessions. Mark will explain his process while demonstrating his techniques and approach to each subject. Each participant will develop their own painting while being guided and encouraged by Mark's input, instruction, and real time demonstration.

Teacher Appreciation Event in February

by Kathy Farr, Education Director

WAS-H is fortunate to have a great bunch of teachers in watercolor, water-media and drawing who schedule time for teaching classes and workshops year-round at WAS-H. Please join us at the February reception on Friday, February 7, to show our appreciation to those who have taught in 2013 and will be teaching this spring. You will be able to see some of their artwork, and you may be inspired to hone your skills or try something new with a class or workshop.

Saturday Paint-In

Margaret Bock and Betty Frost,
Paint-In Coordinators

Paint-In — Robin Avery
A Paint-In Party Complete with
“Appaintizers”
Saturday, February 22, 2013, 9:00
am - 3:00 pm



People by Robin Avery

Just like a party, this Paint-In will offer “appaintizers” to choose from! Emphasis will be to have fun while learning some new ideas, hopefully to give you a chance to take the leap from ordinary to extraordinary. Robin will share her favorite tips she has picked up along the way from various watercolor workshops she has taken. She will also share how she paints her animal paintings and assorted other subjects. She will present several painting choices to choose from. Some suggested supplies are: 1/4 sheet black gessoed watercolor paper, white watercolor crayon, white gouache, flat brushes acrylic inks, and white watercolor pencil. If you plan to paint an animal, bring ultramarine blue and burnt sienna watercolors, photos of animals, magazines to cut from, rubber cement, and scissors.

We will definitely share if you do not have everything. It's just going to be fun. Bring some of those paint supplies you always thought you'd use and still haven't.

Call Robin at 713-410-1075 for any questions you may have.

Paint-In Calendar

Margaret Bock and Betty Frost,
Paint-In Coordinators

A Don't Miss Opportunity!

New ideas and new instructors are available on the fourth Saturday of every month, September through July. These are marvelous sessions, with so many new ideas ... ideas that can inspire any painter.

We start at 9:00 am and paint until 3:00 pm, and bring our lunch so as to make the most of our time. It is a friendly group, open to beginning and advanced painters alike.

The Schedule is as follows.

March 22, Hillary Page, Color

April 26, Gay Paratore, Acrylic Sponge Painting

May 24, Liduine Beckman, Glazing

June 28, Jackie Liddell, Experimental

July 26, Ann Erard, Creativity

Thank you, Mary
Wilbanks

Mary is a charming and talented artist who taught us how to use acrylic inks. She mixed some of her ink to make amazing colors. Collage was also used and her painting reflected her talent. We thank Mary for a very interesting session. Come again! — Betty Frost

February Classes or Workshops

ABSTRACT AND EXPERIMENTAL WATERCOLOR

Janet Hassinger, www.janethassinger.com, 409-457-4527 Thursdays 1 to 4 pm; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, Mar. 6; \$145



Explore various techniques and fresh processes for developing new watercolors with exciting results. This series is designed to loosen up and stimulate your creativity.

Iain Stewart Is Coming to WAS-H

Light in Watercolor Workshop

by Karen Stopnicki, *E-News Chair*



Explore the medium of watercolor in a relaxing and creative environment. Award-winning watercolorist Iain Stewart's 3-day workshop is solely focused on helping you bring your creativity to light and aid in dispelling the myth that watercolor is difficult. Given the right encouragement and understanding of the basic fundamentals, watercolor is a wonderfully creative medium that is unmatched in ease of use, cost of materials, and pure enjoyment of artistic expression.

Through demonstration, careful critique, and sharing of lessons learned over a long painting career, Iain will help you understand how to prepare for, anticipate, and respond to the challenges that painting in watercolor presents. He will guide you through his process of simplifying a subject through sketching, creating graphite value studies, and expanding those value studies into preliminary color studies. In this manner, you will learn how to create a road map that, if followed, will greatly improve your painting and offer more consistent results. This roadmap will increase your understanding of how to paint in watercolor, help you avoid common mistakes, and work for any subject you choose to paint.

See more of Iain Stewart's work on his website at www.iainstewartwatercolors.com. Iain was recently featured in The

(continued on page 8)

"From the Juror's Point of View" Volunteer of the Month

by Lesley Humphrey
Juror December Show

by Carol L. Watson, Activities Director and
Kathy Farr, Education Director

Lesley Humphrey judged our small-paintings show. She has rejoined WAS-H, and we welcome her with enthusiasm.

Often when we enter a monthly show at WAS-H, we wonder what the judge was thinking and why they chose what they did. The Juror's Statement by Lesley Humphrey, gives us some insight into her choices. It is an interesting slant on the selections she made and why. To quote Lesley:

"I stood awestruck at the masterful skill clearly apparent within the representational paintings in your shows. Whether the work represents a moment in time in a beautiful space, or with a loved one, the representational cadre of artists in WAS-H is of the highest caliber.

Conversely, I was mesmerized by the variety of fun, creative, playful, and explorative techniques contained in your more interpretive, abstract works. My heart responds joyfully to the colors, lyrical lines and patterns that dance throughout your highly creative paintings.

How does one choose one artist's idea over another; one person's viewpoint, or emotional yearning over another? It is impossible for me, so whilst jurying your show, I searched instead for an 'unmistakable authority' that is present in some works. Please allow me to explain:

In such powerful works, it is not the time spent, the finish or even the craftsmanship and skill displayed in the work that makes them 'good'...I like to think of it as energy, essence, perhaps the life force of the artist him or herself fully present in the work;... In the marks, and not just in all the artistic decisions and technical expertise.

Works created with 'unmistakable authority' tend to be 'felt' as well as seen; Sometimes poetic rather than descriptive; Sometimes marvelous for what is left out, as much as what is explained. Such works



Thank You Wilson Windle

"Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It's the way in which we ourselves grow and develop..." Dr. Dorothy I. Height

may lack the time and complexity of other, more 'finished' pieces, yet still contain more power - somehow.

Powerful works draw us into them with a kind of 'speechless intrigue.' Powerful work may have taken days, as content was carefully crafted over time, or it could have appeared in an instant, like a perfect 'shodo' mark, full of energy, and mercifully left to stand alone.

We all have an 'inner critic', our ego, and depending upon our own nature and willingness to explore, it is either silenced or sometimes upset upon encountering authoritative works that cause such 'speechless intrigue'.

Great art changes us, I think because

The quote speaks to and personifies the spirit of Wilson Windle, former Outreach Director for WAS-H and a member since 1999. Wilson has been the coordinator for the Arts In Medicine program at Texas Children's Hospital. The work included recruiting volunteers, organizing the schedule for Tuesday mornings of watercolor with the children, and keeping the program supplied with materials. Wilson also coordinated the portfolio review for the annual WAS-H scholarship given to a student at the High School of the Performing and Visual Arts who will be majoring in art in college. We thank Wilson for his many hours of service to WAS-H, always with a good nature, and we will miss his input to the Board of Directors.

Feodor Dostoevsky said: "The soul is healed by being with children".

Even though Wilson has passed the torch along we shall all look forward to seeing him at future WAS-H events. Once again thanks to Wilson for his time and effort.

we feel connected to it 'below the neck', and in that connection we find relief, as if it reminds us that we are all connected, like one great, big tapestry, after all. How lovely is that? What a wonderful goal. Critical evaluation of each other's technical skills and expertise often separates us... As a juror, I seek and celebrate the 'artist' in the work; I am encouraged when YOU show up, and feel sincerely grateful when we are able to connect."

Meet Your Board Member: Mojan Filsoofi, Annual Members Exhibit Director

by Jan McNeill, *Publicity Director and Past President*



Mojan Filsoofi joined this year's Board just in time to tackle her first Annual Members Exhibit! Her role included: communicating to members all upcoming events/deadlines, contacting art supply vendors for donations of merchandise/gift certificates, and – last but not least organizing the show and reception and all the volunteers. Mojan especially enjoyed meeting all the contributing artists and seeing their beautiful artwork.

Mojan has greatly enjoyed her experience thus far on the WAS-H Board. Being new to America, Mojan did not know many people and has greatly enjoyed expanding her circle of friends with WAS-H members. While English is not her primary language, she speaks it very well and now has lots more opportunities to practice with her WAS-H colleagues and friends.

Mojan moved to Houston about two years ago from Iran with her husband and college age daughter. Her daughter is in her second year of pre-med at the University of Houston and loves the chance to study in America. (Talking with Mojan about her family's experience in Iran makes one remember to appreciate the wonderful freedoms we have in America and what some coun-

tries do not have.)

When Mojan immigrated to Houston, she began to paint in watercolor again – a hobby from her childhood that she always cherished. She learned about WAS-H from an Internet search. During one of the take-ins for a monthly show, she met several Board members who thought her experience with gallery shows in Tehran seemed like a natural fit with an invitation to join the Board as the Annual Members Exhibit Director.

On the painting side, one of her favorite painting memories is when she had a one-person exhibition in Tehran and sold all of her paintings. Mojan loves to paint nature, florals, and still lifes. Other interests include reading, meditating, yoga, skiing, swimming, interior design, and gardening.

One of Mojan's favorite sayings is "Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."

Mojan, we appreciate all your hard work as Director of the Annual Members Exhibit. We also highly value the insights we have gained as a result of your sharing about life and loss of freedom in Iran. We are so glad you found WAS-H!

37th International Exhibition 2014

by Emily Wahl, *International
Exhibition Director*

Watch out!...the International Exhibition is going to be spectacular! January proved to be an extremely busy month as artists around the world submitted entries. The talent of many of the artists will be a challenge for our honored juror, Laurin McCracken. Mark your calendars for March 14th, 6-8pm when we will hold an elegant reception and honor our award winners. Invite friends and family members to join the reception or come see the exhibition from March 11- April 3, 2014. This is a show you will not want to miss!

Splash

Pat Dispenziere's watercolor "Making A Wish" was juried by Dean Mitchell, AWS,NWS into the Signature American. The Watercolor Exhibition to be held at Fallbrook Art Center, CA, February 2-March 16, 2014. Pat's watercolor "Early Morning In Marrakesh" was juried by Ratindra Das, AWS(DF), NWS into the Western Colorado. The Watercolor Society's "Rockies West National." The show opens March 5-April 4,2014 at the Western Colorado Center for the Arts in Grand Junction, CO.



Co-Presidents Jan Shrader and Susi Telage hosted the Board of Directors as they celebrated the holidays with a delightful luncheon at the home of Jan Shrader.

Meet Your Board Member: Ann Sanders

by Jan McNeill, *Publicity Director and Past President*



Ann Sanders is the WAS-H Membership Director and spreads the word about WAS-H. She began her new role in June 2013. Her main job each month is to help sign in members at the monthly meeting/demo as well as sign raffle tickets for the great prizes donated by Art Supply on Main.

Ann especially enjoys being on the Board because of all the enthusiasm and new friendships with the artists on the Board. She also likes helping the Board with the planning of upcoming events. Ann observes: "Sometimes in a large organization, it is difficult to make friends and especially since so many people live in different parts of town. Helping to hang the shows, going on paint-outs, participating in paint-ins and workshops have been such fun ways to get acquainted. The outreach program at Texas Children's Hospital is a rewarding project."

Ann started drawing lessons and eventually watercolor by taking Con-

tinuing Education classes at the nearby high school her children attended. Her instructor, Betty Wentworth, introduced her to WAS-H when it was located in Town and Country shopping center. She remembers being so excited to be accepted in a monthly show.

Ann appreciates the inspirational opportunities from the talented artists who come to Houston to do the WAS-H workshops. Judy Morris and Guan Weixing were two favorites. Ann has enjoyed going to Bend, Oregon, to Art in the Mountains for a workshop with Charles Reid. The natural beauty of Bend, Oregon, and lessons from a master was a great combination. She loved sketching when on travels to Italy, France, and other locations.

Ann was delighted when her daughter chose Ann's art to feature in a website class. She likes doing portraits, figure drawing, and landscapes. She appreciates attending the WAS-H figure drawing on Wednesdays — a wonderful opportunity for WAS-H members.

Ann has many hobbies — writing simple music pieces, ballroom dancing, creative sewing, travel, choir, barbershop singing, and anything else that sounds like fun!

Thank you, Ann, for your service as Membership Director and for all your other behind-the-scene contributions to WAS-H!

Note: This column is to help you better know your Board members – their personal interests as well as their roles in serving WAS-H. Take time to greet them with your appreciation for their hard work.

Susan Giannantonio and Nancy Stephenson have made donations in memory of Lloyd Albers. Susan has also made a donation in honor of Dick Barlow.

February Classes and Workshops

POST IMPRESSIONISM – FREEDOM OF COLOR AND DESIGN

Susan Giannantonio, lucholiz@gmail.com. 281 347-9043

Tuesdays 1 to 4 p.m. \$150/session. \$140



if you register at least 2 weeks prior to classes!

Session 1: Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25.

Session 2: March 18, 25, April 1, 8.

Be inspired by the stunning work of the

masters (Derain, Sargent, Matisse +) then try out their loose, brilliant approach to design and color. It may well give you the confidence you are looking for in your own work. Demos in multi media and fast-paced, fun exercises abound each week. You may work in watercolor and/or acrylic. Homework and critique encouraged; all levels and abilities welcome. Class details: SusanTeachesPainting.blogspot.com

ONLINE MARKETING BASICS FOR ARTISTS - NEW

Susan Giannantonio, lucholiz@gmail.com. 281 347-9043

Saturday & Sunday, February 15 & 16; 9:00 am – 1 pm; \$100/\$90 if you register at least 2 weeks before class

Class details: SusanTeachesPainting.blogspot.com

An introduction to photography & editing, archiving your painting history, marketing your work, watermarks (securing your work online), SEO (Search Engine Optimization, or how to be "found" online). We will look at examples of free or low-cost ways to market: Etsy, Blogs, Facebook, Flickr, LinkedIn and more.

Seeds of Watercolor

Art on the Go

by shirl riccetti

DOING SOME SIDE STEPS.....

In our ordered Art lives of going down a structured path, have you ever considered of jumping into another temporary art direction, or seeing or learning a new technique, opening up your mind to a truly unusual artist?

Marsha Harris visited Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. This museum, funded largely by the Walmart Foundation, is the first major museum dedicated to American Art to open in almost 50 years. Marsha learned that one of her favorite artists, John Marin, lived in Paris for a time, on a trip that was sponsored by Georgia O'Keefe's husband, photographer Alfred Stieglitz. Because of that trip and the Cubist influence, Marin's style drastically changed.

The museum also carries the works of Wil Barnet, who painted extensively until he died, last year at 100 years of age.

Margaret Scott Bock remembers her French trip to Saint-Remy many years ago, and how visiting Van Gogh's sanitarium affected her. The architecture of the building, with its courtyard and columns and the landscapes surrounding the building, have influenced her love of painting landscapes since that trip.

Cookie Wells eagerly started experiencing last year with Yupo, and declares she is truly enjoying the process.

Also, when visiting the East Coast last year, Cookie came across an outstanding Salvador Dali exhibit, which was eye opening for her.

Years ago, I took a leap and signed up for the then new Sketchbook Project. At that time, I paid my little fee, received a small moleskin sketchbook to fill with my art and mail back. The Project was based in Florida. When I did the Project the second time, (for a higher fee), I hurried through it, doing less than mediocre

work, and mailed it to the Brooklyn Art Library. All of these sketchbooks travel throughout the U.S. for people to peruse.

Now, my new project for them: For a higher fee, I will put my art on a 5 x 7 Ampersand board they have sent me, mail it back to them, and receive another artist's artwork eventually. These projects have pushed me to tap some creative reserves and be less "scared" to send out my art work.

As a PS note: the sketchbook I hurriedly drew is now floating around the world on their website. Each time I happen to see it, I hope my name is not too visible. It was clearly a rushed project because procrastination ruled.

So these are some ideas for you to "take a chance," "dance a little artistic side step." Read about or look at an artist whose work is different from yours. And feel free to try something new. Your work also could be floating around the world. Send me your travel ideas.

Carpe diem Shirl Riccetti
sriccetti@comcast.net

Arts in Medicine Volunteers Needed

by Lynne Woods, Outreach Director



WAS-H is looking for a few more volun-

WAS-H Members Alert!

by Beverly Aderholt Vice-President



Pears by Laurin McCracken

Don't miss this opportunity to study under Laurin McCracken. He is world famous for his stunning still lifes. He says: "I interpret the real world through the medium of watercolor. While I see things as a photographer, as a painter I am able to use the medium as a tool to express how I see things. Flowers, and in particular the magnolia, have a strong emotional appeal to me. Perhaps that comes from growing up in the Deep South. One of my goals is to help people see everyday things in a new light."

Sign up for the 5-day workshop March 10 through 14 before February 9 and you will get a \$25 discount for a total of \$500. Don't wait too long — it's filling up quickly!

teers for its Arts in Medicine Program at Texas Children's Hospital. Every Tuesday morning, from 10:00 until noon, WAS-H provides volunteers to help those children waiting for their treatments to discover watercolor. If you like children and you like watercolor, you may like this volunteer activity. Give WAS-H's Outreach Director, Lynne Woods, a call at 713-269-9237 or an email at lynne.woods@yahoo.com and get involved.

December Gallery Show

by Liz Hill, Gallery Director

Our small-paintings show had 98 entries. This is approximately twice the normal show. Our judge was Lesley Humphrey, a talented international figure, her main focus being equine art. She was chosen to be the artist for the Kentucky Derby in 2011.

Lesley wrote the following about our organization: " I consider WASH one of the very best art organizations in Houston. It is such an honor for anyone to be invited to judge one of their shows and want to thank you sincerely for the privilege.

Your miniature show was vibrant in its variety and creativity. As I walked around, I was struck by how powerful and how beautiful the works were; how incredible most of them would be on a very large scale - a testament to their excellent design and compositional strength.

As I juried this show, I want you to know that I did not look for 'what is right and wrong' with your paintings ... I saw no better or worse amongst you. Just the most precious design element of all ... 'You' ... in more or less quantitative'. The paintings that I felt had the most 'power and presence' were the ones I selected as winners.

Second Place, Seated Figures by Gena Haber. Yet another piece that lured me again and again. Strength and presence is boldly represented in this highly sophisticated, monochromatic piece. One senses ambiguous figures seated beneath a tree, but the imagery is so beautifully restrained, that the overall paint quality of the surface overpowers it.



First Place, Journeys #3 by Ruby Allen. This artist's work had a strong impact from across the room, not only from the vibrancy of the colors, but the simple, yet powerful organization of the abstract shapes. On closer inspection, I was drawn into this piece further, into the complex textures, patterns and shapes that were skillfully value-grouped and not apparent from a distance, retaining the integrity of the abstraction.



(continued to
December Gallery
Show page 10)

December Gallery Show - continued

by Liz Hill, Gallery Director



Third Place, Into the Future by **Veranne Graham.**

This is a more subtle work and one that could be overlooked because of the framing which I have to say detracts rather than enhances this otherwise wonderful piece. Muted colors, muted textures, muted mood, muted rhythms skillfully combined to create a work that is somewhat haunting yet beautiful in its subtlety.

Honorable mention, One of Life's Little Ironies by **Jackie Lidell**

Lesley found this painting to be done with restrained realism, feeling like a nest, not overly contrived. It had a nice rhythm, well-done texture and had a lyrical use of line.

Honorable mention, Treasured Wing by **Emily Wahl**

This piece was found to have gestural organic forms, more than realistic form. It showed an exquisite use of color.

Honorable mention, Do You Want a Kiss? by **Nancy Fleagle**

A bold viewpoint with humor was shown in this painting. It was found to be appealing with a powerful feeling of play.

Honorable mention, Josianne by **Liz Hill**

This artist is very recognizable in her work. This piece has powerful gestural marks.

Honorable mention, Meyer Lemons, by **Patty Browning**

A beautifully painted painting, with an organic feeling of nature. Again the texture is wonderful.

Honorable mention, Blue Paw, by **Karen Linderman**

A powerful abstraction, good because of the great restraint shown in the execution.

Honorable mention, Boston Terrior by **Robin Avery**

A charming, contemporary portrait. It has a great use of color with an intimate viewpoint. This piece has superb replicating shapes.

Honorable mention, Somewhere Maybe by **Erik Sprohge**

This piece has an interesting composition. It creates a feeling of assent in a landscape format. Complimentary colors make it a successful painting.

Public Relations Director Needed for Next Year's Board!

by **Jan McNeill**, Public Relations Director

- Have an interest in helping WAS-H with publicity?
- Like writing brief articles and organizing information for communication?
- Have other ideas about how to get WAS-H better known?
- **WAS-H would love to hear from you!**

Public Relations Director Jan McNeill will become WAS-H Education Director on next year's Board. The search has started to find someone who would like to try his or her hand at public relations.

No prior experience is necessary – just a desire to get publicity out on a monthly basis. Lists of contacts and examples of current communications are all available to make the transition easy.

FYI, the position entails attending the monthly Board meeting (1st Monday 9:30-11:30 am) to learn about upcoming events/activities. In addition, monthly newspaper articles and online website submissions are done via e-mail. Other activities include collaborating with WAS-H Directors to plan and execute publicity.

It's a fun experience, a great way to get to know the other Board members, and also to learn about other aspects of Houston's vibrant art community!

- Contact Beverly Aderholt, WAS-H Vice President if you might be interested. beverlyaderholt@att.net or 713-468-5141.

(continued from page 3)

Watercolor Artist Magazine's "What Do You Love" Competition with a feature in the June, 2013, issue.

Dates: Monday, May 19 - Wednesday, May 21, 2014; **Cost:** \$325, \$25 discount for full payment by March 15, 2014;

Sign-Up: Contact Karen Stopnicki, khouston006@yahoo.com or 713-927-8992

January Gallery Show

by Liz Hill, Gallery Director



First Place, **Ruby Allen's** exquisite composition ... and so it goes lingers in the mind, detailed with beautiful coloration and evocative flourish. It is a masterful piece.

All of the artists submitted works that reflect disparate threads of inquiry and various levels of skill. To judge them competitively, I looked for the ubiquitous qualities we all strive for in successfully executed pieces: compositional power, color balance and/or disquiet, a sense of place or time well communicated. I looked for work that SAYS something, even if it's non-verbal, work that goes beyond the academic and banal, beyond technique and representation or abstraction. I looked for work that was skillfully done, but more important, work that moved me and triggered a response. This is, of course, what makes judging such a subjective experience..

Honorable mentions were awarded to **Erick Sprohge**, for *Oysters* and **Margaret Su** for her painting *Candate Roller*.

Judged by Liz Conces Spencer, Judge's comments: The works presented for this competition are lively, varied and representative of open, inquiring artistic minds. I was impressed by the overall breadth of the entries, which ranged from intimate portraiture and floral studies to strikingly bold abstractions playing complementary colors against each other in strong compositions.



Second Place was given to **Angie Adlerz** for *Texas Star*, a work primarily rendered in complementary colors; the visual challenge of pulling off their opposing forces creates a dynamic tension that is further enhanced by the bold painting of the flowers and the addition of delicate textural details.



Third Place, **Dodie Meeks'** small but powerful painting *Tapestry* evokes other artists, other media, but is entirely her own, speaking many languages, all powerful and all visceral.



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