



April 2011

Washrag

N E W S L E T T E R

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

From the President

By Jerrie Gast, *President*

Our change of season comes quickly in Houston. One day there are icicles hanging from my balcony, and the next day (today) I sit in a chair in a short-sleeved shirt wondering if my skin might burn! And so it is with painting, ideas are rushing in, and then suddenly you find yourself at a loss for what to paint. This would be a good topic for our Facebook chats. Check it out if you haven't already discovered it. Social networks — Facebook and Flickr — are great forums for WAS-H members. Please post any ideas you have, any accomplishments, events of interest, your upcoming shows, classes, etc. If you are a WAS-H member, post any art-related activity so that other members will know your news.

We can only hope our weather stays this great for our Clothesline Sale on April 2. Make sure you stop by to visit and take advantage of the opportunity to pick up a painting done by a friend or an artist you have been admiring.

Our International Exhibition will soon be over, and the April Monthly Show is sure to be a success with all the great paintings that were not chosen for the International Exhibition. Or save your masterpiece for another big show. It may take a first place with another juror; John Salminen could pick only one from each artist for the exhibit.

The month of May brings one of our experimental shows, and any surface goes. You can use canvas, board, any unusual surface that will accept water-media.

We have a very eye-catching wall in
(continued on page 2)



By Portia Bell
Co-Director of Education

Imagine the shock and disappointment if there were no classes or workshops offered at the Watercolor Art Society - Houston. No need to worry. Thanks to the education directors and board members, WAS-H members are offered a plethora of choices in weekly classes, workshops and activities.

As an artful spirit, each of you can add something to WAS-H. Consider what that might be and put your "heart in all you do" by serving on the board. Some of what WAS-H is looking for is someone with a basic integrity and qualities of character which will last through the year — enduring qualities of tolerance, unselfishness, kindness and the ability to cooperate with others. So ask yourself — "How can I make more time to do what really counts."

As the beginning months of the New Year spin away from me, I pause and savor the opportunities that I have had serving as the Educational Co-Director for the Watercolor Art Society - Houston.

It has been a time of discovery and dedication, but its has also been a joyous
(continued on page 3)



Portia Bell and Brandee Standley

Being a Volunteer

By Brandee Standley
Co-Director of Education

When Rosalie Ramsden asked if we could do an article for the front page of the *Washrag*, nothing came to mind to write about. Portia Bell and I, Co-Directors of Education, are just beginning the summer session scheduling. We've asked for those interested in teaching to let us know, so that's under way. There is nothing coming up that isn't covered elsewhere.

We do have one need right now, and

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Calendar

Menil Festival & Clothesline Sale -

Apr. 2, 10 am - 5 pm

Board Meeting - April 4, 4 pm

Paint-Out - April 9, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

General Meeting - April 10, 1:30 pm,

Demo, Sarah Kitagawa, 2:00 pm

Monthly Show Take-In - April 16, 10 am - noon

Gallery Reception - April 22, 6-8 pm

Paint-In - April 23, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Wed. Figure Labs - 12:30-3:30 pm

Open Studio - Fri. 1-3 pm

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 our newsletter editor, 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.



General Meeting, March 20
 Social 1:30, Meeting 2:00 pm
 Demo ~ Sarah Kitagawa



April 2011 General Meeting Demo with Sarah Kitagawa

Join us for an exciting demo in unique mixed-media techniques with Sarah Kitagawa at our April 10, 2011, General Meeting Demo at 1:30 pm. Her process is a painting adventure of design and control, to intuitive letting go, and back again. Sarah will demonstrate the marriage of these mixed-media materials on her works in progress, and you will be creatively energized and inspired, regardless of your media or technique. Her workshop will be April 15, 16 and 17. Visit her Web site at www.sarahkitagawaart.com - Linda Vanek, Vice President

(From the President, continued from page 1)

our gallery now, thanks once again to Susanne Leatherwood.

May also brings the new slate of officers for next year. Our board has approved a wonderful group of people, and once our members accept the slate, we know you will do everything you can to support and show your appreciation for their hard work and dedication. There are still directors needed for some positions. Please let us know if you can fill a spot. WAS-H can keep getting better only with lots of help, so please let us know if you will help.

Hey, let's get together on the fourth Friday of each month and paint. I have tried it twice. Once I painted alone and another time with a friend. Come join in. Together, we can exchange ideas, learn from each other, and perhaps critique each other's work. Sounds like a plan to me!
 — Jerrie Gast, President



A gift was made to our Seeds of Watercolor Fund in memory of WAS-H member Dwight Shelton from Jack and Frankie Shelton.

May Is Experimental!

By Paula Doughty
 Gallery Director

Get out your thinking caps and use your experimental brain to create an entry for the May show. Let's all try something new. Think about new surfaces, techniques, additives, etc. Anything new for you. There are no restrictions on frames — any size or style. There are no restrictions on mats; any color or style is acceptable. So let yourself go and do something new and fun. ☺

2010 Annual Fund Drive Donations

We thank the following people who have recently donated to our 2010 Annual Fund Drive list.
 Margaret Scott Bock, Phyllis Sasso

(What! continued from page 1)

occasion as each new member is welcomed into the warmth and friendliness of volunteering on the board.

When I became a board member, I became a member of a vast organization, rich in tradition, far-reaching in influence, its membership including hundreds of artists — the thriving community, people working together to preserve traditions and each year, striving to create an enjoyable, fun classroom environment for our members.

Please consider taking the pledge, and plan to give your time to WAS-H. ☺

(Being a Volunteer, continued from page 1)

and that is a volunteer or volunteers to be the Director of Education or Co-Directors for the 2011-2012 year. Maybe there is someone out there who is perfect for the job but just hasn't come forward yet. If so, telling about my experience might be what they need to hear.

I'm a fairly new member of WAS-H, so in order to see how the organization works, I started volunteering at the monthly Take-Ins in June '09. It was a great way to see the artwork, meet the artists and watch the judging process. I enjoyed it a lot, and it wasn't much work — just a Saturday a month. Because there was a need, I stepped it up by volunteering to work with Portia Bell as Co-Director, of Education in June 2010.

We schedule the classes and workshops for all three yearly sessions: fall, spring and summer. First we contact the WAS-H artists about leading a class or workshop or they contact us. We work out the dates requested on a big calendar. Next is a description and representative artwork from the teachers. After we have all the information and agreement on dates, we write the brochure for that session. We work with a deadline so the brochure can go out with the Washrag in time for students to sign up. This year we put together a "Teacher Introduction Event" at the January Monthly Show.

It's a good bit of work, but the rewards of having a variety of classes for our members is worth it. WAS-H has a talented and generous group of teachers, and it has been my pleasure to work with them. ☺



By Reva Power

Membership Director

Members! Its time to renew! Look for your renewal form in the mail. Return it by May 31, 2011, for the \$5 discount. Consider upgrading your membership. With Silver Membership, you have all the benefits of Regular and Bronze, plus all of the Saturday Paint-Ins are prepaid. Happy painting. ☺

Tips on How to Look at the 34th International Exhibition

by Norm Wigington

WAS-H 2011 International Exhibition Director

Someone asked me recently how I looked at or judged artwork at the Museum of Fine Arts - Houston. My look of utter loss must have signified how at a loss for words I had become. But I have since recovered and have learned that many people feel uncomfortable around art because they feel insufficiently trained in critiquing or judging art. So with this apprehension in mind, let me suggest five things to consider. In ascending order they are:

5

Don't be afraid to take an opinion — just make sure your opinions are grounded with specific evidence. If you do like a work in front of you, think about what you like and why — was it color? Shape? History? If you don't like the work, use details from the work itself to explain your views and contrast this artist with

(continued on page 4)

Member Teachers Listing

Sallie Anderson Studio

Galveston, 409-763-2265

Portia Bell, BFA

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

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

Barbara Jeffery Clay, AWS

Bellaire area, bclayartist@aol.com
713-592-6303

Pat Conroy, TWS, WFS, WAS-H

Kingwood/Atascocita
281-852-3062

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 & Richmond, 281-347-0248
nkkress@msn.com

Gay Paratore, BA, MED, NSA, TWS,

WAS-H, Thursdays - Art Alliance at Clear Lake, 409-316-1005

Carol Slobin, WAS-H, Sugar Land

Artists' Alliance and Southwest Houston,
carolslobin@comcast.net, 281-565-1650

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

Clear Lake, 281-474-4214

Mary Rustay, 713-703-1533 Cell

Watercolor for seniors at WAS-H,
no charge.

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

N.W. Houston, 281-444-7524
ajschexnayder@earthlink.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

Art on the Go

TRANSPORTING THE GOODS

Artists, as a lot, are ingenious travelers, whether carting their supplies across the country or the world or out of the parking lot. This applies to one-day classes or two-week workshops.

Fortunately, nowadays, everything has rollers. Pulling heavy art supplies is easier on the body than hauling and lifting. One artist had everything neatly placed in rolling luggage. Another came into a class with, roll-on double-decker toolbox. This setup had drawers and an easy-access lid. The artist said that this was not the ultra model, but the large hardware store had different versions.

I have also seen a fold-up, roll-on mesh container filled with small paintings, and lightweight, extending handle. My recent purchase for the carting dilemma is a small folding dolly in which I bungee-corded a tall plastic basket. I place supplies in the basket and lean my portfolio on top. On windy days, though, balance is an issue.

There are backpacks, daypacks (for a few-hours destination) and the very portable ugly fanny pack, and I have them all. The fanny pack will actually hold a small sketchbook, a paint set and a plastic medicine bottle for water. There are also the Totes — big, nylon, folding and waterproof. Various sizes of plastic containers work.

Shopping for something to carry your art will vary according to the class, do check out not just art stores. Consider the hardware stores, container stores, craft stores, garage sales and dollar stores. And watch what other artists have creatively devised.

If you cannot think “outside of the box” on this one, then just, as we all have done, fill up five or six plastic grocery bags and walk out to your car five or six times to carry everything in.

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shiricetti@comcast.net • 713-460-1895

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

February Gallery Show

By Paula Doughty
Gallery Director



Ellen Orseck, Juror Extraordinaire
Many thanks go to our February juror, Ellen Orseck. Not only did Ellen tell us how and why she picked the 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd- place winners, she also critiqued all seven Honorable Mentions. When she had finished with those selections, she offered to critique any of the other entries.

We were very privileged to have this juror who was so very generous with her time and knowledge. WAS-H will welcome her back in the future. 🍷



Paula Doughty, Gallery Director, presenting First Prize to Jackie Liddell.

(Tips on How to *continued from page 3*)
another who might have been more successful in your opinion.

4

Position the artist within the context of other artists working today. For the 34th International Exhibition, remember that these are all currently working artists; many are regional artists and most are from Texas. Does this influence the subject matter? Interpretation?

3

Reflect on who and what we do at the Watercolor Art Society - Houston. Does the art demonstrated here further the goals of the organization? How does it differ from other exhibits at WAS-H?

2

We are so fortunate in that we can often speak directly with exhibiting artists. Many are listed in the WAS-H directory of members and teach here regularly. When interviewing artists, start general and move in on more directed questions that address specific pieces. Try to keep yourself and the artist on task and make sure you are using terms you understand. Also, try to get an understanding of the process by which individual artists work. And finally,

1

Spend a good amount of time with each piece within the exhibition and try to get a sense of overall themes. Also, ask yourself what the juror was trying to accomplish by selecting these 100 images from among 400 submitted. Once you have a more broad appreciation of the show, go back to specific works that stood out to you and enjoy them.

See you in the gallery!





Clothesline Sale!



Watercolor Art Society of Houston

1601 Alabama @ Mandell

Saturday, April 2nd

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Come celebrate Spring as artists hang their paintings for sale at special prices!

Food, children's activities, great deals on art, meet the artists.



Paint-In

Margaret Bock and Betty Frost
Paint-In Coordinators

Paint-In with Linda Jarnagin
Saturday, April 23
9:30 am - 3:30 pm



Linda Jarnagin was born and raised in north Louisiana. Her interest in drawing and painting watercolor began in Shreveport, Louisiana, and has continued in Houston. She is a Signature Member of WAS-H and has won many awards for her work. Her education in painting has been through numerous workshops and with the giving teachers with whom she has studied, most notably Shirley Sterling. She never tires of learning more and more of what the wonderful watercolor medium can do. The joy of watercolor as it hits the paper and begins to flow into the rich forms that create the florals she loves to paint get her excited every time she begins. Linda believes that the painting can be uniquely unified with a rich underpainting, and that is what she will be demonstrating for the April Paint-In. Your regular watercolor supplies with mostly transparent watercolors will be all you need to paint your own underpainting.

Also bring a drawing of your subject to be placed on your underpainting later, which will be on your watercolor paper of choice. It does not have to be flowers but can be something you love to paint. You may bring a hair dryer to speed things along. See you there! ☺

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craig@speedyprinting.net

Volunteer of the Month

Don Fox has contributed a great amount of time and skill in maintaining our building. On a regular basis, Don surveys our lighting both in the Gallery and in the exterior display windows. New bulbs are replaced and adjusted when required. He recently replaced a new timer for the lights in the first-floor window where a painting by our featured artist is displayed.

The wall in the Gallery, which each month displays the award-winning paintings, is painted an accent color. The wall in the display window is painted this same color. The height of these walls requires the use of a ladder and special care in applying the paint. Don has been quite helpful in working with Suzanne to paint these walls.

WAS-H is fortunate that Don is dedicated to the maintenance of our building in many ways. **Thank you, Don.** ☺

Nellie Kress Paint-In February 2011



Nellie began the class by cutting wide (4-6") strips of paper, horizontally, from a large sheet. She then painted a long swatch across the top of one strip; the next color was painted below the first, then a third. Variations were used, including alcohol, salt, water, tissue paper, tilting the board, etc. When matted with a 4x5 mat, many interesting images evolved. What a fun day! Everyone ended up with something original and colorful. Kudos to you, Nellie.

— Betty Frost

Welcome New Members

Deepti Ahuja • Christine Alfery • Al Alsop • Jim Ashabraner • Carol Aulbach
Kathy Bell • Carolyn C. Blanton • Gary Blasingame • Jessie Bouley • Teri Brewer
• Diana Burke • Eileen Campbell • Joyce Conner • Charles Dalton • Barbara Davis • Lynne Devine • Althea Dollison
• Karla J. Dunn • Kathleen Durdin • Linda Edwards • Lynn M Eyberg • Ivan Farr • Tana Faulkner • William Fort • Rosanne Friedman • Donna Frohlich • Hector Garma • Susan Gibson • Candice Goodwin • Kim Granhaug • Luisa Duarte Green • Nancy Griswold • Deb Hagemeyer • Sharon Haney • Patty A. Harlan • Christin Harper • Ione Harrel • Ellen Hauge • David Hinsley • Barbara Jackson • Bob Jones • Lynda Jung • Martha Kilpatrick • Denise Liebl • Fiona Maclean • Angela Mahmarian • Troy Massey • Pat Mc Enery • William A. Mc Gowan JR. • Nancy Morrison • Cuauhtemoc Murphy • Cynthia Oualline • Bharat Pant • Jose Perez • Pamela B. Perraud • Kathy Peyton • Conscious Pursuits Inc. • Debbie Ramey • Lisa Richey • Susan Riddell • Carol Mctee Roach • Deon K. Robinson • Filomela Sacagiu • Roxanne Saldana • Leslie Sanders • Francisco Segora • Jennifer JZ Selewach • Vince Smith • Bonnie Smollen • Sherry Solomon • Kevin Spring • Carol Spurgeon • Maggie D Tilney • Susan K. Vaughn • Cheryl Walker • Carol Wetterauer • Barbara Yoerg • Shelly Zacharias • Felicia Zbranek ☺



May Gallery Show

Questions? Contact: Paula Doughty, Gallery Director, 713-666-0417, paula.doughty@live.com

Theme: Experimental

Take-In: Saturday, May 7, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

(Paintings can be brought in before Saturday.)

Reception: Friday, May 13, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Pick up Paintings: June 3 or 4, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Juror: Janice Kite owns an award-winning graphic design studio. Janice has also taught design and layout at the Art Institute of Houston, juried numerous art shows and is a well-known silversmith, enamelist and teacher of cloisonné.

Eligibility and Requirements

- Artist must be a current WAS-H member.
- Up to three entries per artist.
- Fee of \$10 per entry.
- Artwork Regulations:
 - Original composition.
 - Completed in the last 24 months.
 - Not painted under supervision or in a class.
 - At least 80% watermedia.
 - Surfaces: Any surface except breakable glass.
 - Has not won a WAS-H award.
- Framing Regulations:
 - No restrictions on frame style or width.
 - Any color of mats and liners.
 - If wider than 12", strung with wire for hanging.
 - Plexiglas, if glass is needed.
 - Paintings not to exceed 48" in height or width, frame included.

Awards

- Cash awards for first \$100, second \$75, third \$50.
- Honorable Mentions awarded a ribbon – no cash.
- Only one award per artist.
- Winners are notified by phone.

Sales

- WAS-H accepts a 20% donation for sale of artwork.
- All artwork must remain in gallery for duration of the show.
- Artwork price is to include sales tax.
- A 5% fee is taken out of credit card sales.
- All sales include frames.

Liability

WAS-H will not be liable for damage before, during or after the exhibit. The Director for this show has the right to reject any painting that he or she deems does not adhere to these guidelines or is inappropriate for the venue.

Abbreviations

Medium: WC – watercolor, A – acrylic, G – gouache

Surface: P – paper, YP – Yupo, CB – Claybord, C-Canvas

Name _____

Email _____

Tel. (H) _____ (C) _____

Title #1 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

Title #2 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

Title #3 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

I grant WAS-H permission to reproduce the artwork for publicity, documentary or educational purposes. I accept the terms of the prospectus and confirm that the artwork meets the stated regulations.

Signature _____ Date _____

Attach this label or a facsimile to the back of each painting.

Name _____

Tel. _____ Price _____

Title _____

Framed Size _____ x _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

Name _____

Tel. _____ Price _____

Title _____

Framed Size _____ x _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

Name _____

Tel. _____ Price _____

Title _____

Framed Size _____ x _____ Medium _____ Surface _____



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