



August 2011

Washrag

N E W S L E T T E R

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

From the President

By Linda Vanek, *President*

Our WAS-H board members, an enthusiastic and hardworking team, are busily planning some very exciting events for the fall. We'll be sharing more about those events with you in future *Washrag* issues. In the meantime, beat the summer heat by staying cool inside WAS-H at one of our great summer painting workshops. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from such a talented group of teachers by participating in an exciting class to sharpen your painting skills. Something you learn from class may take you to the next level just in time to paint an exciting entry for the upcoming Annual Member's Exhibition in October.

As President this year, I want to share with you some goals for WAS-H and how you can help achieve them:

- Increase membership.
- Increase International Exhibition participation.
- Add one additional major workshop to the WAS-H calendar for 2012.

How can you as a member help us to increase WAS-H membership? There are opportunities every day to share WAS-H with someone. You can add the joy to their life that we experience as artists who have access to an organization that develops and promotes our creative expression. Many people would like to get back into their painting but need some support to do it. In speaking with a lady at lunch one day, I learned that she was an art teacher. I shared WAS-H with her, and she has signed up recently as a new member. I also discovered a neighbor who has a talent for paint-

(continued on page 3)



The Changing Gallery Exhibits Which Reflect Who We Are — WAS-H Gallery

By Beverly Aderholt, *Gallery Director*

Since my involvement with WAS-H began several years ago, I have admired many things about the organization: the large and active membership, the great advantage of having a gallery and classroom space in a debt-free building, the number of service projects in the community, the talented instructors and the many worthwhile classes, the paint-outs and paint-ins and demos, and not least of all, a new exhibit of paintings to view every month. The responsibility for these changing exhibits is the primary job of the Gallery Director for WAS-H, which I have recently taken on. In the short time I've served, it has been filled with the excitement of seeing original paintings, meeting and talking with the artists and listening to the judge's comments about the paintings in an exhibit. It is a fun-filled way to serve and a sure way to be inspired to paint more and better!

A major goal of mine for the year will be to encourage more and more of our members to enter the shows; what a

thrill it was to have 85 paintings come in to the Student/Teacher Show in July and then to welcome many of them and their friends to the reception on July 15. With the help of David Muegge and Ted Phister, we grouped their paintings together to demonstrate similarities and differences in a class's output and to show how many different types of classes we have going on at WAS-H. We also brought all of the Honorable Mentions to the front during the judge's comments, so she could discuss the merits of these very good paintings.

Our calendar for the rest of the year
(continued on page 3)

Calendar

- Board Meeting** – Aug. 1, 10 am
- Monthly Show Take-In** – Aug. 6, 10:00 am – noon
- Gallery Reception** – Aug. 12, 6-8 pm
- No General Meeting, Paint-In or Paint-Out till September**
- Wed. Figure Labs** – 12:30-3:30 pm
- Open Studio** - Fri. 1-3 pm (unless a workshop is 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 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.



Recent model for Wednesday model lab group.

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.



Next General Meeting, September 11
No summer meetings for General Meeting, Paint-In or Paint-Out

(From the Gallery, continued from page 1)



is full of events you will want to participate in and plan for. We have two regular exhibits in August and September. These exhibits include original compositions completed in the last 24 months of at least 80% watermedia and not under supervision or in a class. How about entering if you haven't before? Then our Membership Show in October is a juried show in which you will want to enter your very best efforts. In November we have the Semi-Annual Experimental Watermedia Event. For this show you are encouraged to experiment and try different techniques. You can be whimsical



or dramatic in theme and use materials you're not used to using. The sky's the limit! There are no restrictions on frame style or width, and you can use any color of mats or liners. Finally, for December we will have an exhibit of small paintings, getting ready for Christmas with some original art for gifts. Why not start thinking about your Christmas list now

and get your ideas ready? For this show there are no restrictions on frame style or width of edge, any color of mat or liner is acceptable, and glass is allowed. Paintings are not to exceed 16" in height or width, frame included. Frame widths 12" or less may use a different style of hanger than the wire required for larger works. You will also want to be planning

for the International Exhibit in March,



another juried show in which your very best paintings should be entered



Good painting ahead. I'll hope to see you at the next Take-In. ☺

(From the President, continued from page 1)

ing and would like to try watercolor by attending a class. At a Fourth of July art and film festival, I met many talented young people who entered their paintings in a student art competition. Several of them have told me that they will be joining under our Junior membership and taking classes at WAS-H. Let us know your story for inviting new members, and we might just feature it in our next *Washrag* article.

Thank you to those who are volunteering! The Board can diligently plan, but it takes volunteers like you to work the plan with us. Please don't wait to be asked — let Becky Brocato, our Volunteer Director, know where you can serve. You'll have a much richer experience at WAS-H when you know your contribution played a valuable part in what we offer to our members and community. One area you might want to consider is volunteering at the Texas Children's Hospital-AIM (Arts in Medicine). Our Director of Outreach, Wilson Windle, can sign you up from 10:00 am to noon on any Tuesday you can participate year around. I volunteered in July myself for the first time, and so did Donna Cooper, along with our experienced volunteers Maryann Ingersoll and Wilson Windle. We can all tell you the experience is very positive and greatly rewarding, and the art room is well supplied for many enthusiastic children who need only a little encouragement to turn out some "paint from the heart" beautiful works of art. I don't know who enjoyed it more — the children or us!

WAS-H still has the following Board positions available for you to serve, and if you are interested, we'll help you with what you need to know to accomplish the tasks. These positions are:

- Activities Director
- Public Relations Director
- Administrative Director

It's still early in the year, so be a part of an exciting season and make your life much richer by volunteering.

— Linda Vanek, President

Annual Treasury Report for the Fiscal Year 2010/2011

by Robert Boutell, Treasurer

The fiscal year 2010/2011 ended with WAS-H having a balance of \$22,898 in the **Operating Account**. An additional \$17,833 is retained in **Business Savings**. The Annual Fund Drive raised \$18,165 toward gallery expenses. The Seeds of Watercolor Restricted Fund received donations of \$11,145, primarily in memory of Jack Bowen. Jack was one of WAS-H's primary supporters and promoters. An award will be instituted in his memory. **Seeds of Watercolor** now has a balance of \$29,567. These funds are retained for future expansion of WAS-H facilities. The **Capital Replacement Reserve Fund** now stands at \$77,449 and is retained for major repairs or replacements to the WAS-H building.

Net Income was \$1,188. A significant contributor to a positive year was an increase in WAS-H Revenue by \$15,802. However, this was particularly offset by increased expenses. Class and Workshop revenue showed a dramatic increase from \$28,353 in the 2009/2010 fiscal year to the current \$43,632.

Significant income-generating projects (Revenue less Expense) contributing to the Society's positive performance are:

Commission on Sales of Paintings:	\$2,748
Monthly Gallery Shows:	\$2,445
Classes:	\$8,293
Major Workshops:	\$6,911

It is important that the programs above generate income to contribute to the operating expenses. The balance required to operate the building and other programs comes from the Annual Fund Drive and Membership Fees. ☺



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

TRAVEL THOUGHTS

Does Dental Floss Expire?

In a fit of organizing, I unearthed years of travel-filled bags with leftover items such as hotel soaps, old aspirin. the usual. These were tucked away, ready for yet another future trip. Shockingly, many items had expired! For years, I gave travel soaps and shampoos to Ronald McDonald House for families who need to stay there. Friends now tell me that many church pantries, crises centers and charity resale shops will also love these donations.

- Whatever types of paint you carry to workshops (especially by air), make sure it is sealed well in bags.
- Reading material: my library sells really cheap paperbacks. When traveling, read them, trade them and leave them (after you cross out any personal names).
- Always carry a few sealed packets of drive-thru silverware. You never know when you might have a gelato or fresh cheese and baguette attack.
- Make a daily journal of your trip. It may be a few power words, a random thought or something in art that caught your eye. On a very base level, I write the meals that I eat at various restaurants on trips. Aren't food memories closely intertwined with art memories? It's the senses.

Carpe diem. shirl riccetti •
shiricetti@comcast.net • 713-460-1895

Classes and Workshops

By Kathy Farr, Education Director

We want to make sure we have all your needs met in the way of classes and workshops for the coming year. If there is a need you have that we haven't addressed, please email me at ib4art@charter.net or call me at 281-367-3776. We have a wonderful roster of teachers!

Trick AND Treat Annual Membership Show and Workshop in October

Fall is fast approaching with our Annual Membership Show and Workshop. We are excited to have Carole Barnes as our Juror and Workshop Instructor.

WAS-H is in for a treat. Hope you can join her workshop, to be held October 10-14, 2011. Sign up early to ensure your place in this excellent workshop. Member registration and deposits will be accepted August 1 and nonmembers beginning August 15, 2011. The cost of the Barnes workshop is \$450 for WAS-H members. A nonrefundable deposit of \$100 will hold your place in the class.



Rogue River Series by Carole Barnes

Students may paint in either watercolor or acrylic.

Carole is a member of prestigious watercolor societies – the American Watercolor Society and the National Watercolor Society. She teaches watermedia workshops across the country, is a frequent juror for state and national watercolor exhibits, and has been featured in various art publications. Check out her Web site at www.carolebarnesartist.com.

As an instructor, Carole challenges her students to capture the essence of their subjects. Her goal for this workshop is to stretch each student's ideas in new directions through new ways of painting, seeing, creating, and loosening up. Students will also learn new techniques in watercolor and acrylic. Come learn some new tricks!

— Jan McNeill, Vice President

June Gallery visitors



June Gallery Exhibit

By Beverly Aderholt
Gallery Director

The take-in was very successful and we have an impressive show hanging ... it blows the mind, month after month we have 50 or so beautiful paintings come in.

The June juror, Nell Bednarz, said that there was something admirable in every single piece of art displayed in this show. She personally had a strong emotional response to many of the paintings and deliberated carefully before making her choices.



First Place went to **Duncan Simmons'** untitled landscape painting. "The portrayal of light in this painting is perfection. The variation of tones in the background gives depth and the river leads the eye into the painting and looks like living water, fresh and moving. There is a great complexity of tonal range and texture, yet the painting is not at all overworked. I also like the painting because it is not the usual landscape."



Eric Sprohge's painting *Spring Shops* was awarded **Second Place**. "I chose this painting mainly because of the beautiful reflections in the road. He uses just enough color and line and the light is just where it's supposed to be. The paper has excellent granulation which portrays the

coming storm. The tree on the right side of the painting is very interesting and the colors of the houses bring the eye right into the painting. Good movement, balance, and interesting light."



Third Place went to **Cookie Wells** for her painting *Chinese Lantern*. "I really like the simplicity of design; although this is a painting of a Chinese lantern, Cookie's picture is beautifully abstract. The repetition of complementary colors and the tonal variation of the reds work very well."

Honorable Mentions: *Approaching Storm* by Dave Mahavier, *Raphanus Sativus* by Barbra V. Munisteri, *Autumn Peace* by Monika Degan, *Stilllife* by J. Carlos Cruz, *Elk in Wind and Snow* by Eileen O'Sullivan and *Lazy Day* by Jerri Gast.

July Gallery Exhibit

By Beverly Aderholt, Gallery Director



First Place went to **Becky Brocato** for *San Antonio Morning*. This was a painting done in the spring workshop with John Salminen. The focal point of the figure against the red wall is incredibly strong. Laurie said that watercolor is often washed out but this painting showed the huge strength of using strong color.

Wow! That's the comment I kept hearing from the helpers taking in paintings Saturday at the take-in for the July Student Exhibit. Not only were we all blown away by the quality of the paintings of our WAS-H students, but by the number of paintings. They just kept coming in until 12:00, when we closed the door on 85 entries. We had good participation from a number of different classes and were able to group the paintings by classes: creative and stylized design of figures, a bowl of cherries, shirts hanging to dry, brightly colored abstract designs. It made a lovely presentation and showed how different students always come up with a unique view of the same subject. The judge,

Laurie Humble, a former WAS-H board member, was most impressed by the sheer number of good paintings and by the wide range of styles and techniques. Her primary concern was that a piece had good composition, well laid out with a clear focal point and a lot of contrast. One pleasing thing to me was that several of the top prizes were won by artists who had never won a prize before. We also had several paintings by WAS-H teachers which we honored by displaying separately.

The juror, Laurie Humble, was impressed by the great number of very good pieces and by the wide range of styles and techniques. Her primary concern was that a piece had good com-



Second Place went to **Lauretta Wallace** for *Canyon Meditations*, done in the fall class of Dale Laitinen. It also has a good focal point and design which lead the eye through the painting. Laurie mentioned that although it is a landscape, it has great abstract qualities. It also has good color choices and good darks.



Third Place went to **William Epps** for *Yesteryear*, Laurie liked the design and layout.

position, well laid out with a clear focal point and a lot of contrast.

Honorable Mentions went to Marj Hales for *Spring Blossoms*, Jerrie Gast for *Heavy Snow in Yellowstone*, Frankie Shelton for *Fallen Branch*, Claudia Leffler for *Town*, Reva Power for *Heading Home* and Richard Linden for *Just Looking*.

I also would like to acknowledge the great contribution of Ted Pfister and David Muegge. Before they do their magic, we have 85 paintings all sitting on the floor. When they are finished, two or more hours later, the gallery looks like a professional designer had been there ... paintings hung beautifully, grouped artistically, everything ready for all of us to enjoy. They, like the paintings, show up month after month.

July Gallery visitors



Saturday Paint-In

Mark your calendars for the fourth Saturday of each month. The monthly Paint-Ins will resume on September 24, with Duncan Simmons at the helm.

Every Paint-In broadens our scope with new ideas and techniques. It's an exciting day. Y'all come.
— Betty Frost, Paint-In Co-Chair



General Meeting September 11th — Caroline Graham Demo

By Jan McNeill
Vice President

Kick off your painting this fall with our first general meeting. Come to be inspired and learn new approaches from Caroline Graham – as well as reconnect with your WAS-H friends and board members after a long hot summer.

Caroline Graham is an “elite signature” member of the Watercolor Artists Society – Houston and an ongoing instructor at WAS-H as well as the Art League of Houston. She began studying art at the Witte Museum and McNay Art Institute in San Antonio. Continuing in the arts, she received her MA from the University of Texas at Austin. Her love of figures and portraits eventually led to study in the Anatomy Lab at the Baylor College of Medicine. An award winning watercolorist and studio artist, her work is included in numerous exhibitions and collections. Her commissions are seen all over Houston, and collected throughout the country. She has been teaching at Art League Houston for over 14 years.

Come to the meeting to learn first-hand why Caroline Graham has so many repeat students. What is it about Caroline that results in students who enjoy her classes and who have greatly grown in their artistic capabilities?

Sara Kitagawa Paint-In May 28



“Unusual and fascinating” describes Sarah Kitagawa’s Paint-In on Saturday, May 28. Sarah passed out printouts of abstract shapes. We darkened some shapes and left others blank. The shapes were transferred to 300# watercolor paper. Starch was applied to the blank spaces and dried. When the surface was dry, acrylic paint was brushed on or spattered; textures were created and then dried. The whole paper was hosed down and scrubbed and dried. This became a background for watercolors. This was a new technique for most of us and really fun. Thank you, Sarah, and come back soon.

— Betty Frost, Paint-In Co-Chair

Splash

Members’ announcements of juried show acceptances and awards

Texas Watercolor Society 62nd Annual Exhibition held June 4-30 in San Antonio had several of our members represented: **Becky Brocato, Acree Carlisle, Barbara Jeffery Clay and Judi Coffey.** There were only 50 paintings, and four were from WAS-H.

Linda Vanek’s painting *Lest We Forget* has been selected for inclusion in the Montana Watercolor Society’s Watermedia 2011, the 29th Annual National Juried Exhibition.

Sarah Kitagawa won Best Floral award in the Lone Star Art Guild State Conference’s recent competition.

Gay Paratore received an honorable mention for her watercolor *Sweet Memories*, a Chevy with a carhop tray on the window, and a first place for a collage at the Lone Star Art Guild State Conference. She also received a first place in the current Galveston Art League Show with another new collage.



Art for Seniors

This WAS-H Outreach, under the direction of Mary Rustay, has been hugely popular for over 30 years. Space is limited, however due to the popularity of the class. This group meets on Thursdays at 9:30 am – 12:30 pm and will resume in September. There is no fee for the class. — Joanie Hughes



Mary Rustay and group from the Senior’s Thursday class, which will resume in the fall.



September Gallery Exhibit

Questions? Contact: Beverly Aderholt, Gallery Director,
713-468-5141, beverlyaderholt@att.net

No Theme, Regular Guidelines (white mats, plain frames)

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

(Paintings can be brought in before Saturday.)

Reception: Friday, September 16, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Pick up Paintings: October 6 and 7, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Juror: Tina Szajko. Tina is an award winning portrait artist who works in all mediums including oils, acrylics, watercolors, and pastels. She paints all subjects with emphasis on portraits of people and animals. Visit her site at tinaszajko.com.

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: paper, Claybord, or Yupo only.
 - Has not won a WAS-H award.
- Framing Regulations:
 - Frames must be plain, simple grooves only
 - Frame width must not exceed 1½"
 - White or off-white mats and liners
 - Must be strung with wire for hanging.
 - Plexiglas, if glass is needed.
 - Frame not to exceed 48" in height or width.

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. Artwork that adheres to these guidelines will be accepted with the provision that WAS-H reserves the right to refuse any entries that are inappropriate for a family 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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