



November 2011

Washrag

N E W S L E T T E R

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

From the President

by Linda Vanek, *President*

Fall is finally here with cooler temperatures just in time for us to pick up the pace for all the exciting activities we have planned through the holidays; Be sure to read the *Washrag*, WAS-H Emails, Facebook and Web site so you won't miss a single wonderful event coming up! Another date you will want to mark on your calendar is Sunday, Nov. 13. Janet Hassinger will be our talented demo artist for our November General Meeting. Immediately following the demo, Susan Giannantonio will chair a round table meeting from 4:00-5:00 to discuss our Spring Clothesline Sale. This meeting is for all who are interested in selling their artwork, and all who have participated in the Clothesline event who can share insight and ideas. If you would like to consider participating but are not sure what is involved, or would like to volunteer for this fun event, please attend the meeting.

On another note, did you know that WAS-H is probably one of two watercolor societies in the nation that has their own building dedicated to the education and enjoyment of watermedia? Without the costs associated with traveling, our members are able to attend the workshops of nationally recognized artists at our own front door at WAS-H. Invest in yourself and in WAS-H by participating in these outstanding workshops and ongoing classes and by inviting other artists, both members and nonmembers, to attend. Encourage artists and friends to sign up for our WAS-H email communications to keep

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42nd Annual Members Exhibit, Another Great Show!

by Karen Stopnicki
Annual Members Exhibit Director

The take-in of paintings for the 2011 WAS-H Members Exhibit included 245 paintings from 122 artists. Our juror, Carole Barnes of Boulder, Colorado, characterized the show as diverse and extremely well executed with many unique paintings. She said that they conveyed moods and attitudes from whimsical to serious to weird, and that the different viewpoints were designed with perfection in a variety of techniques.



First Prize, *Lobster Dinnah* by Gay Paratore



Second Prize, *Safe Haven* by Liduine Bekman



Third Prize, *Unfolding of Time* by Erik Sprohge

Gay Paratore's *Lobster Dinah* was awarded First Prize. Carole loved the way ordinary things were looked at from a new angle. It was as if the artist saw something she liked and laid it out with perfection. Liduine Beckman's *Safe Haven* received Second Prize for the fanciful and elegant presentation. Carole

(continued on page 3)

Calendar

Monthly Exhibit Take-In – Nov. 5, 10:00 am - noon

Board Meeting – Nov 7, 4 pm

Gallery Reception – Nov. 11, 6-8 pm

General Meeting – Nov. 13, 1:30 pm

Paint-Out – , 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Paint-In – Nov. 26, 9 am-3 pm

Wed. Figure Labs – 12:30-3:30 pm

Open Studio - Friday 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.

Please email me crensink.art@att.net, and I will let



Recent model for Wednesday model lab group.

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.



**General Meeting, November 13
 Social 1:30, Meeting 2:00
 Demo ~ Janet Hassinger**

Got the November 13th WAS-H meeting on your calendar? You won't want to miss our demo by artist Janet Hassinger. Proficient at both abstract and representational art, she will explain how to capture the essential spirit from representational subjects. Her demonstration will review a variety of watercolor techniques.

Janet became a WAS-H instructor this fall. She also continues as a professor of watercolor at the MFA Glassell School of Art. She has been painting and exhibiting for 30 years and is known for her transparent veils of color in her painting. Recent work focused on abstract interpretations of coral reefs of the Caribbean.



Abstract Lilly for Tahoe by Janet Hassinger

Now go mark your calendars!
 — Jan McNeill, Vice President

September Demo with Caroline Graham

Our September 2011 General Meeting was full of new ideas and great inspiration. Attendees were greeted with a gift sample of Daniel Smith Watercolor Ground (a new product donated by Vikki Trammell of Art Supply on Main. Many thanks to Vikki for her continued support and generosity!



Suzanne Chapman, Caroline Graham, Janine Kibblenwhite looking at objects painted with watercolor ground.



C Graham demo of graphite sketch with a wash

Caroline Graham, WAS-H Elite Signature member, was the September guest artist. Caroline first showed us how to use our gift sample of watercolor ground and the various affects achieved. Caroline then covered considerations for creating a wonderful painting, include: how to create atmosphere where and how to find inspiration. She emphasized the importance of soft edges and the use of a clear water wash as a final step to help achieve those soft edges. — Jan McNeill, Vice President

(From the President, continued from page 1)

them informed of our exhibitions and activities. They do not have to be members of WAS-H to sign up for email Communications.

Keep painting, keep participating, and keep spreading the word about the great opportunities at WAS-H!
 — Linda Vanek, President

(34th Annual Members continued from page 1)

liked the combination of forms, shapes, and color play. *Unfolding of Time*, by Erik Sprohge, took Third Prize. Carole liked the red center and the use of lines. Honorable Mentions went to Bonnie Hubby for *Clouds No. 4*, Gerry Finch for *Cactus Mirage*, Valerie Randal for *Comet Moth*, and Carolyn Blanton for *Here Comes Progress, There Goes the Sidewalk*. Cuauhtemoc Murphy won the Director's Award for *Modern Magi*, and Lisa Schell won the President's Award for *Angles and Reflections*.

Awards for merchandise went to Jeanette Bush, Muriel Christensen, Pat Conroy, Julius Danziger, William B. Epps, Kathy Farr, Jerri Gast, Veranne Graham, Phillip Hubbell, Janine Kibblewhite, Sarah Kitagawa, Maryann Lucas, David Maloney, Alma O'Donnelly, Suzanne Peterson, Emilie Robert, Byrne Smith, Kay Stern, Karen Stopnicki, Lynn Venier, Donna Villarreal and Carol Watson.

A big thank you to all the folks who helped with the show. Our events can't be a success without all of our wonderful volunteers.

Photos from Take-In



Signature Membership

Recently I was asked "What is the benefit in being a Signature Member?" I couldn't think of an answer right away, but it got me started thinking about it, and here's my response:

Art is a profession without a lot of the usual credentials. Anyone can become an artist without schooling, training, or certification, and if their work is received favorably and sells, they're considered successful. There are no formal tests along the way, either, but those of us who have walked the artist's path know there are many pop quizzes.

That's why I enter juried art shows, here and in other places: my work, if accepted, gets to be seen by all the folks who come to see that particular exhibit, and that work is in very good company.

It's also true that I lack objectivity about my own work; I can become discouraged with my progress on a very good work and set it aside (and later wonder why I did), or I can be blind to artistic errors in a piece I submit for judging. Later I wonder about those, too!

Simply put, I need some validation about the merit of my work, and about my progress: am I painting better than I did a year ago? Two years ago?

Most watercolor societies and associations across the country have a "Signature Membership Program," which usually means that the work of a particular artist must be selected by varying jurors at least three times while that applicant maintains a regular membership in that society. Some groups have a "points" system in which a numeric value is assigned to being accepted in exhibits of other major societies; with that recognition and acceptance into the groups' exhibits, usually enough points are earned to merit a Signature Membership.

What does "Signature Membership" mean? It means that that society has given me permission to use their name (abbreviated) and/or logo along with my signature on any work I do. It is generally recognized that those with Signature Memberships are literally "the best of the best."

(continued on page 8)

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

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 & Rosenberg, 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, 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

42nd Annual Me



Carole Barnes, Juror



Left to right: Linda Vanek, President; Gay Paratore, First Place Winner and Karen Stopnick, Annual Member Exhibit Director



Membershíp Exhibit



Left to right: Linda Vanek, President; Liduine Beckman, Second Place Winner and Karen Stopnick, Annual Member Exhibit Director



Left to right: Linda Vanek, President; Erik Sprohge, Third Place Winner and Karen Stopnick, Annual Member Exhibit Director



Gallery Reception for 2011 International Exhibition



Art on the Go

UNIQUE IDEAS

On a trip to Las Vegas, Adine Rotman remarked that she creatively tried to resist overindulging in the colorful buffets. Instead, she painted them! Earlier, Adine rubbed the colors of Caran d'ache Watercolor Crayons into squares on watercolor paper.

She quietly used them with her filled waterbrush, drawing and painting the desserts in her moleskin book (especially the cupcakes). This is one creative and noncaloric approach to capturing moments.

When I forgot to bring small binoculars on a trip, to view the upper corners of architecture, another artist commented that she rolls up a handy brochure to use. It definitely does not magnify, but it focuses and surprisingly works in a small way.

In my quest to find the perfect airplane bag/purse, I bought a diaper bag (yes!). It's of fashionable quilted fabric (Walgreen's, \$15): I took out the bottom cardboard. It carried my zip bag of small art supplies, meds and even a small nylon, fanny pack/purse with passport, money, etc. and a book. Best of all, I put it under the seat in front of me, very easily accessible for many-hour flights. I will eventually add more Velcro strips to make it narrower, and not too bulky. It's worth a try.

Any more ideas?

Please contact me with your travel stories. We all learn from each other.

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Splash

Members' announcements of juried show acceptances and awards

Fred B James, WAS-H associate member, was awarded Third Place for *Lakeshore Evening* at the Texas Watercolor Society All-Member Show for 2011.

Laurin McCracken's paintings have been recognized with the following awards: Dr. Donald and Helen Budd Burness Memorial Award - the Adirondacks National Exhibition of American Watercolors, Old Forge, NY, for *Delta Sky* Second Prize - Keystone National 2011: Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper, Art Center School and Galleries, Mechanicsburg, PA, for *Yellow Pears on Foil*.

He has an article in the October/November issue of International Artist magazine. It is the second of two articles he had written for the magazine about using perspective and painting buildings.

Kris Preslan will be getting Signature membership at the 91st Annual Exhibition of the National Watercolor Society next month in San Pedro, California, and her painting *The Woodie* will also be awarded the Roger Armstrong Memorial cash award. Her painting, *The Billabong* was accepted in to Watercolor Society of Oregon's 46th Annual Transparent Exhibition in Sun River, and her painting *The Perch* has been accepted in the Northwest Watercolor Society Waterworks 2011 Exhibition in Seattle.

New Members

Caroline Chuang ● Cathy Connolly ●
Jean Dowell ● Ariane Edmundson ●
C. Leigh Farmer ● Cynthia P. Fontenot
● Auhona Hoq ● Revi Meicler ● Patsy
Sasek ● Carol Watson ● James E.
Woodall



Volunteer of the Month

Vikki Trammell of Art Supply on Main is WAS-H Volunteer of the Month for November. Vikki and her husband, Ben Russell have supported WAS-H for decades. They literally housed our office and provided room for exhibits and meetings while our building was being built, and they continue to help by donating wonderful art supplies every month, which are raffled as a fund-raiser — to the delight of the winners. WAS-H thanks you!

— Marsha Hrris Solomon



Linda and Paul Vanek



Jack and Karen Stopnicki

Duncan Simmons Paint-In October 22



Thirteen Steps to a Beautiful Seascape were Duncan Simmons, instruction for his Saturday Paint-in. Tracing the subject on fine tracing paper and using masking fluid, colored pencils, a 3-inch sponge brush, French ultramarine blue and Antwerp blue were a few of his suggestions. He emphasized that everything should be completely dry before proceeding to the next stage. Red, yellow and blues were mixed and lightly painted all over the painting. The sponge brush made beautiful skies. Duncan



masked the lights in the water and painted his darks before removing the masking.

Thank you, Duncan for sharing your techniques. Come again.

— Betty Frost

(continued from page 3)

WAS-H will honor its Signature Members with a special exhibit and fundraiser in 2012. Please plan to attend and help honor our “best of the best.”

— Marsha Harris Solomon, Past President

Paint-In

Margaret Bock and Betty Frost
Paint-In Coordinators



Left to right, Betty Frost and Margaret Bock.

Paint-In with David M. Blackwell
Saturday, November 26
9:00 am - 3:00 pm



Crazy Horse Series by David Blackwell.

David M. Blackwell will host your November Paint-In. He is a WAS-H Signature member and owner of DM Blackwell Designs.com, a decorative arts consultation business. He will lead us in fast-process painting adventures designed to release the Masterful Inner Child. Bring several compositions, one of your favorite magazines, inexpensive paper or media of your choice, basic paints, brushes and your most playful spirit. If you just want to work on your art and be with others, that is okay too. Bring whatever you are working on and join us for a day of fellowship. ☺

Second and Third Prize Winners from September



Second place was awarded to **Linda Jarnigan** for *The Catch*. Tina Szajko, the juror, especially liked the movement and depth in the water, the way the distance recedes, and the combination of realism and abstraction. She noted the colors and brushwork, especially praising the treatment of the wood in the pier.



Jan McNeill received **Third Place** for *Summer Laundry*. Tina said that it contained an almost perfect use of the watercolor medium, fabulous color, and movement in the clothes hanging on the line. ☺



December Gallery Exhibit

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

Annual Small Paintings Exhibit

Take-In: Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

(Paintings can always be brought in before Saturday.)

Reception/Holiday Party: Friday, December 9, 6:00 pm

Pick up Paintings: January 6 or 7, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Juror: Nell Bednarz studied wildlife and photography while earning a degree in agronomy at Texas Tech, so it is no surprise that her work in many different mediums has been nature inspired. Photography, colored pencils, pen and ink, and pastels were her preferred media early in her career. She also paints with acrylics and work on scratchboard. She currently participates in local and international exhibitions and teaches private lessons..

Eligibility and Requirements

- Artist must be a current WAS-H member.
- Up to five entries per artist.
- Fee of \$5 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: No restrictions.
 - Has not won a WAS-H award.
- Framing Regulations:
 - No restrictions on frame style or width of edge.
 - Any color of mats and liners.
 - Glass is allowed.
 - Paintings 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 work

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.

Silent Auction

- Work may be donated for Silent Auction (see article) to be held during the Holiday Party, December 9.
- Such work will be available for sale before and after the auction under the standard terms below.

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) _____

Please add \$5 for Houston Food Bank to your total.

Title #1 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

If Silent Auction Entry, Minimum Bid _____

Title #2 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

If Silent Auction Entry, Minimum Bid _____

Title #3 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

If Silent Auction Entry, Minimum Bid _____

Title #4 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

If Silent Auction Entry, Minimum Bid _____

Title #5 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

If Silent Auction Entry, Minimum Bid _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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.

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 _____



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