



October 2009

Washrag

N E W S L E T T E R

Watercolor Art Society - Houston

From the President

by Mary Davis
President

There is a buzz of activity again at WAS-H after a long, hot summer. It is so good to see everyone again.



Photo by William Panzer

Classes and workshops are in full swing again, and we are really looking forward to nationally acclaimed artist Jan Fabian Wallake (Signature member of RRWS, NPWS, TWSA and MnWS) coming to WAS-H to juror our Annual Member Exhibition and conduct a weeklong workshop, Pour It On, October 5-9. **HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR REGISTRATION YET?**

We are seeing more and more of you on Facebook and Flickr, where we are sharing our paintings and generally getting to know each other and our individual work a little better. It has been fun to see our members step out there in the social-media world. We started a Watercolor Art Society-Houston group on LinkedIn and within a short while heard from an artist across the country who regularly enters our International Show. It is a small world and getting smaller all the time.

Hope you have looked through the Fall Class/Workshop Schedule and have sent in your registration(s). Our very talented instructors are waiting for you. Don't forget to put our General Meetings, Paint-Ins, Paint-Outs and Critiques on your calendars. We don't want you to miss a thing. See you soon at WAS-H and Keep Painting! 🎨



Are You Receiving Our Monthly Emails?

Many of you have already responded. Thank you! If you have not done so, here is another reminder.

In June we started a completely new email system. In this email we are striving to keep you informed about the very latest going on at WAS-H. If you have access to a computer and are not receiving our emails, it is *important* that I hear from you.

Here is what you need to do to be added to the email list: Email me at mary@davisalliance.com and ask to be added to the list. Go to the WAS-H Calendar site (<https://sites.google.com/site/washevents/Home>) and click on **"Join the WAS-H Email List."**

Do You Need a Printed Copy of the Washrag? Please act now!

In case you missed it, in the last Washrag

we announced that the Washrag mailed in October (November edition) would be the last mass distribution of the newsletter. Due to financial constraints, we will print copies only for those who do not have access to a computer.

How should you let us know who you are?

1. Call the WAS-H office at 713-942-9966 and ask to be added to the list.
2. Add yourself to the list during your next visit to WAS-H. – Mary Davis

Calendar

- Membership Show Take-In** – Oct. 2, 10 am – 3 pm; Oct. 3, 10 am – 12:00 pm
- General Meeting** – Oct. 4, 1:30 pm
- Demo: Jan Fabian Wallake**
- Board Meeting** – Oct. 5, 10 am
- Annual Members Exhibit Reception** – Oct. 9, 6-8 pm
- Paint-Out** – Oct. 10
- Critique Group** – Oct. 20, 10:30 am with **Arthur Turner**
- Paint-In** – Oct 24, 9:30 pm – 3:30 pm
- Wed. Figure Labs** - 12:30-3:30 pm
- Open Studio** - Fourth Friday, 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.

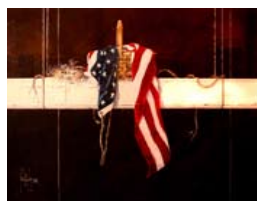


Recent model for Wednesday model lab group.



October 4, General Meeting Social 1:30, Meeting 2:00 pm Demo — Jan Fabian Wallake

Jan Fabian Wallake is a nationally known professional artist. Don't miss out on this opportunity to follow her painting process, beginning at its conception, and followed by design, composition, glazing of color washes and application of special techniques. Her workshop will follow the next week, October 5-9.



November 8, 2009 — A.J. Schexnayder, an award-winning artist. Be sure to come and learn how he executes those exquisitely painted paintings. Make sure you mark that date on your calendar and plan to enjoy a fabulous demonstration of special gifts in composition, technique and artistic spirit. — Portia Bell

40th Annual Members Exhibit Is Right Here

by Karen Stopnicki

Annual Members Exhibit Director

The 40th Annual Members Exhibit is just days away. Entries will be accepted at WAS-H on Friday, October 2, from 10 am until 3 pm and on Saturday, October 3, from 10 am until noon. The Prospectus can be found in three places: in the September *Washrag*; on the WAS-H Web site at www.watercolorhouston.org, and at the WAS-H building. This show is easy to enter because you only need to bring the art, framed according to guidelines, and do not need to have a slide or digital scan made.

Awards are in excess of \$1,000 in cash and merchandise. There are a few simple rules to follow: simple metal or wood frames not to exceed 1.5" in width, white mats only, under Plexiglas (no glass) and strung with wire for hanging. Since there are more specifics for entry, please read and follow the Prospectus carefully. Our juror is the award-winning artist Jan Fabian Wallake, and the Opening Reception is at the WAS-H building on Friday, October 9, from 6 to 8 pm. You will have a chance to meet Jan and see her demo at our monthly meeting on Sunday, October 4, as well as at the reception.

Our Annual Members Exhibit is an exciting event, so please join us at WAS-H to share your creative endeavors. Please address any questions to Karen Stopnicki at 713-927-8992 or to WAS-H at 713-942-9966. ☎

Critique session for October 20 2009 – 10:30 am to 12:00 pm Hosted by Arthur Turner

By David M. Blackwell

Critique Coordination

Mr. Turner has a huge legendary career and résumé. He is widely sought after as a renowned instructor. He most recently exhibited with his most accomplished students at the Williams Tower, Houston. Don't miss this session. We are most fortunate to have his expertise.

Education: 1962 B.A., North Texas State University, Denton, TX; 1966

M.F.A., Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills. Mr. Turner teaches at the Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; 1969 University of Houston, Houston, Texas; Guest Instructor, 1973 James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, Assistant Professor. ☎

Paint-In

Margaret Bock and Betty Frost

Paint-In Coordinators

Stanley S Smith

October 24, 9:30 - 3:30 pm

Use only three colors to make a gorgeous painting

The Paint-In will be of particular interest to less experienced watercolor painters.



Stan graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in architecture. Upon graduation, he spent two years in the service as an officer in the Corps of Engineers as well as time in Korea. In 1954, Stan joined an architectural firm in Dallas. At that time, architectural design was presented with drawings and colored renderings. Preparing these design presentations introduced Stan to the pleasure of watercolor painting. While in Dallas, he was a member of the Southwestern Watercolor Society.

In 1975 Stan joined an architectural firm in Houston and worked in Saudi Arabia and in various other areas. He has been active in the Watercolor Art Society-Houston for most of his time here. Stan no longer is practicing architecture and is able to pursue a strong interest in watercolor painting.

The following will be addressed:

- Stretching 140# paper
- Brush techniques for applying paint

- Various ways to achieve and display perspective
- Transferring a photo image to paper
- Grading washes
- Color vs. Value
- Composition

Materials to bring for the Paint-In:

Photos of the painting to be demonstrated will be provided.

However, if you prefer to use your own photo/subject, you may.

Two half-size sheets of paper, 15x22 inches

Recommend 140# rough, stretched or 300# rough, or whatever you prefer

Palette: a cool and warm color of each of the primaries; red, yellow & blue, or the colors which you are familiar with and prefer to use

Brushes: flat 2-inch; 1/8-inch &/or 1/4-inch flat; round #12, #6 and #4; and a rigger

#2 lead pencil

Kneaded or art gum eraser

Paper towels

Water pail or cup

If you like: bamboo quill and India Ink

Future Paint-Ins

Saturday, November 28, 2009 **Helen**

Dodd Learn the Dodd way to making winning abstracts.

Saturday, January 23, 2010 **Susan**

Giannantonio Susan has a surprise for us. Check you *Washrag*

Saturday, February 27, 2010 **A J**

Schexnayder A J will teach us how to make outstanding compositions using drawing techniques.

Saturday, March 27, 2010 **Gerry Finch**

Subject to be announced.

Saturday, April 24, 2010 **Babara Jeffrey**

Clay Learn to paint fabulous florals. with Barbara.

Saturday, May 24, 2010 **Lynn Venier**

Sharing her expertise in making beautiful transparent watercolors. ☺

The Wednesday Model Session October 7th will be cancelled because of the Jan Fabian Wallake workshop.

Member Teachers Listing

Catherine Anderson, AWS, NWS
Private Retreats on the coast of Maine
www.catherineanderson.net

Sallie Anderson Studio
Galveston
409-763-2265

Portia Bell, BFA
Beginners to Intermediate at
WAS-H, 281-530-8999

Diana Brandt, WAS-H, NW Houston
Beginners to intermediate, 713-935-0349
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

David M. Blackwell, WAS-H
Beginners to Intermediate, 832-656-5171,
davidmblackwell@earthlink.net

Caroline Graham, WAS-H
Museum District
713-664-6589, cgrahamart@msn.com

polly hammett, AWS, NWS
713-683-7399
www.pollyhammett.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
Thursdays - Art Alliance at Clear Lake
Tues.-Aug. 2007, WAS-H, 409-316-1005

Carol Slobin, WAS-H
Bellaire/SW Houston
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 713-266-917
louisgsolomon@peoplepc.com

Mary Wilbanks, NWS, TWS-PS, WAS-H, Workshops and critiques. 281-370-7879
marywilbanks@gmail.com

Art on the Go

THOSE FIRST FEW MINUTES

Writer Pico Iyer offers his top travel tip: "Savor every moment of your first few hours. FIRST IMPRESSIONS really are worth a 1000 others." (*RealSimple* magazine: June 2009, page 160)

Using this travel writer's advice means that minutes after setting up at a locale, as in Plein Air painting, focus on those crucial moments. It's that first impression. We are not in our familiar studio or home; we are Out There with strangers, and sometimes stranger sights and smells.

Location rules. What grabs your attention?

Iyer also writes that he often scribbles 100 pages of notes after visiting a new place. Realistically, I am not recommending 100 sketches; however, 10 tiny quick sketches might be doable. Consider adding words, at least 10. Visual adjectives: "cloudy, windy, noisy." How about the word "garlicky"? Doesn't that conjure up an image and a growling stomach?

Another of Iyer's tip is "Get Lost (in the nicest sense)." Since I've been lost a great deal, I heartily agree. The surprise of an unexpected moment or scene often finds its way into pen and color and paper. And you, as an artist, have great memories. The exception is getting lost in Venice late at night. All of those small bridges and piazzas look alike, and there are no streetlights.

So when you set yourself down or are propped up, totally focus on those first five minutes. And never let that pencil or pen stop.

shirl riccetti • sriccetti@comcast.net • 713-460-1895 ☎

SEEDS OF WATERCOLOR

A gift has been made to WAS-H's Seeds of Watercolor Fund in memory of Harold Phenix, Faber McMullen and Martin Butler from Margaret Bock.

Volunteer of the Month



Our volunteer of the month goes to **Tom Davis**. If that last name sounds familiar, you are right, he is the husband of our President, Mary Davis. Looks like we got a two-for-one with this deal.

He is that handsome guy with the camera at the receptions, creator of the WAS-H Calendar and Tutorial websites, our yardman on the Saturday preceding the September general meeting when he trimmed the bushes and trees along W. Alabama. He then went home to complete the task of providing Vicky Williamson Internet support for the International Show and, oh yes, provided the photograph as requested by Rosalie for the cover story of the October *Washrag*.

He will tell you it is because his wife made him do it but his wife will tell you it is because he is a loving and supportive husband who works hard to support everything she is involved. He just wants her to paint more.
THANK YOU TOM! ☎



The August Take-In Crew

Contact Parrish Hirasaki if you'd like to volunteer to help.





November Gallery Show

Questions? Contact Parrish Hirasaki, Gallery Director at 281-337-6121 or parrish@alumni.duke.edu

No Theme, "Relaxed" frame and mat guidelines.

Take-In: Saturday, November 7, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

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

Pick up paintings: December 4 or 5, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Juror: Steve Parker. Upon graduation from the Texas Art Academy, Steve worked as a staff artist for the Houston Post and studied under Lajos Markos. Known as a Contemporary Impressionist, he exhibits at the Jack Meier Gallery and other galleries in the Southwest and teaches at the Art League of Houston. See his work at www.steveparkerart.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:
 - No restrictions on frame style or width.
 - Any color of mats and liners.
 - Must be 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 _____

Submission by the artist constitutes agreement on the part of the artist to the stated regulations.

Signature _____ Date _____

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

Name _____

Tel. (H) _____ (C) _____

Title #1 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

Name _____

Tel. (H) _____ (C) _____

Title #2 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

Name _____

Tel. (H) _____ (C) _____

Title #3 _____

Price _____ Medium _____ Surface _____

August Monthly Show

By Parrish Hirasaki

Gallery Director

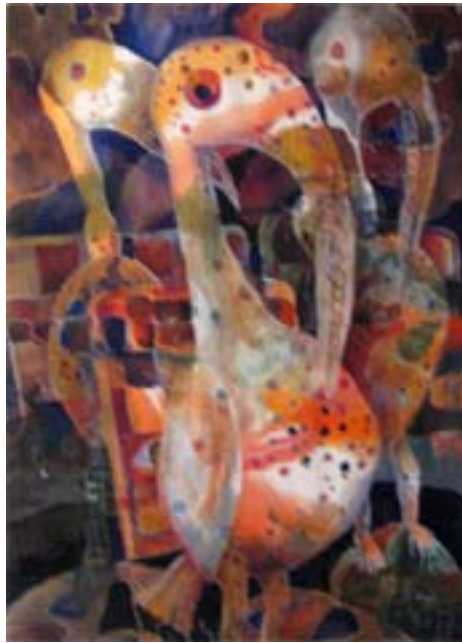
The August Monthly Show was initially planned as an “anything goes” show in order to attract a reasonable number of entries during a traditionally slow time for participation. There was no theme and the broadest of the framing guidelines were used. After the prospectus was published in the June-July Washrag, we learned of the opportunity to display at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. Winners of the August Show seemed an excellent way to showcase that WAS-H artwork is much more than traditional watercolors.

I left the show take-in in the able hands of Jan McNeill and went away on vacation. I picked a good take-in to miss. The team of volunteers was swamped with 142 entries. The juror had to be asked to eliminate 35. She found that extremely difficult.

Fortunately, there were volunteers who could work later than usual. Helpers included Avan Bhathena, Becky Brocato, Brandee Standley, Deborah Harris, Frank Griffin, Suzanne Chapman, Kathy Murphy, Tim Schneider and Al Heilman. Many also helped with the large reception, including Suzanne Leatherwood, Stan Smith, Marsha Harris, Jerrie Gast and Melba Goodman.

The juror, Marty Hatcher, majored in commercial art at UT-Arlington and has works in collections in the U.S., Canada and Europe. While her focus is oil, Marty works in many media and is a former member of WAS-H. She feels artists should have a deep understanding, and always a deep feeling for what they are painting as well as an ability to use the tools. Marty remarked that this is a very high-quality show. Comments shown for each painting are from her.

All of these award-winning paintings will be on display at the Pearl Fincher Museum from September 22 to October 18 www.pearlmlfa.org.



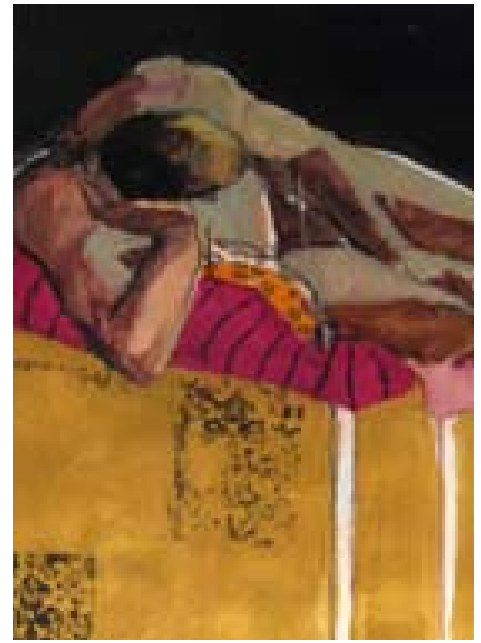
1st, Cosmic Creatures, a watercolor on paper, by **Marilyn Lacy**. “Unusual composition done well. Superior use of negative space. Fun and cute. The color holds it together.”



Marilyn Lacy with her first prize painting.



3rd, Stitch in Time, an acrylic collage, by **Jerrie Gast**. “Light theme with dark values. Love how the theme is tied together with analogous color scheme. Delightful edges. Sharp and hard draws the eye.”



2nd, Wednesday Model, by **Liz Hill**, combines acrylic and collage with watercolor. “Superior composition with an innate sense of design. Darks and lights are superb.”

Honorable Mentions:

Possum Kingdom Evening, by **Eric**

Sprohge. “The design is super.

Monochromatic does not always draw the eye, but this negative space does.”

Sunshine & Coconuts, by **Nancy**

Yarbrough, is watercolor on Yupo. “This painting looks good in any direction.

Great drawing with many soft edges.

Feels like fresh air.”

Soul March, by **Al Heilman**, was done

with fluid acrylics on linen. “Shapes and colors are similar, but it is so different that it pulls your eye in. Very unique and attractive.”

Fire Storm, by **Brenda Emery**, is mixed

media on paper. “I am drawn to the

design which seems 3-dimensional.

Ethereal with good depth and use of flat space.”

Saturday Night Disco at the Community

Center, by **Shirl Riccetti**, has repeating

characters. “Decorative and illustrative, but very unique. Extremely well done. A fun piece.”

Dawn's Early Flight, by **Les McDonald**,

is watercolor on paper. “Good drawing

that is very well executed. Good use of

space.” ©



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craig@speedyprinting.net

Update on Director Positions – We need your participation!

We are very pleased to announce that Acree Carlisle has joined the Board as our Administrative Director. Acree is a retired architect who is rekindling his love for watercolor with some wonderful wildlife paintings that are always accompanied by such great tales. I could not ever say it as well as Acree, so go to his Web site, <http://www.wildlifeartbyacree.com>, and follow his interesting journey. I know you will enjoy it.

Gain one and lose one. We are sad to say that we are losing our Education Director, Debra Jan Hall, who has started a new job.

We are currently seeking new directors to fill the following positions:

- Activities Director – Your social skills are needed. Generally responsible for Paint-Ins, Paint-Outs, social activities, Critique Group Studio coordination and Area Groups. If you need a little nudge, we already have a great group of committee chairs who oversee the bulk of these activities. It is a very easy position to step into.

- Education Director – Your coordination and organizational skills are needed - generally responsible for scheduling classes and workshops (with the exception of the major workshops) and hiring and communicating WAS-H's objectives to the teachers.

I hope you will consider giving of your time and talents to help us maintain the high level of service to our membership that they are used to. Details about the positions are available by contacting Mary Davis at 832.877.4306 or email at mary@davisalliance.com.

— Mary Davis



Splashes

Members' announcements of juried show acceptances and awards

Toni M. Elkins, Columbia, SC, has been selected as a part of the Watercolor USA Honor Society's Japan Exchange. The work will travel during 2010. She was also juried into the Rocky Mountain National in Golden, CO; the International Society of Experimental Artists in Bethlehem, PA and the Georgia Watercolor 2009 Member's Exhibition in Jonesboro, GA. Ms. Elkins's work was selected for the additional exhibit of SC Watermedia Society, to be held in Florence, SC. Farmington, NM. Most recently he has been accepted into the Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia Watercolor Annual Exhibits and the Georgia Watercolor Society Membership Show.

One of his paintings was accepted for publication in Splash 11, North Light Books. ☺

WAS-H International Exhibition 2010

By Vicky Williamson

Director, International Exhibition

Have you been painting all summer? Good, because it is time to mark your calendar for the WAS-H 2010 International Exhibition. We will have the honor of having Frank Webb for this year's juror and workshop. The entry deadline is Jan. 16, 2010, with show dates set for March 6 - April 9, 2010. The reception will be held at WAS-H on March 12, 2010 from 6 to 8 pm. This is a great opportunity to compete on an international level with cash prizes totaling \$8,000. Look for the Prospectus on the WAS-H Web site at www.watercolorhouse.org or for a copy send S.A.S.E. to Vicky Williamson c/o WAS-H, 1601 West Alabama, Houston, TX 77006-9966. A show of this size would not be possible without the many wonderful volunteers we have at WAS-H. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact me at wash2010exhibit@live.com. ☺

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