

A Veritable Banquet of Talent!

At the October meeting in Albuquerque, long-time members Ray Prudhomme, Jay Leutwyler, Rex Barron, and Susan Weeks each had a table set up to show their painting set-up and process. All had very differing styles ranging from abstract to traditional representation, and a couple of steps in-between. Members moved around to watch and ask questions about the presenters' approach, tools, and goals. The meeting was well attended and inspirational!

NOVEMBER 2023

Prez Sez	3
NMWS Chapter News	4
Southern Chapter	5
NMWS (SC) Workshops	6
Paint Outs	7
Exhibitions	7
Calls for Entry	8
Tips 'n' Trix	9
Member Spotlight	10
And Everything Else.....	11



Rex Barron demonstrated his colored pencil and gouache painting style.

Jay Leutwyler demonstrated a plein air style painting done indoors including his set-up.



Ray Prudhomme encouraged members to have fun throwing paint on Yupo and see what happened. Creatures, foliage, storm clouds, oh my!



Susan Weeks explains how drinking hot chocolate in a demitasse, then inverting the empty cup, creates patterns that inspire her art. Not unlike the Turks "reading" tea leaves, Susan invited us to sample her recipe from a crockpot and use our imagination to see our own story.

ELECTION RESULTS

Many thanks to our NMWS Members for voting to confirm the election of the new NMWS Officers, Tom Cassidy (President), Dottie Brockman (Treasurer), Traci Durgin (Secretary) and Shelly Brown (Membership Chair). Please welcome these 2023-24 Officers and thank them for helping NMWS continue to serve its members and pursue its vision of Inspiring a Passion for Watercolor Art.

And many thanks to all of those members who volunteer their time and many talents to support this unique organization. Clearly we would have no such place to share our ideas, inspirations, and support without all its members stepping up to volunteer.

**WANTED!
VICE PRESIDENT
PROGRAMS CHAIR**

Our many thanks to Rex Barron and Susan Weeks for acting as Vice-President and Chair of Programs.

Together they have brought some amazing artists in to demo for our member meetings. The generous duo though will be completing their terms in December, so here's a shout-out to members to fill these vital positions. President Tom Cassidy will be forming a nominating committee to seek a new President next year, but meanwhile please consider stepping into these much needed positions starting in January. Click [HERE](#) for a description of the job - that can be shared!

**WANTED!
FACILITIES CHAIR**

This is the beginning of Jim Terry's 7th (and last) term as Facilities Chair. Although not replaceable, we do need a new Facilities Chair volunteer. Most tasks involve coordinating with EXPO New Mexico during the Spring Show. A well-defined plan was written several years ago that provides detailed, straight-forward guidance during this coordination. That plan, along with on the job training, will ensure a smooth and successful transition.

Please contact Jim for more information at [jgterry\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:jgterry[at]comcast.net).



A Volunteer Coordinator is needed to recruit, retain, and enhance appreciation for volunteer participation in Albuquerque. Contact Joyce Rapp ([joyce.rapp \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:joyce.rapp@gmail.com)) or Barbara McGuire ([bmcguire \[at\] swcp.com](mailto:bmcguire[at]swcp.com)) for more information.

Also needed is a Public/Education Outreach person. Contact Tina Stallard ([tmstallard \[at\] comcast.net](mailto:tmstallard[at]comcast.net)) for more information.



ALBUQUERQUE

Like many of you, we had guests visiting us during Balloon Fiesta last month. They were very interested in my art and at one point commented, “It must be nice to have a hobby like this.” Though there

is nothing wrong with the comment, for me painting seems to be more than just a “hobby.” After giving this some thought, I came to the realization that painting is my “passion.” Hobbies are activities we do when we have time or want to relax. To be passionate means to invest our time and effort to grow in our personal lives. Even with this realization I had to consider what passion means as it relates to my art.

The word passion has several meanings but the most fitting is “an intense desire or enthusiasm for something.” This definition seems to sum it all up. My intense desire and enthusiasm explains why I spend countless hours painting in the studio or plein air, drawing, reading, studying other artists, taking classes and workshops and in general just trying to improve myself as a watercolor artist. There is also all the time spent researching different paints, brushes, papers and all the tools and utensils at our disposal. The list is endless and there is probably a fine line between passion and obsession!

What I love about our organization is our shared passion for watercolor painting. This is especially evident when you think of the volunteers that dedicate their time and talents to keep NMWS going. November is the month to be thankful, so take some time to be thankful for your talents and for all the passionate people who make the NMWS the wonderful organization that it is.

Tom Cassidy

2023-2024 NMWS President (Albuquerque)

Volume 25, Issue 10, November 2023

SOUTHERN CHAPTER



It’s been a busy time for the Southern Chapter! As Tom and our predecessors have pointed out, NMWS Exhibitions require a lot of work from a lot of people. Laurel Weathersbee and Rachel Murphree have been hard at work for several months on the Fall show that resulted in a fantastic response from both chapters. There’s still much to do but I’m certain that it will be worth it when we walk through the gallery when the show opens on December first!

Karin Hayes and Beverley Pirtle have also been hard at work organizing our 3-day workshop in February with Soon Y Warren, as well as a series of ‘mini workshops.’ The Warren workshop is filling quickly—so if you want to attend what looks like a fantastic event don’t delay! Check the website for registration information.

Beverly Pirtle has been championing a new program called ‘Connections’ to educate the public about watercolor art, fostering community engagement, and making a community presence. It’s no secret that the last couple of years have been hard on the arts—galleries have closed and Zoom meetings and exhibitions can only engage us for so long! Beverly, as Past President and ‘gal about town extraordinaire,’ has stepped forward to be the NMWS-SC liaison to the Las Cruces Arts Community. Beverly and a small team have leveraged both print and social media to expand knowledge about NMWS to the public as well as the arts community, and we are seeing new faces at meetings and events. In addition Beverly stays in close contact with multiple arts groups bringing them news of NMWS and hearing about what they are doing. She has started a monthly list of ‘Art Events Around Town’ that we are distributing to our members. And she has started to create quite the buzz! Thank you, Beverly!

Karen Steinberg

2023-2024 Southern Chapter President 3

NMWS Chapter News

Albuquerque

November 4 Meeting - "My Art Journey" by Margaret Herrick



Margaret Herrick began her impressive and varied art career in New York as a medical illustrator for Columbia University, and then as a freelance artist. During this time she also

traveled to Italy, and studied the great tradition of egg tempera painting from a master restorer who worked on famous

historical panels from the middle ages and renaissance. Since moving to New Mexico in 2021 she continues to paint and sketch, and is involved with different art groups, including an online zoom figure drawing group, The New Orleans Drawing Group. She also participates in two local plein air groups. After she introduced herself at the new members meeting, we had several enthusiastic requests for her to do a talk about her art journey. Please join us for what should be an elegant final presentation for this year.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ABQ Holiday Party Potluck Lunch - Dec. 9, Heights Christian Church

NMWS Gratefully Acknowledges Our "Contributing Members"

Kerry Renshaw

NMWS is a 501c3 certified charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Southern Chapter

November 12 Meeting-“Painting Watching: A Gentle Critique” by Molly Murphy



On Sunday, November 12th from 2-4 SC member Molly Murphy will lead us in “Painting Watching: A Gentle Critique”. We will also have an art book sale and art supply sale to benefit the Southern Chapter.

“Painting Watching” is a group of directed activities that Molly designed as a format to talk about works of art. While they can be used in many ways, these activities are especially effective as tools for feedback to artists as they are creating the piece. Molly will bring one of her prints as a basis for the activities to introduce us to the idea of a gentle critique.

There will be a followup session with Molly to set up a critique group on Saturday, Nov 18th from 10:30-12 at the Mesilla Heritage Park Condo Clubhouse, 905 Conway Ave. Las Cruces. The free session is limited to ten people who will bring a painting of their own to offer for critique. Contact Beverley Pirtle at [msbevpirtle\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:msbevpirtle[at]comcast.net) to register. Donations are accepted.

For 47 years, teaching was Molly’s “Winter” art, and painting was her “Summer” one. Now, retired from both the 6th grade classroom and as an adjunct Art Education professor at School of Museum of Fine Arts Boston/Tufts University, she is a full-time artist who teaches a little bit and divides her time between Las Cruces and Southern California.

October Meeting

In October we were introduced to urban sketching by Roberta Martinez, a member and long-time mixed media artist with the help of her co-host of the Las Cruces Urban Sketching Meetup Group, Ann McPhee. Roberta was an engaging and amusing speaker with lots of examples of setups, journals, sketches,

stories, etc. Her emphasis was quick sketching, not perfection, to capture the moment and enjoy the experience. Her intro was followed up by the attendees breaking into groups to sketch or paint various setups or the outdoors from the windows. Everyone had a relaxed and educational time!



NMWS (SC) Workshops



Saturday, January 20, 2024, 1-4 pm. “Adventures with Alcohol Inks and Watercolors Mini-Workshop” with Kay Gross. Bring your sense of adventure to discover the energy and motion that alcohol inks can produce in your watercolor paintings. Kay will give you the tips and techniques that you need to create vibrant backgrounds and then show you how your watercolor subjects can work beautifully with inks on Yupo paper.

Tuesday-Thursday, February 20-22, 2024, 9am - 4pm, “Capturing Vibrant Color and Light Effects in Watercolor” with Soon Y Warren. Join us as Soon leads us through her process and painting techniques to create vibrant watercolors. Soon is a full-time artist, teacher, and workshop instructor working both nationally and internationally. Learn about her techniques to layer controlled glazes and direct painting to capture realist detail in her painting. Enjoy letting the watercolor do the work of mingling pure colors on the surface for vibrant shadows that focus a composition.



The workshop is limited to 13-18 people and is filling fast, with registration opening to non-members on November 1st. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Saturday, March 23, 2024, 1–4 pm “Color Play Mini-Workshop #2” with Rachel Murphree.

In our series on playing with color, we will be exploring different color palettes. Rachel will be teaching us to paint the same small scene using three different combinations of primaries. We will explore how each triad influences the look and feel of the painting to create a harmonious scene.



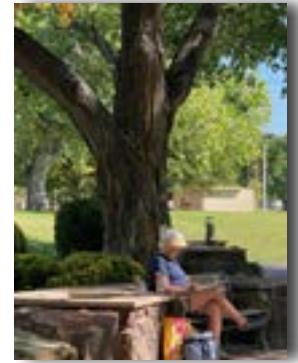
The Southern Chapter has a dynamic team of officers and committee chairs working together to make our chapter responsive to its members and relevant to the Las Cruces and surrounding counties Arts' Communities. We encourage members to think about working with existing officers and chairs to bring new ideas and to 'learn the ropes' to take on leadership roles in the future!

We are currently looking for a back-up to our Secretary Karin Hayes, a reception manager for exhibitions, and anyone willing to help take pictures at meetings and events. If you are interested in helping out with these activities, learning more about officer and committee chair duties, or just want to share some ideas, please contact Karen Steinberg at [kjsteinberg\[at\]aol.com](mailto:kjsteinberg[at]aol.com).

Paint Outs

NORTHERN AREA by Jay Leutwyler

The November 11th paint out will be at the Rio Grande Nature Center, 2900 Candelaria NW, from 11AM to 1PM. There is a \$3 per car parking fee unless you have the annual pass. Click [HERE](#) for information and directions.



The October paint out was lovely at Heske Park. A beautiful day painting trees, their shadows, flowers, and GREEN!

SOUTHERN AREA by Nancy Tipton



The November 16th paintout will be at the [Prehistoric Trackways National Monument](#) from 10:30-12:30.

The Monument is in the Robledo Mountains north of Las Cruces. There is a parking area but no restrooms. There are a number of painting inspirations such as a magnificent view of the valley, hawks and other birds, interesting hills, rocky formations and even a few wildflowers! Come out and paint with us!

Exhibitions

NMWS Fall 2023 Exhibition

We want to thank each and everyone of the 68 talented NMWS artists statewide who submitted their work for consideration for the Fall Exhibition. Our juror, Laurie Goldstein Warren, had a difficult task selecting the 59 paintings from 46 artists that will be included in the Exhibition. It's going to be a beautiful show! Here are some upcoming dates:

Nov 28 - Accepted Artwork delivered to Doña Ana Art Gallery, 10 am-12 pm

Dec 1- Exhibition open to the public at 5 pm

Dec 9 - Artists' reception and Award Ceremony, 12 pm - 4 pm

Dec 28 - Exhibition closes 12 pm. Pickup of unsold work or transmission of sold work to buyer 1 pm -3 pm.

Contact Exhibitions Chair Laurel Weathersbee at 575-288-5125 or [laurel.weathersbee\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:laurel.weathersbee@gmail.com) with any questions.



The exhibition "A Drawing Show: The Backbone of Art," continues until November 15 in the Step Up Gallery, located in the Mesa Public Library

in Los Alamos. Contact the gallery directly or click [HERE](#) for more information.

The New Mexico Art League

"Subject / Object - The Still Life." This exhibit focuses on a wide array of New Mexico artists' interpretations of the classic genre of painting: The Still Life. The exhibition will run through Saturday, November 18, 2023.

Calls for Entry



49TH Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Exhibition ~March 5-April 29, 2024

Hosted by Arizona Watercolor Association;
at FOUNDRE Hotel, Phoenix
Juror: Stan Miller
Workshop in Phoenix, March 14-16, 2024

**DEADLINE FOR ONLINE
ENTRIES: November 27, 2023**

Click [HERE](#) for details
and more information



The prospectus for the annual MasterWorks of New Mexico is now available online. Click [HERE](#) for the prospectus and [HERE](#) for general information. ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED which will be available in November. To submit entry, go to: www.nmwatercolorsociety.org, login with your email and password, then register, upload images of your work, and pay online by credit card (only.) Deadline for standard size painting submission is January 27, 2024. Filemaster is Barbara McGuire at [bmcguire\[at\]swcp.com](mailto:bmcguire[at]swcp.com), 505.235.1375.

MASTERWORKS 3-DAY WORKSHOP

NMWS and MasterWorks of NM present a 3-day watercolor workshop, March 26-28, 2024, with Gayle Weisfield of Taos, NM. The workshop will be at the Hispanic Arts Building, EXPO-NM, Albuquerque. Tuition is \$300 and registration is currently limited to NMWS members. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. Workshop coordinator is Ray Prudhomme at [sonnyray76\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:sonnyray76[at]yahoo.com), 505.296.0273.

Gayle will present a FREE public demo on Tuesday, March 26th at 9:30 AM in the Hispanic Arts Building.



Tips 'n' Trix by Kathy Gaither

Fall just heaps on the reasons why we're fortunate to be living in New Mexico's high desert. Colorful vistas and many days of sunshine provide endless painting resource, but there is inspiration to be found indoors, too. How many times have you seen ordinary objects in your home transformed into a striking still life by light streaming through a window? Grab your camera or phone and capture those moments and if you can, do a quick sketch with notes on what caught your eye. This month's column theme is "Paint anything—just paint!"

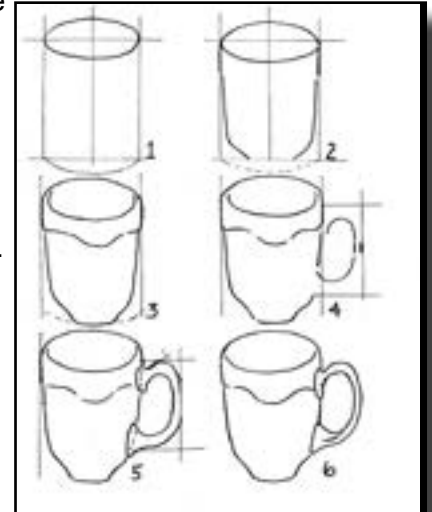
Danny Gregory is a self-taught artist whose fun books like [Art Before Breakfast](#) and [The Creative License](#) should inspire anyone who is stuck because they can't think of what to paint for practice. The idea is that even loosely realistic renderings painted with simple color and minimal shading will train your hand-eye-brain system and build the foundation for more advanced skills. Open the medicine cabinet and make a simple outline drawing of the bottle shapes on a shelf one day, then color them the next day. Paint a sketch of your lunch! It's easy, accessible and great training. Use a travel kit-size palette and a water pen or one round brush and a small bottle of water to keep these sketchbook exercises simple. Test swatch your color mixes on the sketch page before using them.



One morning I was stopped in my tracks by the way the sun was lighting up the collection of mugs drying on my dish rack.

The result was an exercise in painting cylinders. If you're doing a 10-minute practice, just paint one mug.

To sketch a mug always start with a cylinder and modify from there. Carefully observe the oval top and bottom curve. If you want to turn the scene into a painting, crop the scene down to a few mugs. A



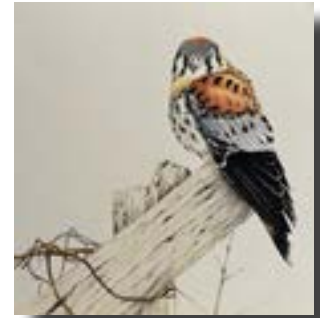
basic rule of composition is "Keep the main thing the main thing." Especially while you're learning, it's a good idea to crop your resource to where it still says what you want to say, without a lot of unnecessary background. Just keep enough background objects or design elements to put the main thing in context and provide non-distracting design support.

No need to spend hours searching for just the right photo resource online. There are interesting subjects to be found in your own home and you'll have a record of your daily life to enjoy. **Bonus--painting is a good reason to delay putting away those dishes.**

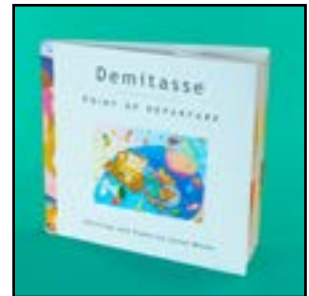


Member Spotlight

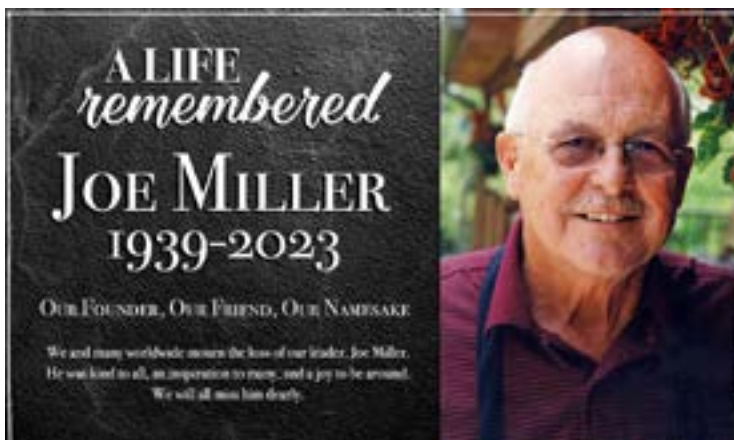
Richard Harris will have a solo show at the Dona Ana Arts Council November 1-28. Entitled "Whimsy, Wildlife, Wonderful!" the opening reception is Saturday, November 11th from 12 - 4pm. Richard may be reached at (860) 836-1458 or at macharris34[at]sbcglobal.net. You may view his work may on Instagram at Properchels34.



Three of **Susan Weeks's** paintings were selected by jurors to be included in a portfolio of artworks available for purchase in the Art in Public Places Program. The pieces will be hung in various sites and public buildings throughout New Mexico that have 1% for public art funds available to them. In addition, Susan's book "Demitasse: Point of Departure: Paintings and Poems" won the NM Poetry Award (2023) for the NM-AZ Book Awards.



Steve Maize received a "Talent Award" from the Teravarna Gallery's (Los Angeles) 4th International Juried Art Competition with the theme of "Water." Steve says "the significance (to me) is that a painting I always liked finally got some sort of recognition. This was an image from Amsterdam with a canal boat and semi-abstract water ripples in the foreground. Sometimes you just have to keep trying for a nice affirmation..."



Our hearts are heavy as we share the passing of Joe Miller, founder of Cheap Joe's Art Stuff. Joe had a very humorous and productive life with a strong dedication and passion for the arts. For more about his life click [HERE](#).

And Everything Else.....

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

The New Mexico Watercolor Society (NMWS) was founded in 1969 as a statewide chapter of the Southwestern Watercolor Society of Dallas, TX. In January 1970, the NMWS became an independent entity with 501(c)(3) status.

OUR VISION: To Inspire a Passion for Watercolor Art

OUR MISSION: We will accomplish our Vision through support of the highest aesthetic standards in quality and presentation of art, education of the public regarding watercolor art, promotion of community engagement, facilitation of member artistic development through workshops, demos, etc.

OUR COMMON CORE VALUES

- 1: Artistic Development Through Education
- 2: Participation and Volunteerism
- 3: Community Presence
- 4: Organizational Sustainability
- 5: Welcoming Culture

[See the website](#) for more details on these core values. NMWS Signature Member status is attained when a NMWS member in good standing has been accepted in five "eligible" NMWS juried shows within five years. Click [HERE](#) for more information. The NMWS is a member of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS).

PAPER SALES (not available at Southern Chapter)

Ray Prudhomme sells watercolor paper at the meetings or by appointment at 505-296-0273 or raynjan1969[at]yahoo.com. CHECKS ONLY
Prices (subject to change):

Arches 140 lb. Cold/Hot Press, Rough	\$ 8
Arches 300 lb. Cold/Hot Press, Rough,	\$17
Fabriano Artístico 140 lb. Bright White	\$ 7
Yupo 72 lb. White	\$ 5
Yupo 144 lb. White	\$ 6
Special order/special request watercolor paper:	
Fabriano 140 lb. Cold Press	\$ 7
Fabriano 300 lb. Bright White Soft Press	\$14
Saunders Waterford 140 lb. Cold Press	\$10

NMWS OFFICERS ALBUQUERQUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Strategic Leadership 2023-2024

Chairperson of the Board: Barbara McGuire
Vice-Chair of the Board: Rachel Murphree
President: Tom Cassidy
Immediate Past President: Barbara McGuire
Secretary: Traci Durgin
Treasurer: Dorothy Brockman
Membership Chair: Shelly Brown
Satellite President: Karen Steinberg
Members at Large: John Cormier & Lonnie Shan

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Tactical Leadership

President: Tom Cassidy
VP/Programs Chair: Rex Barron & Susan Weeks
Secretary: Traci Durgin
Treasurer: Dorothy Brockman
Membership, Shelly Brown
Exhibitions: Sally Harris
Publicity: Steve Webb & Mary Quirolo
Jim Terry, Facilities
Immediate Past President: Barbara McGuire

LAS CRUCES - SOUTHERN CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD 2023-2024

President - Karen Steinberg
Vice President - Rachel Murphree
Secretary - Karin Hayes
Treasurer - Rob Sheldon
Membership - Georgia Young
Exhibitions - Laurel Weathersbee
Workshops - Karin Hayes
Past President - Rachel Murphree

For contact information and other officers, please see website at nmwatercolorssociety.org

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF BRUSHSTROKES

Please send news items, accomplishments,
and other contributions to

ctrotter [at] unm.edu

The information is due by **NOVEMBER 15**

Caryl Trotter, Your Brushstrokes Editor