

Members North and South Make a Versatile Team

As we return from our summer travels and events, it's a good time to take a look at how far we've come in NMWS. For those who've recently joined, you may not know that NMWS was founded in 1969. Some of those charter members are still with us and are still painting! Around 2001, several members from the Las Cruces area advanced a proposal to form a "satellite" or subgroup of artists. The practical purpose was to allow for watermedia artists in the southern areas of New Mexico to develop and participate in Society activities without having to travel to Albuquerque. With collaboration and in parallel with the statewide Bylaws, the Southern Chapter (SC) of NMWS was formed.

Per the Bylaws "The SC shall have its base of operation in Las Cruces, NM and its geographic territory includes southwestern and southeastern counties of the state of New Mexico (Catron, Chavez, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Roosevelt, Sierra) and the El Paso, Texas area."

While in Las Cruces in July, Barbara McGuire (center - NMWS Board Chair) Karen Steinberg (left-new SC President), and Rachel Murphree (Vice President and former President for SC) met for lunch.

Over the last 20+ years, Southern Chapter members have added so many creative dimensions, ideas and energy to the Society as a whole and now compose about one third of its membership as well as many NMWS Signature

Members. Statewide, we are all beneficiaries and make up a multi-faceted, varied and sturdy organization dedicated to education of ourselves and the public about watercolor art, as well as the advancement of the medium.

With over 300 members in our state, and several participating from far flung areas of the US, the NM Watercolor Society embodies our Vision: "Inspiring a Passion for Watercolor Art" with focused dedication!

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Prez Sez



ALBUQUERQUE

Our organization is never static and there is always something happening. Masterworks, Western Fed and the Spring Exhibition all happen in quick succession and just when it seems that

things are settling down, it's time to start thinking about the Southern Chapter exhibit that will take place in December. As you read this you'll have about 20 days before the entry deadline. This is a great opportunity to showcase your work, but perhaps the fear of rejection is holding you back from entering. Unfortunately, if you let your fears get in the way you'll never experience the joy of being accepted.

I recently started working on a painting from a photo I took on a trip to the Jemez mountains. I really liked the subject and the composition and thought, "This would be a great painting to enter into a show...if it turns out." I completed the painting but kept it on the board for many days while I continued to look at it wondering if it was done or "If it is good enough?"...Ugh! Just when I was about to drive myself crazy, I came across a quote from Salvador Dali, "Have no fear of perfection--you'll never reach it." The light came on and I was ready to let go. When I was able to accept my work as the best it could be at that moment in time, I was able to appreciate it even more. Now I can say that it doesn't matter if it makes it into a show, or what others may think, because I know I enjoyed the journey of making it a reality.

Hopefully, you can get past your personal roadblocks and realize the real joy of making and sharing your art.

Tom Cassidy

2023-2024 NMWS President (Albuquerque)

SOUTHERN CHAPTER



The Southern Chapter kicks off its 2023-24 year with our first meeting on Sunday, September 10th, but that doesn't mean we haven't been busy since our last meeting in May. Planning for this year actually started last year when we had a discussion at our general meeting about future programs and workshops followed by a survey sent to all SC members. Using the suggestions we received, our President Rachel Murphree recruited additional volunteers to meet with committee chairs to start planning activities for this year. That work continued over the summer and helped us make decisions about programs and workshops. It's going to be a fun and interesting year ahead for the Southern Chapter and here are a few highlights:

First, I hope you've sent in your entries for the Fall juried exhibition at the Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery in December. If not, you still have until September 20th to enter! Laurel Weathersbee, our Exhibition Chair promises a fabulous exhibit. Laurel's also planning an SC Alternate Spaces show in February as part of the city-wide "For the Love of Art" festival in Las Cruces.

Karin Hayes and Beverley Pirtle have put together several half-day workshops designed for those new to watercolor and those looking to perfect their skills; as well as a 3-day workshop in February with accomplished artist and workshop instructor Soon Y Warren. Check out the details and save those dates. I know I am!

Finally, Rachel Murphree has lined up a stellar set of programs beginning with our traditional 'show and tell' in September, a holiday party, a swap meet, learning tables rotation on three subjects, how to set up critique groups, and how to sketch. See you soon!

Karen Steinberg

2023-2024 Southern Chapter President

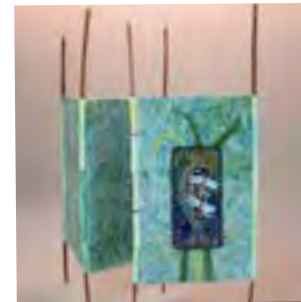
NMWS Chapter News

Albuquerque

September 9 Meeting - "Spiraling Into Books" by Margy O'Brien



Please join us on Saturday, September 9th to hear a presentation by Margy O'Brien. Her sensitive, nature-oriented artwork has graced the Albuquerque metro area for many years. Her work has taken the forms of murals for the open space center on Coors, to commissioned outdoor tile work for housing



developments, to designing display pillars for the international zone and market on Central, to showing in many exhibits featuring her hand-made books with the Libros group, and ultimately in her astonishing nature journals, which are full of wonderfully observed watercolor studies, mostly done on location. A former art teacher, she now spends her retirement doing watercolors and making intricate hand-made art books, many of which will be on display at the watercolor society meeting on Saturday, September 9th. She is both uplifting and inspiring, and a reminder of how joyous the art-making process can, and should, be. You can check out Margy's work [HERE](#).

A warmest welcome to Dorothy (Dottie) Brockman who has stepped into Ron Nedrow's position as NMWS treasurer. As a retired systems accountant, Dottie knows her stuff! Thanks Dottie!



August meeting

Dennis Chamberlain was the guest presenter for the August meeting. A retired CPA, Dennis has been a lifelong photographer. His work has garnered many awards from the Professional Photographers of America, and he has become a certified Adobe Photoshop software expert. He is also active with the American Society of Photographers.

The presentation was titled “Finding and Capturing an Artful Landscape Scene”. That is, how painters can apply sound principles of composition to select and develop a balanced and interesting painting design. While showing samples of his stunning SW landscape photos, Dennis drew parallels between capturing the “mood” of a scene with photographic techniques (with editing software) and the color-texture choices made by painters. He displayed several examples of original scenes, followed by discussions of “post-processing” additions or deletions of elements to achieve the image he originally envisioned.

He discussed the photographer’s preference for making photos during early morning or late afternoon hours (sunrise/sunset) and the immense learning value of having works critiqued by others in the same discipline.



While showing several examples of his process, Dennis shared a philosophical tip from Guy Tal - “Images will more likely present themselves to (the photographer or artist) when you are in the right frame of mind.” That is, slow down, look around and become part of the setting to fully appreciate it. Attendees were treated to numerous examples and narratives about he transformed (with digital editing) fairly typical southwestern scenes into unique images, with that “Wow” factor. While, in Dennis’ opinion, painters have more creative latitude in formulating an exciting, special image, he also said that we should all be very concerned and attentive regarding “AI”. He believes that new artificial intelligence tools and programs will change and may devalue the work of visual artists in photography and all forms of painting.

Members can enjoy more of Dennis’ work at www.dcpphotoartistry.com



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

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

The **Membership Chair** is looking for someone to assist a bit for the rest of this year and take over the position next year. A job summary can be found [HERE](#). The position description is also on the NMWS website under About/Our Leadership/Volunteer Job Descriptions/Membership Chair. Contact Joyce Rapp (joyce.rapp [at] gmail.com) for more information.

Southern Chapter

Sunday, September 10, 2023
2:00-4:00 pm in the Creative Arts Room
Good Samaritan Society
3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces, NM

My Artsy Summer



Please join us for "My Artsy Summer", a chance for members and guests to bring paintings or sketchbooks they've created over the summer, or to speak of their recent art experiences. We welcome the public to come to our meetings and get to know us and learn about watercolor. Hope to see you there!

"Provence Lavender Fields" by Beverley Pirtle

Here's what's coming up this fall

October 8th – Introduction to Urban Sketching with Roberta Martinez. Bring your sketchbook and get tips on how to get started on sketching in public.

November 12th – "Painting Watching" with Molly Murphy. Molly has facilitated this class on how to critique art many times and is bringing it to the Southern Chapter. She's one of our newest members and we're glad to have her expertise! Using one of her

paintings she'll walk us through the process. If there's interest, we will set up an ongoing critique mini group.

December 10th – Catered Holiday Party at Good Sam's.

Just a reminder that we're meeting on the second Sunday, September through May.



New member Carol Eastman has volunteered to take photos of our events, but we still need a **backup photographer**. Taking photos with your phone is fine. We also need a **backup Secretary** to assist when Karin Hayes cannot attend and a **Reception Manager** for Exhibitions. Contact Karen at [kjsteinberg \[at\] aol.com](mailto:kjsteinberg[at]aol.com) if you can help!

NMWS (SC) Workshops

The Southern Chapter has three workshops scheduled in Las Cruces in the coming year. They're open to members from both chapters. Save the dates and stay tuned for more information and registration openings!

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 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.



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.



3-Day Workshop: Tuesday-Thursday, February 20-22, 2024, 9am - 4 pm, “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.

Soon is a signature member of National Watercolor Society (NWS), American Watercolor Society (AWS), Southern Watercolor Artist (SW), Texas Watercolor Society, Purple Sage Brush (TWS), Transparent Watercolor Society (TWSA) and more.



Watch for emails about registration openings!

Signature News



There are still spaces for the retreat for Signature Members September 19-21 at the Hotel Ruidoso in Ruidoso, NM.

Ruth Andrews-Vreeland will teach a 4-hour class on still life (see her painting “Ruth’s Chiles”) She

will teach members how to paint beginning with darks and layering progressively lighter washes. **Wendy Ahlm** will lead a plein air paint out with tips about making painting

outside easier. **Ming Franz**, widely known for her splash paintings that combine primary watercolor with Chinese ink and brush, will also provide a demonstration. There may also be a segment about tools and products. We hope to have plenty of time to socialize including some wine tasting.

A non-refundable \$40 deposit is required and will be used toward food and supplies. Contact Contact Debby Brinkerhoff at 505-934-9771 for details on how to register and pay the deposit.

Hotel Ruidoso - 575-257-2007, Comfort Inn and Suite - 575-315-7012, Ruidoso Lodge/ Cabins/RV spots 575-257-2510

Many thanks to the retreat planners, including our Ruidoso member, **Patsy Blasdel**.

Signature Members Revised Guidelines

Recently the Signature Member Guidelines were revised by a committee consisting of Andrea Nichols, Linda Krumel, Mayanna Howard, and Debby Brinkerhoff. The revised guidelines were distributed to all Signature Members in late July along with an online link and a comments section. The document is available [HERE](#) and also on the NMWS website in the [Signature Member Group](#) tab. A link to the ballot to vote and comment will be sent again by secure email to all Signature Members on September 1, 2023. For more information contact Andie Nichols at andien[at]comcast.net.

NMWS Gratefully Acknowledges Our “Contributing Members”

Kerry Renshaw

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



Newest Signature Member Steven Webb receives his certificate from Tom Cassidy

Paint Outs

NORTHERN AREA by Jay Leutwyler

The September paint out will be September 16th at the [Duck Pond](#) on the UNM Campus, near the Memorial Chapel. We will meet at 10AM and paint until noon. Here are some pix from the August paint out in Old Town.



SOUTHERN AREA by Nancy Tipton

The September Paint Out will be September 14th at the U-Pick Mesilla Valley Apple Orchard, 2330 Shalem Colony Trail, in Las Cruces from 10:30 - 12:30. We'll paint apples, trees, and even pick some apples too! Nestled in farm country this apple orchard is a hidden green space of about six acres and 400 apple trees. In the orchard grow three different kinds of apples: common delicious, red delicious, and Jonathans. These apples are extra tasty because of the higher elevation and wide fluctuations in temperature in the area. This makes the sugar content of the apples go up and down so you get layers of flavor rather than a single sweet note.



Hmmm...I think I'd better taste some!

I am really looking forward to this paintout, and hope to see lots of fellow painters there to join in on the fun. Be sure to bring mosquito spray!

Exhibitions



Cover art by Barbara Marx, NMWS



Click [HERE](#) for more information

Calls for Entry



The beautiful Step Up Gallery, located in the Mesa Public Library in Los Alamos, issues a call for art for its exhibition “A Drawing Show: The Backbone of Art,” October 12 - November 15. Enter up to three drawings including landscape, architecture, figure drawing, still life, portraiture, animals, botanical, geometric and abstract. Deadline for entries is September 8. Contact the gallery directly or click [HERE](#) for more information.

NMWS Fall 2023 Exhibition

Registration for the NMWS Fall 2023 Exhibition is now open on the NMWS Art Call website! The deadline to enter is September 20 at 6 PM. You may enter two paintings. Arrangements to transport paintings from Albuquerque are in process. The exhibition, juried by Laurie Goldstein Warren, is open to all NMWS members statewide and will be held December 1-28 in the new Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery. Placement judge is Sally Kohl. We have the entire Gallery for our Exhibition, so we want to be certain to fill the space with your beautiful art!

The theme for the exhibition, “A Happy Place”, is an expansive one inviting a wide range of subject matter such as landscapes, portraits, still life, etc., in styles both realistic and abstract. Click [HERE](#) for the link to ArtCall and all the entry and exhibit information including more details about important dates. You may also download the page of instructions “Taking Photos and Entering Art Call Exhibitions” from that site.

Any questions contact Exhibitions Chair Laurel Weathersbee at 575-288-5125 or [laurel.weathersbee\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:laurel.weathersbee[at]gmail.com).



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 New Mexico Art League issues a call for art for its exhibition “The Still Life.” It will focus on a wide array of New Mexico artists’ interpretations of the classic genre of painting. Deadline for entries is September 9, 2023. The exhibition dates are from October 18 through November 18, 2023. Both **Jay Cook** and **Ruth Andrews Vreeland** are teaching this fall at the Art League. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the Call for Entry and Jay and Ruth’s classes.

Tips 'n' TriX by Kathy Gaither

Early Learner's Tips For Workshops

"It's supposed to be fun!" is the number one rule for workshops. You're taking time for yourSELF and to honor your creative drive. The explorations and failures should be interesting and pleasurable, or why do it? Here are some tips to get the most out of a workshop (or ongoing class.)

First gather your materials and prepare your mind. If you have questions or can't acquire the instructor's supply list, talk to them ahead of class time. Most instructors have their favorite paint colors, brushes, etc., but often you can substitute with what you already have. But don't use poor quality materials for you may not get the results the instructor intends for you. There is no substitute for professional grade paint and good rag paper. Watercolor brushes of medium quality (one round and one flat) should be just fine for a workshop. See the [NMWS website/Resources/Beginner Guides](#) for more information.

Workshops can make early learners both pleasantly excited and nervous. Remember you're there to learn, not to compete. It is irrelevant if the person next to you is "better" than you. Sitting next to a better painter gives you an opportunity to learn from them. Early learners need to learn process--how to start a painting, mix color, get the right value, etc. If you go home with a small painting you like, that is a bonus.

If you find yourself overwhelmed and feeling lost, take a break, a deep breath, and relax. Jot down some things you don't understand, then ask for help. Practice a little on that skill, then pick another issue and start again. Eat the banquet one bite at a time!

"If you're a beginner and you are on the path all you need is time" (James Clear). Being "on the path" means learning and practicing even if it means doing things poorly many times before you can do them well. All masters have "failed paintings," but these paved the way to the good stuff that came
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later. Workshops can show you "the what and the how" for you to practice over time until you get it.

"You'll benefit from being open to presenting your work for critique. You may be showing your best work so far, but the instructor, while pointing out success in your painting should also tell you how it could be even better. Ask for specific guidance if you don't understand how to do the suggested changes.

Your most valuable learning tool is to establish an art habit. This is setting aside regular time to devote to your art, whether it's daily or weekly. It will get you to your sketchbook or easel and get paint on paper. Do your best to remove any barriers to getting started. Keep a sketchbook, water pen or brushes and some watercolor pencils or small paint kit in your work area or in a small case you can carry with you. Using your odd bits of time, do color mixing swatches or small watercolor sketches of the things



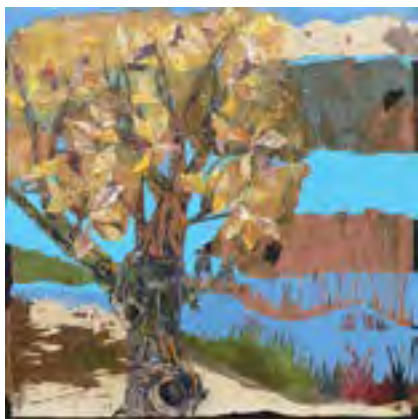
around you. Fill sketchbooks with your view of ordinary things around (see [Art Before Breakfast](#) by Danny Gregory.) You are never wasting paint, paper, or time when you are learning, whether in workshops or at home. It's the only way to

become an accomplished painter. The path to success is paved with failed attempts, so get started painting those pavers. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Happy Painting!

Kathy Gaither

Member Spotlight



P.K. Williams will be holding a solo show at the Open Space Visitor Center at 6500 Coors NW in Albuquerque September 31 - December 16, with an opening reception on September 30th from 2 - 4 pm. The exhibit; "Messin' With Perfection: Interpretations of the Natural Community" includes more than twenty-five new pieces, all mixed media collages using a variety of mediums from watercolor or acrylic to linoleum or gelli prints.

While P.K. admires the ability of artists to realistically recreate the flora, fauna, and landscape in the wild, it is not her personal goal. (Why mess with perfection?) She finds it more challenging to take bits and pieces of the flora, fauna and surrounding landscape and create unique abstract representations. Congratulations P.K.!



Jay Leutwyler's painting "Bosque" and **Robin Makowski's** "Checking the Scores" (which SOLD!) were accepted in the 2023 American Watercolor Society Associate Members (online) Show. Click [HERE](#) to watch a lovely video of the exhibit. Congratulations Jay and Robin!



Ruth Andrews Vreeland's painting "Apotheosis of Angst" was accepted in the 43rd Annual San Diego International Watercolor Exhibit. Juried by Stephen Jhang, it was one of 105 chosen from 800 international entries.

Congratulations Ruth!

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

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

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF BRUSHSTROKES

Please send news items, accomplishments,
and other contributions to

ctrotter [at] unm.edu

The information is due by September 15

Caryl Trotter, Your Brushstrokes Editor