

FOR THE LOVE OF ART

February 2024

For the last 25 years ArtForms Artists Association in Las Cruces has organized and produced **For the Love of Art Month (FLOA)** during February of each year, coordinating with art galleries, artist studios and art spaces throughout town in a celebration of the arts. For this year's 25th anniversary the NMWS Southern Chapter will be participating with a non-juried exhibit at the Frame & Art Center, 1100 S. Main Street, Las Cruces. **The exhibit will run February 2-27, with an Artists Reception on Friday, February 2nd from 4PM-6PM** in conjunction with First Friday Art Ramble. Light refreshments and plenty of free parking. Come join us for some beautiful art! Here are just a few of the paintings in the show...



"A Few Slices of Orange"
Penny Thomas Simpson



"Grey Skies and Red Rocks"
Karen Steinberg



"Golden House in Moonlight"
Laurel Weathersbee



"Prickly Pear Trail"
Rachel Murphree



"Mini Schnauzer, Maxi Ears"
Marie Siegrist

Prez Sez

ALBUQUERQUE



February is here and after a long winter, spring is just around the corner. Due to some recent personal challenges I was unable to paint as much as I would like. Being away for an extended period of time, I had difficulty getting back into my regular painting routine.

I had stopped midway through one piece and after not touching it for several weeks, I found that each time I looked at it I only noticed what was wrong with it. I knew if I wanted to get back into painting I was going to have to push through these negative thoughts.

Then I heard that painting can be seen as form of meditation. Knowing the benefits meditation can have on our health and well being, I did some research to find out how art, meditation and healing are interrelated. An article from the Washington Post noted, “creating art... is another way to access a meditative state of mind and the profound healing it brings.” The artist Louise Bourgeois said “Art is a guarantee to sanity.” For Bourgeois, who died at the age of 98, art was a tool for coping with overwhelming emotion. The article went into much more detail than space permits here.

So after all of this I finally did what I knew had to be done. I picked up my brushes and after a couple of deep breaths, I got to work. Surprisingly enough, the painting turned out pretty good. Fortunately for me, things have settled down and I am getting back to a regular routine of painting and drawing. Though it's never easy to go through tough times, I have discovered some things about myself as well as what my art means to me and my personal well being.

Tom Cassidy

2023-2024 NMWS President (Albuquerque)

Volume 26, Issue 2, February 2024

SOUTHERN CHAPTER



Each month, when I think about writing this column, I do a small inventory of recent accomplishments and challenges ahead. Some months are easier than others, and the trick is to highlight those things that seem most relevant to our goals and values. Recent accomplishments and upcoming challenges come to mind easily today!

Yesterday was the first meeting of 2024 for the Southern Chapter and provides a good place to start. We have been working hard this year on making connections with our art community and with the Las Cruces/EI Paso communities in general—making both aware of who we are and what opportunities we provide. For the first time since the pandemic, 45 people gathered for our meeting (plus a few others coming for the first time.) The very next morning, 4 of those visitors were in the process of becoming members! That may be a record for us and it certainly is an accomplishment! And while we are still in the process of membership renewals, it looks pretty likely that we will hit another goal soon—topping 90 members in the SC. Secretly, I think our membership Chair Georgia Young is going for 100 by the end of the program year!

We have some challenges coming up soon: February brings our participation in the city-wide “For the Love of Art” month-long program—and SC members will have art on display at the Frame and Art Center Gallery. Any exhibition comes with unexpected challenges, as we all know! We also have 2 mini workshops, taught by our members, set in February and March, and a 3-day workshop “Capturing Vibrant Color and Light Effects” with Soon Y Warren in February. And of course, spring brings elections for new officers and committee chairs. We have high expectations and lots of hard work ahead!

Karen Steinberg

2023-2024 Southern Chapter President

NMWS Chapter News

Albuquerque

February 3rd meeting

“How to Enter Watercolor Juried Shows” with Sally Harris



Participating in juried watercolor shows offers artists a unique and invaluable opportunity to showcase their talent, gain exposure, and elevate their artistic careers. These competitions are typically curated by seasoned professionals or experts in the field, ensuring a high standard of selection. By entering juried shows, artists have the chance for their work to be seen by both fellow artists and the general public. Winning or even being selected for an exhibition can significantly enhance an artist’s credibility and visibility within the art community. It provides a platform for networking and connecting with other artists, critics, and potential patrons. Overall, the experience of entering juried watercolor shows is a valuable investment in an artist’s development, offering a pathway to recognition, professional connections, and a broader audience for their creative expressions.

Are you ready? Join us February 3rd as signature member Sally Harris presents the “ins & outs” of submitting, managing and management of getting into a show! Please join Us!



We started 2024 with an enthusiastic presentation by NMWS member Wendy Ahlm on plein air painting. She charmed us with the “why” to plein air and to not be fearful of it. She told us of the numerous, never thought of reasons to paint outdoors. Wendy encouraged us to use what we have, but showed us different kit setup options to meet our own plein air painting style. The first was a small setup with basic, simple but necessary tools to carry with you wherever you go. Next was a medium setup with a larger sketchbook and additional tools. The final setup was a cool, unbelievable setup with everything you can imagine plus more. The one tool that amazed and surprised most members was the pop-up tent for privacy, if needed, and a clear pop-up-tent to paint in unfavorable weather conditions such as rain, wind, snow, etc. After her presentation and sharing of tools, I’m sure more members will be coming to the monthly plein air. We are thankful to Wendy for an excellent presentation, for educating and encouraging us to paint plein air.

Click [HERE](#) to see some of Wendy’s favorite supplies.



PRESIDENT and TREASURER

The NMWS has several volunteer opportunities approaching. The NMWS Nominating Committee is searching for several positions including President and Treasurer. If you are interested in keeping NMWS running to do all the wonderful things that we do, please contact – Andrea Nichols at andien[at]comcast.net.

Video Editor

For many years Barbara McGuire has editing the videos recordings of our monthly meeting demos. Due to travel plans and time constraint she will no longer be able to

perform this service. We are now in need of volunteer with the proper software to take on the editing of the videos into a viewable MP4 format. Barbara will work with the volunteer to show how to upload the edited video to the NMWS YouTube channel each month. Ideally, a volunteer who already owns and uses one of the free or low cost video editing software programs (Free-DaVinci Resolve, iMovie or Professional-Final Cut Pro, Power Director, or Adobe products If you are willing to help with this task, please contact Barbara McGuire at bmcquire [at]swcp.com or Tom Cassidy at tomcassidy45[at]comcast.net. This is a wonderful service that NMWS provides to its members and the public. We thank Barbara for her many years of service.

In Memoriam

Mary Catherine McVey, NMWS

December 14, 2023

Nina Atkins

December 29, 2023

One of The Gallery ABQ founders (Nina Adkins) passed away today, December 29, 2023. Twenty-five years ago, Nina and a few other artists opened the doors to what is now known as The Gallery ABQ. Her desire was for artists to have a place to gather, be encouraged, learn from other artists, and show great art. Hundreds of New Mexico artists have been on the receiving side of her enthusiasm and willingness to teach others what she had learned from her many years of painting.

Nina began watercolor painting to express her more creative side in 1986. She studied with many nationally known artists and obtained Signature Member status of

the New Mexico Watercolor Society in 1995. Nina was co-chair for the Western Federation of Watercolor Society exhibition held in Albuquerque, NM in 2002. She was on the Board of the New Mexico Arts & Crafts Fair for four years and was Standard's Chair for 2010. Nina was selected as one of the Local Treasures for the 2022 year through the Albuquerque Art Business Association.

Pat Cream, The Gallery ABQ Director, said that she has heard many touching stories from her art colleagues, and they all start and end with tributes such as she was a delight to be around, the most enjoyable woman I have ever met, she was so helpful and supportive, she was feisty and full of joy, her art was whimsical, full of bold colors, and you knew she drew inspiration from her life experiences.

Nina Adkins was a true friend and a treasure to the art community. Her contagious smile and humor will be missed by us all.

Southern Chapter



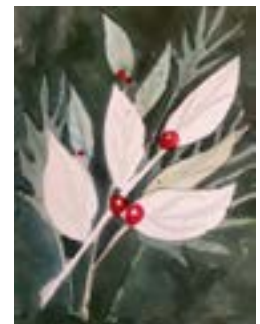
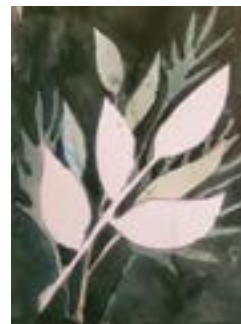
February 11th Meeting - “Metallic and Iridescent Watercolor and Embellishing Your Artwork” with Pamela Strohbar

On our meeting Sunday, February 11th, one of our newest members will do a presentation and demo on “Metallic and Iridescent Watercolor and Embellishing Your Artwork”. Pamela Strohbar will highlight the properties and techniques of metallic and iridescent watercolors and the use of embellishments in your art. We all have piles of studies and works in progress - imagine revitalizing them with the addition of other media! She will demonstrate the process and bring artwork and booklets to pass around that she has created on black and white paper to showcase the paint’s properties. Come learn what media you’d like to try next!

January Meeting

We had a lively and packed meeting for our first program of 2024, with 45 people in attendance, including guests who had learned of us from various social media posts and art group emails and friends. Laurel Weathersbee explained negative painting starting with a slideshow of various artists who specialize in this technique, followed by a demo to show how it’s done. We learned about keeping your leading-edge fluid, how to view the process in layers, and that the key to mastering it is (you guessed it!) practice, practice, and more practice. We’re excited for a great start to this calendar year!

To view the slideshow, images from the demo and links to other websites, please see our members’ only video page [HERE](#).



NMWS (SC) Workshops



ONLY A FEW SEATS LEFT

3-Day Workshop: Tuesday-Thursday, February 20-22, 2024, 9am - 4pm, "Capturing Vibrant Color and Light Effects in Watercolor" with Soon Y Warren. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Soon will lead 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.



Color Play Mini Workshop #2 by Rachel Murphree
Saturday March 16 from 1-4 pm

Mesilla Heritage Park Condominium Clubhouse, 905
Conway Ave., Las Cruces, NM

Explore different palettes to evaluate what kinds of color mixes can be achieved and how they can work for your style and practice. Students will receive daubs of four sets of primary colors on temporary palettes, four printed circles to create a palette of primaries and secondary and tertiary mixes from each, and four printed 5x7 landscapes to paint with the sets. Work at your own pace and take home what you haven't finished to continue learning.

Bring only smaller brushes, water pot and spritzer. Light refreshments provided. Limited to 12 participants. Only a few seats are left. Cost: \$40. Instructor: Rachel Murphree. Workshop contact: Beverley Pirtle (msbevpirtle@comcast.net) Email Beverley to secure your seat or get on the waiting list.

Art Swap Leads to a Nice Gift to the WNSU Art Department

A few meetings ago, one of our members (Beverley Pirtle) volunteered to bring several art books that she no longer was using to a meeting and asked others to join in donating and holding an art book swap. Several of us cleared out our studios and brought in books we were no longer using and which were greatly appreciated, especially by some of our newer members. The swap brought in almost \$300 for the Southern Chapter, to enhance our technology and program needs. At the end of the swap there were still many unsold books. Another member (Roberta Martinez) who was originally from Silver City volunteered to take the remaining 4 boxes of books up to the Art Department at Western New State University in Silver City (which also serves Deming) So one good idea and several dedicated members helped leverage this gift! Nice story, right????



The Southern Chapter currently 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. This April, we will hold elections for Officers and Committee Chairs for the 2024-25 year (September 2024-May 2025) based on the recruitment done by an ad hoc nominating committee that starts its work this month. Please think

about what you can do to help support NMWS-SC. Volunteer organizations like ours depend on the support of their members and no offer of help is too small. The officers of the Southern Chapter are elected for 1 or 2 year terms and are:

President, Vice President and Meeting Program Coordination, Secretary, Treasurer, Workshop's Chair, Membership Chair, and Exhibitions Chair. In addition we have standing committees for hospitality (including greeters), publicity (including photographers) & historian, video library, paint outs, student awards, and technology.

Each of these officers and Chairs has volunteers that help keep their areas of responsibility running. Let us know if you have interest in any of these areas. If you have questions about roles and responsibilities, or how you might help, contact Karen Steinberg at: [kjsteinberg\[at\]aol.com](mailto:kjsteinberg@aol.com)

Paint Outs

NORTHERN AREA

by Joy Hill Brinkley

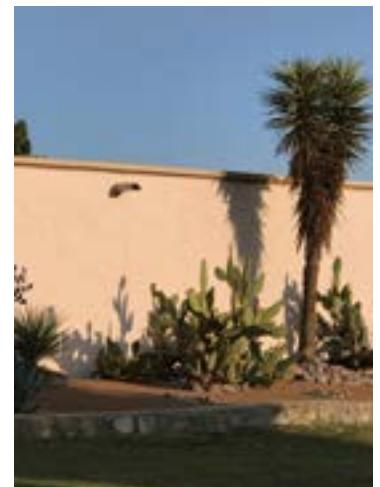


Love that viewfinder! January's paintout at the Albuquerque Open Space.

The February 10th paint out will be at the [Albuquerque Botanic Gardens](#), 2601 Central Avenue NW, from 1 pm to 3 pm. Please meet at the Garden's entrance gate. If the weather is marginal, the Mediterranean and Desert Conservatories are available; however, we will need to be courteous of the other visitors. Tickets for entry into the Botanic Gardens are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors (65+), and free to ABQ BioPark members. We look forward to seeing you in February.

SOUTHERN AREA by Nancy Tipton

The February 15th paint out will be from 10:30-12:30 at the Good Samaritan Society-Las Cruces Village, 3025 Terrace Drive. Let's meet in the main courtyard just off the street and park as we do for our meetings. There is a long wall bordering the courtyard where the shadows of desert flora are spectacular. Benches, verandas, swings and trees and their accompanying shadows are other inspirations for painting. Come and paint with us.



Shadows on walls are wonderful painting subjects!

Exhibitions

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

As announced in the January issue, paintings from 14 talented NMWS artists were juried into the 2024 Western Fed exhibition. Two of those artists reached signature status, having been accepted in three exhibitions. They are Tina Stallard's piece "Dining District Corner" and John Cormier's painting "ViridiLux2." Congratulations!



MASTERWORKS OF NEW MEXICO

26th Annual Fine Art Show

March 23 - April 14, 2024 • 10 am - 5 pm

(closed Mondays and Easter)

EXPO NM, Hispanic Arts Bldg, Albuquerque

Free Admission • Special Events All Month

Pastel • Watermedia • Oil • Acrylic • Miniatures

Judges: Donny Weber and Sarah Siltala

All Artwork for Sale

Gala Reception & Awards Presentation

Friday, March 22 • 5 pm - 8 pm

Open House & Paint-In

Sunday, March 24 • Noon - 4 pm

For information: 505-259-1932

bardean12@comcast.net

www.masterworksnm.org



Calls for Entry



The 2024 NMWS Spring Exhibition is now open for registration. Entries will be accepted February 1 - March 8. The opening reception and awards ceremony is May 4 from 1-4. The show will run May

4 - 25. This year's show will feature both standard and small work watercolor and water media paintings. NMWS membership is required for entry. Dues must be paid and up to date before submitting to the call for entry and remain current throughout the show.

The standard works juror and judge is Fealing Lin, and the small works juror and judge is Ruth Andrews-Vreeland.

Click [HERE](#) for the prospectus and to register.

Click [HERE](#) to access Artcall to submit your paintings.

Call to *Tomorrow's Artists Today*

Martin Terry of Martinart Studios is curating a contemporary art exhibit at FUSION|708 Gallery in Albuquerque. They are asking for referrals to those young artists who are just beginning their artistic journey, so that we may give them a platform to share their work. All media will be considered including painting, sculpture, printmaking, etc. Exhibit dates are May 18 - June 30. For more information click [HERE](#).

Call for Photos

A new addition to the NMWS website is Resources/Beginner Guides (drop down menu) section (click [HERE](#).) This new section is just getting started and is intended to be an archive of basic information (like startup materials recommendations), practice exercises, technique guides and resource materials (like photos) available for free use by our early learner group and others.

Resource photos are especially needed! It is hard to find photos at sites like Pixabay that

have the kind of lighting favored for painting subjects. We have some fine photographers among our members and photos that didn't quite make the cut for your use would be welcome here. They need to be sent in JPEG or PDF format, should be "G" rated, and faces unrecognizable.

For more information and to send in your materials contact Kathy Gaither at [kgaiter\[at\]q.com](mailto:kgaiter[at]q.com) or Barbara McGuire at [bm McGuire\[at\]swcp.com](mailto:bm McGuire[at]swcp.com)

**NMWS Gratefully Acknowledges Our "Contributing Members"
Tamara Mendoza of the Southern Chapter**

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

NMWS Sponsored Workshops



MASTERWORKS 3-DAY WORKSHOP

“Punch Up the Emotional Story in Your Painting” is the theme for the Gayle Weisfield MasterWorks of NM workshop scheduled for March 26-28, 2024, at the Hispanic Arts Building at EXPO-NM. The workshop is nearly full and is only \$300 for 3 days of exciting and fun learning. Student seats are limited to 14, so don't delay in signing up. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. Workshop coordinator is Ray Prudhomme at [sonnyray76\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:sonnyray76@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.

2024 Spring Watercolor Workshop with Fealing Lin, NWS, TWSA, WW

The annual workshop in conjunction with the NMWS Spring Show will be May 1-3 from 9am - 4pm at the Fine Arts Gallery, EXPO New Mexico. The cost is \$300 due at the time of registration. The workshop is limited to 20 students on a “first come, first served” basis, with registration opening late January to NMWS members, all others in March 2024. Once registered, if you cancel, and the workshop is full, you will receive a full refund only if your space in the workshop is re-filled. Click [HERE](#) to register.



There will be a Public Painting Demo on Tuesday evening, April 30th, starting at 7PM, in the Fine Arts Gallery, EXPO-NM. Admission is \$10. Workshop Coordinator is Ray Prudhomme 505-296-0273

Other Workshops of Interest



Introduction To Watercolor Landscapes

with Patsy Welch, NMWS

At Ghost Ranch, March 24-30

This is a fun introduction to painting the landscape with watercolors that will start at the very beginning. There is no need to have any prior art experience whatsoever, but if you have taken watercolor classes beforehand, you are welcome to join the class. We will learn various ways to create the many textures we see here at Ghost Ranch, working on dry paper as well as wet paper. Exploring different types of washes, we can learn to capture the endless skies here. We will learn basic color theory and how to mix the stunning colors we see in these mountains surrounding us. Working inside the studio and, weather permitting, also painting outside, we will be inspired by the glorious views of Ghost Ranch. We will also dive into landscape composition and study the components of the land here – the many colorful rock formations and exotic plant life. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Plein Air/Fresh Air by Arlene Tugel



Every year for nine years I have returned to one of my favorite places to paint stunningly brilliant colors of autumn leaves.

As the color season approaches, my anticipation grows, and I frequently drive by the trees to check their color status. I worry that an early frost will turn the leaves from green to brown, robbing me of a chance to paint the trees in full glory. And I fret over strong winds that might blow the leaves off the trees before I get my painting done. But each year, I find a way to do a painting with the common thread of autumn leaves.

There are many benefits to creating paintings with a common thread. An artist can set goals, make discoveries, grow technically, and build confidence. Returning yearly provides an opportunity to experiment with various palettes, try out different techniques, get creative with composition, and observe how skills evolve.

For example, selecting colors and techniques to create brilliance and “shine” has been my goal over the years. I explored more than a dozen magentas, reds, oranges, and yellows to create the fiery colors of Chinese pistache trees. I learned that saving white and high value washes along tree boundaries and internal edges of boughs and leaves achieves the best “shine” of sunlight on leaves. It can be difficult to achieve, but I keep trying.

I also used various techniques to paint the foliage. One technique is illustrated in my painting “Moving Mountains” (upper right.) I painted foliage one bough at a time using wet-into-wet strokes for each glazed layer. I used greens to give depth to the trees and define the bough shapes. I used a similar wet-into-wet approach for “Autumn Joy.”

First, I applied a peach-colored wash to define the foliage areas and then I painted clusters of leaves with wet-into-wet layers. Both paintings were fully defined en plein air, however, painting leaf clusters was a slower process that required more studio time than typical.



The special place where I paint every year is the New Mexico State University Horse Farm in Las Cruces. The elements that make the Horse Farm a good place to do plein air abound.

In addition to the Chinese pistache and other colorful trees, there are numerous barns, corrals, and nearby historic houses.



The setting is quiet and there are views of the Organ Mountains (or at least there were until the trees grew over the years!)

Paintings with a common thread that connects them are considered a “series.” The individual paintings in a series are typically displayed as a group. I painted different scenes every year but have not displayed them together. I can however look at photos of the paintings to see the progress I have made and evaluate color palettes for my next painting.

Intellectually, I know there are many reasons to return to the same place to paint. But in reality, I go back to soak up the fiery colors and sit in awe of the magical transformation that takes place every year. I can’t wait to rendezvous with trees at the University Horse Farm next year!

Signature News

The Signature Member Group is proud to announce three new Signature Master Painter Members - Susan Weeks, Dave Collins, and Penny Simpson.

In addition, Janet McLennan has been added as a new Signature member. Her painting "Ode to Ukraine" (at right) was juried into the 2023 NMWS Fall Exhibition, awarding her Signature membership.

A Signature Member Master Painter is an artist who is accepted into four or more qualifying shows. Accepted Shows include: Western Federation of Watercolor Societies, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, American Watercolor Society, and the National Watercolor Society. There is no time limit to acquiring these qualifications. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Congratulations!

Member Spotlight



The magazine *Watercolor Artist* will showcase the state watercolor societies in their spring 2024 issue. NMWS will be represented by the northern chapter's 2023 Spring Show grand prize winner, "Stand By Me" by artist Nancy Frost Begin. This comes right on the heels of the feature article on Antonio Darden in the magazine's Fall 2023 issue. It's awesome to see New Mexico artists with such talent!

Congratulations Nancy!

Beverley Pirtle will have a solo show during the month of February as part of the FLOA in Las Cruces. Details on the flyer at right.

Congratulations Beverley!

For the LOVE of
Art, Animals,
and More

February 2-28, 2024

Mas Art Gallery
masartllc.com
144 Wyatt Dr, Las Cruces
9am to 5:30pm, M - F
10am to 3pm, Sat

Beverley Pirtle

Two Receptions
First Friday Night Ramble, February 2, 4-7pm
Second Saturday, February 10, 11am-3pm

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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Immediate Past President: Barbara McGuire
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Treasurer: Dorothy Brockman
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For contact information and other officers, please see website at nmwatercolorsociety.org

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE MARCH ISSUE OF BRUSHSTROKES

Please send news items,
accomplishments, and other contributions
to

ctrotter [at] unm.edu

The information is due by FEBRUARY 15

Caryl Trotter, Your Brushstrokes Editor