

# APRIL 2024

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



## President's Message



Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

Tax time and I hope you all made lots of money on your artwork this year.

April weather will move some of us out of our studios into the fresh air and sunshine to do some plein-air painting. I'm a studio painter myself, so I mostly just paint something I feel like painting, or I use reference photos for my work.

I am also a practicing Preservation Architect, so I love old buildings and historic structures. I take frequent trips to work on my historic projects or to build on my collection of historic property photos from which I take my subjects. The advent of the digital phones with great cameras built into them has made my photo trips a lot easier. No more carrying a camera bag, lenses, and lots of film

or memory cards. I have found my phone's camera more than adequate, and it's a great tool for my photo trips. I can also use it as a phone.

Understanding how to use your phone's camera and editing capabilities is worth looking into, and if you want to, you can upload your photos to the cloud and not fill up your phone's capacity to store photos. I take my iPad with me and transfer my photos into it. The iPad takes great photos also but can be cumbersome to use. I'm headed to New Mexico after our May meeting to attend the New Mexico Watercolor Societies Spring Show and tour the wonderful Land of Enchantment to photograph its plentiful adobe churches, homes, pueblos, and historic sites.

Take the time, if you haven't already, to educate yourself on the use of your phone's photo capabilities to take your reference photos and to photograph your final paintings to enter our spring and fall shows or other competitions. If you want more information on how to take successful photographs (like formatting or context) as a reference for your paintings, YouTube has so many sites to help you.

I can't tell you how much I have learned being a member of AWA and meeting great people and many fantastic artists. Stay involved, come to our meetings, and volunteer for a committee or an office. You won't regret it. And take the time to see both our Spring Show at Fountain Hills and the WFWS Show at the Found:RE in Phoenix.

### Ron Peters

*President*

*Keep on laying down that creative water media.*



### Next Meeting, note date change!

***Our Programs start at 4 pm. Social Hour at 3:30 pm.***

- ❖ Next Program: **Thursday, April 4** At the AAG Building- In Person - 4:00pm
  - ❖ **Kim Johnson Nechtman** will demo preceding the workshop.
- Dont miss this one!

# AWA Exhibitions: The 2024 Spring Show

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

The Awards Reception for our Spring 2024 Exhibition was held on Thursday, March 21st. Congratulations to all artists on their beautiful work and an additional congratulations to the award winners listed below this article.

The exhibition will remain on display at Fountain Hills Community Center through April 28th. Artists should pick up their paintings on Monday, April 29th between 10 a.m. and noon.

These exhibitions are not possible without the help of volunteers. A huge thank you to Melanie Harman, Mona Houle, Kristi James, Jordan Kirk, Spencer Mackay, Linda Miller, Ruth Philliben, Deb Sullivan, Linda Thiel, Jane Underhill, Teri Williams and Janice Wittwer. A special thank you as well to Sally Gonzalez for her hard work which allows us to give out so many awards!

## Welcome

### New Members!

This month we welcome:

Shanna Sisak  
Jackie Price  
Hyrum Huskey  
Eugenie Donahue

We look forward to meeting you at our program on April 4th!!

## Congratulations to these award winners:

<i>Award Name</i>	<i>Winner Name</i>	<i>Painting Title</i>
Best of Show	Dyanne Locati	Tree Roots
Oman Award	Teri Williams	Best Buds
Award of Distinction	Annette Smith	Anita
President's Award	John Erwin	It's All Greek to Me
Award of Merit	David Amsellem	Reflection
Award of Merit	Linda Miller	Desert in Bloom
M Graham	Mary Valesano	Window Floral
Golden Artist Colors	Ruth Philliben	A Study in Pears
HK Holbein	Kristi James	Best Friends
HK Holbein	Linda Sherman	Winter Shadows
Blick Art Materials	Yolande McAlevey	Treasures Along the Sea Shore
Arizona Art Supply	Sherry Whitney	The Reader
Arizona Art Supply	Marion Droge	All Aboard
Phoenix Art Museum	Jim Fox	Cynthia

## New Signature Chair Named

Our new Signature chair is Christine Oliver. All requests for Signature status should be directed to her.

# Member Workshop News

## EXCITING WORKSHOPS FOR 2024

By Karen Gray  
AWA Member Workshop Chair

Historically, the third member workshop for the Spring season is held in March. However, since AWA is hosting the Western Federation Society with Stan Miller judging the exhibition, our last AWA member workshop for Spring has been moved to April.

This month, one of AWA's popular artist instructors, Kim Johnson Nechtman, will conduct a workshop on painting portraits. Kim has won numerous awards for painting both animals and people. There are still a few openings for Kim's workshop.

Then in November 2024, the AWA member workshop will feature Melanie Harman as the artist instructor. While Melanie has demonstrated talent in capturing various subjects in watercolor, she is also known for her outstanding collage work. Her workshop will utilize gel printed paper collage to embellish our artwork.

Advance your artistic skills through participation in these enriching workshops!

You can find the registration opportunities for 2024 on the AWA website under Member Workshops. You will be able to complete the registration conveniently online with your credit card.



*Here are two more of Kim Johnson Nechtman's award winning portraits.*



# ***At the Stan Miller Workshop:***

## ***Stan Miller painted stunning portraits and scenes with attention to detail!***

*Marion Droge  
Juror Workshop Chair*

Our 3 day workshop with Stan Miller was a great success!

AWA members enrolled in this workshop learned from this wonderfully experienced artist.

Stan spent a great deal of time discussing and describing the importance of design during the workshop. He shared what he looks for in a reference photo and his planning process before he begins a painting. We heard about how Stan judges artwork in the Jury process and what he looks for that makes a painting a “winner”. Stan kept his color palette simple when he demonstrated for us and emphasized the importance of honing our technique. He used his one inch square cut-outs to demonstrate how he matches, close to 90%, the value on his painting to his reference photo. He also spent some time working his way around the room and helping students individually. We were thrilled to have such a master artist come and teach our AWA group and are grateful for his expertise.



## Three Artists selected for Scholarships

By Dyanne Locati  
Chairman

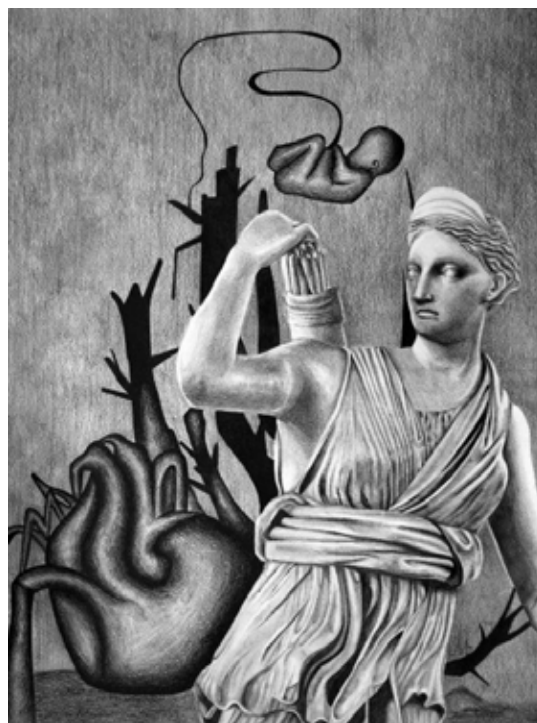
Eight artists from AAG, Arizona Clay Association, Shemer Art Center and AWA met today to select art major students to receive scholarships. We started at 10:00 and at 12:30, with careful consideration, we finally decided on the ten top students in several categories. This year we had applicants in Water Media, Graphite, Photography, Oil, Ceramics, Clay, Risograph Print, Cyanotype Print, and Videos.

The procedure requires each applicant to send in three images of their artwork and give a complete statement about their intent and why they are pursuing this career. It is very interesting to learn all the aspects of why they want to be an art major. This information is a huge help in learning more about each applicant and understanding the artists' work.

AWA – Del Decil scholarships are water media orientated. The committee is looking for students that are acceptable for this classification. This year, we had three students that fit into that category. Each student will receive \$1,000. to help with tuition.

The students are:

*Thanh Do – Watercolor and Graphite - Xianna Montoya – Acrylic on Canvas and Marilyn Garcia – Graphite Drawings.*



Images of their artwork and the other scholarship students are displayed on the AAG website. To see the AWA scholarship students work, go to the AWA website. Scroll over to the Join/Renew tab. Click to scroll down to AWA/Del Decil Scholarship to view the students work.

There will be a reception at the AAG meeting April 16, 2024. The meeting begins with AAG business... at 7:00 the student presentation. They will receive a certificate and will give a talk about themselves and their artwork. AWA members are invited to attend and meet the students.



# HINTS AND HACKS

*Editor's note: We are pleased that contributing artist Joan Foltz has agreed to provide reference material suggestions and review information for this segment of our newsletter.*

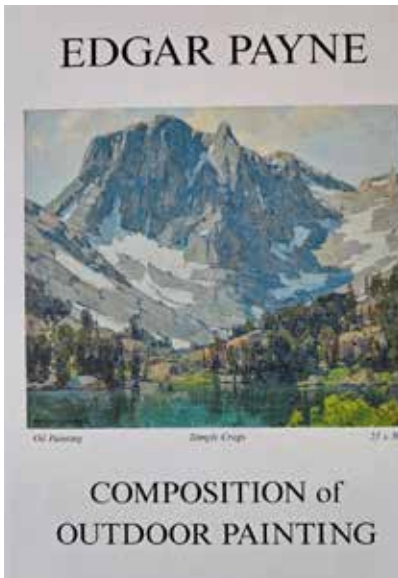


## REFERENCE MATERIAL CORNER

With AI and software programs infiltrating the art world, artists will find it harder to create original, notable pieces that can compete for attention. Technique, of course, is a must. However, artists might want to develop their own set of foundation studies to be appreciated for creating “art” that transcends the future of computer-generated art.

Since most instructors typically focus on technique, let’s help each other by sharing our discoveries of good reference material, whether it is books, DVD’s, YouTube, or websites. AWA has many gifted members, whom we can learn from by sharing. So, please submit any information that has excited you and would help us up our game!

## BOOK REVIEW ON COMPOSITION



In my quest to understand good composition, a critical element of foundation studies, I found the following book. Packed with nuances of composition in such detail, it ranks at the top of my list.

“Composition of Outdoor Painting by Edgar Payne”

Edgar Payne (1883-1947) wrote “Composition of Outdoor Painting” in 1941. He was a world-renowned western landscape painter. This comprehensive book has three sections: The Approach to Art, Selection and Composition, and Types of Composition with insight to the aesthetics along with core principle theories. An example on composition selection:

“In any form of composition, the equal shapes or sizes of masses is to be avoided as far as possible. Some forms are difficult to change, for instance, architectural measures are often equal. The thing to do here is to disguise the similarity in form by variety in value or color or softened edges.”

Every paragraph offers insight into good design. It is also packed with examples of illustrations and pictures of artwork. The book is in its seventh printing with black and white artwork. The pictures are not as sharp as today’s standards. But you can clearly see what he is trying to convey. This is a true classic.

## SALES AND SWAPS

**Jane Underhill offers this merchandise for sale:**

For Sale - Artist’s table and ergonomic swivel chair. Like new. 6 drawers, wood top. \$100. Please call 612-384-7001.



# Western Federation News

*49th Annual*  
Western Federation  
of Watercolor Societies

**Gala**  
*Dinner, Dance,  
and Awards Reception*

**April 20, 2024 4:30 – 10:00 PM**  
Music provided by: Picoso Band, Phoenix



At the FOUND:RE Hotel 1100 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004 602.875.8000

*49th Annual*  
Western Federation  
of Watercolor Societies


**Welcome Reception**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024 5 - 7 pm**

Free to AWA Members and their Guests  
Meet the Artists and Delegates!

Refreshments and Cash Bar  
Music by "Flute Ala Carte"

At the FOUND:RE Hotel 1100 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85004 602.875.8000



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## Frames for sale!

The frames are black with plexiglass and a backing board. 3/4" profile on front and 1" deep sides. See photos.

Must pick up April 29, 2024 between 9 to 10 am at the Found:RE Hotel, Phoenix.

Email Melanie Harman (mharmanart@gmail.com) or Jane Underhill (janeunderhill@msn.com) if you are interesting in purchasing frames.

## Special Events for AWA Members and Visiting Artists

Reception and Gala tickets are still available.

These events happen in Arizona only once every ten years! Don't miss it!

Purchase tickets for the Gala or RSVP for the Welcome Reception on the AWA website

## Western Federation of Watercolor Societies' 49th Annual Exhibition

Exhibition is open for visitors. Call first the Found:RE Hotel to make sure no events are scheduled. 602-875-8000

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Our sponsors provide us with FREE magazines and thousands of dollars in gift cards, paint, and art videos. In return, some of the sponsors ask for our email addresses to send us their product information, discount offers and specials. Our information will not be shared elsewhere.

We want you to know that AWA will be providing emails to these art companies in return for their wonderful awards.

What a great way for us as artists to find out about the newest and best products available!

If you do not want to receive these emails, you can unsubscribe when you receive them.



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2nd VP Exhibitions: Karen Donmoyer	Scholarship Co-chair: Carole Matthews
3rd VP Membership: Tanya Lemma	Webmaster: Rupali Holmes
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WFWS Delegate: David Amsellem	Honoree: Sherry Kimmel
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Our membership is invited to contact the editor with ideas and articles for this newsletter. Please contact the editor, Janice Wittwer at: [janwittwer@icloud.com](mailto:janwittwer@icloud.com).  
  
News for the newsletter will be due by the 20th, for publication by the 1st of the following month.