

APRIL 2025

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



President's Message

Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

Celebrating 65 years, 1960-2025

It would be nice for any long-time members of AWA to share some of our history with the membership. If you have any old newsletters that go back 20-25 years or more I would appreciate if you could copy them and send them along to me. I think we should start to collect some history on the association.

I'm a youngster only having been a member since 2015. One of the historic facts I'm interested in, is when did we start the signature status process, and who were the first signature members of AWA. Maybe someone out there knows and could share. If we get enough historic information, we might even publish a separate newsletter this year to share that "history" with you.

We are going to be discussing "exhibitions" at our yearly board retreat this May and I would like to ask the general membership to suggest any ideas you may like to float out for discussion at the retreat. We will be discussing items like locations of future exhibitions, fees, size of paintings, mattes and sizes or no mattes, varnishing, frames, virtual exhibits, 2yr rule and any number of other issues. Please feel free you send me your suggestions. We would love to have your ideas. You make our association successful.

It seems like summer is fast approaching with our temperatures nearing 100 degrees already and its barely April. If you are a plein air painter your window of opportunity is closing quickly, or you are one of those people that like HOT! So, take time out of your busy schedule to get in a painting occasionally. AND ENTER IN ONE OF OUR TWO JURIED EXHIBITIONS EACH YEAR. As they say in the lottery, you can't win if you don't play. Become a signature member of AWA. It's a great goal for all of us.

Remember our organization thrives on volunteers. We maintain our financial strength by our members participation in our workshops and exhibits. We all make AWA a great place to paint and share.

Ron Peters

President

Keep on laying down that creative water media.

Next Meeting

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

Next Program: **Wednesday, April 9.**

At the AAG Building- In Person - 4:00pm

Laurie Goldstein-Warren will demo.

Exhibition News

Spring Exhibition is Hung and Ready to View

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

By the time you read this newsletter, our Spring Exhibition should be hung at the Shemer Art Center. (Shemer is located at 5005 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix 85018. Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Please mark your calendar for the Awards Reception on Thursday, April 17th from 5:30 to 7:30. Please consider coming even if you are not in the show and family and friends are welcome!

Shemer's postcard publicizing the exhibition and the participating artists is on the right.

The show closes May 15th at 3:00 p.m. Pick up of artwork will be between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. on May 15th.

Our shows are not possible without members' willingness to lend a hand. Thank you to those who helped with drop-off at Shemer: Linda Miller, Robin Woodworth and Yolande McAlevy. Thank you to Marcia Elkins, who having not even submitted for this show, was quick to volunteer her Saturday morning to help hang it. Thank you to Christine Oliver for creating 53 beautiful acceptance certificates.



Artist-to-Artist HINTS AND HACKS

Editor's note: We are grateful that Karen Donmoyer shares this tip with us today.

I save a lot of money by reusing frames when I participate in art shows.

I do this by ordering simple black metal frames and once I have a few in various sizes, I repurpose them in each show usually with a new mat to fit whatever artwork was accepted.

For the exhibition at Shemer I ordered a 20 x 20 metal frame from American Frame (americanframe.com). Including backboard, a mat cut to size and plexiglass, my cost was a little less than \$100. (I did receive a 15% discount as a new customer.)

The frame arrived well packaged and with comprehensive instructions on how to put everything together. I'm not that handy but had no problem assembling and wiring the frame with all the included components.

In terms of speed, I ordered on a Monday and received everything the following Wednesday (so 8 business days). I also telephoned the company to make sure they knew I wanted the frame within a couple of weeks.

During that phone call I was able to sign our organization up for a discount that any of you may use to receive 10 percent off: Alliance10.

I also was happy to learn that the company is run by a family of artists and is woman owned. At the end of the year, they said they would send our organization a gift certificate equal to some percentage of orders made using that code.

Juror Workshop News

2025 Three-Day Juror Workshops

By Marion Droge

There is still some space available for you to enroll in our April 2025 Juror Workshop!

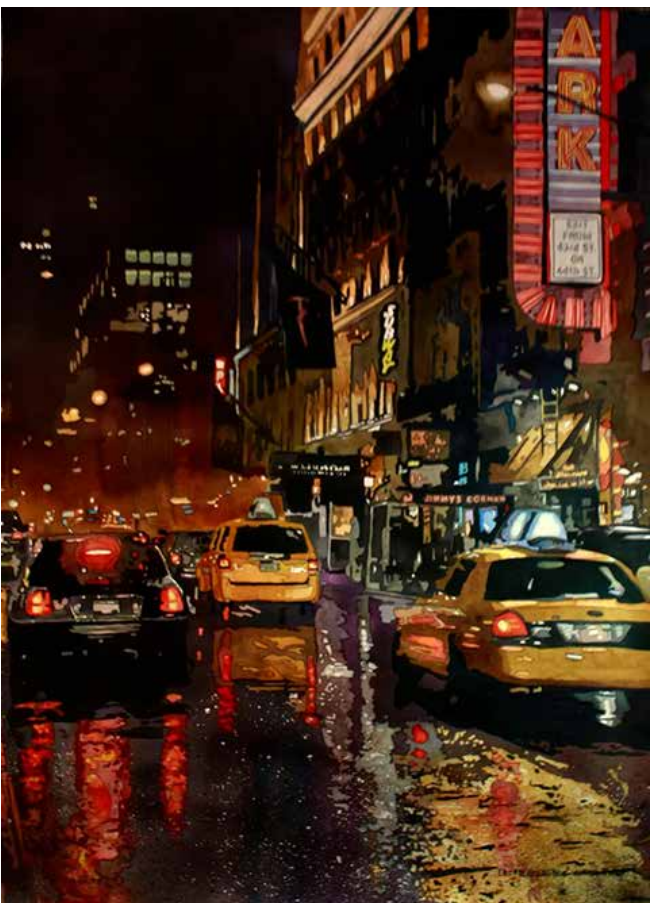
Laurie will be teaching both her pouring and her painting techniques over the course of the 3 day workshop. She is working on getting her materials list and planned projects to us soon!

Enrollment is available online <https://azwatercolor.com/juror-spring-and-fall-workshops/#!form/JurorWorkshop>

Workshop dates; Thursday through Saturday April 10, 11 & 12, 2025.

Click this link to see Laurie Goldstein-Warren's website <https://www.warrenwatercolors.com/>

Laurie's work has been widely exhibited across the United States and has also exhibited in Japan, Turkey, Greece, Canada, England and China. Her work can be seen in Splash 13, 14, 18, 21 and 23. She has also been published several times in Watercolor Artist magazine as well as Art of Watercolour magazine.



In October 2025 we are looking forward to having Lian Quan Zhen come to teach a three-day workshop and jury our AWA Fall Members Exhibition.

Enrollment will be available online soon. Please check AWA the website for details <https://azwatercolor.com/>

Lian Quan Zhen is a sought-after watercolor and Chinese painting artist and teacher in the US and abroad.

Lian Quan Zhen website <https://www.lianspainting.com/>



Member Workshop News

EXCITING MEMBER WORKSHOPS FOR 2025

By Karen Gray
AWA Member Workshop Chair

David Amsellem conducted his workshop “Top Tips for Portrait Painting” in March. His workshop was well paced and informative. Participants began with an interesting challenge. Two colors, one warm and one cool, had to be selected from our palette. Then those colors were diluted and mixed proportionately on a grid. Those same two colors were then used to create a portrait with an emphasis on value. Later, more natural skin tone colors could be applied to this value study to create a portrait. Members were all working from their own reference photo, and there were some beautiful results obtained.

In November, 2025, our last member workshop for the year will be conducted by Cindy Welch. Her workshop is titled “Holiday Reflections”. She will once again illustrate her talent in painting glittering glass and reflected light. The theme will be a holiday image with plenty of opportunities to capture light in our painting.

Member workshops for 2026 are in the process of being organized. Look forward to a variety of artistic opportunities.

You can find the registration opportunity for the November 2025 workshop on the AWA website under Member Workshops. You will be able to complete the registration conveniently online with your credit card.



THANKS TO DAVID AMSELLEM



David demonstrated his portrait style at the March meeting.

Welcome New Members

Susan Walsh
Caroline Linscott
Leslie Scudiere

Del Decil Scholarship News

By Dyanne Locati
Scholarship Chair

Our AWA scholarship selection is arriving soon. The committee will meet Sunday, March 30, 2025, to view the art major student applications. We will be selecting two students to receive our AWA scholarships. Thank you to everyone that has donated items and purchased raffle tickets to help fund this project.

After the selection, all the students that receive scholarships are required to give a presentation at the April 15th AAG meeting. All AWA members can attend this meeting. It is enlightening to listen to why they decided to be in this field and see examples of their work.

The students will have their artwork displayed at the Shemer Art Gallery from May 21st to July 10th, 2025. The artists' reception and awards presentation will be Thursday, May 22nd from 5:30 to 7:30. Our AWA members are invited to attend.

Each AWA meeting features the scholarship raffle table with many items that most artists love. There is the opportunity to put your name on a silent auction bid for a beautifully framed painting. Our April AWA meeting will feature an original painting donated by Betsy Aguirre --- This framed painting is by artist: Diane Maxie

You can also buy donated slightly used books or purchase a ticket for the raffle. Arizona Art Supply generously gives us \$25. gift certificate for a raffle item. With a \$1.00 raffle ticket you might win that certificate! Bring your dollars to our very informative meetings and look for the raffle table to see what you can win. All donations will support Art Major Students that receive our scholarships.



At our March meeting we honored Melanie Harman for her outstanding contributions to AWA. THANK YOU Melanie.

Sherry Kimmel Honoree Chair

Save the Date!

May 8, 2025

The AWA Program is Photography!

The program will be on photography for submittal of artwork to exhibitions, reference material for artwork and personal photos. Artificial and natural lighting with your camera and/or cell phone will be the primary subjects.

Darrell Pierson and Sherry Whitney will answer questions on any thing to do with photography. They also have some low cost accessories to aid your photography.

Please join us and bring your questions.

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

50th Exhibition of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

Celebrating Artistic Excellence in Watercolor

If you haven't had a chance to view the paintings in the 50th Exhibition of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies, you are in for a treat. This prestigious event is an annual gathering that showcases some of the finest watercolor artists from across the western United States. This year, we are immensely proud to announce that 15 talented artists from the Arizona Watercolor Association (AWA) have been accepted into the exhibition.

About the Exhibition

The Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS) is a consortium of watercolor societies dedicated to promoting the art of watercolor and supporting the artists who create it. Each year, the WFWS hosts an exhibition that features the best works submitted by member societies. This year's show is particularly special as it marks the 50th anniversary of the exhibition, a milestone that speaks to the enduring appeal and significance of watercolor painting.

The 50th Exhibition of the WFWS will be held from February 1 to May 4, 2025, in Lubbock, Texas. <https://wtws.org/50th-anniversary-gallery/>

AWA Artists in the Spotlight

We are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of the 15 artists from the Arizona Watercolor Association who have been accepted into this year's exhibition. Their inclusion in such a prestigious show is a testament to their talent, creativity, and dedication to the art of watercolor. Each artist brings a unique perspective and style to the exhibition, contributing to a rich and varied collection of works that are sure to captivate and inspire.

Grace Haverty	Christine Alfery
Christine Oliver	Kim Johnson
Linda Pullinsi	Carol McSweeney
Jordan Kirk	Teri Wilson-Williams
Karen Donmoyer	
Tom Herbert	
Rupali Holmes	
Dyanne Locati	
Lauralee Stenzel	
Susan Seaborn	
Annie Strack	



Please support these SPONSORS!

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.



AWA Board Members

President: Ron Peters
 Past President: Ruth Phillibin
 1st VP Programs: Donna England
 2nd VP Exhibitions: Karen Donmoyer
 3rd VP Membership: Tanya Lemma
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 WFWS Delegate: David Amsellem
 WFWS Alternate: Tanya Lemma
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 Director Member Workshops: Karen Gray

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 Scholarship Co-chair: Carole Matthews
 Webmaster: Rupali Holmes
 Webmaster Assistant: David Amsellem
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 Honoree: Sherry Kimmel
 Newsletter Editor/Publisher/Publicity: Janice Wittwer
 Social Media: Mona Houle
 E-Blast Publisher: Rupali Holmes

Did you know that as a member of AWA, you are automatically a member of the Arizona Art Alliance? This group has a wealth of information for artists, including artist opportunities, inspirational stories, and professional tips for artists! Be sure to sign up for their newsletter when you browse the wealth of information at <https://azartalliance.com/>

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.

News for the newsletter will be due by the 20th, for publication by the 1st of the following month.