

MAY 2025

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



President's Message

Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!
Celebrating 65 years, 1960-2025

If you missed our Spring show at Shemer Art Center you missed a good one. I'm always so blown away with the talent in our association. Shemer puts on a good show and were great hosts for our association. Kudos to Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre for organizing this event. May is our last meeting before our summer break. If you have suggestions for our May board retreat on exhibition rules, please send them to me. I have received several suggestions to date. This summer looks to be a hot one, so if you are a studio painter (it's difficult to be a plein air painter when it's 115 degrees outside) you should be able to get some paintings done for our Fall show. If you haven't achieved it yet, work towards your Signature status in AWA. It's a goal that will keep you painting. Everybody is busy and finding time to paint isn't always easy. I make it a point to always have a sheet of paper on one of my boards ready to go. Sometimes it's just practice, trees, people, rocks, skies or whatever. Just lay down the paint and see what happens. Sometimes you will be surprised what happens. I have also joined a "Patreon" site that has a monthly exercise and critique. It makes you paint at least one painting per month. No matter how you do it, just do it.

And have a great Summer!

Remember our organization thrives on volunteers. And we always have positions available. CALL ME! 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: **Thursday, May 8.**

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

Photographing your art is the program.

Exhibition News

Spring Exhibition Showcases Exceptional Art!

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

AWA's Spring 2025 Exhibition, "Fluid Impressions" had a lovely opening/awards reception on the evening of April 17th at the Shemer Art Center. Juror Laurie Goldstein-Warren chose Peter Jeziorski's painting, "Yellow Slickers", as Best in Show!

Fifty-three member artists were represented in this show.

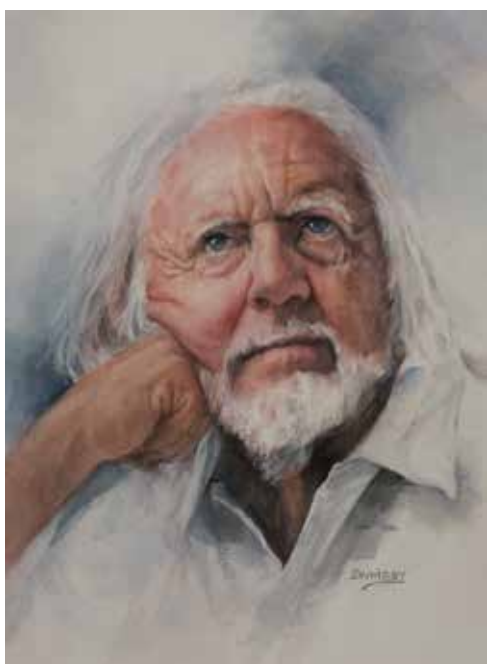
The show closes on May 15th and pick-up is from 3 to 6 p.m. at Shemer on that date.

In addition to Peter Jeziorski, several other artists were recognized with awards as listed below:

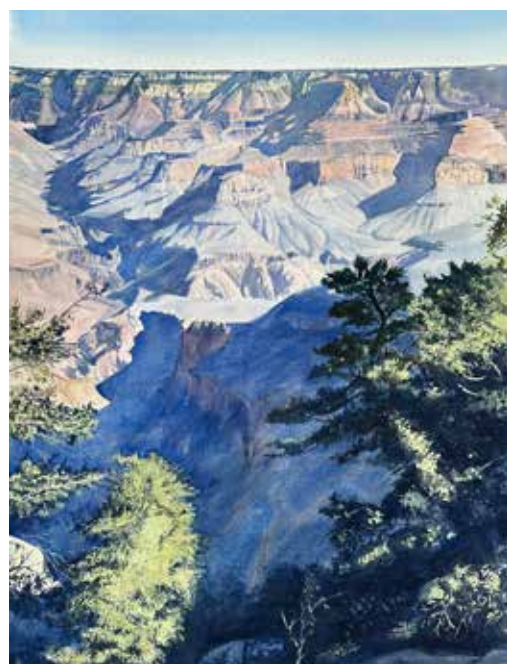
Peter Jeziorski	Best of Show
Sherry Whitney	Oman Award
Linda Sherman	Award of Distinction
Elizabeth Pfeiffer	President's Award
Tom Herbert	Award of Merit
Jane Underhill	Award of Merit
Kim Johnson Nechtman	Award of Merit
Susan Averill	M Graham
Linda Miller	Golden Artist Colors
John Erwin	Blick Art Materials
Teri Wilson-Williams	HK Holbein Artist Materials
Karen Donmoyer	Arizona Art Supply
Betsy Aguirre	HK Holbein Artist Materials
Robin Woodworth	Phoenix Art Museum



Best of Show *Yellow Slickers*



Oman Award *A Reflective Moment*



Award of Distinction *Canyon Gorge*

Juror Workshop News

Juror Workshop was a Big Success!

By Marion Droge

A big thank you to our Juror Workshop Artist, Laurie Goldstein-Warren and those artists that participated in her workshop!

Our AWA Spring 2025 Member's Exhibition juror and workshop instructor, Laurie Goldstein-Warren was a pleasure to host here in Phoenix. We were very lucky to have Laurie come to us from West Virginia. She gave us a very organized demonstration of her pouring process for our members program. This 1 hour demonstration was videotaped and is available on our website for members to view, check our website under the workshops drop down menu, look for 'Demos'.

Those AWA artists that participated in Laurie's workshop learned a number of tips and tricks throughout the three days. We poured a dynamic street scene and painted a more traditional still-life in Laurie's signature posterized style. These projects were a great balance as we worked on both paintings simultaneously. Laurie was helpful, generous and kind with her time and her materials.

Looking Ahead...

AWA Fall 2025 Juror Workshop – October 9, 10 & 11, 2025

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



Member Workshop News

LAST WORKSHOP FOR 2025

By Karen Gray
AWA Member Workshop Chair

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.

Apply for Signature Status

All who are eligible for Signature, Silver or Gold status, please send an e-mail with your name, a list of the shows (spring/fall and year) and the title of each painting to Honor Society Chair, Christine Oliver, at crorto1@gmail.com as soon as possible. Certificates will be awarded at the May program, May 8, 2025. Please refer to the bylaws for a detailed explanation of the point system and applying. Thank you.

May Program is Photography!

Just a reminder that the May 8 meeting is the last meeting until September 2025.

The program for the May meeting is Techniques in Lighting for Photography and will cover cameras and cell phones. This will include photos for submission to exhibitions. Darrell Pierson is looking forward to answering questions. Don't miss the tips and tricks he will be presenting.

If you have a suggestion for 2026 programs for the May and September meetings I would like to hear from you.

Donna England, Program Chair....paintbrushaz@gmail.com



Welcome New Members

Judy Burgess
Dorothy Crowe
Denise Cooney
Catherine Sickafoose

Del Decil Scholarship News

2025 AWA Scholarship Art Major Students

By Dyanne Locati
Scholarship Chair

On Sunday, March 30, 2025, eight committee members met to select students to receive scholarships. The committee consists of members from AAG, Arizona Clay, Shemer Art Center and AWA. We view all applicants' information and three images from each art major student. After a quick run through, we review the submissions, then decide if the student is a yes, no or maybe. The "No" column is removed, then we move on to the next step of deciding which students work will fit into a watercolor or clay category. AWA requires the artist to be painters or have the skill to draw. Clay requires students to be skilled in the ceramic area of art. The other students are in a wide variety of art majors and decisions are not made very quickly. Each individual is carefully viewed and their explanations about their artwork are read.

After four hours we had our students selected to receive 10 scholarships.

Two were selected to receive our AWA funds:

Alondra Mora will receive \$1,000. AWA – Del Decil scholarship

Aevah Rios will receive \$1,000. AWA – Gayla Bonnell scholarship

~Each student was required to attend and present a PowerPoint of their artwork at the AAG general meeting on April 15th from 6 to 9:00

~Student Scholarship Show – Shemer Art Center – May 21 to July 10th

~Reception and award ceremony – May 22, from 5:30 to 7:30



Blueberry Cheesecake by Alondra Mora



Magpie by Aevah Rios

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

AWA Artists Win Big at 50th Exhibition!

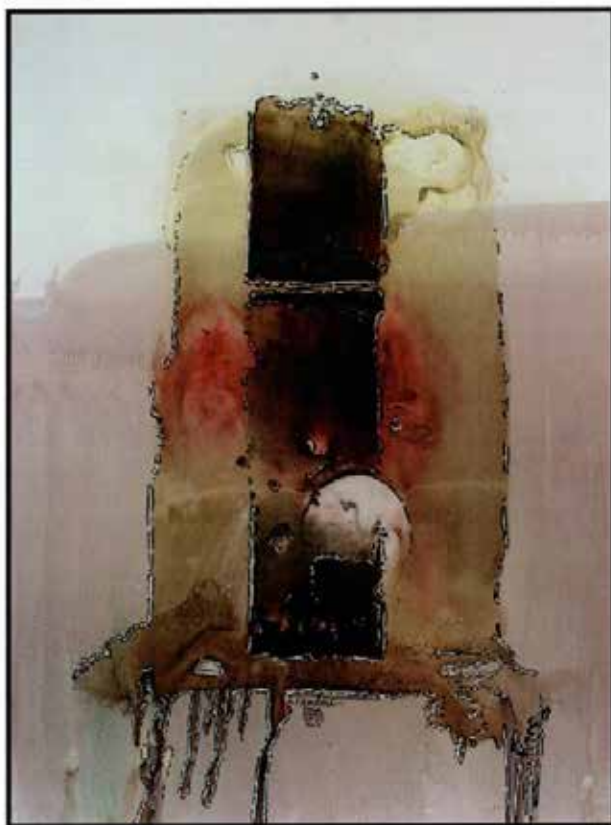
Western Federation of Watercolor Societies 50th Exhibition was impressive! There were over 762 entries in which Juror Ken Call selected 100 paintings that were exhibited at the Museum of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX.

What a fantastic showing the Arizona Watercolor Association had at the awards ceremony for WFWS#50! We had FIVE artists win awards, including Best of Show by Tom Herbert! Also winning prestigious awards were Kim Johnson-Nechtman, Susan Seaborn, Grace Haverty, and Dyanne Locati. Congratulations!

You can see the show online: <https://wfws.org/>



50th WFWS
Best of Show



\$2,500

Ebb and Flow

Tom Herbert, AWA

Special Award in Honor of Beth Pennington



More awards next page

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

More awards won by member artists:



Sax Player by Grace Haverty



Hang Ten by Kim Johnson Nechtman



Tree Roots by Dyanne Locati



Dance by Susan Seaborn

Artist-to-Artist HINTS AND HACKS

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

Working with Rule of Thirds

Using the “Rule of Thirds” effectively requires the painter to consider all elements in the picture. The following is an excerpt from Empty Easel, a great online site for art tips and how to sell online. <http://emptyeasel.com/>

How to use the rule of thirds in your art

Similar to how we'd use the golden ratio or rabatment, by aligning an image with these lines or by placing our focal points near the power points we can give balance to a composition while simultaneously making it more engaging to the eye.

However, it's very important to consider ALL the vertical elements in an image when you start aligning things by thirds—take a look at the photos below to see why.



In the left-hand photo there are two strong vertical images—the tent pole and the guy in the red shirt and jeans.

That red shirt against its cooler surroundings is the true center of interest, so by placing the tent pole 1/3 from the left in the first photo we've pushed the red shirt to the center and created a composition that borders on the mundane.

The composition of the center photo is even worse. When the red shirt is 1/3 from the right edge, both figures seem to be watching the shiny metal pot leave the picture frame. Unintentionally, we've created a [visual path](#) that leads the viewer's eyes directly off the lower right edge of the photo.

Notice the improvement in last photo, however, when we put the red shirt 1/3 from the left. The composition now feels balanced.

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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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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.