

SEPTEMBER 2025

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



President's Message

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

Welcome Back!

I hope you had a great summer and got a lot of painting done while staying inside and surviving the heat. Our Fall exhibit is underway and will be held at the Holland Gallery of Fine Art in Scottsdale. I hope you all supported it by entering your work. I was able to travel a bit this summer to New Mexico and got a lot of inspiration from their beautiful landscapes.

Several things happened over the Summer, one was we were awarded a grant from the Arizona Architecture Foundation to start a scholarship in the name of one of our past members, architect, teacher and artist/author Robert Oliver. We will be building on this initial grant award and the first student recipient will be awarded next Spring. If you knew Bob and would like to donate to the fund contact Dyanne Locati chair of the Scholarship committee.

The other happening was a generous gift from member Ray Sol. Ray; his wife Jean and daughter were early members of AWA. Ray is off to Ireland and donated a very large amount of art supplies to AWA. Most new, never or hardly used supplies and paper. These will be offered to our membership for sale, and all proceeds will go to the scholarship fund. Thank you Ray! Good luck in Ireland, and make sure you have plenty of green paint.

We are also working on a new project to celebrate our 65th anniversary. More to come on this.

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. November is our annual membership meeting when we vote in a new board. If you are interested in serving, please contact me or any member of the board.

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, September 11.**

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

There will be a lecture on art materials.

Exhibition News

Fall Exhibition at Holland Gallery of Fine Art

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

We have been busy during the months of July and August receiving your many beautiful entries for the Fall Members' Exhibition to be held at the Holland Gallery of Fine Art. We are excited to have so many of our talented members participating! Additionally, we are especially thankful for the work done by Rupali Holmes who oversaw the online entries and processed each image that was entered.

Overall, 141 paintings were entered by 58 of our members. Our juror, Lian Quan Zhen now has the difficult task of choosing 45-50 paintings for the show and after Holland Gallery approves his selections, we will be notifying members of the results by email and on our website.

Dates for Exhibition:

Tuesday, October 14th **Drop off at Holland Center between 9 and 11 a.m.**

Friday, October 24th **Awards Reception at Holland Center from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

Monday, December 1st **Pick up Artwork from Holland Center between 9 and 11 a.m.**

At our Board Retreat this past May, we decided to allow smaller mats on a trial basis so at this show you will likely see some artwork with mats that are 2 inches in width rather than the 3 inches that we used to require as our minimum. You may also notice that we decreased what we normally require as a minimum painting size from 100 square inches to 80 square inches. The effect of this is to allow 8 x 10 paintings which we know many of you enjoy doing.

Please continue to communicate with us to the extent you have further recommendations. We did not have enough time at our last board retreat to thoroughly discuss and act on all of your suggestions, but we remain open to further modifying our procedures in response to your feedback.

In 2026, we are scheduled to be at the Fountain Hills Community Center for our Spring Members' Exhibition in April and at Surprise City Hall for our Fall Members' Exhibition in October. Exact dates for these shows will be provided in 2026. Special thanks to Karen Gray for doing the initial legwork necessary to secure the venue in Surprise.

Bring Your Questions to the September Program

Steven Dembrowsky, the General Manager of the Glendale AZ location of Blick Art Materials, is coming to your September 11 meeting to have a Lecture on Art Materials. Steven has been working for Museums and Art Stores for over 15 years and has knowledge about a wide variety of media. Steven cover a assortment of topics including pigments, binders, surfaces, brushes and mixed media applications of materials.

Please come with questions, as this is not intended to be simply a talk, but an opportunity to find out information you're all interested in. You can see some examples of Steven's work at srdart.org.



Lian Quan Zhen

Juror Workshop News

Two New Juror Workshops to Consider

By Marion Droge

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

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

Enrollment will be available soon for 2026 workshops

Spring 2026 Juror Workshop – April 9, 10 & 11, 2026

Artist Kristi Grussendorf <https://kristigrussendorf.com>

Kristi doesn't remember a time without art. Her mother earned her degree in art & also taught so it was something that was valued & encouraged at home. Kristi graduated with a BFA (painting & drawing emphasis) from the University of Utah & is privileged to have studied under many world famous artists. Over the years, she has earned signature status in the top professional organizations. She has been included in several national & international publications & has work in many private and public collections. She enjoys teaching workshops (plein air in Spain & France!) doing demonstrations and jurying exhibitions. Kristi considers herself a lifelong student & was fortunate to learn the value of exploration & play from her young students when she was a lower school art specialist at Waterford School in Sandy, UT. Kristi has been a member of Utah Watercolor Society for a very long time serving many roles including president and Western Fed Chair.

Fall 2026 Juror Workshop – October 8, 9 & 10, 2026

Artist Carl Purcell <https://carlpurcell.com/>

Carl Purcell taught painting and drawing at Snow College in Utah for 30 years. He is currently retired from the college but is a popular painting and drawing workshop instructor, having conducted workshops throughout the West, from Alaska to Arizona, and in Great Britain.

Carl is the author of the North Light publications, *Painting With Your Artist's Brain* (a watercolor book) and *Drawing With Your Artist's Brain*. In addition his art has been featured in numerous articles published in *The Artist's Magazine* and in *Splash I*. He has been invited to jury exhibits in Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Michigan and California.

Carl has achieved signature member status in the National Watercolor Society and was given honor member status in the Utah Watercolor Society for his contributions to watercolor in the state. He has won numerous awards, including a purchase award in the 2008 National Watercolor Society's international exhibition. In 2009 Carl was chosen as one of the panel of three judges for the National Watercolor Society Annual Exhibition.

"Stone Cadence" is one of a series of paintings I have been working on that explore the rhythmic patterns I see and feel in rock surfaces. I am drawn to the contrast of vertical fissures and cracks that cut through the horizontal layers of rock strata. To me these counter thrusts are like the unplanned events that cut through the well-laid plans of our lives. I see these rocks as living forms, moving and dancing to the rhythm of life."

Member Workshop News

MEMBER WORKSHOPS FOR 2025 AND 2026

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.

Workshops for spring of 2026 are also available now. There will be a variety of topics.

In January, Sherry Kimmel will share her renowned workshop titled “Painterly Collage”. She will guide the participants through the process of creating unique painted papers using a variety of techniques. Then everyone will apply these papers to the underpainting of their subject resulting in a one-of-a-kind work of art.

In February, Linda Pullinsi’s workshop “Water Reflections in Watercolor” will illustrate using watercolor to capture reflections of light in water as seen in nature. Stunning landscapes will surely be the result.

In March, AWA’s noteworthy abstract artist, Stan Kurth, will conduct his workshop titled “Intuitive Painting Mindset” for abstract art. Everyone’s creativity will be energized.

You can find the registration opportunity for all workshops on the AWA website under Member Workshops. You will be able to complete the registration conveniently online.



ARIZONA ART ALLIANCE – ENRICHING LIFE THROUGH ART

As members of AWA, you are also part of the Arizona Art Alliance (AzAA), a nonprofit organization that brings together 18 art organizations and represents more than 4,000 artists across Arizona. Together, we create opportunities to exhibit, learn, and connect while also giving back through community outreach.

Right now, AzAA is featuring its annual summer virtual exhibition, *The Heat is On*, showcasing the creativity and talent of Arizona Artists, including our member artists, Melanie Harman, Rupali Holmes, Karen Gray, Dyanne Locati, and Denise Duval.

Coming up in September, we invite you to visit the *Unspoken: Survivors Stories*, a powerful international exhibition raising awareness for suicide prevention. The show is online and at the Mood Room. Each Saturday AzAA will host free art workshops at the gallery.

In addition, don’t miss the Professional Tips for Artists section on the AzAA website, <https://azartalliance.com/professional-tips-for-artists/> you’ll find timely resources—including tips for preparing for the busy fall show season.

Stay connected, get inspired, and take advantage of all that your AzAA membership offers.

<https://azartalliance.com/>

Del Decil Scholarship News

2025 AWA Scholarship Art Major Students

*By Dyanne Locati
Scholarship Chair*

On May 22nd, I attended the reception for the students that we selected to receive scholarships. Everyone was excited to see the artwork produced by each art major student in attendance. The committee from Arizona Artist Guild, Arizona Clay and myself, representing AWA, were looking forward to viewing the student artwork in person. And we were not disappointed! We were amazed with our selections and thought they looked so much better than anticipated.

Our AWA Scholarship Students, Alondra Mora - a watercolor artist, and Aevah Rios - an acrylic artist, were included in the Student Show at Shemer Art Center.

What an opportunity for all artist that attend our next September 11th meeting. A member has moved and is donating art supplies to be raffled in benefit of our AWA Scholarship program. Included will be... Brushes, acrylic and watercolor paints, hair dryers, rubber stamps, pallets, many types of paper, colored pencils, pastels, marker sets, templates and much more!

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

51st Exhibition to be in Denver Colorado

WFWS #51 is just around the corner. Colorado Watercolor Society will be hosting this year's events in Denver. The juror is Xi Guo <https://www.xiguopainting.com/>

Important Dates

Online Entries: Dec 12 to Feb 10

Mar 4 - Accepted artists notified

Apr 1 - Matted Paintings due to AWA Delegates

May 4 - June 27 Exhibition at the Curtis Center, Denver CO

May 8 - WFWS#51 Gala and Awards Reception

June 29 - Paintings shipped back to AWA Delegates

Remember, as AWA Members, you are eligible to enter this prestigious event! We encourage you to get your brushes wet and create! We will have more detailed information available in the coming months. Stay tuned.

Artist-to-Artist HINTS AND HACKS

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

USING NATURAL LIGHT LAMPS FOR PAINTING

Daylight lamps for artists consistently simulate natural daylight, providing perfect color matching qualities and protects the eyes from fatigue. People feel more stimulated, focused and productive.

This picture was taken in a well-lit room with 3 large windows and ceiling lights directly over the desk. You can see the difference with the lighting around this lamp.

The EYOCEAN Desk Lamp, 31.5" wide, is one of the widest natural light lamps available. It clamps to any surface, and has a flexible gooseneck that tilts to any angle. It is available on Amazon for \$69.99 and well worth it.

Once you try painting with natural light lamps, you will want one for every work surface. Watch your colors pop.



How to Submit for Signature Status

It is YOUR responsibility to track your points and request Signature Status when eligible. You will need to e-mail your request for Signature Status to the Honor Society Chair. Include your name and a list of all the shows you have been juried into, including date (spring or fall and year) and the title of each painting. Honor Society Chair: Christine Oliver crorto1@gmail.com

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 by noon on October 17, 2025. Certificates will be awarded at the November program, November 13, 2025. Please refer to the bylaws for a detailed explanation of the point system and applying.

Keep your juried certificates for your records; these are not required when you send in your submissions. For more detailed information, refer to the AWA Bylaws posted on the website: <https://azwatercolor.com>.

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

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

Welcome New Members

Barb Hucek
 Linda Spanier
 Mimi Leiper
 Carolyn Golden
 Tiffany Collins
 Ronald Crowe
 Jacob Bentz

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.