

OCTOBER 2025

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



President's Message

Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

Celebrating 65 years, 1960-2025

It's that time of year again to VOTE!

As I request each year at this time, and really throughout the year, board elections will be held at the November membership meeting for the 2026 year.

I have repeatedly announced at our meetings and in my presidents letters our organization runs on volunteer help. Our board and committee members serve all year to make AWA what it is today.

Member workshops don't just happen without the efforts of our program chair. Renown artists don't just happen to show up and give 3-day workshops, these are planned out several years in advance. Our Western Fed volunteers track the WFWS events each year and make it possible for our members to compete and submit their work for judging. Bylaws need to be updated and revised as needed. Our scholarship program for deserving students happens each year because of our scholarship chair working with AAG to identify deserving students. We are a successful association financially and all our accounts are kept up and reported by our Treasurer to make sure we stay financially solvent, and bills are paid. Board minutes and recording is required for all we do by the Secretary of the board who is also in charge of Signature status approvals. This newsletter goes out each month because of a volunteer writer and editor. We have a website that we all depend on for information, sign-ups for workshops and staying in touch with what is happening in our association, and it is NOT kept up and provided by AI (YET). I'm sure I have missed mentioning some service areas, like President elect/president.

So, think about serving your association by volunteering for an office or committee. Several of our committee chairs are looking for co-chairs to move into chair positions, so you can learn on the job. Please seek out and talk to your officers and see where you can help and find out more about the position and what it entails. It's very rewarding to serve AWA. This is a great group of individuals that you will find are here to help. I think it was Ben Franklin who said, "if you want something done, ask a busy person". YOU CAN DO IT!

We have formed a committee to publish a 65-year booklet honoring AWA. If you have publishing or editing experience or are just interested in helping in this effort, please contact me or Barbara Freedman at our next meeting.

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, October 8.**

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

There will be a demo by Lian Quan Zhen.

Exhibition News

Fall Exhibition at Holland Gallery of Fine Art

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

Our 65th Anniversary Exhibit will open on October 14th and will be available for viewing through the end of November.

Congratulations to the following artists whose work was juried into the show by Lian Quan Zhen:

Betsy Aguirre, Kathy Allegri, Jim Allison, David Amsellem, Susan Averill, Carol Lei Bendell, Sallie Bowen, Mary Beth Cornelius, Mary Dohmeier, Karen Donmoyer, Marion Droge, Denise Duvall, Tal Dvir, Diane Eide, Larry Ellis, John Erwin, Barbara Freedman, Ray Goodrow, Karen Gray, Melanie Harman, Thomas Herbert, Rupali Holmes, Gurukirn Khalsa, Jordan Kirk, Tanya Lemma, Caroline Linscott, Dyanne Locati, Sandy Martin, Trish Mayberry, Yolande McAlevey, Carol McSweeney, Linda Miller, Kathie Neal, Sandy Newell, Christine Oliver, Ron Peters, Elizabeth Pfeiffer, Linda Pullinsi, Pamela Root, Raymond Sol, Lauralee Stenzel, Deb Sullivan, Jane Underhill, DK Vesco, Risa Waldt, Holly Weisel, Cindy Welch, Sherry Whitney, Teri Wilson-Williams, and Robin Woodworth.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, important upcoming dates are:

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.

If you would like to visit the gallery, please plan your visit in advance by confirming with the Holland Center that the gallery room will be open for viewing when you are there. (info@hollandcenter.org/480 488-1090) Holland does host other groups/activities from time to time so we would hate for you to make a trip and not have access to the show.

We hope to see all our members at the Awards Reception and 65th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, October 24th!

As you may know an annual plein air festival took place at Prescott at the end of August (named Art in Pines).

It was an intense 3 days painting event around beautiful Prescott, each artist presented 5-7 artworks at Yavapai Art Gallery at the end, so it was a really big show. Congratulations to AWA member Igor Kogan, who won first place.



Lian Quan Zhen

Juror Workshop News

Enrollment available soon for Two New Juror Workshops in 2026

By Marion Droge

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

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

Three spaces left due to cancellations!

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

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



Kristi Grussendorf

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.



Working Girls

Juror Workshop News

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."



Carl Purcell



Devon Country Home

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. Turn your right brain on feel the artist inside you.

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.



AWA Scholarship News

Check Out Those Raffle Items!

By Dyanne Locati
Scholarship Chair

Attending the AWA meetings is full of interesting information and an array of items on the raffle table. The table usually has one \$25. gift certificate from Arizona Art Supply – Thank you for your support!!!!

Raffle tickets are \$1.00. This money goes to the scholarship funds.

We also have donated supplies that were given to AWA. Thank you to Mr. Ray Sol for being so generous. These items will be on the raffle table. You will be able to take items home after a donation to help with our scholarship funds.

We will be giving out three \$1,000. Scholarships to art major students. Each one is in the name of the donor. Del Decil, Gayla Bonnell and this year we have a new scholarship in the name of Robert Oliver. These funds were given to AWA from the Arizona Architecture Foundation – Preserving the Legacy of Arizona Architecture. We thank the foundation for their generous Grant Award.

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.

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
 Recording Secretary: Christine Oliver
 Treasurer: Karla Milinovich
 WFWS Delegate: David Amsellem
 WFWS Alternate: Tanya Lemma
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 Director Member Workshops: Karen Gray

AWA Committee Chairs

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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

Kelly Lodato
 Chris Sommerfelt
 Sue Anderson

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.