

NOVEMBER 2025

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



President's Message

Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

Celebrating 65 years, 1960-2025

We will elect a new (or maybe not) board of directors for 2026. If you can make it to the next meeting to vote it would be appreciated.

Our 65-year committee has been meeting over the last month to plan the publication to celebrate our 65th anniversary. We are making headway in getting it put together to publish next year. If you are interested in being in this publication, keep an eye out for the application in your email. More information is in the newsletter this month. 60 artists will be featured in the book, and it will be on a first come first served basis to be in the book. I artist per page and we will be limiting it to the first 60 AWA member artists.

I have received from the family of Robert Oliver (past AWA and AWS award winning artist) 3 of his paintings that have been entered in an art by Architects exhibit this November for sale. All proceeds will go towards the AWA Robert Oliver scholarship fund started with a generous gift from the Arizona Architectural Foundation. More information on any of our scholarship programs is available from our chair of the scholarship committee Dyanne Locati.

For AWA to continue to prosper and grow lies with our membership volunteers. We have maintained a stable financial base over the years in large part due to our successful membership programs and 3-day workshops. A big thankyou goes out to Karen Gray and Marion Droge for their hard work in putting these programs together for our membership. If you are interested in helping with either of these programs, please contact me or one of these members.

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies entry date is fast approaching. Last year was a stellar year for AWA members including "Best of Show" by Tom Herbert. We are all automatic members of WFWS by being a member of AWA. So, start painting or if you already have your paintings done, be ready to enter. More information forthcoming.

Here is my standard plug. Please remember we prosper and continue to provide our members with a great organization by the efforts of our volunteers. PLEASE consider stepping up and volunteering. Ask any board member for more information, they are listed in your newsletter.

We don't meet in December so a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

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, November 13.**

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

There will be a demo by Cindy Welch.

Exhibition News

Reception at Holland Gallery of Fine Art

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

The Fall Exhibition Awards and 65th Anniversary Celebration was held on October 24th at the lovely Holland Gallery of Fine Art in North Scottsdale. Juror Lian Quan Zhen chose Carol McSweeney's painting, "So Much More", as Best in Show!

Fifty artists were represented in this show and several were recognized with awards as listed below this article.

The show will run through the end of November but with the Thanksgiving holidays, the last day for viewing will be November 26th. Pick up will be on December 1st from 9 to 11 a.m.

Our exhibitions are only successful with the contributions of our wonderful volunteers.

Special thanks to Sally Gonzalez for her work in obtaining all our merchant awards as well as her creation of the lovely certificates and organization of all the awards. Thank you as well to Karla Milinovich for making sure there were checks for the monetary award winners and thank you to our President Ron Peters and Karen Gray for assisting with the awards ceremony.

The reception additionally featured snacks, a festive cake and flowers beautifully arranged by Linda Miller. Gratitude is also due to Melanie Harman, Carol Lei Bendell, Risa Waldt and Karen Gray for their assistance in setting up for the reception.



Best of Show Carol McSweeney "So Much More"

Cash Award Name

Best of Show

Jochumson Award

Award of Distinction

"65th Anniversary Award"

Mildred (Mickey) Daniels Award

President's Award

Award of Merit

Award of Merit

Winner Name

Carol McSweeney

Sherry Whitney

Teri Wilson-Williams

Tom Herbert

Cindy Welch

Risa Waldt

Larry Ellis

Ray Goodrow

Merchant Award Grantor

M Graham Materials

HK Holbein Artist Materials

HK Holbein Artist Materials

Arizona Art Supply

Blick Art Materials

Arizona Art Supply

Phoenix Art Museum

Arizona Art Supply

Winner Name

Lauralee Stenzel

Jordan Kirk

Raymond Sol

DK Vesco

Tanya Lemma

Deb Sullivan

Betsy Aguirre

Elizabeth Pfeiffer

Exhibition News



Jochumson Award
Sherry Whitney "The Old Man by the Sea"



Award of Distinction
Teri Wilson-Williams "Future Heroes"

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.

Juror Workshop News

Enrollment available soon for Two New Juror Workshops in 2026

By Marion Droge

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

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

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

Artist Carl Purcell <https://carlpurcell.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

Three Day Workshop Was a Big Success!

Lian Quan Zhen's October demonstration is now available to view on our AWA website. <https://azwatercolor.com/demos/>

We had an excellent three day workshop with Lian Quan Zhen.

Lian's style is creative and intuitive with both loose and detailed elements in his paintings. He paints stunning works using just the three primary colors. He spent the workshop showing his expert watercolor skills with apparent ease. Lian's expertise and instruction were greatly appreciated by the students. We sincerely thank him for dedicating his time to our art group.



Lian Quan Zhen demonstrates with a painting of flamingoes.

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

Valuable Painting Won at October Raffle!

*By Dyanne Locati
Scholarship Chair*

What a surprise we encountered when our fall 2025 juror, Lian Quan Zhen, gave a painting to AWA for the Scholarship raffle. Our very own hard-working board member, Christine Oliver, had the lucky ticket drawn by our vice president, Donna England. Christine was extremely delighted with this special gift!

The table usually has one \$25. gift certificate from Arizona Art Supply – Thank you for your continued support!!!! Along with this certificate are other donated items that you may choose to place your raffle ticket.

We also have books and other supplies that may be purchased as a donation to the fund.

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

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/>



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	AWA Committee Chairs
President: Ron Peters	Parliamentarian: Candice Diaz
Past President: Ruth Phillibin	Scholarship Chair: Dyanne Locati
1st VP Programs: Donna England	Scholarship Co-chair: Carole Matthews
2nd VP Exhibitions: Karen Donmoyer	Webmaster: Rupali Holmes
3rd VP Membership: Tanya Lemma	Webmaster Assistant: David Amsellem
Recording Secretary: Christine Oliver	Honor Society: Christine Oliver
Treasurer: Karla Milinovich	Honoree: Sherry Kimmel
WFWS Delegate: David Amsellem	Newsletter Editor/Publisher/Publicity: Janice Wittwer
WFWS Alternate: Tanya Lemma	Social Media: Mona Houle
Director Juror Workshops: Marion Droge	E-Blast Publisher: Rupali Holmes
Director Member Workshops: Karen Gray	

Welcome New Members

Sarah Jurak

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.