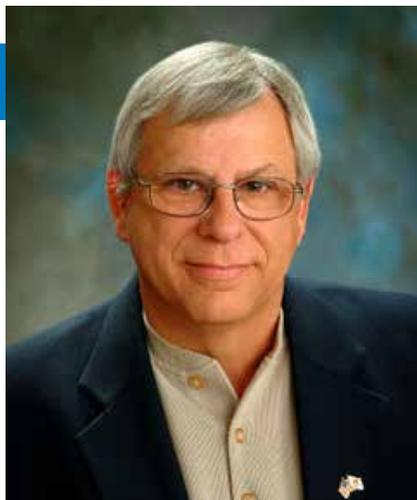


MARCH 2026

Visit our website: azwatercolor.com

f FOLLOW US:
AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



President's Message

Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

I'm going to take advantage of this month's president's letter to remind all members to enter a painting in our 65-yr celebration publication. Yes, we are now in our 66th year. One page one artist. Any painting you wish to show, no time limit on when you painted it. You can put any painting you want (some limitations on appropriate content) but pretty much what you want to show that represents your water media journey. We want to show

our members tremendous and varied talents. All the particulars are on the website. But basically, here it is. One page per artist, \$150 for which you will receive 8 copies of the final publication. It will be of a high quality printed and bound soft cover book. Our association did this for our 40th anniversary, when we celebrated the work of 40 of our members works. We hope for 65 this time, but we will publish it with whatever the final number is, but it will not exceed 65. First come first in. We have extended the final date to May 1, so you have plenty of time to enter your work. We also ask for a 250-word artist statement. We hope to sell any extra copies after artists copies are distributed for \$20 each and ALL this money goes back to the association to put into our scholarship fund.

This celebrates our associations growth over the past 25 yrs since our last publication. With almost 200 members we should have no problem getting to 65 entries. You are ALL worthy of entering in this 65-year celebratory publication. This will share our members works with many in the public. Many of you have been in these types of publications before and know the value it gives to your family and friends and clients.

Please take time to consider your entering in this important book that will celebrate 65-years of our associations water media journey. Those of us that have entered should be calling and encouraging our membership to support this effort to recognize our members artistic efforts.

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, March 12.**

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

There will be a demo by Stan Kurth.

Exhibition News

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

Thank you to the 58 artists who entered 131 paintings into the AWA 2026 Spring Exhibition!

Our juror, Kristi Grussendorf, has completed her jurying decisions and congratulations to the following 44 artists who have been accepted into the show:

Betsy Aguirre, Bruce Black, Mary Beth Cornelius, Deb Correnti, Candice Diaz, Karen Donmoyer, Marion Droge, Janet Dunn, Tal Dvir, Diane Eide, Larry Ellis, John Erwin, Gwen Foster, Barbara Freedman, Ray Goodrow, Holly Hand, Melanie Harman, Kimberly Harris, Tom Herbert, Joy Brinkley-Hill, Simone Huskey, Jordan Kirk, Tanya Lemma, Gina Lijoi, Dyanne Locati, Nancy Maine, Trish Mayberry, Yolande McAlevey, Carol McSweeney, Sandy Newell, Ron Peters, Samantha Peterson, Elizabeth Pfeiffer, Linda Pullinsi, Jeanne Ramsey, Linda Sherman, Lauralee Stenzel, Deb Sullivan, Jane Underhill, DK Vesco, Cindy Welch, Sherry Whitney, Teri Wilson-Williams, and Robin Woodworth.

The exhibition will be at the Fountain Hills Community Center (13001 N. La Montana Dr., Fountain Hills) from March 31st through April 30th.

Pertinent dates are as follows:

Tuesday, March 31st

Drop off at venue from 10 to noon

Thursday, April 23rd

Awards Reception from 4:30 to 6:30

Thursday, April 30th

Pick up from venue between 10 to noon

As usual a variety of cash and merchant awards will be presented at the awards reception and everyone is welcome to attend.

We look forward to putting on a great exhibition!

Showcase Your Work in AWA's 65th Anniversary Fine Arts Book!

May 1 is the extended deadline. Your Painting is powerful, exciting, dynamic, or atmospheric. Yes, AWA wants to showcase your Watermedia painting in the AWA's 65th Anniversary Fine Arts Book.

The committee has received some paintings from a wide variety of compositions, we have room for more.

Information below may be used to enter.

When your online entry is received, you will get a packet with publication details. A fee of \$150 buys one page showcasing one of your paintings, your choice. It can be a current painting or an earlier art work, completed during your membership in AWA. The fee offsets the cost of publication.

Participants receive eight (8) copies of the book to distribute as they see fit.

You will have Images of many of your colleagues to view and share.

Don't miss this chance to make your mark in AWA history.

Barbara Freedman is available if you have questions or trouble with the entry form. Contact phone: 623-687-7867 or bfreedman474@gmail.com

AWA Scholarship News

*By Dyanne Locati
Scholarship Chair*

Eight committee members selected 11 art major students to receive scholarships on February 8, 2026. There was a record 50 applicants to consider with 3 images of each student's submission... 150 images to view! We met at 10:00 and at 1:30 we completed the selections and the name of the scholarship each student receives.

Arizona Clay Association had one selection that represented the student that was considered one of the top ceramic entries. Arizona Artists Guild awarded 7 students with a variety of artist styles and genres. AWA was looking for students in the genre of water media and awarded three \$1,000. scholarships in the names of: Robert Oliver – Arizona Architecture Foundation, Del Decil and Gayla Bonnell.

This selection process involves a deep consideration of each applicant's resume, bio and the images they send for application. The first thing we do is have a quick run through of the scope and type of work that the students submitted. Then we start the process of each committee member giving a yes, no or maybe. The "No" responses are taken off the list. After this we start another round of viewing images to narrow down the maybe list. We read information and talk about quality, styles, and difficulty of each medium. If we have one "No" person that says, "Why do you want this student?" ... then, the other "Yes" person will defend their decision. This becomes very interesting to listen to thoughts, reasons and reactions. After many more rounds of viewing the images, we finally have the number needed for the scholarships.

It is very rewarding to know that each applicant is given a fair and equal opportunity to receive a scholarship. The selection committee is very thorough and thoughtful in this important decision for art major students.

AWA Awards Prize to High School Student

By Karen Donmoyer

On January 24th of this year, AWA awarded a \$100 prize to high school student, Keegan Lawson, in a show currently underway at the Shemer Art Center from January 14th through February 19, 2026. The show features the top two works of art by students from 46 high schools across the Valley. A board member attended the show and after reviewing the 89 pieces of art, shared 5 images with board members who then voted for the winner.



AWA Job Description

Yes you can do this!

This month we feature Dyanne Locati. She has been in charge of scholarships for nine years. It's time for some help. With her support and guidance you can't go wrong should you decide to help with this job. Below is the description.



Overview

The Scholarship Chairman is responsible for representing the Arizona Watercolor Association (AWA) in the selection and awarding of scholarships to deserving students. This role requires collaboration with partner organizations, participation in meetings, and management of scholarship-related activities.

Scholarship Selection Process

As the Scholarship Chairman, you will serve as the representative for the Arizona Watercolor Association during the process of selecting students to receive scholarships. This includes working closely with the Arizona Artists Guild, which contacts schools across Arizona and distributes scholarship information. Students respond to the Arizona Artists Guild representative, who gathers the submissions and compiles them into a PowerPoint presentation for review. Each year, organizations that contribute to scholarship funds convene to select full-time art majors for various scholarships. In these meetings, the AWA representative holds the final authority regarding the awarding of the Water Media category scholarship.

Organizational and Meeting Responsibilities

The Scholarship Chairman is expected to attend Arizona Watercolor Association monthly meetings and Governing Board meetings as needed. At these meetings, you will provide reports to the Governing Board, covering scholarship funds and other relevant information.

Raffle and Fundraising Duties

During each AWA meeting, the Scholarship Chairman is responsible for setting up and maintaining materials donated for raffling or selling at the raffle table. An assistant may help with these tasks. The Chairman collects money from items that are sold or raffled and delivers the funds to the AWA Treasurer. After the meeting, it is important to clean up the table and store the items in the designated storage area.

Student Recognition

The Scholarship Chairman attends the Student Art Show Reception or the Student Presentation at an Arizona Artists Guild meeting to personally present an AWA Certificate to the selected student, recognizing their achievements and awarding their scholarship.

Awards and Honors

By Sherry Kimmel
Honoree Chair

Rupali Holmes - Webmaster



Rupali Holmes, left, and Sherry Kimmel

For the past 15 years, the Arizona Watercolor Association has recognized Board Members and Committee Chairs three times a year. We're now pleased to also highlight our honorees in the monthly newsletter.

In January 2026, we honored Rupali Holmes.

Rupali began taking art classes in high school, where she painted in watercolor. In fall 2001, she moved from India to the United States to pursue a master's degree in Computer Science at Arizona State University. A few years later, she continued her art education by taking three drawing classes at community colleges in Phoenix.

Since fall 2017, Rupali has painted regularly and exclusively in watercolors. She has used her art to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society since 2017. For five years, she donated all profits from the sale of her pet portrait commissions, cards, and art prints to LLS.

Rupali joined AWA in February 2022 and became Assistant Webmaster and eBlast Publisher that May. In 2024, she stepped into the role of Webmaster. She maintains the AWA website and sets up member and juror workshops, as well as the Spring and Fall exhibitions. She also eBlasts the monthly newsletter and occasional announcements. In these roles, she works closely with board members to support their roles. When AWA hosted the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies annual exhibition in 2024, Rupali helped set up submissions through ArtCall. She manages all of this for AWA while also maintaining a full-time job, generously giving her time and energy to support the organization.

Rupali is a signature member of AWA and Contemporary Watercolorists of Arizona (CWA).

Rupali, you have been a true asset as Webmaster—conscientious, accommodating, responsive, and reliable. You consistently go above and beyond in your service to AWA. Thank you!

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

WFWS #51 is in Denver Colorado

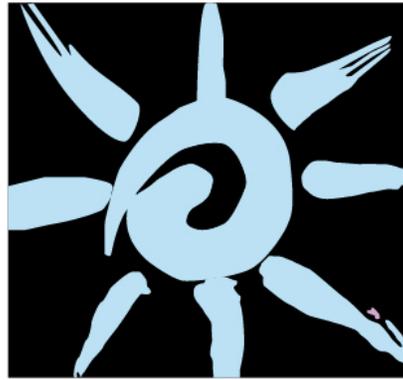
Congratulations to our AWA members juried into the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies #51st Exhibition!

Karen Donmoyer
Marion Droge
Kim Johnson
Carol McSweeney
Marsha Owen
Sebastiao Pereira
Susan Seaborn
Sherrill Whitney
Teri Wilson-Williams

WFWS#51 Events

May 5-7, 2026 – Xi Guo Workshop at Curtis Center
May 8, 2026 | 6-9 PM – Awards Dinner, Hilton Garden Inn, Denver Tech Center
May 9, 2026 – Exhibit Opening Reception

WFWS#51 Xi Guo Watercolor Workshop
Realistic still-lives and florals
Curtis Center for the Arts, Greenwood Village, CO 80121
Date: May 5th,6th,7th, 2026
For registration and further information <https://www.coloradowatercolorociety.org/>



Western Federation of Watercolor Societies



Juror Workshop News

Enrollment available now for Two New Juror Workshops in 2026

By Marion Droge

Spring 2026 and fall three-day workshop are now available for online enrollment. Please enroll today to reserve a spot. The spring workshop is fast approaching but there is still time to enroll.

Kristi Grussendorf, artist and juror for this spring exhibition will be here in April for a 3 day workshop. Enrollment is open to all. Sign up is on the awa website <https://azwatercolor.com/juror-spring-and-fall-workshops/#!form/JurorWorkshop>

She plans to have the workshop focus one reference photo (landscape with a figurative element) and explore using different approaches to the same reference photo. (traditional light to dark, starting with the dark values, starting with a loose wash or pour and “sneaking up” on the edges, also, maybe trying a warm acrylic under painting...

<http://kristigrussendorf.com/>



Kristi Grussendorf



Juror Workshop News

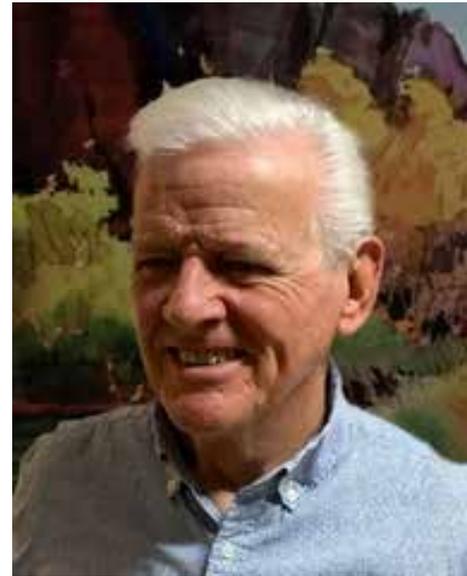
Fall 2026 Juror Workshop – October 8, 9 & 10, 2026

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.



Virgin River Bend

Member Workshop News

MEMBER WORKSHOPS FOR 2026

By Karen Gray
AWA Member Workshop Chair

On March 14, AWA's noteworthy and nationally recognized 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 and feel the artist deep inside you.

Here is a brief description of Stan's workshop: Using various mark-making tools, watercolor, and gouache, lessons will begin without reference or preconceived ideas. You'll create paintings from arbitrary design elements and bring them to completion using principles of design. The goal is to develop a painting that aligns with your personal aesthetic—whether representational or nonobjective. The only criteria: no reference, and a willingness to let the process guide the outcome.

The AWA member workshop in November will feature Agustin Vargas as the artist instructor. With an architectural background, Agustin will illustrate abstraction with a contemporary flare.

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 with your credit card.



Windowpane 117 by Stan Kurth



Loner by Stan Kurth

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.



Welcome New Members

- Alison Mandel-Stein
- Bruce Black
- Charles Edmondson
- Cynthia Peterson
- Deborah Correnti
- Janet A Blum
- Jeanne Ramsay
- Kelly Lodato
- Marsha S. Owen
- Sebastiao Pereira
- Susan Hoffman

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	

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.