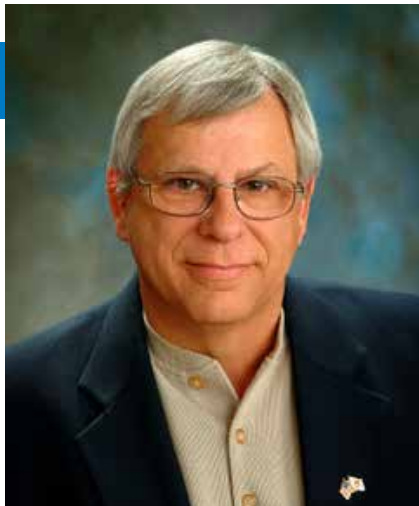


# APRIL 2026

Visit our website: [azwatercolor.com](http://azwatercolor.com)

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



## President's Message

### Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

Celebrating 66 Years (1960–2026)

I would like to encourage all members (again) to participate in our 65 year celebration publication. Each artist is invited to submit one painting of their choice—there is no time restriction on when the artwork was created. Our goal is to highlight the depth, diversity, and quality of our members' work and to honor the many artistic paths that define our water media community. I'm repeating my

request because I know not every member reads every newsletter, so It's worth repeating this message.

Each participating artist will have a full page in the publication and will receive eight copies of the professionally printed soft cover book. The participation fee is \$150. With inflation it's cheaper than it was 25 yrs ago. We produced a similar book for our 40th anniversary featuring 40 members; this year, we hope to include 65 artists. Space will be filled on a first come basis, up to the 65 artist limit.

The submission deadline has been extended to May 1, and entries should include a 250 word artist statement. Additional copies may be sold for \$20 each, with all proceeds supporting our scholarship fund. You have a month to select your painting and submit it for entrance into our publication.

With nearly 200 members, many of you are signature members, we are confident we can reach our goal—but achieving it truly depends on each of you. Every member's story, style, and voice add meaning to this project. This publication is not just a book—it is a collective portrait of who we are and how far we've come.

#### Call to Action:

I warmly encourage you to choose a piece that represents your artistic journey and submit it for inclusion. Your contribution is not only valuable—it is essential. Each page becomes richer because it reflects you, your growth, and your creative spirit. By participating, you help ensure that our 65 year legacy is told fully and authentically, with every member represented. Please take a moment to submit your artwork and artist statement soon so we can proudly include you in this commemorative publication.

#### 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, April 8.**

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

There will be a demo by Kristi Grussendorf.

# Exhibition News

## ***AWA Spring Exhibition is Underway***

*By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre*

The AWA Spring Exhibition is underway at the Fountain Hills Community Center running from March 31st through April 30th.

It is a beautiful show featuring 53 pieces of members' artwork juried by Kristi Grussendorf.

Please try to join us for the Awards Reception on Thursday, April 23rd from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. All members, friends and family are encouraged to attend!

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

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:

**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!

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## ***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](mailto:bfreedman474@gmail.com)

# *AWA Scholarship News*

## ***Scholarship Reception is April 21st***

By Dyanne Locati  
Scholarship Chair

We have three scholarship students' artwork displayed on our AWA website. Go to that listing to view the pieces that were chosen by the committee. There will be a student reception at the next AAG meeting. The students are required to give a talk about their artwork and their goals as an art major.

The students receiving the 2026 AWA scholarship awards are:

1. Lily Regalia – Arizona State University – Recipient of the AWA – Robert Oliver Arizona Architecture Foundation - \$1,000.
2. Jaime Schmidt – Arizona State University – Recipient of the AWA – Del Decil - \$1,000.
3. Negar Nazari – University of Arizona – Recipient of the AWA – Gayla Bonnell - \$1,000.

Certificates will be given to the students that receive scholarships at the Reception for them. Everyone is invited to attend.

AAG meeting Tuesday, April 21st from 7:00 to 9:00.

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## ***Thank you to Stan Kurth!***

Stan Kurth was the artist instructor for the March AWA member workshop. His lesson was intuitive abstraction. Stan mesmerized the attendees with his process of creating an abstract painting. Starting with random drawing and the application of complimentary watercolors, he progressed by adding opaque gouache mixtures strategically. The result was a fascinating image showing dimension and good composition.

After an introductory talk about the essential elements and principles of design, Stan encouraged everyone to begin. With no reference photo, the attendees created artwork purely intuitively. Everyone's paintings showed a good use of color and design and were all very unique.

Thank you, Stan, for an enriching workshop.

Karen Gray



# ***AWA Job Description***

## ***Yes you've got this!***

*This month we feature Karen Gray. She is in charge of Member Workshops. 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.*

The AWA Member Workshop Chair recruits notable AWA member artist instructors to conduct one-day workshops. This artist instructor presents a meeting demo as well as the workshop. The workshops are published on the AWA website for registration opportunities, and also advertised with articles in the monthly AWA newsletter. There are four one-day member workshops per year: January, February, March, and November. As chairperson, all registrations and expenses must be monitored.

Planning is necessary in advance of a workshop in regards to the room set up at the AAG building and the provision of food. Breakfast and lunch treats are provided during a workshop to enhance the enjoyment of the participants.

To allow maximum visual effectiveness, a camcorder is situated over the artist instructor's workstation and connected to a large screen TV. This setup is performed prior to the start of the demo and workshop. Having the digital image of the artist instructor's work projected on the TV helps the participants follow the painting process.

Karen has been managing the AWA member workshops since 2020, and she is now interested in transitioning to another position on the AWA board. To do so, it's necessary to begin in-servicing a willing individual to become her co-chair. She'll assist and mentor the new volunteer until he or she is confident. There is the benefit of being able to attend the member workshops for "free" as compensation. If interested, contact either Karen or Ron Peters, AWA president.



# 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

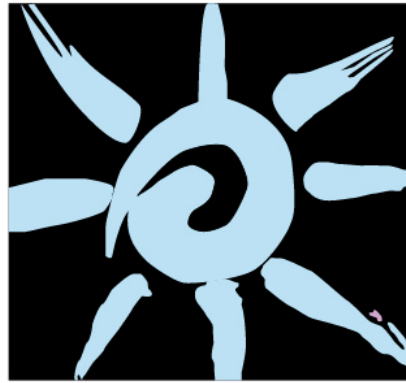
WFWS#51 Xi Guo Watercolor Workshop

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

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.

Agustin Vargas, an architect by UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico), has a deep-rooted interest in art. He honed his artistic skills by taking lessons at the Art Academy of San Carlos and the National Fine Arts Institute of Mexico City, Mexico. His extraordinary abilities are reflected in his work, which spans various techniques such as drawing, painting, lithography, printmaking, and muralism.

Since 1985, Agustin Vargas has showcased his work in numerous exhibitions in Mexico and the United States. His art reflects his deep fascination with nature, proportions, philosophy, and life, which has earned him honorable mentions.

Agustin Vargas's work transports us to alternate realities, where we get captivated by the subtleties of colors, forms, brush strokes, and the artist's imagination. Architectural designs underline his paintings' compositions.

As a dedicated instructor, Agustin shares his knowledge of techniques and composition. He is a National Watercolor Society, Arizona watercolor Association and Honorary Member honorary of the Watercolor Association of Morelos State, Mexico (President, 1998). He is a Former Lead Instructor at Mesa Arts Center.

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.



*Balcony*



*Della Salute III*

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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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 Past President: Ruth Phillibin  
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 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  
 Director Juror Workshops: Marion Droge  
 Director Member Workshops: Karen Gray

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Parliamentarian: Candice Diaz  
 Scholarship Chair: Dyanne Locati  
 Scholarship Co-chair: Carole Matthews  
 Webmaster: Rupali Holmes  
 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**

Sandra Parker  
 Val Hunt

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](mailto:janwittwer@icloud.com).

News for the newsletter will be due by the 20th, for publication by the 1st of the following month.