

OCTOBER 2026

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AWA - AZ Watercolor Association



President's Message

Welcome to the Arizona Watercolor Association!

Celebrating 66 Years (1960–2026)

Well, this year is going fast. The holiday season is upon us. Spring show is here, the October workshop and the November elections (both AWA and the congressional). I challenge each of you to introduce a friend to AWA for membership. While we have over 200 members, we are about half of where we once were. It's great to see new faces at our membership meetings. The 65yr publication is out in print and if you want one, I will have some available at the membership meetings for \$20 each. All proceeds go back into the association accounts. We are ending the year in a strong financial position and are looking forward to a strong 2027. Positions are available on the 2027 board and committees. Just ask a board member or contact me.

We really encourage ALL members to enter the two exhibitions we have each year. When I became an active member in 2015, I immediately entered my first juried show. I didn't get a painting in that show ----- but I kept at it and finally succeeded in getting accepted, and I eventually became a signature member. You can't win if you don't play. I have learned a lot about entering juried shows from other members. If you have a question about your work, ask another member. They can help. You can't use the excuse, "well my work is not good enough to enter." Put yourself out there and try. You will be glad you did, and you may be surprised by just how good you are. The Western Federation of Watercolor Society 2027 entries are coming up soon. I keep trying to get a painting in that very prestigious show, and I got some good advice this year from our WFWS reps that might help. I WILL KEEP TRYING. And so should you. GOOD LUCK!

Ron Peters

President

Arizona Watercolor Association

Keep exploring and creating with water media.

Don't forget to pick up your 65th Yearbooks!

Claim yours at the October and November meetings. If you need to make alternative arrangements, call Ron Peters at 602-309-3524.

Next Meeting

***Our Programs start at 4 pm.
Social Time at 3:30 pm.***

Next Program: **Wednesday October 7.**

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

The program is a demo by Carl Purcell!

Exhibition News

Fall Exhibition is at Surprise City Hall

By Karen Donmoyer and Betsy Aguirre

AWA's Fall Exhibition is now on display at Surprise City Hall until Friday, December 11th.

Please come see the beautiful art and attend the Awards Reception on Tuesday, November 10th from 3 to 5 p.m.

Surprise City Hall is located at 16000 N. Civic Center Plaza in Surprise and open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed on government holidays). The phone number is 623-222-1000.

The show is juried by Carl Purcell and 40 of our member artists are represented.

In 2027 we are scheduled to be at the Holland Gallery for our Spring Exhibition and Fountain Hills Community Center for our Fall Exhibition. Further details will be provided in the prospectuses for those shows.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the reception on November 10th. Please contact Karen Donmoyer at awaexhibits@gmail.com to help.

Scholarship News

We Welcome our New Scholarship Chair!

By Dyanne Locati and Cyndie Peterson
Scholarship Chairs

We now have a new scholarship Chairman, Cyndie Peterson. She is very qualified to take over selecting students to receive our AWA donations. Go to the AAG website to read information about each of the selection committee. Scroll through the menu to find information about scholarships.

Each AWA meeting brings the opportunity to win items that have been donated to the Scholarship raffle. All the money received from the raffle goes to very deserving students. This year our governing board approved a \$1,000. Scholarship in the name of our members that purchase items or raffle tickets. All proceeds go to help an art major student.

AWA will join with AAG, Arizona Clay and new this year the Arizona Scottsdale Artists league. Our organization will be giving three \$1,000. Scholarships in 2027. Art Major Students are eligible to apply for one of the scholarships from September 15th to February 14, 2027. AWA scholarships are given to any student working with water media.

Our October AWA meeting will feature a painting that was donated by one of our members. There is the opportunity to put your name on a silent auction bid for a beautifully framed painting. The silent auction is set at \$5.00 intervals for each additional entry. Be the name at the end of the list to receive this donated piece.

You can also buy donated slightly used books or purchase a ticket for the raffle. Arizona Art Supply generously gives us \$25. gift certificate for a raffle item. With a \$1.00 raffle ticket you might win that certificate! Bring your dollars to our very informative meetings and look for the raffle table to see what you can win. All donations will support Art Major Students that receive our scholarships.

Artist-to-Artist HINTS AND HACKS

Editor's note: We are grateful that Donna England and Dyanne Locati share this information with us today.

Keep Framing Costs Down!

Any of this sound familiar:

Wait for sales or discount coupons and still feel faint at the cost?

Make do with premade frames and precut mats even though the result is not what you want or need?

Sacrifice other purchases to be able to afford to frame your artwork?

Overwhelmed by too many options and decisions?

What you can do to reduce costs:

PREPARE

When do you need the framing done?

Determine your perimeter mat size and window opening measurement.

Know how you want artwork positioned.

Know mat color you will consider

Know the frame style, color, and finish you want

What type of glazing do you want.

Short list of frame shops for comparison pricing.

Ask if sale or discount price is available.

Be aware of sales techniques.

Stick to simple gallery molding.

Rush jobs cost more so don't wait until the last minute.

Be familiar with common framing terms.

You need to know this about:

MOLDING

You purchase from manufacturers in full lengths of 8 ft. Pricing compensates for the scrap left from cutting it down to make the frame.

Stick with simple gallery style molding

Look for American made molding

Frame shops may have bins with low-cost standard size frames made from scraps.

Get on the frame shops' mailing list for sales and special offers

Metal and wood sectional frames are great deal and easy to assemble.

If you work in the same size, reuse frames and glaze.

MATTING

Frame shops typically charge for the full or half sheet of matboard your mat was cut.

Ask how they price matting and if they charge for a full or half sheet... ask for the scrap.

Look for sales on archival matboards at local and online art suppliers and buy multiple sheets.

Bring your own mat board sheets and ask the frame shop to use it.

Avoid specialty mats like suede and fabric and fads like cutouts in mats.

Buy standard size packs of archival matting kits (mat and backing) from online suppliers: Blick, Jerrys Artarama, Frame It Easy.

ACRYLIC

Comes in large sheets and is typically charged by the full or half sheet it was cut from. The cost uplift is substantial, especially for museum quality products (a.k.a. OP3). OP3 filters 98%

To reduce costs, buy from a plastics product supplier.

Purchase plastic / acrylic cleaner and polishers for minor and deep scratches plus several microfiber cloths.

Anti-reflective is a premium, museum-grade acrylic uses optical coatings to eliminate light bounce, offering maximum glare reduction without losing sharpness or clarity. Avoid non-glare. It will soften or create a cloudy effect by scattering light.

HINTS AND HACKS

(continued from page 3)

Do some of the work yourself - A variety of options

Supply the matboard and acrylic with your artwork – charge only labor to assemble.

Have the frame made and the mat cut and assemble it yourself. (You supply the acrylic, backing, hardware, etc.)

Supply a premade frame and have the shop do the rest.

Spend time looking for bargain frames and clean them up to build a stock to use in the future.

If you tend to create work about the same size, order material like acrylic and precut mats in multiples to have on hand which saves time and money. Combine orders with friends and share shipping costs of matboard, acrylic, etc.

Do-it yourself

Cutting Mats – Takes practice and attention to detail and the right equipment

Assemble Frames – Keep it simple by using metal or wood sectional frames/kits or premade frames.

Some art stores carry metal sectional kits at a good price.

Cutting Backing – The right equipment and practice. Some art and frame shops sell standard sizes of foam core cut from scrap.

Acrylic – use the right cleaner and scratch remover and microfiber cloth.

Hardware – D-rings, Euro hangers, kraft paper order from Amazon. Buy picture wire from bulk reels at the local hardware store – or buy it online from Blick or other suppliers.

Notes from Dyanne Locati

Molding

I purchase Nielsen brand molding from Jerry's or Blick. I purchase metal ML 22 Matte Black in bulk.

Each side of the frame is ordered separately. I order multiples of the size if it is something I use a lot.

Mat Board

Purchase mat board from one of the online companies. I buy a case of Bainbridge mat board when it is on sale.

Acrylic

Ace hardware or True Value will cut each size Plexiglass for you. It is much less expensive and will work great for our shows.

Mat Cutting Equipment

Logan model 401 Professional Quality mat cutter... "The Intermediate" – Logan 270 blades (I change the blade often) – Gummed linen hinging tape, acid free / water activated, brand is Lineco – Braided picture wire on a roll, heavy duty, brand is Moore – T-Square and 48-inch rulers. All items can be purchased at Jerry's or Dick Blick or any online supplier.

Look for sales and take advantage of buying in bulk. Always think about shipping costs. Buy enough to get the free shipping deals that most online art supply stores will offer. Buying your own mat cutter will pay for itself in just a couple of your large mats cut for paintings.

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies

WFWS #52 is in Newberg, Oregon

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies will host the 52nd Annual Exhibition in OREGON in 2027! As an AWA member, you are automatically qualified to enter this show. Time to get those brushes wet!

Prospectus and information is on the website: wfws.org Please read it carefully as there are many changes this year!



Exhibition Dates: JUNE 4 – JULY 30, 2027 Chehalem Center

Key Deadlines

Jan 1, 2027 – ArtCall Entries Open.

Mar 1, 2027 – ArtCall Entry Deadline.

Mar 30, 2027 – Jury Results Released via ArtCall.

Apr 18, 2027 – Paintings Due to Delegates.

July 29, 2027 – WFWS 52 Show Closes

Aug 2, 2027 – Paintings shipped back to artists.

Events

Jun 7–9, 2027 – Kathleen Giles Workshop at Chehalem Cultural Center

Jun 5, 2027 | 6–8 PM – Awards Dinner, Chehalem Cultural Center

Jun 1, 2027 – Exhibit Opening Reception @ Chehalem Cultural Center

For questions or help please contact AWA society's WFWS delegates,

David Amsellem damsell@mindspring.com

or Tanya Lemma tanyalemma@gmail.com

Juror Workshop News

Don't Miss this Exciting Fall Workshop!

By Marion Droge

Fall 2026 Juror Workshop – October 8, 9 & 10, 2026
Enrollment available online

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.



Upcoming 2027 Juror Workshops

Look for enrollment for our 2027 Juror workshops soon...

Our Juror Spring 2027 will be **Michelle Nixon**. April 8, 9 & 10.

<https://mmnixon.com/>

And in the Fall 2027

Kathleen Giles (Portraiture)
October 14, 15 & 16.

<https://www.kgilesstudio.com/>

Member Workshop News

ONE MEMBER WORKSHOP REMAINS 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.

The member workshop opportunities for Spring 2027 are now available on the AWA website. Look forward to some exciting new watercolor workshops. In January, Kim Johnson Nechtman will be doing a workshop about painting people in places. Then in February, John Erwin will be conducting a workshop using watercolor and ink with an architectural flare. Finally in March, Marion Droge will be teaching how to paint pet portraits. 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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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.



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Welcome New Member

Deborah Babin

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/>