



October 2023

Upcoming Dates

- **October 1 —29**
Waterloo Watercolor Group 46 Annual Fall Exhibition 2023
- **October 14**
One Day Workshop:
Janet Brooks: *Basic Watercolor Techniques*
- **October 30, 11:15-12:15**– Waterloo Watercolor Group 46 Annual Fall Exhibition 2023 Strike
- **November 11**
One Day Workshop–
Rashmi Thakur: *Painting Animals*
- **November 18**
Bookworms at Eileen Pectorius' at 9:30
- **December 2**
WWG Christmas Party and General Meeting
11 am, Colette Sirhal's home
Board Meeting 10:30
- **April 15–17, 2024**
Ric Detinger workshop. Demo April 14.

Banner art courtesy of
Colette Sirhal *In Bloom*



Waterloo Message— Leslie Kjellstrand

Do you need more darks? Colors take the credit, but values do the work.

Have you heard that before? During a critique, many watercolorists hear that they need more darks in their painting. I believe that is the most common critique of watercolor paintings. It's easy to stay in the middle value range when doing a watercolor painting. Most watercolorists paint the light areas first and the dark areas later. Because watercolor paint dries 15-20% lighter, it means that your painting may need some more work to make the important areas pop. Much of this may involve using darker paint near the "star of the show" as some artists call it.

I like to do negative painting which simply means painting around objects usually with darker paint. Sometimes I paint a slightly darker area around the

various objects and then later paint around more objects with even darker paint to create another dimension. This might be leaves around flowers or waves in the water. There are many times to use negative painting in watercolor, but it doesn't always do the job of having darks in all the right places. You may still need more value work.

Let your painting dry completely and then ask what areas need to stand out. How can you achieve this? Don't be afraid to mix really dark blue, brown, black, purple, green or combinations to accomplish this. Sometimes just a few touches with dark paint will do the trick. Make your values your goal and your colors will bring rave reviews. Think of it like packing for a trip to Europe. Remove half the clothes and pack more money.

Colorfully, Leslie Kjellstrand

Congratulations to the winners WWG 46 Annual Fall Exhibition 2023

Randy Hale's Comments 2023 Fall Show

First
Susan Dunning **Prissy on the Hunt**



I love all of her work. She makes it look simple yet it is very complex. The watercolor looseness is magical. The lost edges surround the subject and allows the viewer to imagine the edges. It is a creative use of negative shapes. She has conveyed a real story with the personality that comes through the subject. It is loose until you get to the face which completes the subject.

Second
Sue Kemp **The Dance**
This is a dance. The Koi are moving through the painting with such fluidity. The warm orange of the koi brings us through the cools to the center of interest and the negative shapes. Very well done.



Third Place
Al Kline **Odetta**
I absolutely love both paintings, probably equally, but I like this presentation. Trying something different and I want to congratulate him on doing this so successfully. I like the design, the rhythm and the synergy. The energy you developed from the verticals and horizontals going through make a very strong piece.



Merit Awards

Betty Jameson
A Gypsy and A Farmer



Online I saw 2 abstract figures, but in person at a glance, it reads as a landscape. I love the looseness and abstract quality of the treatment of the subject and the warm and cools with all the white paper. The viewer gets engaged and comes up with their own story, which I liked.

Christine Gilbert
On the Red Carpet



The use of patterns attracted me to this. The patterns aren't repetitive but light and whimsical. The figure is stylized but captures the gesture without trying to be perfect. It fits with the caricature of the painting.

Rusty Martin **Do Butterflies Dream They're Human?**



What intrigued me was that it is both a collage and an abstraction. I like that he broke a couple of boundaries intentionally moving into the border, a great use of design. Multimedia with watercolor, crayon, collage makes a fun piece and a nice departure from landscapes and portraits.

Priscilla Wicker **Easter Lily**



I love the value contrast. The lights and darks produce a sense of depth through light and shadowing. This is a strong painting beautifully painted.

Steffani Powell
And Miriam Danced



I really love both of her paintings but feel this is the strongest composition. It has a strong sense of movement and motion. A lot of joyfulness! It communicates that feeling very well.

Kathleen Stafford **Pinball Wizard**



She really has a command of the medium, the mastery of the technique and use of geometric forms. But what is really intriguing are the lost and found edges. They

Merit awards continued from page 4
pull us through the entire surface.
The brush drags through areas and
highlight the transparency.

Eddie Sutherland
Rowers on Lady Bird Lake



The composition is so strong. All the
paper has been designed and all
developed equally. It leads us into
the painting with all the elements to
what is most important. The people
lead us to the rower, the boat and
the oars. The red showing through
shows us what is important.

October 1 through October 29

North Hills Gallery 7050 Village Drive, Austin Texas 78731

October 1, Sunday 12:15—Reception and Awards Presentation North Hills Gallery

October 30, Sunday 11:15-12:15—Strike

Attention Members – Help Needed

WWG needs some willing
members (or retired husbands,
handy sons etc.) to assist
occasionally with audio-visual set
up for our three-day workshops
and Saturday mini-workshops (if
instructor requests).

We are offering free attendance
at the Saturday mini-workshops
if you handle set up. Also, there

Colette Sirhal **In Bloom**



It is fairly limited palette with
warms and cools beautifully done.
A masterful use of shapes. Her use
of wet areas and spray to wicks
up pigment and give it a very
transparent quality.

will be a 50% discount on the fee
for the volunteer who handles
the audio set up for the three-day
workshops at Riverbend. We need
a few interested people. Janet
Fulk has graciously provided this
service and is willing to train any
volunteers. It would take about 1–
1½ hours of your time to learn, at
a mutually agreeable time.

Special Recognition

Amy Moncrief **Stress Fish**



I thought this was a fun painting. It
captured a whole lot of content in a
small package. Great use of shapes
and great development. A good
example of what could be entered
into a miniature show.

With several volunteers, the job
of set up could be shared so that
one person would not carry full
responsibility. Please contact me
at colette.sirhal@gmail.com or
Janet at janetmfulk@gmail.com.
Thank you for your consideration,
Colette Sirhal

Workshop News

Randy Hale Workshop Recap



Clockwise from top, left:
Figure study, emphasizing lost-and-
found edges. Display of "Sedona Bluffs."
We lined up our paintings for discussion
after every lesson. Demo: editing out
details, blending cool to warm. Critiquing
Carol Keller's seascape.



Randy Hale Wisdoms—Provided by Janet Fulk

Warm & Cool Colors: Pay attention to the warms
and cools of your painting. Use the temperature
to move the eye from one side of the painting to
another. Same with darks and lights. Drop your
warm colors into your cool colors for liveliness.

Delete some details! Feel free to edit out too much
information from your source photo or plein air view,
allowing the viewer to fill in the blanks. Practice
using minimal detail. You will get it!

Master Negative Shapes: "Negative painting is
the key to wet in wet." Use perimeter darks to both
suggest negative shapes and to move the negative
shape forward.

Think Design! To think of the painting's composition
in terms of a design: Identify the center of interest;
use warms and cools, darks and lights, and soft and

hard edges as elements of design. Make a value/
tonal sketch.

Balance your edges! You need a balance of soft and
hard edges in a shape. Your eye is always drawn to
a hard or uninterrupted edge, so soften your edges
to capture the turn of the shape and give it volume
and dimension. Softened edges give you a chance to
mix your paint, charge your brush, and have time to
think. It is easier to go back and harden an edge than
soften it. To soften an edge, Randy pushed the brush
UP on an edge with clean water rather than pulling
color down.

Load your brush. Don't be afraid to pick up a
good charge of color on your brush, meaning have
enough pigment. But... test it first in your mixing
area or you may get globs of pigment. Try to find a



Above: Samples of the six paintings we accomplished in three days.
 Top right: Quick demo: how to paint a crowd into your cityscape.

good color contrast. Use the darks to highlight the lights, and watch the contrast/value of the colors you are putting next to each other.

To Stain or not to Stain. Some watercolor is staining, and some is sedimentary (granulating). Staining colors seep into the paper. Sedimentary or granulating colors do not, and they can be lifted with clean water or dry tissue from areas of the paper. The sedimentary blues are good for the sky and allow you to lift them off the lower horizon. Sedimentary colors are great for wet into wet painting. Pay attention to what is on your pallet and identify your staining and sedimentary paints. Use accordingly.

Play more! Don't sweat the details. Don't be too careful. Spend your time working out the composition, center of interest, darks and lights, negative painting opportunities, soft and hard edges. Then go for it. Once you pick up the brush, have fun watching what the paint and water does on its own. Keep a playful attitude.

SPECIAL TIPS

To insert or pop out shapes: For example, sail boats in water. Outline the shape you want with small pieces of tape and then use a piece of Magic Eraser sponge to lift the color off the paper. For the masts or any light-colored line, leave a small gap between two pieces of tape and use your Magic Eraser sponge. Voila! (Note: Randy is not a fan of masking fluid.)



Blot the Tape. Blot the piece of tape on your clothing to remove some of the stickiness so it won't tear your paper when you remove the tape.

Randy's Favorite Brush: Randy used a DaVinci Spin Brush 5080. It has a clean precise edge. You can get a DaVinci spin brush 5080 #20 on Amazon for \$24; the price increases exponentially as they get larger.

One-Day Workshops—Sue Kemp

Come paint with us!
 Last two Fall workshops. Invite your friends! Register here:
<https://waterloowatercolor.org/events/category/workshop/>

Small classes, demonstrations and individual attention!

October 14: Janet Brooks will teach how to incorporate various techniques into a painting. This workshop is excellent for beginners as well as a **great refresher for experienced painters**. Explore basic watercolor painting techniques:

- wet in wet blotting & lifting
- wet on dry edge shading
- dry on wet salting
- dry brush spattering
- washes, flat & graduated

Saturday 10 am to 4 pm at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 8134 Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78759



November 11: Rashmi Thakur takes us into the world of painting animals. Learn to paint the beautiful eyes and fur of a tiger and incorporate what you learn into painting other animals also.



Nina Gat and Carol Sue Witt, student and teacher from the One-Day Workshop, "Juicy Fruit"

News from Waterloo Members—From Steffani Powell



Calling all art show lovers! Two annual Austin art events are happening in the next few weeks that are sure to be fun and inspiring.

The first one is the Art From the Streets annual show and sale.

Art From The Streets is a non-profit offering Austin homeless or at risk a nurturing and safe place to create art and generate income thru sales. The dates of the show are Saturday October 21 11am-5pm and Sunday October 22 11am-5pm at Blue Genie Art Bazaar 6100 Airport Blvd. I will be helping to hang art for this show and will be glad to answer any questions. More details available at this link:

Artfromthestreets.org

The second event is the Austin Studio tour on the weekends of Nov 11-12 and Nov 18-19.

Opening reception and kick-off event are the weekend of Nov 4-5 but the actual studios and galleries are exhibiting art of all kinds the last two weekends.

Bigmedium.org

As a part of the Studio Tour, I will be showing a collection of my



watercolors with 18 other artists at Christ Church, 112 Medina St. in east Austin. We are located a couple of blocks from Caesar Chavez and I-35, near several other participating venues. We'll have live music & food for our visitors! Come and see us. Examples of my work include:



More News from Waterloo Members—From Sue Kemp

Sue Kemp's show, 'Capturing the Light', is hanging at Bruegger's Bagels through October 28. Stop by and enjoy her exhibit and perhaps a bagel. 3267 Bee Caves Rd., Austin. 7am - 3pm.



More News from Waterloo Members—Sofia Besondy

Capitol Art Society Reception and Demonstration - Saturday, October 14th from 2pm to 3:30pm

Capitol Art Society is the oldest active visual arts group in Austin. We are thrilled to have members of the society, including Jane Flowers, Sofia Besondy, Bijal Ghelani, Martha Paisley Ruth, Priscilla Wicker, and Sonja Kever, exhibiting their work in the Lake Travis Community Library's meeting room in October.

On Saturday, October 14th from 2pm to 3:30pm,

member Kathleen Stafford will give a live watercolor demonstration. Stafford has lived all over the world and collaborated with other artists, taught workshops on watercolor and printmaking techniques, and held joint and solo exhibitions. Her work can be found in private collections, American and Foreign embassies, and museums including the Museum Shop of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C. All are invited to join Stafford and Capitol Art Society member artists for a reception and demonstration!



Any interested members?

Some WWG members have inquired about joining weekly or bimonthly painting groups. If you are interested and know of a church hall, or a condo/ neighborhood community center that would accommodate a

painting group, let us know. Any location, central, south Austin, Lakeway etc. would be acceptable.

For WWG members in the north Austin, Round Rock, Georgetown area, a painting group is organizing on Wednesdays from

12 -5 pm at the Downtowner gallery in Round Rock. Please contact Lisa Hoekstra at javalisaart@gmail.com for additional information.

And now for your moment of inspiration from Laurin McCracken



Laurin McCracken is a realist watercolorist whose work is largely influenced by the Dutch and Flemish still life painters of the 16th and 17th centuries.

We welcome new members

We are a non-profit group interested in the advancement of watercolor and other water-based media as an art form. Whether you are a beginning painter or a seasoned one, we invite you to join our group.

Look for us on the web, waterloowatercolor.org. If you are interested in joining, you can find an application on our website.

2022 WWG Board of Directors

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Wet Paint

is a monthly publication of Waterloo Watercolor Group in Austin, Texas. To submit news to the newsletter, email president@waterloowatercolor.org