



June/July 2025

# Wet Paint

The Waterloo Watercolor Group Newsletter

## Upcoming Dates

- October 3  
Deadline to enter  
WWG Fall Member  
Juried Show
- Ken Call  
3-Day Workshop:  
October 13, 9:00 am to  
October 15, 4:00 pm

## From the WWG President

Hello WWG Members!

We shared a nice afternoon with some members on May 18 at the Oasis on Lake Travis. We reconnected with longtime members and became better acquainted with a couple newer members. (see picture below) It's our plan to continue these social gatherings in the fall. You will receive information in your email and in the newsletter. I hope you will be able to join us.

Our Fall Member Juried Show is happening in October. We will notify you of exact dates for the show, painting drop-off, reception etc. later. What is important now is the entry

deadline for your submission — October 3, 2025. Take some time out from summer fun and travels to prepare an entry. Every member is guaranteed one painting will be in the show.

With summer travel and family plans, our WWG activities slow, but we will reconvene in September with a great 2025/2026 line up headed by the Ken Call workshop. We already have multiple participants registered for this popular event!

Happy Summer and regards,  
*Colette Sirhal*  
WWG President



Banner art,  
**Elakiya Lakshmanan,**  
*The Harmony*  
see page 4

## Workshop News—Directors: Lonni Swanson and Kathleen Stafford

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### We Have a STAR Portrait Artist Coming this Fall!

Ken Call 3-Day Workshop:  
October 13, 9:00 am to October 15, 4:00 pm

Saint Michael's Episcopal Church  
1500 North Capital of Texas Highway,  
Austin

What is a major benefit of Waterloo membership? The opportunity to learn from some of the best watercolor artists in the country! The next artist we're bringing to Austin is **Ken Call**, portrait artist extraordinaire. Several of his former students have already enthusiastically registered for the chance to learn from him again. So with only 8 tickets left, you will want to sign up soon!

<https://waterloowatercolor.org/event/ken-call-3-day-workshop/>





## Name that Painting

Now that your painting is finished, what will you name it? Sometimes it's very obvious and simple: *Birds Flying South*, *George's Coffee Break*, or *Oranges and Apples*. You can picture what these paintings might look like. More often, you need to think about a name that's not just a description; something more clever.

How do you come up with a name that identifies the painting, but isn't just a basic description? Here's what some artists say in an article from *Artists Network*:

Sometimes I know the title of a work before I begin, but mostly I find little phrases out in the world and collect them into an 'Orphan Titles' document. When a painting needs a title, I go to my list and find the one that clicks." —Julie Beck

"The title is in the story. I look for the story and there is always a story. Sometimes the story comes before the artwork. Sometimes it takes me by surprise and comes in the middle of creating. The story can even evolve days after the image is finished"—Louise Reading

"Naming art is a lot like naming a puppy. You need to sit with it and get to know its personality before you christen it. The process I use begins with yellow legal pads in the studio, house and car. I jot down words, phrases, titles, poems and conversations—things I hear or things I read. I have a running list of probably 5,000 potential titles." —Beverly Todd

Whether you keep a list of potential titles or not, most artists want a more creative name for their painting. I don't usually have a title before I start a painting; I wait until it's finished. A good title can help sell your painting or convince a judge to look at it more carefully.

There's no right or wrong. Assigning a name to a piece you've spent hours on is part of an artist's job, so approach it with joy and you might even like that painting better than before.

Keep those brushes wet,  
Leslie Kjellstrand



The name I gave this painting is "March Madness" and it just fits!

*March Madness*  
by Leslie Kjellstrand

## News from WWG Members

Congratulations to WWG members: **Larisa Anaya, Susan Dunning, Elakiya Lakshmanan, Marsha Reeves, Kathleen Stafford, Chuck Wallace, and Priscilla Wicker** who were

accepted to the The Texas Watercolor Society's 76th annual exhibit at the Kelso Art Center.

This year's juror is Stephen Zhang, Mr. Zhang is an award-

winning artist and designer. He is currently an assistant professor at the University of North Texas. His creative exploration has spanned across a broad range of projects and collaborations. His watercolor paintings have been exhibited internationally in shows such as the Chinese National Art Exhibition, Art Olympia in Japan, and the US Embassy in Equatorial Guinea. In workshops,



The image features the Texas Watercolor Society logo at the top, which includes the letters 'TWS' in a stylized font and the text 'TEXAS WATERCOLOR SOCIETY' and 'ADVANCING THE ART OF PAINTING IN WATERCOLOR'. Below the logo is a collage of various watercolor paintings, including a purple flower, a still life with fruit, a person in a yellow hat, a lighthouse, a portrait of a woman, and a landscape. Overlaid on the collage is the text 'Opening Reception June 7th' in a large, bold, blue font.

**Elakiya Lakshmanan**, a WWG member, had her painting "The Harmony" (see below) accepted into the 76th Annual National Exhibition of the Texas Watercolor Society (TWS). Please also look for our other WWG members' lovely works in the TWS exhibition!

Please visit and enjoy the show.

**Exhibition Dates: June 9–July 31, 2025**

at University of the Incarnate Word  
Department of Art  
Kelso Art Center/Semmes & Condo Galleries  
San Antonio, Texas

Exhibit on display: 10am–5pm  
Monday through Friday





## News from WWG Members



WWG members, **Eddie Sutherland** and **Helen Green** are having a joint exhibit at North Hills gallery for the month of July. Reception on Sunday July 6, 12:15. Shown left and right are collages Helen made from old watercolor paintings.



## Opportunities

Hello everyone! My name is Heather, and I'm the Marketing Coordinator/Art Curator at SmileOn Orthodontics in Cedar Park. I'm reaching out to the talented artists in our community because we have an exciting opportunity to showcase your artwork in our office!

We're currently seeking 16-24 pieces to display over a three-month period. We have openings from July to September and October to December of 2025, as well as January to March of 2026. If you're interested in collaborating, please send me a message at [heather@smileonortho.com](mailto:heather@smileonortho.com).



### Call for Art

#### Artist Exhibitor Applications Open

Attention artists! Applications are now open for artist exhibitors at the 4th annual South Main Arts Festival, a juried and curated artistic event in celebration of the Month of the Arts in Georgetown, TX.

Artist exhibitors have the opportunity to apply for a 10x10 booth space to exhibit and sell artwork. Mediums accepted into the festival include ceramics/pottery, drawing, fiber art, glass art, jewelry, leather art, metalwork, mixed media, painting, photography, and woodworking.

Click here for more information and to apply.  
<https://www.eventeny.com/events/2025-south-main-arts-festival-19151/?action=vendor>

## Opportunities



From WWG member, **Helen Green**, an online resource.

If you are interested in on-line tutorials, live and recorded, check out <https://terracotta.art>. Terracotta focuses only on watercolor and has artists from all over the world. Demonstrations tend to be two to three hours on zoom and they have at least one a week on various topics: florals, birds, landscape, urbanscapes, snow scenes, water ... Reference images are usually available in advance of the class and you can paint along if you want. There is always a moderator who helps with technical issues,

monitors the chat, etc. Most artists are happy to take questions while they are working. Terracotta offers various levels of subscriptions which give you access to recordings for various lengths of times. They have a gallery where subscribers can post their own work. One subscription includes feedback from a professional. Check it out!

## 2025 WWG Board of Directors

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**Past President** Leslie Kjellstrand

**Wet Paint** is a monthly publication of Waterloo Watercolor Group in Austin, Texas. To submit news to the newsletter, email [npwicker@gmail.com](mailto:npwicker@gmail.com). Also, visit our Facebook page. Open to all.