



FEBRUARY 2026



Upcoming Dates

February

Set deadline for Spring Member Show

21 – Workshop: Helen Green, Collage

March

5 – WWG Open Call Show at Primal Gallery – set up

14 – Reception for Primal Gallery Show

21 – Workshop: Rashmi Thakur, Watercolor Pour Abstract Magnolias

26 – Strike show

April 1-May 1 – WWG Spring Member Show - The Hive

11 – Reception : Member Show at the Hive

19 – Demo: Alicia Farris

20 – 22 Workshop: Alicia Farris

May

2 – Strike Hive Show

June

July

August

Set deadline for Member show – Georgetown

September

October

17 – Demo

18 – 21 Workshop: Lauren McCracken

November

December

Holiday Party – Date TBD

From the WWG President

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you staying warm, cozy, and inspired. This time of year is perfect for settling into our studios, experimenting freely, and letting new ideas take shape. As we begin a new year together, I'd like to share a quote to spark your creativity: *"There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done—yesterday and tomorrow."* Today is our moment to create, explore, and grow as artists.

In our WWG world, we kicked off the year on a high note with an outstanding one-day workshop by Carol Sue Witt, "Glitz Up Your Watercolor." The energy, creativity, and enthusiasm from that day truly set the tone for what promises to be an exciting year ahead. We are also looking forward to our upcoming one-day workshop with Helen Green, "Masterful Collages," on February 21st. This workshop offers a wonderful opportunity to expand our skills, explore mixed media approaches, using old watercolor paintings, colorful papers, miscellaneous items to gain fresh perspectives on composition and storytelling.

I'm also excited to announce that our first non-juried members exhibition at a new location, Primal Gallery, in Dripping Springs is now open for submissions. Primal Gallery is one of the most popular and well-regarded galleries in the area, and this exhibition is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your work in a vibrant new setting. I encourage all members to participate and share your creativity with a wider audience.

As the weather begins to improve, I am considering hosting a members' social and would love your input. Your ideas are essential as we look for ways to facilitate growth as water media artists, strengthen our connections, and keep WWG an exciting and welcoming group for all. I also encourage you to share ideas on how we can attract and support new members as part of our growing creative community.

Thank you for being such an inspiring and dedicated group. I look forward to another year of *learning, creativity, and connection.*

Rashmi Thakur, President



Loosen Up! Alicia Farris Workshop

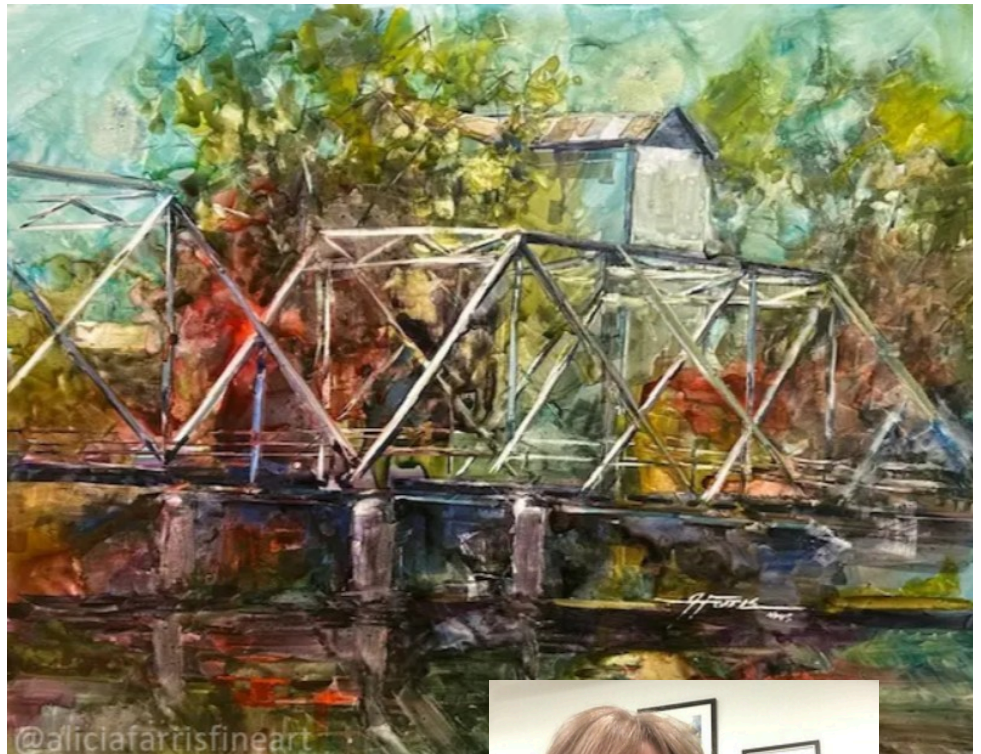
April 22-24, 2026

With Are you having trouble overworking your landscapes? Losing the likeness in your pet and animal portraits? Register today for our next WWG workshop for help avoiding these common watercolor pitfalls, along with a fun intro to painting on Yupo.

Alicia Farris' upcoming workshop in Springfield, MO has a waitlist, but we still have space available in our Austin workshop! Alicia's fluid brushstrokes are her signature, along with lively color choices and strong emotional connections in all her work. She gets consistently rave reviews as a patient, encouraging, and inspiring teacher.

Don't miss out on this one! Register here: <https://waterloowatercolor.org/event/3-day-alicia-farris-workshop/>

Workshop location: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1500 North Capitol of Texas Highway, Austin, TX, 78746



One-Day Workshops

Saturday, February 21, 2026

Helen Green

Collage

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Create paintings from old watercolors, colorful papers and other materials using collage techniques.

The class location is St. Christopher Episcopal Church, 8724 Travis Hills Dr, 78735. (Off Southwest Parkway, near the Natural Gardener) The cost is \$60 for members, \$75 for guests. Registration is open on our website.



Saturday March 21, 2026

Rashmi Thakur.

Watercolor Pouring: Abstract Magnolias

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Join us for the March one day workshop with Rashmi Thakur. Create stunning watercolor magnolias using only three (3) colors. Learn the magic of pouring techniques to enhance backgrounds and achieve vibrant, effortless beauty!

Unlock your creativity and bring your paintings to life with this fun and immersive experience. Perfect for all skill levels.

The class location is St. Christopher Episcopal Church, 8724 Travis Hills Dr, 78735. (Off Southwest Parkway, near the Natural Gardener) The cost is \$60 for members, \$75 for guests. Registration is open on our website.



Did You Know?

What's the Difference?

I found this interesting.

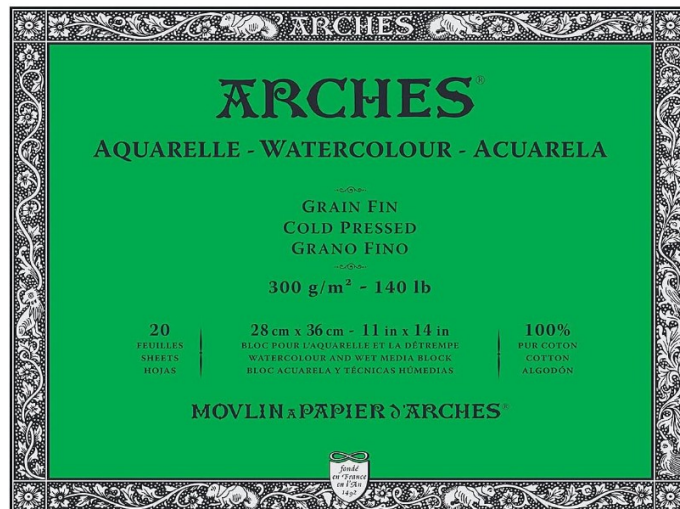
Sue Kemp



Original Arches Natural White Watercolor Paper has been prized by artists since the founding of Arches in 1492. This

legendary paper is still made with natural cotton fibers, carefully selected for their absorbency and durability. Arches paper is mould-made on a cylinder-mould machine which ensures that fibers are not closely aligned but are randomly oriented and densely interwoven in all directions. This adds considerable strength to the paper and produces a natural, attractively textured surface with the look and feel of a vintage handmade paper.

Each sheet is acid-free, pH-neutral, gelatin-sized to the core, and air-dried. Sheets have 2 natural deckled



edges and 2 torn edges, with the Arches watermark and embossed seal on 2 corners.

Arches papers are built on the knowledge and experience of yesterday's craftsmen combined with modern innovation, creating important new features and improvements in the paper's performance. If stored and handled properly, they will remain beautiful and vibrant for centuries.

Cold Press

The cold press finish has a light texture and is the most common watercolor paper finish. It reflects light well, retaining the transparent quality of watercolors. A light tooth makes it easier to achieve certain details. Not just for watercolors, Arches Cold Press is also recommended for gouache, acrylic, dry drawing media, and airbrush.

Hot Press

The hot press finish is often used for portraits and illustration because the smoothness allows for fine details. With a minimal vellum texture, the character of the paper fades and digital scanning is easy. Not just for watercolors, Arches Hot Press is also recommended for gouache, acrylic, graphite, colored pencil, pen and ink, and technical pens.

Rough

The rough finish has an effect close to that of handmade paper and encourages a loose style. This rough tooth paper helps to achieve effects of texture and showcases granulating watercolors well. Not just for watercolors, Arches Rough is also recommended for gouache, acrylic, charcoal, and pastel.



Featured Artist

We feature one artist per month to learn more about them and their work, any details you'd like to share. You can nominate a friend or yourself!

This month, we feature Jennifer Spurling Polnaszek!

Artist's statement

I have been a proud member of Waterloo for many years. Personal family circumstances prevented me from being active in my artwork and in the organization the past few years. I've missed you all. I was excited to reconnect with many of you at Ken Call's brilliant workshop this spring. I was invited to have an exhibit at the Georgetown City Hall building. What a beautiful space. I showed a collection of large graphite drawings of abandoned bird nests, aptly titled "Empty Nests" which reflects my personal journey after loss, and hoping others might find a connection in their own lives.

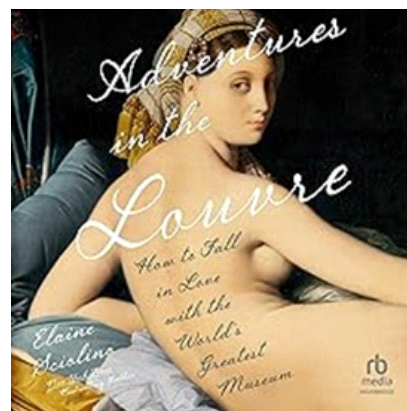
I am currently working on a series of new pieces. I have become active in the Williamson County Art Guild as president-elect- and was reluctantly recruited with the promise that I would not become president. I am excited that WWG will be showing at the WCAG Gallery in October! And I am traveling to INDIA in March on a tour — excited to explore the culture of Northern India and return with lots of reference photos and inspiration for future work.

<http://www.jenniferpolnaszek.com>



Bookworms

The art book club Bookworms is open to all members of WWG. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, February 6, at 9:30 am. At this meeting, we will discuss Elaine



Sciolino's new nonfiction book *Adventures in the Louvre*. While it does discuss "the big three" works of the Louvre, this book has many chapters about various aspects of the Louvre that are not well-known to most visitors. For instance, it has a chapter on the Apollo room, the site of the recent theft at the Louvre. It also has a chapter on "orphans," the recovered paintings that were stolen during World War II but whose original owners have not been identified. There is a discussion of "Who [as the subject of a portrait in the Louvre] is more beautiful than Mona Lisa?" There is even a chapter about a video that Beyonce' made in the museum.

If you are interested in attending Bookworms and are not already on our mailing list, send an email to bookworms@waterloowatercolor.org in order to be added to the list for notices. We move around to the homes of different members, so each meeting will be held at a different location. This information will be sent to you in an informational email.

There are four meetings a year: February, April or early May, September, and November. We try to avoid conflicts with holidays and summer vacations. In addition to the February 6 meeting, Bookworms will meet on May 1 in 2026. We are now meeting on Friday mornings.

At our May 1 meeting, we will discuss Katy Hessel's work of nonfiction, *The Story of Art without Men*. As the title suggests, this book is an overview of many women artists, both the well-known and the little-known, throughout the ages. It is not necessary to read the entire book since so many women artists are covered. With so many artists, there will be plenty to discuss.

It's Gonna be a Great Show!



WWG will hold a Member show at Primal Galleries in Dripping Springs in March. Entries are open for submission now.

Two (2) paintings per member may be submitted. There is no entry fee. All water media, watercolor, gouache or acrylic, will be accepted. (assuming appropriate content). We would like to keep the size around 16x20 unframed. Larger pieces may be considered depending on display space available. We estimate the space could accommodate up to 50 paintings. All acceptance will be on a first come, first serve basis.

This is the first WWG show at Primal Galleries although several individual members have shown their work at the gallery.

Capital Art Society has also held a show at the gallery. WWG is exploring different show venues throughout the Austin area, so stay tuned!

You will be notified about entries after February 25. Installation will be March 5, 2026. We will need extra hands to help with the hanging. The strike date is March 26, 2026. This show overlaps with the WWG juried show at the Bee Cave Arts Foundation gallery in April. Please submit artwork that you don't plan to submit for the WWG juried show. Send submissions to:

rashmithk@gmail.com or colette.sirhal@gmail.com. An email has been sent to all members. You can check the website for further information.

WWG 2026 Board Members

President

Rashmi Thakur
rashmithk@gmail.com

Vice President

Dan Spanton
dspanton@live.com

Secretary

Susan Dunning
skdunning@outlook.com

Treasurer

Nancy Charbeneau
ncharbeneau@gmail.com

3- Day Workshop

Kathleen Stafford
Staffors333@gmail.com
Lonni Swanson
lswanson1@Austin.rr.com

1-Day workshop

Colette Sirhal
Colette.sirhal@gmail.com

Shows

Shevawn Eisman
shevawn@aol.com

Audio Visual/Activities

Janet Fulk
janetfulk@gmail.com

Newsletter

Cathy Brown
cathybrown10355@gmail.com

Social Media

Elayika Lakshmannan
shop@elakiya.art

Advisory

Helen Green
helenfaythegreen@icloud.com