



JANUARY 2026



## Upcoming Dates

### January

17 – Workshop: Carol Sue Witt, Watercolors With Illumination

### February

Set deadline for Spring Member Show

17 – Workshop: Helen Green, Collage

### March

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

11 – Reception for Primal Gallery Show

21 – Workshop: Rashmi Thakur, Watercolor Pour Abstract Magnolias

28 – Strike show

### April

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

Hello WWG Artists,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year 2026!

As we begin this new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing President Colette Sirhal, Treasurer Beth Fox, and the entire leadership team. Cheers to you all for your exemplary leadership, dedication, and countless hours of service to the Waterloo Watercolor Group. Your commitment has helped WWG continue to thrive and inspire artists at every stage of their journey. I am equally thankful to our new administration members and congratulate each of you for stepping into your respective roles—your willingness to serve is truly appreciated.

I am humbled and honored to accept the presidency of this one-and-only wonderful Waterloo Watercolor Group. I joined WWG in 2017, and over the years I have grown tremendously as an artist under its nurturing canopy—surrounded by incredibly talented artists and generous mentors who are always willing to share their expertise, skills, and top-notch workshop offerings. WWG has been more than an art group to me; it has been a community, a classroom, and a source of lasting friendships.

As we head toward celebrating WWG's 50th Anniversary in 2027, our goal is to build on this strong foundation by creating greater visibility, meaningful opportunities, and enriching learning experiences for artists in Austin and the surrounding areas. We hope to reach new audiences, strengthen community connections, and continue offering high-quality workshops, exhibitions, and programs that inspire creativity and growth. Achieving this vision will take a collective team effort, and I warmly welcome your ideas, suggestions, and creative input as we move forward together.

We are also deeply grateful to the many member volunteers who will be guiding our standing committees this year. Their time, talent, and dedication are essential to the success of WWG, and they will all be introduced at the celebration party.

Together, let us continue to grow, learn, support one another, and thrive on our artistic journeys.

With gratitude and excitement for the year ahead,

Warm regards,

*Rashmi Thakur*



## Brush Up on Landscapes – with an Alicia Farris Workshop

**April 22-24, 2026**

With the holidays behind us, it's time to take a breath, and take out our paintbrushes again!

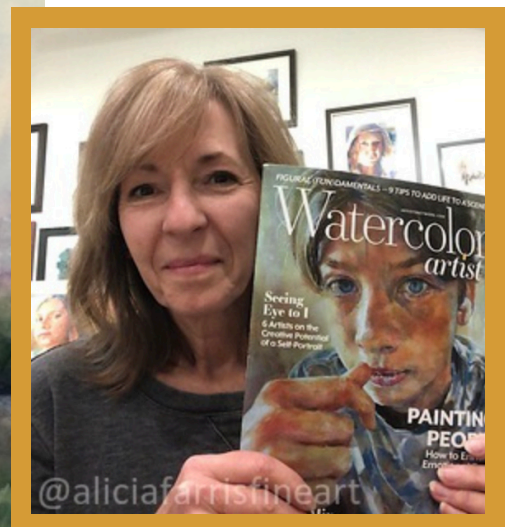
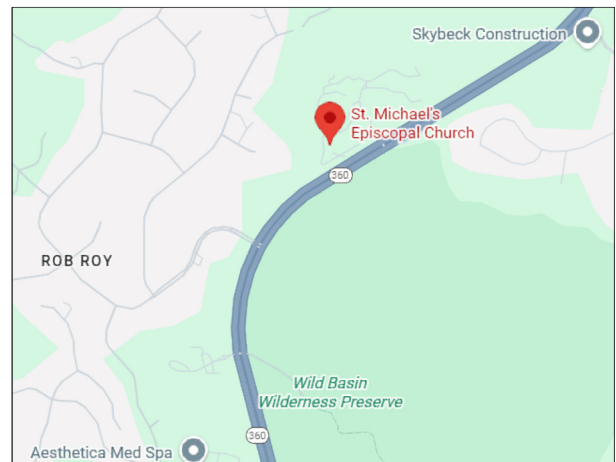
Landscape painting with watercolor can produce spectacular results, especially when you discover new techniques and fresh perspectives from an excellent instructor like Alicia Farris. In addition, we'll tackle pet portraits and experiment with yupo, so there's a lot to look forward to!

Enjoy these beautiful samples of Alicia's landscapes — it looks like January somewhere!

Register NOW: <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

**January 17, 2026**

Carol Sue Witt

**Add a Touch of**

*Elegance*

**to Your Watercolors with  
Illumination**

9:30 am to 3:30 pm



We will paint a floral around your initial then illuminate with a gold foil technique that has been used for centuries. Beginners and advanced painters are welcome/ most of the supplies provided.



Fee for all one day workshops - \$60 members, \$75 guests. Register online on the WWG website:

<https://waterloowatercolor.org/events/category/workshop/one-day-workshop/>

Note: The one-day workshops are held at our new location:

St. Christopher Episcopal Church  
8724 Travis Hills Dr.  
Austin 78735

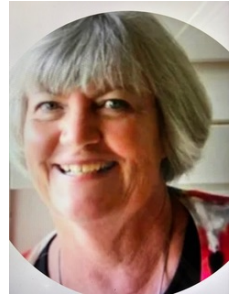
**February 21, 2026**

Helen Green

**Collage**

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

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





## 2025 Holiday Party!



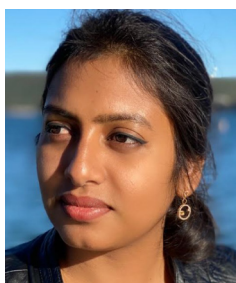
Thank you to everyone who came to the Waterloo Christmas party. The food was fabulous, the exchanges were lovely, and good conversation was enjoyed by all. We missed those who could not come.

*"One attendee brought a lovely  
prinsettia, and I would offer  
thanks to that person for such  
thoughtfulness and generosity."*

*Dr. Cheryl Christian*







## 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 Elakiya Lakshmanan!**

### Artist's statement

Growing up surrounded by my father's traditional paintings and sculptures ignited a passion for creating art from a young age. My early interest in digital art led to a career as a Character Artist - digitally sculpting 3D models for games - where I spent years honing my skills in anatomy and color. However, moving to Texas marked a profound turning point. Traveling across this captivating landscape with my spouse reignited a love for traditional mediums that I had long set aside. Picking up my brushes once again felt like an awakening to my Ikigai.

I am currently obsessed with landscapes and find that I reconnect with nature through the process of painting it. Through my work, I strive to capture the beauty of the natural world and encourage a deeper appreciation for our environment. While I began my journey painting realistically, my style is now evolving towards Impressionism. I love expressing myself through minimal brushstrokes while still capturing the essence of a scene.

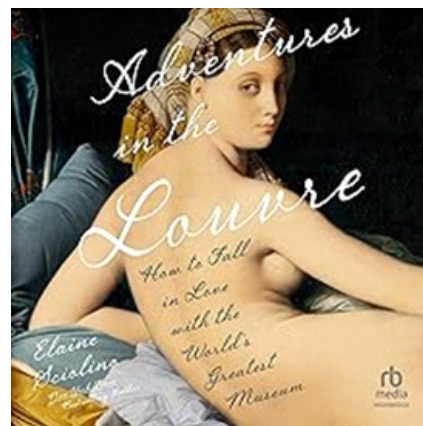
Follow my journey: @elakiya.art



## 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*.

**(Recently, we decided to reverse the order of our February and May books. Earlier, it was announced that we would discuss this book in May.)** This book has chapters about various aspects of the Louvre that are lesser 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.



If you are interested in attending Bookworms and are not already on our mailing list, send an email to [bookworms@waterloowatercolor.org](mailto: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*. (In an earlier notice, this book was scheduled for February.) 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.



## Dreaming of a Permanent Location

A permanent location for our watercolor group – ahhh, just think what that would mean. Our paintings could be easily shared with others; we could host events, receptions, and workshops throughout the year; we would have a place to store our electronic equipment, our records, our art books and supplies. Neighboring towns have created galleries shared by many art groups and artists. Maybe this is something we could help organize for the other art nonprofits. So let's think about this.

It Takes as Much  
Energy to Wish  
as it Does to Plan!

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

Since Waterloo Watercolor Group is a nonprofit, donations are tax deductible. Plus we already have the Kathy Summer's Fund at Austin Community Foundation.

- Perhaps you could leave money through your will or trust to help fund a building.
- Perhaps you have a piece of property or stocks you could donate to this effort.
- Perhaps you would make a tax deductible donation through your IRA.
- Perhaps you have a family foundation that could make a gift to the Waterloo nonprofit.

If you have ideas or suggestions, I'd love to hear from you. Your Almost Retired Treasurer, Beth Fox ([treasurerwaterloowg@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerwaterloowg@gmail.com))

## WWG 2016 Board Members

### President

Rashmi Thakur  
[rashmithk@gmail.com](mailto:rashmithk@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Dan Spanton  
[dspanton@live.com](mailto:dspanton@live.com)

### Secretary

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### Treasurer

Nancy Charbeneau  
[ncharbeneau@gmail.com](mailto:ncharbeneau@gmail.com)

### 3- Day Workshop

Kathleen Stafford  
[Staffors333@gmail.com](mailto:Staffors333@gmail.com)  
Lonni Swanson  
[lswanson1@Austin.rr.com](mailto:lswanson1@Austin.rr.com)

### 1-Day workshop

Colette Sirhal  
[Colette.sirhal@gmail.com](mailto:Colette.sirhal@gmail.com)

### Shows

Cheryl Christian  
[512cheryl@gmail.com](mailto:512cheryl@gmail.com)

### Audio Visual/Activities

Janet Fulk  
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### Advisory

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