



AUGUST 2026



Upcoming Dates

August

8 - Reception: Art Direct Show

September

October

10 - Exploring Neurographic Art.
Janet Fulk

17 - Demo

18 - 21 Workshop:
Lauren McCracken

November

14 - Christmas Card Collage, Helen Green

December

Holiday Party -
Date TBD

January

9 - Portraits in Watercolor, Jennifer Polnaszek

February

20 - Watercolor with Kathleen Stafford

April

10 - Landscapes, Florals/Other, Sue Kemp

From the WWG President

Dear Artists,

Have we ever given a thought to the importance of drawing and sketching as artists? In a world that celebrates vibrant paintings and finished masterpieces, it is easy to overlook the simple pencil sketch that comes before them. It may disappear beneath layers of paint or quietly capture an anxious thought, a shy expression, or a passing idea, but drawing and sketching remain the foundation of every artist's journey. Every masterpiece begins with a single line.

Practicing the fundamentals of drawing sharpens observation, develops an understanding of perspective and proportion, and helps artists appreciate the finer details of their subjects. Drawing teaches us to truly see rather than simply look. Although beginning a sketching routine can feel intimidating, with patience and consistency it becomes one of the most calming and rewarding creative practices. Every sketch is an opportunity to learn, experiment, and grow. Many artists ask, "I am more of a creative painter than a realistic artist. Why should drawing matter?" The answer is simple. Drawing matters to every artist because creativity flows through sketching. It is where ideas are born, compositions are explored, and imagination takes shape.

A sketchbook becomes a visual diary, allowing artists to record inspiration, solve creative challenges, and develop concepts before they become finished works. The philosophy of sketching extends beyond preparation. While some see sketches as rough studies, others value them as complete artworks for their spontaneity, honesty, and expressive quality. Sketching encourages artists to think creatively, explore possibilities, and communicate ideas with greater clarity. Ultimately, drawing and sketching are far more than technical exercises. They are the language of observation, imagination, and self expression, forming the quiet beginning of every artistic journey.

On that note, let us embrace this powerful creative tool that asks for very little but gives back so much. We invite you to submit your artwork for our Art Direct Show, followed by a Reception on August 8. Let us make it a wonderful summer social event for WWG members to meet, connect, and celebrate our shared passion for art.

Yours truly,
Rashmi

'Life is beautiful with colors, keep art alive '





Laurin McCracken,
Making Watercolors
Personal

October 19–21,
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Demo: Sunday,
October 18, 4-6pm

The new issue of *Watercolor Artist Magazine* announces Laurin McCracken, our October 3-day workshop leader, receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Watercolor USA Honor Society. It is inspiring to think that he took his first watercolor lesson at the age of 60. He wanted to make his art stand out by being personal so he started creating still lifes

with the toys he played with as a child, like cowboy figures and comic books and then went on collecting vintage objects like the crystal and silver his realistic paintings are known for today. He is honored by the award of his peers but prefers to think of it as mid-career recognition. We at Waterloo Watercolor Group agree wholeheartedly.



Fall 2026 – Spring 2027 WWG One Day Workshops

As we begin the summer season, it's not too early to plan for fall activities. WWG will again be offering a series of one day (Saturday) workshops to introduce, enhance and fine tune your painting skills. For the second year, the workshops will be held at St. Christopher

Episcopal Church, 8724 Travis Hills Dr., Austin, 78735. The location off Southwest Parkway is relatively easy access from Mopac and Highway 290. We are grateful to Rev. Alyssa Stebbing and the St. Christopher congregation for providing WWG the spacious community room to hold the workshops. All workshops will begin at 9:30 and end at approximately 3:00 - 3:30.

Registration for the Oct. 10, and Nov. 14, One Day workshops is open on the website:
<https://waterloowatercolor.org/>

Here is the lineup:

October 10, 2027

Exploring Neurographic Art. Janet Fulk

November 14, 2027

Christmas Card Collage Helen Green

January 9, 2027

Portraits in Watercolor Jennifer Polnaszek

February 20, 2027

Watercolor with Kathleen Kathleen Stafford

April 10, 2027

Landscapes, Florals/Other Sue Kemp

We have wonderful teachers on board to share their knowledge and expertise with you. More in depth information about each workshop will be announced on the website and in our Wet Paint newsletter.

The cost for the workshops will remain \$60 for members and \$75 for guests.

Capitol Art Society Colors of Fall Exhibit



Capitol Art Society
Colors of Fall
 Bee Cave Art Gallery

Aug 27 - Oct 3
www.capitolartsociety.com
<https://beecavearts.foundation/>

Ten WWG members are participating in the Capitol Art Society's Colors of Fall Exhibit at Bee Cave Arts Gallery, located in the Hill Country Galleria, 12912 Hill Country Blvd across from Dillards and H&M. Be sure to visit: Aug 27 - Oct 3. Hours: Wed-Sat 1:00-5:00pm, closed Sun - Tues. Reception: Sat, August 29, 2:00 - 4:00pm. WWG members are Jane Flowers, Janet Fulk, Lisa Hoekstra, Genevieve Holland, Sue Kemp, Elakiya Lakshmanan, Pat Molina, Martha Paisley Ruth, Kathleen Stafford, Rashmi Thakur. Other participating artists are Sofia Besondy, Jan Frazier, Bijal Ghelani, Kay Hughes, Sonja A. Kever, Alexis McCarthy, and Evie Walberg. Check the website <http://www.capitolartsociety.com> and also Capitol Art Society's Instagram site, as well as <https://beecavearts.foundation/>

Lonni Swanson

Featured Artist

“I can draw!” This was my big discovery when I was four. My mom was an art teacher and illustrator, so there was no lack of encouragement. A fabulous high school art teacher (Yay Mr. Johnson!), art courses at SMU, University of Colorado, and Penn State locked in a lifelong love of creating art.

Some wonderful workshops in Taos and with Stephen Quiller in Colorado, turned my hobby into a passion. When I retired from a 30-year career in advertising and marketing in 2016, I was free to move making art to the front burner.

I confess to another obsession — Hawaiian hula, an art I’ve studied for 20 years. I retired from the “Island Rhythm Hula Company,” the professional performance group, in January 2026, but still dance with my halau Tuesday nights.

I’m so happy to have found my people — and have the opportunity to collaborate and work closely with Kathleen Stafford — at Waterloo Watercolor Group. You can find me at my other art home, the Bee Cave Arts Gallery in the Hill Country Galleria, on Saturdays!



Riverbend Inspiration Gallery



**AUGUST 27TH -
OCTOBER 5TH
2026**

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:
SOFIA BESONDY, JANET CAVALUCCI, ROOCHITA CHACHRA, JOY
GILCREASE, JANE FLOWERS, LISA GREGORY 'SELKE', BIJAL GHELANI,
JOY GILCREASE, LISA HOEKSTRA, SUE KEMP, BERYL KERWICK, PAT
MOLINA, MARTHA PAISLEY RUTH, RASHMI THAKUR, JOAN WARNER
AND CAROL SUE WITT.

RIVERBEND INSPIRATION GALLERY
4214 N CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY, AUSTIN, TX 78746
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY FROM 10AM TO 12:30PM

Painters

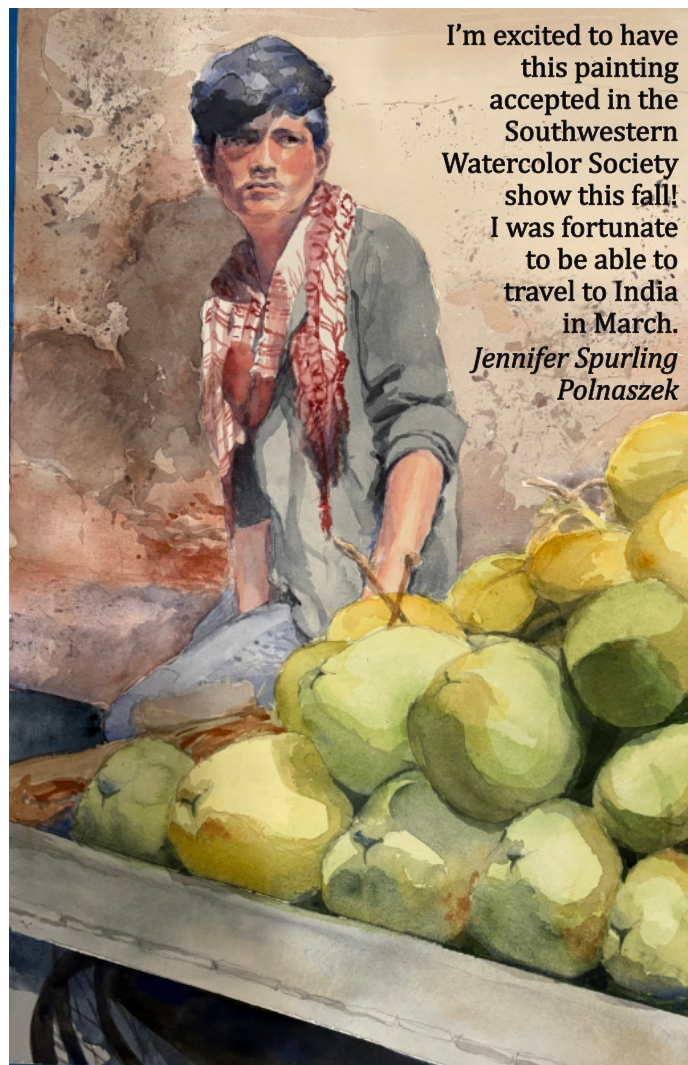
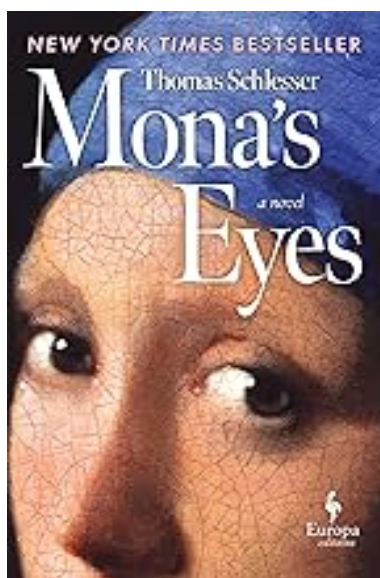
Painters are having an exhibit at Riverbend's Inspiration Gallery Aug 27 - Oct 5. Hours: Every Sunday 10am - 12:30pm; and during special events in the Auditorium. Reception TBA. Be sure to check out this exhibit celebrating our 20th year of painting together weekly! On display will be a 48"x 60" acrylic group painting to honor the 20th year of Dr. & Mrs. David Haney's ministerial work. Many of these 27 artists who created this group painting together are WWG members: Martha Paisley Ruth, Jane Flowers, Carol Sue Witt, Sue Kemp, Lisa Hoekstra, Beryl Kerwick, Beth Fox, Cecilia Lankes, Nancy Charbeneau, Joan Werner, Janet Cavallucci, Joy Gilcrease, Pat Molina, Becky Lindgren, Paula Robinson-Rose, Rashmi Thakur, Libby Steckler, Shevawn Eisman, Genevieve Holland, Barbara Mockler, Bijal Ghelani, Sofia Besondy, Sue Schneider, Roochita Chachra, Tula Haldes, Marjorie Dozier, Wendy Holmgren.

Bookworms

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. The address 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.

Our first fall meeting will be held on Friday, **September 18**. We will read Thomas Schlessler's international bestseller *Mona's Eyes*. This book was originally written in French and has now been translated into English. It is a novel, but it incorporates much about art history and art appreciation. The story line is that a ten-year-old girl has a (hopefully) temporary bout of blindness and her grandfather then makes a plan to take her to an art museum in Paris once a week for a year so that she will have a mind full of beautiful images if she goes blind permanently. They start with the Louvre, then go to the D'Orsay, and then last to the Beaubourg/ Pompidou. Each week they look at only one painting, which is described in detail before the two engage in a discussion of its historical context, techniques, and meanings. Illustrations of the paintings are also included as part of the elaborate cover. The story about the young girl proceeds as well in each chapter with issues such as her fear of going blind, her relationships with other students at school, her father's problems with alcoholism and with his career, and a mystery concerning her grandmother.



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