



JULY 2026



Upcoming Dates

August

Set deadline for
Member show –
Georgetown

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,

A subject I'd like to touch on this month is one I think is worth discussing: Does traditional gouache truly belong to the watercolor family?

Artists often wonder how gouache compares with transparent watercolor and whether it should be considered a watercolor medium. Some traditional watercolor societies have strict exhibition rules, accepting only transparent watercolor and excluding opaque watercolors such as gouache. This debate inspired me to research the subject. From a technical standpoint, traditional gouache is unquestionably part of the watercolor family. Like transparent watercolor, it is water-based, made with similar pigments and a gum arabic binder, and can be thinned and reactivated with water after drying.

The main difference between the two mediums is opacity. Transparent watercolor relies on light passing through delicate washes to create luminous effects, while gouache contains a higher concentration of pigment and often inert white fillers, producing rich, matte colors that completely cover the paper beneath. Gouache has long been a favorite for commercial illustration, graphic design, and animation because of its vibrant color, fast drying time, and ease of reproduction. Today, many fine artists also choose gouache as their primary medium because of its versatility. One of gouache's greatest strengths is its forgiving nature. Unlike transparent watercolor, it allows artists to paint light colors over dark ones, making underpainting, layering, and corrections much easier. Dried paint can also be reactivated with water for blending or lifting, giving artists greater flexibility throughout the painting process.

In conclusion, although some watercolor societies may not accept opaque watercolor in their exhibitions, gouache clearly shares the same heritage and characteristics as traditional watercolor. If you're looking for a water-based medium that offers the finished look of oils or acrylics while still retaining the fluidity of watercolor when diluted, traditional gouache is well worth trying. On that note, let's get back to painting, experimenting, and exploring!

Best,
Rashmi

'Life is beautiful with colors, keep art alive '





Just a few spaces left!

Laurin McCracken Workshop

October 19–21, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

The countdown is on and our registered participants can't wait! We can still squeeze you in but the workshop will fill up soon, so now is the time to reserve your spot if you've been hesitating.

It's hard to imagine, but Mr. McCracken was already 60 when he became a serious artist specializing in watercolor. Today, he is a judge at international competitions and ambassador of Fabriano paper (which he will generously offer in the workshop), as well as Daniel Smith paint. We feel so fortunate that he will share his methods and expertise with us in October.

https://waterloowatercolor.org/event/laurin-mccracken-3-day-workshop/#tribe-tickets_tickets-form

The venue will be either St. Michael's Episcopal Church or the Gallery at Bee Caves Arts Foundation.

Laurin McCracken Demo: Sunday, October 18, 4-6pm



**This is your chance to watch a master in action, so be sure to put this on your calendars.
Free and open to everyone!**

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.

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.

Colette Sirhal

One Day Workshop Chair

Submissions Open for Art Direct Show Non Juried Member's Show

Aug 3 @ 10:30 am – Aug 29 @ 10:30 am

We are now accepting water media paintings from members for an exhibition at Art Direct Gallery, 720 S. Bell Blvd, Building 9A Cedar Park (512-243-7211). Each artist may submit one painting up to full sheet size. Due to limited space, submissions will close once we reach 40 paintings. Each artist may also submit up to 2 art prints (mat optional, backing with plastic sleeve, label on back). You do not have to submit information for the prints. Just bring them with your original.

Timeline:

- Entry deadline: July 22
- Notification of acceptance: July 25
- Hang show August 3, 10:30 AM (hand deliver accepted entries)
- Reception: August 8, Noon (We will have a sign up to bring food and drinks. Artist demo optional.)
- Strike: August 29, 10:30 AM

Important Details:

- Each artwork **MUST** have d-rings to hang.
- Metal frames are **NOT** allowed. (Works on canvas do not have to be framed.)
- Gallery handles sales and collects a 30% commission. (Artwork must be for sale.)
- Artwork must be labeled on back with Artist Name, Title of piece, Medium, Size, Price.

Submissions:

<https://waterloowatercolor.org/event/submissions-open-for-art-direct-show/>

Questions: WaterlooWatercolorShows@gmail.com



Hello, My Name is Janet



“Hello, my name is Janet and I am an artist.” It took a long time to develop enough confidence to say that. There are many paintings under my bridge, and I still question the truth of the statement. But for today, that is how I define myself...I am an artist.

I have had many definitions in my life. “Hello, my name is Janet and I am” ...a daughter, a big sister, a car hop, a lover, a funny girl, a wife, a mother, a paralegal, a good friend, an aunt, a single mom, a second wife, a book lover, a dingbat, a decent cook, a grandmother or... fill in the blank. But for today, I am an artist.

I believe that if you don't show, you don't grow. I think exhibiting is valuable insight for an artist. Those who love us, humor our passions. Exhibiting allows us to see our work through the unbiased eyes of others. Exhibiting our art spurs us to do our best. It forces us to decide if we love what we just made. It reveals us to the world. It makes us take our creation all the way from the beginning to the end... from concept and problem solving to the signature, wire, and hang. Our human braveries are often so camouflaged in routine; we don't even know when we are brave. When you exhibit you embrace the risk, you face self-doubt and you scream confidence. It is a leap off the cliff with a bungee cord tied 'round your waist. Hoo Rah!

Okay, maybe that was a little dramatic. However, twice in 2025 I exhibited small colorful artwork in the Round Rock Library. People were drawn to the vibrancy and detail of the exhibits. The comment boxes were stuffed with wonderful feedback from adults and children who had looked at the art. I even sold several of the paintings. When the Round Rock Library asked me if I would be their 2026 Artist of the Year, I immediately agreed, not realizing that the selected painting would be processed digitally, enlarged to 11x14 feet, stretched over a lightboard and turned into “installation art”. I was just happy they liked me!



But, if I hadn't exhibited the art I make, it would not be the artwork featured in the lobby of the Round Rock Library. A painting hanging on my living room wall, would never become “art in public spaces”. If I had not put it out there, it would not be out there. And today, it would not be just a little easier for me to say....

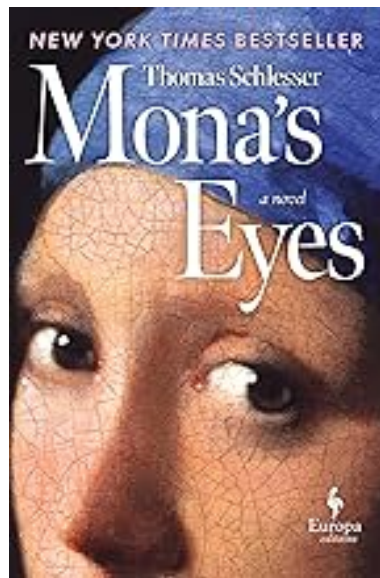
“Hello, my name is Janet and I am an artist.”

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.



WWG 2026 Board Members

<p>President Rashmi Thakur rashmithk@gmail.com</p>	<p>1-Day workshop Colette Sirhal Colette.sirhal@gmail.com</p>
<p>Vice President Dan Spanton dspanton@live.com</p>	<p>Shows Shevawn Eisman shevawn@aol.com</p>
<p>Secretary Susan Dunning skdunning@outlook.com</p>	<p>Audio Visual/Activities Janet Fulk janetfulk@gmail.com</p>
<p>Treasurer Nancy Charbeneau ncharbeneau@gmail.com</p>	<p>Newsletter Cathy Brown cathybrown10355@gmail.com</p>
<p>3- Day Workshop Kathleen Stafford Staffors333@gmail.com Lonni Swanson lswanson1@Austin.rr.com</p>	<p>Social Media Elayika Lakshmanan shop@elakiya.art</p>
	<p>Advisory Helen Green helenfaythegreen@icloud.com</p>