



SEPTEMBER 2026



## Upcoming Dates

**September**  
**13** - Painter's  
reception, Sunday.  
9:30-12:30

**October**  
**1** - November 1- 49<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Fall Member  
Exhibition

**10** - Exploring  
Neurographic Art.  
Janet Fulk

**18** - McCracken  
Demo

**19 - 21** Workshop:  
Lauren McCracken

**November**  
**14** - Christmas Card  
Collage, Helen Green

**December**  
**14** - Holiday Party -  
Helen Green's house  
at 11:00 am

**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,

'What is the essence of original art? Many artists admit that they sometimes struggle to distinguish truly original art from high quality reproductions. With so many reference images, changing trends, and ideas about creativity, it is easy to become confused about what makes a work truly unique. Original art, however, goes far beyond simply creating something that looks different. It reflects a thoughtful combination of creativity, personal vision, cultural influence, and individual expression. A truly original work carries the artist's own voice through its concept, technique, interpretation, and creative decisions. It shows how the artist has observed, imagined, experimented, and transformed an idea into something personal. The result is not simply an image, but a reflection of the artist's way of seeing and responding to the world.'

Reference photographs can be an important and valuable part of the artistic process. They can provide inspiration, information, and a starting point for exploration. The challenge arises when a reference becomes a template for literal copying rather than a source for creative interpretation. Tracing lines, shapes, or values exactly can bypass the problem solving and artistic decisions that give a work its individuality. When an artist follows another image too closely, the opportunity to develop a personal voice can be lost, and the final piece may become more of a reproduction than an original expression. Using references does not diminish originality when the artist transforms the source through personal choices, imagination, interpretation, and creative expression.

WWG has always valued creativity, individuality, and originality in its juried shows. As the Fall Show approaches and artists return to their studios, may this note serve as a gentle reminder to use inspiration as a starting point while allowing personal imagination and creative voice to shine. Fall Show submissions are now open through September 15th. So, happy painting, and we look forward to seeing your beautiful, original creations.

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**

**Plan to attend the Laurin McCracken  
Demo, October 18, 4:00pm, at the Bee  
Cave Arts Foundation Gallery in the Hill  
Country Galleria. No charge and  
everyone is invited!**

### **A NOTE ABOUT OUR NEW VENUE:**

The Bee Cave Arts Foundation (BCAF) Gallery is our new space for the upcoming Laurin McCracken Demo and Workshop — a first for Waterloo! Formerly referred to as “The Hive,”\* the Gallery is a beautiful space right across the street from Dillard’s and H&M, with plentiful parking behind these two stores. It is closed to the public early in the week. Kitchen space is limited but there is a microwave and large refrigerator. Also, many good restaurants a very short walk away. A bonus: we will be surrounded by a unique and vibrant exhibit, “Urban & Pop Art.”

\*Because other businesses are also named the Hive, it has wreaked havoc with GPS directions and emergency calls, so the name has been officially retired.

## 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 - Registration OPEN!**  
Exploring Neurographic Art. Janet Fulk

**November 14, 2027 - Registration OPEN!**  
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



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/>

Show Chairs:  
Sofia Besondy  
Bijal Ghelani  
Carol Sue Witt

## Painter's Exhibit Riverbend's Inspiration Gallery



Located off the foyer in Riverbend Church's Home for Hope Auditorium

4214 N Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin, TX 78746

Aug 27 - Oct 5, every Sunday 10am - 12:30pm

RECEPTION: Sunday, Sept 13, 9:30-12:30

Celebrating 20 years of painting together weekly!

See our large 48"x 60" acrylic group painting created by 27 of our artists!

Works in watercolor, acrylic, and oil. Eleven of the 15 exhibiting artists are WWG members: Janet Cavallucci, Joy Gilcrease, Jane Flowers, Lisa Hoekstra, Sue Kemp, Beryl Kerwick, Pat Molina, Martha Paisley Ruth, Rashmi Thakur, Joan Werner, and Carol Sue Witt, Sofia Besondy, Roochita Chachra, Lisa Gregory 'Selke', and Bijal Ghelani.

## Bee Cave Arts Foundation Texas! Exhibit



WWG members are participating in the Texas! 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.

Check the website <https://beecavearts.foundation/>

Thank you to Lonni Swanson and Rashmi Thaker who adorned beautiful boots for the fundraiser!



## Art Direct Reception



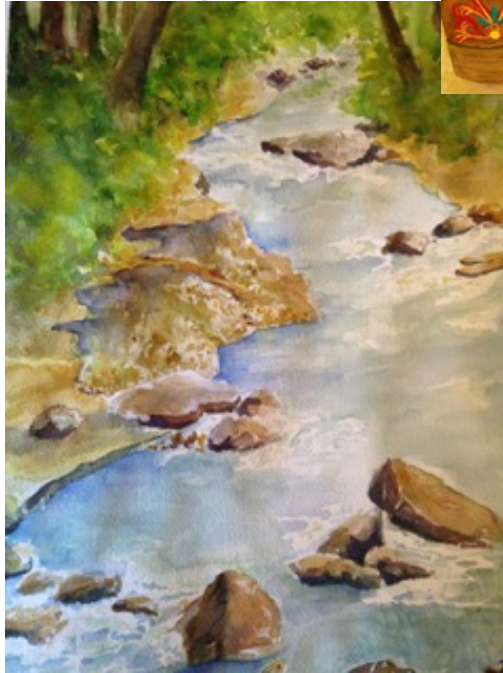
Judy Copekand



Colette  
Sirhal



I was lucky enough to discover watercolor painting in a high school art class more than 50+ years ago. The creative spark was lit and guided by a wonderful art teacher. Art school in New York was my desired destination after graduation, but my plans took several major detours along the way. As the father of six daughters, (and one boy at the tail end), my father had no intention of allowing his 17 year old daughter to head to that big city. If you like art, you can teach art was his alternative solution. So, detour, off I headed to Michigan from Cleveland, Ohio to earn a degree in fine art and education.



I finished my degree, met my husband and landed my first job teaching. I hated every minute of it. I loved art, all kinds of art: painting in any medium, photography, silk screen, woodcut, clay sculpture, design, color theory, drawing...anything. But I was not good at teaching. Detour number two was a complete one-eighty. With a husband just finishing grad school, I enrolled in accounting classes and eventually had a book of clients who stayed with me for close to thirty years. Financial statements and tax returns were a far cry from teaching art. Add in five

children, and I had a very busy life. My only painting through those years was with Dutch Boy, a roller and walls in my house!

Detour number three led me to Texas. The children were out of the house; my husband was busy with his career and I detested Michigan winters more every year. One of my daughters, who was working in Washington D.C., met a Texan, married and settled in Austin. We bought a condo in Austin to escape winters and spend time with our two granddaughters. I took evening classes at UT to fire up my rusty painting skills now that I had time. I took classes at Laguna Gloria from Sue Kemp, who introduced me to Waterloo Watercolor Group. I found my "tribe" of skilled, creative artists as drawn to watercolor as I was!



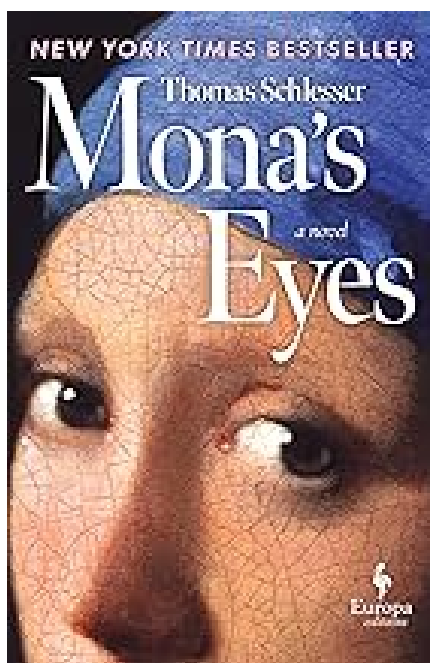
We've been in Austin almost 17 years and WWG has been a huge part of the joy in my life. Watercolor is challenging, chaotic and unpredictable. Yet the transparency and light, vibrancy of color and "happy accidents" allow for problem solving and stretch the bounds of creativity. That's why I love it! The opportunity to keep learning through the WWG workshops and the creative synergy gleaned from painting with my Tuesday comrades, always ready to support and encourage, has made me a better painter. Those life detours have had glorious, unplanned results!

## Bookworms

The art book club Bookworms is open to all members of WWG. 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. 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

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