

NOVEMBER 2026

Upcoming Dates

November
14 - Christmas Card Collage, Helen Green

16 - January 8 - Healing Arts Gallery, St. David's Hospital Georgetown, submit work October 16.

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



Visual artists are illusionists! Wait until you read what I mean. Transforming a two-dimensional piece of paper or canvas into a world that feels alive, artists invite viewers to look beyond the surface. Through the thoughtful arrangement of essential elements, they create the illusion of depth, space, light, and life. An artwork comes alive through feelings, drama, and composition, with colors, values, brushstrokes, techniques, and perspective working together to create a convincing visual experience. When one element is out of place, it can affect the harmony and believability of the entire painting.

While artists often focus on color and brushwork, one important element that sometimes goes unnoticed is perspective. Simply put, perspective is the technique of creating the illusion of depth and distance on a flat surface. It is especially important in landscapes, cityscapes, and still-life compositions, helping objects appear naturally positioned in space. A road narrowing into the distance or buildings gradually becoming smaller creates a sense of depth and guides the viewer's eye through the painting. Without proper perspective, even a beautifully executed artwork can appear flat or distorted. The good news is that perspective is not difficult to understand. Learning the basics of horizon lines, vanishing points, and how objects change in size with distance can make a remarkable difference in paintings. Perspective is more than just a technical rule; it is a powerful tool that helps artists tell stories and guide the viewer's experience. After all, our canvas may be flat, but our imagination has no limits. And that is where the true magic of an artist lies! On that note, be sure to read our special feature on the painting process, featuring insights, tips, and techniques from Master Watercolor Artist Laurin McCracken. His approach offers a wonderful opportunity to discover valuable techniques, explore new ways of seeing, and find inspiration for your own artistic journey. Some of these insights may be new to you, opening up exciting possibilities in how you observe, understand, and create art.

Warm Regards,
Rashmi Thakur

'Life is beautiful with colors, keep art alive.'

Banner art courtesy of Elakiya Lakshmanan

Laurin McCraken Class – a Busy Three Days!





You can see how Laurin used a styrofoam "holder" glued to a heavier board to hold his brushes and his upside down bottle of Daniel Smith masking fluid. He has his painting propped up at a 17 degree angle (you can use the measure app on your phone to get the correct angle) so that the water in the paintbrush doesn't go straight down under the paper and remain wet. Also note that his palette has almost no water which keeps paint colors more deep and rich.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: Laurin McCracken

OVERALL COMMENT: Some watercolor artists don't give drawing much thought, believing that the watercolor will just take over, but drawing is essential to a watercolor painting. If a drawing is inaccurate or the perspective is off, such things detract from the painting.

FIRST PLACE: The Harmony by Elakiya Lakshmanan
This is a beautiful seascape. It shows a mastery of technique that rises above most others. Its subject obviously means of a lot to the artist, who put those feelings into the painting.

SECOND PLACE: Special Delivery by Larisa Anaya
I love the way that, with a limited palette, she captures what happens in a small Texas town. Walking around the square in Georgetown today, one hopes that is how one sees Texas: a bit of green and a lot of history.

THIRD PLACE: A Place for Stories by Monte Hunter
This painting is a well-drawn and well-thought-out watercolor. It tells a really simple story in a really straight-forward way, but it uses color that is not traditional to those building types.

MERIT AWARDS *(Listed alphabetically by artist):*

Misty by Yingying Chen
Greens are a really tough issue. This is a successful use of some very difficult yellow greens. The title is well-chosen because it defines what the eye sees: a misty green forest.

Sungazer by Jane Flowers
From a rapid sketch and a softening of colors, the artist gives the viewer enough details so that the viewer's eyes fill in the detail.

Ninja Turtles by Frederick Fung
The most successful thing about this painting is the emphasis on the body and the face and the diffusion of the background.

A Warm Glow by Sue Kemp
The artist sets herself a real challenge by using the traditional seasonal colors of red and green. Her success in inserting the white lilies makes this painting a delight for the eyes.

Fort Davis Cattle by Marta Mohr
Using a limited palette, the artist captures the spirit of Texas in this painting with the fluent strokes, the lightest touch, and the accurate drawing.

Fallen Fronds by Lila Sheikhi
Here the artist has taken the simplest of subjects and, with a concentrated use of a strong composition, has made something worthy out of simplicity.

Colors of Innocence by Rashmi Thakur
This is a strong portrait of an obviously strong woman. The painting wants us to sit with her and hear her story.

Lighten Up by Carol Sue Witt
This painting is of a complex subject that is kept under control by emphasizing the details on certain objects and diffusing the details on other objects.

The Next 3-Day Workshop!

Stephen Zhang



It is hard to choose between his portraits full of soul and spirit and his forestscapes that transport you to reverie like this painting.

Registration and location will soon be up on the Events web page.

Stephen Zhang 's 3-Day Workshop
May 17 to May 19, 2027

Click here to see examples of Stephen's portraits at the Artist's website:

https://www.stephenzhangart.com/Gallery/IN-THE-MOMENT

This workshop will fill up quickly so please keep checking back at https://waterloowatercolor.org/events/.





Austin Studio Tour



Waterloo member **Supriya Kharod** is a Featured Artist in the 2026 Austin Studio Tour at Sunset Valley City Hall (Stop #2). There will be 14 artists exhibiting at this location, with live musicians, free parking, nearby restaurants & an awesome play area for children. Come on over!

Dates:
November 14-15, 11-5 pm
November 22-23, 11-5 pm
Address: Sunset Valley City Hall, 3205 Jones Rd, Sunset Valley, TX 78745

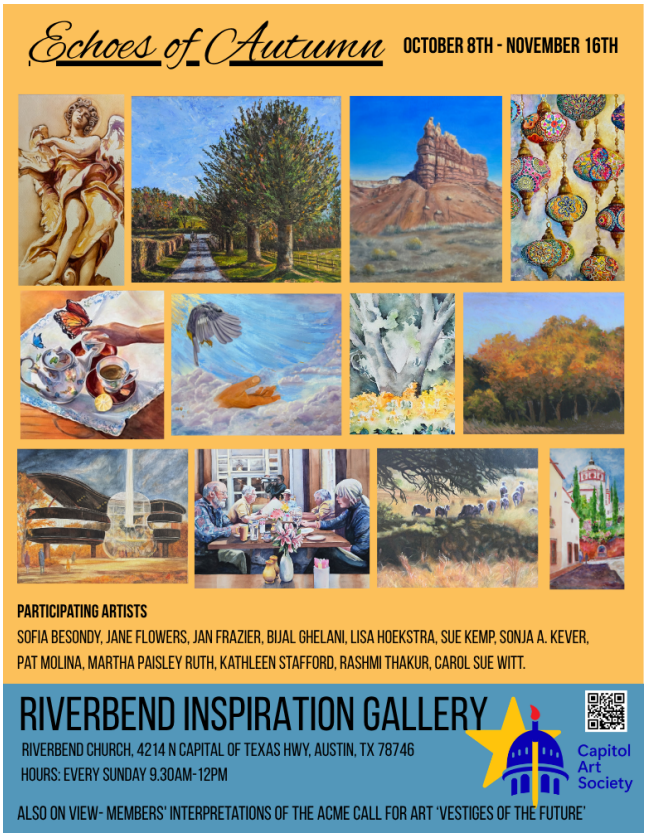
https://atxstudiotour.com/artists/supriya-kharod/



Pat Molina, WWG member, is joining the Austin Studio Tour this year. She is #195 and exhibiting her canyon series along with a many more paintings. Her apartment studio located centrally off of Enfield Rd and West Lynn St. will be open on the following days.
Sat/Sun Nov 14 and 15, 11am-5pm
Sat/Sun Nov 21 and 22, 11am-5pm
Address: 1200 Elm St #115, Austin, TX 78703)

She plans to show framed paintings along with unframed work. You can also visit her on IG @artbypatmolina

Capitol Art Society
Echos of Autumn

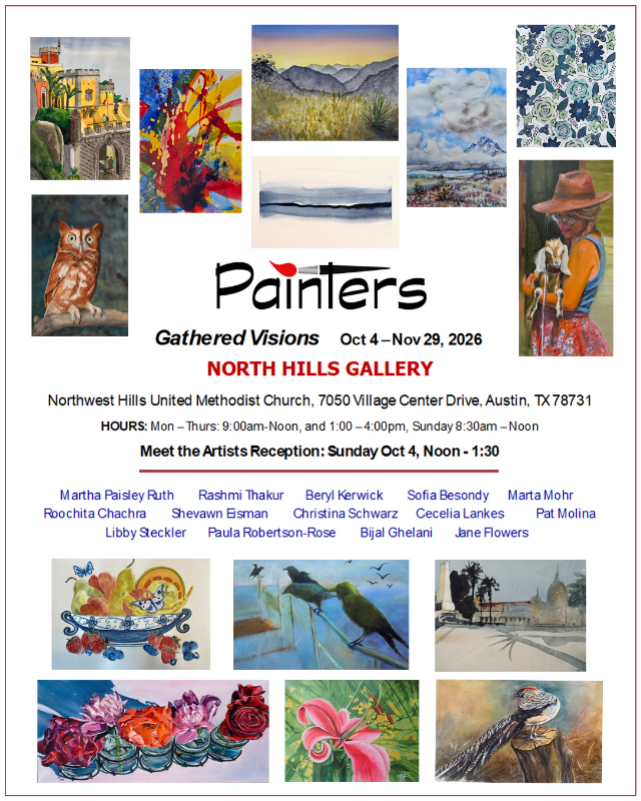


Riverbend Church Inspiration Gallery - Sundays, Oct 11 - Nov 15

Located in the Home for Hope Auditorium, 4214 N. Capital of Texas HWY, Austin TX 78746

HOURS: Every Sunday 9:30 - Noon. Visit the artists while they Show-Sit each Sunday. They will also offer prints, note cards, unframed originals, and art-inspired items for sale. Waterloo members (in bold): **Jane Flowers, Lisa Hoekstra, Sue Kemp, Pat Molina, Martha Paisley Ruth, Kathleen Stafford, Rashmi Thakur, Carol Sue Witt,** Sofia Besondy, Jan Frazier, Sonja A. Kever.

Painter's Exhibit
Gathered Visions



Northwest Hills Gallery - Oct 4 - Nov 29

Located in Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, 7050 Village Center Drive, Austin, TX 78731.

See this exhibit and visit with artists every Sunday morning 9-noon as well as Tuesday, Nov 3rd & 10th, 10:00-3:00 while they paint in the Gallery. A fun opportunity to purchase paintings and various art items on sale for the Holidays! (Plus, it's a polling location on Nov 3!)

Participating artists: (Waterloo members in bold): **Martha Paisley Ruth, Rashmi Thakur, Shevawn Eisman, Pat Molina, Beryl Kerwick, Paula Robertson-Rose, Jane Flowers, Libby Steckler, Cecelia Lankes, Christina Schwarz, Marta Mohr,** and Sofia Besondy, Bijal Ghelani, Roochita Chachra.

64 framed paintings in various mediums and subjects for sale as well as unframed originals, prints, note cards, and creative art items! Great for Holiday shopping! Check it out!!

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 Nov. 14, One-Day workshop is open on the website: https://waterloowatercolor.org/

Here is the lineup:
November 14, 2027 - Registration OPEN!
'Tis the Season Christmas Cards/ Holiday Themes Collage with Helen Green





January 9, 2027
Painting Portraits in Watercolor with Jennifer Polnaszek

Learn the basic techniques of painting the human face in watercolor. Please bring several pictures of your chosen subject. The instructor will work with you to achieve a likeness.

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.

Norwegian Fjords Watercolor Workshop Cruise

Experience Norway like never before with our watercolor workshops at sea. Partnering with luxury cruise lines, these unique workshop itineraries journey through dramatic fjords, storybook coastal towns, and breathtaking Nordic landscapes, combining inspiring destinations with guided watercolor instruction and dedicated on-board workshop sessions in an intimate small-ship setting.

Norway workshop cruise includes:

- Half-day (avg. ~3 hr/day) watercolor workshops led by professional instructor, **Al Kline**

HTTP://paintbydestination.com/art-workshops/norway-2027-workshop-cruise/

Featured Artist

Rashmi Thaker



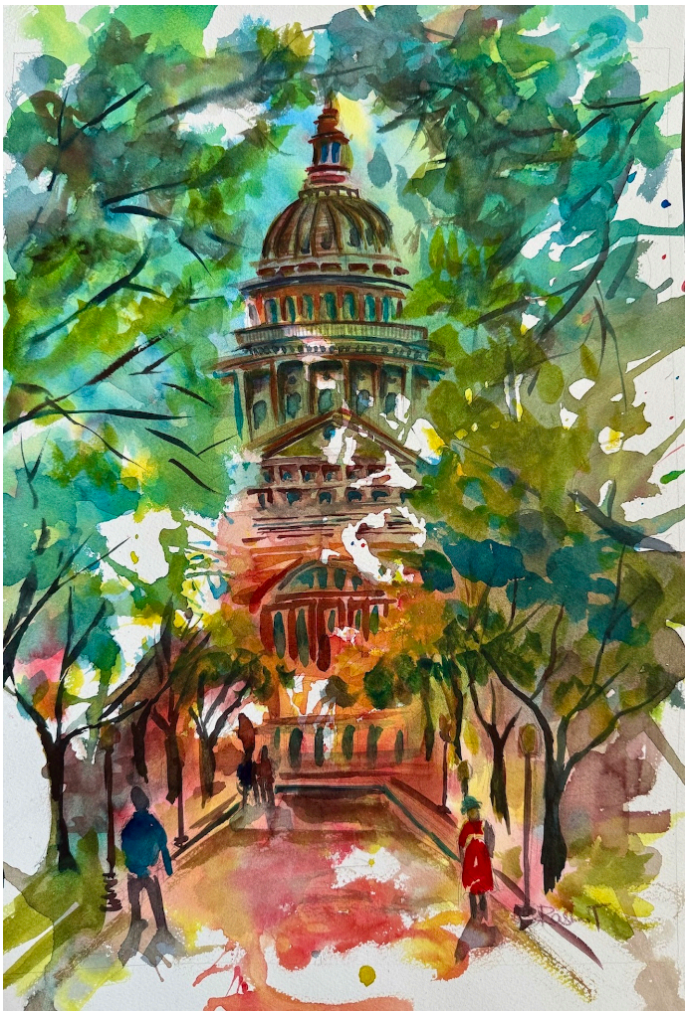
"Art found me and healed me when I needed it most, and from that moment on, I never looked back."



I am a multidisciplinary visual artist and art educator based in Austin, Texas, working primarily in watercolors, oils, acrylics, and textile arts. Born and raised in Mumbai, India, I studied Textile Design at Sir J.J. School of Arts before pursuing further studies in fashion styling and design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.

Early in my career, my professional journey included working in the garment and fashion industry, followed by business administration—experiences that continue to shape my creative perspective.

After living in New York for 13 years, I moved to Austin with my family in 2015, embracing a new chapter of creativity and connection. Inspired by my multicultural roots, travels across continents, nature, and everyday life, my work explores identity, cultural narratives, resilience, and



contemporary social issues. I seek to bridge tradition and modernity while celebrating our shared human experience.

An active member of the Waterloo Watercolor Group since 2017, I have continued to learn and grow through the encouragement of fellow artists and inspiring workshops led by visiting instructors. I am now honored to serve as President of this wonderful community. Along my artistic journey, I have received so much love, encouragement, and recognition that at times, it all feels like a beautiful dream. I feel deeply grateful for how far this journey has taken me, and I hope I never stop dreaming, learning, and discovering new possibilities through art.

Through my art and teaching, I hope to inspire self-discovery, meaningful dialogue, and a deeper appreciation for the healing power of creativity and human connection.

Larisa Anaya has a Busy Schedule!



Dialogue



Port of Dinan

My painting "Dialogue" was selected into SMALL WORKS exhibition and will be at display November 4, 2026 to January 3, 2027 in the Georgetown Art Center

My painting "Port of Dinan" was awarded Second place in Society of Watercolor Artists annual exhibition - associate members category, and showcased at the Nevill Gallery in Fort Worth in October 2026

November 12 to 14th I will participate in the international watercolor online convention "Les Rencontres de l'Aquarelle" (Watercolor Meetings) . During these 3 days 13 international watercolor artists will share their techniques and inspiration. My topic is plein air watercolor painting and I will show my painting process step by step on November 14th. and I invite everyone to register for free and attend the speakers workshops for 3 days, or buy a pass for a longer access:

https://les-rencontres-de-laquarelle.systeme.io/tr/2/8353391/14863283155/45876613/4423353243971fde977a3fb6323b236bc9fc848f3

This is the result of my 1 hour 20 min painting process done from across the street in Georgetown and recorded.



Farewell to Vicki Brevell



One of our long-time members, Vicki Brevell, passed away on October 28. Vicki would have turned 78 on November 9th. She was very active for many years in Waterloo Watercolor Group, winning several awards in shows, and was an early member of WWG's art Bookworms book club.

She was a current member of Capitol Art Society, a member of the 620 Group (now Painters), and a former member of Plein Air Austin. She was very active in the vibrant Round Rock art community, and hosted many parties and paint-outs for art groups at her home. Recently, she and David bought a home in Lufkin, to be closer to medical treatment at Houston MD Anderson, so unfortunately those of us in Austin and Round Rock saw her less often.



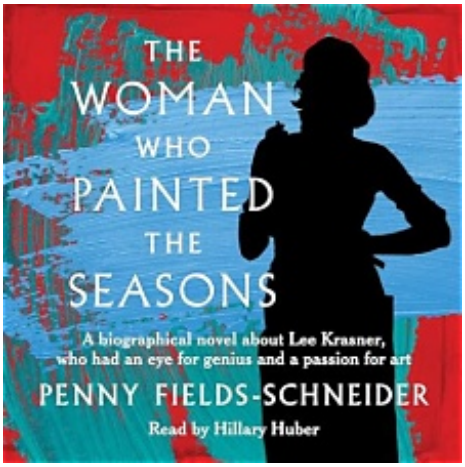
Vicki loved traveling to Europe to paint! She went to France and Italy on trips organized by Eileen Pestorius. She traveled a lot in Europe with Rae Andrews, and went on a number of trips led by nationally-recognized artists. She kept lovely illustrated trip journals and was the enthusiastic traveling companion who jumped at the chance to open a gate on a rural road in southern France! We will all miss Vicki's warm smile, enthusiasm, and love of painting.



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 in order to receive additional information about our next meeting. We move around to the homes of various 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 second fall meeting will be held on **Friday, November 6,** starting at 9:30 am. We will read a **biographical novel about Lee Krasner by Penny Fields-Schneider entitled *The Woman Who Painted the Seasons***. It is also OK to read instead any book about Lee Krasner; such variety will add to our discussion.

Krasner was associated with the Abstract Expressionist movement in New York City and was one of the five artists known as the "Ninth Street Women."She is known both for her own impressive body of work and for being the wife of Jackson Pollock, whose career she furthered in many ways. We will focus on Krasner and her work, but you might also enjoy viewing in advance the film *Pollock* (2000), which has an Oscar-winning portrayal of Krasner by Marcia Gay Harden. The film does not focus much on her artwork but has a strong portrayal of her character. .**Our timing is great, particularly for those of you who are planning a trip to NYC. The Metropolitan Museum currently has a show (through January 31, 2027) entitled Krasner and Pollock: Past Continuous.**
https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions
Join us in November for a lively discussion of this innovative and resilient artist.

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