



January 2025

P.O. Box 4631
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
www.californiawatercolor.org

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California WATERCOLOR Association

ZOOM Demo for Members and Guests at 7:00 pm PST, Wednesday, January 15, 2025.



Please join us for the
Artist Reception & Awards Presentation
February 15, 2025
from 11:00 am–2:00 pm

Piedmont Center for the Arts
801 Magnolia Avenue, Piedmont, California 94611

Exhibition dates: February 15–March 23, 2025
Gallery Hours: 11:00 am–2:00 pm, Saturdays & Sundays
Admission is Free to the Public

[Click here](#) to email the 55th International Exhibition committee.





January ZOOM Demo Artist **Mike Hernandez**

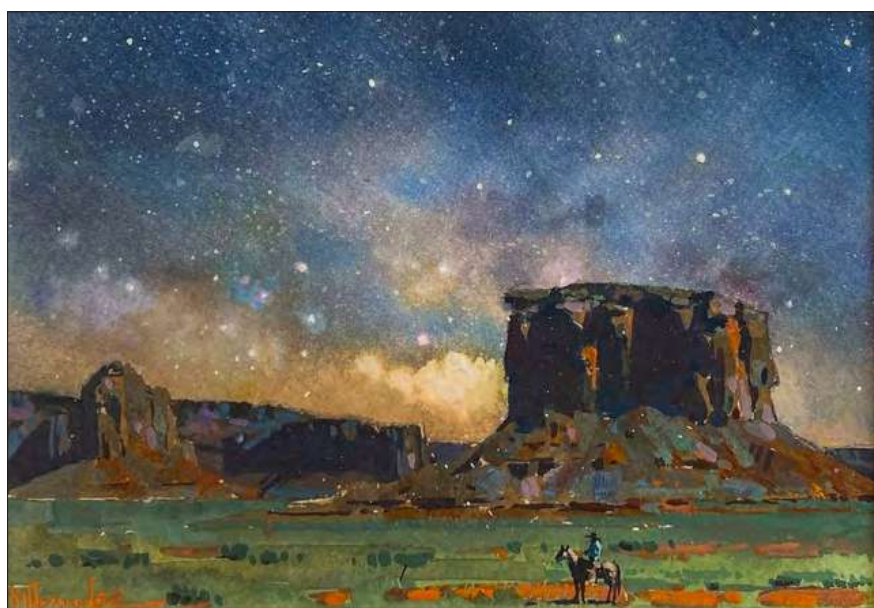
There will be a **ZOOM General Meeting and Demo** by Mike Hernandez for CWA members and friends to participate, on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, from 7:00–9:00 pm PST.

Keeping it simple, the **ZOOM link** and **passcode** below will continue to be the same for all our General Meetings in 2025.

ZOOM Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88067424194?pwd=dIA1MmpiaG11OGtxNURqK0JWSXVhZz09>

Meeting ID: 880 6742 4194

Passcode: 319828



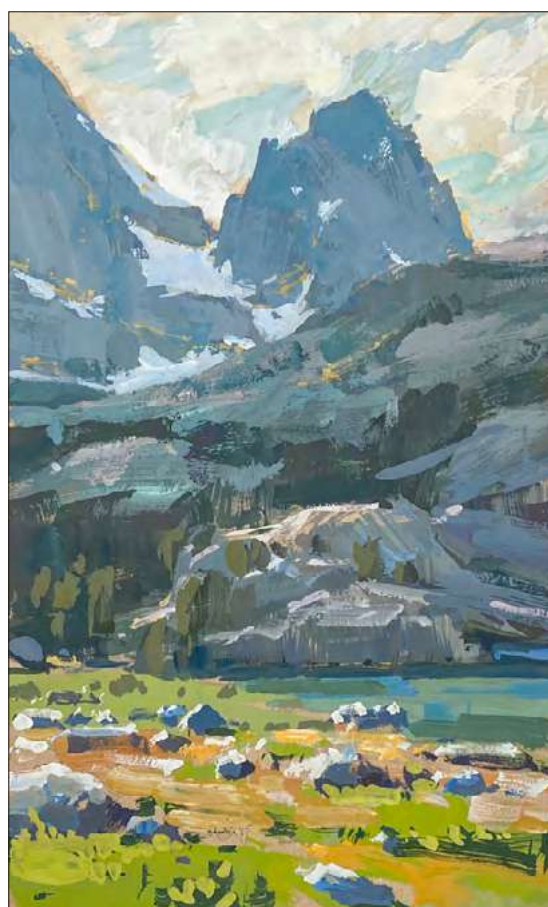
Counting Stars by Mike Hernandez

Mike Hernandez, a native Angeleno, is a plein air painter skilled in gouache, oil, and acrylic. His artwork has been featured in various online publications and galleries. Mike's journey as an artist began in childhood, when he painted still life images. Influenced by the likes of Edgar Payne, Sorolla, and Franz Bischoff, he soon explored the foundations of color and light in outdoor settings – striving to find the beauty in the ordinary.

With a palette that resides at the crossroads between industrial and landscapes, he finds inspiration anywhere from the Eastern Sierra range to the muddy concrete banks of the Los Angeles River. Mike studied at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, where he graduated with a B.A. in 1998.

In addition to his painting, Mike has worked as a Production Designer, Art Director, and concept artist at DreamWorks Animation on films including *Shrek*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Turbo*, *Penguins of Madagascar*, and many other. He is also a member of PAPA, a prestigious group of top painters in the U.S., and is a sought-after workshop instructor nationwide. His works are part of several private collections around the world.

Artist's website at mikehernandezart.com





The Drawing Board

California Watercolor Association

Each month a different member of the CWA Board of Directors has the opportunity to write an art-related article for our members.

As Secretary for the CWA Board, I am submitting this article for our monthly newsletter. My previous submission in September 2024 discussed how the drawing prepares me for the painting process that follows the drawing. This current article builds on the mental process from drawing to painting. For me, drawing is an interpretive venture of analyzing a subject or scene and utilizing my “first impressions” of what attracts me to the subject. It might be the color, value, division of space, areas of interest, or just “attention-getting” factors. It is not necessary to include all details, but, instead, let my mind explore potential interpretations of the subject in terms of the elements of design (line, color, value, shape, and texture) and variations in hard/soft edges and directions.

Once the drawing is finished, the next step is to begin the painting. I favor a “**direct painting**” process—it’s faster, more intuitive, and continues the “discovery” process that begins in the drawing. Direct painting refers to a process where the artist starts by including a full range of values at the beginning without building up successive washes. I like to begin with an area of interest (usually with contrast), which is often where I started the drawing in the first place. I begin with a full range of value in the first strokes of painting and then work outward from there.

Direct painting allows me to jump in with important contrasts, shapes, directions, and variations in intensity based on prior decisions and adjacent strokes of paint. The advantages of the direct painting approach include less danger of muddy colors and offer a more spontaneous and fresh result. Direct painting involves an “*alla prima*” (all at once) approach. It is a perfect process for on-site painting.

Of course, there are times when an indirect, layered approach is better. It is up to the artist to decide the next move based on what is necessary to develop the desired look and feel of the result. Many artists use the opposite approach of **indirect painting**. It is a more patient process, beginning with light values and gradually building up values and areas of interest in layers.

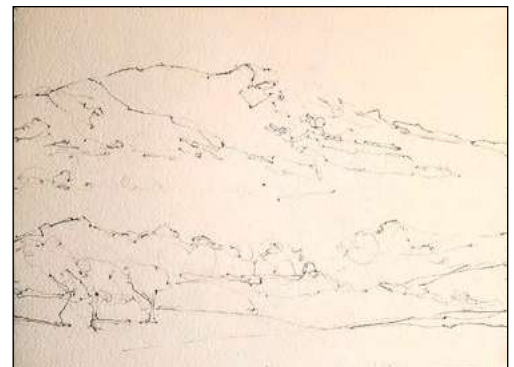
I’ve included the drawing and painting of my plein air, *Mount Diablo*, painting. I began the drawing with the dark shape above the center of the composition. My first step was determining the mountain's dark (important) shape against the sky. From there, I transitioned into the lost edges formed by the light to the right of Mount Diablo’s peak. I worked “shape against shape,” looking for opportunities for changes in values, lost and found edges, and variations in sizes of shapes. I also found delight in the fall colors in the foreground and variations in the directions caused by undulations in the landscape. I used the sky shape to create more continuous transitions into the shadowed areas of the mountain, and lighter values in the sky to create light transitions from the mountain to the sky.

To summarize, I used a modified contour drawing to establish important value changes and soft-edged transitions throughout the composition. The intensity of lines in the drawing created opportunities for sharp value contrasts, while light lines or no lines at all reminded me to use soft transitions. I hope these notes help identify the possibilities of expanding your approach from the drawing and painting processes for exciting paintings, which can create exciting compositions from otherwise mundane subjects.

Artist's website at lesliewilson.net

Leslie Wilson
Secretary

February General Meeting
Join us at our next General Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, where Leslie will inspire us all with a demonstration on painting Mount Diablo or another captivating subject.



Mt. Diablo by Leslie Wilson



Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

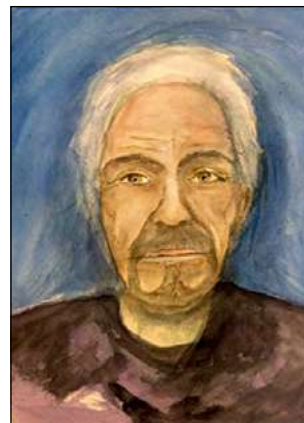
Finishing Out the Year 2024

2024 was a good year for Outreach with the Oakland Veterans. We began working in a new place, a room with wonderful natural light in the VA Outpatient building on the 21st in Oakland. We gained a highly skilled new CWA volunteer, Pat Mosek, whose work is abstract, she is capable in all subject matter. She and Michael Friedland led the group, with Sheila Cain assisting.

Throughout the year we covered many different watercolor skills. We began with a lily floral which involved a range of whites with a blush of pink, then mid-range green to dark green leaves. The next lesson was the basic shapes applied to a still life. While we could have continued with just the basic shapes—cube, cone, ball, and cylinder—it was beneficial to see these forms applied to a still life setting.

Next, we tackled two landscapes. The first was a three-piece band playing outside in a farm venue. The second was a value study of a shack on the horizon with fields and a foreground fence. The next month involved a full-color version of the same composition. Pat led an abstract diptych on Yupo paper including collage. It was a nice change of pace and a whole new way of thinking. Michael led a snowy landscape.

We rounded out the year with a portrait and then self-portraits. We had painted self-portraits ten years earlier. For myself, I noticed that they hadn't become any easier. In our December class, we continued working on unfinished projects or painted new ones. The group's watercolor skills are improving.



We are growing together in more ways than one. One of our members had a health crisis and her recovery was a great relief. We enter 2025 with gratitude for the health that we have and best wishes for the coming new year.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach



CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION 2025 WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES



Mike Hernandez — Painting the Landscape in Gouache

2-Day Online Workshop
January 11–12, 2025 | All Levels

CWA Members \$335 Non-Members \$395
Artist's website at mikehernandezart.com



Michael Holter — Watercolor Impressionism, Landscapes and Cityscapes

4-Day In-Person Workshop
February 24–27, 2025 | All Levels

CWA Members \$510 Non-Members \$570
Artist's website at michaelholter.com



Gary Tucker — Finding Confidence with Watercolor

3-Day Online Workshop
March 21–23, 2025 | Advanced Beginner *(some experience helpful)*

CWA Members \$250 Non-Members \$310
Artist's website at garytuckerartist.com



Michael Reardon — Watercolor Techniques

3-Day In-Person Workshop
April 23–25, 2025 | All Levels *(some experience recommended)*

CWA Members \$275 Non-Members \$335
Artist's website at mreardon.com



Amit Kapoor — How to Capture the Magic of Light and Shadow, and How to Simplify a Complicated Subject

3-Day In-Person Workshop
May 16–18, 2025 | All Levels

CWA Members \$395 Non-Members \$455
Artist's website at amitkapoorwatercolor.com



Thomas Schaller — Design and the Power of Imagination

3-Day Online Workshop
June 16–18, 2025 | All Levels *(some experience helpful)*

CWA Members \$350 Non-Members \$410
Artist's website at thomasschaller.com



Keiko Tenabe — Keep it Simple and Strong

3-Day In-Person Workshop
October 27–29, 2025 | Intermediate *(previous experience is strongly recommended)*

CWA Members \$425 Non-Members \$485
Artist's website at ktanabefineart.com



CWA is dedicated to offering our students some of the best workshops with top professional artists. We invite you to join in the fun and look forward to meeting you.

In-person workshops will be held at the Danville Ranch Clubhouse, 1895 Ridgeland Circle, Danville, CA 94526.

For detailed workshop descriptions, pricing, and online registration, please visit <http://www.californiawatercolor.org/classes.php>.

For additional information, please visit www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose **Workshops** from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.



Mailing Address

California Watercolor Association
Post Office Box 4631
Walnut Creek, CA 94596 USA

To Email a Board, Staff or Committee Member Go To

www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php
and choose a recipient from the drop down menu.

Membership/Data Manager

Make changes to your address, phone number and email on the members home page, under membership when you're logged with a current membership account. Email datamanager@californiawatercolor.org if you have trouble logging in.

General Meetings

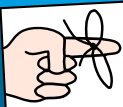
Monthly General Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 pm–9:00 pm, PST, via Zoom, unless otherwise specified.

Newsletter Distribution

To receive this newsletter electronically please contact the Webmaster with the email address at which you wish to receive the newsletter.

CWA Photo Notice

CWA may be taking photos or videos at CWA events. Your attendance at CWA events constitutes your "permission, consent, and release" to be photographed without compensation whatsoever in perpetuity. Images may be used online and in print exclusively by CWA explicitly for publicity, information, and promotion.

Plan Ahead!
Submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication!
**February Newsletter
Deadline is January 15th.**
Click here to make a submission.

CWA Member Show

Happy Memories

January 11– February 21, 2025

Artwork Drop-off at John Muir Health on January 11, 2025

Show Opens January 12, 2025

Congratulations to the Accepted Artists!

- Night at the Presidio* by Robin Becic
- Lolly Pop Kids* by Teresa Beyer
- Art Institute of Chicago at Sunset* by Karen Booth
- Penny's First Visit* by Nancy Byrnes
- Flowers of Giverny* by Orli Cotel
- Waiting in the Rain* by Margaret Fago
- Surge* by Jeff Ishikawa
- Point Richmond Ferry Landing* by Glen Jarvis
- Palace Roses* by Jessica de Jesus
- Sausalito Reflections* by Marion Leggett
- Garden Couple* by Barbara Lind
- Gigi* by Jana Lowe
- Where Life is Born* by Yumiko Nishizawa
- Black Cat* by Marina Omelianenko
- Forgotten Relics* by Michael O'Rourke
- Golden Hour at the Ranch* by Jaladhi Pujara
- Thirty Minute Parking* by Judy Rowe
- Fleet Week on San Francisco Bay* by Dale Rutz
- Canvasback and Scaups* by Rita Sklar
- Three Amigos* by Steve Stein
- Lombard and Hyde* by Bernie Stein
- Grandad's Memories* by Kathleen Stumpfel
- Childhood Memories* by Sujit Sudhi
- A Day at Filoli* by Kirsten Theurer
- Mount Diablo 2024* by Leslie Wilson

Awards

Awards posted at californiawatercolor.org on January 18, 2025

Jurors

Juror of Selection — Carol Tarzier, San Francisco Artist
Juror of Awards — Glen Jarvis, CWA

Show Closes, and Artwork Pick Up

Pick up of paintings at the John Muir Gallery on February 21, 2025, from 2:00–4:00 pm

Venue

John Muir Health — Auxiliary Gallery at the Aspen Center
133 La Casa Via, Walnut Creek, CA 9459

Questions

Email shows@californiawatercolor.org



Plein Air – USS Hornet Museum, Alameda

Saturday, January 25, 2025, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm



The USS Hornet Museum, a State and National Historic Landmark, is berthed at Pier 3 on the former naval air station in Alameda. This historic aircraft carrier played a significant role in World War II, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and in the recovery of the first two lunar landing space missions—Apollo 11 and 12. The ship itself is a fascinating subject for painting. Alternatively, you can choose a nearby vantage point. To the east, you'll have a view of the San Francisco skyline, and to the west, you can find Encinal Beach and a picnic area within walking distance.

Please meet at 10:00 am near the ticket office to begin your experience, and feel free to paint anywhere in the vicinity. Remember to bring your lunch and return to the ticket office area by 12:30 pm to showcase your paintings.

If you plan to board the USS Hornet, please refrain from bringing permanent markers, aerosol cans, or oversized bags. Note that the hatches between decks can be narrow. For your safety and the security of the museum, they recommend that any bags larger than 12" x 8" x 12" be returned to your car or stored in a locker at Admissions (please be aware that the lockers do not have locks). This policy applies to backpacks, camera bags, tote bags, purses, and other similar items. Adult admission is \$25, while seniors and military personnel can enter for \$15. Tickets are available for purchase online or at the door.

Click here for directions, and transportation options.

USS Hornet Museum

707 W Hornet Ave,
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 521 8448

Museum Hours: 10:00 am-5:00pm

There is plenty of free parking in front of the ship.

Click here for website

Questions?

Contact Nutan Singh, Plein Air Coordinator

Email: nutan.finearts@gmail.com



Member News

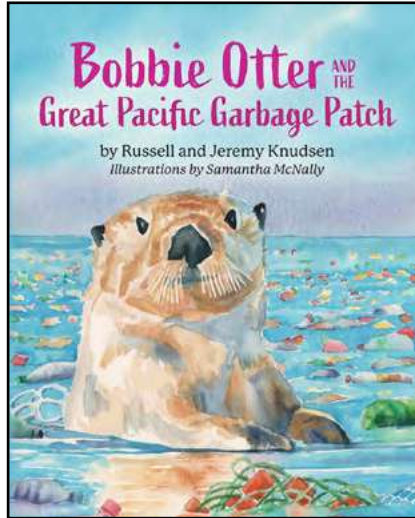
Samantha McNally, CWA

On Saturday, January 18, at 6:00 pm, Russell Knudsen will be reading excerpts from his book, *Bobbie Otter and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch*, in the wonderful community of Concord. Russ is grateful for the opportunity to share this story, along with Samantha McNally's beautiful artwork, and to support a great cause: Ocean Voyages Institute.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is twice the size of Texas, and Ocean Voyages Institute travels there each summer to remove several tons of plastic debris for recycling and repurposing.

Authors Russell and Jeremy believe that humanity can take better care of Mother Earth, just like Bobbie Otter! Samantha McNally will also be present with the original paintings featured in the book. Bring the kids! Books will be available for purchase and autographed by the authors.

aRt Cottage in Concord.
2238 Mt. Diablo Street | Concord, CA 94520
Open Wednesday–Saturday 11:00 am–5:00 pm
www.aRtcottage.info
(925) 956-3342



Dairyman's Feed & Grain by Bernie Stein

Bernie Stein

Bernie's painting, *Dairyman's Feed & Grain*, was selected for the Marin Society of Artists "Fresh Art 2024" exhibition, which runs December 16, 2024–February 15, 2025.

[Click here](#) to view the show.



We Need You

Now is your chance to be a CWA board member!

[Click here](#) for the list of open positions.

[Click here](#) to read the description of the positions in the CWA bylaws.

[Click here](#) to contact CWA Secretary, Leslie Wilson for more information and say you want to volunteer.



CWA Board of Directors

President	VACANT
Vice President/Membership	VACANT
Secretary	Leslie Wilson
Director, Budget	Kathleen Catton
Director, Member Shows	Kathleen Stumpf
Director, Communications	Jessica de Jesus
Director, Programs	Lis MacDonald
Director, International Exhibition	VACANT
Co-Director, Community Outreach	Sheila Cain
Co-Director, Community Outreach	Georganne Zaro
Director, Workshops	Joe Tringali
Member At-Large	Rekha Joshi
Member At-Large	Sharon Hopkins

CWA Support Personnel

Bookkeeper	Melissa Alva
Membership/Data Manager/ Webmaster	Adrienne Hefter
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Rosa

CWA Volunteer Committees

Audio Visual Set Up	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Community Outreach	Sheila Cain Maggie Metcalf
Co-Video Librarians	Joe Tringali (Chair) Barb Bochenek Madeline Shelby
Co-Hospitality	Susan Scolnick Jean Holmes Sharon Hopkins
55th International Exhibition	Jessica de Jesus Iretta Hunter Carol Husslein Samantha McNally Marilyn Miller Ruth Miller Patricia Rosa Joe Tringali Leslie Wilson
Mail Distribution	Carol Husslein
Panel Rental	Carol Husslein
Plein Air	Nutan Singh
Workshop Registrar	Pat Wai

To Email a Board, Staff or Committee Member:

Go to www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose a recipient from the drop-down menu.

Welcome New CWA Members

Barbara Janis, John Taggart,
Pete Roberts, Varunika Gupta

Click here to email membership, then choose
Membership Director from the Recipient drop-down menu.

[Click here to Join or Renew Today!](#)

Follow Us on Facebook & Instagram?



Jessica de Jesus, our Communications Director, is sharing some engaging content. Like us on Facebook and Instagram to stay informed on what is happening. CWA Social Media is your resource for information, promoting the CWA, our members, events, and more.

Updated Content Now Online

- Upcoming CWA Events
- Recaps of Workshops and Demonstrations
- Calls for Entries
- Member Highlights, Welcomes, and News
- Updates on CWA Outreach
- Book Recommendations

CWA Social Media Call for Content!

Attention CWA Community: Help us populate the CWA Instagram and Facebook feeds with the latest and greatest member news, member updates, calls for art, etc...!

Follow Us

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cawatercolorassociation/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaWatercolor>

Contribute

Click here to submit content.

CWA Member Resources



Watch Us on YouTube!

Did you miss a general meeting demo? Want to go back and review part of a demo again? Watch now on YouTube.

Check out our YouTube Channel and subscribe to get notified of our latest demos from your favorite artists! Don't forget to subscribe to the channel!

Thank you, and enjoy!



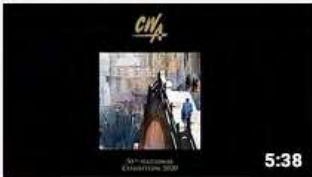
CWA Michael Holter Demo



CWA Stephen Berry Demo



CWA 50th National Art Show at the Harrington Gallery



CWA 50th National Show 2020



CWA Roland Lee Demo



CWA Leslie Wilson Demo

And More!



Click here to go to the CWA YouTube Channel, and don't forget to click the subscribe button!

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CaliforniaWatercolorAssociation>



CWA Video Library

Staying engaged and creative is easy...just go to the CWA website and view the library catalog, note the video that you are interested in, and send Madeline the catalog number in an email and she will check to see if it's available. She will let you know about its availability and mail it to you if available. It is your responsibility to return the video 30 days after receiving. It can be dropped off at Madeline's home or mailed. All you need to do is pay postage.

[Click here to view our entire catalog.](#)

It can also be found by going to our website and clicking the **About Us Tab** and following the link to **Video Library**.

Checking out a video will be simple, please follow the steps below:

- 1) You must be a Member
- 2) Once you find a video that you are interested in, note the **Catalog Abstract Number**.
- 3) Email me at madlnshelby@aol.com, with the **Catalog Abstract Number** and I will check its availability. I will send you a verification if it is available or let you know if it is checked out.
- 4) If the video is available we will mail it to your home via USPS. Your address on your membership records will be used for shipping.
Please log in and make sure your address information is up-to-date.
- 5) Your rental period is for 30 days. You are responsible to return the video to me. You are responsible for return shipping costs.

Return Address:
Madeline Shelby
482 Broadmoor Blvd.
San Leandro, CA 94577

6) Members who return videos after 30 days must pay a \$5.00 Late Fee. Lost videos must be replaced at the video replacement value.

We are excited to offer this service and hope it will lead to your creative enjoyment.

Madeline Shelby



2025 CWA Calendar

General Meetings & Demos

January 15, 2025 — ZOOM Demo
Mike Hernandez
(for Members & Guests)

February 19, 2025	Leslie Wilson
March 19, 2025	Gary Tucker
April 16, 2025	Stephen Berry
May 21, 2025	Thomas Schaller
June 18, 2025	Birgit O'Connor
July 2025	Summer Break—NO MEETING
August 20, 2025	Dale Laitinen
September 17, 2025	TBD
October 15, 2025	Keiko Tanabe
November 19, 2025	Geoff Allen
December 2025	Winter Break—NO MEETING

Go to **Monthly Meetings** under the **About Us** tab at www.californiawatercolor.org for updates.

CWA Workshop Series

January 11–12, 2025 Mike Hernandez
Painting the Landscape in Gouache (ZOOM)

February 24–27, 2025 Michael Holter
Watercolor Impressionism, Landscapes
and Cityscapes (LIVE)

March 21–23, 2025 Gary Tucker
Finding Confidence with Watercolor (ZOOM)

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How to Capture the Magic of Light and Shadow,
and How to Simplify a Complicated Subject (LIVE)

June 16–18, 2025 Thomas Schaller
Design and the Power of Imagination (ZOOM)

October 27–29, 2025 Keiko Tenabe
Keep it Simple and Strong (LIVE)

To request additional information, go to www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose **Workshops** from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.

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Awards Presentation on February 15, 2025

Piedmont Center for the Arts

801 Magnolia Avenue
Piedmont, California 94611

CWA Member Show

Happy Memories

John Muir Health, Walnut Creek
January 11–February 21, 2025
Artwork Drop-off on January 11, 2025
Show Opens January 12, 2025!

Plein Air



USS Hornet Museum, Alameda

Saturday, January 25, 2025

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Other Plein Air Opportunities

Contra Costa Plein Air

Click [here](#) for posts of upcoming paint-outs
on their blog, or [click here](#) to visit
Contra Costa Plein Air on Facebook.

