



November 2025

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

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56

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

Join us for the Artist Reception
and Awards Presentation
on January 31, 2026!

California WATERCOLOR Association

ZOOM Demo for Members and Guests at 7:00 pm PST, Wednesday, November 19, 2025.



November ZOOM Demo Artist Geoff Allen

There will be a **ZOOM General Meeting and Demo** by Geoff Allen for CWA members and friends to participate, on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 7:00–9:00 pm PST.

Here is the ZOOM link and passcode which will remain the same for all future General Meetings.

To join, simply click on the **Join Icon** on the right.

Meeting ID: 810 0987 0399 **Passcode:** 383542



Fog Like Crazy, and Winds Over Borrego by Geoff Allen



Geoff's artistic journey is defined by a deep appreciation for the outdoors and the expressive qualities of watercolor, both of which are central to his practice of plein air painting. This approach allows his work to capture the immediacy and vibrancy of nature, fostering a sense of mystery and spontaneity in each piece.

His path to becoming an artist was unconventional. He initially earned a bachelor's degree in economics, but his passion for black and white street photography led to a solo exhibition at the Reno Art Museum in 1986, titled "Suburban Views." A pivotal moment in his development occurred during a postgraduate summer watercolor class, where plein air painting in the Sierras—unexpectedly interrupted by July snowfall—left a lasting impression and solidified his commitment to the medium.

After completing an MFA at Claremont Graduate University in 1990, Geoff immersed himself in the urban art scene of Los Angeles. He worked as a scenic painter in Hollywood and lived in a downtown studio, experiencing the excitement of city life but finding limited time for personal art. Teaching drawing and managing college galleries provided new opportunities for creative exploration. During this period, his work shifted toward poured pastel sculptural wall reliefs, utilizing materials such as plaster, fiberglass, and acrylic applied with syringes. This innovative approach culminated in a solo exhibition at Post Gallery on Wilshire Boulevard in 2001.



continued on page 11

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION 56 INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

January 31 – March 15, 2026

Congratulations to Our Accepted Artists!

The California Watercolor Association is pleased to announce the results from our juror, Pat Moseuk, for the 56th International Exhibition.

Genus by Patricia Abraham, CWA
Totem by Ruth Armitage, CWA
Persimmon with Bamboo and Ducks by Sally Baker
Congratulations by Sean Barrett
San Rafael Mission by Ron Bean
Cider and Sauce Day by Cindy Brabec-King
Beckoning by Cara Brown, CWA
Lucile F. Cain by Sheila Cain, CWA
Lucca Bubbles by Peter Carey
City Reflections by Keming Chen, CWA
Street Dog by Ginger Chen
Big Sur by Lei Chi, CWA
Reflective Nostalgia No.2 by Kar-Keat Chong
Garden Room by Linda Cloonan, CWA
Tranquility by Jen Crenshaw
Farm to Table by Carolina Dealy
Choices by Don Devine
Pilgrims by Mark Dobrin
To What End by Jackie Dorsey
Frivolity by Paulette Engler
View Towards Point Lobos by Linda Erfle, MCWA
Sunkissed by Robin Erickson, CWA
The Examiner by Anne Fallin, MCWA
Cozy Joey by Cheryl Feng
Creek Morning by Z. L. Feng
Hangin On a Wave by Annette Frei
Catrinas by Karen Frey, MCWA
Forest Secrets by Antoaneta Georgieva

The Great Divide by John Giannotti
Master Magic by Marina Goldberg, CWA
Blackberry Buffet by Douglas Greer, MCWA
Craftsman by Dmitry Grudsky Grudsky, CWA
The Artist's Challenge by Helen Hayes
Venice Vibe on Grand Canal by Jon Hanson
Blue Agave Club by Jenna Hobbs
Stringing a Thought, Red and Yellow by John James, MCWA
Nolan by Bev Jozwiak
Above the Mesa by Wesley Karchut
Taylor Grace by Kim Kearns, CWA
Sunday Market in Oaxaca by Barbara Kempe
Raging Granny by Jo Kopp, CWA
Spring Song by Karen Kramer
Angular by Lynne Kroll, MCWA
Seeing Red by Chris Krupinski
Capriciousness From Aloft by Mel Lacki, MCWA
Sidewalk Tomatoes by Marion Leggett
Crazy Hat by Barbara Lind
Winged Love by Abel Marquez
Cherry Blossoms by Samantha McNally, CWA
Grand Central by Ruth Miller, MCWA
Ashbury Heights by Craig Moline, CWA
Lucerne Impression III, 2025 by Woon Lam Ng
Watching TV 2 by r. mike nichols, MCWA
A Suitable Meal by Karen Percival
Brown Eyed Girl by Trish Poupard
My Trusty Steed by Michael Reardon, MCWA
Rainy Day Rush Hour, NYC by Dorrie Rifkin

Bike Shadow by Anthony Rogone, CWA
Morning Mist by Charles Rouse, MCWA
Angel's Trumpets by Susan Routledge, MCWA
The Uninvited Guest by Tom Sallak, MCWA
Flying Books by David Savellano, MCWA
Front Porch Havana by Thomas W. Schaller, MCWA
Underwater Harmony, Ripple of Gold by Teresa J. Sharp
A Walk in Time by Svetlin Sofroniev
Starfield Pond by Steve Stein
Venetian Reflections by Chris Stubbs
Taking Off by Sujit Sudhi
Quiet Stone Beach by Jiangang Sun
Schwinn by Rev. Michael Tang
Along the Road to Point Arena by Barbara Tapp, CWA
2025 by Lori Tennant
Back Again by Kirsten Theurer, CWA
Let Me Read You a Story by Phyllis Tseng, CWA
Interstellar Perversion by Salvador Valencia, MCWA
Besties by Pablo Villicana
On the Carousel by Jeannie Vodden, CWA
Curvy by Liz Walker, CWA
Lady Liberty by Steve Walters
Fishing for Daylilies by Kristi Warren
The Card Game by Margaret Washington, MCWA
Bay Watchers by Marilyn Wear, CWA
Sausalito View by Leslie Wilson, MCWA
Fresh Plums by Camille Young, MCWA
Pacific Pulse by Georganne Zaro, MCWA

Contact us at 56questions@californiawatercolor.org with any questions.



California Watercolor Association
P. O. Box 4631
Walnut Creek, CA 94596 USA
www.californiawatercolor.org

Gallery Info:
Arts Benicia — Commanding Officer's Quarters
1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, CA 94510
artsbenicia.org



The Drawing Board

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

Packing for Adventure by Jessica de Jesus



Over the last five months, I've had the opportunity to do more road trips that have taken me to bucket list places like Glacier National Park and Pacific Rim National Park. Plus, every summer, my husband and I try to get out to backpack in the vast wilderness of the Sierra Nevada. Needless to say, along with both these opportunities came countless views and inspirations to paint (when time permitted, of course).

One of the questions I get most often is "What art supplies do you pack?" So, I thought I'd share my lists for two different scenarios at opposite ends of the spectrum: 1. My lightweight, minimalist go kit for backpacking, and 2. My plein air car kit. (I also included the brands I use since that's usually the next question!)

When Every Ounce Counts

When I'm packing for a 3+ day backpacking adventure, and I'm carrying my sleeping gear, food, water, clothing, etc., I need to go light. This is what I typically bring:

- Sketch Book (Hahnemuhle Zig Zag A6)
- Mini pocket palette (ArtTool Kit) with primary colors plus a couple extras (Daniel Smith)
- One travel brush (Rosemary)
- Small collapsible water container
- An orange watercolor pencil cut in half
- One piece of paper towel (blue shop towel)

All of this weighs less than one pound and fits in a ziplock bag. Yes, I could have gone lighter with a water brush, but I really detest them and found it was worth the weight for me to have a real brush. The thing I love most about this mini go-kit is its simplicity and ease of a limited palette and just one brush — details be damned!



When I'm Near the Car

When weight isn't an issue and I can "bring it all," I find that things can get far more complicated with too many options. To keep things at bay, I limit what I bring to what can fit in one small plastic bin and one daypack (if I want to walk a little ways). And, more often than not, I'll paint with gouache rather than watercolor:

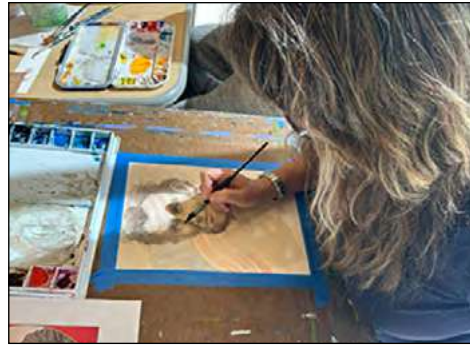
- Easel attachments and tripod:
- For surfaces 8" x 10" or smaller, I'll bring my small u.go pochade box; otherwise, I'll bring my larger Daybreak panel holder and palette; both work with the same tripod (u.go).
- I attach my tripod carrying case to my easel as a weight in case of wind. I either fill it with some rocks that are usually nearby or with my water container.
- Umbrella that hooks to my tripod (Soho Urban UV)

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Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

The Challenge of Completing a Painting



It's often said that the initial 90% of an artwork comes easily, but the final 10% is the most challenging, requiring the greatest insight. This is when the painter steps back, from the artwork and seriously considers the piece as a whole. It might be time to stop or fix a little detail that is confusing. Also, sizing up the focus point and ensuring the eye goes to that focus point and then moves around within the artwork.

These were the issues the Oakland veterans worked on last Friday. We had a rusty truck painting (where we were discovering the quality of granulation in watercolors) and a monochrome portrait of Abe Lincoln. Some vets completed both. Some hadn't begun either and worked on a moody photo source of the Bay Area. Others took their painting home and took it as far as they could in their home studio.

Conversation ranged from: the best place for seeing great flocks of birds rising and convoluting the shape of the flock before landing, travels in Umbria, Italy, teaching watercolors, and the joys of driving a son's sports car while he was out of town.

In the end we put all the paintings up on the wall and looked them over. What a range! A number were beautifully finished. Others were progressing. Some had been backed into a corner. Nevertheless, everyone was excited by the prospects of their painting or the success. It was a fine day of painting together.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach





Be a Pen Pal & Earn Rewards!

If you'd like to be a pen pal with Mark Elhers, you will not only have the gratification of befriending a fellow watercolorist but also earn volunteer hours.

To collect your rewards, simply track your correspondence time with Mark. Then go to the CWA website under **MEMBERSHIP**, choose **FORMS** from the drop down menu. Under **CWA Forms Printable**, select **Volunteers to Record Service Hours**. Fill out and submit the form to the Director of Outreach for approval. The approved form with your service hours earned, entitles you to many benefits, such as a Zoom critique with a Signature (CWA) or Master Signature (MCWA) artist, a CWA apron or hat, savings on watercolor supplies and the ability to rent display panels for shows and events. **Click here** for Volunteer Rewards details.

Mark is looking for a pen pal who can advise on tools that work across multiple media: gouache, oil, watercolor, water-soluble graphic, acrylic, and more. Since he has no access to a computer or cell phone, all communication must be via U.S. mail. All correspondence will go through the CWA post office box.

If you are interested, email me at sheilahillcain@gmail.com and put CWA Pen Pal in the title.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach



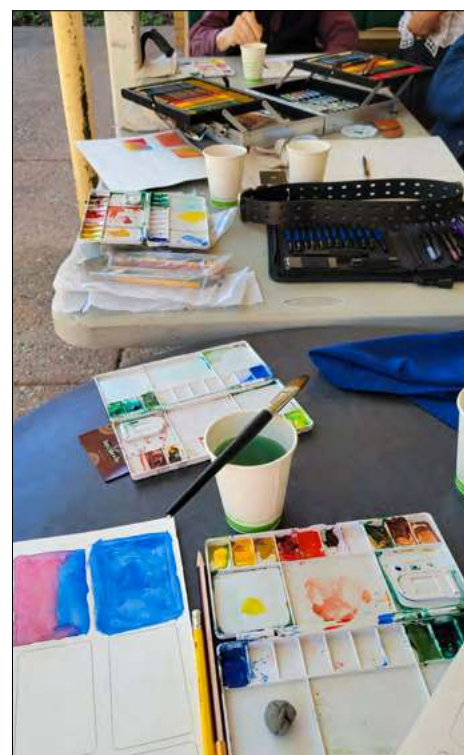
Community Outreach — Martinez Veterans Back After Summer Break



Following a summer break, our first art studio session at the VA in Martinez took place outdoors on a warm, sunny day. Our small group consisted of two familiar and two new faces. We began with basic watercolor techniques. This group of Mavericks observed and listened, then proceeded to do exactly as they wished. While not unexpected, it's always captivating to witness each artist's process and the resulting artwork. Each artist was focused and worked on their own interpretation of the project. Can you tell the featured painting above was created by a retired Navy man?

Maggie Metcalf

Volunteer, Community Outreach



Join Us!

The impact of volunteering extends far beyond those you help — it also enriches your own life in countless ways. If you have reservations about volunteering, you will be surprised by the personal growth and fulfillment it can provide. Volunteering offers the chance to forge new connections, acquire valuable skills, boost your career prospects, and experience greater happiness and well-being.

To learn more, contact Leslie Wilson at secretary@californiawatercolor.org.



CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION 2025 WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES



Keiko Tanabe

Keiko Tanabe Unlock Your Impressionistic Voice 3-Day Online Workshop November 10–12, 2025 Intermediate

(previous experience is strongly recommended)

CWA Members \$325

Non-Members \$385

Explore painting of people and places with both structure and freedom. Keiko will share her thoughts and tips with the Zoom audience, guiding you to balance careful observation with expressive, loose brushwork and build strong compositions that support your painting's story and bring it to life.

Artist's website at ktanabefineart.com



WAIT LIST ONLY

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.



CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION 2026 WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES

**2026
LINEUP!**



Dongfeng Li **Watercolor Essentials for Landscape Painting** **3-Day In-Person Workshop** **January 14-16, 2026 | All Levels**

CWA Members \$460 Non-Members \$520

Dongfeng will help students identify and simplify shapes, and also teach them how to find the dramatic and interesting elements in a portrait, such as lighting, contrast, and patterns. He will also cover simplifying colors, washes, and brushstrokes, as well as mixing and applying colors.

Artist's website at dongfengli.com

LIVE



Pat Moseuk **Abstracts in Mixed Watermedia** **3-Day In-Person Workshop** **March 2-4, 2026** **All Levels**

CWA Members \$300 Non-Members \$363

Are you interested in beginning abstract painting? This workshop offers hands-on demonstrations of techniques, composition, color, and more. Explore painting with unconventional tools and discover the freedom of abstraction. Daily group critiques will be held.

Artist's website at patmoseuk.com

LIVE



Birgit O'Connor **Within the Flower** **3-Day Online Workshop** **April 15-17, 2026** **All Skill Levels Welcome***

CWA Members \$250 Non-Members \$310

Discover how to paint flowers that are both unique and striking, with imaginative forms and complex centers, which set them apart from traditional floral compositions. Bringing focus to the intricate details of each flower's core, using layering of color and delicate brushstrokes to highlight textures and depth.

Artist's website at birgitoconnor.com



Geoff Allen **Watercolor Essentials for Landscape Painting** **3-Day In-Person Workshop** **May 4-6, 2026**

Beginner & Intermediate**

CWA Members \$350 Non-Members \$410

Discover the joys of capturing the moment, color, and impressionistic mood in watercolor, whether from a photo or en plein air. Geoff will teach basic watercolor handling techniques to accelerate your process, encourage relaxation, and improve your success in painting outdoor scenes.

Artist's website at geoffallenart.com

LIVE



Stan Miller **Painting the Portrait and Landscape in Watercolor** **3-Day In-Person Workshop** **June 13-15, 2026**

Basic Understanding of Watercolor

CWA Members \$375 Non-Members \$435

Each day, Stan will demonstrate both a portrait and a landscape. Students can choose to paint either the landscape or the portrait, with guidance from Stan. Students are also welcome to work on their own subjects. The workshop will also cover technique, color, choosing paintable subjects, composition, and design.

Artist's website at stanmiller.net

LIVE



Thomas W. Schaller **The Power of Design and Imagination** **3-Day In-Person Workshop** **October 2-4, 2026** **Intermediate**

CWA Members \$500 Non-Members \$560

The reason we paint is more important than what or how we paint. His work explores contrasts: light and dark, vertical and horizontal, warm and cool, and the real and the imagined. Thomas enjoys designing with conflicting elements, allowing them to find balance and resolution on the paper's surface in surprising and expressive ways.

Artist's website at thomaswschaller.com

LIVE

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. Recordings of the entire workshops will be available for 30 days. 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, via Zoom, unless otherwise specified.

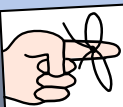
Newsletter Distribution

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!

**December Newsletter
Deadline is November 15th.**

[Click here to make a submission.](#)

October Meeting & Demo Recap

by Lis MacDonald

Keiko Tanabe was our demo artist for the general meeting on October 15, 2025, and she did not disappoint. She is an internationally acclaimed artist with multiple awards and signature affiliations in numerous watercolor societies around the country and is a much sought-after workshop instructor. Originally from Kyoto, Japan, she now resides in San Diego, California. And she is self-taught!

Following her introduction, Keiko began by focusing on the big shapes. She created a very loose and light drawing of this complex scene in Rome, using minimal detail. She sketched in figures, both sitting and standing. Next, she chose transparent colors and did an initial wash of pale earth tones for the building behind the cluster of people, carefully painting around the windows.

Building on this foundation, she then defined additional details in the second layer, ultimately finishing by creating a sunny scene with cast shadows. Throughout the demonstration, she emphasized her aim to paint what she feels emotionally about the scene rather than focusing on details.

[Click here](#) to the demo on YouTube.



Reference image



Final painting



Attention Members!

The CWA Board of Directors announces that the CWA annual dues will increase from \$45.00 to \$50.00 per year, effective November 1, 2025. The CWA annual dues have remained at \$45.00 per year since 1999, and the costs of doing business and maintaining programs and services to our members have increased. This increase will be effective on your renewal date.



Follow CWA on Social Media

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on our activities. CWA Social Media is your go-to resource for information, promoting the CWA, our members, events, and more.

We invite you to contribute to our CWA Instagram and Facebook feeds.

[Click here](#)
to follow us on Instagram

[Click here](#)
to follow us on Facebook

[Click here](#)
to submit content.



Plein Air — Forest Home Farms Historic Park

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 10:00 am–1:00 pm



The Forest Home Farms is a 16-acre municipal historic park located in San Ramon, California. In 1997, Ruth Quayle Boone bequeathed the land and all buildings on it to the City of San Ramon for use as a park and historical site in memory of her husband, Travis Moore Boone. After Ruth Boone's death in 1998 at the age of 94, the City expanded the memorial to include Ruth, in honor of her generosity to the people of San Ramon and in recognition of the contribution women made to agriculture in the San Ramon Valley. The grounds host various exhibits and displays including our Tractor Museum, and newly installed Railroad Depot Display!

Meet at 10:00 am at the Glass House, and paint anywhere in the park. Bring your lunch and meet back at the Glass House to show your paintings at 12:30 pm. Park hours are 10:00 am–4:00 pm. Parking is available on site.

Forest Home Farms Historic Park

19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd.

San Ramon, CA 94583-3440

925 973-3200

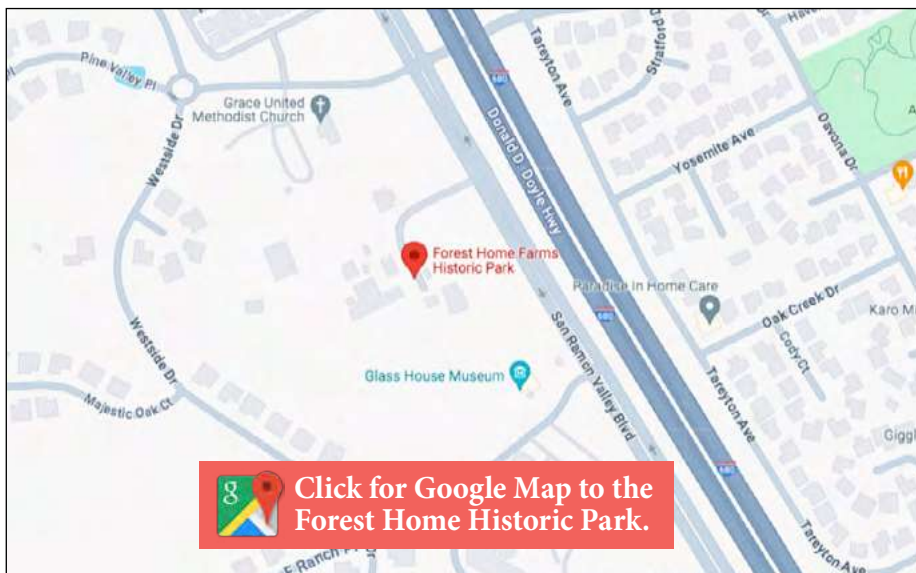
[Click here](#) for website

Questions?

Contact Nutan Singh,

Plein Air Coordinator

Email: nutan.finearts@gmail.com



 [Click for Google Map to the Forest Home Historic Park.](#)

Member News



Richmond Harbor Plein Air by Bernie Stein

Bernie Stein

Bernie's painting, *Richmond Harbor Plein Air*, created with the East Bay Landscape Painters, won 3rd place at the Watercolor Society of South Texas' 55th Exhibition, judged by Michael Reardon.

Find Bernie on Instagram @stein_watercolors
[Click here](#) to view the exhibition.

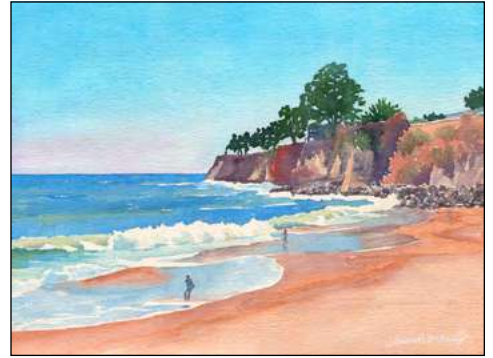


Sierra White Gold by Jessica de Jesus

Jessica de Jesus

Jessica's painting, *Sierra White Gold*, was accepted into the Northwest Watercolor Society's 85th Annual International Open Exhibition, which opens this month at the Yuan Ru Gallery in Bellevue, WA. Frank Eber was this year's juror.

Artist's website at sfjessart.com
[Click here](#) for more info.



Capitola by Samantha McNally

Samantha McNally

Samantha has been invited to judge the Capitola Plein Air Paint-Out. Artists will paint outdoors from November 3–9, 2025, throughout Capitola, including locations like New Brighton Beach, Depot Hill, the Esplanade, and the Jewel Box. The Exhibition and Art Sale will be held on Sunday, November 9, 2025, from 11:00 AM–4:00 PM at New Brighton Middle School in Capitola. This event is free to the public.

Artist's website at samanthamcnally.com
[Click here](#) for more info.

Welcome New CWA Members

Marilee Brooks
Valeria Chepilev
Kar-Keat Chong
Kelly Fitzpatrick
Ekaterina Kalistru
Patricia Mott
Ebba Navas
Sharon Pillsbury
Vinita Velhal
Pamela Wilburn

[Click here](#) to email membership, then choose **Membership Director** from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.

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

Call for Artists



Call for Artists: Martinez First Fridays

Martinez First Fridays is seeking artists who would like to create live art on Main Street. We're looking for artists who love to showcase their process and engage with the community! The live art portion of First Friday is juried and curated. There is no table fee. Artists are permitted and encouraged to sell their work during the event. Martinez First Fridays does NOT take commission on works sold. This is an evening event.

If interested, please email Bernadette at martinezfirstfridays@gmail.com. Include the media you work in, photos of your work, and a website/social media profile if you have one.

[Click here](#) for more info.



CWA Board of Directors

President	VACANT
Vice President/Membership	Sharon Hopkins
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	VACANT

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
56th International Exhibition	Jessica de Jesus Iretta Hunter Carol Husslein Pat Lauer Samantha McNally Marilyn Miller Ruth Miller Pat Moseuk Patricia Rosa Joe Tringali Leslie Wilson
Mail Distribution	Carol Husslein
Panel Rental	Carol Husslein
Plein Air	Nutan Singh
Workshop Registrar	Kirsten Theurer

To Email a Board, Staff or Committee Member:

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

Geoff Allen

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Despite the diversity of his experiences, Allen recognized a common thread connecting his artistic endeavors to plein air painting. Now residing in a coastal town north of San Diego, he has left behind the complexity of Los Angeles to start an illustration business with his wife, Jennifer Brinley, whom he met in high school art class. Reflecting on his career, Allen notes that his art was often shaped to fit established categories—contemporary, abstract, conceptual, or commercial. Today, his focus on plein air painting represents a more authentic appreciation of life and nature, channeling that excitement directly onto paper.



Beach People by Geoff Allen

Artist's website at www.geoffallenart.com

Drawing Board

continued from page 3

- A couple of substrates to choose from, ideally prepped with an underpainting.
- A sketchbook for quick studies
- Paint box of acrylic gouache tubes (including an oversized tube of titanium white!) and brushes
- An alternative to acrylic gouache is “Designer Gouache,” which I’ll carry in an air-tight container (Transon) + a tube of Permanent White. Designer gouache can be reconstituted when dry, so it can be squeezed out ahead of time and put into a sealable palette, unlike acrylic gouache! But white is best used straight from the tube for max opacity, even for designer gouache. (Designer v. acrylic gouache is a whole other article!)
- Water container
- An old juice bottle full of water, plus an empty one to pack out the dirty water
- A small spray bottle to slow down the drying time for the paint on the palette
- Disposable gray paper palette sheets
- Blue shop towels
- Large binder clips to hold things down when it gets windy
- Large hat, sunglasses (for in between painting when my eyes need a break), cell phone, sunscreen, lip balm, snacks, and a portable chair.

Whether painting from a mountaintop or a parking lot, I’m focused on capturing the light, mood, and joy of the moment! If you have any questions about my setup, feel free to email me at sfjess.art@gmail.com.

Jessica de Jesus

Director, Communications

CWA Board Slate 2026

The General Membership Vote is scheduled for the November General Meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 7:00 pm PST via Zoom!

Our Board of Directors' positions allow more than one person to fill them, which makes the job easier for the team. We are looking for volunteers to fill these positions.

To inquire or volunteer for a position, please go to www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php to contact a board member.

Position	2026 Director/Nominee
President	Vacant
Vice President/Membership	Sharon Hopkins
Director, Communications	Jessica de Jesus
Director, Member Shows	Kathleen Stumpf
Director, Programs	Lis MacDonald
Budget Director	Kathleen Catton
Director, International Exhibition	Vacant
Secretary	Leslie Wilson
Co-Director, Community Outreach	Sheila Cain
Co-Director, Community Outreach	Georganne Zaro
Director, Workshops	Joe Tringali
Member At-Large	Rekha Joshi
Member At-Large	Vacant

Thank you,
Leslie Wilson
CWA Board Secretary
We need your help!



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!



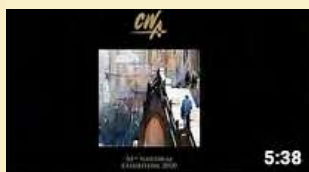
CWA Michael Holter Demo



CWA Stephen Berry Demo



CWA 50th National Art Show at the Harrington Gallery



CWA 50th National Show 2020

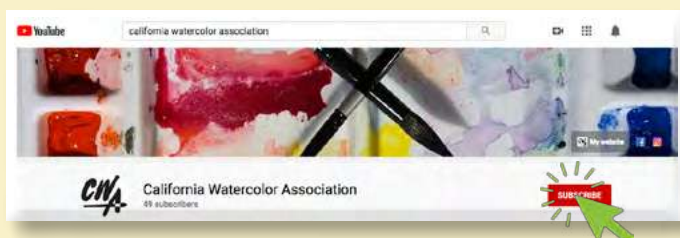


CWA Roland Lee Demo



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



2025/26 CWA Calendar

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION

56th INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

January 31 – March 15, 2026

Join us for the Artist Reception
and Awards Presentation
on January 31, 2026



Venue — Arts Benicia

The Commanding Officer's Quarters

1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, CA 94510

Upcoming CWA Member Show!

March 12–May 10, 2026

UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery
at the Bankhead Theater

2400 First Street | Livermore, CA 94550

For more information, contact us at
shows@californiawatercolor.org

2025 General Meetings & Demos

November 19, 2025 — Zoom Demo
Geoff Allen
(for Members & Guests)

December 2025 Winter Break – NO MEETING

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



2025/26 CWA Workshop Series

November 10–12, 2025 Keiko Tanabe
Unlock Your Impressionistic Voice (ZOOM)

January 14–16, 2026 Dongfeng Li
Watercolor Essentials for Landscape Painting (IN-PERSON)

March 2–4, 2026 Pat Moseuk
Abstracts in Mixed Watermedia (IN-PERSON)

April 15–17, 2026 Birgit O'Connor
Within the Flower (ZOOM)

May 4–6, 2026 Geoff Allen
Watercolor Essentials for
Landscape Painting (IN-PERSON)

June 13–15, 2026 Stan Miller
Painting the Portrait and Landscape
in Watercolor (IN-PERSON)

October 2–4, 2026 Thomas W. Schaller
The Power of Design and Imagination (IN-PERSON)

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

Plein Air



Forest Home Farms Historic Park

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 10:00 am–1:00 pm

Click here to RSVP

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.

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