

January 2026

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

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Invite for the Artist Receptions
& Awards Presentation

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**CWA 56th International Exhibition General Meetings & Demos** 

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## VATERCOLOR Association

ZOOM Demo for Members and Guests at 7:00 pm PST, Wednesday, January 21, 2026.

# 5 INTERNATIONAL SEXHIBITION

January 31 - March 15, 2026



You're invited to the **Artists' Reception & Awards Presentation** on January 31, 2026, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

The exhibition and the reception are free and open to the public.

The venue is Arts Benicia, located at 1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, CA 94510.

Visit artsbenicia.org or californiawatercolor.org for more information.

## **General Meeting and Demo**





Join us for a **ZOOM General Meeting and Demo** with Dongfeng Li, open to all CWA members and friends! Save the date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 7:00-9:00 pm PST. Don't miss it

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





+









January's featured demo artist is Dongfeng Li, who's well known for his beautiful watercolor portraits and masterful landscapes. Many of his award-winning portraits are painted on Yupo. Dongfeng Li moved to the United States in 1992 and earned a Master of Art Education from the University of South Alabama and a Master of Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University. With more than twenty years of university teaching experience in painting, watercolor, and drawing, Li's watercolors have been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the National Watercolor Society, American Watercolor Society, Transparent Watercolor Society of America, and more than 30 other organizations. Li has received more than 60 awards in national and international watercolor exhibitions, including over twenty First-Place honors. Li is a signature member of both the National Watercolor Society and the American Watercolor Society, and Li's work has been featured multiple times in Watercolor Artist Magazine.

Artist's website at dongfengli.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 painters, it is fun to experiment with various painting techniques as part of our artistic development. Some result in long-time "tried and true" ideas for subject matter and the development of compelling compositions. For me, there is a constant mental dialogue as I go through the machinations of producing paintings. Some turn out well, suitable for entering shows or galleries, and others are stored in my studio or tossed.

The process of completing a painting involves a multitude of decisions, with continuous evaluations as I go. Much of the time, my process involves thoughts about next steps, generally based on what I believe "the painting needs" at any given time, in terms of design. This includes areas of interest and areas that can be played down. I concentrate on producing varying "levels of activity," including areas of busy shapes and brushwork, as well as areas that are simple and minimal.





Landgrove Still Life, and Fisherman at San Gregorio State Beach by Leslie Wilson



Southport Beach by Leslie Wilson

Often, we fall into the trap of just "copying" from a photograph or scene, including so much activity that the viewer's eye grows bored and moves on. There needs to be areas of rest. I believe that variations in activity levels are essential for effective paintings, allowing the viewer to participate in the journey through the painting. Many artists rely on value sketches for preliminary planning about how the composition will be developed.

The process of intentionally providing resting places within our paintings effectively partners with varying the design elements (line, shape, color, value, texture, and direction). Additionally, areas of rest can be established by softened edges, which naturally allow the eye to move freely across the picture plane.

I've included images of several of my paintings that illustrate how combinations of places to rest and significant activity can guide the viewer through the picture plane. I hope these images and narrative will expand creativity in designing your paintings!

Happy New Year and happy painting!

Leslie Wilson Secretary

Artist's website at lesliewilson.net



## Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans Mix and Match for Ginkgo Fall Colors



We painted a color wheel in November to gain a greater understanding of how color works. We reviewed the classic watercolor palette with a cool and a warm of each primary color. For our December gathering our working source was an arbor of ginkgo trees lining a lane. Each vet was given two pieces of watercolor paper and a copy of the source photo. Sheila explained the project. First, we mixed swatches to match those in a source image, playing with lemon yellow mixed with all the warm pigments in our palette.

Pat assisted by helping the vets paint a swatch sheet. She encouraged the vets to not only mix a swatch sheet but also to create a wet yellow wash and drop other pigments into it, letting them mix wet into wet on the page. Next, they moved on to drawing from the source material.

This arbor of fall ginkgo trees is a cheery yellow contrast to our cool, grey days. When they are hit by the sun, they turn quite golden. It makes a great exercise in mixing yellow through orange, green, and grey. Some vets had finished the arbor of trees and were ready to begin our January New Year's gathering by drawing the focal point, which happens to be on or near the horizon line. The people are the focal point where the darkest dark meets the lightest light. There are occasions when we painters need or just prefer to create a new focal point to make the composition more interesting. That's our prerogative. We don't need to be a slave to rendering our source material. The important thing is to guide the viewer's eye into the painting to the focal point.

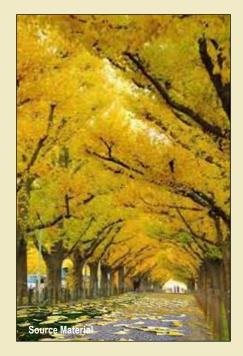
In addition, the lane has a scattering of fallen golden leaves and the concrete lane has a nice contrasting grey-blue color. Pat encouraged the veterans to apply salt on the yellow mass in some areas for texture and enhance the color range the contrast will soften when the pigment dries.

This seemingly simple painting could become a golden opportunity. Nancy had brought a bag of limes from her prolific lime tree which we divided up to take home. Everyone left with a "so far so good" feeling. It's great to have a project to carry over into the New Year in 2026.

Have a Cool Yule and a Frantic First!



Co-Director, Community Outreach







## Community Outreach — Martinez VA December 2025

It's been a unique year. — adapting to changes in staffing and work spaces required creativity and flexibility. I was fortunate to have a veteran whose wife was visiting for a bedside art lesson. He has woodworking skills, and she's a longtime crafter. The room was filled with her handmade decorations. They both created seasonal watercolor paintings. It was a fun and chatty experience. We all had a great time and learned new skills.

Happy holidays and best wishes for the New Year.

## Maggie Metcalf & Darlyn Phillips Community Outreach





## Volunteers Welcome!

Interested in joining us? Call Maggie at (925) 899-9185 to get involved!

## **From Our Members**

### CASA, Court Appointed Child Advocate by Donna Davies

Years ago as a Court Appointed Child Advocate, I was assigned to represent a two year old boy named Joseph and visited him each week to assess his living situation and then represent his best interests in court. He was a sweet child and we enjoyed our visits together very much. His grandmother took care of him during the day in her apartment and spent her day watching television. She seemed grateful for the break in taking care of Joseph. Just as I did for my sons were young, I took Joseph for adventures to expand his world. We made gingerbread men, planted seeds in a garden, went on the jungle gym and swings in the park, and visited children's museums. During one of those museum visits, I discovered Joseph loved dinosaurs.

So one sunny day when we were outside his apartment sitting in the picnic area, I lifted him upon my lap and put a blank sheet of paper on a clipboard in front of him. I announced with excitement, "There's a brontosaurus hiding on this sheet of paper!" That certainly got his attention. Beginning to draw, I said "Here is his really long tail. And

here is his long, long neck and small head." As I drew, Joseph never took his eyes off the sheet of paper. He was speechless. As more and more of the brontosaurus appeared before him, he paid such close attention that I even had time to add a tree behind the monstrous mammal to munch on leaves! Joseph was in awe. His curiosity and wonder sizzled like drops of water dancing in a hot frying pan. After the dinosaur was finished, he wanted me to draw everything and everyone he saw! He fell in love with drawing that day.

A couple of years later after my assignment as his advocate ended, I had the chance to visit Joseph at his morning preschool. I sat down next to him on a tiny chair at a tiny table in a room teeming with four year old tots. When I had an opportunity, I asked him if he enjoyed going to his preschool. You can imagine my surprise when he answered "Yes, but only because they let me draw."

We want to hear from you, to share your story, click here.

NEXT >



## CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION 2026 WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES











#### **Dongfeng Li Watercolor Essentials for Portrait 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

#### Pat Moseuk **Abstracts in Mixed Watermedia**

3-Day In-Person Workshop March 1-3, 2026 All Levels

CWA Members \$300 Non-Members \$363 Are you interested in beginning abstract painting? This workshop offers handson 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

## **Birgit O'Connor** Within the Flower

LIVE

LIVE

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



LIVE

#### **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



#### **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



#### **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

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.

LIVE



#### **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**

March 12 - May 10, 2026 Livermore Valley Arts/UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery

#### **Entry Deadline**

February 16, 2026

#### Jurors

Juror of Selection: Susan Avis Murphy, AWS, BWS Juror of Awards: Jeff Ishikawa, CWA

#### **Awards**

1st Place — \$150, 2nd Place — \$100, 3rd Place — \$75, and 4 Honorable Mentions — \$35

#### **Show Calendar (Save these Dates)**

February 16 Entry deadline

February 20 Notification to accepted artists and posted on the CWA website

Deadline for receiving shipped paintings March 10

March 12 Artwork drop-off at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery

March 13 Gallery show opens

Awards to artists at reception 1:00-4:00 pm, April 11

and posted on the CWA website

May 10 Show closes

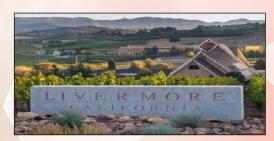
May 10 Pick up paintings at the UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery

#### Click here for Prospectus

#### To Enter

Log in to the Members home page at www.californiawatercolor.org, choose Shows/Exhibitions, then Member Shows and choose Splendid Surroundings. Confirm your information, add your painting details and upload your images.

Entry Fee is \$25 for one or two images, \$35 for three images.



Livermore Valley Arts/UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery 2400 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550 livermorearts.org

Questions: Contact us at shows@californiawatercolor.org



## Plein Air — Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area Saturday, January 24, 2026, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm



Within Diablo Foothills Regional Park is the Castle Rock Recreation Area which is located in a scenic canyon along Pine Creek. The area is dominated by oak woodlands and prominent sandstone formations. Diablo Foothills Regional Park and Castle Rock Park are bordered by Mt. Diablo State Park and Walnut Creek Open Space, providing access to more than 18,000 acres of public lands.

Meet at 10:00 am at Diablo Foothills Regional Park Trailhead Parking, and paint anywhere nearby. Bring your lunch and meet back at Diablo Foothills Regional Park Trailhead Parking to show your paintings at 12:30 pm. Park hours are 5:00 am-10:00 pm. Free parking is available on-site (carpooling is encouraged). Cell phone connectivity is limited in the park. Please bring a printout or download the information to your phone in advance.

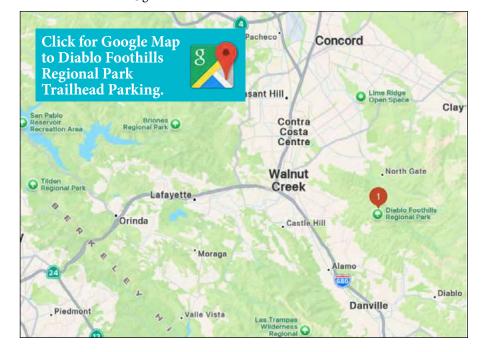
#### **Diablo Foothills Regional Park**

1700 Castle Rock Road Walnut Creek, CA 94598 888-EBPARKS (888-327-2757 option 3, extension 4515 **Click here** for website



#### **Ouestions?**

Contact Nutan Singh, Plein Air Coordinator Email: nutan.finearts@gmail.com









## **Member News**



December at La Quinta by Bernie Stein

#### **Bernie Stein**

Bernie's painting, December at La Quinta (the only watercolor selected for the exhibition), is included in the California Art Club's "Glimmers of Warmth" virtual gallery exhibit from December 15, 2025-March 20, 2026.

**Click here** to view the exhibition.

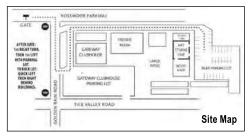
Artist's website at www.steinwatercolors.com



Gualala Sheep by Samantha McNally

#### Samantha McNally **Watercolor Demo**

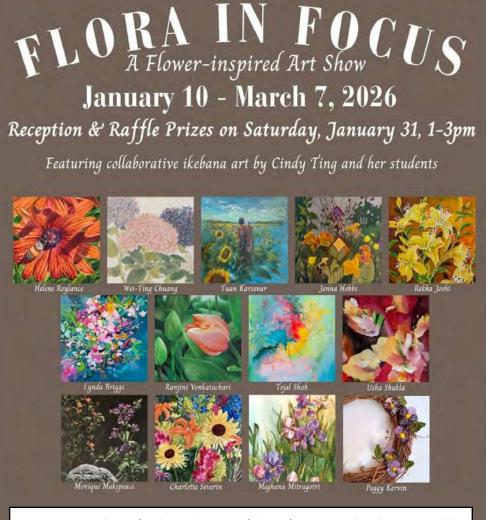
Samantha will be doing a watercolor demo in Studio 1, for the Rossmoor Art Association on January 7, 2026 from 1:00-2:30 pm.





Rossmoor Art Association 1001 Golden Rain Rd. Walnut Creek, CA 94595 rossmoorart.com

Artist's website at www.samanthamcnally.com



Experience more than 95 floral artworks as part of Flora, a flower-inspired art show organized by thirteen local floral artists, at the Harrington Gallery of the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton from January 10-March 7, 2026. This exhibition, now in its third year at the Harrington Gallery, features artwork in various media, including watercolor, acrylic, oil, gouache, colored pencil, glass, mixed media, ink, and East Asian brush painting techniques. A highlight of the exhibition is a portrait of all thirteen participating artists, painted by Tuan Karsevar.

You are invited to the reception on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Enjoy refreshments, floral arrangements by the Kiraku Ikebana Collective (Cindy Ting and her students), and enter to win unique raffle prizes! Also, there will be eight live artist demonstrations and talks on select Saturdays.

#### **Participating Artists**

Monique Makepeace, Wei-Ting Chuang, Charlotte Severin, Jenna Hobbs, Helene Roylance, Tuan Karsevar, Rekha Joshi, Peggy Kervin, Usha Shukla, Ranjini Venkatachari, Lynda Briggs, Tejal Shah and the show's creator and organizer Meghana Mitragotri

> Harrington Gallery, Firehouse Arts Center 4444 Railroad Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566

Contact: Meghana Mitragotri at meghana.ms@gmail.com Click here for show information, demo/talk schedule and gallery hours





NEXT



#### **CWA Board of Directors**

**VACANT** President Vice President/Membership Leslie Wilson Director, Budget Kathleen Catton Director, Member Shows Kathleen Stumpfel Director, Communications Jessica de Jesus

Director, Programs Lis MacDonald Director, International Exhibition **VACANT** Co-Director, Community Outreach Sheila Cain Georganne Zaro Co-Director, Community Outreach Director, Workshops Joe Tringali

CWA Support Personnel

Bookkeeper Membership/Data Manager/

Webmaster

**Newsletter Editor** 

Member At-Large

Member At-Large

Melissa Alva

Rekha Joshi

**VACANT** 

Adrienne Hefter Patricia Rosa

#### **CWA Volunteer Committees**

Audio Visual Set Up **Community Outreach** 

Co-Video Librarians

Co-Hospitality

56th International Exhibition

**Mail Distribution Panel Rental** 

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED** 

Sheila Cain Maggie Metcalf

Joe Tringali (Chair) Barb Bochenek Madeline Shelby

Jean Holmes

**Sharon Hopkins** 

Jessica de Jesus Iretta Hunter Carol Husslein

Pat Lauer Samantha McNally Marilyn Miller

**Ruth Miller** Pat Moseuk Patricia Rosa Joe Tringali Leslie Wilson

Carol Husslein 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.

## **Membership**

We congratulate the following CWA members on achieving Master Signature and Signature membership:

> Cara Brown, MCWA — December 3, 2025 Suiit Sudhi. CWA — December 3, 2025 Helen Hayes, CWA — December 15, 2025

#### **Welcome New CWA Members**

Mark Ashworth, Matt Buys, Catherine Church, Judy Gong, Teressa Harnois, David Pearce, Linda Sims, Barbara Sullivan

Click here to email membership, then choose Vice President & Membership Director from the Recipient drop-down menu. Click here to join or renew today!

### **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.

## **Other Workshops**



Sacramento Fine Arts Center Studio 5330B Gibbons Drive Carmichael, CA 95608

#### **Geoff Allen Still Life Workshop in Sacramento**

Geoff will be doing a workshop in Sacramento on May 19-21, 2026. He will be working in the studio with us on his amazing still life compositions. There are only a few spaces left.

**Click here** to register Click here to contact Steve Stein

Click here for information on upcoming 2026 workshops:

- Cara Brown, CWA
- David Savellano, MCWA
- Dongfeng Li

## **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 CWA 50th National Show 2020 the Harrington Gallery





**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.



## 2026 CWA Calendar

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION

## INTERNATIONAL

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

### **General Meetings & Demos**

January 21, 2026 — ZOOM Demo **Dongfeng Li** (for Members & Guests)

Robert Burridge February 18, 2026 March 20, 2026 Ken Goldman April 15, 2026 Uma Kelkar May 20, 2026 Sue Johnston June 17, 2026 **Thomas Schaller** Summer Break—NO MEETING July 2026 August 19, 2026 Qian Gao September 16, 2026 Michael Reardon October 21, 2026 **Birgit O'Connor** November 18, 2026 Brienne Brown December 2026 Winter Break—NO MEETING

#### **CWA Member Shows**

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

**UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery, Livermore** March 12-May 10, 2026

John Muir Hospital Gallery, Walnut Creek August 22-September 25, 2026

> San Ramon City Hall Gallery November 3-December 19, 2026

Contact shows@californiawatercolor.org for more info.

### **CWA Workshop Series**

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

March 1–3, 2026 Pat Moseuk Abstracts in Mixed Watermedia (IN-PERSON)

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

**Geoff Allen** May 4–6, 2026

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)

## **2026 Workshop Series Preview**

Click to watch an 11-minute promo video to learn more about our upcoming workshops.



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

#### **Plein Air**



**Castle Rock Regional Recreation Area** Saturday, January 24, 2026, 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.