

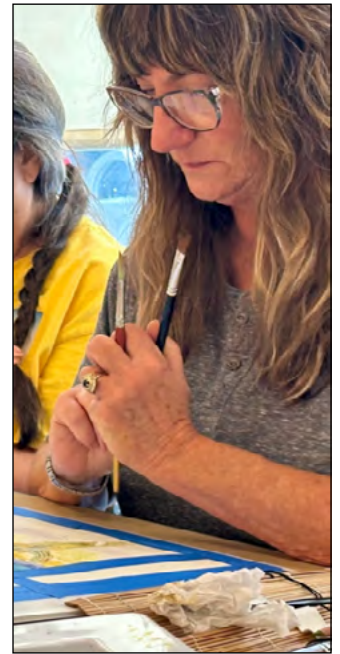


Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

Seeing the World with “Fresh Eyes”



Stamping and mark-making with watercolor has changed how I see the world. I now find myself constantly scouting for tools—objects I can paint and press onto paper, or drag across a surface to create texture. The edge of corrugated cardboard leaves bold linear patterns. Paint tube caps stamp perfect circles. A CD, laid flat and stippled over, creates a clean negative shape. Dry sponges suggest foliage, while torn paper can define a horizon and push mountains into the distance.



With so many possibilities, the Oakland vets used their second session to explore and expand these techniques. Some moved forward, others completed paintings built through stamping and mark-making. While most focused on landscapes, the approach can prove just as effective for abstract work—a shared box of tools circulated the table, inviting experimentation. Pat created sweeping curves with a credit card edge. Libby formed cactus stripes using an insulated cup sleeve. Sheila used a shaped sponge to build foliage in the middle ground.

This kind of experimentation does more than add texture—it loosens your hand and your thinking. When a painting starts to tighten up, these tools can break that tension and bring back a sense of play. Take the risk. Enjoy the surprise. It’s one way to see the world with fresh eyes, truly.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach





This month we painted masks. We started with a simple sketch and the artists were encouraged to paint whatever expression they resonated with. Each have their own style and thoughtfulness. Not shown is an unfinished mask painted by a person who used his nondominant hand. That is an exercise all artists should try sometime!

Maggie Metcalf & Darlyn Phillips
Community Outreach



Call Maggie at (925) 899-9185 to join us!

Splendid Surroundings

CWA Member Show March 12 - May 10, 2026

Congratulations to the award winners of the Splendid Surroundings CWA Member Show.

1st Place

Michael O'Rourke
Midsummer Dreams

2nd Place

Jamie Morgan
Day Road Ranch

3rd Place

Marion Leggett
Morning Glories

Honorable Mentions

Meghana Mitragotri
Timeless Blush 2

Burton Edwards
So. Co. Journey

Teresa J. Sharp
Jewels of the Pond

Jessica de Jesus
Winters Coming

Benjamin Mohr
Takeoff

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

Thank you to the participating artists, jurors, and to Livermore Valley Arts/UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery
Your contributions are essential to the success of this CWA show and are greatly appreciated!

Artwork Pick Up on May 12, 2026, from 10 am–Noon.

Questions: Email shows@californiawatercolor.org