



VISUAL INTEREST

The Society of Watercolor Artists' Newsletter

The Presidents Message



THE WHIRLWIND THAT WAS APRIL I am still recovering from all of April's big events-- the 29th Juried Art Exhibition and gala reception, and the 3-day Tom Lynch workshop. I've chaired the show and been "control officer" for four juror/workshop artists now, and each has presented unique styles and challenges. Every year a copy of all the entries is placed on my computer, and I become intimately aware of each work as I prepare the CD to send to the juror to select the ones that will get in. I feel I know each painting as an "old friend," yet I am always surprised and stunned by the beauty and quality of the paintings in person when hanging is complete. Photos simply cannot capture the gorgeous, juicy colors and vibrancy of the real paintings, nor can they convey the talent and inspiration, and part of their inner personality that each artist included in their work. Congratulations to all in the show, and particularly to this year's award winners. This one was one of the best yet!

TOM LYNCH WORKSHOP Many thanks to Tom Lynch for our April demo, and for an exciting and amazing workshop. I participated not as a student, but as the liaison between SWA and St. John's Episcopal Church, where the workshop was held. We all enjoyed every minute of the workshop and, once Janet Southern's husband brought and helped hang additional lights, the space was great

WORKSHOP, DEMO, and SHOW VENUES The same old issue is still with us. Although UNTHSC's camera system works well, the mirror would probably be everyone's first choice, if we could only find a place to store it so that Sharon Markwardt doesn't have to drag it into town. We truly need a place that can be dedicated to our monthly meetings, and to our workshops as well, where we'd have adequate parking and lighting, and mirror storage space. At a minimum we need a dedicated place that we can count on to be available to us at least twice a year for our workshops. If anyone knows of such a space, or if you know of an interested philanthropist who might be seeking to donate such a place, please let me or any of our board members know.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS The Library tells me that we may not be able to have our show there in 2011. I will be negotiating with the Library on this matter this week. Here again, if anyone knows of a place for us to use, please let us know, and soon! UNTHSC has confirmed that we're scheduled for September and October for our Membership Show at UNTHSC. Still not sure of the date, but we hope to have our reception on the evening of Fall Gallery Walk, and UNTHSC has now joined the Fort Worth Association of Art Dealers, so we'll be publicized on their map. Maybe this year we'll have visitors to the show and possibly even some sales!

NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT As you know, Judy Marlar had to resign as President-Elect. I am sorry to announce that her husband recently passed away. We send Judy our condolences and hope that she will be able to participate again in SWA activities in some way in the future. In the meantime, I am delighted to tell everyone that Darla Bostick has agreed to take the position. Darla and the SWA Board will be working together over the summer to ensure a smooth transition.

PAINT OUT AND SUMMER PLANS Keep on painting over the summer, (even I plan to do some serious painting) and don't forget that on May 23 we're going to have a great paint-out at the Fort Worth Nature center. With buffalo, deer and other wildlife as inspiration, even tourists, you should be able to create a masterpiece or two at least! See you at the May meeting. I can't wait to see Gayle Bunch!

Gayle Bunch...Demonstrator for May



April Demo and Critique



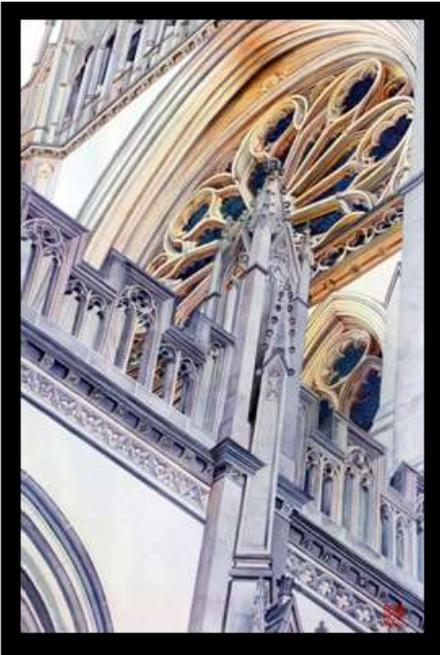
Tom Lynch Demonstration



The 6:00 critique with Laurin McCracken



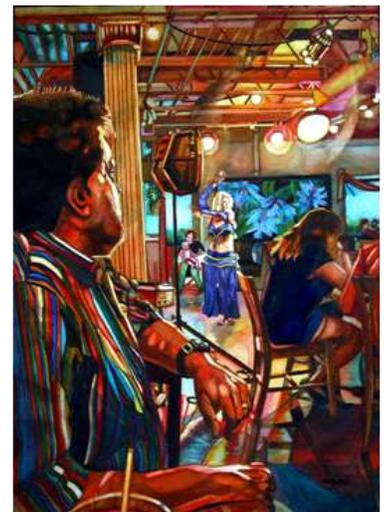
SWA 29th Annual Juried Art Exhibition Winners



Best in Show and People's Choice
"Devine Lines"
by Soon Y. Warren



1st Place *"Silver and Crystal with Grappa and Magnolia"*
by Laurin McCracken



3rd Place *"Friday Night Belly Dancer at the Greek Restaurant"*
by Missi Paul



2nd Place *"French Pear Again"*
by Nel Dorn Byrd

SWA 29th Annual Juried Art Exhibition Reception



Laurin McCracken, Soon Y. Warren and Darlia Hobbs



Sharon Markwardt



Charlene Baker



Evelyn Denton and Colleen Erickson



Patricia and Bill Bowler



Barbara Millican, Margie Whittington, and Norma Lively



Mary Stitt



Tom and Helen Kellie

Featured Artist - Robin Brown



Robin grew up in Southern California- near the beaches-and what a time it was. Doing art work, creative projects, at a very early age was her favorite thing to do. She drew or painted her way out of doing long lengthy reports- High School particularly –Political Science– She did studies and portraits (very much like the court room artists) in great detail. Biology, she drew her way into and out of blood and guts, detailed microscopic images- receiving A+'s all the way!

Her formal classical art training began when she received a Scholarship to a Fine Arts school in Los Angeles – Chouinards. Life Drawing was beautiful and her first Watercolor teacher there was the love and most influential man in her life – at that time - Mr. Millard Sheets. The class hung onto every word he had to say- opening their eyes, knowledge and senses to everything. Colors, light and dark, shapes, smell the earth, rain- look up, look outside- and around - the corners-of the box ! Millard was a master. "How fortunate I was able to study with him."

After Chouinards she applied and was accepted at another art school in Southern California. The prestigious Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. Students came from all over the world to study there. Along with general college studies - she took Illustration, Photography and a Fine Arts class with hours of rendering bones and drapes. Her favorite class was Advertising Design where she excelled under the pressure of deadlines and challenges. She was offered a job by the Instructor of the class at his New York Advertising agency...but, after three years of studies her life took another direction- a fork in the road -to San Francisco along with a handsome young man she had met at Art Center.

Always a studio area set up in their home- she continued painting and doing small art jobs- along with raising a lovely family, a home in Mill Valley and a creative artistic lifestyle for the whole family .Taking special work shops – one of the first was - San Francisco with Dong Kingman, China Camp on the San Francisco Bay with Christopher Schenk (also a class in Mexico with him), and with various well known artists and their work shops – up and down the California Coast, the Wine and Gold Countries. A favorite she repeatedly returned to was Virginia City – a Silver mining town high up in the Nevada Mountains.

Mexico was her very favorite place to paint- she went back two and three weeks at a time for seven years-(it was much safer a few years ago). She went with a group "Flying Colors"- our home base was an old estate in Acapulco- set among soaring Palms and Mango trees- right over the bay. We painted all over Mexico – hillside Cathedrals to standing in streams on wash day to paint lines of laundry billowing over the water. She did several series of watercolors in Mexico that she was very happy with and sold most. . She has wonderful friends from the "Flying Colors" adventures- it was a memorable time.

Robin continues painting and studying – remaining true to pure watercolors and good paper, mixing her own greens, and introducing from time to time- a few Cheap Joe's and Daniel Smith unique colors to her palette. "I love the competition of entering the SWA shows – it is an honor to be selected to show along with some of the best and most talented watercolorists in Texas!"

Donna Watson Workshop

October 20-22, 2010



Donna is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, and the Northwest Watercolor Society. She has won numerous awards in national juried exhibitions as well as best of show awards. She has articles and paintings published in American Artist magazine, The Artist Magazine, Watercolor and Watercolor Magic magazines.

Donna has experience as a juror and workshop instructor at the national level and Canada. She has been juror and/or workshop instructor for the National Watercolor Society, Watercolor Society of Oregon, Florida Watercolor Society, Ottawa Mixed Media Artists, Ohio Creativity Seminar, and National Watercolor Oklahoma to name a few.

Congratulations Painting of the Month Winners



First Winner
George Grant



Second Winner
Sharon Markwardt

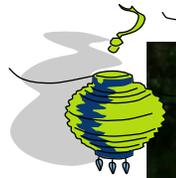
Photos by Colleen

Plein Air Activity

Our next outdoor adventure will be Sunday, May 23rd. That's the date of our next "plein-air" gathering which will be at the Fort Worth Nature Center. There's something here for everyone...if you don't want to paint there's plenty of options to photograph and miles of roadway and trails to get in a scenic walk. There is a flyer on our website with a map and more details plus there will be some copies available at our meeting for those that aren't on-line.



Photos by George Grant



"Japanese Garden Festival"

What SWA artists have come to rely on at the Japanese Garden Festival is marvelous dazzling, 2 days of weather! The weather never lets us down - except I remember a Saturday at an April Festival several years ago - rain, storms, wind and freezing cold - everyone went home - the Garden emptied out. We all returned the next day - Sunday - to a refreshed, perfect temperature and glistening greens - Gardens. One day at an October Festival - dressed in our warm clothes - the temperature shot to over 80 degrees!

Artists Marie Coever, Robin Brown, and new to this event - Mary House (Trini), Mary Leffler, and George Grant did SWA proud with their fine, individual styles of beautiful watercolors. Neatly and professionally displayed in various containers - Trini had a collection of beautiful baskets, Mary - clean, different sizes of plastic containers to show off her perfections. Marie has her displays down to a science - some new black wooden trays were perfect to show off her work. George designed and made ingenious display holders out of left over mat pieces - smart, neat and they stood up to the weekend winds.

We had a wonderful time, enjoying each others company (artists are never at a loss for words) and all the Festival goers - many repeat customers year after year - stopping by to say hello - purchasing and appreciating - the artwork displayed on our tables.

Thank you Marie, Trini, George, and Dolly Valdez - who had a separate tent in an area cross from us displaying her lovely silk scarves and unique batik watercolors. You all - always show up with enthusiasm and loads of talent.



Robin Brown (Cultural Activities)

P.S. SWA is hoping to get back into the Meditation Garden for the next October event...Wish us luck!

Welcome New Members

Kristine Becker kristinebbecker@yahoo.com
5011 Trails Edge Dr.
Arlington, TX 76017 817-343-2513

Patricia Braddock gemmerhaus@att.net
3006 Lake Oak Dr.
Arlington, TX 76017 817-466-2009

Changes

Julie Eisenfield julieeisenfeld@ymail.com

SWA Notables

- **Congratulations to Darla Bostick, George De Chiara, George Grant and Laurin McCracken for achieving SWA signature status at the 2010 national show.**
- **Sharon Markwardt had 2 watercolor and 2 oil paintings accepted in the Women Artists of the West national juried exhibition. Sharon is a featured artist at Your Private Collection Gallery in Granbury and Prelop Fine Art Gallery in Salado. Sharon both takes and teaches workshops in watercolor and says "Never stop learning" ... "You can't grow if you stay in your comfort zone." For more go to her website at sharonmarkwardt.com.**
- **Carolyn Jehring will have an exhibit from mid-March to mid-May at the Art in the Garden Restaurant in the Botanic Garden. She also has entered 3 pieces of artwork at the Up Stairs gallery for the month of May.**
- **The art show at Franklin Park was a great success. Four of the six students sold art ranging from colored pencil, watercolor, pastels, acrylic and oils on Saturday, April 24th.**
- **Spring Arts Google will be Saturday, May 15th from 4pm till 10pm. Go to michel@fortworthsouth.org to fill out the artist venue application form. For additional information contact Carolyn Jehring.**
- **Darla Bostick's annual Ghost Ranch Art Retreat/Workshop at Abiquiu, NM will be Aug 31-Sept 6 (Labor Day) 2010. In May another six-week watercolor session will be starting up at her Denton studio. www.darlabostick.com**

Darla can be contacted at 940-320-5660 or by e-mail at darlabostickart@yahoo.com.

If you have information for this segment please send it to George Grant at... gagrants36@yahoo.com
or call 817-246-3239

SWA members are invited to participate in this year's "Art in the Garden" September 10-12 in the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.

ENTRIES DUE: May 4

ENTRY FEE: \$25 per medium

ENTRIES: Photo of artwork(s), either in a photo or on a CD (non-returnable)

Be sure to include your name and contact information on every part of your entry.

NOTIFICATIONS: Jurying takes place on or about June 14, notices will be sent June 30.

Note: All works must be for sale. The Botanic Gardens' commission is 20 percent.

If a work is sold prior to the show, a suitable substitution must be provided.

INFO PACKETS will be available at the SWA meeting on April 19.

"Art in the Garden" September 10 - 12, 2010

Artwork exhibited in the halls of the Garden Center. Over 30 different artists displaying oils, watercolors, sculpture, photography and jewelry. Wine and cheese reception during Gallery Night, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

SWA meets the third Monday of every month (except June, July, & Aug) at...

**UNT HEALTH & SCIENCE CENTER
EVERETT HALL**

Research and Education Bld., First Floor

3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth, Tx 76107

Board Meeting: Monday, May 17th 5:15 pm
Critique Group: Monday, May 17th 6:00 pm
General Meeting: Monday, May 17th 7:00 pm

- As always, you can bring your paintings to critique at 6pm before our regular meeting.

Visitors are allowed one meeting free...thereafter the charge will be \$5.00 per visit

REGISTRATION FORM

SWA DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2010

\$40 Single Membership \$30 Seniors (65+)
 \$5 per extra family member

(Dues are delinquent as of March 1, 2010)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip (9 digit) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I have no objection to my phone number, address, and e-mail address appearing in SWA publications. Initial

Make check payable to: SWA and send to :

Shirley Nichols

2525 Ryan Place Dr, Fort Worth TX 76110-2506

Phone 817-247-9091 senichols@flash.net

OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

President: Mary Stitt
Past President: Dave Carpenter
President Elect: TBD
Vice President: Ann Winchester
Secretary: Diane Petrushka
Treasurer: Janet Southern

Directors

Administration: Mary Stitt
Budget, Finance: Janet Southern
Development: TBD
Education: Ann Winchester
Marketing: TBD
Membership: Shirley Nichols

International Show: TBD
Membership Show: TBD
Painting of the Month: Sharon McGlasson
Signature Members: Norma Lively
Cultural Activities: Robin Brown & Marie Coerver
Community Involved Arts: (Open)
Critiques: David Maxwell
Plein Air: George Grant
Workshops: Carolyn Jehring
Catalog: Colleen Erickson
Prospectus: Colleen Erickson
Internet / Web: Colleen Erickson
Photography: Colleen Erickson
Newsletter: George Grant
Telephone Committee: Mary Stitt & Carolyn Jehring
White elephant Sale: Mary House
Greeters: June Chavern
Hospitality: Marie Coerver
Historian: (Open)

Please consider volunteering for one of our "Open" positions

If there are changes not noted in this newsletter, please contact...

George Grant @ 817-246-3239 or
 E-mail gagrants36@yahoo.com

SOCIETY OF WATERCOLOR ARTISTS

www.swa-watercolor.com

- PO Box 471571 Fort Worth, TX 76147 - 1400
- SWA is a 501 c (3) organization
- Gifts and donations are tax deductible

Society of Watercolor Artists, Inc. Founded in 1981