

Brushstrokes

The Western Federation of Watercolor Societies 48th Annual Exhibition, hosted by the Southwestern Watercolor Society, has announced its acceptances into the show. Three artists from the NMWS were chosen to show their paintings in this wonderful exhibition. They are Joy Brinkley-Hill, Becky Lucas, and Penny Simpson. The show is in Grapevine, Texas, and runs May 6 - June 2, 2023. Congratulations to our accomplished artists! Click [HERE](#) for more information.

MARCH 2023

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"A Bunch of Radishes" by Penny Simpson

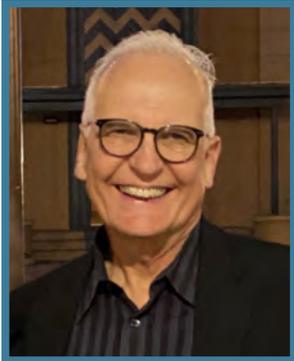


"Pondering" by Becky Lucas



"Chef's Choice 3" by Joy Brinkley-Hill

NORTHERN CHAPTER



March is here and winter will soon be a cold, distant memory. It's been a busy couple of months for the NMWS and I thought I'd take this opportunity to recap some of things going on and highlight some events coming up.

In February, the NMWS Board held its first meeting of the new year where many things were discussed. First, the annual budget was reviewed and approved. The Board discussed the prospectus for the spring show and decided that ArtCall will be used for the on-line registration. The Signature Room guidelines for the Spring Exhibit will be modified this year giving Signature members the option to sell their work. The board also reviewed proposed changes to the Signature Member Group (SMG) Guidelines. The SMG eligibility requirements will remain the same but a new category of Master Painter is proposed. The SMG members will soon have the opportunity to vote on the proposed changes.

This month, we will begin forming a nominating committee to fill some upcoming vacancies on the Executive Committee. Some of positions that need to be filled include; a new Secretary, Facilities Chair, and Treasurer. Connie Smith, Jim Terry and Ron Nedrow have done a great job in these roles and deserve our heartfelt thanks. Though they are leaving their positions, they will be available to assist with the transition. If you have a desire to be of service, please let a committee member know.

Finally, congratulations to those who had their paintings accepted into the Western Fed and Masterworks Exhibits. Registration for the Spring Show is now open and the entry deadline is fast approaching. This exhibit is for NMWS members only and it is a great opportunity to showcase your artwork. Good luck to all and keep painting!

Tom Cassidy
2022-2023 NMWS President (Albuquerque)

SOUTHERN CHAPTER



Painting Without Expectations

"Painting brings me so much calm and joy!" If you heard anyone say that, you did NOT hear it from me! When I'm having a bad day, the last place I think to go is my painting table. It seems I am usually painting for a deadline which works but causes stress. When things go wrong, it gets even worse! So, what do I do when there is no deadline? I know I "should" paint but when I don't feel great about life or the world, I ghost around thinking that if I painted, it wouldn't be good so why bother.

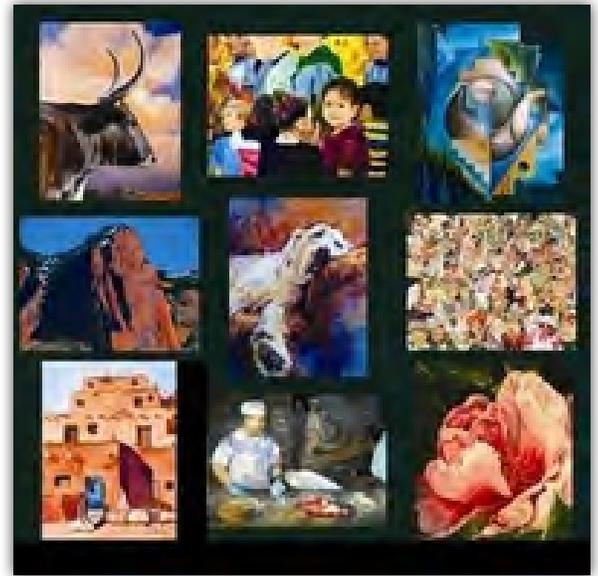
This month I eventually got annoyed with feeling blah and berating myself about this. I got the paints wet and started playing. One day I studied each flower in a bouquet, drawing with the brush with no plan for a finished painting. I played with putting a concentrated blob of dark for the centers and using the chiseled end of a brush to pull out petal outlines and then wet the petal in spots and watched the magic. Another day I pulled out a previously painted piece done wet in wet with only phthalo blue. I added layers, some damp into wet, some wet on dry. I found successful compositions in it and cut it up. And you know what? My mood improved. I felt successful. I learned and they were good days!

Now I know what my friends have been talking about, and I hope that I can continue to feel the joy, at least some of the time. If any of this sounds familiar to you, I encourage you to get the paints wet and dive in. Find low stress mini activities and keep your expectations low. Enjoy the process. It's what I'll be doing after writing this piece!

Rachel Murphree
2022-2023 Southern Chapter President

MasterWorks of NM - Volunteer to Sit the Show

How often do you get the opportunity to sit with other fellow artists, or just your friends, surrounded by some of the most beautiful art from around New Mexico? And how often do you get out to EXPO-NM and enjoy its tall trees? You can have this wonderful opportunity by volunteering to “sit the show” for MasterWorks 2023 from March 24 to April 16 (closed Easter Sunday.) [CLICK](#) on this link to find the time slots during the show to help visitors and buyers. Two different time slots are available each day at the Hispanic Arts Building at EXPO-NM. Parking passes are included! Your time and support is truly appreciated.



Workshops



2023 MASTERWORKS WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

“Have a Seat” by Santa Fe artist Ric Dentinger. Come take your own seat at Ric’s 3-day Masterworks of NM watercolor workshop Mar 31-Apr 2, 9am-4pm, at the Hispanic Arts Building, EXPO-NM, Albuquerque.

including Best of Show in Texas and Louisiana, and other awards in Houston, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle.

Ric has had articles about his work in *Watercolor Artist Magazine*, including the cover art, and has been accepted 4 times in the *Splash* series of books highlighting the best contemporary watercolor artists. His work can also be found in the book *Painting in Watercolor: The Indispensable Guide* (Webb, 2016).

Dentinger paints in a representational style, choosing subject matter from his environment and travels. He favors evocative subjects, such as dilapidated buildings, intriguing portraits, moody landscapes and animals with strong personalities.



Parking pass included. Click [HERE](#) to register. There are only a few seats left!

Ric currently lives in Santa Fe, having moved from San Antonio, Texas. He has been painting and illustrating professionally for over 30 years while successfully balancing a career as an art director and managing his own graphic design shop.

He attended the Warren Hunter School of Fine Arts in San Antonio where he focused primarily on watercolor painting. Dentinger has received numerous awards for his bold and dramatic watercolor paintings throughout the United States,

NMWS Chapter News

ALBUQUERQUE

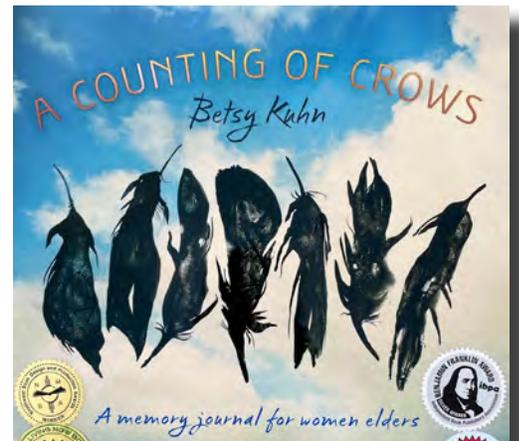
March 4th Meeting

“There Is Still Time To Do Good Things”

Considering Artist Residencies

Have you ever wanted to go to an artist residency program? Have you ever wanted to write and illustrate your own book? And where would you sell it? Where do you begin?

Artist and Author, Betsy Kuhn, and Artist Joseph Riggs will talk about their approach to using artist residency programs to complete the dream of writing, painting, publishing and marketing an award-winning book - “A Counting of Crows”. Developing a long term plan and utilizing lots of resources, including artist residency programs, and local sources are key to the completion of a complex task.



February Meeting



Barbara McGuire gave a presentation and demo called “Taming the Beast with Effective Use of Aquabord.” Aquabord is manufactured by Ampersand, and consists of a layer of clay on top of a rigid masonite panel. It offers a

painting experience that at first resembles a bit of what artists must have experienced when working with fresco, where one paints into a layer of damp plaster. Barbara showed examples of paintings on this kaolin (clay) surface by local and national painters. She stressed how one must thoroughly wet, brush, and dry the aquabord before beginning to paint on it. She suggested using cheap brushes

because of the sand papery finish, and how using less paint at the beginning and letting the layers dry before adding new ones is the way to achieve good results. She showed how easy lifting is, and talked about how to apply coats of spray varnish to the finished piece. After this enlightening presentation, those of us who have used aquabord will want to return to it, and those who haven't are sure to want to give it a try. Thank you, Barbara!

This demo was videotaped, and will soon be available on the NMWS YouTube channel.





Volunteer Corner

A volunteer is still needed to chair (or co-chair with Shirley Jenkins) the **New**

Members Reception in June!

For more information contact Shirley at 505-980-7541 or greeneyes55 [at] icloud.com.

A **Volunteer Coordinator** is also needed to recruit, retain, and enhance appreciation for volunteer participation. Contact Joyce Rapp (joyce.rapp [at] gmail.com or Barbara McGuire (bm McGuire [at] swcp.com). for more information.

Also needed is a **Public/Education Outreach** person. Contact Tina Stallard at tmstallard [at] comcast.net for more information.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE! As you read in Tom's Prez Sez, the Executive Committee is in the process of establishing a Nominating committee to seek out and nominate members for openings on the Executive Committee. The committee will meet sometime in March and make their recommendations in April to be voted on by the membership. The positions to be filled include:

Secretary to replace Connie Smith

Treasurer to replace Ron Nedrow

Facilities Chair to replace Jim Terry (at the end of 2023.)

If you are interested in filling any of these positions or know of someone who may be interested please contact Tom Cassidy at tomcassidy45 [at] comcast.net.

If you are interested in being on the nominating committee please contact Tom as well.

The Western Fed Selection Process

by Dave Cook, NMWS WFWS Representative

This year there were only three accepted NMWS paintings in the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS) exhibition. We had about 55 paintings entered from about 30 artists. Since this is one of the lowest success ratios in several years, I thought it might be helpful to share my opinion about how WFWS goes about in choosing paintings each year.

This national exhibition is a relatively small selection of paintings from its ten member societies totaling over 3000 artists, with an average of 750 entries from 300 artists. The juror is given freedom to choose what he/she considers the best art, restricted only to the number of paintings the venue will support (90 this year). This means one painting

per artist, and at least one from each member society. Consequently, the chances of being accepted are much lower than our local exhibitions. As a result, WFWS has developed the reputation as a more exclusive and professional show. It is a difficult exhibition to get into, and participating artists must accept these terms.

The single juror (selected by the host society) picks the best paintings (in his or her judgment) without knowing the artist or society, chosen from all types of work (landscape, still life, portrait, abstract etc.)

Occasionally a low number of paintings are selected from one or more societies, but this occurs randomly and is not intentional, so no single society should feel slighted. When this happens, like it did this year, we should feel challenged to improve our art in order to increase our success rate.

“Making art now means working in the face of uncertainty ; it means living with doubt and contradiction, doing something no one much cares whether you do, and for which there may be neither audience nor reward. Making the work you want to make means setting aside these doubts so that you may see clearly what you have done, and thereby see where to go next. Making the work you want to make means finding nourishment within the work itself.” David Bayles, *Art & Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking*.

March 11 Meeting - Learning Tables

Come experience hands-on fun at our Learning Tables hosted by Phil Yost, Nancy Tipton and Laurel Weathersbee. Rotate through the meeting to learn techniques for making cards from your paintings, paper marbling with Higgins black ink on watercolor paper for fun backgrounds, and mingling color on paper or getting texture with interesting "stuff" like dryer lint. Hope to see you there!

Sunday, March 11, 2:00-4:00 pm

Good Samaritan Society Creative Arts Room 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces



Making greeting cards with Phil



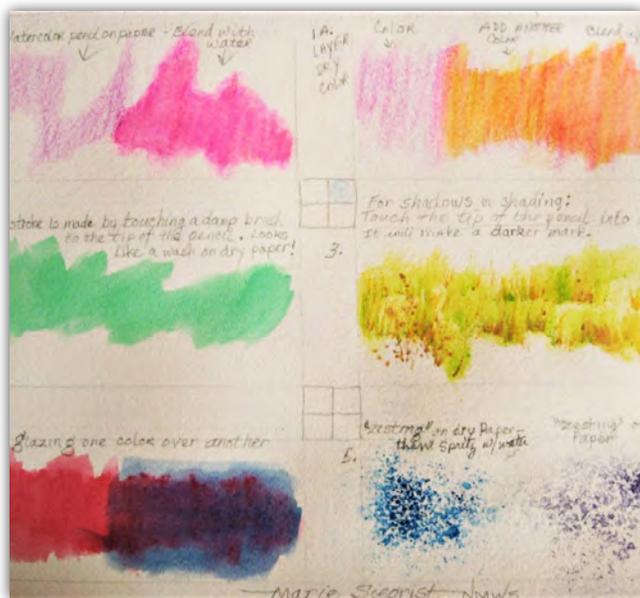
Paper marbling with Nancy



Creating texture with Laurel

This month's "mini exhibit" will feature Ann McPhee's sketchbook art from a painting excursion in France. After the meeting the video will be up on SmugMug.

February Meeting



We had a lovely demo of watercolor pencils by Marie Siegrist and learned techniques and tricks to handle this medium. Marie uses often 90 # paper Arches cold press or Aquarius and scumbles with the pencils on the side. Her pencils of choice are Faber Castell and Derwent, and she uses them either to touch up edges, as a preliminary drawing, or over pen and ink. Occasionally she does an entire painting in pencil which can take a while but she enjoys the process. The progression of light to dark is similar to tube watercolor, but you don't get blooms!

She's found it easy to run the ink drawings created on 90# paper through her printer. She can then color them in various ways for cards or small prints. That is a neat idea! She ended the demo with hands-on experience.

See more of Marie's handouts in the 2023 folder of our [smugmug album](#). Thank you, Marie, for a fun presentation!

NMWS-SC Fall 2023 EXHIBITION

The NMWS-SC Fall 2023 juried exhibition will be open to all NMWS members and will be held in the new Doña Ana Arts Council Gallery in December. The theme for the exhibition, “A Happy Place”, is an expansive one inviting a wide range of subject matter—landscapes, portraits, still life, for example—and styles both realistic and abstract. During times of stress, we are often admonished to go to our happy place and that means different things to different people—perhaps an actual place; a friend or your family; your kitchen or yard; a campfire, beach, quiet forest, or waterfall; or a mood or a feeling. After so many months of staying home and isolated, this is an opportunity to share what we have learned about our ‘happy places’. So, start thinking about that painting and we will get more information out in the coming months! This exhibition will be open to all NMWS members statewide and acceptance will count toward reaching signature status.

ALTERNATE SPACES

We had a lovely opening for this year’s “For the Love of Art” Exhibit, even though the citywide event wasn’t sponsored this year. Sixteen artists submitted 25 images that were smaller pieces suitable for collecting. We had two sales at the opening!

Congratulations to Kay Gross whose lovely watercolor “Solitude” (below) won the Viewers’ Choice award (and was purchased!) This was our second FLOA exhibit at Frame & Art Center in Las Cruces. We’re looking forward to ArtForms plans to have a robust FLOA anniversary celebration next year.



Show Us Your Hidden Gems!

The Southern Chapter has begun virtual mini-exhibitions of members’ works prior to and during the break of our Sunday meetings. It’s a new feature we’re trying and we’ve received good feedback.

If you were unable to attend a meeting, you can view the beautiful paintings and see a brief bio of the artists [HERE](#). Marie’s works are in the 2022 folder, while Sahyly and Barbara’s are in the 2023 folder under Exhibitions.

We’re lining up artists for the remainder of the year, so if you’d like to show us your hidden gems of artwork, please contact Karen Steinberg at [kjsteinberg \[at\] aol.com](mailto:kjsteinberg[at]aol.com).



We are instituting Volunteer Teams for the coming year. Led by someone in charge, each team allows more people to get involved and offer fresh and creative ideas as well provide help and support to the Board. This means smaller and fewer tasks for everyone! Thank you to Phil Yost, Nancy Tipton, Carlitta Harvey, Janella Welch and Suzanne Thiesfeld for already signing up. Look for emails from Rachel to learn more and see how you can help!

Workshops *(continued)*

Marie Siegrist Watercolor Workshop by Karen Hayes, SC Workshop Chair

Marie really delivered on teaching workshop participants techniques to capture the unique light, color, and shapes of New Mexico landscapes! Several participants, who are experienced painters, commented on having an “aha moments” on very specific concepts -- how to use two colors to shape and shadow mountains, how to capture the color of desert grasses/plants while letting sunlight stream through, and of course, realistically place figures and animals in a painting. During the workshop, we explored different ways to group and position figures in the painting and considered how they enhanced the story and mood. Putting figures in a painting is not really hard to do; but with some planning, it can be high impact!

Typical of learning in a workshop, the new techniques shared were often subtle. You really needed to pay attention to how and when they were executed during the painting process, and once achieved, you could quickly see the impact on the quality and professional look these changes made to a painting. Marie did an excellent job of sharing both the how and why she followed certain processes. She stressed mixing colors in enough quantity for the whole painting, how to check for the correct value to develop perspective, and she always shared her paint recipes. The workshop had a nice balance of hands-on demos, participant painting time, one-on-one critiques, and general discussion on what is effective. I think this blend of activities allowed the participants to consider and try to adopt new techniques in their work process.



Call for Entries

The **NMWS Spring Show** is open for registration. Click [HERE](#) to register for the exhibition.

ALL Entries MUST be done via the ArtCall software. Click [HERE](#) for the link.

Artists MUST be current NMWS members to participate in the 2023 Spring Exhibition.

The Guest Juror and Workshop Instructor is Dale Laitinen.

The entry deadline is Saturday, March 18 at 6 pm. Please [read the registration page](#) carefully on the NMWS website for important dates, the prospectus, and ArtCall link.

THE NEW MEXICO ART LEAGUE invites entries to "Outside the Box." Looking back at the changes in our lives, we are asking artists to reflect on their new or changed perspective in both word and image in all two-dimensional media. Deadline for entries is March 11. All artists living and working in New Mexico are welcome to enter our exhibits. Art League membership is not required. For information, call 505-293-5034 or [visit our website](#).

Exhibitions



The 25th Anniversary MasterWorks of NM annual fine art show will be held in the Hispanic Art Bldg. at EXPO-NM, Albuquerque, NM from March 25-April 16, 2023. The opening reception and awards

ceremony is March 24 from 5-8 PM. The NMWS Guest Workshop instructor is [Ric Dentinger](#) of Santa Fe. The workshop will be in the Hispanic Arts Building March 31 - April 2 with a free, one-hour demo on Friday, March 31, at 9:30 am, in Hispanic Arts. Register [HERE](#). Workshop coordinators are Ray Prudhomme (505.296.0273) and Becky Lucas (303.257.2786).



The ArtsThrive Exhibition at the Albuquerque Museum will be open to the public March 5th - April 16th. Four members of the NMWS will have small paintings in this annual juried fundraiser. Congratulations to Carol Carpenter, Dave Cook, Susan Weeks, and P.K. Williams for being accepted into this eclectic show. There will be a premiere on Saturday, March 4th, and a closing gala on April 16th. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this exhibition, and to buy tickets to the events. There will be an online sale of the works in the show and short videos by most of the artists. Here are a few of the paintings by our participating watercolorists:

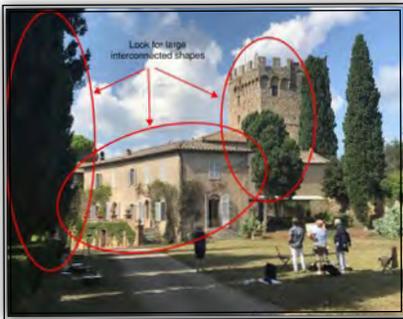


Plein Air/Fresh Air by Tom Cassidy

I recently watched a video by artist Mathew White that I found quite simple but interesting. While White was discussing studio painting, I realized that he was describing the techniques and issues I often encounter when painting plein air. The video emphasized three things to loosen up as painter. So, if loosening up your style is a goal of yours, focus on these three things.

1. Think about shapes instead of objects.

One of the benefits of painting plein air is that I paint more quickly allowing myself to paint in a more “painterly style,” in a “looser” method than my studio works. A loose painting may appear to be painted very freely and quickly but in practice, to paint loose, I need to have a clear plan of where I’m going. My plan to create a fresher painting begins with the way I see my subject. When painting outdoors I start by looking at the big shapes.



When learning to paint more loosely, start painting shapes and not objects. If I am not observing the shapes, I can fall into patterns of drawing and rendering things in preconceived ways rather than looking at how they actually

are. When I see shapes rather than objects, I can paint them as they really are rather than how I think they should be. The next step then is to connect the smaller shapes into the bigger shape of the scene. The key to keeping your painting fresh and loose, is to learn to see the large shapes in the scene.



2. Zoom out often.

The second step for improving a painting is to learn to step back or “zoom” out from the painting. I have often found myself so focused on a part of my painting that when I did step back, I was surprised to see how the light had changed and altered the scene I was painting. If I want the different parts of the painting to relate to one another, I need to be aware of the entire scene. Hovering right over my painting and painstakingly considering every detail will result in overworking the painting. I can easily lose the essence of the scene when I don’t remind myself to zoom out.

3. Hold your brush further back.

The final technique is to simply to hold the brush further back. The tendency for many of us is to hold the brush close to the ferule, much like one holds a pencil. Holding the brush further back allows you to engage your entire arm and not just your wrist and hand. When doing this you can easily vary your brushstrokes and the way that you make your marks. Of course, there are times when you need to hold the brush a little bit closer. When working on the final details when you want to make small, fine or precise marks, you’ll want to hold the brush further up.



These are just a few very simple ways to improve our paintings but it is these little things that can sometimes make a big difference. The key here is to practice often using these tips until you find that you are automatically doing them without thinking. Happy painting and I’ll see you outdoors!

Paint Outs

NORTHERN AREA by Jay Leutwyler

The March paint out will be at the [Gutiérrez Hubbell House](#), 6029 Isleta Blvd SW in Albuquerque on March 11th 1 - 3 PM.

Here are a few shots of the February paintout at Elena Gallegos.



SOUTHERN CHAPTER by Nancy Tipton

The March paintout will be Thursday, March 16 from 10:30-12:30 at the Desert Trails Community Park in Sonoma Ranch. The address is 3492 Sonora Springs Blvd. (at Sonoma Ranch Rd. and Sonora Springs Blvd.) Sadly there are no bathrooms or water.

This is a neighborhood park featuring multiuse trails, wildlife and wide open vistas with hilltop views of the city and an interesting view Picacho Peak. There is a nice parking area where you could set up and paint. There are also sidewalk trails, designated rambling walking trails with native terrain and wide open vistas. It should be a wonderful area for a paintout.

Here are a few shots of the February paintout of the Organ Mountains.



Member Spotlight

Congratulations to **JUDE RUDDER** whose painting “Almost to the Top” was purchased to be in the Albuquerque Public Art Collection. Last fall, a call for entries went out, and Jude entered her painting. Through a jurying process of several committees, it was one of 35 pieces selected from the 450 that were submitted.

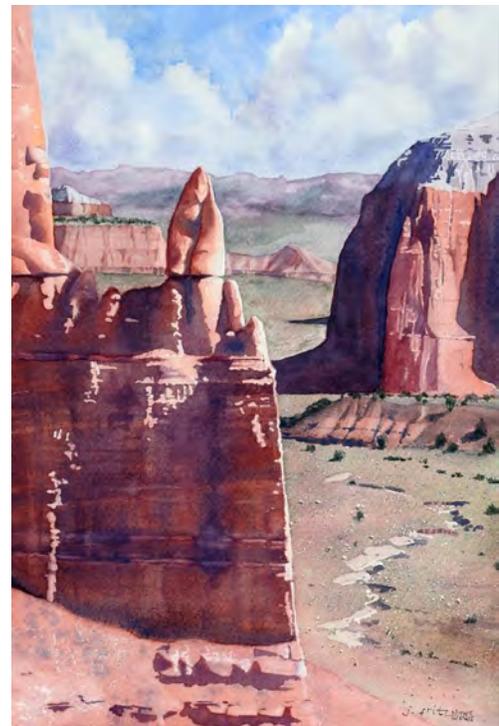
Although Jude doesn’t yet know where her piece will hang, sites for this collection include Albuquerque City Hall, The Albuquerque Convention Center and other City-owned facilities.



JANE FRITZ is honored to have two paintings, “Cathedrals” and “Morning Calm,” selected by juror Betty Carr to hang in the Rockies West 33rd Annual National Exhibition. The exhibit is sponsored by Western Colorado Watercolor Society and will be at the Western Colorado Center for the Arts in Grand Junction March 1- April 7. Click [HERE](#) to see the exhibit gallery online.

Her painting, “Sunrise on the Spires,” (at right) was selected by juror Brenda Swenson to hang in the 46th Annual International Watermedia Exhibition sponsored by the Watercolor Art Society – Houston. The exhibit will run March 7-March 30. Click [HERE](#) to see the exhibit gallery and awards.

Congratulations Jane!



NMWS Gratefully Acknowledges Our “Contributing Members”
Kerry Renshaw

NMWS is a 501c3 certified charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible.

And Everything Else.....

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

The New Mexico Watercolor Society (NMWS) was founded in 1969 as a statewide chapter of the Southwestern Watercolor Society of Dallas, TX. In January 1970, the New Mexico Watercolor Society became an independent entity with 501(c)(3) status.

OUR VISION: *To Inspire a Passion for Watercolor Art*

OUR MISSION: We will accomplish our Vision through support of the highest aesthetic standards in quality and presentation of art, education of the public regarding watercolor art, promotion of community engagement, facilitation of member artistic development through workshops, demos, etc.

OUR COMMON CORE VALUES

- 1: Artistic Development Through Education**
- 2: Participation and Volunteerism**
- 3: Community Presence**
- 4: Organizational Sustainability**
- 5: Welcoming Culture**

[See the website for more details on these core values.](#)

NMWS Signature Member status is attained when a NMWS member in good standing has been accepted in five "eligible" NMWS juried shows within five years. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

The NMWS is a member of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS).

PAPER SALES (not available at the Southern Chapter)

Ray Prudhomme sells watercolor paper at the meetings or by appointment at 505-296-0273 or raynjan1969[at]yahoo.com. CHECKS ONLY (no cash.)

Prices are:

Arches 140 lb. Cold Press, Hot Press, Rough	\$8
Arches 300 lb. Cold Press, Hot Press, Rough	\$17
Arches 300 lb. Bright White	\$17
Fabriano Artistic 140 lb. Bright White	\$7
Yupo 72 lb. White	\$5
Yupo 144 lb. White	\$6
Special order/special request watercolor paper:	
Fabriano 140 lb. Cold Press	\$7
Fabriano 300 lb. Bright White Soft Press	\$14
Saunders Waterford 140 lb. Cold Press	\$10

All prices are subject to change.

NMWS OFFICERS ALBUQUERQUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Strategic Leadership 2022-2023

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For contact information and other officers, please see the website
nmwatercolorociety.org

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE APRIL ISSUE OF BRUSHSTROKES

Please send news items, accomplishments, and other contributions to

[ctrotter \[at\] unm.edu](mailto:ctrotter[at]unm.edu)

The information is due by March 15 to be included in the April issue.

Caryl Trotter, Your Brushstrokes Editor