

IOWA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

2020 Second Quarter Newsletter

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Quote

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi

Contact Us

iowawatercolorssociety@gmail.com



Sketch of downtown Vancouver, Canada. See page 7 for fuller descriptions.

President's Remarks

I hope this newsletter finds all members, families and friends in good health. It has been a very stressful time for many people but art has played an important part in calming and entertaining us. It's amazing how many institutions have adapted and brought us their collections on line in just a few weeks. Right from the comfort of my home I can now visit the Louvre, the Museum of Modern Art as well as the Des Moines Art



Center, just to name a few. There is also a plethora of free online videos and classes that are really good. Everyone's creativity has been put into high gear.

But not only creativity is in high gear, compassion is as well. So many beautiful stories of people helping each other – buying groceries for elderly neighbors, sewing masks and distributing them to friends and family, ordering pick-up from favorite restaurants to help keep them running.

So many people are suffering that it is overwhelming. But the human heart is big and I know that we are all doing our part to help as well as keep safe and healthy.

2020 Spring Workshops

It was with a heavy heart that we decided to cancel the two workshops scheduled for May 2020. Due to the ban on travel, our instructor who lives in the U.K., is unable to travel to the U.S.

We had planned on doing the workshop online instead but due to health issues with the instructor's partner, that was not possible either.

I was very disappointed because a lot of work went into putting these workshops together, but life has a way of teaching us all humility.

Not being able to hold the workshops is not devastating as are the health and financial issues so many families are facing.



Bicycles at the port in Portland, ME

Status of 2020 Annual Exhibition

This year's annual exhibition is currently on schedule. [June 11 is the submission deadline.](#)

Jeanette Carson, one of our new Board member is the person in charge of this year's exhibition. The exhibition will take place at La Poste, Perry.

Our juror and this fall's workshop instructor is Frank Eber.

Sunday, Aug. 2 will be the drop-off date for your artwork. Please bring it to La Poste between 12:00-3:00 pm.

The opening reception will be Thursday, Aug. 6 from 5:00-8:00 pm. Please bring friends and family to meet and chat with the artists.

Sunday, Sep. 13 is our Annual Luncheon as well as the day to pick up your artwork. The artworks should be picked up between 4:00-5:00 pm at La Poste, Perry.

Registration for the annual exhibition is now open, go to our website to sign-up.

Des Moines Art Center Event

The Des Moines Art Center is having an exhibition called "Landscape in Watercolor" starting May 15 and they have invited the Iowa Watercolor Society (IWS) to participate. As part of the exhibition the Art Center will have a Gallery Talk on Sunday, May 31, 2020. They would like a few IWS artists to paint on the lawn of the

Art Center for guests to observe and talk prior to the Gallery Talk.

Artists should arrive around 12 pm to set-up and begin painting around 12:30 pm. Guests will be invited into the museum for the Gallery Talk at 1:30 pm. The IWS members can stay painting or join the Gallery Talk inside the Art Center. When the Gallery Talk ends, if artists wish to go back to finish their painting, guests will be encouraged to go back outside and see the progress the artists have made.

This exhibition will feature one of our own, Jane Baty. The Art Center owns one of her watercolors which will be included in the show.

In the event that we need to postpone the May 31 date, then June 7th will be the Plan B date. If that in turn is postponed then Plan C will be Aug. 9th.

If you are interested in participating by painting outside in the gardens of the Art Center, please send me an email at fonsecamayela@gmail.com.

2020 Fall Watercolor Workshops

Our fall watercolor workshops will be taught by Frank Eber. The first workshop is scheduled for Sep. 9-11 and the second one Sep. 14-16 at La Poste in Perry. If there is a change in schedule due to the pandemic, then we will let you know. But as of now we are still planning on this schedule.

Frank will introduce you to the secrets for painting his luminous watercolors. He will share the advanced techniques he uses to create atmosphere, balance and unity with the skilled manipulation of tonal values, color and edge.



He will cover laying down basic washes, as well as the time sensitive wet-on-wet and dry-on-wet approaches that let you capture the great variety of textures in landscapes and seascapes.



Frank's demonstrations and thorough explanations will address the challenges of composition, direct color mixing, positive and negative painting, as well as your 'state of mind' while painting.

He will do daily demonstrations, working in stages with lots of discussion which will allow you to fully absorb every aspect of his technique. You will have time to paint on your own and get focused individual feedback.

2020 Key Dates

DATE	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS
June 11	Annual Exhibition digital submission deadline	Digital submission should be no larger than 500kb
June 13	Plein Air Event	Location is Whiterock Conservancy
June 20	Plein Air Event	Location is Whiterock Conservancy
July 1	Notifications to artists accepted to the Annual Exhibition will be sent	
July 30	Mailed art for annual exhibition must be received no later than this date	Mail to Mary Rose Collectibles, 1215 Warford St., Perry, IA
August 2	Drop-off for accepted paintings to Annual Exhibition	La Poste, Perry from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
August 6	Opening Reception, Annual Exhibition	La Poste, Perry from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
August 28	Deadline for entry into the Fall Miniature Show, Johnston Library	
September 5	Drop-off day, Miniature Show, Johnston Library	from 12:00 - 4:00 pm
September 9-11	1st Fall Workshop with Frank Eber	La Poste, Perry from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
September 12	Meet the Artist Reception, Miniature Show, Johnston Library	from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
September 13	Annual Luncheon	La Poste, Perry from 10:30 am - 4:00 pm
September 14-16	2nd Fall Workshop with Frank Eber	La Poste, Perry from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
October 31	Pick-up day, Miniature Show, Johnston Library	from 12:00 - 4:00 pm

Member Viewpoint by Mayela Fonseca *

In this time of shelter in place, where the days become random in order, Tuesday followed by Saturday followed by. . . I have been entertaining myself by sketching. I love to sketch because it is error proof. It is a relatively small piece of mixed media paper or small sketch book which does not give me the threatening presence of a large empty watercolor sheet of paper. For me sketching is just practice, I don't have to end with a painting that I can exhibit or sell.

My tools are permanent ink pens, (different size tips) normally a black one, my watercolor paints, a couple of brushes, and a sketchbook. I do have several sizes of sketchbooks.

I try to sketch on location but sometimes finish them at home or a hotel if I am traveling. I do take a photo of the subject before I start in case I want to finish it later and to make sure I capture the shadows just as they were when I started.



Looking at the glacier from cruise ship, Alaska



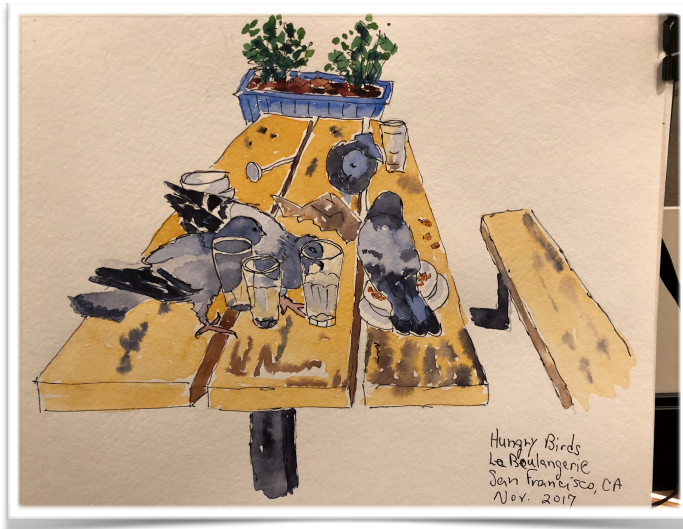
Fruit market, San Francisco, CA

In early March I ordered three books: “5-Minute Sketching Architecture” by Liz Steel, “5-Minute Sketching People” by Pete Scully and “5-Minute Sketching Landscapes” by Virginia Hein. I have been practicing what I’ve learned in these past few weeks. It has been fun going back to the photos I took and doing the sketches. They bring back lots of memories,

more than the photos do. The sketches that I have included in this newsletter are, in order of appearance:

1. Skyline of downtown Toronto. We were coming back from a cruise in Alaska. We spent 3 lovely days there. It is a wonderful city. (Page 1 above President's Remarks)
2. Bicycles at the port in downtown Portland, ME. This was around 4:00 pm in the afternoon and I loved the shadows the bicycles made. (Page 2 above Status of 2020 Annual Exhibition)
3. Couple on the balcony of the Princess cruise to Alaska. We were all on our balconies looking at a glacier when I took this photo. (Page 6)
4. Corner grocery store in Noe Valley, San Francisco, CA. We were visiting our son and his family. (Page 6)
5. Hungry birds at La Boulangerie, San Francisco, CA. These birds were very intrepid going after bread crumbs on all the tables. (This page below)
6. Alaska. Photo taken from the train as we traveled from Denali to Wittier to catch the cruise ship. (This page below)

* Note: With everything that has been going on I forgot to ask a member to contribute an article for our section Member's View point. That is why I am the author this time. Sorry!



Hungry birds at cafe, San Francisco, CA



View from the train, Alaska