

IOWA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

2019 Fourth Quarter Newsletter

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Quote

"We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents"

Bob Ross

Contact Us

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President's Remarks

As we approach the end of my first year as President of the Iowa Watercolor Society (IWS), I've come to deeply appreciate all the work that other presidents and board members have done through the years. Without the help of these volunteers, we would not have such a great organization.

Four board members departed this year, Mary Johnson (Exhibition Chair), Sara Burrier (Website Administrator), Connie Eyberg (Facebook Administrator) and Jan Vander Linden (Traveling Show Chair), Secretary (was vacant). Our deepest thanks to these members who gave two or more years of excellent work to the IWS.

Three people have volunteered to fill the now vacant positions.

- Connie Fischer will be our new Secretary,
- Lisa Christensen will be our Social Media Chair standing in for Website and Facebook administrator,



- Jeanette Carson will be our new Exhibition Chair and helping her are Susan Baer, Connie Guillaume, Martha Rhoades and Kathy Glenn.

We still need to fill out the Traveling Show Chair position. In the meantime Jan Vander Linder has offered to continue to help. If you are interested in this position, please send me an email and we can get together and discuss it in detail.

Annual Luncheon

Our annual luncheon was well attended. Here are some of the highlights:

- If you renew your membership for 2020 before Dec. 31, 2019, you will receive a gift. A beautiful bookmark made by member Mary Johnson. She has dried flowers from her garden, pressed them on a piece of paper, drawn with watercolor, placed an inspirational message on the back and then she had it laminated.
- We have introduced a new membership fee for students of \$25/year. If you know of students, either in high school or college that are interested in watercolor, please mention to them the Iowa Watercolor

Society. We need to recruit younger members!

- Marilyn Romine will organize a plein air day around Des Moines this upcoming summer. You are invited to bring a friend who might be interested in watercolors. More details will be sent out at the appropriate time.
- We are also giving a \$50.00 discount for the 2020 spring and fall workshops if you sign up early. The information regarding the 2020 workshops will be on our website by mid December. I will send a reminder. If you sign up for both workshops you will receive a \$100.00 discount!!



Alexis Lavine, this year's juror did a demonstration during the luncheon. Here are two photos, one is Alexis painting the demo and the other is what she painted, although in the photo the painting is not finished.



She was painting an old barn near her home, that was scheduled to be demolished. She painted it in a vignette style. In a vignette painting, she explained, the corners are left unpainted but these corners should be different as well.

The Monday after the luncheon several of us attended her 3 day workshop. I have to say that she is one of the best instructors I have encountered.



2020 Spring Watercolor Workshops

Meet Paul Talbot-Greaves, artist, author and instructor of our 2020 the Spring Workshops.



Paul is a landscape artist from the UK and works in watercolor and acrylic. His work reflects the rugged scenery of the landscape, either in the context of wild places or in the nature of the South Pennine landscape where he lives. He draws his inspiration from the remains of the pre-industrial era where crumbling enclosure walls and ancient pastures still exist. It is this or the open mountain and moorland terrain that inspires him to explore the spirit of historical connections using layers of color, texture, shapes and patterns applied with energy and feeling.

He is a Companion of the International Guild of Artists, Associate of the British Watercolor Society, President of the Halifax Art Society, as well as an advisory panelist for Artist and Illustrators Magazine. He exhibits around his area as well as in London. Has won 'Best in Show' at Holmfirth Art Week and 'The Artist' and 'Canon' awards at the Patchings Art Festival.

He writes for 'The Artist' magazine and has four practical art books published to date.



May 13-15, 2020 at La Poste, Parry, IA

Workshop #1 - Advancing your watercolour techniques

Loosen up your approach and use exciting techniques to make better, more dynamic watercolour paintings. In this workshop, Paul will explore with you, three hugely important elements of watercolour painting - composition, lost and found techniques and value ranges. There will be a lot of information here that will advance your work in many ways and push your watercolours beyond the ordinary.

Through demonstrations, group exercises and individual attention, he will share with you the elements of composition, such as arranging shapes, using perspective and contrast to full effect and making a busy focus. You will explore many techniques and variations for introducing lost and found in your work before exploring the importance of value ranges and concentrating on ways of expanding the impact in a painting through dark and light.

Paul teaches in a relaxing manner and is very encouraging to painters of all abilities.

His appraisal of work in the classroom is addressed in an honest, friendly and respectful way to allow you to see all the positive and negative elements that may help you to improve beyond the workshop environment.



May 18-20, 2020 at La Poste, Perry, IA

Workshop #2 - Painting Watercolor Landscapes

Searching for a scene to paint can sometimes be a frustrating process. There is so much in the landscape that it can be overwhelming and 'where to start' is often one of the biggest stumbling blocks for many painters. In this workshop, Paul will focus on techniques for seeking out and painting successful watercolor landscapes. By moving your focus away from views full of daunting information and instead, considering some strong design elements, you will learn how to find interest even in the less obvious scenes. We will cover important and key topics such as using contrast for impact, creating a strong focal point and the importance of cast shadows, which will lead us on to making paintings out of nothing and introducing white into your work. Paul will demonstrate techniques and paintings as well as set practice and exercise work to try out in class. The workshop will be good for painters of all abilities and Paul is adept at tailoring his help and friendly advice to assist individuals at any level



If you want more information about Paul Talbot-Greaves, search him on Pinterest or YouTube.

Member Corner

1. Deb Garner currently has an exhibition at Plymouth Congregational Church, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines that runs till Nov. 22. Also our congratulations to Deb for winning 2nd Place at the Iowa Watercolor Society's Annual Exhibition.
2. Congratulations to Jean Weiner, her painting Foot Spa was awarded Best in Show at the 9/13/19 opening reception of the 46th Annual Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition, in Evergreen, CO. The juror was Sterling Edwards who was our juror and instructor a few years ago. Jean also participated in seven other exhibitions and won four awards. She has been very successful and busy in 2019.
3. Member Richard Hanson has an article about his work in the magazine Watercolor Artist Dec. 2019 issue. The article is called The Art of the Dark. Congratulations Richard!!

Traveling Show Update

The 2019/2020 Traveling Show is now on display at the Wieting Theater in Toledo, IA. It will be there until the end of November.

December-January it will be at the Maquoketa Art Experience, Maquoketa, IA.

Michael Broshar and Mayela Fonseca will be teaching a watercolor class there on Nov. 9th.

February-March it will be at the River Arts Center, Clinton, IA

From December through January the Traveling Show will be at the Maquoketa Art Experience, Maquoketa, IA.

February through March it will be at the River Arts Center, Clinton, IA.

April through May it will be at the Arthaus, Decorah, IA

July through August it will be at the McNider Museum, Mason City, IA.



Three-Step Watercolor Value Study, by Courtney Jordan - Artist Network

Lately I've been filled with impatience. I'm on a short fuse when dealing with everything from friendships to traffic to stubborn pots of water at dinnertime (can't you boil any faster?!). One person I am not impatient with is artist Andy Evansen. He's given me, and therefore you because I share like that, a three-step value study to remove the guesswork—and white outlines—from my watercolor painting process. Finally, someone who understands my need for speed.

Light, Middle, Dark

Through trial and error, you may have already found that the best way to lose detail and paint more loosely is to squint at a scene and view it as three distinct values: light, middle and dark. These three divisions of light are what a value study is all about.



Step 1

Drawing from the reference photo, begin by blocking in the larger shapes. Because it's a study, it doesn't have to be perfect. I actually recommend doing several block-in sketches to warm up because the three-step value study can go by fast so if you have several sketches, you'll experience that much more by repeating the process.

Step 2

When you squint at the scene, you see the sky, the light-struck area of the casino and tents, and the rocky shore as light, so they remain the white of the paper. There are many opportunities for lost edges in this large shape. The trap in this first stage of the value study lies in the fact that there's a white casino, a sunny day and white boats in the water. However, the white boats and half of the white casino building are in shadow, so they need to be included in the first middle-value wash.



Step 3

When it's time to add the dark values, begin with the boats to make them reappear. Next, separate the pier from the water with the darks underneath it and its reflection. A few windows, palm trees and flags finish off the little details for interest. Look how much can be accomplished in just three steps. And really sit back and consider how compelling light, middle tone, and dark are for a composition. Powerful, right?



Try This at Home

Andy Evansen's finished painting of the port is lovely. I'm a big fan of the value study. I urge you to create one based on a photo you've taken.

DON'T FORGET!!

Pay your 2020 membership fee before Dec. 31, 2019 and receive a beautiful bookmark made by hand by IWS member Mary Johnson.

The 2019 IWS Annual Exhibition Booklet is on its way!

Thanks to Larry Castek for the photos he took of the annual luncheon and the workshop.