

IOWA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

2019 Third 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

We are getting ready for one of the busiest activities of the year, our Annual Meeting/Luncheon and Exhibition. As in previous years the exhibition will take place at La Poste, Perry from Aug. 5 - Sep. 22, 2019.

Our juror this year is the artist Alexis Lavine from North Carolina. She will be teaching the two Fall Workshops. See detailed information about the workshops in the Fall Watercolor Workshop section of this newsletter.

The Annual Luncheon will start at 11:00 am but doors open at 10:30 am. Lunch will be served around 11:30 am and it is being catered by the Hotel Patee.

Don't forget to register for the luncheon no later than September 6, 2019.

Following are some important dates to remember (add them to your calendar so you don't miss out).



Activity	Date	Time	Comment
Artists with accepted work will be notified by email	7/08/19		
Deadline for mailed art to be received	8/01/19		Mail to: Mary Rose Collectibles 1215 Warford St. Perry, IA 50220
Drop-off accepted paintings at La Poste, Perry, IA	8/04/19	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	
Opening Reception for all artists at La Poste, Perry, IA	8/08/19	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	
Registration deadline for Fall Workshops with Alexis Lavine	8/15/19		Go to our website to register for the workshops
Juror/Artist Reception at La Poste, Perry, IA	9/19/19	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	
Fall Watercolor Workshop "Creative Watercolors Using Photographs"	9/18-9/20	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	La Poste, Perry, IA
Fall Watercolor Workshop "From Ordinary to Extraordinary"	9/20-9/23	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	La Poste, Perry, IA
Annual Meeting and Luncheon	9/22/19	Doors open at 10:30 am	La Poste, Perry, IA
Pick up artwork from Exhibition and 2018 Traveling Show	9/22/19	3:00 pm - 5:00 pm after luncheon	

Fall Watercolor Workshops

Meet Alexis Lavine-Instructor for the Fall Workshops



I took a workshop with Alexis a few years ago in Austin, TX. I really enjoyed her teaching style and how approachable she was to her students. I paint from photographs most of the time so I am looking forward to her workshop “Creative Watercolors Using Photographs”. I often ask myself should I include everything in the photography, or should I remove some things; how do I need to approach composition when a photograph is really busy.

These are some of the few things Alexis will address in her class and help us understand better.

Here is a description of her “[Creative Watercolors Using Photographs](#)” class:

Alexis Lavine has thousands of photos, which she interprets to inspire her watercolor paintings. She would like to help you do the same. She is a professional watercolor painter, but not a professional photographer. In fact, she takes particular delight in working with photos that are out of focus, poorly composed, cluttered, or over or under exposed. Why? Because that forces her to interpret what she sees, to use her imagination, and to design and create paintings that are original, personal, and way better than the photos that inspired them! During this workshop, Alexis will share many different ways in which she interprets her photos, designs her paintings, imagines and conceives her pictorial stories, plans and draws her shapes, selects colors and values, and lots more! Her demos will surprise, inspire, and encourage you. This workshop will be great for painters of all levels ... for beginners to intermediates, who want to avoid the trap of copying their photos, and for more advanced painters, who want to break out and use their photos in new and creative ways. So - grab your camera and start shooting. Dig those shoe boxes of old photos out of your closet. And spend an insightful and eye-opening workshop, learning how to interpret your photos and make great paintings!

Please note: You do not need a computer for this workshop. Alexis will talk about the use of digital cameras and computer editing, but this workshop will rely on good old fashioned designing, drawing, and painting. You are welcome to bring (digital or film) prints, or use images on your portable electronic device.

Here is an example of an exercise Alexis did when I attended her workshop. You can see the photograph, then she did a value sketch and her final watercolor.



Her second workshop is titled “[From Ordinary to Extraordinary](#)”. Here is a description of the course:

In this workshop, Alexis Lavine will focus on painting the humble, ordinary subject. So often we feel like we have to find a dramatic, spectacular, exotic, picture-perfect subject ... before we can begin to paint. But quite often a fascinating, surprising, poignant subject is right at our feet, or in a corner of our home, overlooked and forgotten. Let’s explore some modest subjects and see how we can turn them into extraordinary paintings – with the right combination of solid drawing, creative design, good painting technique, imagination, humor, and fun! Alexis will give you lots of ideas about identifying, selecting, and interpreting your subjects, while she presents informative and inspiring demo paintings. She will share a tremendous amount of information about technique, design, drawing, color theory, communication, and lots more. This workshop will be good for painters at all levels, and Alexis will work with you individually, as well as with the entire class, to help you on your own pathway. Join Alexis, to discover a whole new avenue for your creative endeavors!

Here are some examples of ordinary subjects turned into extraordinary watercolors:



Miniature Show-Johnston Library

Our last Miniature Show of the year is taking place at the Johnston Library, 6700 Merle Hay Rd, Johnston, IA 50131. There were 45 paintings submitted. We accept up to 80 paintings and the eligibility rules are really flexible.

- You do not need to submit digital photos of paintings
- You can use YUPO paper or other types of paper
- Ink, watercolor pencils, watercolor markers, watercolor paints and crayons are all accepted.

This is a show that will allow you to experiment with other watercolor tools that you do not normally use but want to try out.

We have two miniature shows per year, one in the spring and one in the summer. I would like to see more participation from our members. If any of you have suggestions on how we can increase participation, please send me an email at fonsecamayela@gmail.com. Any and all comments are always welcome.

Saturday, June 29 was the Meet the Artist Reception at the Johnston Library. It was a well attended event. Members donated food and beverages for all to enjoy.



The artwork presented at the Johnston Library is excellent. Our members did a wonderful job.



Artist: Connie Guillaume
Different is Good



Artist: Ann Pisarik
Vacation of One

The award for Best in Show went to Jerald Steel for his watercolor Abandoned.

Please come by to see the show, it will be up till July 28, 2019.



Artist: Jerald Steel
Abandoned

Traveling Show Update

The 2018/2019 Traveling Show is now in Iowa City at the Old Post Office Art Gallery, 28 South Linn St.

There will be a reception on July 28th with a demonstration done by IWS members Janice Bell and Jo Myers Walker. Everyone is invited.

Member Viewpoint

Contemplative painting by Jo Myers Walker

Contemplative painting is when you see past the object or scene into its essence. Past the literal representation into deeper thinking or being in the zone. My mentor Charles Reid said while we were painting the figure, "Bring out the personality, who is she" he would say. This takes a contemplative mind to move past the obvious.

I often carry a small sketchbook so I can doodle, make symbols, and write a phrase that captures me, if I am patient a scene will appear modeling those same ideas. Then I have let go of my preconceived thoughts about the subject and let

something larger than me paint the scene. This process is much more fun and I can let those happy accidents possibly be the focal point.

In that sketchbook I do research by observing and sketching areas of interest and collecting pieces of the story. I then start to compose an interesting composition with overlapping shapes, light against dark, values, movement, dominance, perspective, and balance. All this helps me to have a unified whole before I start painting.

Next I do a small color study from the sketch, thinking about watercolor techniques that will bring out a lively composition. Now I am ready to sketch these images on to watercolor paper and weave the composition and contemplative thought into my painting and let the Flow begin, using just a few stroke to do the talking. Sometimes I feel I am actually in my painting traveling around experiencing the Flow.

Finding the patience to just be in the moment and not frantically saying I only have an hour to paint, thinking will it sell?,

will it get in a show?, or will it be good enough? It is just the monkey brain working overtime.

When I go back to that sketchbook and let Spirit show me the best part, then I can savor the moment, calm down and say what I need to

Member Corner

1. Martha Rhoades is having an exhibit at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines for six weeks beginning the 1st of July through mid August.
2. Janice Bergland wants to announce the Art Heritage Fest, held in Charles City on August 17th. It combines the annual ArtAFest with the Floyd County Museum's Pioneer Day. Information on how to enter can be found at artafestcharlescity.weebly.com.
3. Louise O'Donnell, Jo Myers-Walker and Mayela Fonseca will be exhibiting their artwork at the Maquoketa Art Experience, 124 S., Main St., Maquoketa, IA July 1 through Aug. 29, 2019.
4. Judith Reel is organizing a Watercolor Workshop for October 22-29, 2019 in Tuscany, Italy. She still has a couple of spots open. Renowned artist and tutor

Anthony Barrow will teach the workshop. Wonderful opportunity to visit Tuscany, enjoy delightful Italian cuisine and learn about watercolors. For information please contact Judith at judithreel@g.com or call 515-661-9152.

5. New member John Franklin attended our Spring Watercolor Workshop and gave me this quote to share with you: "When buying from an Artist/Craftsman, you are buying more than just an object/painting, you are buying hundreds of hours of failures and experimentation. You are buying days, weeks, and months of frustration and moments of pure joy. You aren't just buying a "thing", you're buying a piece of heart, part of a soul, a moment in someone's life. Most importantly, you are buying the artist more time to do something they are passionate about."

