



SOCIETY OF WATERCOLOR ARTISTS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
THE SOCIETY OF WATERCOLOR ARTISTS

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

April
2026



Inside This Issue

President's Message

Next Meeting Information
Artist – Monica Austin

Member News

New Members

Member Spotlight

Announcements

Calendar

Information Station



President's Message

Spring is here and April is a really busy time of year for us!

We've been watching as entries for our International Juried Exhibition roll in. Most participants do a great job following the prospectus guidelines, but we do keep an eye out for submissions that may need a bit of assistance. Our Exhibition Chair, Janet Southern, has stayed quite busy reaching out to artists to help with updates and corrections.



Our work actually began late last year during the planning stages—developing the prospectus, contacting potential sponsors, and coordinating with the gallery and juror to ensure all dates aligned. While it's a lot of effort, it's something we truly enjoy. As the paintings begin to arrive through CaFE, we're treated to AMAZING artwork from talented artists around the world. We're incredibly grateful that so many of you choose to enter this event and support our watercolor society.

Next came the challenging task for our juror, Ken Call, who reviewed nearly three hundred entries to select the 55 paintings that will be exhibited at the House of Neville Gallery in Fort Worth. As I write this, those selected works are being prepared for delivery. Many are coming from out of state, and even from other countries. Over the next few days, shipments will arrive, and soon the installation in the gallery will begin. That's when the fun really starts!

Even with all this activity, we're already looking ahead to our Juried Membership Exhibition this fall. I'm also working on something new that we hope to announce soon—something I'm hoping our members will really enjoy.

And just a reminder: all of this is made possible by volunteers. If you've ever considered getting involved, we'd love to hear from you. We're always looking for enthusiastic individuals who share a passion for this wonderful medium and a desire to contribute. Come join the fun!

Skeeter Murley

Email: swawatercolorpresident@gmail.com



Facebook



Instagram



X (Twitter)



KEEP IN TOUCH!

WWW.SWAWATERCOLOR.COM

MEETING INFORMATION

Monday, April 20th, 2026
Meeting begins at 7:00pm

LOCATION

UNT Health

3500 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth, Texas
Parking Lot #6
Click [HERE](#) to see map

6:30 to 7:00pm - Artwork Critique's w/ Ann Winchester
Bring a piece of your artwork to get tips from a teaching professional.

7:00-7:15pm - General meeting with announcements and introductions of newcomers

7:15pm - Introduction of guest artist and demonstration begins

8:00pm - Break for refreshments, prize drawings and view & vote on Painting of the Month

8:15pm - Guest artist continues demo

8:45pm - Painting of the Month winners are announced

DONATIONS OF SNACKS, SOFT DRINKS, & FRUIT TRAYS ARE WELCOMED

CLICK BELOW TO VISIT

[Monica Austin](#)
[Instagram](#)

Next Meeting... Monday, April 20th 7:00pm



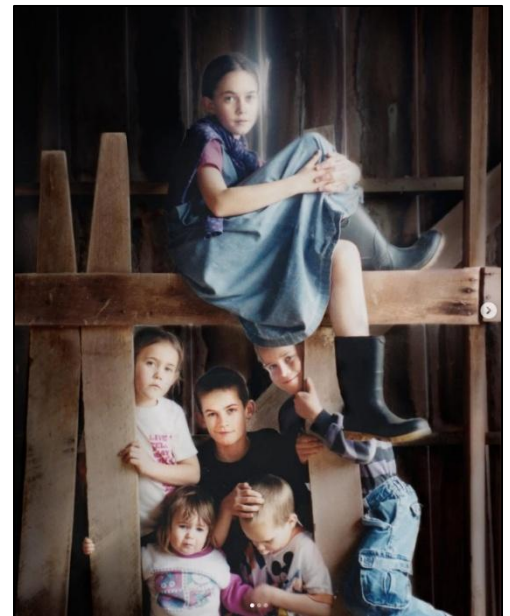
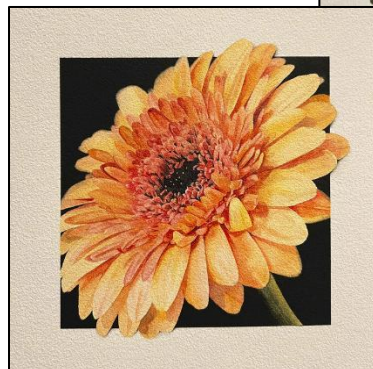
Demo Artist

Monica Austin



Monica Austin is a Texas-based watercolorist whose work blends precision, story, and luminous color. With a background in creative design—specializing in branding and custom interior art features—she brings a refined sense of composition and visual identity to every painting. Beginning in graphite, Monica developed a deep love for structure and value before diving headlong into watercolor during Covid,

Her artistic voice has been shaped through study with masters including Laurin McCracken, Thomas Schaller, and Randy Meador. As she continues toward her first signature, Monica's work has been juried into exhibitions with National Watercolor Society, Western Federation of Watercolor Societies, and Watercolor Art Society - Houston. "I've always seen in high definition," she says—a perspective reflected in her fascination with macrophotography, tiny details, and the quiet narratives carried in a single expression or object. While known for her crisp realism and strong value design, Monica is intentionally pushing toward looseness, exploring the magic that happens when control gives way to flow. A dedicated educator, she teaches weekly classes and leads workshops throughout the Dallas–Fort Worth area and neighboring states, emphasizing fundamentals, color theory, and building paintings on a foundation of powerful value composition.



Coming Next Month – Ken Call



MEMBER NEWS

PROUDLY SHARING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SWA MEMBERS



Jan Min's painting *Het Wad* (left) has been accepted into the Waterworks Member Exhibition of the Northwest Watercolor Society.

Juror: Michael Solovyev

Jan, one of our newest members, is from Blaricum, North Holland, Netherlands.

Well done!

Larisa Anaya's painting *Port in Dinan* (right) will be on display at the American Impressionist Society's 10th Annual Impressions: Small Work Showcase in Douglas Michigan.





MEMBER NEWS

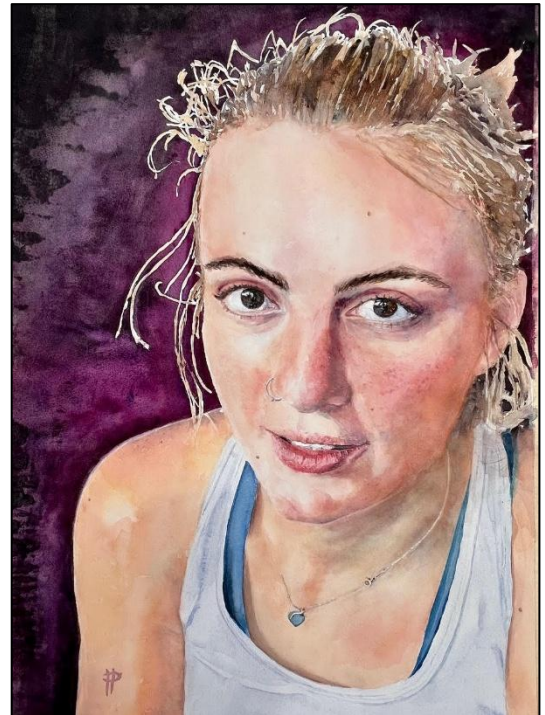
PROUDLY SHARING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SWA MEMBERS

Trish Poupard's painting *After Her Run* (right) was juried into the Emerald Spring Painting Exhibition in Springfield, Oregon.

Juror: Leslie Tejado

And her painting *Aubergine* (below) was juried into the 2026 Watercolor USA Exhibition in Joplin, Missouri.

Juror: Carol Carter



Darla Bostick's painting *G'Day, Mate!* (below) won 1st place in watercolor at the Richardson Civic Art Society's Spring Membership Exhibition.
Juror: Kay Byfield



Congratulations!



MEMBER NEWS

PROUDLY SHARING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SWA MEMBERS



Rick Anderson's painting *Good Day Sunshine* (above left) was selected for inclusion into the Louisiana Watercolor Society's 56th International Exhibition.

Juror: Matthew Bird



And his painting *Stars in the Night* (above right) has been selected to be include in the Waterworks Member Exhibition of the Northwest Watercolor Society.

Juror: Michael Slovey

Christine Alfrey recently had a solo exhibition at the Campanile Center for the Arts in Minocqua, Wisconsin. Below are two of her paintings.

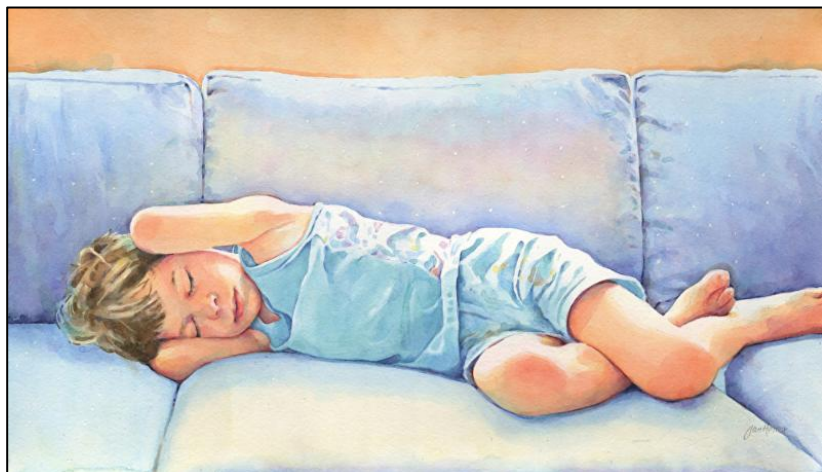
Piano Man's Spirit (below left) and *Wolf II* (below right)





MEMBER NEWS

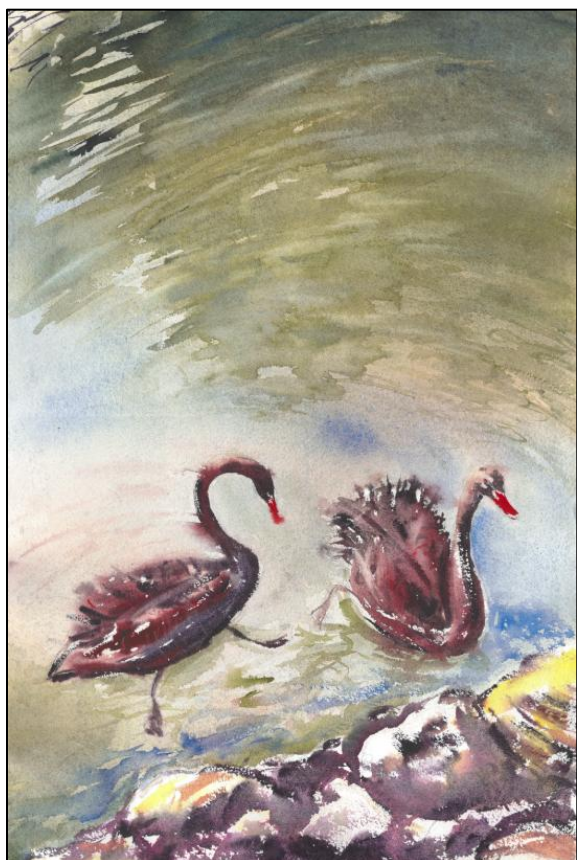
PROUDLY SHARING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SWA MEMBERS



Janine Helton's painting *Sleepyhead* (left) was selected for inclusion in the Waterworks Member Exhibition of the Northwest Watercolor Society. Juror: Michael Solovyev



And Janine's painting *Fearless* (right) was selected as part of FAV15% (jury's favorite 15% of the entries) in the February 2026 BoldBrush Painting Competition. It was also selected for inclusion in the Illinois Watercolor Society 42nd National Exhibition by Juror Kris Parins.



Alexandra Savelieva's painting *A Darker Grace* (left) has been selected to advance in the second phase of the competition "International Watercolor Academy Award 2026."

And her painting *The Phantom of the Opera* has been accepted to the exhibition "Waves of Colors" — International Watercolor Biennale 2026, organized by IWS Bangladesh.



WELCOME!

To Our Newest Members

We like to welcome new members to our watercolor society,
along with returning members* from years past.

Alla Adams – Pearland, Texas

Radha Chatterjee – Plano, Texas

Steve Gerling – Ashord, Connecticut

Donna Grace – Fort Worth, Texas

Michael Holter* – Plano, Texas

Mollie Jones* – Flint, Texas

Michele Tabor Kimbrough* - Panama City, Florida

Louise Lachance* – Saint-Anicet Quebec, Canada

Patricia Martin* – Fort Worth, Texas

Jan Min – Blaricum, North Holland, Netherlands

Victoria Steed – Willow Spring, North Carolina

Bernie Stein – Piedmont, California

Donna Twyford – Hot Springs, Arkansas

Gail Watson – Toccoa, Georgia



Painting of the Month

BRING IN A COMPLETED PAINTING AND SHOW OFF TO YOUR FRIENDS!

Monthly winners received gift certificates to Jerry's Artarama in Arlington.
1st place winners will then compete for the Painting of the Year in November!

Sponsored By

JERRY'S ARTARAMA

4802 Little Road in Arlington, Tx



Suzanne McNeill-Sparks

Arlington, Texas

Creativity has always guided my life. After completing degrees in Art and Biology at SMU, I taught school and served as a craft counselor at the YMCA in Estes Park, Colorado.

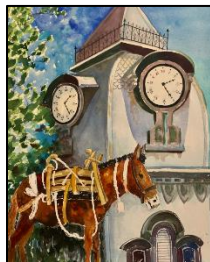
Next, I began my own full-time artistic journey, becoming a designer, painter, and art media specialist, as well as the author of numerous how-to books. Over the years I have also developed skills with quilting, beading, and mixed media. Creating—and sharing creativity through teaching—remains my lifelong passion.



Currently, painting and sketchbooks are my passions. Painting with Watercolors and gouache are my favorite mediums. I love the colors, textures, and portability of a single palette of luscious colors. The colors fit perfectly in my flatpack along with brushes, water, and a fold-up stool for sketching.

I am often inspired by traveling to new places. The images and colors inspire me to create paintings that contain precious memories.

Teaching: September thru March I teach painting and media exploration at the Woman's Club of Fort Worth. April thru August I teach Sketch-Journaling at **Sparks Studio** in Arlington.



Awards:

- “Lifetime Achievement Award” - International Craft Association
- “Designer of the Year” award - from Loctite Corporation
- “Woman of the Year in the Arts” - Sponsored by Fort Worth, Texas
- “Travels in India - My Sketchbook”
- Guest speaker and presentation Traffic Box Paintings
- Fort Worth and Grand Prairie
- Guest Teacher -
- Jerry's Artarama Expo
- Artisan Expo - Santa Fe, NM
- Art & Soul Creative Retreats



SPARKS STUDIO
509 W. Main St. Arlington, Tx.



SOCIETY OF WATERCOLOR ARTISTS



Visit our website to see the current listings of upcoming watercolor exhibitions around the country

[SWA Exhibition Listings](#)

SWA encourages our members to enter art exhibitions around the state and country. It's fun to see our members being accepted into all these shows, and winning awards.

We try to update our website with art shows we think you might be interested in, but we can't keep up with all of them. If you have information on upcoming deadlines. Please send us an e-mail. We'll keep our website updated as best we can with this information.



Are you working on something you'd like to share with your friends? **Bring a piece of your artwork to our next meeting and hang it on our clothesline.** It's a way to show off something you're working on or have completed in a workshop or art class. It's just for fun and a great way to get to share techniques you've learned with others.




Last Meeting

Demo Artist Ron Crouch



March
2026

Art Opportunities!



WINCHESTER STUDIOS

Ann Winchester

Watercolor Classes

FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

Join us to learn the art of watercolor. This is a weekly, fun watercolor class for all skill levels class where you can learn basic watercolor techniques, materials, color mixing theory and more!

DATES & TIMES	LOCATIONS	CLASS FEE
THURSDAY 1:30PM - 3:30PM	THURS & SAT 809 W MAIN ST ARLINGTON, TX 76010	\$30 PER PERSON
FRIDAY 1PM - 3:30PM	FRIDAY 425 GRANBURY ST CLEBURNE, TX 76033	
SATURDAY 11AM - 1PM		



Darla Bostick

Art Adventure Abroad To Belgium & the Netherlands

2026 We will spend some time in Switzerland then board a river cruise to sail through Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands...adding to our art travel journal all along the way!

[Check this LINK to visit Darla's Art Adventure page for more details](#)

She is still in the planning stages of the journal workshop BUT she could not resist the pricing for the cruise...for a limited time! Pricing for the cruise is locked in, but the rooms are not--until you make a \$250 deposit each through her for our incredible discount of \$1500 per person and gratuities included.



Parker County Peach Festival 2026 Art Show

Registration Opens May 1st



Sparks Studio
509 W. Main Street
Arlington, Tx.
817-266-3085



SUMMER SKETCHBOOKS

2026 Sketchbook & Travel Journal
Join us this summer April - August for a progressive journey filled with wild inspiration, quirky ideas, and the kind of creative sparks you didn't know you were missing. You'll experience just how freeing and ridiculously fun a personal sketchbook can be. No rules, no pressure—just you, your book, your memories, and a weekly dose of unexpected magic.

Summer Classes on Monday
9:30am to 3:00pm

**DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WORLD-CLASS ART MUSEUMS
IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS**



SWA Fundraiser Opportunities



Have You
Signed Up?

Community
Rewards

Kroger offers us the opportunity to raise funds for our watercolor society. They make quarterly donations to SWA based on the shopping you do every day in their stores.

Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Then simply follow the directions on how to link your Kroger card to our organization. We are listed as Society of Watercolor Artists Inc.

Your transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to SWA, at no added cost to you. **Every dollar we raise helps!**

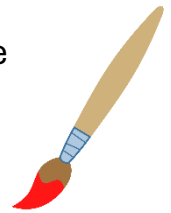


DONATE DIRECTLY TO SWA



Click the link below to be taken to a page to donate to SWA through PayPal.

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)



You can also donate by writing a check payable to Society of Watercolor Artists and sending it to:

SWA

P.O. Box 471571

Fort Worth, Texas 76147

We want to thank you in advance for considering a donation to the Society of Watercolor Artists.

SWA will be able to use your donations to support our operational needs.

Those needs include funding for meeting & gallery space, equipment, outreach and awards.

SWA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

SWA Painting of the Month Competition



4802 Little Road
ARLINGTON, TX

Don't forget to bring a painting to the **APRIL** meeting to enter the **2026 Painting of the Month** contest.

Paintings that win 1st Place in the monthly contests throughout the year become eligible for the year ending Painting of the Year contest!

Next Meeting

Monday, April 20th at 7:00pm

SWA INFORMATION STATION



SWA memberships runs on a calendar year January through December

You may join SWA anytime during the year. Our official membership campaign begins in October as our regular year runs with the calendar: January through December. Those who join mid-year do not receive a discounted membership fee, but they are eligible for the membership juried show in the fall, which is for current members only. We will not be meeting during the summer months and will resume in September.

We like new members...invite your friends!



SWA Membership includes these benefits:

- ✚ Fellowship with like-minded creative folks
- ✚ Free monthly SWA newsletter
- ✚ Entry discount for any SWA show
- ✚ Annual Juried Membership Exhibition
- ✚ Annual Juried International Exhibition
- ✚ Painting of the Month Contest
- ✚ Invitation to Plein-Air events
- ✚ Links to Members' Websites
- ✚ While maintaining active SWA membership, earn SWA Signature Status after selection to 5 SWA juried exhibitions. (without disqualification)
- ✚ Advance notification & entry into Workshops
- ✚ Fun Competitions!
- ✚ Watercolor Holiday Greeting Cards
- ✚ December Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Our Monthly meetings are held at the UNT Health Science Center building in Fort Worth. After you turn from Camp Bowie to Clinton St turn left into a sloping parking lot beyond the vacant kiosk. We are on the bottom floor of the building to the right corner. Watch for a sign on the parking lot with directions to our room (or check the map on the website)

6:30pm Artwork Critique (bring in 1 or 2 works for some friendly advice) Ann Winchester – Artwork Critique Artist
7:00pm Member meeting begins after a short business discussions & announcements.

2026 Committees & Volunteer Opportunities

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Laura Rugg (*Additional Volunteer Needed*)
Painting of the Month/Year: Vicki Rowley
Monthly Critique: Ann Winchester
Programs: Marilyn Ivy
Social Chairman (Refreshments/Receptions): Linda Hidalgo
Workshop Chair: Laura Rugg
House & Properties: **AVAILABLE**

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Janet Southern
SWA Signatures: Iok-Hou Pang
Prize Sponsors: Skeeter Murley

PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Skeeter Murley
Newsletter Editor: Skeeter Murley
Photography: **AVAILABLE**
Print Editor for Catalogs: Skeeter Murley
Publicity: **AVAILABLE**
Website & Social Media Manager: Skeeter Murley

FINANCE AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

CHAIR and Director of Finance & Budget: Christopher Stewart
Professional Standards (yearly audit):

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR and Director of Membership: Skeeter Murley
Greeters: Linda Hidalgo
Editor of Online Membership Directory: Skeeter Murley



SWA

P.O. Box 471571
Fort Worth, Texas
76147

www.swawatercolor.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Skeeter Murley

SECRETARY

Evette Oister

TREASURER

Christopher Stewart

EDUCATION/WORKSHOP

Laura Rugg

COMMUNICATIONS

Skeeter Murley

MEMBERSHIP

Iok-Hou Pang

Exhibition Chair

Janet Southern

2026

2026 CALENDAR

Our meetings are held at the UNT Health Science Center
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth, Tx.

January 26 – Bev Boren - Demo Artist

February 16 – Ann Winchester - Demo Artist

March 16 – Ron Crouch - Demo Artist

April 20 – Monica Austin - Demo Artist



May 18 – Ken Call - Demo Artist

May 19, 20 & 21 – Ken Call Workshop

June, July & August – No Meetings, Summer Break

September 21 – TBD - Demo Artist

September 22, 23 & 24 – TBD Workshop

October 19 – Brenda Driggers - Demo Artist

November 16 – Cheryle Chapline - Demo Artist

Masks are not required to attend the meetings.
There is a lot of space inside the room for social distancing.
We really do want everyone to have fun & feel safe.

**Your SWA Board Members continues to
hold regular monthly meetings via Zoom .**

If you have any questions or suggestions,
please send them to Skeeter Murley at
swawatercolorpresident@gmail.com



If you have any news you would like
to share in future e-mails, please feel
free to send it our way. We've set
up an e-mail address for you to send
all of your newsletter info to.

swa.membernews@gmail.com