

THE
Splash!
March 2021
NEWSLETTER

**SOCIETY OF
WATERCOLOR ARTISTS**



Fort Worth, Texas

From the President...



As a strict home shelter advocate, I stepped out cautiously to view the Queen Nefertari Exhibit at the Kimbell. It ends this weekend and they have taken extra measures to insure a safe viewing. SWA also continues to adjust to current times. We are becoming accustomed to the convenience of meetings from our home comforts and exhibitions without framing and hanging. It couldn't be easier to enter the SWA International! The due date has been pushed back to March 27th allowing more time to paint that masterpiece swirling in your mind!



It is so nice to have a monthly program again...even it is online. Many thanks go to Skeeter Murley who facilitates our Zoom platform. We are learning as we go and we thank you for your patience as we all practice a new way of meeting. We have 3 panelists to allow for questions and comments. The rest of the viewers are muted and must participate by sending a chat message through the platform. On my part, I learned that I must mute my mike after each comment. The "rules" are different depending on whether we are the host, or if the artist has the ability to host the meeting. During our Feb demo (with us as host), I learned that even if I clear my throat, the sound was detected and it placed me on the wide-screen! We continue to work out the details.

Incidentally, be sure you have renewed your membership so you don't miss the terrific demo line-up Shirley Nichols has arranged for us. It is a new year and dues is...well, due! We sent out a special email to those who are not renewed as a reminder. The zoom demo with Stephen Zhang was very much appreciated and the feedback was great from more than 40 participants who joined us as members (some with candlelight as we struggle from power outages in Texas). We had viewers as far away as CA and IN on our call. Remember, only members are invited to attend our meetings so we can prevent internet hacking. Next Monday we have our fellow-SWA member, Laurin McCracken sharing his talent and techniques as our zoom instructor.

I took some time to review our website newsletters and noticed we go as far back as 2010. Does anyone have earlier newsletter we can add to our history? This is our 40th birthday year and we are looking to collect our past as well as celebrate our future!

We are asking for volunteers. Not only do we need a newsletter editor, we are waiting for someone to act as the Asel coordinator for art of the month. In addition, if you are as good at math as you are with art we are in need of a treasurer. Pat Banell has taken that role for 4 years and is ready to help a replacement. We would like to use this year to train our 2022 exhibit chair. Charlie Nieman is willing to show the ropes as he trains our next chair for easy transition. This is a time-sensitive position as our International is well in the swing of accepting entries, etc. We also need someone now to seek sponsorship help for prizes. We all have spare time this year...this could be the year you give back to SWA by volunteering.

Darla Bostick

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Follow Us!

www.swawatercolor.com



1981 - 2021

March Member Meeting

Zoom Demo WITH Laurin McCracken

Laurin McCracken is an award winning artist whose paintings have been exhibited in juried shows around the world and nationally to include NWS and AWS. His paintings have been included in multiple shows in China and included in international watercolor exhibitions such as The World Watermedia Exposition, in Thailand and the Malaysian Watercolor International just to name a few. His paintings are included in permanent collections in the National Museum of China, the Asian Museum of Watercolor Art and others. He is a member of a dozen watercolor societies and an Elected Member of the Allied Artists of America in their Watermedia Category. His work has been published in many national and international magazines and has been included in books such as Splash 9-21. He is the Past President of the Watercolor USA Honor Society.



Monday, Mar 15 at 7pm

We are pleased to present
Laurin McCracken

**Exclusive Event
for
SWA
MEMBERS**



E-Mail Invitations
will be sent to 2021
SWA Members.

Next month's demo is by International Exhibition Juror Andy Evansen.

Andy Evansen

ONLINE WORKSHOP

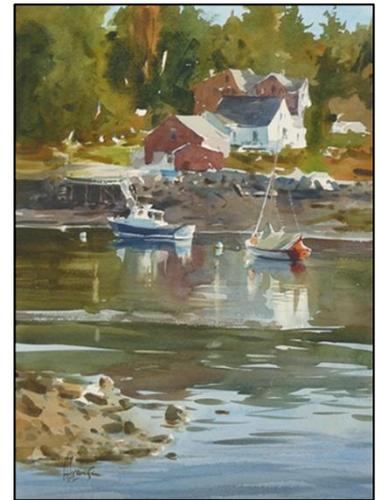
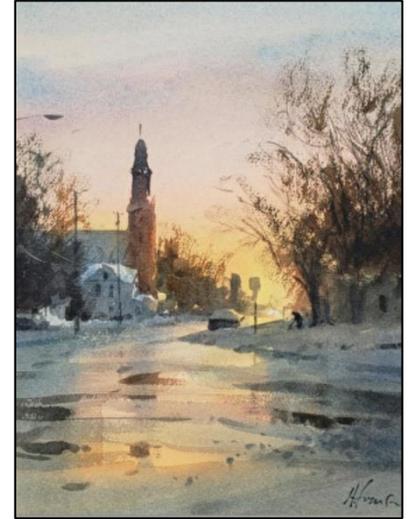
APRIL 20th – 22nd, 2021

Andy Evansen will be the juror of the SWA International Juried Exhibition this year. Below is a short bio of Andy, and a few images of this incredibly talented artist.

Andy's interest in art started in childhood, as he can't recall a time when he wasn't drawing. He began painting watercolors in the mid 1990s as a change of pace from his career as a medical illustrator. Choosing a 'style' was not difficult, as Andy was always inspired by the watercolor paintings of British artists Trevor Chamberlain, David Curtis, Ed Seago and Edward Wesson, among others.

He found himself attempting to capture the landscape with the same economy of brushstroke, taking advantage of the luminosity of watercolors done in just a few washes. In addition, he was impressed with the way those artists seemed to capture everyday scenes in such a way that revealed a hidden beauty, subjects that many would simply pass by.

His work gained recognition after winning an international watercolor competition through *American Artist* magazine, appearing on their cover in 2005. He's been featured in numerous other publications since, and has become a sought-after workshop instructor who paints and teaches internationally. He became a signature member of the prestigious Plein Air Painters of America (PAPA) in 2012 and served as their President from 2015-2017. His paintings have won numerous awards, including the Bronze and High Winds Medals from the American Watercolor Society, and he was their demonstration artist for the 2018 Exhibition. His love of painting on location also led to him being a featured presenter at the 2014 and 2016 Plein Air Conventions and inclusion in the 2017 Qingdao International Masters Watercolor Plein Air Event.



**For more information,
and to sign up, [click here.](#)**

**DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO BE PART OF
THIS EXCITING 3-DAY WORKSHOP!
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2021 International Juried Exhibition

The prospectus for the
2021 SWA International Juried Exhibition
has been released

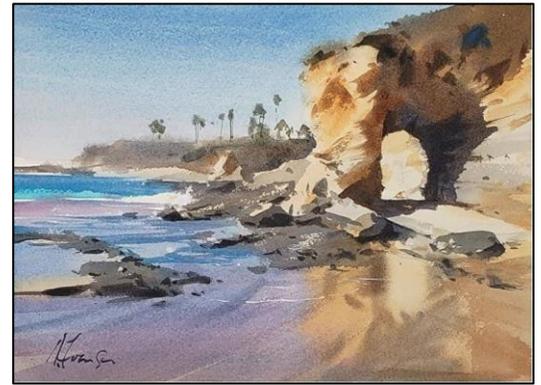
Juror: ANDY EVANSEN

**All entries will be submitted through
CaFE (Call for Entries)**

Prospectus available on our website.

www.swawatercolor.com

The entry deadline is March 27th



A Message from the Programs Director

I wanted to thank the members who responded to a call for artists. We are looking for suggestions for those who we might like to invite to do the demos and workshops. I have put them all on a working list. I would also like to hear from you on a regular bases as to your likes and dislikes so that I might make this a program for you the members. We, SWA, will need your enthusiasm and support help promote the organization, the exhibitions and the workshops.

Shirley Nichols, Program Chair
senichols@flash.net
817-247-9091



Last Month's Demo Artist

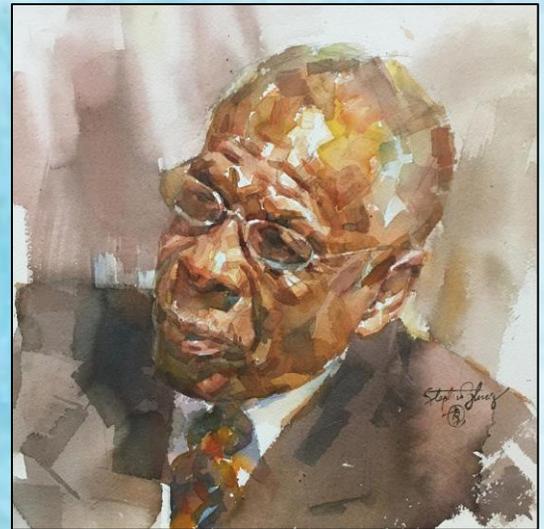
Stephen Zhang



It's almost hypnotizing to watch someone paint. The old adage on boredom, "It's like watching paint dry" hardly applies to watercolorists!

Stephen shared his tools of the trade explaining he prefers the paints with a honey binder—M Graham and Sennelier (though he also uses Rembrandt paints). His go-to brushes are hake, Black Velvet made of natural squirrel, Escoda Kolinski for small areas and Chinese brushes. He uses rather a limited palette but includes a warm and cool selection for each color. He explained the warm and cool temperatures are critical.

Many of us were surprised to learn Stephen paints watercolor as large as 8 feet in size. "When I paint (large) I don't feel so limited! Physically it's like an exercise. I want to paint and move!" he explained. He buys a roll of Arches that is 50" wide and 13 yards long, 156#, which allows him the freedom to choose the size of his project. One hurdle to jump is the framing of such large work and he plans to experiment with varnish to eliminate the expense of large plexiglass. To prep his paper he wets both sides in a shower then stretches and staples it to the back side of a wooden frame. For our demo his portrait was about 16" square.



After the sheet is dry and taut he uses graphite to draw his subject and outline the areas of value changes. The frame was rested at a slight incline as he painted. Testing of each color is done on a scrap of nearby paper before applying the paint directly to the paper. Rather than rely on masking mediums he paints carefully the highlighted areas and softens areas with a series of overlapping washes. As he works he consciously lifts and replaces color at the same time to indicate facial planes.

Stephen shared a tip on straight lines. Avoid them! Even on the frames of glasses, break the edges and discontinue the lines. Always have the lines change in value and color to keep it interesting.

"Painting is design. It's about rhythm!" he adds. The harsh edges gradually soften as he continues to build the painting. Stephen warns to "Never make it perfect. Try to find the key points of a face as you add more saturated areas of color. Watercolor is spontaneous!"

It's Here!!! The 2021 International Exhibition is accepting entries!

As we celebrate the 40th year of our organization, we approach the **March 27th** deadline into this year's edition of the International Juried Exhibition. Unfortunately we will again be having a **virtual online exhibition** this year, but the good news is that we are getting very good at this. We are hopeful that much like our last two virtual exhibitions, there will be plenty of interest and entries. It appears that everyone is doing a good job of using this time of social isolation to concentrate on their paintings. The number and quality of entries seems to be increasing. All are to be congratulated. Entries will be accepted until 12:00 pm Mountain Time. One might wonder why this strange selection of time, well the answer is very basic. This year we are using CaFE' to manage our entries and they are based in Denver. The result is that their system will accept entries until Midnight by their local time. This does give those of us in the central time zone an extra hour to get their entries in (for all of you night owls). The use of CaFE' should help everyone get their entry in a little easier. You will need to go to CaFE' (<http://www.callforentry.org>) and create an account. This does not cost you anything. CaFE' will allow you to store your painting images, it will automatically resize these images for you, and will regularly advise you of many exhibitions that you might want to consider entering. You choose the exhibitions that you want to enter, and pay your entry fee directly through CaFE'. Many of you already have a CaFE' account, so you are familiar with their system. Those that are new to this should find it very helpful and quite handy for entering events from all over.

If you need assistance getting your entry in, please feel free to send an email to Charlie Nieman at swaexhibition@gmail.com





PAINTING of the Month

FEBRUARY WINNERS



Celene Terry
Black and White



Barbara Doberenz
Attention Captured

Welcome

New Members

We like to welcome new members to our association, along with others that have been members in the past.

Kit Cameron - San Francisco, California
Diane Cason – Willow Park, Texas
Sue Dehmlo – Bellevue, Washington
Michelle Kevetter – Roanoke, Texas
Tin Nguyen – Nashville, Tennessee
Bonnie Jo Woods - Fredericksburg, Texas

Returning Members

Rovaine Brown – Grand Prairie, Texas

We hope you'll consider signing up for these, to help our association.



Kroger makes quarterly donations to SWA through your shopping! Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com. If you already have a Kroger's Plus card, create your account and input your card number. In 7 to 10 days after shopping you will notice at the bottom of your receipt a donation was recorded for SWA.



Amazon Smile donates .05% of your online purchase back to SWA. Choose Society of Watercolor Artists as your nonprofit organization.

Ongoing SWA Fundraisers (They help you to help us!)



SWA
P.O. Box 471571
Fort Worth, Texas
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www.swawatercolor.com

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MEMBERSHIP

Janet Southern

COMMUNICATIONS

Skeeter Murley

2021 CALENDAR

Our normal meeting place at the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth is currently closed to group meetings. When we're able to resume our monthly meetings, we will notify our membership!

January 25 – Soon Warren demo. Marketing strategy for new artists

February 15 – Stephen Zang demo. Portraits and marketing strategy

March 15 – Laurin McCracken – Excerpt from his new DVD

April 19 – Andy Evansen demo. – Juror of International Exhibition

April 21-23 - Andy Evansen Online Workshop

May 17 – Tina Bohlman demo. – Plein Air Landscapes

September 20 – Kay Cross demo. – Large scale florals

October 18 – Mollie Jones demo & workshop, Still Life

November 18 – Brenda Driggers demo.

Please note that all meeting demos, workshops and events are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please watch for email updates or future newsletters for any calendar changes that may occur.

Your SWA Board Members have been Meeting via zoom during the past year.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please send it to Darla Bostick at darlabostickart@gmail.com or call at 940.320.5660

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 a new e-mail address for you to send all of your newsletter info to.



swa.membernews@gmail.com

SWA INFORMATION STATION

SWA memberships runs on a calendar year January through December

You can 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 the 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
- ✚ Post your artwork on our Facebook page
<http://www.facebook.com/SWAwatercolor>
- ✚ Free monthly SWA newsletter
- ✚ Entry discount for any SWA show
- ✚ Free image on the SWA Members Gallery
- ✚ Annual Juried Membership Exhibition
- ✚ Buy space on the SWA Premium Gallery for \$20
- ✚ Annual Juried International Exhibition
- ✚ While maintaining SWA membership earn SWA Signature Membership after selection to 5 juried exhibitions our juried exhibitions (without disqualification)
- ✚ Asel Art Supply 20% discount
- ✚ Fun competitions
- ✚ December Holiday Party and painting swap
- ✚ ASEL Art of the Month Contest

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)

- 5:45pm SWA Board Meeting
- 6:00pm Artwork Critique (bring in 1 or 2 works for some friendly advice)
- 7:00pm Member meeting begins after a few brief business notices

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Shirley Nichols
ASEL Painting of the Month/Year: **AVAILABLE**
Monthly Critique: **AVAILABLE**
Programs: Shirley Nichols
Programs/Assistant to Demo Artist: **AVAILABLE**
Social Chairman (Refreshments/Receptions): **AVAILABLE**
Workshop Chair: Shirley Nichols

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Charlie Nieman
Hanging Volunteers: **AVAILABLE**
Membership for Exhibitions: Rhonda Barefield
SWA Signatures: Veronica Ritchey
Prize Sponsors: **AVAILABLE**
President's Volunteer Exhibition: Darla Bostick

MEETING VOLUNTEERS (Not a committee)

Hospitality: **AVAILABLE**

PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Skeeter Murley
Newsletter Editor: **AVAILABLE**
Photography: Veronica Ritchey
Print Editor for Catalogs: Skeeter Murley
Publicity: **AVAILABLE**
Website Manager: Skeeter Murley
Facebook & Twitter: Skeeter Murley

FINANCE AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

CHAIR and Director of Finance & Budget: Pat Banell
Professional Standards (yearly audit): Jane Barrett

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR and Director of Membership: Janet Southern
Greeters: **AVAILABLE**
Editor of online Membership Directory: Skeeter Murley
House & Properties: Shirley Nichols

