

Highlights



President's Palette

I have a good friend and plein-air painting pal, a long time BWS member and former President, who is an excellent, prolific artist. Several residents, in the community where she now lives, admired her beautiful art and asked if she would teach them to paint “Watercolors.” Ever gracious and always a teacher at heart, she said yes. She started out teaching them drawing, but – they wanted to paint. So she tried teaching them about gorgeous colors (luscious primaries and secondaries, warm vs cool) – but that’s not what they wanted either– they wanted to Paint! There’s the crux of the matter – they didn’t have the inclination or the patience for learning all that “basic art stuff” – they just wanted to paint with “Watercolors” and make beautiful paintings, “just like hers.” They became discouraged, because even a child can paint with watercolors, can’t they? It’s just paper, paint, a brush and water. It looks so simple. But it isn’t really, is it? What they didn’t understand, until told, was that it was the “basic art stuff” that made her paintings special –

so deceptively simple. Some did finally comprehend and she will now be teaching her students how the real painting is created in your mind before your brush ever touches color to the paper. She will pass on the “Basic” truths to them – if they will listen and take them to heart. I hope they do. Their watercolor journey will be so much richer.

Two of the most treasured watercolor books in my library are not shiny, new or brimming with color. The first is a reprint of a 45 year old book that has 175 pages, only 20 in color. All the other paintings are black and white. The second is a 1973 reprint of a book originally published in 1929, 90 years ago, without even one color print. (I also have the 8th edition of this same book that my mom used in 1943 at Cleveland Institute of Art.) Truth is timeless. What makes these books special? They are all about basic principles of art – principles of design, elements of composition, balance, perspective, line, light, color, value, movement, pattern – the list goes on. These are the tools artists must learn to use in order to turn what we see into a painting that communicates our vision to viewers. To quote Edgar Whitney, in the first book: “Art is an emphasis on **essence**. Your activity must not be transcription. It must be translation. An artist does not report the fact of a thing, he expresses the truth of it in whatever language he is using.” “Design principles must guide every thought and mood while your subject is being

(Continued)

Upcoming Events

BWS Member Dinner
Turf Valley Resort
Ellicott City, MD
May 1, 2019

David Lobenberg Workshop
Hawthorn Center
Columbia, MD
June 4-7, 2019 (Registration full)

An Evening with David Lobenberg
Hawthorn Center
Columbia, MD
June 5, 2019

Plein Air With Diane Gibson
Cromwell Valley Park
Towson, MD
June 12, 2019

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor
Exhibition**
BlackRock Center for the Arts
Germantown, MD
June 8-July 13
Reception: June 23

Plein Air Exhibit
Irvine Nature Center
Owings Mills, MD
July 2019

smelled, tasted, touched, listened to, and looked at. You paint with all five senses. You must be emotionally and sensually involved with your subject.”

One of the most difficult issues that we encounter during Signature Artist jurying is that many candidates have not had formal art classes that emphasized basic design, composition and color theory. Often they have taken basic watercolor classes so they know painting techniques but were not taught how to “plan or compose” their paintings to strengthen them and emphasize their subject matter or capture the emotion desired. They may have excellent technical drawing skills and ideas but are missing the very tools they need to move their paintings from a “pretty scene” to the level of a “work of art” with an emotional impact or story. We want to help them make that leap to reach their fullest potential as an artist. The “Peer Critique” workshop is just one step in that direction. We have been amazed in our BWS workshops, when instructors like Linda Baker have given us “mini-lessons and exercises” on composition first, how much we all learn, regardless of our skill levels, Associate or Signature, and how much our resulting work improves. We would like to build upon that concept and in the next few months will be sending out surveys seeking your input on a series of “Mini-Art School” classes, each 3-4 hour class covering a different “basics” topic. So please, take some time to give us your ideas and opinions. Then watch the difference it makes.

The two books I cited (both Dover Publications paperback reprints):

1. Whitney, Edgar A., *Complete Guide to Watercolor Painting*
2. Carlson, John F., *Carlson's Guide to Landscape Painting*

As always,

Sherry



Opportunities

Illinois Watercolor Society

“Small Waters”

The Schoenherr Gallery at North Central College
Naperville, IL
illinoiswatercolorsociety.org

Entry Deadline: May 19, 2019

Pittsburgh Watercolor Society

“Aqueous Open” 73rd Annual International Exhibition
Spinning Plate Gallery
Pittsburgh, PA
pittsburghwatercolorsociety.com

Entry Deadline: July 1, 2019

Kentucky Watercolor Society

2019 Aqueous USA Exhibition
Actors Theatre of Louisville
Louisville, KY
kentuckywatercolorsociety.com/

Entry Deadline: July 1, 2019

Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition

The entry deadline has passed.

Announcement of selected works: May 4

Drop-off: Monday, June 3, 10am-2pm

Exhibition: June 8- July 13, Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm

Community Art Day: Saturday, June 15, 9:30-1:30

Reception & Award Ceremony: Sunday, June 23, 2-4pm

Pick-up: Monday, July 15, 9am-noon

Questions: Sharon Green, BWSMidAtl@gmail.com

Welcome New Signature Artists

Mak Dehejia of Chevy Chase, MD

Constance Fisher of Berryville, MD

Sharon Fuller of Columbia, MD

Tracey Gage of Darnestown, MD

Nishita Jain of Columbia, MD

Sharon Porter of Deale, MD

Karen Riedy of Spring Grove, PA

Edward Shull of Havre de Grace, MD

Carolyn Smith of Valencia, PA

Pam Wenger of Dillsburg, PA

Welcome New Associates

Elizabeth Adams of Falmouth, MA
Leslie Baldwin of McKees Rocks, PA
Harper Fitzsimmons of Catonsville, MD
Sue Franckel of Ellicott City, MD
Jennifer Koury of East Aurora, NY
Donna Longacre of Telford, PA
Elissa Leibowitz Poma of Silver Spring, MD
Virginia Sellner of Columbia MD
Susan Spark of Dunlevy, PA

BWS Annual Dinner

We are looking forward to seeing all those who registered for the Annual Dinner at Turf Valley on Wednesday, May 1, in the Wedgewood Ballroom. Doors open at 6:30 pm. You will receive a name tag at the door, which will serve as your ticket.

Last minute questions should be directed to karenschuster@verizon.net.

Member News

Angela Lacy's painting "Back Street of Copenhagen" was accepted to the Watercolor USA national juried exhibit from June 8 - Sept 1. Dean Mitchell is the juror.

Annie Strack just returned from teaching workshops at the Art League of Ocean City, MD; Workshops in Charleston, SC; and Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA. She is teaching a 2-day workshop in Pineville, NJ, June 15-16, and weekly classes in her southeast Pennsylvania studio July through August.

April Rimpo's painting "Construction Rhythms" was selected by juror Laurie Goldstein-Warren for the Illinois Watercolor Society's 35th National Exhibition 2019. The exhibit runs from May 3 - May 24, 2019 at The Next Picture Show in Dixon, Illinois.

Lois Ward Wolford's painting "Torrent Lounge" received an honorable mention at the Maryland Federation of Art's Art on Paper exhibit in Annapolis, Maryland.

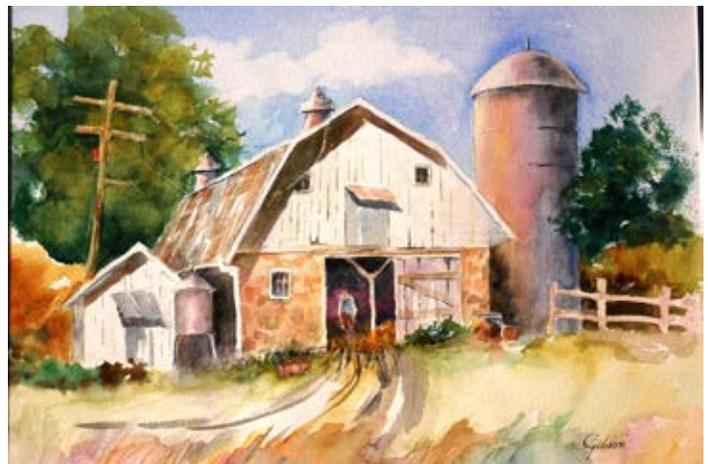
Plein Air Program & Exhibit

As BWS is getting ready for a Signature Member "Plein Air Only" exhibit in July at the Irvine Nature Center (stay tuned for dates and entry info), the organization will also be hosting a guided/instructed Plein Air session with Diane Gibson at the Cromwell Valley Park in Towson on June 12, 2019.

Members can sign up for the guided program, or are welcome to visit the Cromwell Valley Park to paint on their own at any other time the park is open. Members may also plan to enter plein air paintings from other dates and locations into the Irvine exhibit.

As a 40 year member and past President of the Baltimore Watercolor Society, Diane Gibson believes that improvement in one's painting involves continually taking courses whenever you can as well as painting in the studio and outside on a regular basis. Accepting the inevitable frustration and maintaining the courage to solve a conceptual or a technical problem area in your painting is essential to success. So join Diane and other members to experience the joy, excitement and camaraderie of outdoor painting.

Plein air paintings by Diane Gibson





Baltimore Watercolor Society
 April Rimpo
 14032 Howard Road
 Dayton, MD 21036-1020



Dated Material

**Baltimore Watercolor Society, a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization
 Board of Governors and Committee Chairs**

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Annie Strack	Social Media	610-925-2815

Visit the BWS website at www.baltimorewatercolorssociety.org
 For member event registration and directory, go to bws.wildapricot.org

Member News

BWS members may submit a 60-word announcement gratis to be listed under the heading "Member News." Images will be included as space allows. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication date, and may be edited for length or clarity. Please e-mail (preferred) your submissions to the Editor at joanna@joannabarnum.com or mail to Joanna Barnum, 21 Haven Ave., Abingdon, MD 21009

Advertising Rates

Display ads are published for the benefit of the BWS member or business who is placing the ad at the rates below, content & fee due by the 15th of the month preceding publication date.
 Quarter Page (3 1/2w x 4 3/4h) \$50
 Business Card (3 1/2w x 2 1/4h) \$25
 Contact the Newsletter Editor at joanna@joannabarnum.com for details.

Member Discount Codes

Airfloat: airfloatsys.com
 20% discount with code BWCS at checkout

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 5% discount with code Alliance2018 OR
 free shipping on orders over \$99 with code Alliance99
 (may not be combined)