

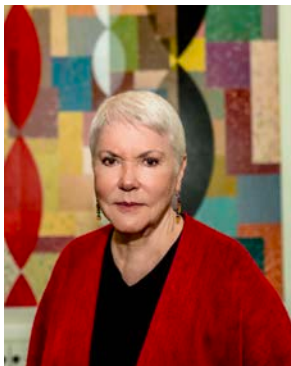


IWE  
46th  
INTERNATIONAL  
Watermedia  
EXHIBITION

2023  
Watercolor Art Society - Houston

## IWE Chair's Statement

What a delight to see 358 paintings entered by 183 artists and what a challenge for Juror Brenda Swenson to select 25% to hang in the Exhibition. Every painting was a worthy competitor and not being selected was a reflection only of the competitive process, not of the artist or the art. There were no losers.



An art exhibit is an escape, a temporary getaway to a wild marsh, a sheltered boat cove, a Chinese backyard . . . to mingle with a blacksmith, a desert nomad, an Amazon chieftain . . . to bask inside a sun-dappled cathedral, a sun-drenched living room, a shady former iron foundry . . . to exchange looks with a homesick kitty, an iguana looking for attention, a polar bear in a zoo . . . to relive youth among children with lollipops, a dozing toddler, the twinkle in teenage eyes . . . to see beauty in everyday life, in onions, in beets, in glassware and silver . . .

For their conscientious uncrating, vetting, curating and hanging of 84 paintings from around the world, praise and gratitude go to Mike Doan, Paula Fowler, Carla Gauthier and their Gallery teams.

From among this best-of-the-best, thank you to Judge Brenda Swenson for sharing her own award-winning expertise to select award winners. Gratitude also to Laura McMahon and Louise Bateman for managing the end-to-end awards process from phone calls to applause.

"Cheers!" to Kathleen Church, Patty Armstrong and their crew for a reception bubbling with camaraderie, cuisine and libations. And, for assembling a lasting record and lovely panorama in this Exhibition Catalog, we raise a glass of gratitude to Beth Graham.

With kudos to Kelly Medrano, Nancy Moody and Veronica Koenig for spreading the word, art lovers flocked to IWE. And for making the building "company-ready", deep appreciation for deep cleaning to Kathleen Church, Darlene Dittoe, Beth Graham and Karen Stopnicki.

To Laura Mossman, last year's IWE Director, fount of knowledge, smoother of feathers, solution-magician, tireless toiler, and my mentor, I could not have done this without you.

With gratitude for indulging me with this wondrous "escape" called IWE.

Your 46th IWE Chair, Donna Van Fleet

## Judge's Statement

"It's an honor and privilege to be the Judge of the 46th IWE. My sincere thank-you to the Watercolor Art Society of Houston. I was impressed with the caliber of the submissions. What you see before you is a show of strength, originality and vision, with a good variety of subject, style, and thought-provoking themes.

What do I look for when judging a show? It's much more than mastery of techniques that brings a viewer back again and again. First of all, it's the artist's ability to communicate. I look for the artist to have an emotional connection to what they have created. I want to feel what is being said in the piece. Second, I look for the artist's ability to utilize design, value, edge quality, color and technique.

In closing, I'd like to say I find no joy in dashing anyone's hopes and yet it was my job to narrow down the submissions to what I felt was the best. If you weren't selected, don't despair, we've all been there and will be again. There is always room for growth."



Brenda Swenson,  
WW, NWS, SDWS, CWA,  
Juror and Judge

Brenda has won major awards in juried exhibitions internationally. An active participant in the arts community, she has served as an officer of the California Art Club and has served on the board of directors for the National Watercolor Society and Watercolor West. She's a Signature Artist in WW, NWWS, SDWS and CWA. Her artwork has been featured in multiple volumes of *Splash: Best of Watercolor*, *An Illustrated Journey*, *Creative Freedom*, *Complete Guide to Watercolor*, *Watercolor Artist*, *Watercolor Magazine*, *Watercolor Highlights*, *Plein Air Magazine* and numerous other publications.

**Front Cover-** John Salminen's Promenade, 1st Place Award 2023

# Board of Directors

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## President's Message



Dear Friends,

As President of the Watercolor Art Society – Houston, it is with great pleasure to present our Forty-Sixth Annual International Watermedia Exhibition (IWE), debuting on March 5th. Entries came from all over the US, and the far reaches of the world including India and Australia. The exhibition is the finest in watercolor, acrylic and other Watermedia in styles ranging from photorealism to abstract with everything in between and will be on display in our Houston gallery until March 31st.

We were honored to have well-known artist, author, and instructor Brenda Swenson, as this year's juror and judge. She selected a spectacular exhibition of 84 paintings from over 350 entries, and then spent hours in person thoughtfully judging the awards. I want to thank our IWE Chair, Donna Van Fleet, acting as master juggler, symphony director, thoughtful planner, and pinch-hit chauffer to make sure our premier event is more fabulous than ever. A special thanks go to our team of the many volunteers who made this event happen.

WAS-H is about a community of art-appreciators, art-makers, and art-teachers coming together with a common passion – art made with Watermedia. I hope you enjoy this outstanding display of art, whether you see it in-person, on our website or through this catalog. Most of all, I hope you will join us and be a part of our community.

With Gratitude,  
Karen Stopnicki  
President, Watercolor Art Society Houston

# With Gratitude

**Watercolor Art Society – Houston is grateful  
for the following generous donors who fund awards:**

**Estate of Odette Rubin**

**Art Supply on Almeda**

**Jack and Annis Bowen Foundation**

**Hebert Family**

**Friends of E. Thomas Kraycirik**

**Watercolor Art Society - Houston Board of Directors**

**With loving gratitude for the services of those for whom awards are fondly named:**

**Odette Rubin Memorial Award**

**Margaret Scott Bock Award**

**Jack Bowen Award**

**Hebert Family Award**

**E. Thomas Kraycirik Memorial Award**

**WAS-H also thanks those whose support added to IWE's success:**

**Cheryl Evans**

**Drury Inn & Suites Houston Galleria**

**Rick Wells Photography**

**H-E-B**

**And gratitude to our patron donors for their support of our artists,  
this exhibit, our organization, and the beauty of watercolor media.**

# Elite Signature Status

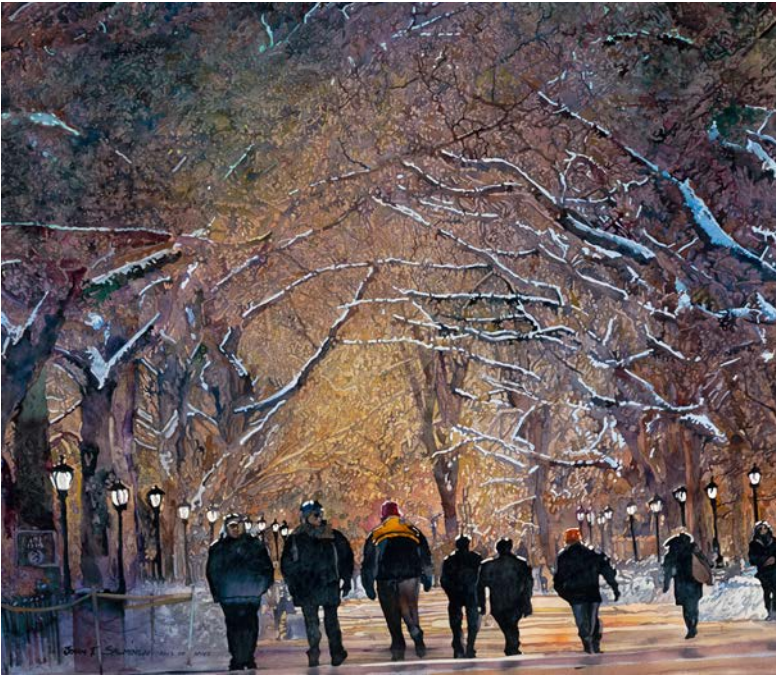
Ruby Allen	Julius Danziger	Linda Jarnagin	Charlotte G. Huntley	Debbie Lee Parmley	Susanne Telage
Wilmer Anderson	Helen C. Dodd	Anne Lamkin Kinder	Linda Jarnagin	Monika Pate	Judith Thomsen
MaryLou Andrews	Kathleen Durdin	Sarah Kitigawa	Anne Lamkin Kinder	Song Qin	Linda Tibolla
Kirby Atwell	Karen Dwyer	Margaret Kranking	Sarah Kitigawa	Cynthia Reid	Joyce Troegel
Robin Avery	Toni Elkins	Nellie Kress	Tamara Kontrimas	April M Rimpo	Margot Vance
Lidvine Bekman	Sy Ellens	Sally Kullman	Margaret Kranking	Odette Rubin	Linda Vanek
Judi Betts	William B. Epps Jr.	Marilyn Lace	Nellie Kress	Jeanne Ruchti	Lynn Venier
Mohammad Ali Bhatti	Ann Erard	Jan Ledbetter	Sally Kullman	M.F. Rutherford	Karen Vernon
Margaret Scott Bock	Cheryl Evans	Robbie Fitzpatrick	Marilyn Lace	Sandra Schafer	Gale Webb
Connie Bosworth	Carol H. Fairlie	Carla Gauthier	Jan Ledbetter	A.J. Schexnayder	Sally Webster
Marcia Boone	Eldon Faries	Hunter George	Jackie Liddell	Dale A. Schmidt	Daniela Werneck
David Bridges	Gerry Finch	Frank Gerrietts	Karen Lindeman	Mabel J. Sellers	Mary Wilbanks
Jody Henderer Burns	Ann Gillaspay	Susan Giannantonio	May Lu	Duncan Simmons	Stephanie Williams
Dottie Burton	Caroline Graham	Ann Gillaspay	Mary Ann Lucas	Carol Slobin	Theresa Wilson
Sam Caldwell	Nancy Grob	Caroline Graham	David Maloney	Kay Smith	Tommie Wilson
Anita Cannon	Lillian Gunderlach	Nancy Grob	Rosemary Massey	Stanley S. Smith	Cheryl Wooten
Mark Cardoza	Deborah Hagemeyer	Lillian Gunderlach	David Maxwell	Natalie Smythe	Jerry Wray
Mary Jane Carpenter	Marsha Harris	Deborah Hagemeyer	Laurin McCracken	Erik T. Sproghe	Keiko Yasuoka
Cleo Ceeney	Ann Hartley	Marsha Harris	Leslie McDonald, Jr.	Carol Staub	Al Zeries
Barbara J. Clay	Jeanne Heise	Ann Hartley	Eileen Mueller Neill	Shirley Sterling	Del Zimmerman
Judi Coffey	Elizabeth Hill	Jeanne Heise	Thuy Nguyen	Kay Stern	
Pat Conroy	Joan Hughes	Elizabeth Hill	Sally Padgett	Mark Stewart	
Mary Jane Cox	Charlotte G. Huntley	Joan Hughes	Gay Paratore	Donald Taylor	

# Signature Status

Angie Adlerz	Natalie Barrett Cook	Sirun Guan	Jan McNeill	Cookie O Rees	Shirley Stronach
Christine Alfery	Marguerite Costigan	Diane Henderson	Jean McTaggart	Kay Ellis Rekoﬀ	Ann Stoudenmire
Ron Anderson	Lynne Crawford	Alison Hendry	Mary Lou Metcalf	Kay Reynolds	Linda Darke
Del Azios	Barbara O'Neal	Hailey Herrera	Cuauhtemoc Murphy	Leatrice Joy	Swaynos
Wm. Kelly Bailey	Davis	Peggy Hoekman	Hiep Nguyen	Richardson	Anne Treadwell
Dick Barlow	Bridget DeFlora	Bonnie Hubly	r. mike nichols	Joy Rumscheidt	Janet Trotter
Tanna Bennett	Pat Dispenziere	Deborah Hutchinson	Mary Basye Nicklow	Nance Scanland	Carol Watson
David M. Blackwell	Alma O'Donnelly	John James	William B. Owens	Cathy Schuster	Vicky Williamson
Irene Bolitho	Lucija Dragovan	Lynda Jung	Anne Hightower-	Jerry V. Seagle	Kathleen Zann
Becky Brocato	Don Edelman	Susan Keith	Patterson	Irene Sheytman	Issacson
Martin Butler	Eddie Edwards	Fred Kingwill	Reva Power	Jan Shrader	Jun Zhu
Sylvia Cameron	Peihong Endris	Karen Knutson	Kris Preslan	DeEtta Silvestro	
Isobel Capp	Patrick Faile	Suzanne	Cheryl Presswood	Kristine Smith	
Linda Haag Carter	Antoaneta Georgieva	Leatherwood	Carolyn H. Puhalski	Jean Sommer	
Jane Chamberlain	Kim Granhaug	Annell Livingston	Mary Quiros	Larry Spitzberg	
Lee Cohen	Anna Griffith	Mike Mazer	Ruth Hill Radcliffe	Brandee Standley	



## First Place



**John Salminen**, *Promenade, Duluth, MN*

“Brilliant shapes from a painter who knows how to direct the eye and create depth of field, shapes, and tones.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

## Second Place

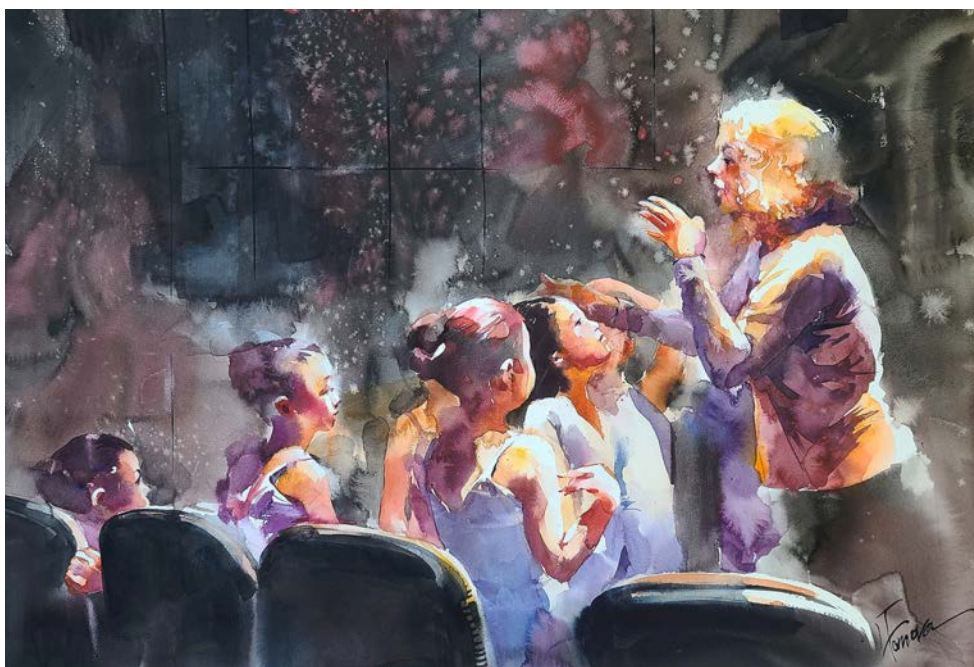
“Stunning use of the bars of the window as a grid pattern, with the light moving in on the window without creating a bull’s eye.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge



**Dean Mitchell**, *Angel in the Window, Tampa, FL*

## Third Place



**Lyudmila Tomova**, *Rehearsal Break*, Cary, NC

“Love how the light travels and moves through her body and along the children. The placement of the chairs softens the foreground.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

## Odette Ruben Memorial Award

“Love the way the light dances. Brilliantly painted with shadows, forms, and lost edges.”

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

WAS-H is the very grateful recipient of a bequest from the estate of WAS-H long time Signature Elite member, Odette Ruben. Native to Houston and a skilled watercolor artist, in her life Odette received recognition and many awards throughout Texas and in the Texas Watercolor Society. Odette chose to remember WAS-H in her will by leaving \$15,000 for an annual award at the International Watermedia Exhibition. The Odette Ruben Memorial Award of \$1000 is to be given each year through 2031.



**Susan Keith**, *Brighter Days Ahead*, Murrieta, CA



# Jack Bowen Award

"Textures and layers just beautifully handled. The eye doesn't get trapped in the grid patterns of the net, and the repetitive curvilinear lines give the feel of water."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

The Jack and Annis Bowen Foundation underwrites this prestigious award each year as a part of the International Watermedia Exhibition in memory of Mr. Bowen, who loved watercolors and continues to be a generous supporter of the Watercolor Art Society - Houston through his Foundation.



**Cheryl Wooten**, *Day's Catch*, Canyon Lake, TX

# Margaret Scott Bock Award



"Beautiful negative spaces. The lace cascades all the way through and the darks have a beautiful rich and luminous tone."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

WAS-H wishes to extend our deep appreciation to Art Supply on Almeda for their support and patronage for 60 years. They make this award in honor of long-time WAS-H member and Elite Signature artist, Margaret Scott Bock.

**Monika Pate**, *Antiques and Lace*, College Station, TX



# Hebert Family Award

"This artist paints a young girl with love and compassion without being saccharin sweet. The painting is contemplative and makes one think."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

We are grateful to the Hebert Family for their support and generosity in underwriting this Special Award.



**Daniela Werneck, *The Blue Butterfly*, Katy, TX**

# E. Thomas Kraycirik Memorial Award



**Ken Call, *Red Lollipops*, Northbrook, IL**

"This "looks" like watercolor with excellent blue color combinations well executed on Yupo. It has good perspective and moves the eye back into the painting from the foreground subjects."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

This Special Award honors the memory of E. Thomas Kraycirik, gifted artist and dedicated supporter of the WAS-H annual International Watermedia Exhibition (IWE). Tom served as Chair of the IWE for three consecutive years, as well as a member of the WAS-H Board for several years.

## Board of Directors Award



"This artist's style is recognizable. She loves to paint fabric and it shows beautifully."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

This Special Award is made possible by the generosity of current and former members of the WAS-H Board of Directors. WAS-H's board members are all volunteers, giving of their time and support in countless ways, including by contributing to this award.

**Chris Krupinski, *Pears and Squares*, Maineville, OH**

## Special Merit Award

"Such beautiful light across the face."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

**Xiaochang Zhang, *Bride*, San Ramon, CA**



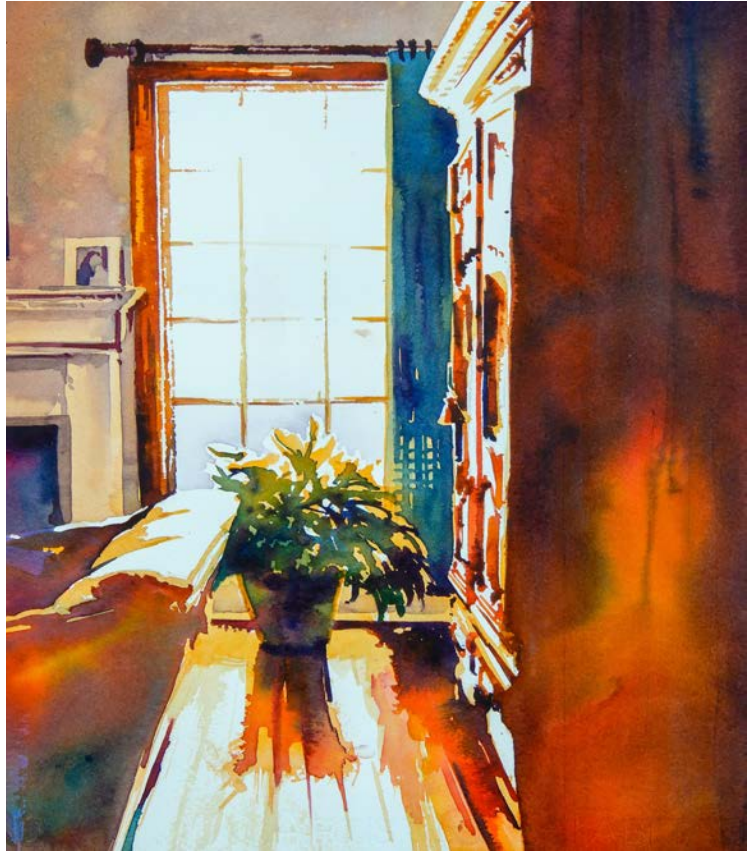
Watercolor Art Society - Houston



# Merit Awards

"Eye dazzling- beautifully handled.  
The limited palette is also beautifully  
handled."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge



**Carla Gauthier, Bay Oaks Light, Houston, TX**

"Eye dazzler."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge



**Cindy Brabec-King, Cherry Bomb, Palisade, CO**



# Merit Awards

"Softness of the children against the barred windows is very thought provoking"

-Brenda Swenson, Judge



**Richard Tiejun Chao**, *A Window to Your Soul*, Carlton, NSW, Australia

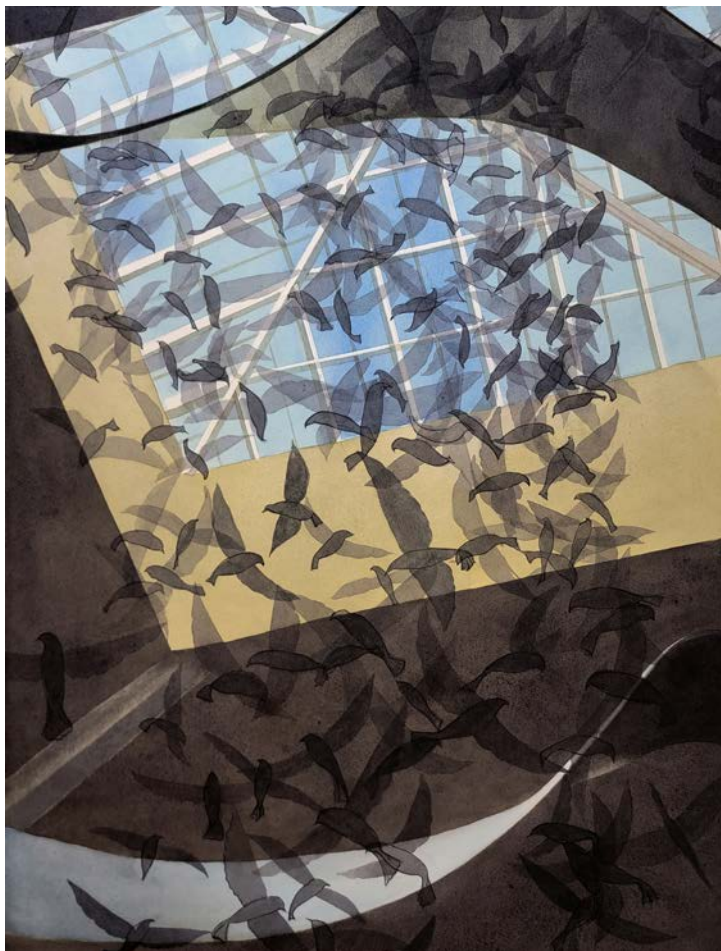


"The light of a modern day cell phone is handled beautifully. The painting is a double portrait."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

**Mehrdad Sedghi**, *Reflection of Silence and Darkness*, Anaheim, CA

# Merit Awards



"I can almost hear the wings flapping and love the motion."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

**Soon Warren**, *Dream of Soaring*, Fort Worth, TX

"Love the placement, values, and edges."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge



**Alison Hendry**, *Missing Charlotte*, Houston, TX

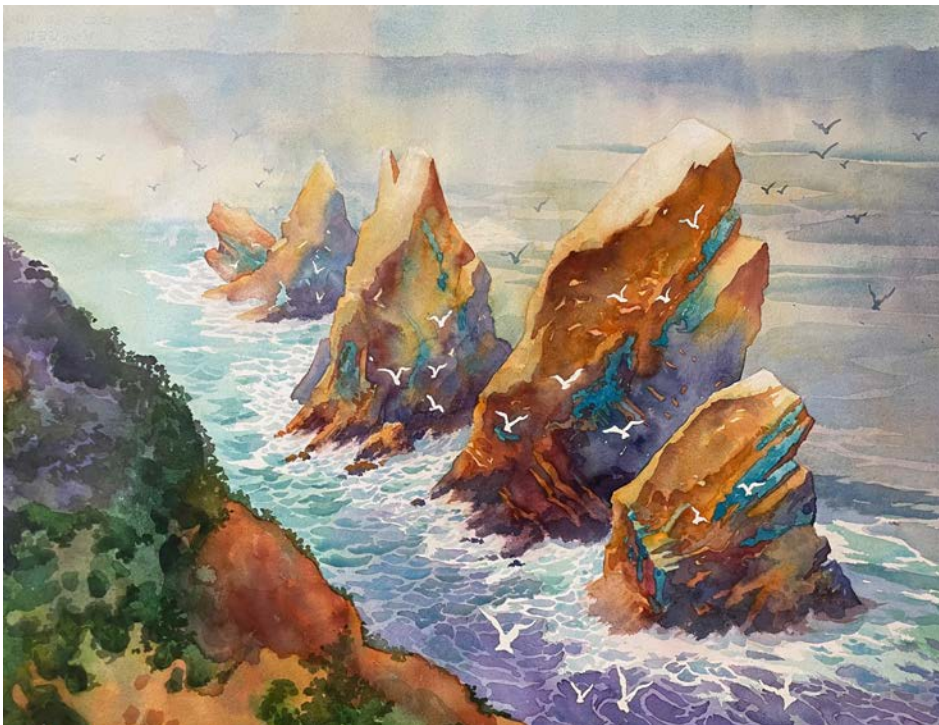


# Merit Awards

"Catching a moment in time."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

**Coleen Reynolds**, *Hair Like Mine*,  
Carson City, NV



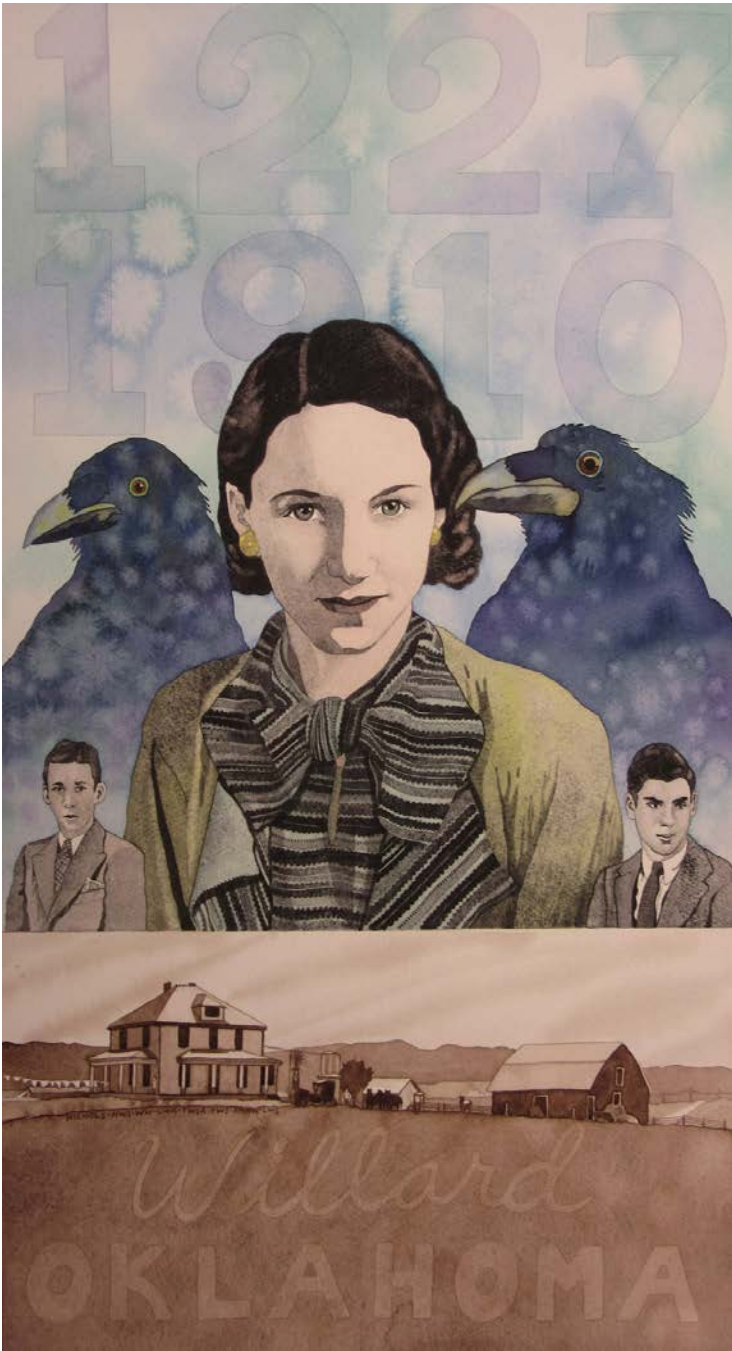
"Beautifully styled seascape with lots of depth."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge

**Sid Bingham**, *Barking Dogs*, La  
Crescenta, CA



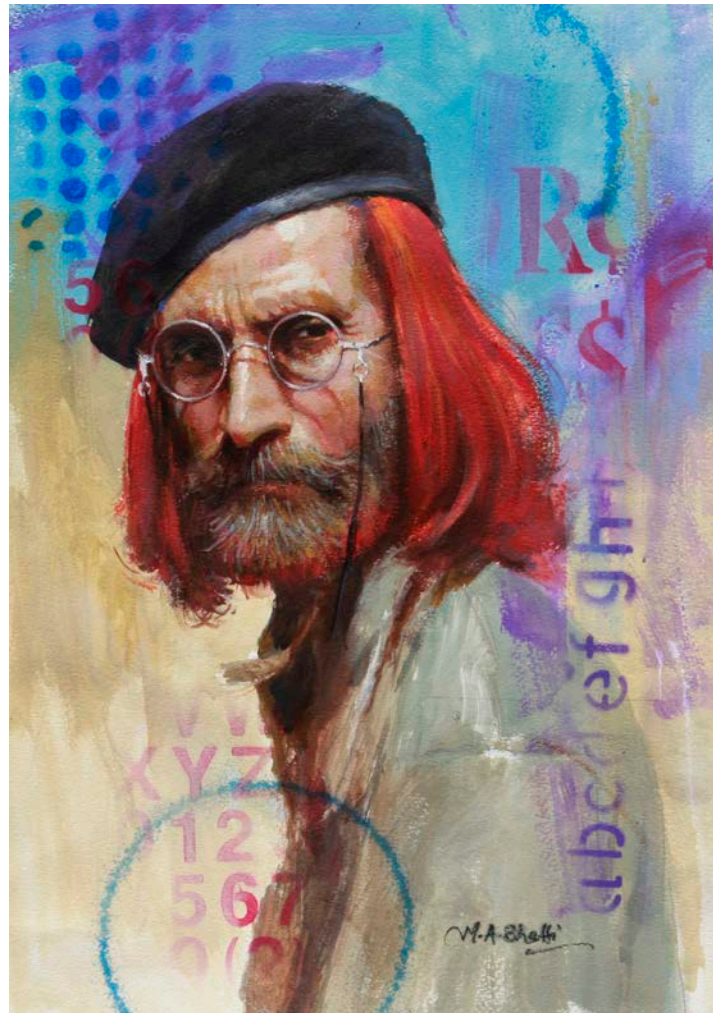
# Merit Awards



**r. mike nichols**, *Mom*, Salinas, CA

"Always thought provoking."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge



**Mohammad Bhatti**, *Desert Nomad*, Richmond, TX

"Love the placement and use of the circular motif which repeats throughout the painting."

-Brenda Swenson, Judge



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**MaryLou Andrews**, *The Blacksmith*, Virginia Beach, VA



**David Belling**, *Horizon Marsh*, Milwaukee, WI



**Marilynne Bradley**, *Sheltered Cove*, Sykesville, MD



**Glenn Cernosek**, *Wind Works*, Cedar Park, TX



**Matthew Bird**, *Still Life with 17th Century Bottle*, Sykesville, MD



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Bill Curtis, *Fall in Woodstock*, Houston, TX**



**Cheryl Evans, *Amazon Chieftain*, Seabrook, TX**



**Elaine Daily-Birnbaum, *Still Figuring It Out*, Madison, WI**



**Kristen Dunkelberger, *Zero Sum*, Green Cove Springs, FL**



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Janet Doll**, *The Continuation of Time*, Staunton, IL



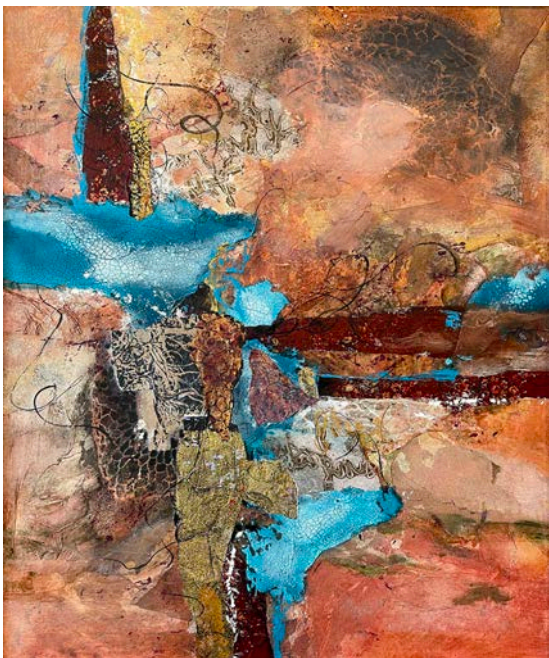
**Alicia Farris**, *Inner Twinkle*, Springfield, MO



**Jane Fritz**, *Sunrise on the Spires*, Las Vegas, NM



**Margit Gergely**, *Rotundus*, Sugar Land, TX



**Susan Giannantonio**, *Ancient Threads*, Humble, TX



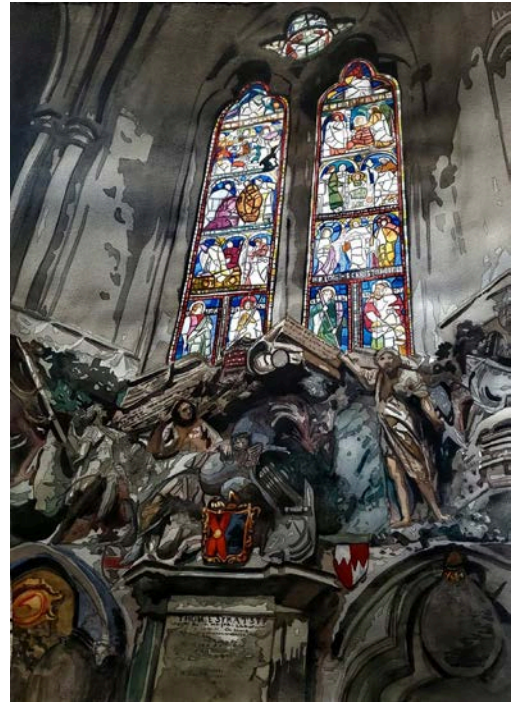
**Jennifer Gillen**, *Florentino's Little Birds*, Plano, TX



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Raymond Grossi**, *Illinois Working Farm*, Morris, IL



**Laurie Goldstein-Warren**,  
*Westminster Light*, Buckhannon, WV



**Laurie Hammons**, *Pear Reverie*, Houston, TX



**Anne Hightower-Patterson**, *Dinner At Pearl's*, Leesville, SC



**Dmitry Grudsky**, *Coffee Break*, Newark, CA



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Michael Holter, *The Pipes Are Calling*, Plano, TX**



**Tatsiana Harbacheuskaya, *Helsinki*, Las Vegas, NV**



**Tracy Ingham, *The Kiss*, Rockford, IA**



**Fontaine Jacobs, *Blue Faced Iguana*, Friendswood, TX**



**Lynne Hardwick, *Nomad's Vision XXXX*, Daniel Island, SC**



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Ashish Irap**, *Rough Backyard*, Thane, Maharashtra, India



**John James**, *Letters to Remember - Falling*, Virginia Beach, VA



**Bev Jozwiak**, *Casting Shadows*, Vancouver, WA



**Michele Tabor Kimbrough**, *Crucian Carnival Series XXVIII*, Marianna, FL



**Fred Kingwill**, *Buffalo Valley Winter*, Jackson, WY



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Jeannie Knod Edwards, *In Vogue II*, Texarkana, AR**



**Tamara Kontrimas, *Century Farm Nova Scotia*,  
Sugar Land, TX**



**Karen Knutson, *A Helping Hand*, Eden Prairie, MN**



**Carolyn Latanision, *Iron Foundry Walls*, Bethlehem Steel,  
Winchester, MA**



**Rebecca Krutsinger, *Occlude*, Xenia, IL**



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Carolyn Lord**, *Just Joey in Full Bloom*, Livermore, CA



**Maureen Lewis**, *California Captive*, Houston, TX



**Mark McDermott**, *Castle Hill*, Edinburgh, Anchorage, AK



**Les McDonald Jr.**, *Coffee Worker Homes - Costa Rica*, Houston, TX



**Xiaoxue Liu**, *Sleeping Boy*, Apex NC



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Steve J. Morris**, *Golden Beets*, Chesterfield, MO

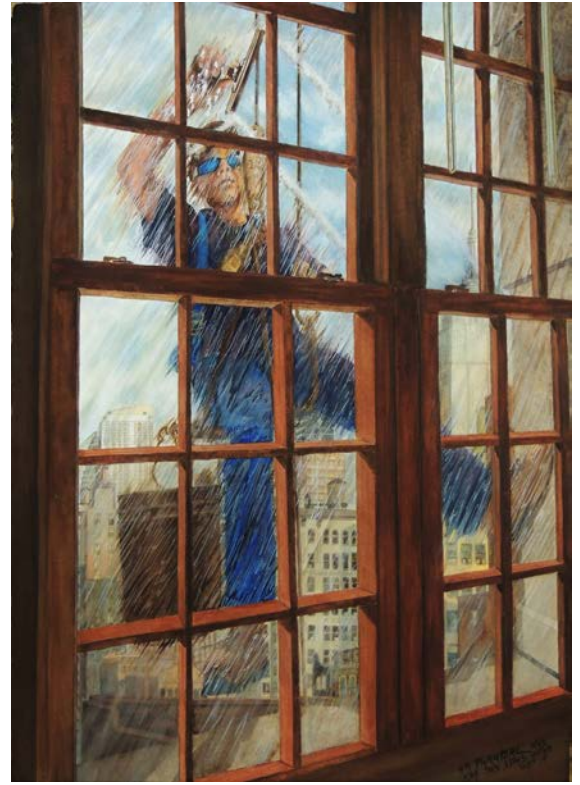


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**Cynthia Reid**, *When the Sun Goes Down We Dance*, Willis, TX



**Maria Ruggiero**, *Act Soon*, Ann Arbor, MI



**Gay Paratore**, *Window Washer*, Santa Fe, TX



**Katherine Rodgers**, *Culinary Blues*, Houston, TX



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Thomas Schaller**, *Lanterns*, New York, NY



**Jan Shrader**, *Echo of Whistler*, Houston, TX



**Bonnie Sedlak**, *Honu Emerging*, Half Moon Bay, CA



**Irene Sheytman**, *Duomo I*, Houston, TX



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Erik Sprohge**, *Against the Wind*, Houston, TX



**Kathy Simon-McDonald**, *Quintessentially Cuban*,  
Bradenton, FL



**Denise Sperry**, *We're All Linked Together II*, Williamsville, NY



**Don Taylor**, *Wired In - Havana*, Panama City, FL



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**E Stoddard**, *Onions*, East Amherst, NY



**Zhou Tianya**, *Oriental Venice*, Shenzhen, China



**Linda Vanek**, *Resolution*, Houston, TX



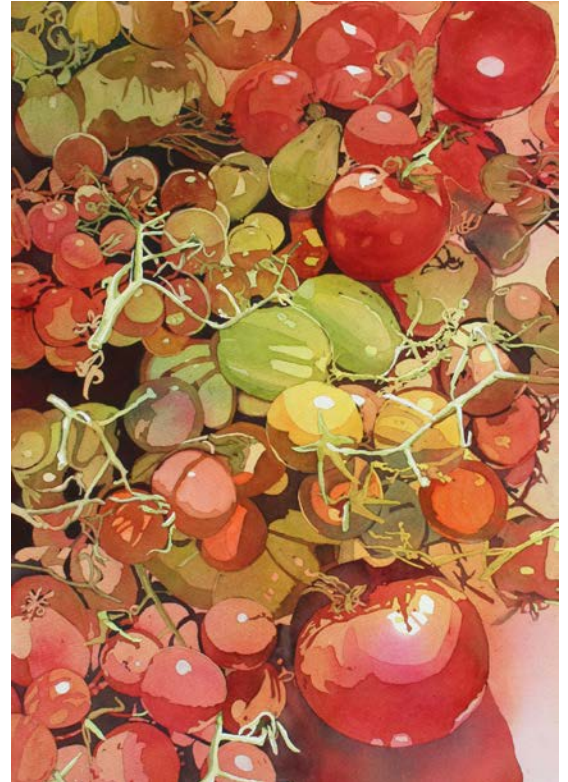
**Lisa Tennant**, *Long Day*, Killeen, TX



# International Watermedia Exhibition



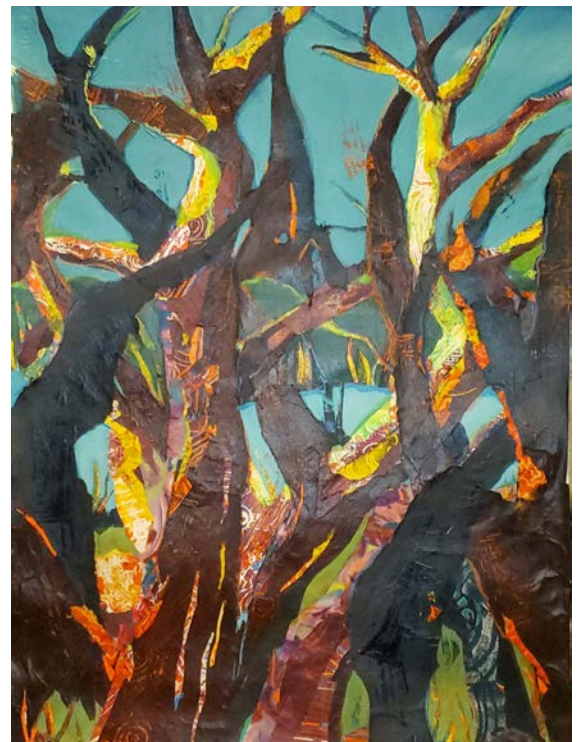
**Elizabeth Yarosz-Ash, *Bon Vivant*, Wichita Falls, TX**



**Kathryn Wedge, *Garden Bounty*, Neenah, WI**



**Keiko Yasuoka, *Summer Table*, Houston, TX**



**Stephanie Williams, *Cottonwood Trees 2*, Conroe, TX**



# International Watermedia Exhibition



**Erhu Zhang**, *Early Morning of the Empire's Garden*, Huizhou, China



**Vladislav Yeliseyev**, *Stroncone Arches*, Sarasota, FL



**Stephen Zhang**, *Big Day*, Plano, TX



# 2022 Board of Directors Gallery



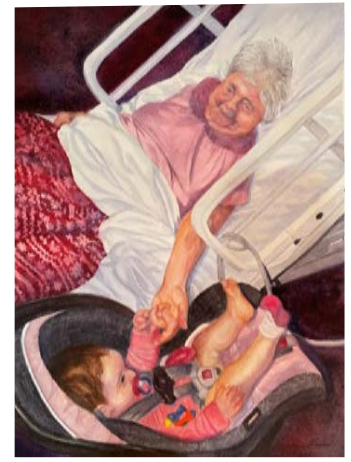
**Karen Stopnicki**, *The Boat House*,  
President



**Donna Van Fleet**, *Murray*,  
Co-Vice President & IWE Chair



**Irene Sheytman**, *Harris County Courthouse*,  
Co-Vice-President



**Maureen Lewis**, *The Perfect Medicine*,  
Membership Director



**Cissy Giegerman**, *Bayou Bend Gardens*,  
Gallery Co-Director



**Kathleen Cooper**, *Ice Cream*,  
Treasurer



**Diane Trepagnier**, *Davis Mountains*,  
Annual Members Exhibit Director



**Katie Steck**, *Await*,  
Gallery Co-Director



**Darlene Ditto**, *Aubergine*,  
Building Director



**Marion Friedman**, *Cone Flower Kalidescope*,  
Administrative Director



**Nancy Moody**, *Mah Jongg Mayhem*,  
Communications Director



**Beth Graham**, *Alba Gu Brath*,  
Education Director



**Kathleen Church**, *On the Llano River*,  
At-Large Director



**Jan McNeill**, *Beach Friendships*,  
Historian

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