



## from the president California Watercolor Association



**“We don’t make mistakes, just happy little accidents.”**

**– Bob Ross**

That philosophy not only applies to painting and other artistic endeavors but to life itself. We laugh about Bob’s “happy little trees” and his “mighty brush” but Bob and other television painters have taught us that we CAN do almost anything by simply doing it!

Television painters Jon Gnagy, Bill Alexander, Bob Ross, Jerry Yarnell, Wilson Bickford, David Dunlop, Stefan Baumann, Terry Madden, Eric Dowdle, Gary and Kathwren Jenkins; to name a few, have inspired generations of people to take up painting as a hobby or business. They have also given us the ability to make “mistakes” and recover from them. I’ve heard a close woodworker friend of mine saying “it’s not a mistake, it’s a feature.” How right he is. I’ve seen beautiful wood tables with “butterflies” on them. What are those little pieces of wood called butterflies doing on that table top? They are possibly holding the cracking wood together and of course... being a feature!

It’s the same with our painting. What happens when you get carried away and splash flecks of dark paint in that sky? You turn those flecks into birds, don’t you? And you need those birds to add dimension to that empty sky... right?

Bob and many of his television painting colleagues have given us the freedom to go forth and love the “joy of painting.”

As Bob would say “Any way you want it to be, that’s just right.”

Happy painting!

*Carol Husslein,*  
CWA President