



from the president

California Watercolor Association

"He who follows, is always behind." P. Cezanne

If you read my monthly newsletter articles, you know I am always searching for inspirational, art related, quotes. Why? To be inspired of course! I look for words that hold meaning for me, and then I share them with you, hoping to inspire you to find... inspiration! I'm always questioning myself, aren't you? What should I paint? What colors should I use? How should I paint what I have chosen to paint?

Then you start searching old magazines, old workshop notes, old YouTube videos, old DVDs... you are starting to get the pattern here... old is the key word. As reference material, this is all great. We just want to make sure that we grow not just follow.

Yes, we learn from masters, but must we "follow" them? I say... I shout, NO! I'm not saying, "don't take classes or workshops." I'm also not saying "don't watch videos or look at other people's blogs." I'm not advising folks to "stop reading art books and magazines." What I am saying is be inspired and curious about other artistic styles, then grab it and recreate it for you, by you.

Think about Monet. When he took his family to live in England during the Franco-Prussian war, he saw Turner's works (as a side note, in later years he denied it but his signature was found in the guest book during that period of time). Consider Van Gogh. His palette was dark and gloomy until he saw works by the Impressionists. We all know what direction Vincent's painting went after that. Cezanne after painting with Pissarro, changed his style forever. Last but not least, Picasso viewing Cezanne's work. Picasso developed cubism from Cezanne's style and never looked back.

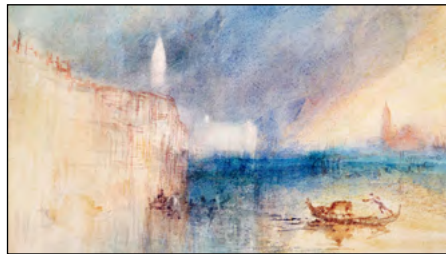
So, as we move into our 50th National Exhibition season I say to you...

Lead your own art and let others follow you!

Carol Husslein
CWA President



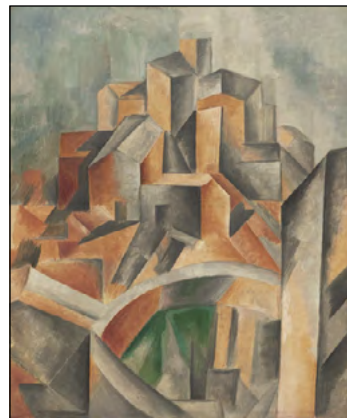
Paintings by Paul Cézanne



Painting by J. M. W. Turner



Painting by Claude Monet



Painting by Pablo Picasso



Painting by Camille Pissarro



Painting by Vincent van Gogh