



December 2025

P.O. Box 4631
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
www.californiawatercolor.org

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Plein Air

California WATERCOLOR Association

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION

56th INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

January 31 – March 15, 2026



Get ready to be inspired!

We're thrilled to announce that Juror of Selection Pat Moseuk has chosen 85 breathtaking paintings from 549 submissions by talented artists worldwide.

On January 5, 2026, Awards Juror Dongfeng Li will select the winners who have demonstrated extraordinary talent and artistic vision.

Mark your calendars for the highly anticipated opening of the Exhibition, featuring an Artist's Reception and Awards Presentation on January 31, 2026, from 4:00–6:00 pm PST.

Join us in celebrating these amazing artists and a huge thank you to our donors for their support!

Contact us at 56questions@californiawatercolor.org with any questions.



artsbenicia

Commanding Officer's Quarters

1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, CA 94510
artsbenicia.org



The Drawing Board

Every month, a different member of the CWA Board of Directors contributes an article to our newsletter. This December, however, we are taking a break from writing. Instead, we are excited to share paintings created by several of our board members as our holiday contribution. We hope you enjoy them!



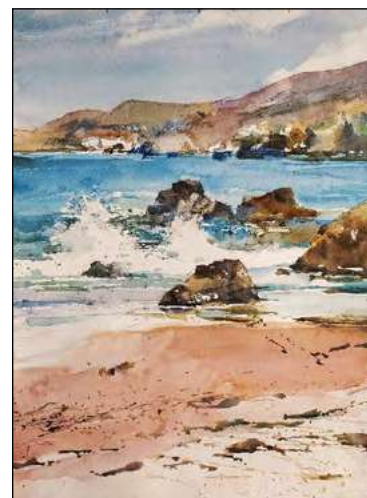
Sharon Hopkins



Pine Cones by Kathleen Catton



The Barn by Rekha Joshi



Dillon Beach Surf by Leslie Wilson



White Flowers by Kathleen Stumpf



Pond Koi by Lis MacDonald



Dillon Beach from Above by Sheila Cain



El Capitan Plein Air by Jessica de Jesus



Joseph Tringali



Community Outreach — Oakland Veterans

Color Us with the Theory by Sheila Cain

The Oakland Vets requested a lesson in mixing colors. We spent a whole class on some basic aspects of color theory. The group has three teachers: Michael Friedland, Pat Moseuk, and Sheila (myself). Each brought something to share with the class.

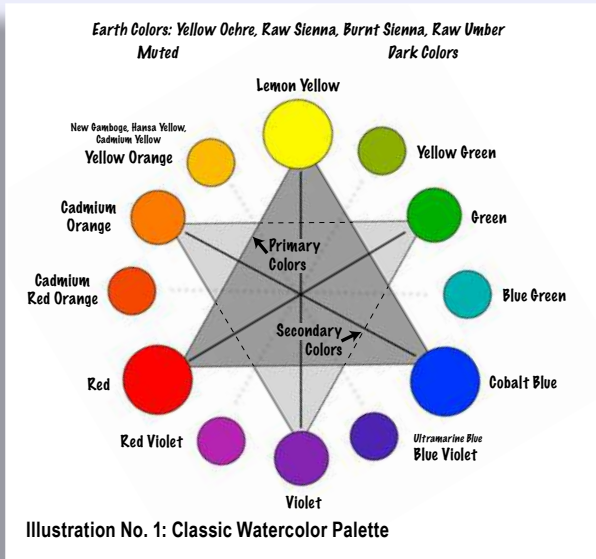


Illustration No. 1: Classic Watercolor Palette

Sheila painted a wet-into-wet color wheel, labeling the cool and warm primary pigments with those in between. She also created three neutral colors by mixing the primary colors directly across with the secondary colors: red with green, yellow with violet, and blue with orange (see illustration No. 2).

Michael began by explaining and showing swatches of the colors in the classic palette: a warm and a cool version of the three primary colors, followed by earth colors like yellow ochre, raw sienna, burnt sienna, raw umber, and burnt umber. Most of the group began working on Pat's color wheel exercise: 1. Start by painting the triangle of primary colors, 2. Then mix the triangle of secondary colors, and 3. finally fill in the tertiary colors like yellow/green, blue/violet, etc. (see illustration number 1).



Illustration No. 2: Wet into Wet Color Wheel with Neutrals

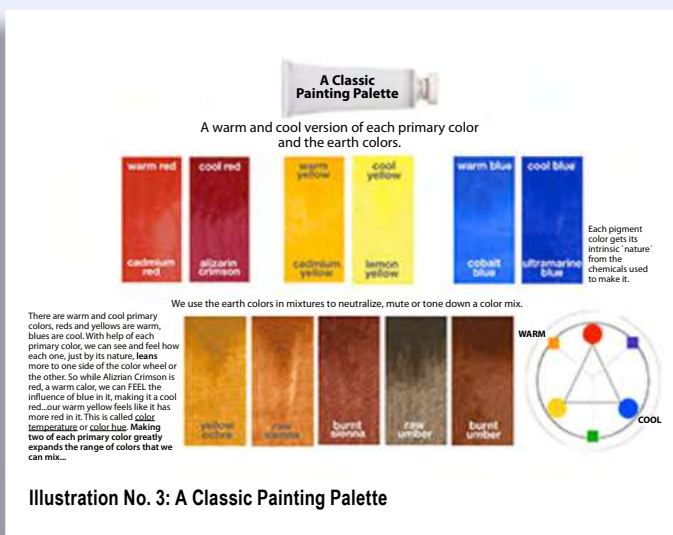


Illustration No. 3: A Classic Painting Palette

Michael explained, "With two of each primary color (one cool and one warm), we can see and feel how each one, by its nature, leans more to one side of the color wheel or the other. This is called color temperature or color bias." Also, there can be more than one pigment that can serve as one of our primary colors. For example, for warm red, one could use cadmium red or vermilion, or for cool yellow, one could use lemon yellow or aureolin yellow. However, most watercolor artists would agree that cobalt blue is the preferred cool (Michael sees it as warm) blue and that ultramarine blue is the preferred warm (Michael sees it as cool) blue. Michael also pointed out another way to create neutrals is by mixing a primary or secondary color with the earth colors; yellow ochre, raw sienna, burnt sienna, raw umber, and burnt umber are the earth colors (see Illustration No. 3).



CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION 2026 WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES

**2026
LINEUP!**



Dongfeng Li **Watercolor Essentials for Portrait Painting**

3-Day In-Person Workshop
January 14-16, 2026 | All Levels

CWA Members \$460 Non-Members \$520

Dongfeng will help students identify and simplify shapes, and also teach them how to find the dramatic and interesting elements in a portrait, such as lighting, contrast, and patterns. He will also cover simplifying colors, washes, and brushstrokes, as well as mixing and applying colors.

Artist's website at dongfengli.com

LIVE



Pat Moseuk **Abstracts in Mixed Watermedia** **3-Day In-Person Workshop** **March 1-3, 2026** **All Levels**

CWA Members \$300 Non-Members \$363

Are you interested in beginning abstract painting? This workshop offers hands-on demonstrations of techniques, composition, color, and more. Explore painting with unconventional tools and discover the freedom of abstraction. Daily group critiques will be held.

Artist's website at patmoseuk.com

LIVE



Birgit O'Connor **Within the Flower** **3-Day Online Workshop** **April 15-17, 2026** **All Skill Levels Welcome***

CWA Members \$250 Non-Members \$310

Discover how to paint flowers that are both unique and striking, with imaginative forms and complex centers, which set them apart from traditional floral compositions. Bringing focus to the intricate details of each flower's core, using layering of color and delicate brushstrokes to highlight textures and depth.

Artist's website at birgitoconnor.com



Geoff Allen **Watercolor Essentials for Landscape Painting**

3-Day In-Person Workshop
May 4-6, 2026

Beginner & Intermediate**

CWA Members \$350 Non-Members \$410

Discover the joys of capturing the moment, color, and impressionistic mood in watercolor, whether from a photo or en plein air. Geoff will teach basic watercolor handling techniques to accelerate your process, encourage relaxation, and improve your success in painting outdoor scenes.

Artist's website at geoffallenart.com

LIVE



Stan Miller **Painting the Portrait and Landscape in Watercolor**

3-Day In-Person Workshop
June 13-15, 2026

Basic Understanding of Watercolor

CWA Members \$375 Non-Members \$435

Each day, Stan will demonstrate both a portrait and a landscape. Students can choose to paint either the landscape or the portrait, with guidance from Stan. Students are also welcome to work on their own subjects. The workshop will also cover technique, color, choosing paintable subjects, composition, and design.

Artist's website at stanmiller.net

LIVE



Thomas W. Schaller **The Power of Design and Imagination**

3-Day In-Person Workshop
October 2-4, 2026

Intermediate

CWA Members \$500 Non-Members \$560

The reason we paint is more important than what or how we paint. His work explores contrasts: light and dark, vertical and horizontal, warm and cool, and the real and the imagined. Thomas enjoys designing with conflicting elements, allowing them to find balance and resolution on the paper's surface in surprising and expressive ways.

Artist's website at thomaswschaller.com

LIVE

CWA is dedicated to offering our students some of the best workshops with top professional artists. We invite you to join in the fun and look forward to meeting you. Recordings of the entire workshops will be available for 30 days. In-person workshops will be held at the Danville Ranch Clubhouse, 1895 Ridgeland Circle, Danville, CA 94526.

For detailed workshop descriptions, pricing, and online registration, please visit <http://www.californiawatercolor.org/classes.php>.

For additional information, please visit www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose **Workshops** from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.



Mailing Address

California Watercolor Association
Post Office Box 4631
Walnut Creek, CA 94596 USA

To Email a Board, Staff or Committee Member Go To

www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php
and choose a recipient from the drop down menu.

Membership/Data Manager

Make changes to your address, phone number and email on the members home page, under membership when you're logged with a current membership account. Email datamanager@californiawatercolor.org if you have trouble logging in.

General Meetings

Monthly General Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, via Zoom, unless otherwise specified.

No meeting in December. Our next meeting is January 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Happy painting!

Newsletter Distribution

To receive this newsletter electronically please contact the Webmaster with the email address at which you wish to receive the newsletter.

CWA Photo Notice

CWA may be taking photos or videos at CWA events. Your attendance at CWA events constitutes your "permission, consent, and release" to be photographed without compensation whatsoever in perpetuity. Images may be used online and in print exclusively by CWA explicitly for publicity, information, and promotion.



Plan Ahead!

Submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication!

**January Newsletter
Deadline is December 15th.**

Click here to make a submission.



If you're eligible to upgrade to Signature (CWA) or Master Signature (MCWA) status, now's the time!

Contact Sharon Hopkins, our Vice President of Membership, to learn more and start the process. You'll find all the required documentation on the CWA website under Membership Info.

Get in touch with Sharon today!

Click here to contact Sharon Hopkins, then select **Vice President & Membership Director: Sharon Hopkins** from the drop-down menu. Sharon is happy to guide you through the upgrade process and answer any questions you may have.



**PAINT BETTER
WATERCOLORS
IN JUST 3 DAYS**

ART BY THOMAS SCHALLER

JANUARY 21-23, 2026
(ESSENTIAL TECHNIQUES DAY
JANUARY 20)
watercolorlive.com

5TH ANNUAL
**WATERCOLOR
LIVE**
Online

CWA Members receive a 10% discount with code CWA upon checkout!

November Meeting & Demo Recap

by Lis MacDonald

Geoff Allen, a renowned plein air watercolor painter, demonstrated his techniques as our Zoom Demo Artist for the November meeting, captivating all 100 viewers. He shared a photo of a sunset-lit street scene, explaining that he had previously painted it at the Laguna Art Festival, sold the original, and wanted to recreate it. He started by applying yellows and lighter blues to a pre-sketched paper, using a wet-on-dry technique to cover the sky and sunlit building surfaces. After the initial layer dried, he added darker values and fine details, gradually completing the painting.

[Click here](#) to watch the complete demo on YouTube.



We Want to Hear from YOU!



As 2025 winds down, we're brainstorming ways to make 2026 even more amazing – and we need your input. Whether you're a member or just love what we do, your voice matters.

Members, click here to take our Year-End Survey and help shape the future of CWA.

Non-Members, click here: We want to hear from you too. Share your thoughts and let us know what would make you want to join or get more involved.

Your feedback will help us create awesome workshops, exhibitions, and events that YOU want to be a part of.

Thanks for sharing your thoughts and being part of the CWA community!



CWA Board of Directors

President	VACANT
Vice President/Membership	Sharon Hopkins
Secretary	Leslie Wilson
Director, Budget	Kathleen Catton
Director, Member Shows	Kathleen Stumpf
Director, Communications	Jessica de Jesus
Director, Programs	Lis MacDonald
Director, International Exhibition	VACANT
Co-Director, Community Outreach	Sheila Cain
Co-Director, Community Outreach	Georganne Zaro
Director, Workshops	Joe Tringali
Member At-Large	Rekha Joshi
Member At-Large	VACANT

CWA Support Personnel

Bookkeeper	Melissa Alva
Membership/Data Manager/ Webmaster	Adrienne Hefter
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Rosa

CWA Volunteer Committees

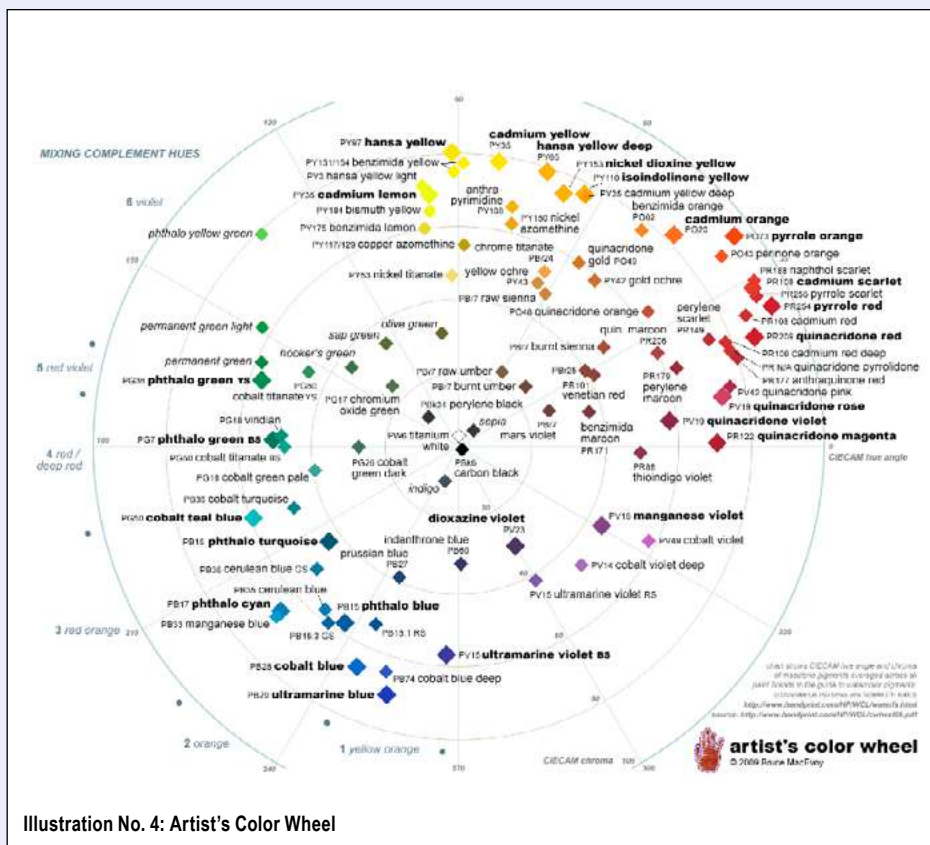
Audio Visual Set Up	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Community Outreach	Sheila Cain Maggie Metcalf
Co-Video Librarians	Joe Tringali (Chair) Barb Bochenek Madeline Shelby
Co-Hospitality	Susan Scolnick Jean Holmes Sharon Hopkins
56th International Exhibition	Jessica de Jesus Iretta Hunter Carol Husslein Pat Lauer Samantha McNally Marilyn Miller Ruth Miller Pat Moseuk Patricia Rosa Joe Tringali Leslie Wilson
Mail Distribution	Carol Husslein
Panel Rental	Carol Husslein
Plein Air	Nutan Singh
Workshop Registrar	Kirsten Theurer

To Email a Board, Staff or Committee Member:

Go to www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose a recipient from the drop-down menu.

Outreach

continued from page 3



Towards the end of our painting session, Michael showed us a very cool chart that shows watercolor pigments relative to one another in intensity. It places the pigments around the center, black. It also shows their International Color Index Number. One of the many takeaways from this chart is that it shows how intense the colors are based on their position. The most intense is closer to the largest circle, and the less intense the color, the closer it is toward the center. To equally empower blue and red, one must either use more blue pigment than red or give blue more real estate on the paper than red (see Illustration No. 4 or [click here](#)).

Our group didn't have a critique for this session. We learned the basics of color mixing but also learned that there was more to learn. Now we had our own color wheels for reference, and we look forward to applying this newfound knowledge to our next project.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach

Member News



Bernie Stein Solo Exhibition

Bernie will have an exhibition in the Loggia at the Julia Morgan-designed landmark Berkeley City Club.

Exhibition Dates:
December 3–31, 2025

Venue:
The Loggia Berkeley City Club
2315 Durant Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94704

Artist's website: www.steinwatercolors.com
Instagram: [@stein_watercolors](https://www.instagram.com/stein_watercolors)
Email: bernie.stein.watercolors@gmail.com

Welcome New CWA Members

Bari Gaymon
Richard Hall
Rita Kohl
Shanti Marlar
Lindsay Van Sant

Click [here](#) to email membership, then choose **Membership Director** from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.

Click here to Join or Renew Today!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention Members!

The CWA Board of Directors announces that the CWA annual dues will increase from \$45.00 to \$50.00 per year, effective November 1, 2025. The CWA annual dues have remained at \$45.00 per year since 1999, and the costs of doing business and maintaining programs and services to our members have increased. This increase will be effective on your renewal date.



Follow CWA on Social Media

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on our activities. CWA Social Media is your go-to resource for information, promoting the CWA, our members, events, and more.

Contribute to our social feeds and be part of the conversation!-

Click here
to follow us on Instagram

Click here
to follow us on Facebook

Click here
to submit content.

CWA Member Resources



Watch Us on YouTube!

Did you miss a general meeting demo? Want to go back and review part of a demo again? Watch now on YouTube.

Check out our YouTube Channel and subscribe to get notified of our latest demos from your favorite artists! Don't forget to subscribe to the channel!

Thank you, and enjoy!



CWA Michael Holter Demo



CWA Stephen Berry Demo



CWA 50th National Art Show at the Harrington Gallery



CWA 50th National Show 2020



CWA Roland Lee Demo



CWA Leslie Wilson Demo

And More!



Click here to go to the CWA YouTube Channel, and don't forget to click the subscribe button!

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CaliforniaWatercolorAssociation>



CWA Video Library

Staying engaged and creative is easy...just go to the CWA website and view the library catalog, note the video that you are interested in, and send Madeline the catalog number in an email and she will check to see if it's available. She will let you know about its availability and mail it to you if available. It is your responsibility to return the video 30 days after receiving. It can be dropped off at Madeline's home or mailed. All you need to do is pay postage.

[Click here](#) to view our entire catalog.

It can also be found by going to our website and clicking the **About Us Tab** and following the link to **Video Library**.

Checking out a video will be simple, please follow the steps below:

- 1) You must be a Member
- 2) Once you find a video that you are interested in, note the **Catalog Abstract Number**.
- 3) Email me at madlnshelby@aol.com, with the **Catalog Abstract Number** and I will check its availability. I will send you a verification if it is available or let you know if it is checked out.
- 4) If the video is available we will mail it to your home via USPS. Your address on your membership records will be used for shipping.
- Please log in and make sure your address information is up-to-date.
- 5) Your rental period is for 30 days. You are responsible to return the video to me. You are responsible for return shipping costs.

Return Address:

Madeline Shelby
482 Broadmoor Blvd.
San Leandro, CA 94577

- 6) Members who return videos after 30 days must pay a \$5.00 Late Fee. Lost videos must be replaced at the video replacement value.

We are excited to offer this service and hope it will lead to your creative enjoyment.

Madeline Shelby



2025/26 CWA Calendar

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION

56th INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

January 31–March 15, 2026

Join us for the Artist Reception
and Awards Presentation
on January 31, 2026

Venue — Arts Benicia

The Commanding Officer's Quarters

1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, CA 94510

General Meetings & Demos

December 2025 — Winter Break

NO MEETING

January 21, 2026	Dong Feng Li
February 18, 2026	Robert Burrige
March 20, 2026	Ken Goldman
April 15, 2026	Uma Kelkar
May 20, 2026	Sue Johnston
June 17, 2026	Thomas Schaller
July 2026	Summer Break—NO MEETING
August 19, 2026	Qian Gao
September 16, 2026	Michael Reardon
October 21, 2026	Birgit O'Connor
November 18, 2026	Brienne Brown
December 2026	Winter Break—NO MEETING

Go to **Monthly Meetings** under the **About Us** tab at
www.californiawatercolor.org for updates.

2026 CWA Member Shows

UNCLE Credit Union Art Gallery, Livermore
March 12–May 10, 2026

John Muir Hospital Gallery, Walnut Creek
August 22–September 25, 2026

San Ramon City Hall Gallery
November 3–December 19, 2026

Contact shows@californiawatercolor.org for more info.

2026 CWA Workshop Series

January 14–16, 2026

Dongfeng Li

Watercolor Essentials for Portrait Painting (IN-PERSON)

March 1–3, 2026

Pat Moseuk

Abstracts in Mixed Watermedia (IN-PERSON)

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Birgit O'Connor

Within the Flower (ZOOM)

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Geoff Allen

Watercolor Essentials for
Landscape Painting (IN-PERSON)

June 13–15, 2026

Stan Miller

Painting the Portrait and Landscape
in Watercolor (IN-PERSON)

October 2–4, 2026

Thomas W. Schaller

The Power of Design and Imagination (IN-PERSON)

2026 Workshop Series Preview

Click to watch an
11-minute promo video
to learn more about our
upcoming workshops.



To request additional information, go to
www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose
Workshops from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.

Plein Air



Plein Air on Holiday Break

There is no scheduled event
in December. See you in January 2026!