

September 2025

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

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56th International Exhibition

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Plein Air







WATER COLOR

Association

ZOOM Demo for Members and Guests at 7:00 pm PDT, Wednesday, September 17, 2025.



DEMO

September ZOOM Demo Artist Frank Eber

There will be a **ZOOM General Meeting and Demo** by Frank Eber for CWA members and friends to participate, on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 7:00-9:00 pm PDT.

Here is the ZOOM link and passcode which will remain the same for all future General Meetings.

To join, simply click on the **Join Icon** on the right. Meeting ID: 810 0987 0399 Passcode: 383542





Los Osos Crowds by Frank Eber

Frank, who grew up in Europe, apprenticed with Italian master painter Renato Casaro in the 1990s. He worked as a professional illustrator for video cover sleeves and as a portrait artist by commission. Frank strives to create timeless art in both oil and watermedia, working in a direct, loose style influenced by the Old World Masters. He lived in the south of France for three years and has painted on location in numerous countries. An awardwinning artist and Signature member of several societies, including the American Impressionist Society (AIS), American Watercolor Society (AWS),

and National Watercolor Society (NWS), Frank is also a juried artist member of the California Art Club. He leads workshops and demonstrations locally, nationally, and internationally.

Artist's website at frankeber.com





Claasen's Radiator Service by Frank Eber



Lunchtime Walk Morro Bay by Frank Eber



The Drawing Board

Each month a different member of the CWA Board of Directors has the opportunity to write an art-related article for our members.

Madhubani Painting — Indian Folk Art by Rekha Joshi

Art, for me, is a language of emotion, memory, and cultural resonance. I work primarily in watercolor and mixed media, drawn to their fluidity and ability to capture both precision and spontaneity. My practice is rooted in storytelling—whether through the delicate layering of pigment or the symbolic motifs that echo my heritage and lived experiences. I always like to explore different traditional art forms and Madhubani paintings are one of those. These paintings originally painted on mud walls and floors,

now practiced on handmade paper, cloth, and canvas. Madhubani painting—also known as Mithila art—is a vibrant and intricate folk art tradition originating from the Mithila region of Bihar, India. Traditionally practiced by women, this art form is celebrated for its bold lines, geometric patterns, and symbolic motifs drawn from nature, mythology, and daily life. These motifs aren't just decorative—they carry deep meaning and are central to the storytelling tradition of this folk art.

Common Motifs in Madhubani Paintings

Motif **Symbolism**

Fish Prosperity, fertility, and good luck.

Often shown in pairs to represent

harmony.

Peacock Beauty, love, and rain. Associated

with abundance and divine grace.

Purity, divinity, and spiritual Lotus

awakening.

Sun and Moon Energy, life, and cosmic balance.

Often depicted with radiating

patterns.

Tortoise Longevity and stability.

Tree of Life Growth, creativity, and

Elephant

Birds (Parrots, Swans)

interconnectedness of all beings.

Royalty, strength, and wisdom.

Love, communication, and

spiritual purity.



Originally artists used twigs, fingers, brushes, nib pens, and matchsticks to create intricate designs. I begin with a soft watercolor wash and overlay Madhubani linework using nib pens or fine brushes. The contrast can evoke both depth and delicacy. Traditionally, artists used colors made from turmeric, indigo, sandalwood, and flowers. In this style every

inch is filled—either with motifs or intricate patterns, creating a sense of visual abundance. I find it a very enjoyable and creative process to create Madhubani paintings using my own motifs and compositions!

Rekha Joshi Member At-Large

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION

5 EXHIBITION

January 31-March 15, 2026

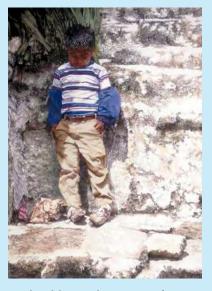
\$20,000 in Anticipated Awards! (You Can't Win If You Don't Enter)



55th Gold Award Winner — \$2,300

Beeline to Blossoms

by Marilyn Wear, CWA





54th Gold Award Winner — \$2,000

Remains of the Day

by Antoaneta Georgieva

53rd Gold Award Winner — \$2,000
Waiting in Chichicastenango by Charles Rouse, MCWA

Entries Due Now! Click Here for Prospectus & to Enter Today!

Juror of Selection: Pat Moseuk Juror of Awards: Dongfeng Li

Entry Deadline: October 1, 2025, 5:00 pm PDT



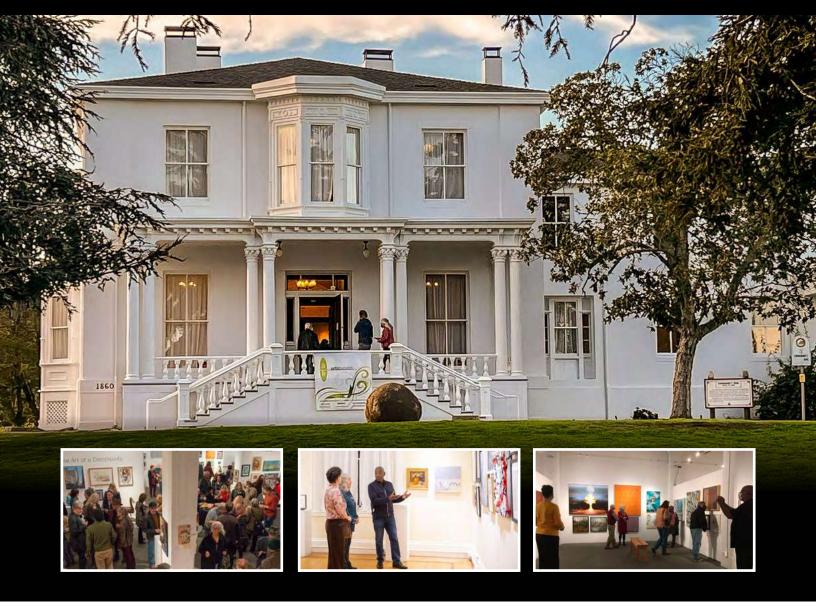
California Watercolor Association

P. O. Box 4631 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 USA www.californiawatercolor.org 56questions@californiawatercolor.org **Gallery Info:**

Arts Benicia — Commanding Officer's Quarters

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

56TH INTERNATIONAL GALLERY SPOTLIGHT



The California Watercolor Association is thrilled to announce its partnership with Arts Benicia for the 56th International Exhibition. This stunning venue is situated in the vibrant art community of Benicia, California, centrally located in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Arts Benicia's mission is to stimulate, educate, and nurture cultural life in Benicia, primarily through the visual arts. This community-based nonprofit organization offers exhibitions, educational programs, and classes that support artists and engage the broader community.

As the hub of a large community of talented artists in the Bay Area and beyond, Arts Benicia features a dynamic exhibition schedule showcasing the work of hundreds of local and Northern California artists, providing them with opportunities to display and sell their work. For more than thirty years, they have produced high-quality exhibitions in a 2,400-square-foot space in the historic Arsenal, which they acquired in 1993. In January 2022, Arts Benicia relocated to the historic Commanding Officer's Quarters, also in the Arsenal district, encompassing nearly 6,000 square feet of gallery, classroom, and project space across three floors. Arts Benicia operates through membership, grants, sponsorships, and fundraising events. Admission to view the exhibits is free.

Mark your calendars! Submissions are due by October 1, 2025, at 5:00 pm PDT. Don't miss your chance to be part of something special!



California Watercolor Association

P. O. Box 4631 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 USA www.californiawatercolor.org 56questions@californiawatercolor.org



artsbenicia

Commanding Officer's Quarters

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

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION September 2025 4



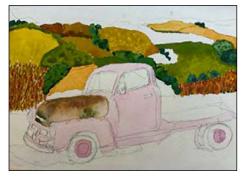




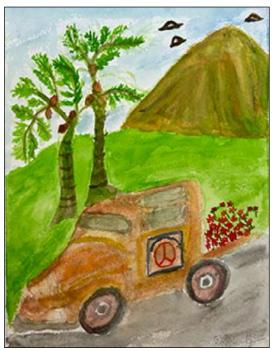
Community Outreach — Oakland VeteransThe Ladies Take Over the Oakland Vet Group











Painting trucks was the subject of the June class and, ironically, only women attended. The men had their excuses, I'm sure. Nevertheless, they weren't there. We had begun painting the truck previously, looking to use a granulation technique to achieve the look of rust. This is the first time we extended a project over more than one month and seems luxurious. Most of the paintings look unusually complete. Others were clearly incomplete and may have lost some freshness due to too much concentration on small areas and not considering the big picture. It was fun to only have women, though it wasn't that different for me. It's a pleasure to paint in a group and see each other's approaches and progress.

Sheila Cain

Co-Director, Community Outreach

If you'd like to be a pen pal, please volunteer!

CWA received an unusual four-page handwritten letter recently. The writer referred to it as "a message in a bottle." The writer is an inmate in a California Correctional Rehabilitation Facility. He has been discipline-free for ten years which qualified him for the Hobby program. Now he has been in the Hobby program for six years and is the Hobby Coordinator. There are 200 artists in the program. His responsibilities are enlisting others in the Hobby program, ordering art supplies from Dick Blick, and giving general art advice. Over the years he has experimented with many mediums, but spends the most time with watercolors. He likes painting landscapes. He writes, "When I am in the process of creating art it promotes inner peace, calm, and I lose track of time. Joining the Hobby program here helps keep my mind focused on art instead of committing another crime." He is looking for a pen pal who can advise on tools that will work across multiple media, e.g., gouache, oil, watercolor, water-soluble graphic, acrylic and more. Also, he would like this pen pal to be a support group that looks at his artwork and gives constructive feedback on how to improve it. He has no access to computer or cell phone, so all communication will have to be via U.S. Mail. That's all. The writer is very polite. I have responded to his letter with some advice on watercolor materials. This is a volunteer opportunity for which you can earn points to use in a CWA workshop, or other items in our online store. If you're interested, I will send you all four pages of the letter, and you can decide. Just email me at sheilahillcain@gmail.com and put Pen Pal in the title.

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION 2025 WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES







Keiko Tanabe

Keiko was born in Kyoto, Japan, and currently resides in San Diego, California. Mostly self-taught, she began her professional art career in 2005. Since then, her paintings have been showcased in numerous national and international exhibitions, both juried and invitational, gaining worldwide recognition. Her artwork has been acquired by private and corporate collectors from around the globe. Additionally, her paintings have been published and featured in leading art magazines as well as various publications in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Since 2011, Keiko has been a sought-after workshop instructor, conducting numerous workshops and live demonstrations worldwide. She has frequently served as a juror for art exhibitions at both national and international levels. In 2018, she was appointed to the advisory board of American Watercolor Weekly.

Keiko has also published several books and four DVDs.

Artist's website at ktanabefineart.com





Live Workshop Keep it Simple and Strong

3-Day In-Person Workshop | October 27–29, 2025 **Intermediate** (previous experience is strongly recommended)

CWA Members \$425 Non-Members \$485

Keiko's work is impressionistic. She enjoys representing people and places, allowing the painting to develop from a recognizable structure. The challenge lies in balancing the care needed to make the representation interesting and believable with the freedom, looseness, and painterly quality that makes painting so unique and expressive. WAITLIST ONLY.

Newly Added Zoom Workshop! Unlock Your Impressionistic Voice



LIVE

3-Day Online Workshop | November 10-12, 2025 **Intermediate** (previous experience is strongly recommended) CWA Members \$325 Non-Members \$385

Explore painting of people and places with both structure and freedom. Keiko will share her thoughts and tips with the Zoom audience, guiding you to balance careful observation with expressive, loose brushwork and build strong compositions that support your painting's story and bring it to life.

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. 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.



Plein Air — Iron Horse Plaza, Downtown Danville Saturday, September 20, 2025, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Click to



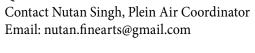
Danville offers a mix of trendy restaurants, specialty shops, and a vibrant art scene. Meanwhile, the town honors its rich history. Once a Gold Rush settlement, it's now a bustling town with plenty to do and places to eat, shop, and enjoy.

We will meet at 10:00 am, at Peet's Coffee (see address below). We will decide on a location for lunch and a critique at 12:30 pm.

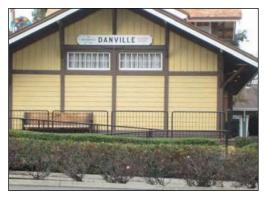
Meeting Point — Peet's Coffee 435 Railroad Ave., Danville, CA 94526

Convenient parking is available in the Iron Horse Plaza and on the street. There is ample parking, even during the Farmer's Market.

Questions?













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, PDT, via Zoom, unless otherwise specified.

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!

October Newsletter Deadline is September 15th. Click here to make a submission.

Member News



Wok This Way - Alameda Award, Frank Bette Plein Air Paintout 2025



Corn Dogs and Cotton Candies - First Place, California State Fair Plein Air Competition

Nutan Singh

Plein Air Volunteer Leader Nutan Singh has won several awards at local plein air festivals this summer. Check out her amazing paintings.

And, if you haven't joined her for Plein Air, the next one is scheduled for September 20, 2025 at 10:00 am-1:00 pm at the Iron Horse Plaza in Downtown Danville. Click here for more info.

Artist's website at nutanfinearts.com



One Last Ride - First Place, **Alameda County Fair Plein Air Competition**



Flying Pigs III - First Place, Marin County Fair Fine Arts Special Theme Category



Fair Fever IV - Award of Merit, California State Fair

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Zelda's at Capitola Beach — Award of Merit, California State Fair



Remembered in Rust and Red -Third Place, Marin County **Adult Hobby Arts**

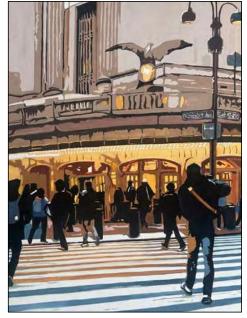
Member News

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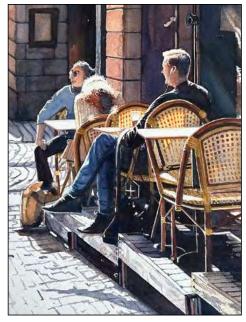
Ruth Miller, MCWA

Ruth's painting, *Grand Central 1*, received an Honorable Mention from Women in Watercolor. **Click here** to view the show. Her painting, *Rest Stop*, was selected by Ratindra Das for Watercolor West's 57th International Exhibition, which will be on display at Chapman University in Orange, CA, from August 23 to November 29, 2025.

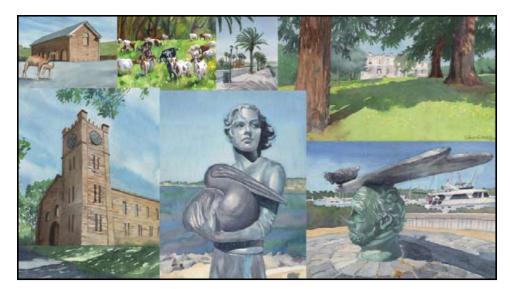
Artist's website at ruthmillerwatercolors.com



Grand Central 1 by Ruth Miller



Rest Stop by Ruth Miller



Samantha McNally, CWA

Samantha is the featured artist in "Benicia's Changing Tides" at the Benicia Plein Air gallery from September 5-28, 2025. She has painted several famous and historic Benicia scenes for her September Featured Artist spot.

Many of the paintings hanging on Samantha's wall at the gallery in September are part of the new book, *Benicia's Changing Tides*, by Fiona M. Hughes and illustrated by Samantha. Visit the gallery to see the book in its first publication, and her original paintings on the wall. Order the book on Amazon, then bring it to the gallery on September 7, 12, 13, or 20th, to meet Samantha for a signing.

Artist's website at samanthamcnally.com

2025 EAST BAY GALLERY TOUR

Samantha McNally is the organizer of the 3rd annual East Bay Gallery Tour, in which a total of 15 galleries are participating. Visit any of the galleries on the list to pick up your free gallery tour postcard. Get it stamped at each gallery to have a chance to win a \$300 certificate to buy art at any of the participating galleries.

Benicia Plein Air Gallery 307 First Street Benicia, CA. 94510 Benicia Plein Air.com

Click here for map and info on the East Bay Gallery Tour 2025.

aRt Cottage 2238 Mt. Diablo Street, Concord, CA
Arts Benicia 1 Commandants Lane, Benicia, CA
Benicia Art Glass 309 1st Street, Benicia, CA
Benicia Plein Air Gallery 307 First Street, Benicia, CA
Blackhawk Gallery, ADAS 3416 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, CA
First Street Arts 333-D First Street, Benicia, CA
Gallery 621 920 First Street, Suite 203, Benicia, CA
JOR Clayton Gallery 1026 Oak Street Suite 102, Clayton, CA
Main Street Arts Gallery 613 Main Street, Martinez, CA
Moraga Art Gallery 432 Center Street, Moraga, CA
NY2CA Gallery 617 1st St, Benicia, CA
Studio 55 Art Gallery 55 Howe Rd., Martinez, CA
The Little Art Shop 129 First Street, Benicia, CA
Valley Art Gallery 1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, CA
Village Theatre and Art Gallery 233 Front Street, Danville, CA

artcottage.info artsbenicia.org beniciaartglass.com beniciapleinair.com adas4art.org firststreetarts.org gallery621.com jorfineartgallery.com mainstreetarts.net moragaartgallery.com ny2cagallery.com studio55martinez.com thelittleartshop.com valleyartgallery.org danville.ca.gov/arts

Member News

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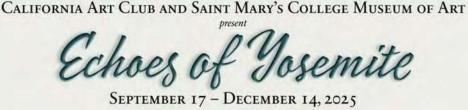
Abandoned, The Superintendent's Cabin, Yosemite by Barbara Tapp



Cathedrals from Taft Point by Jessica de Jesus



Granite Grandeur by Larry Cannon



Seven CWA Members Represented in Echoes of Yosemite Exhibition

Congratulations to these seven CWA Members whose pieces were accepted into California Art Club's Exhibit, Echoes of Yosemite, at Saint Mary's Museum of Art in Moraga: Larry Cannon, Jessica de Jesus, Sandy Delehanty, Carolyn Lord, Diane Rodriguez, Bonnie Joy Sedlak and Barbara Tapp. They will be featured alongside the works of 19th-century landscape painter William Keith (1838-1911). The opening reception is on Thursday, September 18, from 5:00–7:00 pm and is open to the public. Click here for the exhibition website.

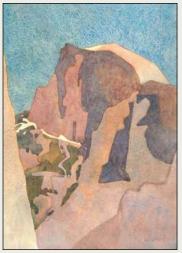
Artists' websites:

Larry Cannon at www.cannonwc.com Jessica de Jesus at www.sfjessart.com Sandy Delehanty at www.sandydelehanty.com Carolyn Lord at www.carolynlord.com Diane Rodriguez at dianerodriguezart.com Bonnie Joy Sedlak at bonniejoysedlak.com Barbara Tapp at www.barbaratappartist.com

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art | 1928 St Mary's Rd., PMB 5110 | Moraga, CA 94556



River Walk by Bonnie Joy Sedlak



Springtime Vista of Half Dome by Carolyn Lord

Welcome New CWA Members

Mark Dobrin, Eric Greenwood, Zhengyang Ryan, Rebekah Snow Click here to email membership, then choose **Membership Director** from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.

Click here to Join or Renew Today!



CWA Board of Directors

President Vice President/Membership

Secretary

Director, Budget

Director, Member Shows

Director, Communications

Director, Programs

Director, International Exhibition

Co-Director, Community Outreach Co-Director, Community Outreach

Director, Workshops

Member At-Large Member At-Large **VACANT**

Sharon Hopkins

Leslie Wilson

Kathleen Catton

Kathleen Stumpfel

Jessica de Jesus

Lis MacDonald

VACANT

Sheila Cain Georganne Zaro

Joe Tringali

Rekha Joshi

VACANT

CWA Support Personnel

Bookkeeper

Membership/Data Manager/

Webmaster

Newsletter Editor

Melissa Alva

Adrienne Hefter Patricia Rosa

CWA Volunteer Committees

Audio Visual Set Up

Community Outreach

Co-Video Librarians

Co-Hospitality

Panel Rental

Workshop Registrar

Plein Air

56th International Exhibition

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Sheila Cain

Maggie Metcalf

Joe Tringali (Chair)

Barb Bochenek

Madeline Shelby

Susan Scolnick

Jean Holmes

Sharon Hopkins

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

Carol Husslein

Nutan Singh

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.

Member News

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Toby's Gallery Presents

Point of Change

Barbara Tapp is one

of the three featured artists in this show, which runs from September 4th to 30th.

Three artists. One region. From working ranches to wide horizons, see the beauty and history of a place in transition.

ARTISTS RECEPTION

Saturday, September 6, 1:00-4:00 pm

Toby's Feed Barn 11250 Highway One Point Reyes Station, CA

Artist's website at www.barbaratappartist.com









Meghana Mitragotri

Meghana has a watercolor demo and several upcoming art shows. She received an Honorable Mention at Teravarna's 10th FLOWER International Juried Art Competition for her paintings Hellebores 4 and In the Pink. On September 5th, she will demonstrate watercolor techniques as part of "Fresh Grounds" at Latte Da Vinci and will also have a booth at the



Hellebores 4 by Meghana Mitragotri

Mountain View Art & Wine Festival on September 6th and 7th, and at the Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique in Sunnyvale on September 13th. For more information, please visit www.lattedavinci.net, mvartwine.com and midorikai.com.

August General Meeting & Demo Recap by Joe Tringali

Dale, a New Mexico-based artist, discussed his artistic journey and demonstrated watercolor painting techniques, with a focus on landscapes and skies inspired by the Southwest. The demonstration covered his approach to composition, color usage, and value studies, highlighting the importance of visual memory and mental visualization in his practice. Eighty people attended the online meeting.

Artist Website: daintlymade.weebly.com



CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION September 2025

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 CWA 50th National Show 2020 the Harrington Gallery





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.





2025/26 CWA Calendar

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION

56 INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

January 31-March 15, 2026

Click here for Prospectus



Venue — Arts Benicia
The Commanding Officer's Quarters
1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia, CA 94510

2025 General Meetings & Demos

January 15, 2025 Mike Hernandez February 19, 2025 Leslie Wilson March 19, 2025 **Gary Tucker** April 16, 2025 Stephen Berry May 21, 2025 Michael Reardon June 18, 2025 Pat Moseuk (IN-PERSON) July 2025 Summer Break—NO MEETING August 20, 2025 Dale Laitinen

September 17, 2025 — Zoom Demo Frank Eber (for Members & Guests)

October 15, 2025 Keiko Tanabe
November 19, 2025 Geoff Allen
December 2025 Winter Break—NO MEETING
Go to Monthly Meetings under the About Us tab at
www.californiawatercolor.org for updates.

2025 CWA Workshop Series

October 27–29, 2025 Keiko Tanabe Keep it Simple and Strong (IN-PERSON)

NEWLY ADDED! November 10–12, 2025 Keiko Tanabe

Unlock Your Expressionistic Voice (ZOOM)

2026 CWA Workshop Series

May 4–6, 2026 Geoff Allen

Watercolor Essentials for Landscape Painting (IN-PERSON)

June 13–15, 2026 Stan Miller
Painting the Portrait and Landscape

in Watercolor (IN-PERSON)

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

Plein Air



Iron Horse Plaza, Downtown Danville Saturday, September 20, 2025, 10:00 am–1:00 pm

Click here to RSVP

Other Plein Air Opportunities Contra Costa Plein Air

Click here for posts of upcoming paint-outs on their blog,or click here to visit Contra Costa Plein Air on Facebook.





