

# West Virginia Watercolor Society

Spring 2024

Greetings from our WVWS President, **Nancy Maunz**



Spring is officially here. It is wonderful to catch sight of daffodils blooming along the sidewalks and the sound of birdsong brightening gray mornings.

To me the medium of watercolor is perfect for the depiction of nature. It's unpredictable fluidity mimics nature creating transient moments on the paper much like moments in nature.

Creativity has room for a variety of artistic styles from subjective paintings with realistic details to large scale abstractions with fluid washes and bright splashes of color. One of the best parts of being an artist is that we are free to make our own unique choices and experiment with different styles.

I hope you are painting often and enjoying taking this journey as much as I am.

I hope to see you all at the Artisan Center Gallery in Wheeling this summer for Aqueous. And at Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg in the fall for our All Member Show.

Watch for information about these shows and our annual workshop at Canaan Valley in July.

And let's not forget our Anniversary Regional Shows in 2024. I hope your regional director is working with you to plan an exhibit in your region. I will have a schedule of dates and venues soon.

"An artist does not draw what he sees but what he must make others see". -Edgar Degas

Nancy Maunz

WVWS President

## WVWS News

### **2024 Aqueous Juried Exhibition**

#### **Wheeling Artisan Center**

**1400 Main St. Wheeling, WV 26003**

**304 232 1810**

**Images due to Debbie Lester:** *May 20*

**Exhibitors Notified about Jury Results:** *May 30*

**Exhibit Date:** *June 28-July 31*

**Shipping Policy:** *Artists who cannot deliver their work in-person may ship their pieces to the gallery. Artist will be responsible for shipping charges to and from the gallery. A return prepaid shipping label should be provided along with the artwork being shipped. All accepted works must be shipped in sturdy, reusable packaging. We will retain any packaging used to ship your work to us and use it for the return of any unsold works to you. Please pack carefully, as we cannot be responsible for any damages.*

**Drop off:** *By June 21 during weekly business hours.*

**Pick Up:** *Aug. 2-9*

**Gallery Hours/days:** *M-F—9-5; Saturday—Noon-5 p.m.*

**Gallery Contact:** Alex Panas, [apanas@wheelingheritage.org](mailto:apanas@wheelingheritage.org).

### **WVWS Jury for Status information**

WVWS Associate and Juried members are invited to apply for either Juried or Signature status in the society. The application and instructions are on the WVWS website at <https://www.wvwatercolorsociety.org/jury-for-status> The applications are available for online submission, and printable applications are also available from the above link.

Application deadline is **July 15, 2024** – this represents the date by which applications **and images** must be received by Kristen Colebank for preparation for the jury committee. If sending the application by mail, it's best to mail by July. 8 to ensure receipt by the deadline (and please email or call Kristen to let her know it's in the mail). If applying using the online form, submit the online application by July. 13. In both cases, have your images ready; Kristen will be reaching out to applicants with instructions on how to send them.

WVWS member classifications include:

**Associate** – all who have applied for Associate membership and been accepted into the Society through payment of dues.

**Juried** – Members who have been granted the privilege of Juried Status by the Society's membership. To earn Juried Membership status, an Associate Member must submit six painting images for review by the Jury Committee. Candidates selected for Juried Membership consideration may be requested to submit three or more original works for final admission judging if a determination cannot be finalized after the initial Jury review. Juried Membership status becomes official upon notification of acceptance by the Jury from the committee chairman.

**Signature** – Juried status members Juried members who have been granted the privilege of using the West Virginia Watercolor Society Initials (WVWS) in conjunction with their signatures by the Jury Committee after completing requirements as set forth in the By-laws. These include submitting four paintings for review by the Jury Committee that have not previously been shown in WVWS exhibitions, as well as providing documentation that the juried member has had work accepted in two juried "Aqueous" WVWS shows within the last six years. Signature Status may also be granted to any watercolor artist who is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society,

the National Watercolor Society, or whose work has been accepted in any AWS, NWS, or Watercolor USA exhibit.

Signature Status may also be granted to any watercolor artist who is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, or whose work has been accepted in any AWS, NWS, or Watercolor USA exhibit.

++++

Former Jury Committee chairwoman and previous WVWS President Christine Rhodes shared the following information and guidance in a 2018 edition of the newsletter, and it bears repeating to help members who want to advance their membership status this year or in the future (the jury for status review takes place annually):

Members who want to advance their membership status may consider:

### **What defines the levels of membership in WVWS?**

Associate membership is open to everyone, at all levels of artistic ability from absolute beginners to the highly skilled, even non-artists.

Juried members should have achieved at least an intermediate level of artistic ability. They should demonstrate a good basic understanding of watercolor techniques, drawing skills, composition, use of color, elements and principles design, etc. Their paintings should look like they were all painted by the same person. They are no longer beginners and that should be evident in their work. Any Associate member in good standing may apply for Juried Status.

Signature members represent not only themselves but the Society and should demonstrate a higher level of mastery. Their work should show evidence of personal style and originality and should be of consistently

high quality. Signature members should be creating paintings that we haven't seen a thousand times – work that is uniquely their own - no copycats here. Signature members represent the highest standards of watercolor painting in the state of West Virginia. Only Signature members are allowed to add the WVWS credential to their signature. Juried members in good standing are eligible to apply for Signature status.

### **What to consider when applying for status review:**

- Submit your very best work. The jury will assume that these images represent the best work you are capable of.
- Submit high quality images. Photograph the artwork before you mat and frame it. Make sure your images are sharp and clear without shadows or glare. Are they an accurate representation of the original artwork? Are the colors and values correct? If you are not a good photographer, get help from someone who is.
- Crop your images to show only the artwork - no mat, no frame, no view of your studio space in the background.
- Fill in all the necessary forms neatly and completely, providing all required documentation.
- Meet all deadlines for submitting the application.
- The jury members will critique your work and provide comments that are intended to help you improve. Take whatever benefit you can from these comments, but don't let a negative remark get you down.

++++

If any member has questions about the application procedure, please reach out! Contact Kristen by email at [kcolebank@waitesrunstudios.com](mailto:kcolebank@waitesrunstudios.com)

At our last WVWS meeting, it was decided to celebrate this special 40th Anniversary of WVWS by holding regional exhibits around the state this year to give a broader awareness of the talented artists of WVWS. If you haven't been contacted by your regional director (trustee), let them know you're interested!

## WVU Libraries hosts artist and book collector



Artist **Mary Kay Watson**, signature member, discussed her art and book collection at the opening of her exhibit, “An Artist and Her Books: The Mary Kay Watson Collection,” on March 20, in the Milano Room in WVU’s Downtown Library.

Mary Kay Brown Watson, a Morgantown native and WVU alumna, is an artist with a passion for art and book collecting. Her exhibition, which will be on display in the Rockefeller Gallery through August, explores the intersection of her art and her book collecting.

“The recent gift of the Mary Kay Watson book collection brings another dimension of decorated book covers, prevalent in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, to the rare book room,” Rare Books Curator Stewart Plein said.

The Watson collection builds on the donation of decorated bindings designed by Margaret Armstrong, a gift from Lowell and Suzanne Thing in 2022.

“As an artist, not unlike book binding designers like Margaret Armstrong, Watson’s collection reflects the artistic pursuits of the natural, physical, and imaginary worlds her books and her art draw upon. In this respect, her collection is unique in that her art can be seen in the books she collects and the art she creates, forming a cohesive whole,” Plein said.

In addition, Mary Kay is teaching a class for OLLI in Morgantown in April. Members can contact her for details. Phone: 813-545-0515 email: tangledshakespear@gmail.com

## Member News

**Debbie Lester**, lifetime member, entered Tri-State Art Association show in Huntington. She was in the Pastel and Present: Pastel Colors, at Tamarack and in a show at Beckley Art Center for St Patrick's show called. Bringing in the Green.



Debbie will be teaching a watercolor class at Cedar Lakes weeks of April 22, September 9-13, and October 27-Nov 1. Enrollment information is on their website.

An art exhibit at the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton will be available to view at the gallery until May 13. The exhibit consists of approximately 15 paintings by watercolor artist, **Shelia Chapman** and pastel artist. Andrea Brunais (who is not a member of WVWS). A reception was held earlier, March 28th. Everyone is welcome.

**Debbie Sisson**, had the 4 watercolors she'd submitted for the upcoming Tamarack show, The Life Art-quatic accepted. The show begins next month. Also **Debbie** and husband, Steve are currently showing at the General Lewis Inn located in Lewisburg. The work will be on display through April 1.



**Christie Saunders**, juried member, currently has a painting, *Morning Coffee* in the Truth & Contradictions: Complexities of Identity in Appalachia Show at Marshall University's Drinko Library. She also had a painting, *Amanda's Glazed Donuts* selected for the TriState Art Association Biennial show that opens March 30.

Sent from my iPhone

**Pam Lake**, juried member, had work in Tamarack's shows Still The One, Pastel and Present and The Life Art-quatic.



## Remember we're on Facebook!

Look for West Virginia Watercolor Society

The next newsletter deadline is June 20, 2024 for our Summer issue. Please remember to send your news items of interest regarding recent exhibits, classes taught, workshops taken, and images of recent art to [pamelalake@yahoo.com](mailto:pamelalake@yahoo.com)