

WV Watercolor Society October 2021

Autumn News

- **Greetings from our WVWS President, Christine Rhodes:**

First things first – I want to extend sincere congratulations to our members who were recently granted status changes by the WVWS Jury Committee. Nancy Maunz of Clarksburg and Karen Catlett of Glen Dale have been granted Juried status. Jan van Egmond of Charleston has earned Signature status.

These members are an inspiring example to their peers for taking the time, putting forth the effort and making the commitment to bring their art to the next level. As artists, we dedicate ourselves to perfecting a craft that can never be perfected – there is always more to learn – always another level of achievement to strive toward, but each time one of us reaches a new goal, we all are reminded that we too can do it.

How do we do it? We do the work! We paint even when we're tired or discouraged. We study because there is always more to learn. We paint what speaks to us because if it doesn't speak to us it can't speak to anyone else. We become our own harshest critics because we know what we're capable of and must hold ourselves to a high standard. And here's the hard part...we submit our best efforts to be judged by others. It can be a gut-wrenching process, but we grow from it. We learn from it. And having done so, we become authentic artists because of it.

West Virginia Watercolor Society has members at all levels of ability and achievement. It is our mission to promote and advance the art of watercolor in the Mountain State. If you are new to WVWS or new to exhibiting your artwork, I urge you to take part in whatever exhibition opportunities are available to you. You may be intimidated by the process at first, but you will grow and learn through participation.

One such opportunity is our All-Member Exhibition coming up in December. (See the prospectus on our website.) This exhibition is not juried for entry, which means your work will be included in the show so long as it meets prospectus guidelines. Enter a painting or two – you'll be glad you did.

On a final note, opportunities in the form of exhibitions and workshops, with all their related expenses, cost more every year. As you think about your year-end giving, please consider a donation to WVWS. Any amount that fits your budget would be greatly appreciated and your generosity will help keep the opportunities coming in 2022. (See the donation page on our website for details about how to donate.)

I wish all of you success and satisfaction on your artistic journey.

Best regards,
Christine

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NWS Signature Virtual Reception

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, the National Watercolor Society will hold their NWS International Open Exhibition Virtual Reception in recognition of both 2020 and 2021 new Signature Members. Among the honorees will be WVWS President Christine Rhodes who earned her Signature Membership in 2020.

WVWS Aqueous People's Choice

Congratulations to Chris Krupinski who won *People's Choice* award for her "Blue and Gold" in our WVWS Aqueous this past summer held at Stifel Fine Arts Center in Wheeling.

22nd West Virginia Juried Exhibition

The 22nd West Virginia Juried Exhibition presented by the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History in partnership with the West Virginia Commission on the Arts is set to open November 14, 2021, at the Culture Center in Charleston. An opening reception is planned for Sunday, November 14 at 2:00 pm. It is free and open to the public. The exhibition will run through February 14, 2022. West Virginia Watercolor Society members whose works are included in the exhibition are: Carol Hilleary and Christine Rhodes. Congratulations!

Entering an Exhibition

By Linda Elmer, Exhibits Coordinator

I have been Exhibits Coordinator for the WVWS for over ten years. This has given me plenty of experience with planning but also with the interpretations of exhibitors' participation. I thought an article about entering our exhibits would be helpful to our members and with entering other shows.

I am going to segment this into topics and address each one. My choice of topics are based upon repeated concerns.

Prospectus. This is the advertisement/set of criteria for an art exhibit. READ THIS CAREFULLY and it will answer most of your questions. It is not debatable. *Our prospectus is the result of years of exhibits and how to make it clear to the exhibitors our criteria.* The prospectus should include the calendar,

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information about the judge/juror, prizes, gallery information, presentation of the painting, and an entry form. Fill out any forms legibly.

Framing Requirements. We require neutral mats, wire hangers, plexi-glass and framing. We receive many compliments from galleries about our criteria. This gives a consistent look to our show and makes it easier on the gallery personnel. Ornate framing/matting is nice for personal use but distracting in an exhibit. Framing should always enhance the work and not detract from it. We are going for a professional look with our shows.

Juried versus Judged. Our juried shows are done so by a hired juror who will also pick the awards. Sometimes I think that members shy away from our juried shows due to the fear of being rejected. Rejection is tough; I've been there. But it is also an honor to be selected. We leave the decision exclusively to the juror to select the paintings and the award winners. Leaving the decision to a juror maintains objectivity. I do make suggestions on numbers of accepted works if we have a large space... Even if I make suggestions for numbers, my ideas are rarely taken. I have asked for bigger numbers, but the juror is going to their own thing. I also recommend to the juror not to stack awards whenever possible. In a judged show, such as our *All-Member Show*, the judges' responsibility is easier in that all they have to do is pick the awards. All entries are accepted in this show unless there is a framing or copyright issue.

Entry Forms and Deadlines. Entry forms have tags that need to be filled out and attached to the back of the paintings. This is important with identifying works for tagging. **Good penmanship** is important when filling out tags and entry forms. Remember that signing the form acknowledges your understanding of the rules.

Originality. Much has been inserted into our prospectus about originality of image over the years. This is partly due to the lack of knowledge about the topic. As exhibiting artists, we are showing *original* work. This means that the image you are using is yours. It is not from the internet, a magazine, or even purchased to be used. Websites like iStock have images to purchase but you still do not have the right to sign your name to that painting as an *original*

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work of art. Purchase of images does not purchase the copyright and those images are still the copyright property of someone else.

Committing Your Painting to an Exhibit. Once you have decided to enter an exhibit, you have committed to the timeline. As coordinator, I have encountered some situations in which the artist was either not paying attention to the exhibit timeline or they were “gambling” by entering the same painting into two shows. Whatever the reasoning, this really is not ethical. My advice is to “pick a lane.” In other words, commit and do not expect organizers to switch out your painting at the last minute.

Transportation. When making a decision to enter, also think about whether it is feasible to get your painting to the show. We have people in the northern and southern regions who are willing to shuttle paintings to far-off places. So do not assume that it is impossible to participate. PACKING is important. To assure that they are safely transported, do not rely on others to protect your paintings. Save a box to make a portfolio or buy a portfolio and put your name on it. Create some form of protective packaging. Handing over your painting with no protection is not a good idea.

I hope this clarifies some issues about exhibitions. You will also find that our criteria are very similar to other exhibitions, so maybe this information is applicable across the board. Rules can be tedious, but it also guarantees consistency and a more professional show.

WVWS All-Member Exhibit 2021

Love Hope Center for the Arts - 100 Rotan St., Fayetteville, WV

Calendar

Deliver to Gallery: Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays- November- 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20. Mailed deliveries should arrive on those days.

Opening Reception/Awards: Saturday, December 4, 4-8 pm.

Gallery open: on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, except holidays

Exhibit Closes: December 31

Pick up Work by: January 8

The prospectus is on the website at www.watercolorsociety.org. Check the WVWS website frequently for further details.

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Tuscarawas County Art Guild Fall Exhibition

The Art Guild announces an exhibit to be held in New Philadelphia, Ohio starting Saturday, November 20, 2021, for collage, painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, fabric, metal work, pottery, and hand created glasswork and jewelry. For more information, go to <https://www.tuscarawascountyartguild.com/2021juriedshow>

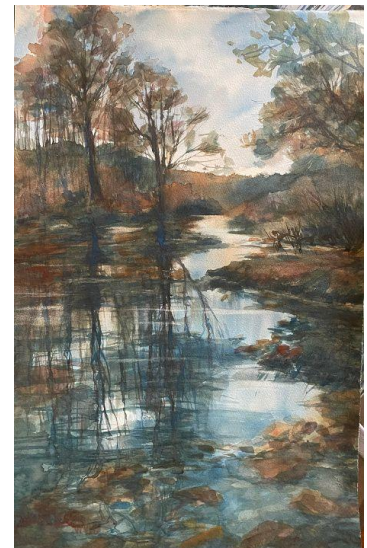
MEMBER NEWS



Karen Catlett had her watercolor accepted into the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society Aqueous Open International Exhibit. The online opening reception will be held October 1. Carla O'Connor was juror. For viewing the exhibit, go to <https://www.pittsburghwatersociety.com/Aqueous>
Image Caption (left): Apollo by Karen Catlett

Karen Catlett, Janet Sheehan, and Janet Hart participated in Wheeling's *Artworks Around Town Paint Ohio Valley* plein air event during the Labor Day weekend of September 2.-5. Four days of painting were held in various Ohio Valley locations.

Debbie Lester sold this watercolor (image right) at Tamarack's recent juried show, "About Face":

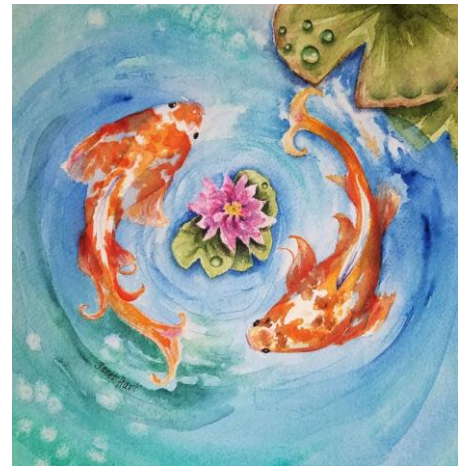


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Jamie Lester had this watercolor (image left) accepted into the recent Tamarack show, "About Face":

Janet Hart had a watercolor accepted and exhibited through the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society in The Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg, Pennsylvania to commemorate PWS 75+1 year anniversary.
Image Caption (right): Koi Courtship by Janet Hart



WORKSHOP NEWS

Judy Reed has made arrangements to return to Canaan Valley next year and for Robin Poteet to return and teach landscape painting in watercolor. The workshop will be one week earlier, July 27-31, 2022! Mark your calendars! More information will be announced at a later date. Here are some photos of this summer's workshop.



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The golden rod is yellow,
the corn is turning brown...
the trees in apple orchards
with fruit are bending down.

-Helen Hunt Jackson



December 20, 2021 is the deadline for newsletter items for our Winter issue. Email items of interest to janetlynnhart@comcast.net. Please remember to submit images and information about recent exhibits you may be participating in, classes taught, awards, local art events, etc.

The End