

*From the President...*

First, I'd like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as president of this wonderful watercolor society. I've now been a member of SWA for about ten years. Before that, I would attend SWA exhibitions and marvel at the artwork, but didn't think I'd ever be able to paint as well as all those talented artists. But after being invited to take a beginner watercolor course at the University of Texas at Arlington, I realized I was hooked!

I just recently retired after a long career working in the defense industry and feel like I now have time to really work at improving my painting. I can't tell you how happy that makes me. I'm one of those people that takes photos of everything with the idea of painting it later, and now I can sort through all those photos and actually put my brush to paper.

I'm excited about the 2025 calendar for SWA. We have a full slate of talented watercolor artists that will be attending our monthly meetings. Demo artists share not how they paint but also their valuable experiences in painting. We hope you'll be able to attend as they are a great way to not only learn new techniques but meet fellow artists. I've absorbed so much from listening to artists and learning about their favorite art supplies, publications and art events.

Our big exhibitions are moving back to Fort Worth this year, and we have two wonderful jurors selected for these shows. Michael Holter will be the juror for the International Juried Exhibition, and Tim Saternow will be the juror for the annual Membership Exhibition. Both will be held at The House of Neville Art Gallery. It's located just off Camp Bowie Blvd in Fort Worth. We're excited about the exhibitions being there as they are very good at hosting events and bringing in lots of people to see the artwork.

We also would like to start having Plein Air events again this year. If you haven't participated in one of these before, consider giving it a try. The first time I went to one, I simply sketched a few images as I had never tried to paint outdoors. But the experience was fun, and it was great learning opportunity. We'll work on finding a fun place to meet and share that information with everyone.

I look forward to a great 2025, and hope you'll contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions for our watercolor society.

All my best to you,

**Skeeter Murley**

Email: [swawatercolorpresident@gmail.com](mailto:swawatercolorpresident@gmail.com)

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*Happy  
New Year*  
**2025**



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# ***Next Meeting...*** Guest Demo Artist **Melinda Morrison**

**Monday, January 27th  
7:00pm  
UNT Health Science Center**

Artwork critiques begin at 6:30  
Bring a piece of your artwork, and  
Ann Winchester will critique your  
work. It's a great way to get free  
advice from a pro!



**Our meetings  
are held at the**

**UNT Health Science Center**  
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, Tx.



There is plenty of room to spread out to  
encourage social distancing.  
We want everyone to have fun and feel  
safe at the same time.

As a young woman, Melinda's B.A. in fine arts from the University of Texas at Tyler took a backseat to the corporate world for many years: advertising exec; graphic designer and art director of her own company; and later corporate and executive recruiter. Not surprisingly, in advertising, she was recognized in national competitions for her print design and annual reports. Shortly after her move to Denver in 1994, the satisfied extrovert began to hear from the starving artist. She says she "felt like her soul was drying up". An oil-painting class at the Art Students' League of Denver rained water on that desert ground.

Over the next five years, Melinda studied painting at the League under the guidance of master painters like, Quang Ho, Kim English, Kevin Weckbach, and Ron Hicks. As her passion and skill grew, so did her dream to paint full-time. She made the leap in 2003 and brought years of corporate skills into the new and intricate dance of a full-time professional art career.

As a sought-out teacher, she teaches and offers professional studies courses as well as offering workshop instruction from other nationally known artists. Moving to Fort Worth, Texas in 2015, Melinda continued to paint and teach. It was in Fort Worth that Melinda met internationally award-winning Julio Reyes and Candice Bohannon who changed her understanding of painting. They introduced her to egg tempera. Since that time, she has focused her energies towards mastering egg tempera and now works in both oils, egg tempera and gouache.

**Coming In February...**

**February Demo Artist – Sarah Janece**

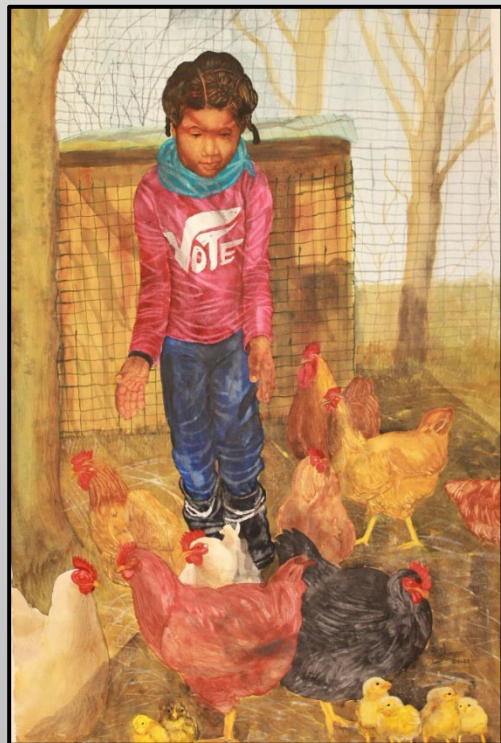
February 17th, 2025



# 2024 SWA Juried Membership & Small Works Exhibition

December 7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

The REC of Grapevine in Grapevine Texas    Juror – Lisa Tennant    Exhibition Chair – Laura Hannah



**Best of Show**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Non-Signature Division**

**Burl Washington**

Fort Worth, Texas

*Chicken Wrangler*



**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Small Works Exhibition**

**Ann Rowley**

Dallas, Texas

*Santa Fe*



**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Signature Member Division**

**Sondra Carr**

Chico, Texas

*Mood Indigo*

## - Awards -

### Signature Member Division

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Sondra Carr – *Indigo Blue*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Trish Poupard - *Aubergine*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Hugh Heaton – *Grapevine Dock*
- Juror's Award – Brenda Driggers – *Lost in Thought*
- Honorable Mention – Suzy Ware - *Serendipity*
- Honorable Mention – Kathy Albright – *Spring Fling*

### Non-Signature Member Division

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Burl Washington – *Chicken Wrangler*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Monica Bell - *SnowBirds*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Gina Judy – *Ballet VII: All Dressed*
- Juror's Award – Alexandra Savelieva – *Light to the World*
- Honorable Mention - Monica Austin - *Marki*
- Honorable Mention – Merri Chester – *Electric Sunset*
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Ann Rowley – *Santa Fe*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Laura Stamp – *At the Fair*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Terri Hennessy – *Beyond the Back Forty*

To see all the paintings accepted into this show,  
visit our website.

[Click Here](#)

# WELCOME!

## To Our Newest Members

We like to welcome new members to our watercolor society, along with returning members from years past.

**Rick Anderson** – Clinton, Mississippi

**Moria McCarthy** – Fort Worth, Texas

**Terry Pace** – Livingston, Texas

**Maryann Porter** – Fort Worth, Texas

**Robin Swindle** – Grapevine, Texas

**Lisa Tennant** – Killeen, Texas

### ★ **It's Time to Renew Your SWA Membership!** ★

**SWA Memberships run from January thru December of each year.**

We start taking memberships in October of each year for the following year.



**By renewing your SWA membership, it allows us to fund many of the programs we provide each year.**

It helps us book demo artists for the each of the monthly membership meetings and allows us to reserve the meeting room at the UNT Health Science Center in Fort Worth. Thos fees also allow us to maintain our website, not to mention multiple smaller expenditures that arise throughout the year. Remember, we are a non-profit organization, so we do our best to keep fees low and spend any funds wisely.

Click [HERE](#) to be taken to the membership page on our website.

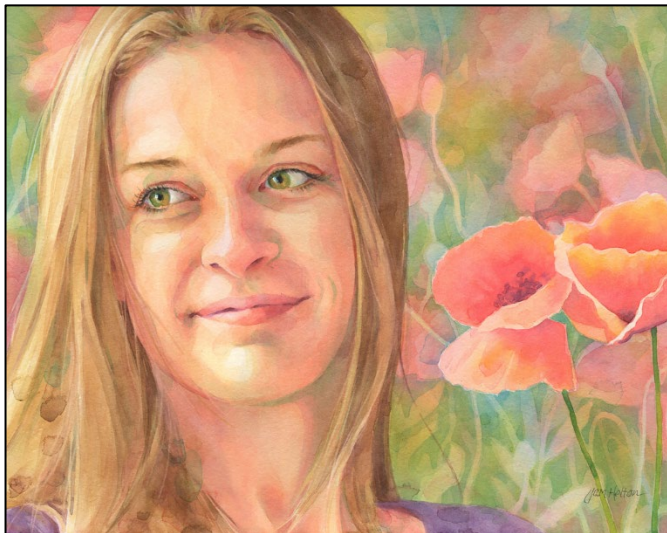
**SOCIETY OF WATERCOLOR ARTISTS**





**Darla Bostick's** painting *Georgia's Window, Ghost Ranch* (right) is one of her three paintings accepted into Grand Prairie Events & Hilton Inn Convention Center Curated Art Display.

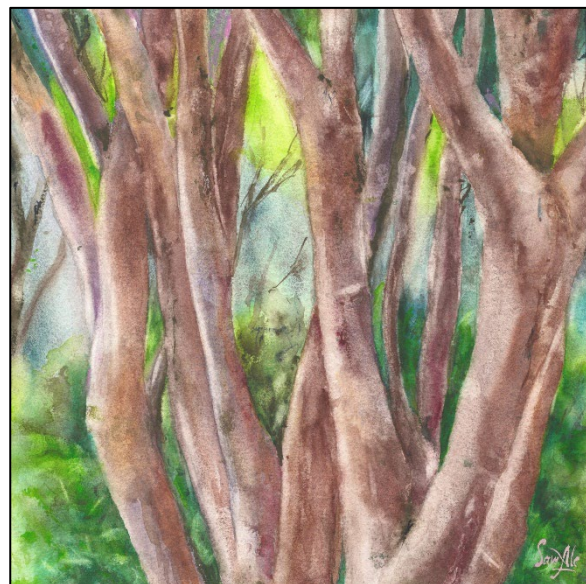
She also has paintings exhibited at the Lewisville Symphony in the Grand Performance Hall.



**Janine Helton** has an article in Realism Today. [On Watercolor Painting and Time to Think "In Between"](#)

And her painting *In Between* (left) received a Special Merit Award in the Art and Color 365 Magazine's 2024 Artist's Choice Competition.

**Alexandra Savilieva's** painting *Interlaced* (right) has been accepted into the UrbinolnAquerello 2025 International Watercolor Festival and Exhibition in Italy.





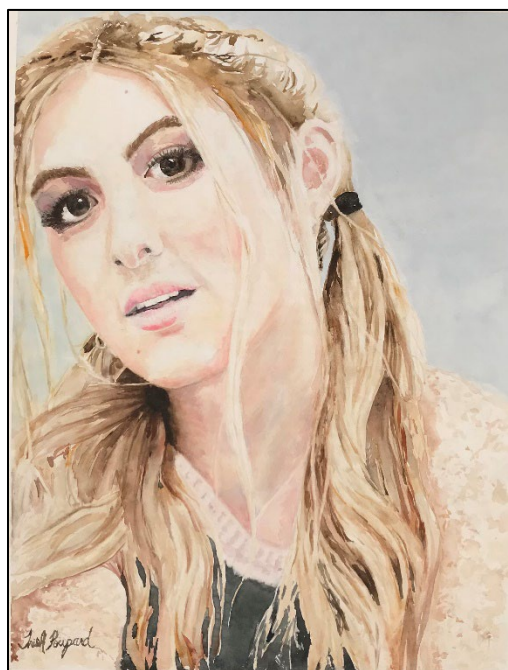


**Christine Alfery's** painting *Earth's Energies* (left) has been accepted into the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition in Lubbock, Texas. Juror – Ken Call



**Trish Poupard's** painting *Badass Biker* (above) was juried into the Arizona Aqueous XXXII. Juror – Barbara Borgwardt.

And her painting *Pigtails & Snowflakes* (left) won the Dr. & Mrs. Maynard Stetton Award at the Kentucky Watercolor Society Aqueous USA 2024.



**Marilyn Ivy** currently has four paintings in the House of NeVille Gallery and Gatherings "Strokes of Genius" exhibit opening January 11.

# ***SWA Fundraiser Opportunities***



***Community  
Rewards***

**Kroger** offers us the opportunity to raise funds for our watercolor society. They make quarterly donations to SWA based on the shopping you do every day in their stores.

Go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). Then simply follow the directions on how to link your Kroger card to our organization. We are listed as Society of Watercolor Artists Inc.

Your transactions moving forward using the Shopper's Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to SWA, at no added cost to you. **Every dollar we raise helps!**



## **DONATE DIRECTLY TO SWA**

Click the link below to be taken to a page to donate to SWA through PayPal.

[\*\*CLICK HERE TO DONATE\*\*](#)

You can also donate by writing a check payable to Society of Watercolor Artists and sending it to:

**SWA**

**P.O. Box 471571**

**Fort Worth, Texas 76147**

**We want to thank you in advance for considering a donation to the Society of Watercolor Artists.**

SWA will be able to use your donations to support our operational needs.

Those needs include funding for meeting & gallery space, equipment, outreach and awards.

[SWA is a 501\(c\)3 nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.](#)

## **SWA Painting of the Month Competition**

Don't forget to bring a painting to the January meeting to enter the **2025 Painting of the Month** contest.

Paints that win 1st Place in the monthly contests throughout the year become eligible for the year ending Painting of the Year contest!

**Next Meeting**

**Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

(Artwork critiques start at 6:30pm)



# Have you renewed your SWA Membership for 2025?

**SWA Memberships run from January through December.**

If you aren't sure if you've already renewed for 2025, click on this [link](#) to look at the SWA Membership Directory.

Renew your membership online at

[www.swawatercolor.com/joinswa](http://www.swawatercolor.com/joinswa)



## SWA Holiday Party!



December 13, 2024  
Fort Worth, Texas







**SWA**

P.O. Box 471571  
Fort Worth, Texas  
76147

[www.swawatercolor.com](http://www.swawatercolor.com)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*Skeeter Murley*

**SECRETARY**

*Evette Oister*

**TREASURER**

*Christopher Stewart*

**EDUCATION/WORKSHOP**

*- vacant -*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

*Iok-Hou Pang*

**MEMBERSHIP**

*Iok-Hou Pang*

**Exhibition Chair**

*Janet Southern*

**2025**

# 2025 CALENDAR

Our meetings are held at the UNT Health Science Center  
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth, Tx.

**January 27** – Melinda Morrison - Demo Artist

**February 17** – Sarah Janece - Demo Artist

**March 17** – Jim Gensheer - Demo Artist

**April 21** – Michael Holter - Demo Artist

**April 22, 23 & 24** – Michael Holter Workshop

**May 19** – Joshua West - Demo Artist

**June, July & August** – No Meetings, Summer Break

**September 15** – Tim Saternow - Demo Artist

**September 16, 17 & 18** – Tim Saternow Workshop

**October 20** – Robert Krazewski - Demo Artist

**November 17** – Ron Crouch - Demo Artist

Masks are not required to attend the meetings.  
There is a lot of space inside the room for social distancing.  
We really do want everyone to have fun & feel safe.

**Your SWA Board Members continues to  
hold regular monthly meetings via Zoom .**

If you have any questions or suggestions,  
please send them to Skeeter Murley at  
[swawatercolorpresident@gmail.com](mailto:swawatercolorpresident@gmail.com)



If you have any news you would like  
to share in future e-mails, please feel  
free to send it our way. We've set  
up a new e-mail address for you to  
send all of your newsletter info to.

[swa.membernews@gmail.com](mailto:swa.membernews@gmail.com)

# SWA INFORMATION STATION



## SWA memberships runs on a calendar year January through December

You may join SWA anytime during the year. Our official membership campaign begins in October as our regular year runs with the calendar: January through December. Those who join mid-year do not receive a discounted membership fee, but they are eligible for the membership juried show in the fall, which is for current members only. We will not be meeting during the summer months and will resume in September.

## We like new members...invite your friends!



SWA Membership includes these benefits:

- ✚ Fellowship with like-minded creative folks
- ✚ Free monthly SWA newsletter
- ✚ Entry discount for any SWA show
- ✚ Annual Juried Membership Exhibition
- ✚ Annual Juried International Exhibition
- ✚ Painting of the Month Contest
- ✚ Invitation to Plein-Air events
- ✚ Links to Members' Websites
- ✚ While maintaining active SWA membership, earn SWA Signature Status after selection to 5 SWA juried exhibitions. (without disqualification)
- ✚ Advance notification & entry into Workshops
- ✚ Fun Competitions!
- ✚ Watercolor Holiday Greeting Cards
- ✚ December Holiday Party and Gift Exchange

Our Monthly meetings are held at the UNT Health Science Center building in Fort Worth. After you turn from Camp Bowie to Clinton St turn left into a sloping parking lot beyond the vacant kiosk. We are on the bottom floor of the building to the right corner. Watch for a sign on the parking lot with directions to our room (or check the map on the website)

6:30pm Artwork Critique (bring in 1 or 2 works for some friendly advice) Ann Winchester – Artwork Critique Artist

7:00pm Member meeting begins after a short business discussions & announcements.

## 2025 Committees & Volunteer Opportunities

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: **AVAILABLE** (*Candidate Identified*)

Painting of the Month/Year: **AVAILABLE**

Monthly Critique: Ann Winchester

Programs: Marilyn Ivy

Social Chairman (Refreshments/Receptions): **AVAILABLE**

Workshop Chair: **AVAILABLE**

House & Properties: **AVAILABLE**

### EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Janet Southern

Hanging Volunteers: **AVAILABLE**

SWA Signatures: Veronica Ritchey

Prize Sponsors: Skeeter Murley

### PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Skeeter Murley

Newsletter Editor: Iok-Hou Pang / Skeeter Murley

Photography: Veronica Ritchey

Print Editor for Catalogs: Skeeter Murley

Publicity: **AVAILABLE**

Website & Social Media Manager: Skeeter Murley

### FINANCE AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

CHAIR and Director of Finance & Budget: Christopher Stewart

Professional Standards (yearly audit): **AVAILABLE**

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIR and Director of Membership: Iok-Hou Pang / Skeeter Murley

Greeters: **AVAILABLE**

Editor of Online Membership Directory: Skeeter Murley