

Southern Watercolor Society



February 2007

CALENDAR

SW EXHIBITIONS

2007—30th Annual Exhibit

March 16—April 13

Juror: [Frank Webb](#)

Workshop March 12—16

Colquitt County Arts Center

401 7th Avenue SW

Moultrie, Georgia

Contact:

Jane Simpson 229.985.1922

djsarts@moultriega.net

2008—31st Annual Exhibit

Feb 25 through Mar 30

Gadsden Arts Center

Quincy FL Contact:

Ann Kromhout 850.877.7920

ann@kromhout.us

2009—32nd Annual Exhibit

Columbus State University

Columbus, GA Contact:

Geri Davis 706.327.5829

geridavis@mchsi.com

We are Growing!

The statistics are in for the 2007—30th Annual Exhibition. There were 449 slides of paintings entered, with 87 of them being accepted into the show. Twenty-nine more paintings were entered than last year. All the paintings are top-notch, and our juror is going to have a very difficult time with the award selections.

Entering artists totaled 238, which is 15 more than in 2006. Also, our membership is growing ...always important for maintaining quality exhibitions and experienced jurors, workshops, and locations. Thank you, Jane Simpson and staff at CCAC, for bringing the 30th together!

Our 30th!

—Don Taylor, President 2007-09

Our 30th Annual Exhibition at Moultrie, Georgia is upon us, and I hope many of you have made plans to attend. After meeting with Jane Simpson and the staff at Moultrie, I was truly astounded at the beautiful facilities there. This will be a fantastic venue for the SW Exhibition. I encourage all of our members to make an effort to see the show and attend the annual meeting.

I want to thank Frank Webb, our Judge/juror, for working so diligently to expedite the notification of our applicants. Jane Simpson and her volunteers at Moultrie are working hard to make this an outstanding showcase of talent.

Congratulations to those who were accepted, and thanks to all who applied. Don't be discouraged if your painting was not selected this year. We all know that a rejected painting may be the next award winner elsewhere.



For those paintings that were accepted, you will have noticed that SW is strongly urging the use of Airfloat Systems Strongbox. Those members who have participated in packing/unpacking paintings for an exhibition will readily understand the rationale behind this recommendation. In 2008, it is likely that Airfloat boxes will be required. While the SW board does not wish to impose undue financial hardships on our members, this proposal will greatly expedite the handling of paintings and greatly reduce the incidence of damage.

Thanks to all of the SW board for their work and devotion of time to help keep the Southern Watercolor Society going forward. Some have had medical problems as well as the loss of close family members. I especially wish to thank those who have faced these additional burdens.

Keep painting! I look forward to seeing you in Moultrie. Don

RSVP

SW 2007 Annual Meeting AND Awards Ceremony

Friday, March 16, 2007 at 4:30 pm

Yes, I will be attending, and there will be _____ person(s) in my party. I understand the afternoon tea is being donated for our enjoyment by friends of the Colquitt County Arts Center.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please mail this **RSVP** to

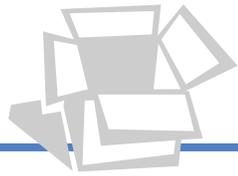
Jane Simpson

Colquitt County Arts Center

401 7th Avenue Southwest

Moultrie GA 31768

1-229-985-1922



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Fax: 1.800.562.4323

E-mail at:

sales@airfloatsys.com

Moultrie Accommodations

Forgotten to make your reservations for the SW 2007 Annual Meeting? Let Jane Simpson know right now if you will be attending. No time to mail the RSVP? Then call CCAC at 1-229-985-1922. We really want to see you!

Stay the night and visit the area. There are many vistas for Plein Air painting or just for relaxing in the old South.

Hotels

Best Western Expo Inn

(229) 890-8652

Country Hearth Inn & Suites

(229) 985-2200

Hampton Inn of Moultrie

(229) 616-7777

Moultrie Inn

(229) 890-2401

Bed & Breakfast

Barber Tucker House

(229) 890-0714

Pecan Hill Inn

(229) 985-7869

MEMBER NEWS

**OFFICERS/BOARD
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Don't forget...

You can see this newsletter in full color on the SW web site at www.southernwatercolorociety.org

You need to install **Adobe Reader** on your computer (free at www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html).

Click on "Newsletter" then on the new page click "Newsletter."

Jan Ledbetter, Williamsburg VA, has received a number of awards from the National Watercolor Society (NWS). One of her paintings was juried into the 86th Annual Juried NWS Exhibition 2007.



—Jan was further honored when this painting was selected to receive the Alexander Nepote Memorial Award, chosen for the Exhibition announcement, and included in the NWS 86th Annual Travel Show which will go to museums and galleries across the country this year.



Most importantly the Jury of Selection, in a separate proceeding, has awarded Jan Signature Member status in the National Watercolor Society.

—American Artist Watercolor Magazine Winter issue 2007 will feature an article on Jan's paintings.

Johanna Hanks, Topeka KS, will be having an exhibit at the



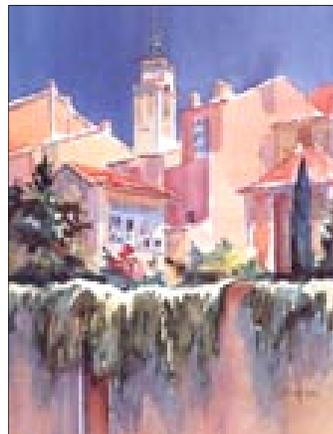
Painting by Johanna Hanks

KU campus Green Room, February 11—March 30.

—Johanna will also have a watercolor at the SouthWind gallery with KWCS invitational exhibit in March.

Linda Kerlin, Jasper TN, was invited to do a Solo Show at Lee University in Cleveland TN. The show runs February 8th—March 8th. She also had a painting accepted into The Memorial Foundations art for healing Gala in Chattanooga TN. —Her painting, "Impressions of Sequatchie River" has been accepted into 2007 Southern Watercolor's 30th Exhibit held March 16 at the Colquitt Arts Ctr. in Moultrie GA.

Carolyn Grossé Gawarecki, Falls Chase VA. "Here's a real coincidence: Steve entered his photographs and I entered my watercolors in the Art League shows since the new Art League year began. We did July, Aug. (away in Sept) and Oct. and we both were juried in all 3 shows and we both sold our works in the Oct. show. This will probably never happen again!"



Reaching for Heaven,
Roussillon, Provence, by
Carolyn Grossé Gawarecki

—Carolyn did a critique session for Washington Watercolor Art Society Nov 11.

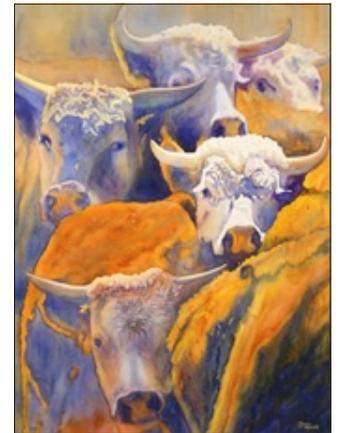
—She presented a slide show and talk on "Shadow Shapes" for the Montgomery Art Association on Nov. 7 at Plaza Arts on

Rockville Pike.

—Carolyn will be teaching a watercolor workshop at Lake Como (8 nights) and Verona (4 nights) including a day in Venice, on June 4-16 2007. Steve travels along and helps artists with their cameras and photography, an extra plus. This is a most magical and very atmospheric and paintable place. For information about this wonderful and well planned trip call Carolyn 703-532-5278 or Susan Webster at 703-533-0891 or see:

www.webstersworld.net

—Carolyn will also teach her Eastern Shore Workshop at the Robert Morris Inn in Oxford, MD May 6 - 11. For information call Carolyn at 703-532-5278 or email at grosseart@cox.net



No Push Zone by Don Taylor

Don Taylor, Panama City FL, sold his painting "No Push Zone" that was entered in the Florida W/C Society 2006 Exhibition.

— His painting "Another Fine Pair" was accepted into the 2007 Texas W/C Society Juried Exhibition.

—Another painting "The Guiding Light" was accepted into the 2007 Transparent W/C Society of America Exhibition.

—Don presented the monthly program for the Tallahassee Watercolor Soc. General Meeting on Feb. 18th, at the Le-Moyne Education Annex in Tallahassee FL.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lois Crabtree Armstrong
Rutledge TN

Susan Arnold
Savannah GA

Lisa B. Boardwine
Grundy VA

Nel Dorn Byrd
Plano TX

Kay Coop
Cordova TN

Ashley Desmond
Midwest City OK

Sally Evans
Alpharetta GA

Lou Everett
Greenville NC

Louise Hansen
Baton Rouge LA

Verena Heroux
Newport NC

Dorothy Higby
Panama City FL

Linda Marie Hill-Rocha
Palm Beach Gardens FL

Eleanor Hobgood
Canton GA

Paul Jackson
Columbia MO

Peggy Kossler
Venice FL

Dorothy Metting
Cummings GA

Linda D. Neal
Melbourne FL

Shirlene Ogan
Newnan GA

Janice Rentz
Albany GA

Christy Cline Smith
Troutman NC

James Stephens
Atlanta GA

Jane Stouffer
Wicomico Church VA

Jean Weiner
Albany GA

Joyce Williams
Lexington KY

The complete membership list can be found on the SW web site: southernwatercolorssociety.org

Using Web Sites to Promote Your Art

Question: I'm interested, but how secure is my artwork on a web site?

Answer: Below by Chris Krupinski, AWS, NWS, SW, of Fairfax VA.

As far as the stumbling block of sharing vs. security, we risk the security issue anytime and anywhere that we exhibit our work. We own our work and it is automatically ours under copyright laws (even if the image is sold, we still retain the copyright). I think it is important to place the copyright symbol on the work next to our signatures as a reminder.

A website should have a copyright notice on it, hopefully to deter people from using any of the content. One good thing about a website is that the images are small and at a low resolution and therefore are of no value if someone tries to enlarge them.

I do have two "posters" out there highlighting a couple of my paintings. They are splashed everywhere on the internet by poster companies that have them for sale. I did receive an email from someone on e-bay (and I have no idea how they got my email address) alerting me that someone was selling needlepoint kits with my image. I immediately sent an email to this person letting her know that I was the artist and owned the copyright. She immediately took it off line.

The internet is the highway of information, no doubt. For artists to steer clear of this magnificent door to the world out of fear that their images may be misused is shooting themselves in the foot.

It opens up a whole realm of marketing possibilities. It allows artists to have virtual galleries. It allows them to expand their markets and include possible clients that they would not have been previously able to reach. It allows viewers to enjoy their paintings without having to search for exhibitions or set up appointments in studios. ~

Another Voice

"Here's my view on artist's web sites. They are excellent for advertising ones work. My site is viewed at least 2 times a day. But I don't think they sell directly from the work on the site. Most of my clients would rather buy after seeing the real thing."

—Marilynne Bradley, SW Past President

REMEMBERING OUR SW MEMBER

Anne Topolinski
Cantonment FL
1941–2007

Anne, a native of Mississippi and a graduate of Delta State University, she resided briefly in New Orleans before making Pensacola FL her home.

She was a veteran of numerous juried exhibitions and has won awards for her work throughout the Southern states. Her works hang in public and private collections throughout



the United States and overseas.

Anne was an active participant with Southern W/C and a fine painter. She will be greatly missed.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Alabama: Dottie West, 164 Moss Bend Dr., Helena, AL 35080 • 1-204 426-0648 • dwest123@aol.com

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South Carolina: Elaine Stone Wagner, 696 Perrin Dr., Spartanburg SC 29307 • 1-864 579-2693 • eswsc@charter.net

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Virginia: Chica Brunsvold, 3510 Wentworth Dr, Falls Church VA 22044 • 1-703 256-1985

• chicabrunsvold@iuno.com
West Virginia: Rita Montrose, 402 Oakvale Rd, Princeton WVA 24740 • 1-304 425-6140

MEMBER NEWS

Lynne Kroll, Coral Springs FL, is one of 10 newly elected



Signature members in the American Watercolor Society. This was achieved by having

artwork accepted into the Juried International Exhibitions three times in a ten-year period. This year is the third year her artwork was accepted. →

—The American Watercolor Society 140th International Exhibition will be at the Salmagundi Club Galleries, New York March 27-April 22, 2007.

—Lynne had 2 artworks juried into the NAWA “Florida Gold” Multi-Media Exhibit, Capitol Art Gallery, Tallahassee, FL, Oct. 15–Jan 14, 2007.

Virginia Kweller, a native of Bowling Green, Kentucky, now a 17-year Nashville resident, has won acceptance into the prestigious American Juried Art Salon’s 2006 Fall/Winter show. Two works of the artist were accepted and won the “Award of Excellence” both in the Watercolor division. They are “Anna” and “Grandma.”

Miriam Pinkerton, Oak Island NC had an exhibit of her mixed water-media and pastel paintings, titled Different Brushstrokes, at the Cary Senior Center in Cary, NC. in the month of December.



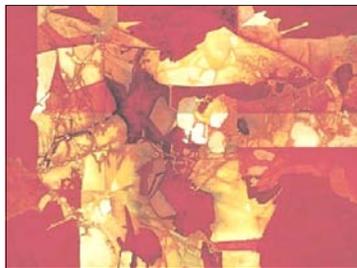
Waiting and Watching
by Miriam Pinkerton

Miriam was awarded Signature Membership in the Watercolor Society of North Carolina at their



Lynne Kroll's painting exhibited in the American Watercolor Society Juried International Exhibition

annual meeting in Rocky Mount NC and also won the Winsor-Newton award.



Hidden Agenda by Diane Schmidt

Diane Schmidt, Sarasota FL, won First Place Awards in Alaska and Wyoming National exhibits, and First Place in Venice Art Center's all Abstract exhibit, the Lindmark Award for Design in Northeast Watercolor's 30th national, —
—Diane received Signature status in Philadelphia WC Society.



Anne Chaddock, Manakin-Sabot VA, has been awarded the “Cynthia Shipp Goodgal Memorial Award” for “Sun Cluster” in the 110th Annual Catharine Lorillard Wolf’s Exhibition at the National Arts Club, NY, NY.

Betty Jameson, Austin TX, had a painting accepted into the Northwest Art Center 36th Annual Americas 2000: Paperworks Exhibition at Harnett Hall Gallery, Minot State Uni-

versity, North Dakota.

—Betty Jameson’s work (see below) entitled “Butterfly” received Special Recognition in the 9th Annual All Media International Juried Online Art Exhibition which debuts this month worldwide on www.upstreampeoplegallery.com This work was chosen from nearly 500



entries. The show will remain in the archive section online for one year with nearly 700,000 website hits monthly.

—Betty Jameson's paintings, “Fossil Story” and “Reef” have been accepted into the 2007 National Juried Exhibition of Artists’ Showplace Gallery. The Exhibition takes place in the Gallery at 15615 Coit Road, Dallas TX from February 16 to March 8 ‘07.

Membership dues are delinquent after March 1st each year. Have you paid yours?

Laurin McCracken, Fort Worth TX—News from 2006 —I had 7 paintings included in Splash 9, The Best of Watercolor. My work was included in an article “Projecting & Art” in the November issue of the Artist’s Magazine.

—I received Signature Membership in Southern Watercolor Society, Mississippi Watercolor Society and the Watercolor Society of Alabama.



Still Life with Plums
by Laurin McCracken

—In addition, I had paintings accepted Watercolor West, Louisiana Watercolor Society, Watercolor Art Society of Houston and Tennessee Watercolor Society.

—I had a one-person show at the Tennessee Art league, Nashville, TN and will participate in a two-man show at the Jack Meier Gallery, Houston, TX in March.

See: www.lauringallery.com

Newsletter Photos can be sent as prints, slides or by email in a medium .jpg format. If you want your photos returned, please send an SASE along with your items.

Deadlines for news/photos:

Apr 15 '07 for May

Jul 15 '07 for Aug.

Oct 15 '07 for Nov.

Jan 15 '08 for Feb.

Ann Kromhout, SW Editor
2625 Hickory Ridge Rd
Tallahassee FL 32308
1-850 877-7920
Email = ann@kromhout.us

INTERNET GALLERY

Our Members Gallery—Edna Piersol Windes

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE AT OUR WEBSITE AS THAT BOOSTS OUR RATING ON THE SEARCH ENGINES. Notify Edna Immediately if you notice mistakes.

As a member of Southern Watercolor Society, you are eligible to join the Southern Watercolor Society Members Gallery on the web site. To join send the following to Edna Piersol Windes ~ednawindes@mac.com

1) Send 3 painting images in JPEG at 72 dpi. (Contact me if you need assistance on this.)

Send a separate e-mail for each painting with it's description in the body of the message and attach that painting's image file. In each e-mail message, give the description for that image ~ name, size, where exhibited, if for sale, price. If reproductions are available also send the reproduction's sizes and prices. I can download images from your web site if you prefer.

PLEASE BE SURE TO USE "SW" OR Southern Watercolor Society IN THE TITLE OF YOUR FIRST E-MAIL MESSAGE so I know you are not spam.

2.) Then send a 4th e-mail with your short biography in the BODY of the E-MAIL MESSAGE. Do not attach your biography as a file. All the different systems and servers and translators that

a file must go through can really create editing problems. Please no Italics, no fancy type face. Eliminate dashes (— or -). Use commas (,) instead or use tildes (~).

Send any links to other sites you want included. For instance mine says to visit <http://www.ednawagnerpiersol.com> and I am soon going to add other art groups where my work can be seen. The more links the better.

3.) Then mail a check for \$15 set up fee to me, made out to Edna Piersol Windes (that sets up a contract with SW and Edna to show you allow your images on our page.) You don't pay any more unless you want major changes to your page. SW pays the rest, DO NOT make the check out to Southern WCS or any other name than EDNA's (very important). Mail the check to Edna Piersol Windes, 1082 Cameo Dr., Campbell CA 95008. Mark the memo area on your check "SW web site"

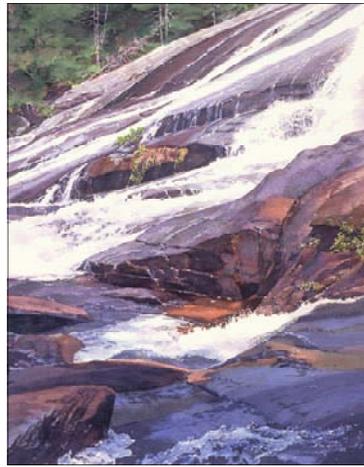
THE SITE IS NOT RESTRICTED TO WATER-MEDIA. At the moment you can have oils, pastels, or even sculpture. Just tell us what the piece is in detail including size and price and if reproductions are available.

To see the SW web pages go to www.southernwatercolorssociety.org
Click on the Members Gallery

MEMBER NEWS

Lew Wallace, Brevard NC, earned his Signature status in the National Watercolor Society at the 86th Annual Exhibition in October of 2006.

—Lew also received the Jack Richeson & Co. Merchandise Award. His painting, "High Falls at Dupont," is included in the NWS Travel Show Exhibition for 2007. →



Ageless Surface by Autry Dye

"I felt sort of inspired after finishing this one so I wrote a poem about it. Probably bad, I had attached it to the back of the painting and realize that it is now out of my hands. It is being shown in a Florence AL gallery.

Autry Dye, Pensacola FL, recently won an Award of Excellence in the first on-line exhibition of the Watercolor Society of Alabama, giving her Signature status in that organization. Also recently won a Merit award in the Bay Rivers Art Guild in Daphne, Alabama.

"The American Watercolor Society travel exhibit broke all the attendance records at Art Center Manatee in Bradenton FL. It was a terrific show and the Art Center provided a grant to bring the area high school art students and their teachers to see the exhibit, which was hosted by myself (Diane),

Anne Abgott and Douglas Teller (our SW state representative).

"Nearly 300 students took part in the three separate tours. Most of these student artists had never been in an art center before."

"The Art Center will receive the AWS travel show again in 2008." —Diane Schmidt



Diane Schmidt, Sarasota FL, started the New Year on a high note with the top award at Manatee Art Center for her newest abstract "Revelation", seen above.

—Her painting "Sibling Rivalry" is touring Texas with the other award winners in their current exhibit that was juried by Frank Webb.

Edna Piersol-Windes, Campbell CA, is a featured artist on The Western Artist This Week. www.thewesternartist.com/index.php?refid=166 "It is by invitation and I do have to pay a little but I can be featured again anytime I want."

MEMBER NEWS



Jean Weiner, Albany GA, says: "Hi all. I received word today that my painting, 'Mandy' (above), has been accepted into the 28th Annual Georgia Watercolor Society National Exhibition. This show is comprised of 2 dimensional water-media works of art submitted by artists across the nation. Last year's show was made up of 70 paintings from over 400 entries from 27 states.

"The juror for this year's exhibition is nationally known artist, Skip Lawrence. The exhibition opens at the Carrollton Cultural Arts Center in Carrollton, GA on April 21 and runs through May 25. For more information visit: www.georgiawatercolorssociety.com

"I am thrilled!!" —Jean
www.jmweiner.com

Workshops by SW Members

As you research the dates and locations of your next painting adventure, first be sure to check the instructional offerings of our [SW members](#).

Listings of workshops being taught by various members can be found on the SW website. The link is in the middle of the opening page, [in red letters!](#) southernwatercolorssociety.org

If you don't have an internet connection, call Edna or any of the Board members, and we'll be happy to read them to you.

Members please note: you can list your workshop on the SW web site by contacting ednawindes@mac.com

Welcome New Patron

We are happy to welcome **Nancy McAllister** as a new SW Patron. What she has to offer is very important to all our artist members.

"Hello, I own a small gallery in Guntersville, Alabama called Fortunes Rocks. I am always seeking new artists for the gallery. I would like to encourage (SW) artists to consider expanding their gallery representation with us. Best regards."

Nancy McAllister
Fortunes Rocks Fine Art
709 Blount Ave
Guntersville AL 35976
jimfoots@charter.net



WORKSHOP



Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky is introducing a new painting workshop series this year. Our first instructor is Paul George, an award winning watercolorist. Mr. George

comes to us from the East Coast. He is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society. Mr. George has exhibited at the historic Salmagudi Club in New York City, and has won many prestigious awards including the Windsor Newton Award for Excellence in Watercolor at the National Watercolor Society. His work is collected throughout the United States and Europe. He teaches through out Massachusetts, Maine, and Florida. He currently resides in Ipswich, MA.

For further inquiries call Shaker Village
1-800-734-5611
Ask for Ann Voris, X-1548
www.shakervillageky.org



A Variety of Memberships

As you were reading the article to the left, were you surprised to see the category of "Patron"? This is not new. It has been a part of the SW By-Laws since the Society was formed. Patrons are a benefit to the artists of the Society and the organization itself. Talk to friends or businesses in your city or state that are willing and happy to support SW!

An Associate Member is an artist who wishes to belong to the Southern Watercolor Society, but whose work has not yet been accepted into a juried membership competitive exhibition.

An Active Member is an artist whose work has been accepted in one (1) or two (2) of the juried membership competitive exhibitions of Southern Watercolor Society, but has not achieved Signature status. The Active Member has voting privilege.

An Artist Signature Member is one whose work has been accepted into Three (3) juried membership competitive exhibitions of Southern Watercolor Society. The acceptance must be in three separate juried exhibitions, not one exhibition that has two or three entries accepted. The Artist Signature Member has voting privileges and has earned the right to the initials "SW" with artist's signature on paintings. Acceptance in any other membership category does not assign the rights to use the initials "SW" in any official capacity in relation to this Corporation.

A Patron or Friend is one who is not an artist but enjoys and supports the activities of the Southern Watercolor Society. This status is reserved for individuals and families, businesses or corporations. A Friend contributes \$26 to \$99. A Patron is a donor of \$100 or more. The Patron or Friend has no voting privilege. ~

WORKSHOP

Edna Wagner Piersol (Windes)

(our past president and web master) is alive and well and living in California now. She will be exhibiting in Open Studios in the San Jose CA area May 5 and 6, 2007 and is now presenting workshops on the west coast.

Her latest workshop is in a wonderfully secluded retreat center in the Santa Cruz Mountains only about 12 miles south of San Jose, CA, only minutes from the San Jose Airport and Silicon Valley. Workshops are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with interesting side trips like optional whale watching and light house and ocean painting, or artists can just hike the mountains and paint on site.

The five day workshops include accommodations for 5 days & nights including 3 meals per day. All dates have not yet been finalized, but Edna would like to know of anyone interested. More details will be available on her web site soon.
<ednawindes@mac.com> <http://www.ednawagnerpiersol.com>



California Cypress painted at the Santa Cruz Light House by Edna Wagner Piersol.

WORKSHOPS

China with Dong Feng Li and Fredieka Marshall

"Hello, My name is Ann Koze-liski, and I am a member the Swanp Buddha Sumie Group in Tallahassee, FL.

"One of our visiting instructors Dong Feng Li along with Fredieka Marshall a western watercolor instructor are organizing a 24 day trip to China. We will be painting in both Eastern and Western watercolor styles all throughout China. In addition learn Eastern Watercolor first hand from professors from several Chinese Universities.

"I will be going on the trip along with two other members of my group that are local as well. You may feel free to contact me locally. Thank you." Ann Kozeliski at 850 386-5041 or aekozyahoo.com

China Painting Workshop/ Sightseeing Trip 2007

Depart May 21 for Beijing from Chicago. The itinerary includes visits to the Great Wall, Terra Cotta Warriors, Yellow Mountain Forbidden City, Hongcun Village and much, much more. The cost is \$3,860.00 per person which does not include the airfare to Chicago. If you wish to go but not participate in the Art workshop aspect the fee is only \$3,500.00.

For more information please contact Dong Fang Li directly at: sumitrip2004@yahoo.com or Frederica Marshall at: fredericamarshall@verizon.net

Travel and Paint with Jann Pollard, NWS.

You will have lots of CHOICES for 2007 - Normandy, Lake Como, Tuscany, Dordogne, Villa in Tuscany, Sicily and San Francisco! Non-painters welcome. Get much more info at: www.jannpollard.com/workshops.htm. Then, click any red link for more information. Phone: 650.342.8891 or Email: jann@jannpollard.com Thank you so much. —Jann

What does it take to be a creative artist?

—Gary Snavelly

1. You need to be a learner. When we stop learning we stop growing. We need to be exposed to other artists. We need to be challenged to try. We need ideas and inspiration. We need to study other creative fields like music, and computers, and fishing, and cabinet making.

People are different kinds of learners. All learning comes in through the five senses so it has to be experiential. But some receive the information as romantics, and others as logical analyticals, some are intuitive, and some are contemplators, while others are strategic thinkers. Artists can be found among all types.

2. You need to be a risk taker. An artist needs to be willing to redefine failure as research. We need to begin with the question "What if, and why not."

3. You need to break through the barriers. An artist needs to be able to keep going when they feel like giving up. To push through with a painting when it doesn't seem to be working. We need to paint whether we feel like it or not. Inspiration comes more in the doing than in the dreaming.

4. You need to plan. Planning begins with asking questions. If we want our art to connect with the viewer we need to ask the right questions. It serves no purpose if our art speaks to an issue no one is thinking about. Ask: what drew you to this subject? If it grabbed you then chances are it will grab someone else. What is the essence of that grab? Was it texture? Color? Size? A glow? Character? Shapes?

Planning begins with seeing. Seeing has three parts. First the physical act of seeing something. Secondly, you see the details, and thirdly, you see the significance of what is really there. An artist must get to this third level of seeing and find a way to convey it in the painting. A plan requires translating that question, into sight and then onto paper as a value sketch and then into a color study and then into a painting. There is a reason the artist's room is called a studio. It is where we study.

5. You need people. An artist needs three people in his or her life. You need an artist in front of you that is your mentor or model. Someone you admire and want to emulate. Someone who pulls you forward and inspires you. You also need someone beside you, someone equal to you. The kind of fellow traveler who encourages you and you encourage them. You need that mutual need meeting friend. The third person in your life is someone behind you. Someone you are investing in. You become the mentor, you are the model.

6. You need to know the difference between a rule and a guideline. There are very few rules in art. There are many guidelines. If you try and follow the rules without exception you may end up killing a painting. But ignoring the helpful guidelines will also ruin a painting.

Never let the rules supersede the relationships. Relationships are what make things beautiful. Rules should enhance the relationships. Relationships are things like: light against dark, or warm against cool, or a hard edge against a soft edge, or a small bright spot in a field of muted tones. You can bend the rules but never at the expense of honoring the relationships.

7. You need to defeat the myths. *Myth:* To be a good artist you have to have expensive tools. Victor Hugo painted with sticks and rags. *Myth:* You need to have a space dedicated to your art. Nice if you can but it is a myth. *Myth:* You have to get out and see Monet's garden. You don't even have to leave home to paint a masterpiece. Great art is making the ordinary appear extraordinary.

8. Finally, you need a vision. Why do you want to paint? I like what one writer said about why he writes: "Because it isn't there." Until you create the painting it isn't there. It needs to be there. Why do you paint? Most paint to share what they see and feel. They want others to connect with the world around them the way they do.

Art is expressing reality through personality. It is both a self-revelation and a shared experience at the same time.

Gary lives with his wife, Gini, and their cat, Winslow Homer, in West Linn, Oregon.

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Please keep your email address current and send membership information to:
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