



Hot Press News

November 2014

• P.O. Box 984

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www.delawarewatercolorsociety.org

DWS Artist Members Exhibition

Artist Members have their artwork on display at the Art League of Ocean City in Ocean City, MD until November 29th. Artist members are those who have reached signature-level status and can sign DWS after their names. The exhibition is made up of 31 paintings



Opening night at the Ocean City gallery.

encompassing a wide range of subject matter and demonstrating the high level of artistic skill required to be juried as a Signature Member.

As a two-tiered organization, DWS supports artistic endeavors in aqueous media at all skill levels. Signature status is a special distinction awarded to artists whose work has passed a strenuous evaluation process in which a jury of Signature members review four paintings submitted by a candidate. DWS assesses the paintings against rigorous

standards that judge the artist's competence in the use of the watercolor medium, compositional skills, and creativity to determine if the artwork meets the high standards set by DWS. The Signature jury meets twice each year to select new Signature Members.

Susan Abbott, a well-known artist and art educator who teaches workshops in the US and abroad, judged the works and selected six artists for special recognition. Lesley McCaskill received First Place for her entry, *Moored Along the Canal*. The judge thought that this was an especially strong painting. "With its fresh color and gestural brushstrokes, this painting looks like a watercolor. The artist has picked a subject and vantage point that many painters would overlook and created a very appealing and unusual composition."



First Place winner, Lesley McCaskill, poses with her painting of the canal.

Anne Crown-Cyr won Second Place for her entry *Gordon's Pond* because it offered a very different approach to the watercolor medium. Abbott noted, "I liked this landscape's sensitive handling and subtle color harmony."

John Hassler garnered Third Place for his painting *Candy*, which Abbott believed is impressive for its scale, technique, and the artist's commitment to carrying out an ambitious idea.

In addition, Abbott presented three Merit Awards for paintings she recognized for special achievement. These included Nancy Brown's *Tangled Nets*, Christine Heyse's *King's Ice Cream*, and Dale Sheldon's *Sunrise and Surf*.

A special thanks to Paige Ruby and Isabel Pizzolato for receiving and hanging the Signature Show. It looks great.

Stop by and see the exhibition. The Art League of Ocean City gallery is open daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 502 94th Street, Ocean City, MD 21843. Tel: (410) 524-9433 or visit www.artleagueofoceancity.org.

Miniature Show Followup

News flash! DWS artists juried Miniature show at the BATTERY sold 10 paintings! Congratulations to Catherine Serwalt, Diann Corsnitz, Sue Dutton, Donna Sheppard, Patricia Hoey, Gerilyn Gaskill, Jan Henning, and Sally Reed.

Also special thanks goes to Margie Wiesner and Cathy Balsley for taking down the Miniature Exhibition at the BATTERY at 8:15 a.m. on a Sunday. That's true team spirit!

Thanks to Elizabeth Collard and Isabel Pizzolato for jurying the show and for dealing with all of the mounting and hanging issues.

Again, thanks to everyone who participated in our very first miniature show. The work was wonderful and we've learned a lot about producing a miniature show in a small space.

Second Tuesday - November 11 - Art Therapy

Did you miss our art therapy discussion on November 11? Patricia Salmon, an artist herself, has worked as an art therapist in mental health for many years by facilitating groups, providing individual assessments, and working with multidisciplinary treatment teams to help people from all walks of life find their inner self.

DWS members experimented with some art therapy techniques by drawing specific items individually and in groups to have a better understanding of the art therapist's role and focus. Laughter and introspection were the results. It was enlightening to have a better understanding of what we might put down on the paper that reflects our subconscious. Very entertaining and worthwhile presentation and discussion.

As a special bonus, Salmon gave us her personal insights into how she entered the field. It turns out, she also had been in the military for 20 plus years and in Iraq, which was an especially fitting way to also celebrate Veteran's Day.



Cathy Serwalt and Charlotte Hughes were part of a team that worked on the "circle" exercise.

SECOND TUESDAYS

December 9 - Holiday Party
January 6 - Framing Step by Step

December 9 - Holiday Party

Get ready for our festive launch into the holiday season. We'll do our painting gift exchange again. To participate, please bring an original watercolor painting, 5x7" image size (nothing smaller or larger), matted, framed, and wrapped. No holiday themes please and no substitutions such as jewelry instead of your original 5x7". Each painting will receive a number corresponding to the number drawn by each participant.

As in the past, DWS will provide the food and beverages and we look forward to members providing the desserts and salads. Join us from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Glade Clubhouse, 16 Glade Farm Drive, Rehoboth Beach, DE. Please RSVP to delawarewatercolorsociety@gmail.com (subject line—holiday party) and contact Sandee Duncan and let her know what you plan to bring for desserts and salads—(302) 945-0707 or dbdsjddel@aol.com.

Workshops and Events

If you haven't tried yupo, then our one-day workshop in late January might be for you. We'll be experimenting with yupo under the guidance of Chica Brunsvold, AWS, NWS, PVW. Stay tuned for the date to be announced soon.

A reminder of shows coming in 2015: We will have two large gallery spaces at both the Biggs Museum of American Art in September-October and the Rehoboth Art League in March-May. Start painting with these prestigious venues in mind. Create your best work ever for these great opportunities.

Outreach

Lewes Library

As part of its ongoing community outreach, DWS has partnered with the Lewes Library for the last three years to offer introductory sessions on watercolor to the public. Over the years, participants have received step-by-step guidance on how to produce small works such as bookmarks, greeting cards, landscapes, and winter scenes. The mini-workshops continue to be very successful and help promote and renew interest in watercolor and art to those with little or no experience in the medium. They are made possible, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.



Elizabeth Collard conducted the recent November 15 workshop. "The session was full to capacity and had a waiting list of folks eager to try their hand at producing a holiday note card," notes Collard. The cute note card image—Mr. and Mrs. Snowman and Baby Snowball—brought out the group's enthusiasm and levity. Participants thought it was "fun and well-organized," and that Collard did an excellent job in showing them how to use watercolors.

Clothing Drive

Now that cold weather is upon us, please remember to bring in your gently used coats, gloves, scarves, hats, and new socks for children and adults. DWS member Dianne Shearon is collecting for the Community Resource Center in Rehoboth Beach under the auspices of the Lewes-Rehoboth Association of Churches. We thank all who continue to participate in this wonderful collaboration to help Sussex County residents in need.

New Signature Members

Congratulations to Christy McEvilly
and Jan Henning!

Tip of the Month – Experimenting with Watercolor Ground

Have you ever tried watercolor ground? Let's see what all the talk is about.

What is watercolor ground?

Watercolor ground is a medium that allows you to paint on surfaces such as canvas, other fabrics, wood, plaster, shells, hardboard, metal, plastic, glass, and, of course, paper. You also can repair or rescue watercolor paintings you would otherwise have tossed.

How do you use it?

Brush it on straight from the container using a soft-haired synthetic brush for a smooth finish or a hog bristle brush for a more textured one. The ground is usually pigmented, thereby requiring only one coat to cover most surfaces. The ground has to dry 24 hours before you can begin painting. Then use it with watercolors or thinned acrylics. Because of its more absorbent surface, you may want to

use less water with your paint. Experiment and see what works best for you.

How do you rescue or adjust a painting?

Apply the medium over the area you want to fix, let it dry, then re-work or correct your image. You can lift and scrub without damaging the surface of your paper.

How do I frame my painting?

You can frame your work the same as you do all of your watercolors, or you can “fix” it with a spray varnish and leave it unframed—e.g., canvas.

Give it a try!

Other

Please keep Artist Member Doris Davis-Glackin in your prayers. She has been undergoing long-term medical treatment and has several months to go before being finished. We received a lovely note from her thanking us for the flowers we sent. Being a true artist, Doris saw their beauty as a painting. She wrote, “They lift my spirits and make me smile.”

Did you notice we have a new DWS supply cabinet in the kitchen? We can now keep everything under lock and key. Thanks to Donna Sheppard for getting it for us.

A graphic consisting of a large, horizontal oval with a thick black border and a light orange fill. Inside the oval, the words "Happy Thanksgiving!" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Please submit any news item(s) you have to Editor at delawarewatercolorssociety@gmail.com four weeks in advance of the next month's newsletter. Please include all information pertaining to your submission: who, what, why, when, how and any contact numbers. If you have questions or need assistance regarding DWS issues or events, please contact one of our Executive Board members:

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