

Brush Strokes

Volume 41, Number 5

www.minnesotawatercolors.com

Sept/Oct 2020

October Demo Posted Oct 8th, 7 pm

Sonja Hutchinson, Oct. 8th Demo Artist

Her Online Demonstration Link will be posted on our website at
www.minnesotawatercolors.com



Sonja Hutchinson is a popular watercolor instructor, teaching at the Edina Art Center, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Center, The MN Landscape Arboretum, and at workshops throughout Minnesota. For her, painting in watercolor is where spontaneity and intention collide. She finds it stimulating to use processes and tools that both challenge and celebrate the fluid nature of this medium. Her work often features expressive characters and creatures.



UnbridledTWC by Sonja Hutchinson



0528 by Sonja Hutchinson

Sonja has been painting in watercolor since 2001. She has studied with local, national and international watercolor artists to develop her own approach to watercolor painting. Sonja is a Signature Member of the Minnesota Watercolor Society and has served as President and on the Board of Directors since 2009. She has earned numerous awards in juried shows throughout the metropolitan area. She displays her work in both group and solo exhibitions throughout the Twin Cities. For more information on Sonja, please visit her websites at <http://MNartists.org/sonjahutchinson>; <https://artawhirl.org/artists/sonja-hutchinson/>, her artist Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/SonjaHutchinson.art> and her Instagram page at SonyO.



Seaworthy by Sonja Hutchinson

From the President

Hello Artist Friends and Members!

I am reading the book 'Imagine' by Jonah Lehrer, and thoroughly enjoying it. The book is about how creativity works. The author starts out by talking about the parts of the brain that are the most active with creativity. Then he talks about how different things impact problem solving, innovation, and the moment of insight or inspiration - all parts of the creative journey.

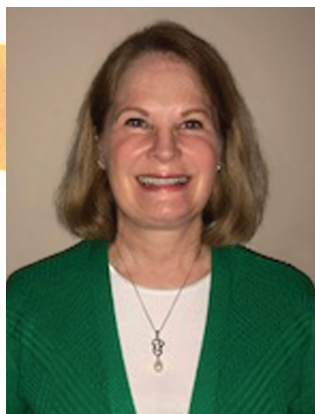
In one of the chapters, there is a discussion about the benefits of learning to share our ideas with others that can have a very positive impact on creativity. An example is given in the book about a sociologist who did a study of the success of Broadway musicals from 1877 to 1990 to determine the ideal strategy for group creativity. He found the best and most successful Broadway teams included people that had a history of working together. In addition, an element of their success was the inclusion of new people in their group. This facilitated new ideas.

You might ask, what does this have to do with watercolor painting? It means there are huge benefits to staying connected with other artists. Many of you already have a circle of artist friends that you connect with and might meet on a regular basis to paint. Besides your usual group, think about reaching out to other artists to find out what they are doing and share what you are doing.

MNWS has opportunities for this sharing among artists. Check out the workshop being offered with Kathleen Conover in November. Our member monthly mini-show is back. Thanks to a task team of some members from the board, while we cannot meet in person we have moved the mini-show online. Check out some of other member's work at www.minnesotawatercolors.com. Our regular monthly meeting artist demos continue to be held virtually.

Have fun taking advantage of some of these wonderful opportunities to stay connected, share ideas and come up with exciting new works of art! Also, feel free to reach out to any board member to share some of your stories about creativity and what has worked for you that could be shared with other MNWS members.

See you soon!
Carol



MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

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2020 MNWS Fall Exhibition SPLASH!

Online viewing 7 p.m. September 17 at www.whitebeararts.org

View all the entries and see who won in our annual Fall Members Exhibition. Judge Cris Franchevich will discuss the winning paintings and give insight on why these artists were chosen as award winners.

This video presentation will be available at www.whitebeararts.org from September 17 through October 15, 2020.

Thanks to everyone who entered our first planned virtual show.

Questions? Email Janet Bates at mnwsfallshow@gmail.com



A Story from a Compulsive and Creative Artist

By Sandra Muzzy, past President MNWS

Four years ago I had a brain aneurysm explode in my head, another name for this is hemorrhagic stroke. After months of recovery I returned to my studio to pick up my brush and found that my desire to paint was no longer there, so strange but true. I have painted and taught painting morning, noon and night for most of my life. I couldn't stop but now things were very different. So I took up knitting and knitted at least 15 shawls. I then I tried wood carving and must have carved 200 leaves. Then I collected rocks and had to polish or paint them.

One day- because I love a bargain- I went to a sale at Wet Paint in St. Paul and bought 10 wooden palettes for \$10, what a deal! Soon I was back at Wet Paint and the man behind the counter gave me a really good deal, 50 palettes for a mere \$40! And then I went back again and got more. So what did I do with the palettes? I painted myself and my story, what I felt like and who I felt like. And I was always available to pose for myself. I tried to somehow incorporate the thumb hole in an appropriate way, not always successful but I did try.

Now these 'paintings' are not pretty and these are not the kind of painting you would hang over your sofa BUT they are the kind of painting that helped me to express myself. The stroke I had did not affect my ability to walk but it did impair my ability to find the words I need to speak well, called aphasia. I have tried unsuccessfully to find a place to hang these palettes but with the coronavirus who would have come to look at it anyhow? Instead I invite you to look at Facebook where I have an open page called Sandra Muzzy Watercolor Studio. I am going to put out a palette every other day or so for quite a while! And YES it is watercolor. I primed the palette with gesso and that takes watercolor just great!

www.facebook.com/SandraMuzzyWatercolorStudio/



2020 MNWS Juried Exhibition INCLINATIONS

Online viewing at <http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com>



Emrich/Stordahl Award
Mary Axelson "Cosette's Peony"



1st Honors
Sandy Melander-Schildt "Dilemma at Twenty Weeks"



Award of Merit
Donald Aggerbeck "First Heron"



Award of Merit
Catherine Wheaton "The Gaze"

Best of Show
Suzanne Shaff "Self Portrait in Green Silk Shirt"

The 2020 Spring MNWS Juried Exhibition INCLINATIONS previously known as SPRING INCLINATIONS was a success despite the unexpected changes due to these unprecedented times.

We wish to thank the participating artists for their incredible art and patience. This show could not happen without you. And a big thank you to our juror Jeannie McGuire for her professional expertise in making the selections for our show.



Minnesota Watercolor Society

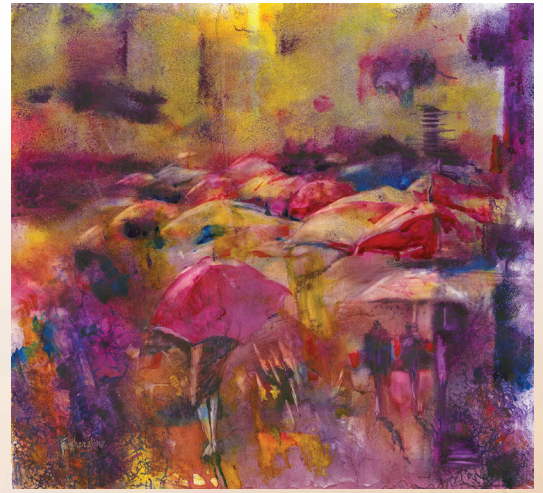
Melissa Moore and Diane Pearson

2020 MNWS Spring Co-Chairpersonss



2nd Honors

Fred Dingler "After a March Rain"



3rd Honors

Bonnie Featherstone "Umbrellas Quebec City 2"



Honorable Mention

Shelley Holl "Wake Up Down Under"



Honorable Mention

Rick Lundsten "Storm Warning"



Honorable Mention

Ann Sisel "Storm on the Lake"

HELP WANTED

We are searching for someone to mentor for the MNWS board position of spring show chair. This is a fun board position where you will meet many local artists. You will need computer and communication skills. We would love to show you how to put the show on. You would take over our board position after the 2021 show ends. We already have the 2022 venue set. We'd love to mentor someone over the next show so the role is easy to transition to. We will begin working on the 2021 show in January.

If you are interested or have any questions please contact us at:
mnwsspringshow@gmail.com

Thank you,

Missy Moore and Diane Pearson, Spring Co-Chairpersonss

David Becker Online Recap

Minnesota Watercolor Society members got a special treat in July. The programming season started two months early, with a demonstration by artist David R Becker on July 9th. Members could link by The MN Watercolor Society Website, Facebook page or David's Youtube channel to see the broadcast. David demonstrated live from the Duluth Art Institute on "How to Simplify a Complex Subject".

Everyone attending had a front row seat as David showed his steps on how to break down a city scene, using a street scene in downtown Minneapolis. He reminded viewers that values are more important than colors, to link the colors, use big shapes, and work from light to dark. Members attending the Livestream had a chance to ask David questions. The video is available to view again on David R Becker's Youtube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNkzHswl9rU> or search for "MNWS Hosts at DAI a BeckerArt watercolor demo. "How to Simplify a Complex Subject"

David R. Becker of Chicago is an Artist, Illustrator, and Art Instructor. He is a signature member of TWSA (Transparent Watercolor Society of America) and has won numerous awards for his work from watercolor societies around the country. David is the author of Watercolor Composition Made Easy and How to Sketch with Watercolor. Though David R. Becker is best known for his watercolor scenes of Chicago, he also works in oil and acrylic. For more information on David, or for information on his on-line classes, please visit his website at www.davidrbecker.com

The Minnesota Watercolor Society is committed to serving our members, especially during the pandemic. Programming has moved to on-line until in-person meetings can resume. This year also represents an added benefit for members. In addition to the regularly scheduled programming of September-May, the Minnesota Watercolor Society added David's demonstration in July and a demonstration with artist Cris Franchevich in August. Thanks for your patience as we transition to on-line programming. It's a new format, and a new way to serve members!

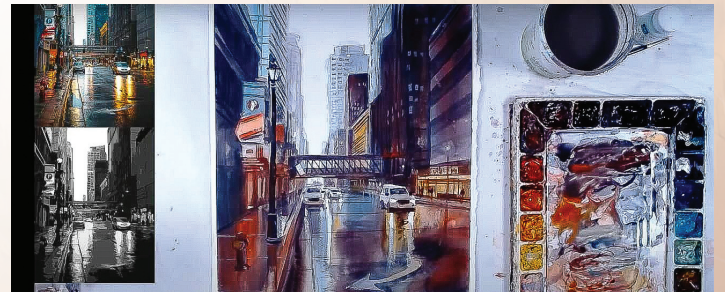
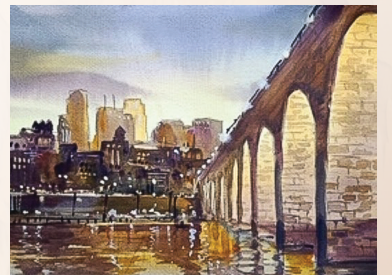
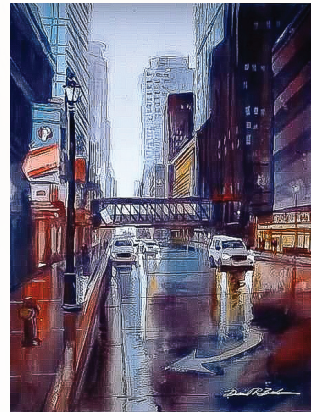
Marietta Turner, Elizabeth Franklin, Co Chairs Programs

"Faithful Members of MNWS"

We received the following note from one of our Lifetime members that we wanted to share.

"I don't know if you're aware that one of the founding members, Lois Heim is still alive at 102. I see her fairly often. She still lives independently in an apartment she and Harry shared until his death a couple of years ago. Some of your older members will remember them well. Lois is my cousin and my Godmother. She and Harry are responsible for my being a member so many years ago and along with my own parents, both artists as well, are responsible for my being an artist for the past 45 years.

*So thank you so much,
Robin Berry"*



Minnesota Watercolor Society

Mark this event on your calendar and join us for the Fall Workshop at the Ames Center.

Fall Workshop



"Searching" by Kathleen Conover



"Evolution" by Kathleen Conover

"Chaos to Order" with Kathleen Conover

MN Watercolor Society 5-Day Workshop:

Tuesday-Saturday, November 10-14, 2020

9 am -4 pm,

Ames Center, 12600 Nicollet Ave, Burnsville, MN 55337

Due to COVID19 distancing requirements enrollment is limited to 11

Starting a painting with color, texture, gestural marks and layers is FUN, and the "chaos" delivers vital intuitive energy. Great design brings order to this rich beginning. Whether you are a beginning or established painter, you'll develop unique paintings with attention-getting expression in your chosen subject matter. Master Artist, Kathleen Conover, creates and teaches with keen observation, deep personal reflection, and openness to subject matter. Her award-winning work, unique vision, innovative techniques, and fearless expression have won her national and international acclaim. She exhibits, judges, demonstrates, and teaches globally.

Due to COVID19, the Ames Center for the Arts is limiting enrollment to 11 so participants each have an individual table with appropriate distancing. No food or beverage will be provided or shared. Participants may bring food and beverage for their own consumption. Participants and instructor will wear masks. At this writing the workshop is planned as an in-person event. The Ames Center expects to reopen by November. In the event that they do not, or if workshop cancels for any other reason, registered participants will be notified and full cost refunded.

Register Online: <http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com/event/kathleen-conover-workshop/>

Deposit: \$100.00 deposit secures a spot in the workshop.

Early Bird Discount: Full payment by September 1, 2020=\$575 MNWS members, \$625 non-members.

Payment after September 1, 2020: full cost to members \$600; non-members \$650.

Questions: Email Sonja sonjahutchinson.art@gmail.com or Tara tarasweeneyart@gmail.com



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*"To further the development of the
watercolor artist by providing a
supportive environment with education,
exhibition opportunities, promotion
of public appreciation and
greater visibility of the art."*

Minnesota Watercolor Society Mission Statement

*To become a member of the MNWS please visit our website at
<http://www.minnesotawatercolors.com/join/>*

MNWS CALENDAR

WELCOME!

MNWS

New Members

Karlyn Eckman

Cris Franchevich

Jill French

We have 240 current
paid members

We value you as
members of MNWS
in our artist community.



MNWS Programs are held the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm September through May.
Usually at Christ Presbyterian Church, 6801 Normandale Road, Edina, MN
(Corner of 70th Street and Highway 100) Check our website for location changes.

Due to Covid-19 in-person meetings temporarily cancelled, be watching our website for more information.

September 17, Thursday
SPLASH! Exhibit Online
viewing 7 p.m.

October 8th, Thursday
Demo Posted, 7 pm
Artist: Sonja Hutchinson

November 10-14
Fall Workshop
Artist: Kathleen Conover

December 10th, Thursday
Demo Posting TBD
Artist: Andy Evansen

NorthStar Watermedia Society

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of most months at 7pm. Due to the COVID-19 Virus in-person meetings have been cancelled until further notice, however virtual demonstrations are being planned.

ONLINE DEMOS, some may have live Q&A via zoom
September 17, 2020: Demo Artist **Keiko Tanabe**
October 15, 2020: Demo Artist **James Nutt**
November 19, 2020: Demo Artist **Paul Oman**
December 17, 2020: Demo Artist **Dan Wiemer**

2020 6th Annual NorthStar National Juried Art Exhibition
October 2 - November 13, 2020.
Wildwood Library in Mahtomedi
October 11, 2020: Awards Ceremony.
Call for Entry Deadline August 1, 2020 at midnight.

Fred Graff Workshop September 15-18, 2020 at the Phipps Center
for the Arts has been **CANCELLED**
For more information: <http://northstarwatermedia.com/>