



Watercolor Artists Of Sacramento Horizons

WASH Newsletter March/April 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

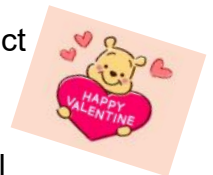
As winter comes to an end, WASH had it Member's Show. I hope you all had the chance to see the beautiful art that this club produced. I want to do a shout out to Kristi Warren, our interim Show Chair. She has done a phenomenal job putting this show together. Please reach out and thank her.

Second Saturday just happened to fall on Valentine's Day. It made for a perfect outing: See the show, celebrate the artists and then have a romantic dinner.

Some awesome news for the club, we were also awarded a \$4,500 grant from the Small Organization Sustainability Fund. This organization provides general operating support for small arts and cultural organizations throughout Sacramento County. This money will be used to support our new website and cover expenses for workshops and shows.

And, as always, I am asking for volunteers for the board. Without your help, no matter how many grants we get, we cannot continue. Please contact me if you feel the urge to join us in continuing this organization.

B.J. Taylor
President-WASH



WASH MEMBER SHOW UPDATE:



The 2026 WASH Member Show, which ran from January 27th through February 14th, was another exceptional display of the talented artists in the WASH organization. Many thanks to all the watercolorists who shared their work and congratulations to all the award winners for their outstanding paintings and well deserved awards.

The top three award winners this year were:

Awards of Excellence to Joanne Lindelof for "Miles to Go Before I Sleep" and Steve

Stein for "First Snow of the Year". The **Best of Show** honor was awarded to Tim Sloan for "Resting Figure," shown above.

HOUSEKEEPING:

*Note from your Newsletter Editor: The WASH newsletter is published and emailed to all members in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for the **May/June** newsletter will be **April 20**. Photos are especially appreciated. Thank you!*
ronnierector@yahoo.com

Be sure to send any **address, phone** and/or **email changes** to Membership Chair **NOLA SMITH** at knit2n@gmail.com.

Follow us online at:

Website: <https://washesfac.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WASH.WatercolorArtistsofSacramentoHorizons>

WASH.WatercolorArtistsofSacramentoHorizons

Instagram: @wash_sacramento

YOUR 2026 OFFICERS:

President	BJ Taylor
Secretary	Teresa Edwards
Treasurer	Cordi Sogge
Program Co-Chairs	Alyssa Gorman Rose White
Membership Chair	Nola Smith
Show Chair, Interim	Kristi Warren
Workshop Chair	Steve Stein
Newsletter Editor	Ronnie Rector
Webmaster	Chris Triplett
Media Coordinator	Help Wanted!
SFAC Liaison	Help Wanted!
Scholarship Co-Chairs	BJ Taylor, David Kalbach, Tom Adams, Chris Knopp

BECOME A MEMBER!

<https://www.sacfinearts.org/membership193bc6ca#join>

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND HELP NEEDED:

Please **WELCOME** our newest WASH members:

Sandra Boschert, Lincoln, CA
Claudia Buchanan, Maxwell, CA
Judy Butler, Newcastle, CA
Mary T. Pivetti, Auburn, CA
Justine Thompson, Wilton, CA
Larry Washington, Fair Oaks, CA

Nola Smith, Membership Chair

To keep our club running smoothly, we need your help! The fun volunteer jobs we have open include:

- ◆ SFAC Liaison
- ◆ Social Media
- ◆ Communications/Promotions
- ◆ Web Master
- ◆ Show Chair



Some (most) of these jobs can easily be handled by a duet of friends. Reach out to your best budd for support. Contact a Board Member to learn how you two can help keep WASH the amazing club it is!

The **“Big Day of Giving”** is Thursday, May 7, and WASH has acquired a **\$1,000 MATCHING GRANT!** Why not double your donation while this grant is available? Write “Big Day of Giving” on the Memo line of your check.

JANUARY MEETING - DEMO NEWS

January's Demo artist was Stella Canfield, a long-time watercolorist from Grass Valley, originally from Bulgaria. She has taught watercolor painting many years. She painted the sky, one of her specialties, over a landscape. She emphasized that the most important aspects of a painting are design and the emotional response the painting creates. Below are a couple samples of her work, taken from her website.



WORKSHOP RECAP

Cara Brown Workshop

We just completed our first WASH workshop for 2026. Our guest artist was Cara Brown, an accomplished watercolorist who has been showing and selling her paintings since 2007 and teaching since 2011. Along the way Cara has won dozens of awards and was recognized this year by the California Watercolor Association as a Master Signature Member.

For our workshop, Cara curated 4 lesson topics from her general teaching curriculum:

- Soft edges
- Fuzzy backgrounds
- Painting the light
- Lost and Found in the Details

Cara most often works from reference photographs taken close-up. The depth of field properties of the camera will naturally blur the background slightly and often introduce pleasing distortions – a phenomenon known as “Bokeh” effect – a term originating from the Japanese word boke (“blur” or “haze”). She amplifies this depth of field property in her reference photos to create what she calls “fuzzy backgrounds” that set the stage for color and value in the main subject; creating soft and shimmering effects that lend atmosphere and a sense of light while drawing the viewer’s eye to the main subject without adding any distracting details.

Cara spent much of her time working one-on-one with participants and talking about ways to improve.

“Try to keep your short-cut brain from being in control of your brush. It will tend to do things like paint very straight lines or make



WORKSHOP RECAP, CONTINUED

all lines the same – it’s our efficiency expert and it does not make natural-looking paintings. It will also make things up that aren’t even there. Keep looking carefully at your reference and reminding yourself to paint what is really there.”

We wrapped up by sharing our work and lessons learned. The results were surprising and fun for everyone. We will definitely invite Cara to come again and hope that we can share the workshop experience with more of our members.

Additional Resources:

Cara’s website: <https://www.lifeinfullcolor.com/>

Watercolor Conversations with Cara Brown (podcast): <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/watercolor-conversations-with-cara-brown/id1637777954>

COMING WORKSHOPS

Steve Stein, Workshop Chair

Full details for all coming workshops, including pricing and registration, are available on the [Coming Workshops](#) page of the WASH website.

Continue your watercolor journey in the new year by joining one of our amazing guest artists for a hands-on workshop. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Dongfeng Li Classroom Series

Each Friday afternoon in March from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Join us in SFAC Gallery 3 for instruction using traditional still life as a method for learning from award-winning artist Dongfeng Li.

<https://washsfac.org/dongfeng-li-classroom-series/>



David Savellano Plein Air

April 16-17, 2026 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

In this plein air workshop David will share his methods for mastering watercolor timing—knowing when the paper is wet enough but not too wet, or when it’s the right moment to add the next wash and mixing colors directly on the paper, so that they melt into one another.

<https://washsfac.org/david-savellano-workshop/>

WORKSHOP NEWS, CONTINUED

Geoff Allen
May 19-21, 2026 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Wait List Only

Through a combination of demonstrations and hands-on exercises, students will explore color mixing, contour drawing, and brush handling while observing natural forms and light firsthand. Geoff emphasizes an impressionistic approach to watercolor, encouraging spontaneity and expression through techniques like wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, dry brushing, lifting, splattering—and, most importantly, knowing how to use water itself as a creative tool.

<https://washsfac.org/geoff-allen-workshop/>



“Morning Bug,” by Geoff Allen

MEMBER NEWS

Following are the WASH members’ paintings that were accepted into the 56th International California Watercolor Association Exhibition:



Sunday Market in Oaxaca - Barbara Kempe



Starfield Pond - Steve Stein



Raging Granny - Jo Kopp

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MEMBER NEWS, CONTINUED



Fishing for Dallies - Kristi Warren



Lady Liberty - Steve Walters

WASH member Ronnie Rector will be teaching "Working with Triads" on June 19 and 20 in Reno. More details can be found at <https://sierrawatercolorsociety.com/workshop/40301/ronnie-rector-watercolor>

WASH member Beth Brampton has published *The Grace of the World* on YouTube. It's a wonderful short video about her installation of artwork inspired by 30 years of experience in the Consumnes River Preserve. Here's the link to her video: <https://youtu.be/L81XESfunMs?si=2m5vjXLRjSHM30Rv>



Karen Keys has nine landscape paintings hanging in the "For The Love Of Art" gallery on Lincoln Street in Auburn. She also has matted originals and cards in the gallery show. Do stop by if you're in the neighborhood! Above is an image of her exhibit, and one of her pieces, "Hidden Lake."

PAINTING OF THE MONTH



January's Painting of the Month had 5 entries. Sandie Mele won for her painting "Three Snow Geese."

Congratulations, Sandie!

And remember: This year there is a \$100 award for the winner of Painting of the Month...but you have to enter to win!

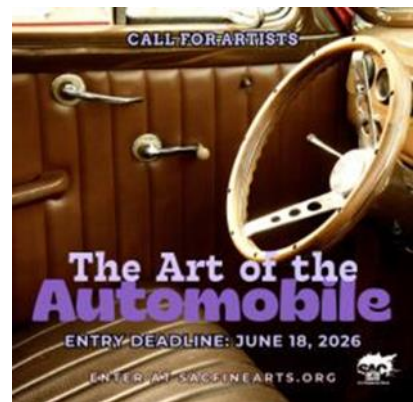
EXHIBIT NEWS

WASH would like to remind everyone that our Open Exhibition, "Go With the Flow", is slated to run from **June 16th to July 11th, 2026**, and online registration will begin in April. More details coming soon, so get those paintings started! Information will be posted on the WASH website at <https://www.washsfac.org>

Sacramento Fine Arts has a lot of exhibits coming up!
Be sure to visit their website for all the details.



Currently on display is their **Magnum Opus** exhibit. Last day to see this one is March 14. A reception is planned at the closing on the 14th, from 5 to 7 p.m.



ADVENTURES IN SHIPPING

Contributed by Sandy Delehante

I was juried into a national show and had to ship my painting all the way to Tennessee. I thought the members might find it helpful to know how I shipped it so I wrote this article. I have attached an image of the painting and also an image of it in its "nest" in the Airfloat Systems Strongbox.

How I Ship My Watercolors to National shows

My watercolor "*Still Waters, Sand Harbor*" was juried into "*OF MARK & MEANING: AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS ANNUAL MUSEUM SHOW*" at Customs House Museum & Cultural Center, Clarksville, TN. The painting had to be in Tennessee by February 2.

I have been shipping watercolors to various shows around the US since 2018, and I thought our members might want to know the system I use in case they need to ship a painting themselves. So here is how I shipped "*Still Waters*" to Tennessee.

The directions stated that paintings must be shipped in a "Strongbox" manufactured by either Airfloat Systems or Uline. This is a standard requirement of all the big national shows and art museums because they can be easily repacked for the return trip to the artist. I love these boxes because they are so strong I have used them over and over again. I have one that has made **eight round trips**, three to New York and five to Southern California. I purchased that box from Airfloat Systems for \$80. in 2020, which seemed expensive but obviously was cheap given how many times it has arrived safely with my paintings in perfect shape.

For this show, I re-used an Airfloat Systems Strongbox that I purchased for another show last year. First, I put a fresh battery into an Apple Air Tag and taped it inside the box under the foam. I then laid my painting on the center layer of foam and drew around it with white chalk so I could see where to cut the foam. This painting was slightly larger than the last painting I had shipped in this box so I had to trim the foam to create a perfect fit for this painting. After cutting the foam to create the perfect size nest for my painting, I placed it inside. I printed a photo of my painting and taped it inside the top lid so when the museum packed up the show they would know my painting goes in this box. I temporarily taped the box shut with a couple of strips of blue painters tape because I would need to open it up and place the pre-paid return label inside at my shipper's office.

The museum specified the deadline for receiving paintings but did not state a date that they would start receiving them. (Most shows state the art is to arrive between date A and date B.) So I called the museum and asked if I could ship it early in case it got lost, or a winter storm closed down the roads. Boy was that a good call! I took my painting in its box to Alhambra Mail and Parcel in Sacramento. I use this business because I was referred to them by the Art Curator, Cynthia Lou, and they did a great job. The owner created the UPS labels, we placed the return label inside and he taped and taped and taped some more, the box shut!

ADVENTURES IN SHIPPING, CONTINUED

Even though I have the UPS receipt with the tracking number, I prefer to follow my painting's progress using my iPhone so I know where it **actually** is, not where UPS or FedEx says it is. Using the Find My App on my iPhone, I followed the Air Tag from Sacramento to San Pablo, where it sat over a weekend. Then it started moving again, traveling East until it stopped in Illinois overnight. Then it was off again until it stopped in Memphis, spent another night, and finally arrived the next day at the museum in Clarksville. My painting was tucked safely away in the museum when the big storm hit and closed the roads in Tennessee. Whew!

I hope you find this useful...you never know when your painting will need to make its way to a show or a buyer halfway around the world!

The show opened February 13, and can be seen online at <https://americanwomenartists.org>.

