A Farewell Address

With 2023 ending, so is my term as President. I want to take this moment to reflect on what an unprecedented three years it has been for the PWCS. Of course, our most challenging obstacle during my term was unquestionably the COVID pandemic. That tragic global experience reminded me of the ironic words attributed to Winston Churchill: “Never let a good crisis go to waste.” Undeterred, we adapted and delivered the same benefits—even with the added constraints of no get-togethers, gallery shows, demonstrations, or presentations.

And I was heartened by how the board members met those challenges and worked together to deliver top-notch online virtual shows, demonstrations, and workshops for our members and non-members. Our board meetings continued remotely and remained effective and productive.

The Jurors of Awards over the past three years delivered topics using virtual presentations that were exciting and educational. In 2021, Stephen Quiller delivered a two-day workshop and an evening presentation focused on the use of casein in landscape paintings. Then, in 2022, we had Laura Goldstein-Warren do a demonstration and presentation on a more graphical style of using watercolor. This year we had Ryan Fox conduct a demonstration on framing watercolors without glass. These topics were diverse and expanded our knowledge in approaching watercolor and new methods for presenting our artwork.

Our plein air events are increasing with the work of our Plein Air Director, Beth James. Our website continues to provide timely information for members through the ever-vigilant eyes of Dennis Murphy. My only regret is the remaining vacancies on the board; however, I will continue to support our new President, Michael Adams, in his efforts to identify members who would like to give back a small amount of their time to allow PWCS to continue to flourish.

As outgoing President, I did have one goal for PWCS that couldn’t be realized due to the pandemic: I wished PWCS could have expanded its view of membership and outreach to the surrounding community. For 2024 and beyond, I would love to see younger adults, college, and high school students who are interested in the arts learn about PWCS and the rewards of watercolor painting. Consider this possibility: perhaps an internship where some eager “arts” student helped with the installation of our international show, the newsletter or even the coordination of a separate 1-day painting event? We could also offer new members the opportunity to visit area schools and conduct art demonstrations! Obviously, this takes planning coordination, communication, and time—but they are worthy goals.

Finally, as we approach the holidays, I want to share one of my watercolor paintings of the winter season and the surrounding Philadelphia countryside. Cows happen to be one of my favorite animals; seeing them persevere in the snow reminds me of how PWCS itself has endured for 123 years. “Just as a snowflake is one of God’s most fragile creations, look at what they (the snowflakes) can do when they stick together!” (Vesta M. Kelly). PWCS’ existence would not have been possible without the continued support of its members. The Board and I place crucial importance on continuing to deliver an encouraging art stimulus and a Society that makes us all proud.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all! Enjoy the presents under your tree, the people that put them there, and the extra bit of thankfulness the season brings. The three years I have served as your President have been a pleasurable and wonderful learning experience. I wish you and your family joy, lasting friendships, and a wonderful 2024.
The Springfield (MO) Art Museum is pleased to announce a call for entries for Watercolor USA 2024, highlighting the very best in contemporary American watermedia.

This 2024 exhibit marks its 63rd year and will run from June 8 through September 1, 2024. The nationally known exhibition is open to artists from all 50 states and U.S. territories, and seeks to discover what is new and what is next in the world of American watermedia.

Entry portal opens: January 3, 2024
Deadline to enter: February 22, 2024, Midnight (Central Standard Time)
Juror: Carole Hennessy, President of the Watercolor USA Honor Society.

For full information on entry rules, entry fees, and how to submit artwork, please visit https://www.sgfmuseum.org/246/Watercolor-USA.
October 19, 2023
Grace Winery

With Fall temperatures in the seventies, PWCS had another outstanding *plein air* day! Ten artists enjoyed painting in the beautiful vineyard! We may be returning soon. There is an abundance of subjects still to paint.
October 19, 2023
Grace Winery (cont.)
Annie Strack, PWCS, was recognized as follows:

Won Merit Awards in the Kentucky Watercolor Society 46th National Exhibit and the Montana Watercolor Society 41st National Exhibition.


Had a Solo Exhibition of her paintings on display in the Hollingsworth Gallery at the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge in August.

Earned Signature Membership in MTWS and NEWS.

Juried the Milton Art Guild exhibit in Delaware.

Has some of her Coast Guard paintings on display in the USCG art exhibits at the Gulf Coast National Maritime Museum in Mobile, AL, and at the National Center for the Wooden Boat Museum in Seattle, WA.

Gina Judy’s recent accomplishments include:

Received one of four-jurors awards given at the Pittsburgh Society of Artist’s 57th Juried Annual exhibition for Ballet Series VII: All Dressed and was included in this year’s Adirondacks and PWCS 123rd International Works on Paper.

Won the M. Graham Merchandise Award from the Rocky Mountain National at the Center for the Arts Evergreen in Colorado for Sunny Sully At Attention.

Received a Memorial Award in the NorthStar Watermedia Society, Wisconsin, for Where I Grew Up In Steubenville.

Awarded First-Place in the Ohio Valley Plein-Air Art Competition sponsored by the Artworks Around Town Co-Op for a piece taking four-hours to complete, of Sandscrest, Wheeling, WV.

Won Best In Show in the Fine-Art Category for the Carrollton, Ohio Algonquin Mill Festival Art and Photography Juried Show for COVID Selfie, as well first-place awards in other categories.

Is included in this month’s Crowfest at the Mansfield (OH) Art Center.
Gwynn Di Pilla had these 2023 distinctions:

- Received the **XXV Award** for her work **Bathtime** in the 2023 **National Watercolor Society International Show**.
- Won **The Dale Meyers Cooper Award and Medal** for her watercolor **Morning Light** in the **Allied Artist of America** show.
- Took 2nd place for **Gone But Not Forgotten** in the **New Jersey Watercolor Society**'s annual open show.

Lana Privitera was bestowed the following:

- Her watercolor **Tea Time Here, There, Everywhere** received the **PWCS Award for Composition** at the **Philadelphia Watercolor Society 123rd International Exhibition of Works on Paper**.
- **Out of Confinement** won an **Award of Excellence** at the **Watercolor International 6** in Thessaloniki, **Greece**.
- A **First Place Award** went to her watercolor **Dare to Be Different** at the **Central NY Watercolor Society 2023 Annual Juried Exhibition**.
Latha Palackavayalil was noted at follows:

Her painting Happiness was juried into their 44th Annual Juried Exhibit and she also attained Signature Membership from the Virginia Watercolor Society.

Madeleine Kelly achieved the following:

Fire Road Revisited received a Best in Show Award at the 2023 Philadelphia Pastel Society Members Show (PPS) and also earned 3rd Place in the 2023 Southeastern Pastel Society Members Show (SPS).

Madeleine was also accepted into the 42nd Open Division 2023 International Pastel Society Members Show (IAPS).

Nishita Jain reports the following honor:

Her watercolor painting An Eternal Flow was juried into the American Impressionist Society’s 4th Annual All Member Online Exhibition.

The exhibition is live on these two platforms:  
https://online.flippingbook.com/view/746437873/ and  
Christine Alfery had the following success:

Her works Along The Shore, As the Wind Blows Elsewhere, and Sacred Places were selected for inclusion in the 7th Annual National Juried Exhibition ANJE at the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art. The exhibition will be open until December 30th, 2023.

2023 Crest Medal Winners

Stacy Lund Levy
Lana Privitera

2023 New Signature Members List

Carolyn Peterson
Don Whitson
Joye Moon
Judith Cook
Kathy Simon-McDonald
Laurie Higgins
Lori Weisenfeld
Michael Solovyev
Michele Tabor Kimbrough

Congratulations to Karen Fratalli
Honorary Life Member

2023 Election Results
Michael Adams - President
Pat Cogan - VP
Co-Chairs Needed for International Exhibition

We have an urgent need for 2 new International Exhibition Co-Chairs: one for the Entry Process and one for the Installation Process.

The responsibilities of each Co-Chair and their respective processes are described below. Final candidates will receive a more detailed explanation for their position. If interested, please contact the PWCS President and specify which position interests you. Send all correspondence to president@pwcsociety.org.

Co-Chair - Entry Process

- Identify publication and online listings to advertise the call for entries in tandem with the PR Director.
- Work with the Juror of Selection and Awards to ensure they understand their roles and responsibilities. Assist and answer questions as needed.
- Update the prospectus.
- Work with the Director of Technology to monitor entries.
- Work with Membership Chair to verify submissions from entrants are also current members.
- Notify entrants of acceptance or decline.
- Work with Social Media Chair, Newsletter Editor and Director of Technology on marketing of Exhibition.

Co-Chair - Installation Process

- Send shipping and delivery reminders to selected entrants.
- Work with Art Center to facilitate artwork delivery.
- Send out communications for volunteers to help with installation.
- Communicate installation dates and general information.
- Hang the show.
- Provide Juror of Awards with list of awards for selection.
- Send list of award winners to Graphic Designer.
- Notify award winners.
- Contact Membership Chair to identify any Crest medal awards.
- Notify Treasurer of award winners to issue checks.
- Coordinate with Workshop Coordinator to ensure Judge of Awards has a reservation for a hotel room and meals.
Volunteer

Membership has its privileges! Join the Board of Philadelphia Water Color Society.

• **Your name will be historically aligned with PWCS.** The Pennsylvania Historical Society keeps all PWCS’s historical documentation and in their records are a litany of well-known artists, your name will be among them.

• **Make connections** with other artists throughout the world.

• **Local and National recognition.** You will be serving on one of the oldest art societies in the country. Add this to your resume.

• **Opportunity to contribute your ideas** and efforts to a non-profit. Help to shape the organization.

• **Increased knowledge, skills and growth.** Gain self-confidence and a sense of purpose.

• **Open doors.** Being on an arts board makes a great calling card with buyers, galleries, shows, etc....

• **It's FUN!**
**Support for the Arts**

The Philadelphia Water Color Society Memorial Awards Program was established to not just increase the number of awards given at the Annual International Exhibition of Works on Paper, but to give encouragement to our members and to award artistic excellence.

It also provides a wonderful way for those interested in the arts to honor the memory of their loved ones. Or design an award with your name on it; the “YOUR NAME” Award of Excellence.

So please consider this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the Philadelphia Water Color Society’s Award Program. If you choose to become a donor in 2024, please fill out the form provided. Donor amounts start at 100 dollars.

If you have additional questions, please contact PWCS President Michael Adams at president@pwcsociety.org.

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**THE PHILADELPHIA WATER COLOR SOCIETY**

**AWARD AGREEMENT**

Title of Award as it will appear in print:

____________________________________________________________________

Value of Award:

____________________________________________________________________

Name of Company/Individual Donor:

____________________________________________________________________

Address:

____________________________________________________________________

Telephone:

____________________________________________________________________

Email:

____________________________________________________________________

*Please make check payable to PWCS and send to:*

Keri Bostwick

c/o Borsz Gowie Amon Fultz

411 Old Baltimore Pike, Suite 201

Chadds Ford, PA 19317

kboestwick@barszgowie.com

PWCS is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. All donations are tax deductible.
The Half/Sheet is published in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Please email relevant information to Sherry Shay at newsletter@pwcsociety.org. Next Newsletter close is March 15, 2024. Please put NEWSLETTER in the subject line. Submissions are accepted and/or edited at the discretion of the reviewers.