



Half/Sheet Philadelphia Watercolor Society



Candace Naumowicz—Zacher
PWCS President



Clarion Call for Volunteers!

To maintain their future, nonprofit organizations like PWCS require members who actively volunteer to execute their mission. By the end of 2023, our Society will have been blessed with members who have already served for 8 or more years! We cannot assume these current participants will remain at the helm indefinitely. But with only a handful of new volunteers to support it in 2024, the long-term future for PWCS looks grim. Therefore, I am urging our 450+ members to consider stepping up and volunteering to help our Society so it can continue as it has for the past 124 years. We need to have a roster of candidates by **September 15, 2023**, so we can fill these vacancies at our October 8, 2023, member meeting.

True, there are at least three common issues about volunteering: one, it requires too much personal time; two, a perceived concern over lack of support; and, finally, volunteering offers few rewards in return. Let's examine these concerns:

First, no PWCS volunteer position requires ongoing, egregious hours of support. Some activities may at first appear to be time intensive. But they are generally associated with specific events each year therefore necessitating a more concentrated effort; spread out over the year, they become just a few hours each month.

Second, current volunteers in the forthcoming 7 vacant positions will gladly offer training and assistance. Don't worry! We won't abandon you to merely fend for yourself. Most positions already have supporting documentation and advice is only a phone call or text message away. While even a commitment to a monthly board meeting may seem daunting, it is not mandatory to attend all of them (but attending most of them would be greatly appreciated by other board members).

Finally, the rewards are countless! There is internal satisfaction from participating in a charitable endeavor as well as personal recognition in the newsletter and at the annual meeting. And let's not forget intangible benefits such as the camaraderie gained with fellow artists and opportunities to meet well-known artists who provide demos and presentations.

The open vacancies are:

- Vice President
- Corresponding Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Co-directors of the International Show – 2 positions
- Director of Public Relations
- Newsletter Editor

Please answer this call to step up and give back to PWCS. We must continue to offer the services and benefits that you and others have come to appreciate and expect. Without volunteers, the Society will have some very difficult decisions to achieve a successful 125th year.

2023 Upcoming Events

Philadelphia Water Color Society — 23rd International Works on Paper Anniversary Show

Juror of Selection - Susan Montague
Juror of Awards - Ryan Fox



Garden State Watercolor Society's — 53rd Annual Open Juried Exhibition

D&R Greenway Land Trust will host the Garden State Watercolor Society (GSWS) for *its 53rd Annual Open Juried Exhibition, Migration: Movement for Survival*. The exhibition will run **May 3 –Sept 24, 2023**. The gallery is open on **weekdays 10 am – 3 pm**. D&R Greenway Land Trust's Johnson Education Center is located at One Preservation Place, Princeton NJ, 08540.

Other events during this Exhibition:

Poetry reading on the theme of migration.

A GSWS-led Gallery Walk on **September 21, 2023**.

Ann Greene, an award-winning artist, will present an artist's demo at the end of the exhibition, from **2 to 4 pm September 24**.

Bold Expressions 2023 — NCA 68th International Open Juried Art Exhibit

Exhibit dates: **October 3, 2023 –October 28, 2023**.

APRIL 20 2023

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON PARK - MILL GROVE

We had a great turnout for The *PWCS Plein-Air Painting* Event April 20 at John James Audubon's Mill Grove. The weather started out a little cool but warmed up to a sunny 76 degrees! 15 artists enjoyed an inspirational and informative demo by PWCS's own Michael Adams against a backdrop of beautiful woods while birds sang in the background.

Michael shared information about how his approach to painting plein-air is different from his usual painting techniques. After talking about his selected paper, brushes and freshly set up palette, he started a demo of the wooded scene. Around 11:00am the artists broke out to paint on their own.

At lunch, light conversation focused on other plein-air venues and Andrew Wyeth's painting collections. Afterwards, most artists were back to painting in the warm Spring sun. It was a gorgeous day with good camaraderie and a valuable demonstration!

Thank you, Michael Adams!



PWS Plein Air

APRIL 20, 2023
JOHN JAMES AUDUBON PARK - MILL GROVE
(cont.)



PWCS Members' News

Annie Strack, PWCS, was recognized as follows:

Won **Award of Merit** in the *Arizona Watercolor Society National Exhibit* and **First Place** in *The Art of Watercolour, 50th edition*. Her paintings were also juried into the *Kentucky Watercolor Society 46th National Exhibit*, *Garden State Watercolor Society 53rd National Exhibit*, *Montana Watercolor Society 41st National Exhibit*, *50th National Rocky Mountain Watermedia Exhibit*, *Illinois Watercolor Society 39th National Exhibit*, *Society of Watercolor Artists International Exhibit*, *Georgia Watercolor Society Juried Members Exhibit*, and *Watercolor USA Honor Society National Exhibit*.

She also earned **Signature Status** in GSWS, MTWS, and IWS.



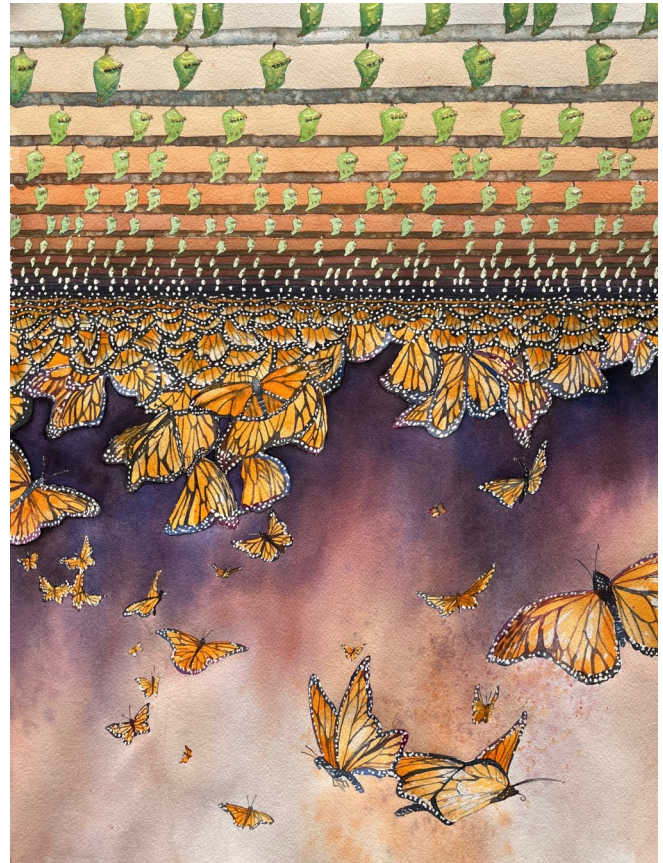
Peter

Judith Hummer's painting, *Finding Solace*, was accepted into the *San Diego 43rd International Exhibition*.

The exhibition runs from October 1-31, 2023. Judith has also been chosen to be one of the jurors of selection for the *2023 North East Watercolor Society International Juried Exhibition*. Judith was also accepted into the *AWS 2023 Associate Members Online Exhibition*, with the painting, *In the Life of a Monarch*.



Finding Solace



In the Life of a Monarch

WCS Members' News (cont.)

Karen Fitzgerald had these recent distinctions:

Accepted into the *2023 American Watercolor Society's Associate* show for her watercolor *Pow Wow River Falls*. She was also accepted into the *Rhode Island Watercolor Society's 2023 National Watermedia Show* for *Bike Break*. Additionally, during the months of May and June 2023, she had a successful show of 35 half and full sheet watercolors at the *Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church* of Danvers, Massachusetts.



Pow Wow River Falls



Bike Break

Karen Frattali received the following honors:

Acceptance of her painting *Pears for Thee and One for Me* into the *2023 American Watercolor Society Associate Online Show*. Additionally, she earned **Signature Status** in the *Georgia Watercolor Society* which also included her painting *Nature's Abstraction* in their *2023 GWS Member Show*.



Pears for Thee and One for Me



Nature's Abstraction

PWS Members' News (cont.)

Lana Privitera's recent accomplishments include:

Her watercolor *Individuality* won **First Place** in Watermedia at the *Catherine Lorillard 2023 Member Show*.

Another of her watercolors, *Looking for a Way Out*, won **Best in Show Overall** at the *June 2023 Plein Air Salon Competition*; she also received a **First Place Award in Still Life** in the *2023 Women in Watercolor International Juried Competition*.



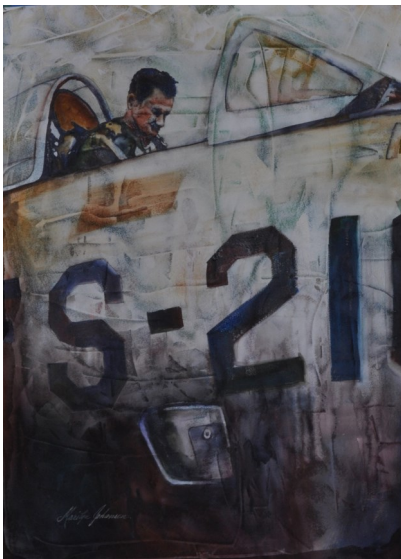
Individuality



Looking for a Way Out

Marilyn Johansen contributed to an on-going exhibit:

She had 17 paintings from a series, entitled *Soldier Stories*, at the *Art Serve Exhibition Hall* in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, which was commemorating 93 years of the Establishment of the Veterans Administration. Both military history and her father, a WWII veteran who was recalled into the military for the Korean War, were inspirations for her contributions. The series continues to grow and has been traveling since 2016 in south Florida.



Korean War Era



Soldiers

PWCS Members' News (cont.)

Nishita Jain recently was recognized for the following:

Her painting, *A Glacial Cirque in Lahaul*, was juried into the *Baltimore Watercolor Society's 2023 Mid-Atlantic Regional Exhibition*. The show will be at the Arts Barn and Kentlands Mansion Galleries, Gaithersburg, MD, from Oct 6, 2023 to Jan 15, 2024. Nishita's painting *A Rocky Stream* was accepted into the 2024 *International Exchange Exhibition*, organized by the National Watercolor Society and the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour. It will be exhibited at the Scottish National Gallery in January 2024.



A Glacial Cirque in Lahaul



A Rocky Stream



Denny Bond, 70, passed away suddenly April 11, 2023. He was an award-winning, internationally recognized hyper-realistic watercolorist and illustrator. He also was a signature member and juror of numerous prestigious watercolor societies, including AWS, NWS and PWCS.



Gail Bracegirdle, 78, sadly passed away on April 24, 2023. A signature member of the Philadelphia Watercolor Society, her award-winning work has been exhibited in group and solo shows throughout the region and is included in private collections in the United States, Europe, and Australia.

Inspiration

Bouncing Back —Maria Payer

Resilience is the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change ([Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/resilience)).

In today's world, misfortune or adversity can manifest themselves as health challenges, family responsibilities, financial woes, a pandemic lockdown (for heaven's sake!) or, for artists, having one's work rejected by a selection juror.



But rejection can also be the time to focus on that naturally occurring human trait: RESILIENCE. The power of resilience is enough to rescue us when we feel artistically defeated. As artists, we often rely on it. I trust you've met "Resilience"— maybe when you kept painting even after your inner voice critiqued what had just dripped from your brush?

When it comes to the "R" word, it also helps to remember that "thumbs down" is something every artist, no matter the discipline, faces, not once, but multiple times. Rejection gives you license to count yourself among the legions who succeeded despite frequent rejection.

Not quite the badge of courage you were aiming for? I know. Rejection taps into those basic emotions associated with making connections. Artists of all sorts work diligently to connect to a viewer, a reader, or a listener. Rejection is a disconnect that affects us personally. Because our art is linked so closely to who we are, rejection becomes quite an intimate experience. How do you persevere without losing confidence, your sanity, or both?

I suggest taking time to reflect on those emotions. Acknowledge that they are temporary. But your response need not be. Identify the cause of your frustration and explore ways to reach a more positive outcome. When faced with that empty feeling, it might serve to recall and relive a specific occasion when your resilience resuscitated your imaginative energy. Whether it was an "I'll show you!" or a "What do I do now?" moment; in hindsight, you should concede that disappointment may result in something either unexpectedly advantageous, or, at the very least, more favorable than first thought.

You have dealt with worse. But there is an upside to the experience. You should be proud for having the confidence to put your creative work out there. Applaud that act for what it is: pushing your limits. Another positive is that your work was seen by someone outside your circle. A larger stage is the goal, right? When faced with "no, thank you," remember your work was rejected—but *you have not been*. Your main objective should be to avoid doubt. Doubt and fear stifle the creative process.

Understanding is a more useful tool. A bit of research may be helpful. Looking at the personal art of the jurist could reveal something about how submissions will be judged. However, trying to bend your work, ideas or style toward the direction you think will be accepted risks missing the mark and watering down your own unique vision.

Inspiration

Bouncing Back (cont.)

That last term, “vision,” reminds me of what artist Mat Barber Kennedy shared on being a Selection Juror. Perhaps it will prompt you toward introspection also. In a recent Zoom presentation, he explained that when asked to assemble a show through the jurying process, he tries to include all genres: floral, portraiture or figurative work, landscape (both rural and urban), narrative or illustrative, along with the non-representational. He looks for watercolor to do what watercolor does “...under the guidance of an artist who knows the medium.” Barber Kennedy admitted to paying attention to mark-making, lost-and-found edges, and observing that every section of the painting is “owned” (his words) and given the attention it deserves.

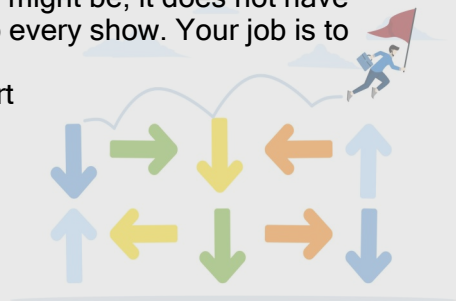
When serving as an Award Judge, Barber Kennedy counts “excellence in design” as his prominent criteria. Under that heading, he considers the following: composition, drawing (“the battlefield where battles are won or lost”), arrangement of shapes/juxtaposition of color, technical ability (authentic ownership) and understanding of the media and substrate. And, along with the aforementioned, he focuses on the *voice* or *vision* of each artist. That voice, he argues, is expressed by the way paint is put on paper. Articulation differs from one painter to another; but it is always about the energy, commitment, and passion the painter has for the medium and the subject.

Besides research, as an artist, you have several other ways to cope with rejection. Here are a few that I have used:

- * Get angry and express it! Journaling, commiserating with supportive fellow artists, or writing a letter that you never send are all healthy outlets.
- * Honestly assess if there is something lacking in your artistry. If so, make a **SMART** plan to address a change. A SMART plan is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound. If an avenue exists, request feedback from whomever denied your effort.
- * Join a serious critique group or arrange a critique session with a gifted painting instructor.
- * Write a love-letter to yourself!

Need some objective math to boost your mood? Marketing experts consider a 5% conversion rate (return on investment) for businesses and individuals a success. 5%! If you are getting into one show out of 20, you are succeeding. Ten open-call submissions a year, averaging a \$40 entry fee each, amounts to a \$400 annual investment in your life’s passion. Today, a single day pass to Disney World is \$109!

Finally, use rejection as a tool for advancement. Welcome that “No” as a source of growth and transformation. Think long term. As disappointing as a refusal might be, it does not have to hold you back. Your job as an artist *isn't* to be accepted into every show. Your job is to speak your truth, to make art, and to keep advancing your art; bouncing back into the shape of the artist you are is simply part of the process.





Co-Chairs Needed for this Year's International Exhibition

We have an urgent need for 2 new and future *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 Candace Zacher at president@pwcsociety.org.



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
kbostwick@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.



Become a part of an historic arts organization celebrating 123 years of opportunity and education.

PWCS is on FaceBook and Instagram



<https://www.facebook.com/PhiladelphiaWaterColorSociety/>

Please follow us on Facebook! If there is breaking news please contact Lena Thynell, Facebook manager, and she will review it and consider posting. Advertisements will not be accepted. ltthynell@comcast.net



<https://www.instagram.com/philadelphiawatercolorsociety/>



Please Keep Your Membership Information Up-to-Date

It is your responsibility to update your membership information *annually*. With so much going on in our lives, phone numbers change, addresses, emails, etc. We need this information if you want us to stay in touch with you. You might also want to check and update contact information in all your application programs, like Café or EntryThingy and PAYPAL. If it is not accurate you just might miss something important!

The *Half/Sheet* is published in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Please email relevant information to **David Madalinski** at newsletter@pwcsociety.org. Next Newsletter close is **November 15, 2023**. Please put *NEWSLETTER* in the subject line. Submissions are accepted and/or edited at the discretion of the reviewers.