

Encouraging watercolor artists and promoting their growth

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## A HISTORIC FIRST!

- The March SWS meeting had to be canceled, but for April, SWS President Amalia Fisch launched the **first virtual SWS meeting via Zoom**. Thanks to her innovation the group was able to get together and meet during the shelter in place order related to the pandemic. There was an impressive attendance of 22 members for the first online meeting.
- Diana Postlewait announced **four new members**: Keith Tyrrell, Cindy Nolan, Janie Edwards and Judy Beamer. Janie was present and spoke briefly to introduce herself. Janie had graduated from Whitworth and taken classes there. In 2006, she received watercolors as a gift and started painting again. She gave us a quick virtual tour of her beautiful studio filled with her lovely artwork. Welcome Janie!
- The **monthly Challenge** was, "Just an Impression." Members who shared their impressionistic works included Joy Gruenewald, Pat Tremaine, CJ Johnson, Gloria Fox, Kathi Eckerich, Janie Edwards, Amalia Fisch and Becky Gromlich. CJ Johnson won the monthly drawing for a \$15 gift card to Spokane Art Supply. Gail Johannes requested pictures of all the challenge paintings to post on the SWS Facebook page. **The May Challenge is "The Line Up." Composition is the key. Check the SWS website for Challenge details.**
- The **Rick Surowicz workshop** will be open for member registration from May 1st through June 30th on the SWS website. The early bird registration cost is \$300. The workshop will take place October 30th-November 1st, 2020. Kathi Eckerich is the workshop chairperson.
- The Spokane Art School board has voted to go ahead with the **SWS alternative finish show in July 2020**. The show will be hung in a quilt like fashion showcasing 96 member triad paintings. The other gallery wall will feature alternative finished landscapes which can be painted in plein air or from a photo. The maximum size is a ¼ sheet.
- Info was shared about artists who are doing **virtual painting demos**. Dan Marshall paints Wednesday and Sunday at 10:00 am on Instagram. It's available to watch for 24 hours. Stephen Berry has a great blog and will be doing a free Zoom demo on Saturday April 25th from 2:00-4:00pm. See his blog for a Zoom invitation.
- The virtual meeting wrapped up as Amalia answered questions about the alternative finishing process. Members reported they are enjoying learning the new process.
- The **SWS Member Show** this October is at the MAC possibly with a theme. More information to follow.
- Gail spoke briefly about the advantage of setting up an **artist page on the SWS website**. She needs a clear headshot for the page. Up to 5 images can be added or changed out each month.
- The May SWS general meeting will be held on Zoom. Watch for an email with the link before the meeting.



*As restrictions on gathering continue due to the pandemic, the SWS board is working to adjust: rescheduling, postponing and/or canceling programs and events, and finding new ways to share information. Please watch the website and our FB page for the latest updates. Thanks for your continued participation as we all learn new and virtual ways to stay in touch.*