**APRIL 16, 2022**

**SWS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Oral Carper, membership chair, introduced 2 new members. Welcome to Kathleen McDonald and Lori Patrick who both showed some samples of their work. SWS now has 70 members and 28 signature members.

Becky Gromlich gave a presentation for the “working artist” series. Becky has enjoyed painting all her life, falling in love with watercolor in kindergarten. Later she regularly pursued art classes, getting some bad grades for not following instructions. By 5th grade she got some encouragement and realized she was pretty good at watercolor. Many more painting classes followed. She began teaching at her church but realized she could provide a much better studio set-up in her home, where she continues to teach. She loves super realism but finds the 60-80 hours involved can become very tedious. Realizing she needed to take more classes she discovered she could make something look quite realistic and not be exactly like the photo. With this approach she can now complete a painting in closer to 10 hours. Another piece of advice is to start in an inconspicuous place on the painting when you are unsure about how to procede. Becky started the “The Watercolor Classroom” face book group which has monthly contests and weekly challenges. She also has some short u tube videos. She has created a Teacher’s Choice pallet of mostly M. Graham nongranulating colors that is available at Spokane Art Supply. Becky will be away for several months but will be presenting more workshops in 2023. She can be reached at Beckyswatercolors@gmail.com. Thank you, Becky!

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by President Gail Johannes. The meeting was recorded.

NATIONAL JURIED SHOW:

Oral Carper, National Juried Show chair, reported there were 95 submissions to the show, about half of which were from nonmembers. Of these 28 were invited to participate. Awards were increased this year. They include offerings from Daniel Smith, M. Graham, Art Salvage and Blick. Oral thanked the MAC, Spokane Art Supply, Blick, M. Graham & Co., Daniel Smith & Co., as well as Gay Witherspoon, Kim Gardell, Gail Johannes, and bari federspiel for their efforts. Paintings are to be picked up from the MAC Monday, May 2nd, from 10:00-12:00.

NEXT MEETING:

The May 21st general meeting program will be Scott Gellatly presenting about the basics of working with Casein.

PLEIN AIR:

Kathi Eckerich reported that a new outing is planned for Saturday, May 7th at the 65 acre Finch Arboretum. Meet in the parking lot at 11:00. For the May 28th outing at Carrie Dugovic’s refer to the map on the SWS website.

MEMBER JURIED SHOW:

The show will be in September as opposed to the usual October. The prospectus is on the SWS website. Entries begin May 8th. Liana Bennett will be the juror and workshop presenter.

CHALLENGE PAINTINGS:

Several members took the challenge to paint incorporating some form of iridescent pigment. Gail Johannes won the drawing for a $15 gift certificate to Spokane Art Supply. The May challenge is “reflections”.

NATIONAL JURIED SHOW: COMMENTS AND AWARDS

Bill Hook, signature member of numerous watercolor groups including American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, Northwest Watercolor Society and California Watercolor Association was the juror. He stressed that we are all trying to get better. We are competing against ourselves and that exhibits are not a competition but an opportunity for feedback. As a juror he looks first at thumbnail images of the works to assess composition and values. At a second larger scale viewing he looks for communication, considering art an event not a thing. He shared what he called his subjective observations about each of the pieces in the show, stressing that we are all just trying to get better. Mr. Hook was very impressed with the quality and diversity of the paintings and the overall presentation. Awards were as follows.

Merchandise Awards: Gina Judy, Amalia Fisch, Gay Witherspoon for 2 paintings, Dorrie Rifkin, Lyudmila Tomova

Honorable Mention: $100 each Gail Johannes, Lyudmila Tomova

Juror’s Choice Award: $150 Bari Federspiel

Third Place: $200 Gregory Saue

Second Place: $300 Oral Carper

First Place: $500 Catherine Hearding

Review all the entries on the SWS website, or better yet visit the MAC!

Next year’s juror will be Iain Stewart.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36

Respectfully submitted April 20, 2022 by Gloria Fox, SWS secretary