

Encouraging watercolor artists and promoting their growth

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THE MESSY PALETTE

About a decade ago, I was gifted by a family friend his recently deceased mother's watercolor set. I was touched by the gift and put them away in a box thinking I would explore them soon. The years passed. Then, while cleaning out my studio in 2016, I found the watercolor set and decided that I was either going to use them, or pass them on to someone who would. I set them out on my table, began playing with them, and I haven't stopped since.

Watercolor is magical to me. It is mesmerizing. It is challenging. It is beautiful. And, it is my passion. I love its portability; its translucence; and, its immediacy. I am hooked.

I joined the Spokane Watercolor Society in 2017 and have made some wonderful friends. I have learned so much from the workshops, the monthly programs, and fellow members. I have taken on Plein Air painting with gusto and have come to appreciate the importance of a local art group and the comradery it brings.

I am honored and delighted to be your president. We have an exciting year ahead and I am looking forward to working with all of you to make our society vibrant and educational.

—Amalia Fisch, SWS President

KICKING OFF THE NEW YEAR

SWS January 2020 Meeting



There was an excellent attendance for the first SWS meeting of 2020 despite the snow flying outside. Thank you to Marilyn Sarber and Vicki West for providing snacks.

The meeting started at 10:00am with 2019 President Kim Gardell passing the gavel and introducing the 2020 President, Amalia Fisch.



The **2020 board members/officers** are Diana Postlewait as VP, Kelly Knouff-Burk as Secretary, Gay Witherspoon as Treasurer. Gail Johannes, Pat Tremaine and Kim Gardell members at large.

Diana Postlewait welcomed **new member Pat Lund**. Pat has recently retired and started painting again after a 40 year hiatus. She presented a few pieces of her work to the group, stating that she averages about 15 paintings a month. She's on fire!

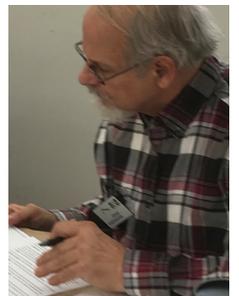
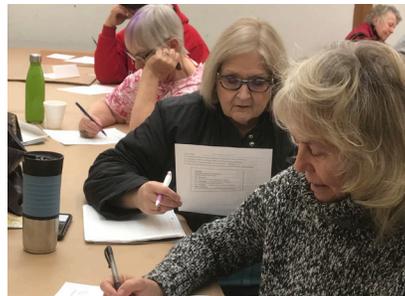


Nancy Huck presented the **Challenge** "Just One." There were 21 participants for the monochromatic task. Members painted everything from portraits to submarines. Bill Okazaki won the drawing for a \$15 gift card to Spokane Art Supply. Congrats Bill!

Amalia reported that there are 15 registrants for the **Dale Laitinen workshop** and 7 spots still available. Go to the website for more information and/or to sign up. (Now there are only 5 spots! Sign up if you're thinking about it, you don't want to miss out!)

Gail Johannes presented a quiz on the **2020 Open Juried Show** prospectus. Thanks to Gay Witherspoon for designing the fun and informative "test." Gail emphasized to apply early (**Deadline January 27th**). She explained some tech subjects like how to name a file and download the prospectus from the website. It was a lively conversation with lots of questions asked and information provided.

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Amalia spoke and demonstrated how to photograph a painting using a phone. She suggested going outside on a cloudy day and taking a picture from above making sure it is square so the photo can be cropped correctly. She made sure to clean her camera lens and click on a middle value in the painting before taking the photo. She takes several shots and does further changes in an photo editing program on her computer.



Kim Gardell talked about using a home printer/scanner to scan small works. She instructed to go into the scan dialog box and change standard settings to a higher resolution quality of 300 dpi.

Amalia demonstrated how an inexpensive frame can be altered to meet show standards. She showed to dust out the frame and clean the glass with a 1:10 vinegar solution as well as how to wire the back for hanging.

Karen Robinette walked the group step by step through entering a painting in the Open Juried Show using CaFE. She provided a handy guide that was emailed out to membership with this month's meeting announcement. Be sure to read the prospectus through and follow Karen's tips for a successful CaFE experience. Don't forget codes for the member discount on the SWS website. Karen encouraged all to enter and gain a learning experience and possibly have a piece accepted into the show as well.

FEBRUARY MEETING:

**Saturday, February 15th • 10am at Spokane Art Supply
PROGRAM: "Alternative Finishes Part One"**

Preparing your 8x8" piece for display at the July exhibit at the Spokane Art School.



**Remember to go to the website to set up your artist page.
It's a great opportunity for SWS members!**

2020 CALENDAR

JANUARY

27 – MON: Deadline for 2020 Open Juried Show Entries.

FEBRUARY

15 – SAT: 10am-1pm –SWS meeting at SAS*
Program: Alternative Finishes Demo (Part 1)

SWS will provide all paper materials i.e. cradleboard, all materials to finish paintings, adhere, wax, and hang. Cost per 8x8" cradle-board plus materials (except paint!) \$10 each– purchase as many as you like for upcoming July Art Show. Email Amalia Fisch fischamalia@gmail.com to sign-up. More information is posted on the website.

21-22 – FRI-SAT: 9am-4pm –Watercolor Studio Workshop. Contact Becky Gromlich at beckyswatercolor@gmail.com or call 509-863-5392 for more information or to register.

MARCH

21 – SAT: 10am-1pm –SWS meeting at SAS*
Program: Alternative Finishes Demo (Part 2)

APRIL

2 – 5: THUR-SUN: 9am-4pm – Dale Laitinen Workshop at SAS* (See website for details).

3: FRI: 5-10pm Open Juried Show Opening and Awards Presentation (5:00-6:00pm) Bar-rister Winery - 213 Railroad Ave.

CHECK OUT THE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR POP-UP PLEIN AIR EVENTS.

What does that mean? Plein Air Pop Ups is the concept. You pick the time and place and post it for us to join you. Everyone knows of some great places to paint whether inside or out, you pick time and date, post the invite and there we go.

*Spokane Art Supply

