

Encouraging watercolor artists and promoting their growth

Spokane Watercolor Society • PO Box 10572, Spokane WA 99206 • swsmembermail@gmail.com • spokanewatercolor.org

YONG HONG ZHONG ZOOM DEMO IS A GREAT SUCCESS



To watch the complete demo: log in to the member portal on the website and go to: Meeting Agendas/ Minutes.
 (<https://www.spokanewatercolor.org/meeting-agendas-minutes.html>)

On May 16th, 2020 SWS held its 2nd general meeting via Zoom. Amalia Fisch, SWS President, opened the meeting by introducing the board members and talking briefly about Yong Hong Zhong, the artist presenting the program. 35 members attended.

Kathi Eckerich, **Rick Surowicz Workshop** Chairperson, informed members about the workshop coming up from **Oct 30th-Nov 1 at Spokane Art Supply. Early bird member registration for the discounted rate of \$300 is available through June 30th.** After that, registration will be opened to the public and the cost will be \$350 for any registrant. A \$100 deposit will hold your place with balance due by September 30th. It's easy to register at spokanewatercolor.org.

Diana Postlewait presented the **monthly Challenge** themed, "**The Line Up**," which was focused on composition. Fourteen members submitted jpegs prior to the meeting. There was a wonderful variety. **Anna Canfield** was the winner of the drawing for a \$15 gift certificate to Spokane Art Supply. Anna is a new member who recently moved to the area from Minnesota. Welcome Anna!

Yong Hong Zhong started his demonstration by sharing his painting philosophy. He encourages his students to ask, "*What is it I like, and what is my perspective on the scene?*" How the story is told creates the

viewer. The details added should support the story. What is left out can be as important as what is included. Being selective creates space for the viewers to interact with the painting and add in their experience.

He continued by explaining a three-value system that can be expanded to 6 or 9 values. Shapes, in reference to drawing and measuring, need to vary in size and variety. He works from general to specific and from dark to light, minimizing layering for spontaneity and freshness. Yong emphasized again, when working from life or a photo, that it is necessary to add and subtract to tell the story.

The artist mentioned his materials which included Chinese calligraphy brushes, traditional mops, smaller brushes for details, a palette knife, liquid pen masking and vine charcoal for value sketches. He shared his basic paint palette and prefers to mix his own colors, noting that porcelain plates are best for mixing. He prefers Arches 140# cold press and rough paper.

Yong's painting process started with a three value sketch, then he loosely sketched a drawing onto his paper with an HB pencil, stating that as long as the big shapes are in

connection place the small shapes will follow. He mixed his light values and added paint when moving on to darker values. Each stroke was deliberate and well thought out, taking into account color shifts between cool and warm and the wetness of the paper. Yong talked about his primary and secondary focal points and the "S" shaped composition that leads to the focal point.

During a break for questions Yong gave advice to let go and not try to control too much, saying, "Put something down and don't judge it right away, but see how it plays out. Put a stroke down and see how it works with what's there. Trust and be confident. As long as the main shapes are there it will have a good foundation."

Returning to the painting, the artist stated that the last step takes the longest. He takes a break and comes back to evaluate the painting multiple times. He again emphasized to make it personal. His final painting (*center above*), which he completed after the demo concluded, is posted on Instagram and on the Facebook Members page.

The next meeting will be on Zoom, June 20th with a painting demo by Anita Lehmann.