Spokane Watercolor Society

General Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2022

President Gail Johannes opened the meeting at 9:30. The meeting was recorded.

Bari Federspiel, known artisticly as Razzlebari Watercolours, gave a brief presentation about her path to becoming a working artist. This is the first presentation in SWS's "Working Artist Series". Bari was exposed to the graphic arts at an early age as her parents were both artists. Her father was a watercolorist and her mother painted in oils, as did Bari for many years. Bari's early artistic career saw her painting very large surfaces, both indoors and out. Outdoor work, including a billboard, was done in temperatures ranging from 4-110 degrees. In her 50's, after 28 years of working in other mediums, Bari began to work in watercolor. She loves the bright colors, Opera being her favorite even though she knows it is a fugitive color. She took classes at Michael's and from Stan Miller. She talked about how to read a paint tube to understand the characteristics of each pigment. She encouraged artists to buy the best paints you can afford. She prefers using transparent pigments as they are best for layering. Bari takes photos as she progresses on a piece – she feel s it gives the same impression as standing 30 feet away from your work to evaluate. Her travel set-up includes Faber Castell watercolor pencils, sketching pencils, a watercolor sketchbook and a couple of brushes. Bari stressed the importance of doing your homework to find classes that fit your interests and skill level. She does not teach but does offer occasional workshops. Thank you to Bari for sharing her story.

Oral Carper introduced two new members, Diana Aurigemma, a signature member with NWWS, and Tina Luther who is soon to move to Spokane. Both showed samples of their work.

Margo Sety was welcomed as a new board member in charge of Zoom. She will also design promotional materials for SWS events.

There is still a need for a workshop coordinator for the fall event. The coordinator may attend the workshop for ½ price. There are experienced members available to work with the coordinator. Anyone who is interested should contact a board member.

Oral reported on the National Juried Show. There were 97 entries, of which 55 are SWS members. Pieces accepted into the show will be announced soon. We currently have 69 members, 21 of whom are signature members.

Pam Lund, coordinator for the Leslie Lambert Workshop, reported registration signup will be available on the SWS website. SWS members pay $320 through March and then members and the public all pay $350. This is an in- person, can be messy, pouring workshop.

Pam announced the March Challenge is to do a painting in 1 color.

Linda Doll will offer a professional critique session at our March meeting Participating artists may submit 2 pieces each. Send entries to webmistress Gail Johannes . Sent images should be the best you can get – check that they aren't overly dark, skewed, etc. No mat or frame should show in the photo.

February challenge paintings were shown with brief comments from the artists. Kelly Knouff-Burk won the drawing for a $15 gift certificate to Spokane Art Supply.

Linda Schneider gave a "Watercolor and Words Dance Together" presentation about using calligraphy in paintings. Linda worked for 30 years as a designer for Papyrus Cards. She does daily "mark making" journaling which sometimes become inspirations for finished pieces. She demonstrated **many** ideas and techniques. She sometimes uses calligraphy to fill in letters, to create a shape such as a shoe, to create a textured background, or to make images out of squiggles by creating light and dark areas. She uses a variety of techniques. She often works over the top of watercolor paintings or washes. Calligraphy can be applied with brushes, Pentel watercolor pens, permanent markers or dipped pens. Paint or water can be applied over marks made with Sharpies without bleeding. Water over watercolor pens will create bleeds. Pieces of failed paintings can sometimes be used as the background for a poem or some other calligraphy. She prefers working on 140# arches but likes to experiment on other surfaces such as suede mat board. Decorated envelopes for cards are another idea. 90# watercolor paper can be fed through a printer for any computer generated letters or images. She might trace a word onto paper, do a watercolor wash to fill in the letters, allow to dry and cover letters with frisket, then top with more watercolor work. Further embellishments with calligraphy can be added with gel pens, Colorcraft Brusho splatter, or sparkle jelly rollers for glittery effects. Liquid Chrome pens can be used on glass – remove with nail polish remover. Pitt artist pens can be used on rocks. She prefers warm grey 1270 as a shadow marker for flourished script.

Due to limited space Linda has found many creative ways to store her supplies vertically, making use of hanging shoe holders and lots of stacking drawers. There is a local calligraphy guild called Scripts and Scribes. All skill levels are welcome. A book she recommends is the Speedball Textbook Comprehensive Guide – 24th edition. Her work appears in this book. She will also send contact information for some free instructions that are available. She stressed the importance of repeatedly tracing the styles you prefer to gain proficiency. The only real rule she shared was never to allow lines to cross at their thickest part. Linda was very enthusiastic and encouraged using your imagination and experimenting. She repeated "The sky is the limit. Never give up". She suggested using calligraphy as an element in a SWS monthly challenge painting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Fox, Secretary, February 23, 2022