

UWS Paint Spot

Utah Watercolor Society

Jan/Feb 2012

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UWS-CVC President	Christi Heal	435-753-6557
Website www.utahwatercolor.org		
Email: utwatercolor@utwatercolor.org		
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President's Message

Greetings fellow artists! Well, the holidays are over and you have carefully sorted all your new brushes by size and shape. Your new tubes of paint are calling to you, with the new cadmium red absolutely screaming to be used. Your new full sheets of watercolor paper wait anxiously for that first splash of color. Let's not disappoint them. Let's paint!

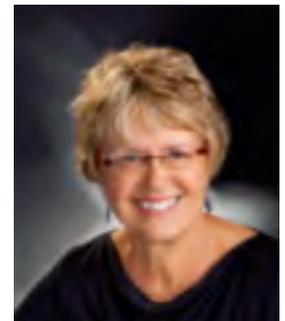
What? You didn't get new brushes and paints for Christmas? Where is that gift card to Target that Aunt Sally gave you? Think logically. "If I use the gift card to buy groceries then I can use grocery money to buy brushes!" How about that money you earned by winning an award at the last UWS show? You should use that to buy more paper! And it may be time to empty that cookie jar on the top shelf...

All kidding aside, I find the winter months an excellent time to be very productive in my studio. During the warmer months with longer days, I am busy *plein air* painting and sketching everything in sight. When the days become shorter and the temperature lower, I retreat to my studio for some serious painting time. Of course, before I paint I need to set the stage. On goes the fireplace. I select my favorite music and get a cup of hot cider. I am almost ready! Next, I sharpen ALL my pencils while looking at 30 sketches spread out on the counter. Finally, with creative juices flowing, I begin. That great sketch I made in Zion Canyon during a rain storm has caught my eye. I step away from the sketch, squint slightly to check the values and composition and start in. My style is to use bright colors, bold strokes, and lots of paint; that's just *me* showing through on the paper.

Along with paint, we put ourselves into every painting we do. I am reminded of a quote from Jackson Pollock: "Every good painter paints what he is." And as Henry Ward Beecher observes, "Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and paints his own nature into his pictures." Apparently, I have a lot of bright colors in my soul. Some UWS artists must have a quiet serene spot that shows itself in reflective still life paintings. For others, their spirit shows forth in wonderful landscapes. Some paintings are filled with motion and intrigue just like the artists who painted them. We also see some interesting figurative work coming from our friends.

Let's not sit and wait for spring! Let's paint! Remember: Live, love, and paint—with passion. Feel the joy!

~ Joyce Baron



Joyce Baron

UWS ON FACEBOOK

Missed the last meeting? Need more updated information than what's in the newsletter or perhaps on the UWS website? If you have a Facebook account that you use regularly, add the UWS Fan Page to your Facebook page or visit us on Facebook directly: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Utah-Watercolor-Society-Fan-Page/302728726647>



You will find updates on UWS meetings, workshops, and shows. Browse our photo albums, make comments, and "like" us. It is just another easy way to stay in touch!

~ Ann Galt

MEMBER NEWS

Jan Foutz's painting "Hats and More Hats" received an Honorable Mention at the 2011 **Sandy Arts Show** in November. "Hats off" to you, Jan!

Shirley Bailey's watercolor painting took Second Place in the professional category at this year's **Utah State Fair**. Shirley was also the featured artist at the **Salt Lake City Town Club** for December 2011.



Jan Foutz's "Hats and More Hats."

Anne Jewett had two paintings juried into the **37th Statewide Competition** at the Eccles Community Art Center this past summer: a watercolor entitled "A Touch of Romance" and a colored pencil piece entitled "A Spring Evening."

Nancy Dorn's transparent watercolor "Fishermen in Mexico" received the Patron's Award (\$500) in the **Watercolor West** show, which ran through December 18 at the Brea Gallery in Brea, CA. The painting was purchased by the Redlands Community hospital in Redlands, CA. Way to go, Nancy!



Nancy Dorn's "Fisherman in Mexico."

Sherry Meidell received an Award of Excellence for her watercolor painting "The Flower Keep" from the Pastel Society of New Mexico in the **New Mexico Watercolor Society's Fall Exhibition**. Congratulations, Sherry!

Kudos to those award-winning UWS members in the Murray 2011 Juried Arts and Craft Exhibit, open to all residents of Murray. The exhibit hung in the Murray Library from November 3 – 21, 2011. First Place in professional watercolor went to *Marjorie Anderson* for "Suzie's Birthday"; Marjorie also received a Third Place award for "High Tide for Tatum." *Sue Martin's* painting "The Last Ride" took First Place in the professional mixed media category. In the professional oil/acrylic category, *Kay S. Jones* took First Place for "Carpet of Flowers" and Honorable Mention for "Morning in Certaldo Aldo."

Brienne Brown received an Award of Merit in the 2011 **Spring City Plein Air Competition** for her watercolor "Farmer Gene's Chickens," and she sold three of her four paintings. Brienne also received the First Place Purchase Award for "Fields of Moab" in the wet media division in the **Plein Air Moab '11 Competition**. Nicely done, Brienne!

Don't miss the winter group show "Shades of White" at **Art at the Main**. Several UWS members have paintings in this exhibit: *Terrece Beesley*, *Caryn Feeney*, *Nancy Swanson*, *Julie Morriss*, *Sue Martin*, *Joan Zone*, and *Joy Nunn*. The show will be up through January 15, 2012.

Joy Nunn is the featured artist at **JBR Environmental Consultants, Inc.**, 8160 South Highland Drive (2000 East) in Sandy through the end of February, 2012.

UWS FALL MEMBER EXHIBITION A SMASHING SUCCESS!

The Utah Watercolor Society presented its 2011 Fall Member Exhibition at the Michael Berry Gallery in Salt Lake City from October 14 – November 11, 2011.

A hearty thank-you to all those involved in mounting a splendid fall show!

Thanks first of all to *Brienne Brown* and *Susan Packard*, who located a gallery for us and organized the show—stellar work, as usual! In addition, Brienne did a great job of graphic design, providing a colorful program featuring all paintings juried into the exhibit, plus an awards insert for the opening reception.

Our juror, *Christopher Schink*, selected 80 water media pieces for the show. Regarding his selection process, Schink noted, "I selected 80 paintings for this exhibition, but I did not select the 80 best paintings. I have no idea how I (or anyone) could do that. I selected the 80 paintings I liked best and my criteria were simple: I picked the paintings that interested, excited or moved me—the works in which I could detect and respond to the artist's imagination, involvement, and sincerity. Technique, by itself, was not a consideration in my selection. I view [technique] as simply the artist's means to an end. I expect the artist to be proficient enough to effectively convey his idea. Nor was I looking for work that was merely eccentric or bizarre. However, I did respond to paintings that I felt were imaginative and original. There were many fine works in this show, and I congratulate the members of the Utah Watercolor Society."

Our gallery host, *Michael Berry*, was pleased with the show and the reception turn-out—as were we—and happy to have sold four of the paintings! Comments in our registration book included: "Nice mixture of good paintings"; "Very enjoyable"; "Beautiful"; "Wonderful show"; "Lots of variety"; "Well done!"; "Great job"; and "Skilled members". Michael, Brienne, and Susan did a fantastic job displaying the paintings and creating a receptive ambience. The lighting and openness of the main gallery room were particularly effective in showcasing our members' art work.

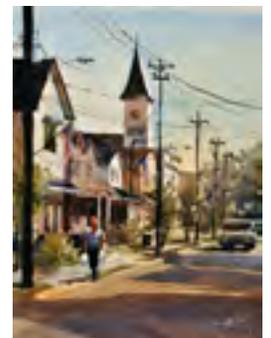
Congrats to all this year's Fall Member Exhibition winners!



"Feline Fantasy" by Irene Rampton



City Life" by Kristine Groll



"Jermyn, PA" by Brienne Brown



"Obsession" by Joyce Baron



"Open Seating" by Terrece Beesley



"To Market, To Market,"
by Emily Willis



"Father's Five Favorite Friends Gone By" by Leonard Romney

UWS Events Calendar 2011-12

JANUARY

3 Member meeting* Speaker: Sue Martin

FEBRUARY

7 Member meeting* Speaker/Demonstrator: Sam Wilson

MARCH

6 Member meeting* Speaker/Demonstrator: Robert McKay

15 Spring Open Exhibition entries due to Brienne Brown

APRIL

2 Acceptance notifications for Spring Open Exhibition sent out

3 Member meeting* Speaker/Demonstrator: Julie Roberts

28 Deliver accepted spring show paintings to Woodbury Museum (Orem, UT)

30 - May 4 Spring workshop** with Nicholas Simmons

MAY

1 Member meeting* Speaker/Demonstrator Nicholas Simmons

15 Spring Open Exhibition opens

18 Opening reception and awards presentation at Woodbury Museum (Orem, UT)

JUNE

5 Member meeting* Last meeting of the membership year

19-23 Pick up paintings at Woodbury Museum

* Unless otherwise noted, general member meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Salt Lake Community College Gail Miller Conference Center, 9750 S. 300 West, Sandy, UT 801-957-2002. A map and directions are available on the membership page of the UWS web site: utahwatercolor.org. Social hour is at 7:00 p.m. Business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., followed by the guest speaker.

** UWS workshops are held at Sons of the Utah Pioneers Building, 3301 S. 2920 E., SLC, unless otherwise noted.

Best of Show: Irene Rampton for "Feline Fantasy"
Award of Excellence: Kristine Groll for "City Life"
Award of Excellence: Terrece Beesley for "Open Seating"
Award of Merit: Joyce Baron for "Obsession"
Award of Merit: Leonard Romney for "Father's Five Favorite Friends Gone By"
Award of Merit: Brienne Brown for "Jermyn, PA"
Juror's Award: K.S. Hill for "Golden Point"
Juror's Award: Nancy Swanson for "Shadows on Pier 21"
Juror's Award: Kristi Grussendorf for "New York Neighbors"
Juror's Award: Emily Willis for "To Market, To Market"
Past President's Award: Joan Zone for "Fine Dining"

For members who were not able to see the show, visit our UWS Fan Page on Facebook and browse the Fall Member Exhibition album to see all of this year's winning paintings. ~ Ann Galt

JANUARY'S FEATURED SPEAKER: SUE MARTIN "ON PAINTING THROUGH GRIEF (AND OTHER CONCEPTS)"

After Sue Martin's mother died of cancer in 2007, Sue painted a series of "stories" about her mother as wife, friend, caregiver, gardener, and mother. After about 11 paintings, she thought she was done with the grieving—and with the series.

But then, as an art student at the University of Utah, she had to come up with a concept for another series, and once again her family took center stage. This time the series included her brother, who died more than 20 years ago, and her father, who passed away in 2010. Once again she thought she was through with grieving and the family stories.

However, after scattering all the family ashes at sea in the summer of 2011, Sue was yet again inspired to paint another family series. "Will this never end?" she wonders.

At our January meeting, Sue will share the twists and turns her series of paintings has taken; the many benefits of working in series on subjects close to the heart; and the unexpected benefits and challenges of being the "oldest living art major."

Sue has been an active UWS member since around 1998, serving as a board member for many years and as president in

2005-06. Her interest in art re-kindled after her kids were grown. She credits UWS and its many workshops for much of her development as an artist. In 2009, she decided to get "really serious" about improving the quality and direction of her art; that was when she enrolled at the University of Utah's art program. All of this comes after a career in public relations and corporate training. She was head of public affairs for Amtrak for many years and started her own company in 1995. In a previous life, Sue earned BA and MA degrees in theatre. Her less-than-15-minutes-of-fame came as an extra in the movie "The Exorcist."

Sue writes articles most months for 15 Bytes, Utah's online arts magazine (www.15bytes.com). Visit her web site at suemartinfineart.com.





Christopher Schink's workshop participants showing results of what they learned.

KUDOS FOR CHRISTOPHER SCHINK'S WORKSHOP

Participants in this fall's workshop with *Christopher Schink* were highly enthusiastic and very positive about their experience. We all loved learning from "Toph"! Here is a selection of comments:

"I thought Toph was a wonderful teacher & a good choice for us."

~ *Kristi Grussendorf*

"It was one of the best workshops I've ever had! I put Toph right up there with Mark Mehaffey and Gerald Brommer as far as teachers who inspire, encourage and really get you to think. I feel I have enough information to digest and paint for a long time!"

~ *Lynda Burruss*

"This workshop was one of the best! So many tangible concepts, presented in a clear way that really makes you think—and paint—in new ways!"

~ *Jana Winters Parkin*

"We all had such a great time with Toph, and everyone I've talked to can't wait to put paint to paper again. I've already ordered some new paints and a Skipper brush from Cheap Joe! As an erstwhile teacher, I felt confident in complimenting Toph on his teaching style and effectiveness. Each day was impeccably organized and wonderfully inspiring. I loved how he began every day with a slide show (professionally produced by Toph himself!), followed by a demo—after which he turned us loose to practice his principles. Another Toph demo in the afternoon and more painting by us—seems like there wouldn't be enough time in a workshop day to accomplish all this. And yet I got more painting done in his workshop than I have in any other workshop I've taken! I'm very pumped about spending more and more time in my studio, thanks to Toph!"

~ *Mari O'Brien*

"Don't know when we have had so much uniform praise for a workshop. It was terrific. I told Toph that I thought his presentation at the meeting presented a wonderful picture of the opportunities and

rewards of our organization. The audience responded with all the laughter and appreciation that we workshop members felt all week." ~ *Mary Wright Straight*

We encourage you to think seriously about enrolling in an upcoming workshop. Next on the agenda will be *Nicholas Simmons*, who will lead our workshop and jury our Spring Open Exhibition. The complete prospectus is included with this newsletter issue and may also be found on the UWS website: utahwatercolor.org.

~ *Mari O'Brien*

SPRING OPEN EXHIBITION / WORKSHOP DETAILS

Enclosed with this issue of *Paint Spot* you will find the complete prospectus for this year's Spring Open Exhibition. Entry deadline is **March 15, 2012**. Our juror will be *Nicholas Simmons*, who will also conduct our spring workshop.

According to *John Parks*, writing in the winter 2009 issue of *Watercolor*, "... Simmons paints in watermedia on a scale that rivals oil painting. The subject matter is a dazzling mix of figures juxtaposed with printed lettering, graffiti, Japanese block prints, neon lights, reflections, and lavish corners of nature. The effect can be disorienting, as though a camera has taken a picture by accident, revealing an image that is both exciting and mysterious. The paint itself swirls, floods, drips, and spatters, driven on by the general excitement of the imagery and giving the work a sense that it was done in a rush in a matter of minutes.

One enthusiastic workshop participant was lavish in her praise of Simmons: "I wanted to thank you for the wonderful week under your direction and inspiration... Besides being a genuinely nice human being (!!!), a superbly talented and unique artist, you are an outstanding teacher as well. Everything you demonstrated was done so clearly and with the utmost patience... Your upbeat personality and outrageous humor made it all the more fun. Each individual felt that you were genuinely interested in what they were attempting and you spent so much time with each of us... Being in your presence and seeing you work was a great motivator for me." For more info and to view Simmons's gallery, visit his web site at: nicholassimmons.com.

This will be an outstanding workshop that you won't want to miss! For details and to register, contact *Ann DeWeese* (mendonartist@yahoo.com or 435-228-1011). ~ *Ann DeWeese*



Participants at the Lester Lee workshop show off their outstanding pieces of art.

MINI-WORKSHOPS ALSO A SUCCESS!

Two wonderful mini-workshops were held in October and November. If you missed these opportunities, watch for more mini-workshops in the early spring. We continue to have excellent instructors willing to share their artistic perspectives and skills with us in a small, comfortable learning environment. We hope you'll join us for the upcoming workshops. They are such a great bargain compared with other workshops in the region. On October 28-29, *Willamarie Huelskamp* taught and guided the participants to explore *value* as one of the most important—actually *the* most important factor in a successful painting. We heard "Value is everything" more than once during the workshop. After several exercises in looking at, choosing, and drawing or painting value patterns, participants came away with skills and added confidence in determining values in their compositions. It was a fabulous workshop. Many thanks, *Willamarie!* *Lester Lee's* November 18-19 workshop emphasized composition, perspective, and other basic skills. We were privileged to have him come all the way down from northern Utah to share his excellent teaching methods with the workshop participants. The participants came away feeling it was an excellent workshop that helped them hone their skills in developing compositions that capture the viewer's interest and hold true to the painting's purpose. Thank you, *Lester!*

~ *Janet Brohm*



Willamarie Huelskamp workshop participants.

Utah Watercolor Society Newsletter, January/February 2012

UWS-CVC 2011-2012 Officers and Committees

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Linda Sargent 435-752-2936

Workshops

Sherrill Gordon 435-881-4718

Brenda Brunello 435-753-3138

CVC Members Serving on UWS

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Kristi Grussendorf 801-673-6883

Lynda Burruss 435-512-9454

Blog Spot: uws-cvc.blogspot.com

News from the North – Cache Valley Chapter

President's Message

The great thing about art is that it is an exploration of the creative process. I am always learning from my own experimentation and from my observation of the creative process in others. A few years ago I met one of my favorite Cache Valley artists, *Beverly Byington*. Her home is filled with a treasure trove of art work, from sculpture to watercolors, oil paintings, fabric creations and most anything you can think of. She is one of the original members of the Cache Valley Chapter of the UWS. One of her most impressive accomplishments is the small books of sketches and watercolors she has done illustrating her life. She has portrayed from memory wonderful drawings of her home, family members, fun times and sad times in her life. She has several of these books—or, should I say, “graphic novels.”



Christi Heal

Beautiful examples of graphic novels are displayed at the Merrill-Cazier Library on the Utah State University campus. According to the *New York Times Magazine*, “Graphic novels are the new literary form....a literary, visual, political and cultural artifact. The evolution of the comic strip into a graphic novel has allowed for difficult concepts, ideologies and events in history to be condensed down into visual images with text in sequential frames. By using the format of a graphic novel with visual cues and minor dialogue readers are emotionally attached to the plot. Graphic novels such as *In the Shadow of No Towers* uses the format of a graphic novel to not only tell the story of 9/11, but also to explore social and political issues related to the war on terrorism and how oil is used to further political agendas.”

I may not be able to portray anything as great as some of the graphic novels illustrated at the Merrill-Cazier Library, but I love a book with pictures. I very much enjoyed reading Bev's novels. Her children and grandchildren love them too. The visual cues capture a feeling that words alone do not fully express. What a wonderful legacy to leave to her family and what a great way to do a personal history!

With the New Year at hand and resolutions being made, I'll try to develop a graphic novel of my own. By doing so, if for no other reason, perhaps I will improve my drawing skills.

~Christi Heal

EDITORS CORNER: THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

It was at the painting drop-off for the Mini-Show in February, 2010, that my active involvement in UWS began. Maura Naughton, that year's president, approached me as I was gazing at the many wonderful entries lined up against the gallery walls. She very skillfully and convincingly “corralled” me into helping with graphic design for WFWS 35—and that was the beginning of my adventures with UWS. I so much enjoyed working with the WFWS committee that spring that I decided to volunteer for the newsletter editor board position for the upcoming membership year. It seemed a perfect job for me: logophile and intermittent writer/editor that I have been for many years. And I wouldn't even have to do the layout myself!

I have enthusiastically embraced this

position, and being a member of the UWS board has brought me great friends and art pals as well as much growth as an artist. UWS is a top-notch art organization, in my opinion, and I count myself extremely lucky to work so closely with all the board members and our wonderful general members to promote water media art in our community. I have developed so much as an art professional, and much of my growth can be directly attributed to my involvement with UWS—being encouraged by fellow members to enter our juried shows; observing the many talented and generous artists who share their techniques and talents with us at our monthly meetings; participating in spring and fall workshops with the amazing artists who jury our shows and so effectively teach their methods and approaches in our workshops. I have flourished in so many ways—and it will be difficult to end my active association with UWS.

But say farewell I must, as my husband Tom and I set off for new adventures in California. While I am energized at the prospect of finding my way in the San Luis Obispo art community, I am concurrently saddened at the thought of leaving you all—although I do plan on remaining a UWS member and continuing to work on achieving signature membership and on having a painting accepted into Western Fed—and hopefully returning for a workshop from time to time! My highly capable friend and accomplished artist *Jana Winters Parkin* has agreed to serve as your new newsletter editor, and I am comforted by knowing that *Paint Spot* will be in such capable hands.

So for now, thanks to everyone—for the memories as well as for the opportunities. I will forever remain an exuberant fan of UWS! *Merçi mille fois!!*

~ Mari O'Brien



Utah Watercolor Society
PO Box 581005
Salt Lake City, UT 84158-1005
www.utahwatercolor.org
utwatercolor@utwatercolor.com

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PLEASE GIVE US YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**FEBRUARY'S FEATURED ARTIST:
 SAM WILSON, THE "50-YEAR ART STUDENT"**

Professor *Sam Wilson*, who has taught drawing and painting at the University of Utah for 30+ years, is fond of telling his students that he's been an art student for 50 years. Indeed, he is a model of continuous learning through experimentation. For water media artists, his evolution is instructive. As a student in California and post-graduation, he explored watercolor and *trompe l'oeil* painting. Today, he mixes watercolor, acrylic, pastel, and colored pencils to produce highly detailed and colorful works on paper, panel or canvas. He works in series, freely appropriates images from dead Italians and pop art, and often incorporates textual diatribes filled with humor and *double entendre*. Sometimes, his paintings even pop out of the two-dimensional surface with a relief sculpted of canvas and acrylic medium. Above all, Sam Wilson is an entertaining speaker. This meeting will be an adventure!

~ Sue Martin



"A Groucho Marxist (Myself) as the Cubist..." by Sam Wilson



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