Utah Watercolor Society

March/April 2012

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Webmaster	001-002-2720
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Crystal Dunn	801-278-8801
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Sue Valentine	801-484-9255
Paint-Outs Assistant	
Tom Howard	801-964-8915
Constant Contact	

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Website www.utahwatercolor.org

Email: utwatercolor@utwatercolor.org

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Past President & WFWS Alternate

President's Message

A friend was visiting me in my studio. Looking around at some of my paintings she noticed a very realistic painting of a motorcycle that I had painted a year or two ago. My friend exclaimed, "I didn't know that you did actual paintings!" She immediately regretted making the statement and began to apologize. I just laughed. I told her that it was not an "actual" motorcycle but a flat painting representing my motorcycle.

While looking through some back editions of "The Palette" magazine I found a great article by Christopher Schink entitled "Abstraction+". Let me quote a paragraph or two:

"This is not a pipe,' Belgian Surrealist Rene' Magritte writes at the bottom of his amusing painting (a detailed il-



Joyce Baron

lustration of a curved wooden smoker's pipe). And it's not a pipe; it's an abstraction—a two-dimensional symbol for a pipe."

"The process of abstraction-- the translation of the real, tangible, three-dimensional world into shapes, lines, and colors on a two-dimensional surface-- is fundamental to painting. That's what painters do and every painter does it, but not always in the same way or to the same degree."

"Some painters include an immense amount of visual information in their painting, using shape, value, texture, and line to convey the form, dimensionality, and color of their subject (think Vermeer or Wyeth). Some painters simplify their images, using basic shapes and symbols to convey the essence of their subject (think Matisse or Avery), and others severely distort these simple shapes to make them more personally expressive (think Picasso). Finally, some artists limit the amount of information they include in their painting, employing the mere suggestion of their subject, relying on undefined color and shape to carry their expressive content."

"Most inexperienced painters believe that the greater the amount of detailed information they include in a painting, the stronger the image will be-- in short, to have your message effectively conveyed requires recording a lot of visual facts. What would surprise most beginning painters is how little abstract information is necessary to convey an idea and suggest a subject."

As I paint, I try to remember to keep it simple, make it clear. Have fun, paint on and prosper!

-Joyce Baron, UWS President

Editor's Corner:

801-560-8572

801-949-6835

801-355-5266

435-753-6557

Just a quick shout-out to our dear friend and former newsletter editor/genius Mari O'Brien!

Mari, you have left a gigantic hole in our organization—not just by vacating the newsletter post, but by taking off with all your abundant energy, artistry and *joie de vivre*. You have contributed so much to our meetings, workshops, and our group as a whole. We all love you and miss you and can't wait until you come back to visit. *Merci mille fois! Bon Voyage!* And happy surfing! —Or whatever you do in your spare time there at the beach....

Members, those of you who long for some continued Mari influence in your life can enjoy a virtual visit and see her excellent writing on her blog: marihobrien.blogspot.com

—Jana Parkin

Mini-Workshops

All mini workshops are at Sons of the Utah Pioneers Building, 9am – 4pm \$125 current UWS members/ \$160 nonmembers includes UWS membership for 2011-12

On Jan. 13-14, our UWS and national award-winning **KRISTI GRUSSENDORF** presented a wonderful 2 day workshop on Composition Design & "Punching up" Focal Points (Center of Interest). We looked at how the masters very intentionally designed their compositions & explored ways in which they were able to lead the viewer through the piece & emphasize the center of interest. Some of the tools we discussed were value & color changes, variety & movement (rhythm) of shape & line & content/subject matter. Kristi shared how she spends a large proportion of her time in the planning & visualizing stage so she's able to paint with confidence & a loose stroke. Kristi's demo paintings were so much fun to watch and learn from.

On Day 1 we worked on more intuitive painting (Improv), discovering & then enhancing the focal point.

On Day 2 we focused on a planned, intentional focal point. Everyone enjoyed this fabulous workshop. Kristi's encouraging style and positive feedback was appreciated by all the participants. Thanks for sharing your wonderful talents and teaching with us, Kristi! See Kristi's works at www.kristigrussendorf.com.

MARIAN DUNN's mini-workshop was on Feb. 24-25. Her teaching emphasized "Luminous Watercolors". A review of her workshop will be included in the May/June newsletter. See Marian's works at www.mariandunngallery.com





Hot Peppers on a Cool Day by Marian Dunn An Alpha Chicken by Marian Dunn (left)

JULIE ROGERS - MARCH 30-31 Julie Rogers is going to be our April UWS meeting artist presenter. On the weekend just prior to the UWS meeting, we are excited to have Julie Rogers teach a 2 day mini-workshop for us on Fri & Sat, March 30 & 31, at the Sons of the Utah Pioneers building, from 9-4 on both days. The workshop emphasis will be on a variety of compositional and painting elements. However the "theme" of the workshop will be: "LET YOUR PAINTINGS SING WITH WARMS AND COOLS". PLEASE see the UWS website for more information on Julie's wonderful paintings and this workshop. See Julie's work at www. JulieRogersArt.com

Contact Janet Brohm 801-455-9024 jhbrohm@gmail.com OR Colleen Reynolds 801-561-0894 colleencrbe@q.com for questions and registration.



The Hands of the Potter by Julie Rogers



Mesa by Kristi Grussendorf



Flowers for Richard by Kristi Grussendorf



Kristi's Workshop, February 2012.

What's Ahead at our Monthly Meetings:

March: Robert McKay

Hey, you wonderful, spirited and talented artists, you are in for a plethora of art on Tuesday, March 6th, which will be featuring Robert McKay from SLCC! He has a long list of teaching—from illustrating, to the figure and landscape painting for the University of Utah as well as figure drawing for Brigham Young University and now Salt Lake Community College! I love his opening statement in his bio: "I endeavor to capture the breathing essence of my subjects. Studies from life are a critical part of my work in seeking beauty, harmony, order and truth in nature." That is a painting in writing! Do any of you remember Lorin Folland (Suzanne Reynolds?). Mr. McKay had him for his high school art teacher and to hear "the rest of the story," please don your coats and bring your sketch pads for a terrific evening of what we all live and breathe for, ART!



Dust N'Trails by Julie Rogers

April: Julie Rogers

On April 3rd, at 7:00 p.m., expect a visual treat from Southern Utah artist, Julie Rogers. Julie has 'wowed' nearly every artistic venue in which she has been juried or shown art. You can see for yourself wherever you find her work. It can be seen at Gunnison City Hall or at Santa Clare, Utah's new City Building as a 7 by 27 foot mural just above the first floor staircase. You can find it in national and international periodicals, in books, or within organizations who use art for posters or publications. She has garnished several national awards. And as part of the American Women National Contest, she received awards for both first place and Peoples' Choice. If you find her work exhibited, or just look her up on the web, you will notice that it speaks to the soul. And why not? She has used ancestral models (ie: a descendant of a particular person who is depicted) for much of her work.

Among other mediums, Julie loves



MARCH

- 6 Member Meeting—Robert McKay presentationMarch
- 15 Spring Open Exhibition entries due to Brienne Brown
- 30 Julie Rogers Mini-Workshop

APRIL

- 2 Acceptance notificationos for Spring Open Exhibition sent out
- 3 Member Meeting—Julie Rogers presentation
- 28 Deliver accepted spring show paintings to Woodbury Museum (Orem)
- 30 May 4 Spring workshop** with Nicholas Simmons

MAY

- 1 Member meeting* Speaker/Demonstrator Nicholas Simmons
- 15 Spring Open Exhibition opens
- 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.

watercolor! She has painted with it for 30 years. The American Kennel Club, which registers purebred dogs, has been the backdrop for 30 years as well. For their patrons, Julie has painted owners with their dogs. To this day, Julie still does commissioned work, whether it be of dogs, owners, children, pioneer ancestors or other requests. Julie paints from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on days when she is not teaching a class or fulfilling other art tasks. Her goals are set high. Seeking to "stir the heart" she hopes to "heighten a sense of peace and joy" for her viewers.

- Barbara Glick

Member News

Bessann Swanson has a little show at Cafe Niche which runs from Feb 26–March 25. Come have a delightful bite at Cafe Niche in Salt Lake City, 779 E 300 South, open 8am-9 pm Tues-Sat and Sunday brunch 9-2 and enjoy the ambiance of Bessann Swanson's watercolor paintings, from now until until March 25!

Lynda Burruss was invited to hold

a solo exhibition at the Eccles Carriage House Community Art Center for the month of February. Opening night was in conjunction with the Gallery Walk (and the Black and White show) on Friday, Feb. 3, from 5:00 til 8:00 PM.

Kristi Grussendorf's painting "Red Rock Reverie" has been included in the February 2012 issue of "Watercolor Artist" magazine—article by Jessica Canterbury entitled "The Year's Best Paintings"

She will have two pieces in the 2012 Sears Dixie Invitational - Feb. 17th is the Gala Dinner & Preview & the show will run through March 25th. If you need more info, let Kristi know or contact Kathy Cieslewicz at cieslewicz@dixie.edu Kristi also had a home show in Salt Lake City on Feb. 11th.

Roland Lee has 11 watercolors on display through May 25, 2012 at the St. George Art Museum as part of their "Collections from the Collection" show. The paintings are all from the museum's permanent collection.

(continued on back page)

WF 37 Las Vegas, Nevada

Congratulations to all that entered this years Western Federation of Watercolor Societies exhibit and especially those who were selected for inclusion in this year's show. They are: Dianne Adams, *The Cutting Edge*; Osral B. Allred, *The Herding Stick;* Jan Foutz, *Hats and More Hats*; Kristine Groll, *Pastel Passion*; Kazuko S. Hill, *Abyss*; Lola Kartchner, *A Prayer for Evening*; Paige Kimball, *Return from River Market*, Sherry Meidell, *Driving Durango*; Ian Ramsey, *Tokyo Market Street*, and Kathy Sutherland, *Willow*.

This year's exhibition will be held at the Ham Hall at University of Nevada Las Vegas with opening night scheduled for Friday April 13, 2012. The show will hang there from April 2 through June 4th 2012. Many members have expressed an interest in joining us in Las Vegas for the show and the activities that surround the WF exhibition opening. After checking the prices of hiring a bus, we've decided to car pool or fly. This year's hotel is the Hyatt Place Las Vegas and is offering a room rate of \$119/night. Two or three people can easily share a room. The Nevada Watercolor Society is planing activities such as a welcome reception on Thursday evening, 12 April, the show awards ceremony and opening reception on Friday and leaving Saturday open for what we want to do. If you have and interest in attending, please email Maura Naughton at jimmaurab@aol.com for more information.

Signature membership for the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies requires entry into just four shows. Last year Osral Allred and Nancy Maxfield Lund achieved this honor. I later received an email from Spike Ress and he too had achieved the honor. To verify his info I had the opportunity to go visit our WF archives stored in the special collections area of the Marriott Library at the U of U. Spike was in WF before Utah was a member of WF, entering through the New Mexico Watercolor Society and then the Nevada Watercolor



The Herding Stick by Osral Allred

Society for WF 9 and 10. If you think you may have achieved signature membership please contact me or Joy Nunn for verification. As with UWS signature membership, it is your responsibility to keep records of the shows and awards for which you are selected. Here's a trivial pursuit question for you straight out of the archives: What year did the Utah Watercolor Society become a member of the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies? Correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a prize. Good Luck everyone, keep painting, and keep entering shows!

—Maura Naughton

Nicholas Simmons Workshop

Nicholas Simmons is one of the most exciting artists on the watercolor scene. His large, non-traditional watercolor and acrylic paintings instantly earn the admiration of artists in all mediums, and are sought by collectors, public and private. He was the subject of a six-page article in the February 2007 issue of **Watercolor Magic** magazine, and

has filmed a DVD for Creative Catalyst Productions. He has been featured on Maryland Public Television and his work has been published in a variety of venues. Nicholas teaches his Watercolor On The Edge workshop and will be in Salt Lake City April 30-May 4, 2012.

His influences include the many painters he has studied with, and the work of John Singer Sargent, Whistler, Sorolla, Klimt, Toulouse-Lautrec, Paul Klee, Robert Motherwell, Andrew Wyeth, Andy Warhol, and Mauricio Lasansky. Visit the website of Nicholas Simmons: http://www.nicholassimmons.com/





LaVidaBreve (left); September Memory (right) by Nicholas Simmons





Return From River Market by Sherry Meidell (Top); Abyss by Kazuko S. Hill (bottom)

Upcoming Illustrators' Conference

There is going to be an SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) Illustrators' Conference on February 25, 2012 at the Bountiful Davis Art Center. It will go from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Illustrator Will Terry, Picture Book Author Anne Bowen and Illustrator Sherry Meidell will present. Any members of UWS who are interested or wish to attend can find out more details at www.drawingsunshine. wordpress.com

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I Heard That, watercolor on paper by Carl Purcell

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News from the North - Cache Valley Chapter

President's Message

It has been raining for the past three days and it does not seem like our usual Cache Valley winter weather. Because we have had some cold freezing days the ground is frozen so the rain does not soak into the soil but runs off the surface forming streams and ponds through farm lands and neighborhoods. The City of North Logan has been pumping one of those ponds just below where I live. There is a concern that the water will run over the road thus flooding the homes on the other side. It is a good example of how water follows the path of least resistance.

Watercolors are similar to what is happening in my neighborhood. They follow the path of least resistance. The trick is finding and understanding the surface you are painting on and knowing when and how to control your paint. With too much



Christi Heal

control and not enough water our painting does not succeed. It takes a lot of practice and experience to get the water, paint and paper to respond in a way that makes a loose but beautiful painting. In other words, watercolors are hard work.

Last weekend I took a workshop from Lester Lee here in Cache Valley. Lester made the point that creating a beautiful painting is hard work. I was actually inspired by those words. Even though I love to paint, I find that it takes a lot of experimentation and seemingly failed paintings in order to get one that is reasonably good. If Lester Lee thinks that watercolors are hard work then maybe there is hope for me if I work diligently. It is definitely not the path of least resistance. There is a satisfaction that comes from working hard at something. I think we learn from our effort and can better appreciate the accomplishments of others. That is the great thing about the watercolor society. We share and inspire each other and we do not take the path of least resistance.

-Christi Heal

Bountiful Statewide Competition

The following UWS members had paintings accepted into the Bountiful Statewide Competition which will hang until March 9.

Brienne Brown, Stephanie Carter-Nielson, Maggie Harrison, Lucia Heffernan, Catherine Darling Hostetter, Eddi Malloy, Ian Ramsey, Steve Sheffield, Sherrie Southwick, Bessann Swanson

-Bessann Swanson

In Memormium

Bill Porter, a UWS member and fellow Utah artist, died on Jan. 3.



Bill Porter

2012. He will be missed! And we wish for him a heaven filled with unlimited Arches, clean water, and brilliant color!

ISA Winter Show Awards

Best of Show - Rick Kennington

Member of Merit Division

1st Place - Shirley Bailey

2nd Place - Frank Fuller

3rd Place - Diana Stover

HM - Susan Jarvis

HM - Iletta Green

HM - Darla Robers

Advanced Division

1st - Renon Hulet

2nd - Lucian Heffernan

3rd - Nan Grav

HM - Colleen Reynolds

HM - Helen Nix

HM - Nila Jane Autry

Intermediate Division

1st - Ellen Trickler

2nd -Gene Klatt

3rd - Jan Foutz

-Shirley Bailey

Email Address updates:

Gene Klatt - geneklatt@msn.com Toni Youngblood - youngblood@gmail.com



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

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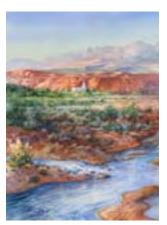
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Roland also has two paintings in the Sears Invitational Art Show at Dixie State College Eccles Museum through March 25, 2012. One of his paintings is also on the cover of Lyman Hafen's new book "Where Two Streams Meet."

Becky Hartvigsen has had a painting accepted into the 145 Annual International Show of the American Watercolor Society. The show is April 3-21 at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. The painting is named "King of the Patch" and is the painting of a great big cabbage.



King of the Patch by Becky Hartvigsen



Where Two Streams Meet by Roland Lee

Renon Hulet has a recently updated website and invites fellow UWS members to stop by. Please take a look at: www.renonkhulet.com

Richard M. Garland's art work can be viewed on YouTube—just type in this address: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iH72_xi844U



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