



Number 23, Spring 2024



Published by Potomac Valley Watercolorists, Inc. –*promoting the art and excellence of watercolor painting.*

Message from our president

How does making art contribute to your emotional and spiritual health? The more I think about that, the more benefits I find.



It's worth contemplating! For instance, most of us find that our time-awareness fades away when we're involved in making art – we are liberated from the tyranny of the clock. Emerging from an art experience, we realize how different that feels from time-on-the-clock. It's as if we cross a liminal threshold and enter an enchanted realm of possibility and inspiration. It almost doesn't matter what we do as long as we are engaging with our brushes, paints, paper and imaginations. We are improving our day and ourselves by making art.

Painting with others, in a class or a plein air event or other format, seems to deepen this experience. I am inspired by what others are doing and energized to push my boundaries. It is truly amazing to see how each person develops their own style and artistic lexicon. All of this directly improves my mood, my urge to continue painting, and my optimism about a world that can offer me this opportunity.

Watching the incoming parade of exquisite paintings at the Green Spring Gardens receiving, I had to catch my breath as these gems lit up the room, a cavalcade of gorgeous artwork. It is such a privilege to be in the company of so many accomplished artists. I am grateful to be part of you and to feel my life enriched by your artwork, friendship and contributions to PVW.

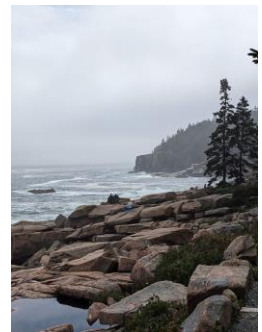
Linda Maldonado
President

This world is but a canvas to our imagination. - Henry David Thoreau

PVW BUSINESS

Mentors: Interested in helping our newest members? Think about volunteering as a mentor – it doesn't take much time and, in addition to showing support, a mentor can anticipate questions, help navigate the PVW website and show the new member how to register for exhibitions, workshops and the annual luncheon. If you can help out, please contact Leigh Fulton for more information. lrfulton@verizon.net

The Maine Trip to Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park is scheduled for September 7-14, 2024. We stay in an 100+ year old stone home located In Southwest Harbor overlooking the Soames Sound. If you love to paint en plein air, enjoy beautiful scenery and eating great seafood including lobster, this is the trip for you. We are a friendly group, love painting and having fun. There are so many amazing things to do in the Acadia National Park, including hiking, biking, kayaking and rock climbing. **There is ONE ROOM AVAILABLE -** Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity! Please contact Vita Sims for any questions and further details. vita@vitadesigns.com



Heads Up: Looking out a few months....more information to follow.

Sept 9-11: Fall workshop with Lynne Ferris

Nov 1: Deadline for new member's applications

Nov 9-10: St. Andrew's Fall Show

PVW BUSINESS

Featured Artists: Beginning in 2024 Kat Jamieson took over the posting of the monthly featured artists from Pat Porter, who said, "It has been fun and rewarding working with our artists for the past several years on the monthly featured artist pages and on our online shows." *Many thanks to Pat Porter for all her previous work.*

FINANCIAL NEWS

Dues: While PVW has maintained roughly the same income over the past several years, costs have been steadily rising. On May 1, 2024, the Board approved a flat \$50 membership fee starting in 2025. This eliminates the early-bird discount and supports our financial stability as our expenses increase.

Finance Committee: The new Finance Committee (FC) is led by VP Thom Lowther and includes Leigh Fulton, Elaine Nunnally and Jeane Stetson. The FC reviews the annual income/expenses of PVW and uses this data to plan for the future. To help reduce the routine financial workload of the Treasurer, the PVW Board has elected to outsource much of the data entry work by hiring a bookkeeper, Candee Roth of Gadfly Ledgers.

WHAT WE REALLY NEED NOW IS A PVW TREASURER to act as a liaison between the Finance Committee and the bookkeeper. Our long-time PVW Treasurer, Donna Sturm has moved on, and we need to find another great PVW volunteer to pick up the reins. The role of the Treasurer will be significantly reduced because of the outsourced data entry and electronic generation of reports. Please contact any member of the Finance Committee for more details.

***PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THE TREASURER POSITION
WE NEED YOU!***

Many, many thanks to Donna Sturm who was PVW's Treasurer for many, many years.

PVW BUSINESS

50th Anniversary



From Kate Niner: When I sat down to write a few words for the newsletter I thought I would focus on the history of PVW. After all, 50 years is a significant and notable anniversary! And there's plenty to celebrate. We have a uniquely talented membership, one whose focus and achievements stand out in the local area. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that perhaps what we should be lauding is watercolor itself. It is not an easy mistress! It challenges the artist in ways that no other medium can. But it is also one that manages to cross cultural, economic and, dare I say it, generational divides. From finger painting, budding geniuses to the likes of John Singer Sargent and Andrew Wyeth, watercolor requires nothing fancier than water, paper, some paint and a brush. Its history goes back thousands of years, and we are simply the latest generations of artists to try to master its mercurial yet sublime nature. In an age where things change from day to day, hour to hour, minute to minute, watercolor is a refuge, a link back to the generations of previous artists whose creative desires have left us with such a rich legacy of artistic achievement.

To mark this celebration of 50 years of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists, every current member will receive this commemorative tote bag, featuring its distinctive anniversary logo designed by our very own **Marta Legeckis**. From farmers' market finds to plein aire adventures, you can proudly proclaim that you are a PVW member. We'll be in touch in the near future with details of pick-up arrangements, along with news about other commemorative events that are in the works. Watch this space!

Kate



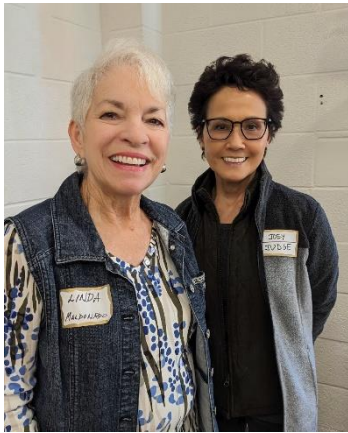
Thanks to everyone on the 50th Anniversary committee for their contributions.

ST. ANDREW'S SHOW

Nov. 11 - Nov. 12th, 2023



Judge: Joey P. Mánlapaz



PVW was especially pleased to have local Washingtonian, Joey P. Mánlapaz as our judge. Ms. Mánlapaz, earned her MFA in painting from The George Washington University with her ongoing fascination for and concentration on the city of Washington as subject matter. Ms. Mánlapaz exhibits extensively in the U.S. and is recognized for her unique form of painterly photorealism. She is an experienced professor of art having taught at the Corcoran since 1992. Several honors and awards for artistic merit include a coveted 2003 National Book Festival painting commission from the U.S. Library of Congress and First Lady Laura Bush. In 2012, her papers, correspondence and sketchbooks were acquired by the U.S. Library of Congress.

In her comments during the awards ceremony, Ms. Mánlapaz emphasized the importance of a painting's ability to engage the curiosity of the viewer and to convey a story or a message.

We had a total of 441 visitors, and it was wonderful to see so many old friends and members who came out to see the show! There were approximately 60 tabletop paintings. Many paintings and note cards were sold – it helped that we set a minimum of \$20 on note card packets. 64% of our artists sold at least one item. We sold a total of 155 items (78 packs of cards sold).

Total sales:	\$14,533
Raffle sales:	<u>1,325</u>
Total:	\$15,858

ST. ANDREW'S SHOW

Nov. 11 - Nov. 12th, 2023



ST. ANDREW'S FALL SHOW Award Winners

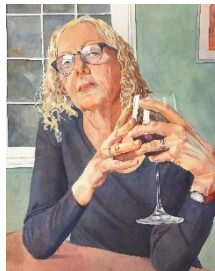


First place
Karen Norman



Third place
Stephanie Gustavson

Second place
Deborah Conn



Baltimore Watercolor Society
Carolyn Marshall Wright



Delaware Watercolor Society
Marta Legeckis



Memorial Award in Memory of
Concetta Scott, Lieta Gerson
and Nancy Walnes
Rachel Collins



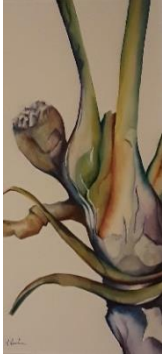
Best Tabletop painting
Jeanne McIntyre



ST. ANDREW'S FALL SHOW

Honorable Mentions:

Marshall Carolus



Peter Ulrich



Pat Porter



Angela Lacy



Katherine Sullivan



Cecilia Capestany



Martha Petroff



Pritha Srinivasan



Judie Gray
Vicky Zhou
Sue Lynch
Tony Neville

Honorable Mention - Tabletop painting: Mak Dehejia

Congratulations to all the winners.

Thanks to Leigh Fulton, Marshall Carolus, Kat Jamieson, Linda Maldonado, Susan Bradley Rob Henry, Grace Rooney and Ginger Sanaie for all the behind the scenes work to make this a success.

New Members



Stacy Diem: I have been painting off and on since high school in Olmsted Falls Ohio. I went to college after graduating and found it was not for me; I wanted to travel. So, I joined the U.S. Air Force when I was 21 and began my life. I was stationed in New Hampshire, Germany, Maryland, Korea, Alaska, Utah and Ohio. I wanted to do more traveling, but I was “too close to retirement” - bummer. I retired in 2005 and went back to Ohio where I worked for Fedex for 8 years.

I tried to take classes whenever I had time. I moved back to Maryland in 2014 and started to take classes since I had the money and time. I’m enjoying my painting and how it gives me purpose. I’m trying to branch out with techniques and subjects. I do it for myself, really, though it would be nice to sell more. I am traveling overseas and seeing the places I’ve dreamed of seeing. I ride motorcycles with my partner, and we love the outdoors. Thank you for the encouragement and support people have given me to succeed.

New Members



Catherine (Kitty) Royster Petroff: I was born at the U.S. Naval Academy Hospital, in Annapolis, Maryland. I worked as a secretary & teacher with the federal government for 35 years and lived in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, London, England, and Ramstein, Germany. I took art lessons in many of those locations and studied various art forms using oil, acrylic & watercolor. I also studied jewelry making in silver, copper & titanium. Some of my favorite artists are Bierstadt for his landscapes and Rothko for his colors.

Craig Wright: I'm a part-time, practicing watercolor artist based in Northern Virginia. I began watercolor painting at the beginning of 2020 and since then, I've been fine tuning my craft and narrowing in on who I am as an artist. My default style is realism. I try to recreate subjects as accurately and realistically as possible, with a particular focus on depth, shadows, contrast, and natural colors. The complicated nature of my painting subjects reflects the fact that I love a good challenge, especially one that stretches my abilities.



The word "easy" is not in my vocabulary. I'm always on the lookout for new experiences and I tend to avoid repetition. This explains the diverse subject matter of my portfolio. I look forward to continuing my journey as an artist and a member of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists (PVW). I hope you like and/or appreciate my paintings.

Paint Outs

Rob Henry has found a number of great locations for Plein Air painting. As we get closer to each date, Rob will email meeting locations and times. Rob has scheduled Paint Outs on Saturdays and during the week in an effort to accommodate everyone's schedules. Please contact Rob if you have any questions.

As Rob says, "Plein Air painting isn't intimidating, you're just painting outside."



Some of the locations chosen by Rob:

Bishops Garden, Olmsted Woods at the National Cathedral in DC - April 20

River Farm, Alexandria, VA - May 22

Peter Ulrich's Garden in MD or Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in DC - July 17

Sunflower Fields off River Road, Darnestown - August 21

Pierce Mill, Rock Creek Park, DC - September 14

Thanks to Rob Henry (rah135@aol.com) for organizing the Paint Outs.



Paint Outs



Potomac Valley artist enjoyed a day at the Bishops Garden in the National Cathedral on Saturday, April 20th. There were eight member members from PW there and three members of the Loudon sketch club who joined us.



Many thanks to Rob Henry for organizing these events.

Tips and Tricks

How do you create 'tactile perspective' in watercolor?

Mak Dehejia raised the question at the PVW annual luncheon about how to create a sense of three-dimensional perspective in watercolor. You can imagine achieving this using thick blobs of oil or acrylic paint – but how do you build up layers in transparent watercolor?? Here is what artist Mitchell Albala* has to say about it:

Atmospheric perspective (also called aerial perspective) works with color and value. As forms recede farther into the distance, value contrasts are reduced, and there is a noticeable shift toward blue and/or violet. Details soften and colors become lighter.

Linear perspective. As lines converge toward a vanishing point in the distance, they create the illusion of movement back into space. The eye, following these diagonals, is drawn through the window that frames our composition.

Tactile perspective uses variations in the texture of the paint to help suggest near and far, to support the illusion of depth within the flat, two-dimensional surface that is our painting. Tactile perspective assigns paint texture according to where that portion of the subject sits in space. (In other words, thicker texture and more details in the foreground).

Input from our members:

Elaine Nunnally: I've been thinking about it and the only way to get actual texture (tactile) is to use actual things mixed up with the paint. Things like sand, paper, string, oatmeal, etc. You can also use modeling paste or other mediums, which are usually used with acrylics. To build up texture, you have to use watercolor from the tube, which I often do. But that's non-traditional for sure! And fun!!

Leigh Culver: With watercolor, you can still vary the amount of pigment to water ratio to achieve a sense of 3-d space. You can use pigment heavy washes in the foreground that appear tactile versus paler washes in the background to achieve atmospheric perspective. It may be more effective to do this with more opaque pigments like yellow ochre or cerulean blue that have some grit to them --but there's no reason you can't put great blobs of any watercolor pigment on the page as well. Look at John Marin's work--sometimes his watercolor pigment is so dense that it sits off the page like impasto passages in oil paintings--and it works in his watercolors in the same way.

* <https://mitchalbala.com/tactile-perspective-using-varying-paint-texture-to-help-suggest-depth-in-landscape-painting/>

Tips and Tricks

“Presenting Our Best”

Have you ever submitted a painting for a PVW show only to be told it doesn't quite make the cut? It can be disappointing when the dreaded Quality Control team flags your entry for a show for a problem. Here are some of the things we look for:

- Backing warped or damaged
- Mat damaged, smudged, stained, or miscut
- Hair or loose particles (including glass or bugs) under the glazing
- Scratches or stains on the plexiglass
- Scratches, stains, paint splatter, or damage on the framing

So why are we sticklers for clean, professional-looking framing and glazing? PVW is a premier professional fine artists' organization. We and our patrons expect top-quality work, especially at a venue like Green Spring Gardens. We want our wonderful paintings to be mounted and displayed with the same care and attention to quality that we apply to the paintings themselves. Prospective purchasers are looking at the whole package – few will forgive or look beyond problems with the framing.

At receiving we do our best to assess whether we can reasonably resolve these problems with glass cleaner, markers, tools, eraser, and microfiber cloths. Often we can, sometimes by dismantling metal frames and reassembling.

The obvious preventive measure is for you to examine your planned submission with critical eyes at least a few days before, so there is time to fix any issues before receiving. If you pulled it out of storage or moved it from a recent exhibit, check it carefully. This includes the back of your painting – choose a professional method and ensure it looks clean. When you have paper glued to the back of your frame, be 100% sure there are none of these problems. We can't undo and redo your paper backing at receiving.

We hear that other art organizations may not have quality control at receiving. That is their choice. Our choice is to exhibit the best we can be.

Annual Luncheon April 7, 2024



PVW members got together on April 7, 2024, at the Columbia Country Club on Connecticut Avenue for the annual meeting and luncheon. It's a chance to renew friendships and to welcome our newest members.



President Linda Maldonado welcomes our newest members.



Annual Luncheon



Members of the Finance Committee managed to get in a pop-up meeting between the main course and dessert.



Green Spring Gardens Show

April 30 - June 23, 2024

Originally from Kentucky, our juror, **Fred Markham**, earned his Masters of Fine Arts from George Washington University and has lived in the DC area for twenty years. Since 2007 he has been a professor of painting and drawing at the Woodbridge campus of Northern Virginia Community College.



Juror's Statement for Green Springs Gardens Exhibit

Art embodies a secret. It is a reminder of an intimate exchange between subject and artist that transpires with touch and smell, and intense observation. To represent a subject is to know it deeply. It lives inside of the artist, shaping subsequent experiences and subsequent secrets.

When I look at work, I keep that in mind: "What secret is the artist sharing with us?" and "How well did they get to know their subject." Are they using technique (or lack thereof) to find something in the subject that allows it to reveal itself? I like work that has an honesty to it. A humbleness. Artwork that pays homage to the subject rather than uses that subject to exercise skill. Nearly all the works in this show have a certain honesty and humbleness. (How can we not be humbled by the beauty, complexity, and delicacy of plants?) But the works I selected to honor have more than just honesty and humbleness, they share secrets. They reveal the intimate dialogue between themselves and the subject that gives the work impact and created a lasting impression on me.



First Place
Craig wright
Cactus Patch



Second Place
Sarah Andrews
Forest Camouflage



Third Place
Maureen Rabinovitz
Looking In

Green Spring Gardens Show

April 30 - June 23, 2024



Virginia Watercolor Society Award
Wei Liang
Fun Time



Southern Watercolor Society Award
Jane Thomas
Kitchen Table

HONORABLE MENTIONS



Grace Rooney
Bee Buffet



Elin Kim
Green Family



Cecilia Capestany
Rest Stop



Rosa Vera
Into The Light



Ginya Truitt Nakata
Green Spring Gardens



Alex Toistoy
Daffodils On A Plate



Alice Kale
Still Life With
Orange Peel



Carolyn Marshall Wright
Petal Pushers



Linda Wallace-Blau
Hydrangea Serenade

Green Spring Gardens Show

Set up and Hanging the show



Reception on May 5, 2024



Award winners

Thanks to Leigh Fulton and all the volunteers who worked so hard getting this show up. The setup, check-in, receiving and hanging crews did an amazing job. It took a lot of coordination and patience trying to shuffle and hang 120 paintings.

Workshops

March 18-21, 2024

In celebration of PVW's 50th anniversary, PVW showcased some of our own talented members in a series of three one-day workshops, each exploring a different technique. Members were able to register for them individually or buy the series at a discount. The last day was scheduled to be an open studio, open to all participants.

The Magic of Watercolor on Yupo

Monday, March 18, 2024

with Chica Brunsvold.

Chica led a concentrated one-day introduction to the wild ways of Yupo. This workshop was for those who want to paint "looser" more inventive watercolors. Chica introduced members to the delights of Yupo while helping avoid the pitfalls.



Workshops

March 18-21, 2024



Textures for Animals and Beyond

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

with Stacy Lund Levy.

This workshop focused on techniques that Stacey thinks are essential for painting animals. She shared how to evaluate value and color prior to painting, mix neutrals, and apply masking fluid to create realistic textures and capture fine details without hard edges.



Workshops

Exploring Collage: Papers, Stamping and Texture

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

with Linda Maldonado

For members looking for a creative leap, Linda laid out some basic collage paper painting techniques with instructor-provided materials to make small collage paintings. She also showed how to paint watercolors on papers textured with rice papers. Linda demonstrated several customized paper methods and students had time to prepare their own using acrylic paint.



Open Studio

Thursday, March 21, 2024

(included for all workshop participants)



Members' News

Beth Ayre's painting "Evening" was selected as one of the Honorable Mentions for the 29th Annual Friends of the Yellow Barn Member Show in December 2023. Also, three of her artworks ("Oregon Coast", "Snowy Wood" and "Winter Landscape") were accepted into the Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society Washington, DC (MSPGS) 90th Anniversary Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature, November 2023-January 2024.



Chica Brunsvold's "Roundabout," a little whimsical painting on yupo, is being enlarged to fit an 8x4 feet panel and placed at the Rosslyn Metro construction site beginning tentatively May 22 at 4pm.



Deborah Conn's painting "Unhoused: Al" was juried into the NWS online member show, and "Unhoused: Tim" will be in the next edition of Splash and in the Virginia Watercolor Society (VWS) exhibit in Lynchburg.

Members' News



Jane Counce had a solo show of 100 paintings at Green Spring Gardens Horticultural Center. The exhibition featured Jane's botanical oil and watercolor paintings that include themes of flowers, gardens, fruits and vegetables. Other paintings depict winter scenes, autumnal landscapes, as well as sunsets and moonlit views. Show Dates: January 9 - March 3, 2024

Janice Ducharme, who has moved to Tennessee, is still participating in Virginia shows. Most recently she was accepted in the Historic Manassas Banner Art Competition with 3 submissions and received an Honorable Mention for "Heather Hill." Banners are posted from April to November. She was also accepted into the Tennessee Watercolor Society Biennial Juried Exhibition to take place in Knoxville Tennessee during the month of May with her painting "Nimes Wonder."



Jean K. Gill has a painting in the 2024 International Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society in NYC. She had two paintings accepted in the Rockies West National Exhibition of the Western Colorado Watercolor Society and received the Delta Fine Arts Award.

Members' News

Jann Haynes Gilmore has been invited by the NY Art Students League, which will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2025, to write an essay on Olive Rush, one of 150 students selected from its thousands of art alums, which will highlight her life/art career.



During the month of May, **Rick Goff** will have a solo exhibition, “Images of Spring (Mostly),” at the Village Arts Factory in Canton, Michigan, which includes the painting “Neon Garden.”

Also, Rick’s painting “Cabin Boat” was juried into the Michigan Watercolor Society’s 77th annual exhibition, taking place from June 22 to September 1 at the Dennon Museum Center in Traverse City, MI.

Julya Ivanilova’s artwork was part of the Baltimore Watercolor Society’s Signature Member Exhibit 2024 at Friendship Heights Community Center Gallery.



Members' News

Linda Maldonado has been involved in exhibition and teaching events in the recent past, with more coming up. In February, Linda displayed 21 collage paintings at First Stage Theater in Tysons, Virginia — two were purchased by theater visitors. In March, Linda taught a one-day workshop in collage techniques for PVW, at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. In April, she joined 4 other artists for a landscape exhibit at Mosaic Gallery in Merrifield. At Green Spring Gardens.



Linda will join PVW members Kat Jamieson and Elise Ritter and artist friends Elisabeth Hudgins and Debbie Taylor for an exhibit of floral paintings. The exhibit will be held at the historic house during May and June. In addition, Linda will teach a 4-day collage workshop at the Vienna Arts Society in late May.



Janet Hansen Martinet's painting "Mizzle and Mist" was accepted in the 45th Virginia Watercolor Society (VWS) Exhibition at the Academy Center of the Arts in Lynchburg. Janet's work was based on a photo taken during an unusually rainy and foggy PVW Trip to Maine that happened just before Hurricane Lee struck; she attempted to capture the heaving froth and spray of the waves in her watercolor on yupo.

Linda Holz's painting "Rocky River Reflections" was juried into the 2024 annual exhibition of the Southern Watercolor Society, which will be held in Panama City, Florida. In addition, Linda became a signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society in April 2024.

Members' News

Ginya Truitt Nakata's "Harvest Time" won honorable mention in the January 2024 Still Life Exhibit at The Art League.



Deidre Pistochni's painting "Kauai Girl" was juried into the 45th Annual Virginia Watercolor Society Exhibition. In her words, "This is the first time I have ever painted a portrait. It was inspired by a Hawaiian dancer my husband and I saw perform when we were on the island of Kauai last year." This is the third time Deidre's works have been selected for VWS exhibitions; she has now achieved Signature member status in that organization. Deidre has also been invited to become a member artist at Art a La Carte Gallery, an artists' cooperative located in Occoquan, VA, where she installed her artwork last month. The gallery is open Tuesdays-Sundays, 11:00 am-5:00 pm.



Vita Simms: I've been working on this mural to pair with a metal sculpture as a commission from my church, Calvary Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD. I worked on it for 6 months and it was just completed in March 2024. It measures 17 ft wide x 8 ft high. The sculptor is Pastor Frederick W. Kemper, who was my minister growing up.



It was a great honor to paint this mural. The mural is depicting misty rolling hills with rays of the sun breaking over the hills into the blue sky. I wanted to evoke dawn, just before the sun rises. I learned a lot about working with interior acrylic paint and how to scale up my design. I purposely used a limited palette: shades of blue, pink and creamy off-white.

Members' News

Kathy Sullivan's painting "Intune" was accepted into the Virginia Watercolor Society 2024 Exhibition. Kathy also has been accepted as a Signature Artist into the Baltimore Watercolor Society.

Gretchen Thompson had a one artist show at Goodwin House Alexandria from April 3 to May 7. The show featured many of her black and white portraits, including an unusual group portrait of all the neighbors in her hall, standing arm in arm, viewed from behind.

Alex Tolstoy has been published in Reader's Competition for The Art of Watercolor magazines Vol. 49 ("Sydney Harbor" and "The Dome"), and in Vol. 51 ("Blue Farm"). She has also been involved in ShopKeepArty webinars in April and May, showing the use of yupo, black watercolor paper and other techniques. Her artwork has been shown at Springhill Rec Center for several months since December 2023.



Members' News

Carolyn Marshall Wright's "Morning at Giverny" was accepted into the Virginia Watercolor Society's 45th Annual Juried Exhibition. Her pieces "Morning Reflections" and "That First Cup of the Morning" were juried into Maryland Federation of Art's Circle Gallery in Annapolis, MD, for their "Reflections" exhibit. "Urban Garden" was accepted into the Patricia Sitar Annual Juried Show at the Sitar Center in Washington, D.C. She was one of five artists showing their abstract work at the Byrne Gallery in Middleburg, VA in March and will be back there for the month of May showing her floral work. Her painting "Just Ripe" received a Special Merit Award from *Art and Color 356* magazine in their Open Competition. She has had lots of fun participating in "Artomatic," a seven-week unjuried arts festival in Washington, DC, that transformed an entire vacant office building into a gigantic exhibition space with over 1,000 artists participating.



Craig Wright's watercolor "St. George's Well" was juried into the 45th Georgia National Exhibition. His watercolor "Prickly Pear" was juried into the 45th Annual Virginia Watercolor Society exhibition. This is his third appearance at a VWS exhibition, earning him Signature member status.



In Memoriam



Anita Kurtz Epstein passed away on May 10, 2023, in Falls Church, Virginia. Anita graduated from the University of North Dakota and George Washington University.

Anita will be remembered for her watercolor painting, gardening, cooking and baking, love of family, and interest in world events. Anita is survived by her loving husband Mark, children Celia, Andrew and Erick, four grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. .

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/falls-church-va/anita-epstein-11284604>

