

LOUISIANA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

56th Annual International Exhibition

Matthew Bird AWS, NWS, TWSA, Juror



2026 FIRST PLACE

Ken Call

This Seat is Taken!

From the President



Peggy Kirby-Paradise

Welcome to the 56th International Exhibition of the Louisiana Watercolor Society!

Last year a dear friend gave me the best-selling novel, *Mona's Eyes*, by Thomas Schlessler. A grandfather takes his granddaughter Mona to one Paris art museum to view one painting once a week. Part art history, part inspirational fiction, the story drives home the difficulty in appreciating art with just a passing glance. This year 77 artists gave us a passing glance at just one of their masterpieces. The LWS 56th Annual International Exhibition hung for three weeks at Place St. Charles, not nearly enough time to research and appreciate these 77 works. We can only surmise the story and the meaning the artists poured into their creations. In these pages, we offer a second glimpse. Perhaps one or more paintings will inspire you to see the work anew, as the old man does - through Mona's eyes.

I congratulate the artists (representing 21 states and 5 countries) who were juried into the 56th Exhibition and the award winners selected by [Judge Matthew Bird AWS, NWS, TWSA](#). Judging an exhibition is a weighty task indeed, but Matthew chose winning pieces that surely meet the strictest criteria.

I have now served almost two years as President and two as Vice President, yet I still do not feel that I have a grasp of just how much work goes into producing the LWS International Exhibit. This is a selfless effort executed with love by a team of volunteers. One Board member, Chryl Corizzo, decided that it would be nice if everyone could see their painting *in situ*, so she filmed every piece. Another, Monissa Lewis, took it upon herself to film the reception ceremony for those who couldn't attend. Those are just two of the unplanned activities that went on behind the scenes to make the exhibition a success. My gratitude is immense. [Your LWS Board members](#) are selfless, giving, creative individuals who promote the beauty and joy of watercolor. Non-profits thrive because of people with their generosity of spirit.

- ◆ [Melanie Long LWS, 1st Vice President and Exhibit Chair](#), oversaw all aspects of the exhibit - planning, venue arrangements, shipping, delivery, volunteers, hanging, awards, judge logistics, and the reception. [Karen Ranatza, 2nd Vice President](#), performs all these same tasks for our member exhibits and volunteered to greet guests at the International reception.
- ◆ [Claudia Lejeune LWS, Treasurer](#), continues to manage all our exhibit finances, including the newer issues brought about by changes from payment processors and an updated website. [Emily Efferson LWS, Recording Secretary](#), keeps track of all board decisions. When we need to clarify what happened when, who is doing what, or how an exhibit rule applies, Emily knows where to find it. [Joleen Schiller LWS, Corresponding Secretary](#), keeps us connected with members and donors. Her beautifully hand-written thank you notes exemplify just how much we appreciate all who support LWS.
- ◆ [Kathy Miller Stone LWS-M, Installation Chair](#), and her team of volunteers, hang the international and member exhibits. She is not satisfied until she has found the best lighting, color harmony, grouping, and position for each painting. [Tracy Hebert LWS, Immediate Past President](#), did the pre-planning for the exhibit. She and her husband, Dean, are fixtures at installation and the reception - setting up panels and tables, hanging, tagging, lugging in supplies, and welcoming everyone. [Carol Creel LWS-M, Workshop Chair](#), organized the judge's workshop that accompanied the annual exhibition - contracting, receiving and disseminating workshop materials, and arranging for refreshments.
- ◆ [Suzanne Shumate LWS, Director-at-Large](#), maintains member records and tracks progress toward signature status. She helped automate the tracking process and personally prints signature certificates. [Don Reggio, Director-at-Large](#), organizes paint-outs throughout the year for members and community partners.
- ◆ [Monnisa Lewis, Technology Chair](#), operates mentally and physically at nano speed. In less than a year, she and our tech contractor guru, [Lane Downs](#), automated nearly all the processes that we had done either by hand or with outdated technology for decades. Chryl Casso Corizzo LWS, Publications Chair and Acting Programs and Publicity Chair, is nearly single-handedly responsible for producing this catalog, four quarterly newsletters, and near-daily Facebook posts. I believe Monnisa cloned Chryl because no human can do all of this. (One of the clones also shows up to help at every event while the other is home typing away.)
- ◆ Finally, I thank the many volunteers (and co-opted husbands) who always show up to help with the heavy lifting.

These are just a sampling of all the individual contributions that become LWS – an organic, blossoming, evolving idea to give water media its long-overdue, preeminent place in the world of art. Take part in all that LWS has to offer. Together let us appreciate water media art through new eyes. Look carefully at [Ken Call's](#) moody 1st Place painting, *This Seat is Taken!* Brilliantly composed, it exudes a message of aloneness and exclusion. It's a masterful painting, but I want to suggest a different bench, one that says, "Come, sit, talk, create. Join us."

We thank you all for sharing in this annual event and look forward to seeing you in 2027 where our Juror and Judge will be the inimitable Iain Stewart LWS-M, AWS, NWS.

Juror's Statement

MATTHEW BIRD, AWS, NWS, TWSA

I'd like to thank the Louisiana Watercolor Society for the privilege and honor of being the juror for the 56th Annual International Exhibition. Working with this amazing group has been a joy and pleasure.

When it comes to watercolor, I don't believe there is a right or wrong way to use the medium. A well-rounded show is more interesting to me than seeing the same thing over and over, so I tried to put forth an exhibition that showcases the wide range of talent working with the medium today.

When I judge a show I look for all the "bones" of a solid painting: concept, composition, color, value, and drawing. These are arguably the more objective fundamentals. On the subjective side, I acknowledge that paintings can resonate differently from one person to another; every artist and viewer brings something different. Regardless of style, if there was something unique expressed or a fresh perspective, I took note.

As a fellow artist, I am very familiar with the highs and lows of the creative journey we are on. If you were not selected for the show, or did not win an award, don't be discouraged long. I've had a painting rejected from a top exhibition, only to go on and win best of show in the next. If you were recognized, enjoy the moment! Then get back to the studio and challenge yourself to do something better. I encourage everyone to persevere, and use your creative talents to reveal the truth and beauty found all around us.

It is a humbling task to sit in judgement of my fellow artists' work; their perspectives and talent are unique to each of them. No doubt another juror would award different selections, but it's clear that all the paintings make this an excellent show, and all are to be congratulated.



I thank everyone on the board, and the volunteers that work tirelessly behind the scenes. You are the unsung heroes that make shows like this possible!

Respectfully,

Matthew Bird, AWS, NWS, TWSA

Confectioners Shelf, a watercolor by Matthew Bird

2026 FIRST PLACE AWARD



This Seat is Taken!

Ken Call / Northbrook, IL 22 x 28 / \$5,000

In February of 2023 I was invited to go on a photo safari to Havana, Cuba. Our first day there we spent the afternoon at Hamel's Alley, a well known spot for locals to perform for the tourists. I am always looking for unique, well designed, artistic impressions to capture and this one stood out to me. I was fascinated by the contrast in color and shapes, especially the reflected light on the homemade converted hot tub, now a bench. Add the Lady in red who's story is her friend got up to dance and is left to save her spot till done!

KEN CALL AWS-DF



SECOND PLACE AWARD

Temple of Apollo-Rome

Iain Stewart LWS-M / Opelika, AL

14 x 10 / \$1,400

THIRD PLACE AWARD

Cuppa Limon

Chris Krupinski LWS-M / Downingtown, PA

30 x 22 / \$6,500



HONORABLE MENTION

Scary Stuff 6

William Hook / Davidson, NC

14 x 11 / \$1,000



HONORABLE MENTION

It's All Relative

Tracy Hebert LWS / Port Allen, LA

21 x 17 / NFS

PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD

Rhythms in Shadow

Suzanne Accetta / Birmingham, AL

16 x 10 / \$950



MONICA BISHARA MEMORIAL AWARD

On the Move

Linda Vanek LWS-M / Houston, TX

20 x 20 / NFS



LARRY CASSO
MEMORIAL AWARD

Different Corner
 Antoeneta Georgieva LWS / Seattle, WA
 23 x 17 / \$1,800

BYRON LEVY
MEMORIAL AWARD

Cherries in Repose
 Carol Creel LWS-M / Baton Rouge, LA
 15 x 22 / \$2,000



WEIMER CONGEMI
MEMORIAL AWARD

Keeper of Early Dreams
 Coral Ye Chen LWS / Canada
 15 x 22 / \$2,200

MERIT AWARD



Wash Line, Tuscany

E. Jane Stoddard LWS-M / East Amherst, NY

16 x 21 / \$2,200

MERIT AWARD



Across the Fjord

Jane Fritz / Las Vegas, NM

21 x 14 / \$1,500

MERIT AWARD



Kim

Setsuko Ohara LWS-M / Canada

20 x 16 / \$1,300

MERIT AWARD



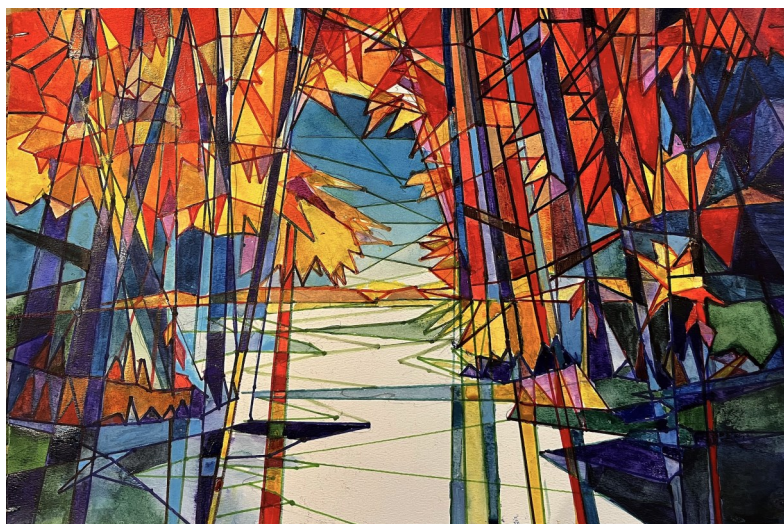
Ripples, Pass Christian

Chryl Casso Corizzo LWS / Mandeville, LA

8 x 10 / \$600



Good Day Sunshine
Rick Anderson LWS / Clinton, MS
15 x 22 / \$3,200



Paradise lost
Marilynne Bradley LWS-M / St. Louis, MO
12 x 18 / \$2,200



Cherokee Cabin
James Brantley / Opelika, AL
23 x 31 / \$6,500

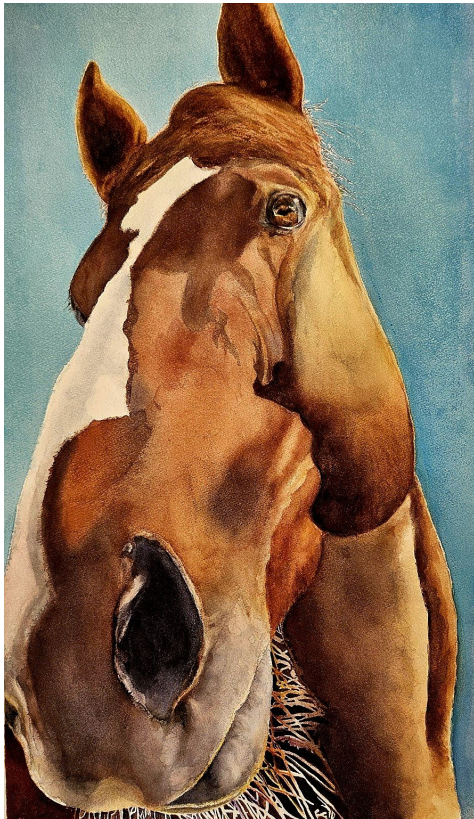
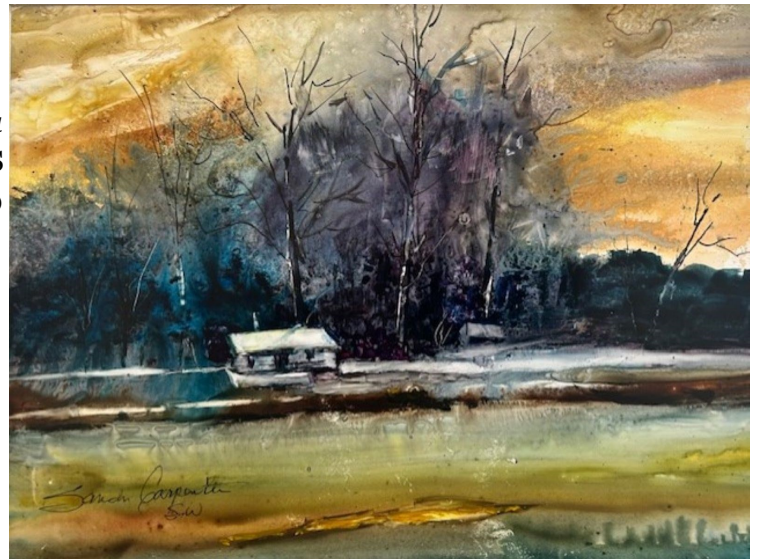


Thirty Year Union
Benita Brewer / Villa Park, IL
24 x 17 / \$1,500



Carson's Hot Habaneros
Joy Brinkley-Hill / Albuquerque, NM
15 x 22 / \$2,200

Evening on the Bayou
Sandra Carpenter / Corinth, MS
9 x 11 / \$900



High watch
Merri A. Chester / Dallas, TX
30 x 17 / NFS

A Rose By Any Other Name...
Valerie Clark LWS / Abita Springs, LA
16 x 12 / NFS





Venice Views
Lyudmila Tomova Clark / Cary, NC
24 x 18 / \$1,700



Swimming Koi
Gerry Claude / Metairie, LA
13 x 20 / \$2,000



Tin Top Down
Walter Costilow LWS / Vestavia Hills, AL
11 x 15 / \$1,200



Rainy Day
Antonio Darden / Santa Fe, NM
22 x 15 / \$2,000



Spoken Word Artist
Kathleen Durdin LWS / Tampa, FL
15 x 20 / \$750

Lobster Pot
Emily Efferson, LWS / Baton Rouge, LA
14 x 20 / NFS



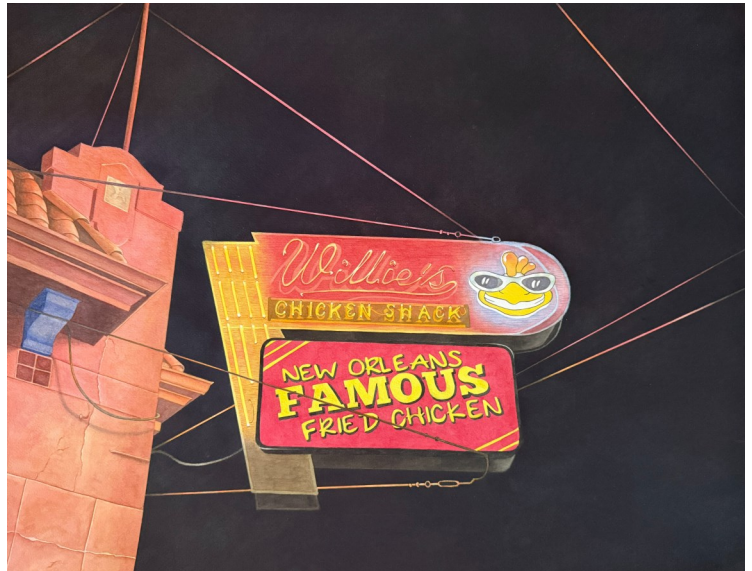
Prague
Sue Evans / Covington, LA
10 x 8 / NFS



Remembrance
Terry Evers LWS / Tucson, AZ
22 x 30 / \$5,000



Snow Wood
ZL Feng / Radford, VA
24 x 18 / \$880



Willie's Chicken Shack
Cindi Handy / Queensbury, NY
17 x 22 / \$2,000



Treasure Trove
Suzanna Hendrix / Scottsburg, IN
20 x 14.5 / \$2,250

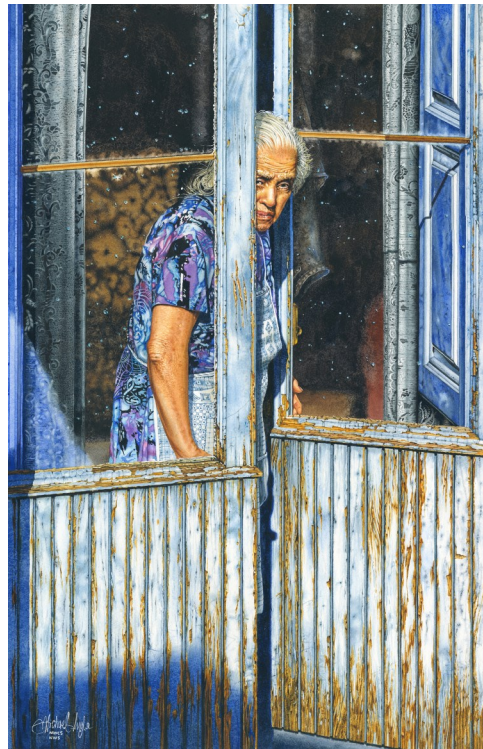


Look What's Coming
Anne Hightower-Patterson / Leesville, SC
12 x 19 / \$1,800



Abandoned

Mary Margaret Houser / Hartsville, SC
14 x 19 / NFS



Woman Between the Doors

Michael Ingle / Battle Creek, MI
26 x 16 / \$2,800



We Are All Faceless

John E. James LWS / Virginia Beach, VA
14 x 11 / \$400



Rice Country

Ellen McLean Jenkins LWS / Baton Rouge, LA
11 x 14 / \$325



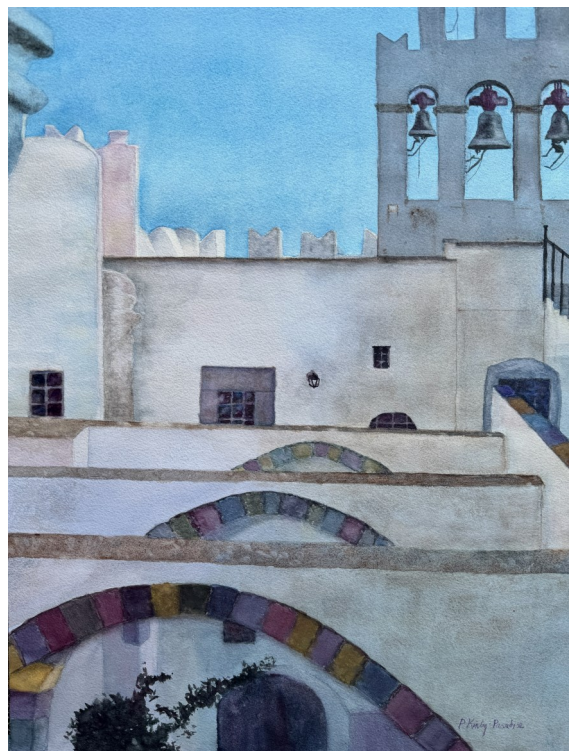
Window to my soul
Bev Jozwiak LWS-M / Vancouver, WA
22 x 15 / \$1,100



Reflections of Pittsburgh
Gina T. Judy LWS / Richmond, OH
29 x 21.5 / \$1,900



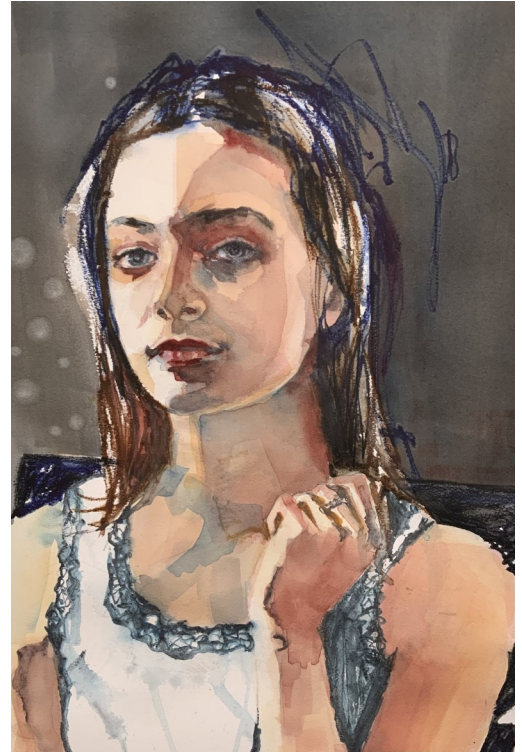
Seafood Delight
Michele Tabor Kimbrough LWS / Panama City, FL
20 x 16 / \$1,900



The Bells of the Apocalypse
Peggy Kirby-Paradise / Covington, LA
23 x 17.5 / \$800



Côte de Beaune Serenity
Susan W. Knowlton / Gulf Breeze, FL
18 x 22 / \$1,650



Yesterday
Rebecca Krutsinger LWS / Xenia, IL
18 x 12 / \$800



Tree Hugger
Maureen Lewis / Houston, TX
30 x 22 / \$2,500



Where The Sea Breathes
Kerk Hwang Lok / Malaysia
22 x 30 / \$5,000



Glass Garden Dreams

Melanie Long LWS / Baton Rouge, LA
14 x 10 / NFS



Murdered

Christine Marie Lucas-Bandera / Carriere, MS
30 x 22 / \$6,000



Anna belle

Pio Lyons LWS-M / New Orleans, LA
10 x 14 / NFS



WildFlour

Kathleen Manning / West Chicago, IL
13 x 10 / \$1,500



Free Parking
Theresa Miller LWS / Independence, LA
14.5 x 17.5 / NFS



Superior Sunset
Elizabeth Neely LWS / Baton Rouge, LA
8.5 x 11 / \$400



Glow on the Seine
Gisela Niedenfuer / Independence, LA
19 x 16 / \$400



Got One!
Barbara Olivier / Baton Rouge, LA
12 x 9 / NFS



Maestro
Natalia Outkina / Canada
15 x 22 / \$800



Key West Visitors
Claire Pescay / Covington, LA
13 x 19 / \$800



Transparent Trio
Lisa Pope LWS / Greenville, SC
18 x 24 / \$1,500



Celebrating Fall
April M. Rimpo LWS / Dayton, MD
20 x 15 / \$1,800



Orchids & Companions
 Patricia Ryan / Baton Rouge, LA
 19 x 15 / \$550



First Sign of Spring
 Bonnie Sedlak / Half Moon Bay, CA
 15 x 22 / \$850



Yesterdays Dreams
 Gerald Sellers / New Orleans, LA
 11 x 15 / \$1,200



Afternoon Tea
 Joleen Schiller LWS / Covington, LA
 30 x 22 / \$1,400



Terri's Blooms

Suzanne Shumate LWS / Kentwood, LA

15 x 11 / \$350



Guilty Pleasures

Kathy Simon-McDonald / Bradenton, FL

22 x 22 / NFS



Morning in Morrisville

Alan Smith / Benton, SC

20 x 33 / \$2,200

Acts of Love
Constance Spencer / Tega Cay, SC
24 x 30 / NFS





La Signora Dei Fiori
Kathy Miller Stone LWS-M / Baton Rouge, LA
22 x 30 / \$3,300



Costa Rica Croc
Don Taylor LWS-M / Panama City, FL
22 x 15 / \$895



Sounds of Silence I
Adriana Toso-Schulze LWS / Germany
15 x 22 / \$650



Mister Larry
Erika Valdivia / Denham Springs, LA
22.5 x 14.5 / NFS



LIVE BAIT

Jonathan Neal Vizina LWS / Lafayette, LA
24 x 18 / NFS



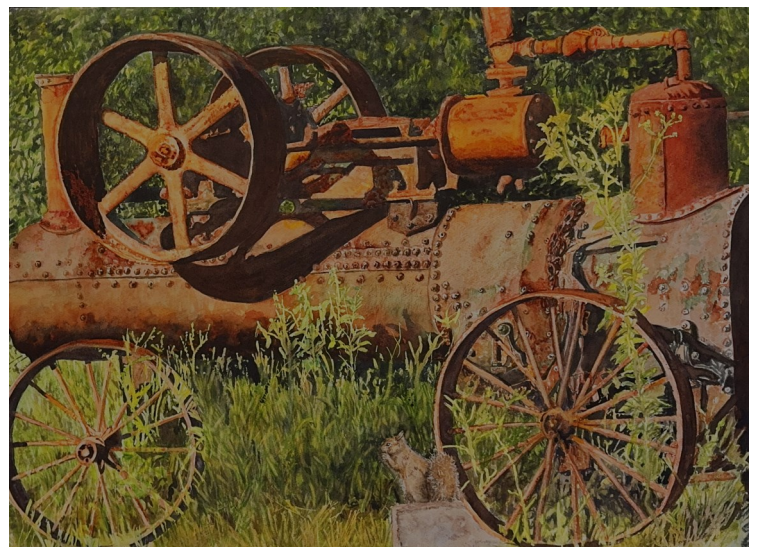
Ahhh-It Was A Good Day

Kim Voisin LWS / Schriever, LA
12.25 x 12.3 / NFS



The Oceanside Monarch

Jared Wade / Hermitage, TN
36 x 24 / \$2,300



Rustic Relic

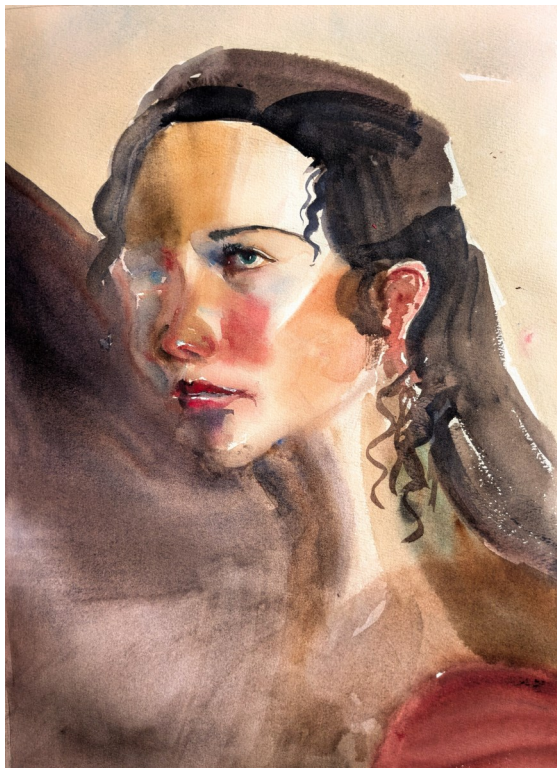
Christine Walker LWS / Charlotte, NC
29.5 x 21.5 / \$1,700



Eleanor B Out of the Fog
Herb Willey LWS / Waveland, MS
17 x 8.5 / \$800



Rusty Latch
Jane Wise / Denver, PA
12.75 x 9.75 / \$600



Reminisce
Zhu Zhanyan / Singapore
21 x 15 / NFS

2026 AWARDS

1st Place \$2,500

- ♦ Ken Call, *This Seat is Taken!*

2nd Place \$1,000

- ♦ Iain Stewart LWS-M, *Temple of Apollo-Rome*

3rd Place \$700

- ♦ Chris Krupinski LWS-M, *Cuppa Limon*

Honorable Mention \$500 each

- ♦ William Hook, *Scary Stuff 6*
- ♦ Tracy Hebert LWS, *It's All Relative*

Past Presidents Award \$500

Claudia LeJeune LWS, Tracy Hebert LWS, Laura Allums Mitchell LWS, Karen Stakelum LWS

- ♦ Suzanne Accetta, *Rhythms in Shadow*

Monica Bishara Memorial Award

\$500

- ♦ Linda Vanek LWS-M, *On the Move*

Larry Casso Memorial Award \$300

- ♦ Antoaneta Georgieva LWS, *Different Corner*

Weimer Congemi Memorial Award

\$300

- ♦ Coral Ye Chen LWS, *Keeper of Early Dreams*

Byron Levy Memorial Award \$300

- ♦ Carol Creel LWS-M, *Cherries in Repose*

Merit Awards \$400 each

(1) Dick Blick/Daniel Smith/Monetary prize

- ♦ E. Jane Stoddard LWS-M, *Wash Line, Tuscany*

(2) Dick Blick/Daniel Smith/Monetary prize

Jane Fritz, Across the Fjord

(3) Dick Blick/Daniel Smith/Monetary prize

- ♦ Setsuko Ohara LWS-M, *Kim*

(4) Chartpak/Holbein/Monetary prize

- ♦ Chryl Casso Corizzo LWS, *Ripples, Pass Christian*

2026 Exhibition Sponsors



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Reciprocal Awards:

Art Guild of Louisiana

Degas Pastel Society

Georgia Watercolor Society

Watercolor Society of Alabama



LOUISIANA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

New Signature and Master Signature Members

Congratulations to LWS members who received [Signature Status](#) in 2026:

Valerie Clark, LA
Ellen Jenkins, LA
Melanie Long, LA
Elizabeth Neely, LA
Suzanne Shumate, LA
Kim Voisin, LA
Christine S. Walker, NC

Congratulations also go to LWS members who received [Master Signature Status](#) (also known as *Fleur-de-lis*) in 2026:

Carol Creel, Baton Rouge, LA



Visit the LWS site

Information:

Website:

www.louisianawatercolorsociety.org

Email:

LWS@louisianawatercolorsociety.org

publisher@louisianawatercolorsociety.org



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2027 Prospectus:

Available after October 2026

Email LWS or refer to website for a
printable version

Additional Catalogs available for
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LWS Treasurer

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\$40 - U.S. Residents
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1970 (Jan.) Rex Brandt,
Jay Broussard, Charles Reinke
1970 (Oct.) Lowell Adams
Willard Cooper, Barclay Sheaks
1971 Henry Casselli &
Hugh Williams
1972 Jay Broussard
1974 Milford Zornes
1975 Robert Wood
1976 George Post
1978 Tony Van Hasselt
1979 Irving Shapiro
1980 Al Brouillette
1982 Henry Casselli
1983 Frank Webb
1984 Barbara Nechis
1985 Gerald Brommer
1986 Millard Sheets
1987 Dale Meyers Cooper
1988 Henry Casselli
1989 Don Nice
1990 Katherine Chang Liu
1991 Robert Erdle
1992 Patricia Tobacco Forrester
1993 Rolland Golden
1994 Alex Powers
1995 Charles LeClair
1996 Judi Betts
1997 Sondra Freckelton
1998 Jeanne Dobie
1999 Marilyn Hughey Phillis
2000 Cheng-Khee Chee
2001 Henry Casselli

2002 Stephen Quiller
2003 Katherine Chang Liu
2004 William "Skip" Lawrence
2005 Paul Jackson
2006 John Salminen
2007 Judy Morris
2008 Birgit O'Connor
2009 Laurin McCracken
2010 Soon Y. Warren
2011 James Toogood
2012 Dean Mitchell
2013 Cindy Agan
2014 Anne Abgott
2015 Chris Krupinski
2016 Paul Jackson
2017 Susan Webb Tregay
2018 John Salminen
2019 Michael Holter
2020 Z. L. Feng
2021 Thomas Schaller
2022 Ken Call
2023 Carrie Waller
2024 Kathleen Giles
2025 David R. Smith
2026 Matthew Bird



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Louisiana Watercolor Society

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56th Annual International Exhibition
2026 Donors**

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Cissy McCabe Quinn LWS
Friends of LWS*

Silver (\$500 & Up)

*Emily Efferson LWS
Cathy Schuster
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LWS Past Presidents*

Bronze (\$250 & Up)

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<i>The Family of Larry Casso</i>	<i>Claudia LeJeune LWS</i>
<i>Weimer Congemi Foundation</i>	<i>Place St. Charles</i>
<i>Tracy Hebert LWS</i>	<i>Oak Knoll Country Club</i>
<i>Phillip S. Juban</i>	<i>The Ohr Museum</i>