

APRIL 2025 • page 1

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 5 Retrieve paintings from The MAC, 10:00—11:30 a.m.
- May 9 SWS Board Meeting via Zoom, Friday, 5:00 p.m.
- May 15 **MEN'S Breakfast Club**, 9:00 am, Molly's Café, Monroe & 3rd, Spokane
- May 17 SWS General Meeting, via Zoom (and Zoom link at Spokane Art Supply) 10:00 a.m.—Noon, DEMO by Kathleen Alexander, Hawaiian Florals (*see pg. 2*)
- May 25 Painting Drop-Off for Signature Show, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Liberty Gallery, 203 N. Washington, Spokane (upstairs at Auntie's Bookshop)
- June 6 First Friday Opening, SWS Signature Show, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Liberty Gallery, 203 N. Washington, Spokane (upstairs at Auntie's Bookshop), People's Choice Award announced at 7:30 p.m.
- June 21 SWS General Meeting & Plein Air Event  
DETAILS WILL BE FORTHCOMING
- June 28 Painting Pick-Up (Signature Show), 10:00 a.m.—Noon, Liberty Gallery, 203 N. Washington, Spokane (upstairs at Auntie's Bookshop)

**Summer is coming...there are no formal SWS meetings, or newsletters, during July and August!**

*Challenge*  
**PAINTING**  
**MAY**  
**NEGATIVE**  
**PAINTING**  
(or what's on your easel)  
SUBJECT OF YOUR CHOICE



Happening at the  
**Liberty Gallery ~ June 2025**



## Watercolor Experience

The 2025 Spokane Watercolor Society "Signature Members" Show

**When:** May 25 - June 28, 2025

**Where:** Liberty Gallery,  
203 N. Washington Street, Spokane  
On the Mezzanine in the Historical Liberty Building

**First Friday Reception Activities:**  
June 6, 2025 5:00pm - 8:00pm  
Reception to Meet the Artists 5:00-8:00 pm  
From 5:00-7:00 pm SWS member Donna Stallings  
will perform on her violin.

At 7:30 pm a People's Choice Award will be presented with viewers  
eligible to vote until 7:00 pm for their "Choice".  
**Admission is free**

**Liberty Gallery Hours:**  
Sunday - Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

For more information: 509-327-6920  
[potteryplaceplus.com/liberty-gallery](http://potteryplaceplus.com/liberty-gallery)

**potteryplace  
PLUS**  
Celebrating over 45 years of Fine Art!

**Plan to attend  
the First Friday  
Reception on  
June 6—listen to  
live violin music  
(see pg. 6 for our  
violinist's bio),  
vote for the  
People's Choice  
Award, and en-  
joy chatting  
with your fellow  
SWS members!**



**SEE Pg. 2 for TIPS on  
NEGATIVE PAINTING**

**CHALLENGE PAINT-  
INGS FOR APRIL &  
MAY WILL BE SHOWN  
AT MAY'S MEETING!**

**Upload your Challenge  
Paintings on the SWS  
Website (log in to your  
account), send them to  
[sws.board.show@gmail.com](mailto:sws.board.show@gmail.com) (by midnight  
Thursday 15th) or  
bring them  
to Spokane  
Art Supply on  
the 17th.**





APRIL 2025 • page 2

## HAWAIIAN FLORALS with Demo Artist Kathleen Alexander

Kathleen is a native of Northern CA, and in 2022 moved to The Sea Ranch after living in Maui for twelve years with her husband Tom. They loved living in Maui, but decided it was time to live closer to their loved ones.

After graduating from San Francisco State University with a degree in biochemistry and working in that field, Kathleen decided to focus on her passion for painting in watercolor. In the early 1990's, she studied with photorealist painter, James Torlakson. She began teaching watercolor workshops in 2006 and participated in fine art festivals from 2006 through 2016. She is a signature member of Watercolor West, the Northwest Watercolor Society, and the National Watercolor Society. Changing her career path was a great decision. Her watercolor paintings have been accepted into and won awards in juried exhibitions across the United States, she has a large group of collectors and students, and more importantly, she loves what she does.

**Paint Along with Kathleen at our SWS May Meeting Saturday, May 17, 10:00 am to Noon, via Zoom or join us at Spokane Art Supply, 10-12 to Zoom on the large TV screen and paint along with fellow members.**

## Kim Gardell's Show

### SCENIC SEASONS

Landscapes in Watercolor  
— Kim Gardell —

FIRST FRIDAY  
May 2 • 5-8pm

VduV Wine Bar  
12 S Scott St. Spokane 99202

May 2025

12 S. Scott St. Spokane

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

## The Board needs you!

A **SHOW CHAIR** is needed for this year's Juried Members Show (taking place in September 2025). Training and mentoring will be provided. Please consider volunteering to help! If interested, please contact Kim at [swspresident1@gmail.com](mailto:swspresident1@gmail.com).



## May Challenge Tips

By Diana Postlewait

### NEGATIVE PAINTING

is painting around a subject or painting the background around a subject to make the subject stand out. This technique highlights the subject, creating a sense of depth and space and pushes the subject/ the lighter area forward.

Negative painting is the opposite of Resist painting. Resist painting is painting subject/ objects directly preserving the white of the paper for the light areas. **Negative painting is learning to see the area around the subject/object and painting the negative space without the use of masking fluids or other methods of preserving the white of the paper.** Painting negative spaces changes your perspective and allows you to use the negative spaces to your advantage, like drawing the eye to the focal point, leading the viewer around the painting, etc. Above article taken from [www.emilywassell.co.uk](http://www.emilywassell.co.uk)



(ART FOUND ON PINTEREST)

THIS PAINTING WAS MY FIRST ATTEMPT AT BOTH POURING AND NEGATIVE PAINTING (DIANA, 2014).

We started out by wetting the paper, randomly pouring on colors we wanted. We let it dry completely, then drew our design. Rather than paint the design - (darkened) the spaces around the design - aka, Negative Painting, making the design stand out. We touched up some of the design areas for the final effect.

When you think about it, we use **Negative Painting all the time.** Light next to dark to make our subject stand out. We just don't think of it as negative space. But when you do think of it as Negative space, you can use it intentionally to create a great composition.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Paul Cottrell, Elk, WA

Mary Jane Groebner, Spokane Valley

## YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT to Spokane Watercolor Society!

Your contact information is included in our roster, so that members can contact each other. This is only accessible by logging on to [www.spokanewatercolor.org](http://www.spokanewatercolor.org) with your user name and password, under the heading "MY SWS". If you DO NOT want your contact information on this roster, please contact: [swspresident1@gmail.com](mailto:swspresident1@gmail.com).



APRIL 2025 • page 3

# Brushstrokes

**SECOND PLACE**  
 "Gathering Its Strength"  
 by **Erin Cassetto**  
 \$400 CASH &  
**M. Graham**  
 \$135 Gift Certificate



**FIRST PLACE**  
 "Geared Up"  
 by **Dena Shepherd**  
 \$600 CASH &  
**Golden Artist Colors**  
 \$250 Gift Certificate



**Sold!**



**THIRD PLACE**  
 "Red Umbrella"  
 by **Dorrie Rifkin**  
 \$300 CASH &  
**Holbein** Watercolor  
 Set (\$110 value)

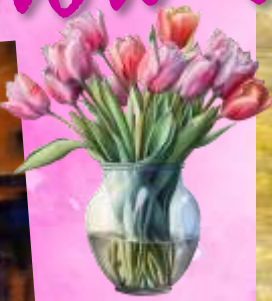
**"Lakeside Trail  
 Dworshak Reservoir"**  
 by **Kim Gardell**



**JUROR'S CHOICE**  
 "Prowler"  
 by **Trish Taylor**  
 \$100 CASH &  
**Dr. Ph. Martin's**  
 Watercolor Ink Set  
 (\$80 value)

# Nat. Show Award Winners

**AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 1**  
 "Companions"  
 by **Bill Okazaki**  
 \$50 **Art Salvage** Gift  
 Certificate &  
**Dr. Ph. Martin's** Wa-  
 tercolor Ink Set  
 (\$50 value)



**HON. MENTION 1**  
 "To I Know Not Where"  
 by **Dan Eacret**  
 \$100 CASH &  
**Daniel Smith** Watercolor  
 Set (\$75 value)



**HON. MENTION 2**  
 "Farm Under Sky"  
 by **Bill Fulton**  
 \$100 CASH & **Dr. Ph. Martin's**  
 Watercolor Ink Set  
 (\$50 value)



**AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2**  
 "Aslan G2124"  
 by **Valerie  
 Woelk**  
**Daniel Smith**  
 Watercolor Set  
 (\$45) &  
**Dr. Ph. Martin's**  
 Watercolor Ink  
 Set (\$50)

A big **THANK YOU**  
 to all of our valuable  
 sponsors for making  
 our awards so special!







A big **THANK YOU** to the Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture (The MAC) for giving us such a beautiful venue for our show, great staff members to work with, and their continued support! We appreciate you so much!

## Awards Reception Highlights

**THANK YOU Sue Rohrbach**, with Gloria Fox and Kathi Eckerich for the sumptuous snack tables. **THANK YOU bari Feder-spiel** for organizing and scheduling the docents!

**Kim Gardell** thanked each organization, business and person who helped make this show, and SWS a pillar in the art community.

**THANK YOU Michael Holter** for being our es-  
teemed juror, and for sharing your knowledge, and helpful instruction in a kind & caring way!







# Michael Holter Workshop

## Volunteering for Workshop Chair Person by Valerie Woelk

When they announced that they needed a workshop chair for the Michael Holter Workshop my hand shot up in the air before I even knew it. I wanted to take that workshop. He is one artist that I discovered on one of those artist magazines with a painting of the woods that stopped me right in my tracks. Just like Stan Miller's portraits do. I not only read all of that article about Holter in the magazine, I was inspired to find his website and see all of his impressive work. His painting was on my computer desktop to remind me to keep aspiring to improve to that level.

With my hand dangling in the air my mind instantly raised concerns about, "What do you think you are doing? Do you think you can do this job, you don't even know how?" My reply was, "It isn't rocket science, so be quiet." Surprisingly, no one else raised their hand so I got the job. Uh, Oh, now what? Well... When I can afford it, I attend workshops to help me improve. The truth is, I volunteered to chair the show for purely selfish reasons. **With half off of the tuition I could then afford to go and learn from a master artist that I admire.**

The whole job of workshop chair has been pretty straight forward. **I took care of Michael Holter's arrangements and assisted them with local information so they could enjoy their visit here in Spokane.** First I had to read the show prospectus and the artist contract so I would know what the rules are. Then do a little look up info on the artist website and Google to see about what kind of places they frequent before contacting the artist. That first phone call was surprisingly easy and friendly, he had only a few questions. Are there some good plein air sites to see nearby? What kind of classroom is there? What about the digital setup? He did say that he would like calls to be kept to a minimum. With maybe a text first, to help keep his time under control. He had a really packed schedule this summer.

You will not be stuck out in the cold doing this. You will find that the others in our group are so very helpful if you need help. **Don't be afraid to volunteer for it yourself. It has been a fun job to do.** (VALERIE ALSO PROVIDED SOME OF THE WORKSHOP PHOTOS AT LEFT.)

THANK YOU MICHAEL! The participants learned so much and had a fabulous time in the process.





APRIL 2025 • page 6

## Meet our SWS Violinist



**Donna Poole Stallings** is a native of Spokane, Washington and currently a free-lance violinist in Spokane. She spent several years away studying music in Illinois and in Texas at Rice University. Her teachers include the former concertmaster of the Chicago Symphony, NDR Orchestra, Denver Symphony, and NBC Symphony Orchestra.

She worked primarily in the Southeastern United States for several years in orchestras such as the Memphis and Nashville Symphonies. She also spent summers playing with the Spokane Symphony at the Festival at Sandpoint, Aspen, Tanglewood, and Carmel.

Her training and experience as an orchestra musician has taken her to Europe and playing and training in several states in America, a tour with James Galway, and a recent tour with the Mannheim Steamroller.

She enjoys art and learning languages as a hobby, singing in her church choir, spending time with her family, and is a member of the Memphis Calligraphy Guild and the Spokane Watercolor Society.

[vlnzsunflowermusic@gmail.com](mailto:vlnzsunflowermusic@gmail.com)



## SPONSOR Feature



Golden Artist Colors, Inc. began in 1980 in a 900 square foot, renovated barn. A new company was formed that would embody the founder's dedication to professional artists, work he described as simply "making tools for artists." The exceptional color strength of QoR Artist Watercolors is achieved through the use of a unique binder called Aquazol®. A new binder wasn't enough for them to justify introducing an entirely new watercolor line—they needed something exceptional. What really got them excited was the discovery that Aquazol could hold much greater amounts of pigment than the same amount of gum Arabic, while retaining a strong and flexible paint film. After adjusting formulations to ensure the new binder would retain the blending, glazing, and lifting properties so important to a quality watercolor, they knew they had something very special and couldn't wait to get it in the hands of artists.

Golden Artist Colors has generously donated a \$250 gift certificate to SWS, awarded to our National Show's First Place winner.

[www.goldenartistcolors.com](http://www.goldenartistcolors.com)



## Fellow Art Society Shows

Greg Cowles

Denise Wagner

Trish Taylor

A RAFFLE DRAWING FOR THESE THREE ORIGINAL ART PIECES SHOWN ABOVE WILL TAKE PLACE AT 3PM, MAY 31ST

**PRESENTS THE ANNUAL 2025 ARTIST SHOWCASE**

**MAY 30 & 31, 2025**

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH: 10AM - 3PM / RECEPTION AT 3PM  
SATURDAY, MAY 31ST: 10AM - 4PM

KOOTENAI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
BUILDING 3, PARKING LOT B

FREE PARKING & ADMISSION  
4856 N. GOVERNMENT WAY, COEUR D'ALENE

Coeur d'Alene Art Association, Kootenai County Fairgrounds

## Fearless Water-Media Painting CREATIVE REALISM

with **Elise Beattie**

**June 27 & 28**

at Spokane Art Supply  
1303 N. Monroe, Spokane  
Meet & Greet 9:30 a.m.  
Two-day Workshop



**Learn how to paint, the FEARLESS way.**

Elise will teach you all about how to effectively understand and use traditional and contemporary watercolor methods, while creating uniquely different subject matter that tells a story. Join Elise for an intensive two day exploration to understand how to improve your skills and master the **four "C"s"** of great art: Composition, Content, Creativity and Craftsmanship.

**\$130 + \$11.57 tax = \$141.57**

For more information and registration, visit  
<https://www.beattieartworks.com/spokane-art-supply-workshops.html>

Questions? [artist@beattieartworks.com](mailto:artist@beattieartworks.com)

## Idaho Watercolor Society's 2025 Annual Juried Membership Exhibition

**May 6 – June 29** at the **Water's Edge Gallery**, in the Riverside Hotel, 2900 W Chinden Blvd., Boise, ID

**Awards Reception—Tuesday, June 3, 5:30–8:30**, Main Floor

JUROR: acclaimed artist Kathleen Giles

