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SWS MEMBER NEWSLETTER

PO Box 10298, Spokane, WA 99209

www.spokanewatercolor.org

Brushstrokes

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 18 Plein Air Event at Terese Fandel's, Hayden, ID
Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., **SEE DETAILS BELOW!**

July 20 SUBMISSIONS CLOSE for SWS Fall Members Show

Aug. 18 CenterPlace Exhibition Set-up, 12:00 p.m., Spokane Valley, WA

Aug. 30 Plein Air Event at Sue Rohrback's Ranch, Saturday, Hauser Lake, ID
WATCH YOUR EMAILS FOR DETAILS—COMING SOON!

Sept. 2 Accepted Paintings delivered to Spokane Art School Gallery, 503 E. Second Ave., Unit B, Spokane, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Sept. 5 First Friday Awards Reception, Spokane Art School Gallery, 503 E. Second Ave., Unit B, Spokane, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Sept. 18 Men's Breakfast Club, Molly's Café, 224 S. Lincoln Street, Spokane, 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 20 SWS Gen. Meeting—in person—Spokane Art Supply, Saturday, 10-12, 1303 N. Monroe, Spokane—Anji Granger demo on Textural Techniques in Watercolor, see pg. 6

Sept. 29 Painting Retrieval from Members Show, Spokane Art School Gallery, 503 E. Second Ave., Unit B, Spokane, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

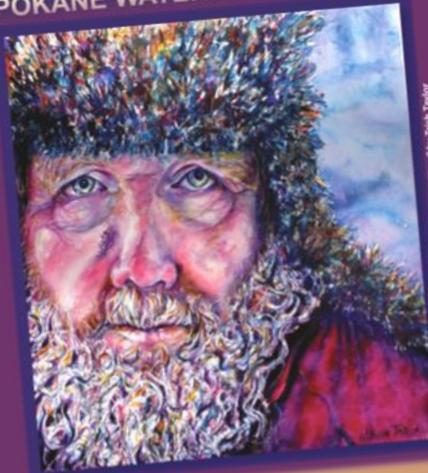
Challenge PAINTING

JULY—Plastic Wrap
AUG—Color Charts
SEPT—Drop Color
(or what's on your easel)

SUBJECT OF YOUR CHOICE

SEE Pgs. 2/4/6
for TIPS on
SUMMER
CHALLENGES

SPOKANE WATERCOLOR SOCIETY



CALL FOR ENTRIES

2025 SWS Juried Member Show

Entries accepted June 13 to July 20, 2025

Spokane Art School Gallery

Juror: Jenny Hyde

go to spokanewatercolor.org
for prospectus

WE LISTENED!

We are trying a **new** system of jury selection to increase the chances for all members to get paintings accepted into our Members Show. Consult your prospectus for the details.

Since the month of the show was moved up from October, deadline for submissions is fast approaching. Paint your heart out and get your entries in by July 20th.

More show de-tails on pg. 6.



Plein Air at Terese's!

Friday, July 18, 10 am to 2 pm

4318 E. Deepwater Court

Hayden Lake, ID

Sandwiches, lemonade and water provided. There are some chairs on the deck, but if you would like to walk down to the lake (on an uneven dirt path) please wear sturdy shoes and bring a portable chair. If you are less mobile, there are plenty of great views from her deck.

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 95, turn on Miles Avenue (towards Government Way) and follow to a T. Turn left onto Lakeview Drive and follow it up a hill through the neighborhood. Turn right on Rimrock Road, then make the next left on English Point Road. Travel 1 mile to and take the right onto Split Rock Road. At the bottom of the hill take a hard left at the mailboxes. Terese's house is on the right, green with red trim. It is also in Google maps.



Brushstrokes

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July Challenge Tips By Diana Postlewait

How to use the plastic wrap watercolor technique - kerriewoodhouse.com

1. Begin with a wet loose painted background or subject

You need lots of wet color to make this technique work. Be bold at this stage to avoid disappointment later. You can use just one color if you like, but lots of color works great!

2. Add scrunched plastic wrap, cling wrap or bubble wrap directly to the wet paint

Before the paint is dry pull off a piece of wrap and crumble it up. Place it directly on the surface of the wet paint making sure that the plastic and paper are in contact in several places. You can press the plastic down in different places and

THESE PAINTINGS are the first two I ever did with plastic wrap. From experience I can tell you the heavier wrap works better. But, try different weights and bubble wrap for different effects. If you are using it for a background, use a large piece. If you are using it for the subject(s) of your painting, you might want to use smaller pieces or even light-weight wrap depending on the effect you want.

Letting it dry completely before removing the wrap is key.

You can put a weight on it to hold it down and increase the pattern or no weight and get a lighter pattern. Experiment.

manipulate the shapes a little, but the joy of this technique is that you never really know what you are going to get. Add a weight on top (optional) and let it dry overnight. Once you see the sort of effects you can get, you can start to imagine how stretching the plastic into longer shapes might change your painting, or make bigger or smaller individual shapes by varying the amount of scrunching you do.

Leave to dry completely

This is the hard part. Walk away, and don't peek. To achieve an effect you need to let the paint dry completely under the wrap. Every time you touch or dislodge the plastic you are reducing the impact of this technique. I recommend leaving it dry overnight to be safe.

4. Remove the plastic and spend time with your first layer

Lift the plastic wrap from the perfectly dry painting and give yourself plenty of time to just look at the result. See what shapes you can find in the abstract results. Eventually your eyes will find the edges of petals or leaves, or maybe something else entirely.

5. Consider using references

If you know what kind of subject you are trying to paint - see if you can find some images of the subject for reference.

6. Use negative painting to build on your first layer

(SWS May 2025 Challenge Paintings - Negative Painting)

Once you start you may find other shapes to bring out in your painting. One of the best ways to do this is negative painting. This technique can be used for backgrounds, trees, flowers and many more subjects of your choice.

Bring ALL of your Challenge Paintings to the September SWS General Meeting at Spokane Art Supply! This is from May to September. There will be 3 chances to win a SAS Gift Certificate!

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The 2026 Chase Gallery Exhibition Season with [@spokanearts!](https://www.spokanearts.com) is OPEN!

This is your chance to have your work featured in one of Spokane's most beloved art spaces. Whether you are a seasoned pro or just starting to share your voice, they want to see what you've got!

Deadline Sunday, Sept. 8, 2025

APPLY AT:

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/103758-Spokane-Arts>

The SWS Plein Air Event and Meeting at Carrie's was *cancelled* due to illness and weather. Look for emails on rescheduling this event, and for details on our August 30 Plein Air Event at Sue's Ranch!



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

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 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.



Brushstrokes

Sponsor Feature

BLICK[®] art materials

BLICK supports artists at all stages of their artistic journey. As a leading art supply company, they provide artists, educators, students, and their associates with the tools, assistance, and training needed to grow, innovate, and reach their creative potential. BLICK Art Materials is family-owned, serving artists since 1911.

With excellent service for a quality shopping experience, they want to ensure that you find the best art supplies at the lowest prices. Their goal is to make your shopping experience easy and enjoyable, so you can find the quality art supplies that you need quickly and affordably. They have one of the highest customer satisfaction ratings in the industry, and hold true to continuously providing the most competitive prices by monitoring them each and every day.

Their commitment to excellence is supported by a team that is friendly, welcoming and knowledgeable in all areas of art supplies. They proudly work with local artists and arts organizations across the country and support a variety of national events as well as local community events. They have been one of SWS's valued sponsors for years, providing awards for our shows, and we so appreciate them!

Blick Art Materials www.dickblick.com

Thank You to our SWS violinist, Donna Stallings, for enchanting us throughout the evening and elevating our reception! Thank you Kathi and Sue for the lovely snack table!



Congratulations Gloria Fox! "Sunset at Upper Priest Lake" was the People's Choice Award Winner. Gloria received a \$100 Gift Certificate, from our sponsor, BLICK ART MATERIALS!



Signature Show Reception

A BIG THANK YOU to LIBERTY GALLERY, for the lovely space for our show, your continued support, and to Amy and Susan for their hard work and organization that always results in a beautiful experience!



August Challenge Tips

By Diana Postlewait

What is the purpose of a COLOR CHART?

Have you ever been puzzled about what colors to mix in a particular situation? Watercolor charts are all about **mastering mixing**. These simple charts help you learn how to mix your collection of paints and remember which ones you need to reproduce a particular hue. I'm always surprised by the huge variety of colors that can be created from just a few tubes of paint. If you do this exercise, it will help you **understand how your own paints work together**. You're going to do a lot of mixing! But that's the whole idea...**You may be astonished by the colors your paints can produce!**

How does a watercolor color chart work?

A watercolor chart is a grid of colored squares using all or some of the paints in your palette. The grid is labeled on the top and side axis with the names of all your



6 good reasons to make a watercolor mixing chart

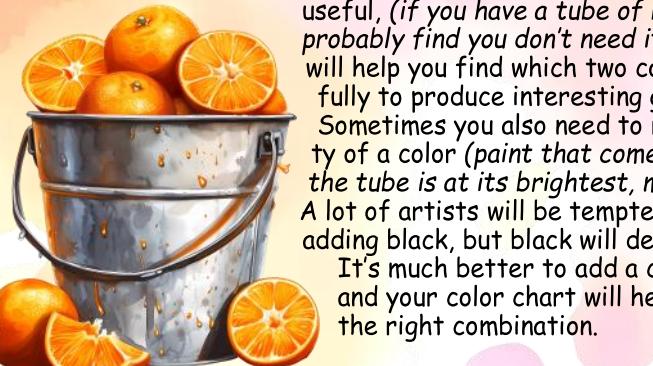
I always recommend using **single pigment**

and **transparent watercolor paints**. Why? Because if you mix too many pigments, it often ends up as a muddy dull color. I'm sure, like me, you prefer bright vivid colors in your paintings. Mixing single pigments is less inclined to produce flat colors. A color chart will help you identify which single pigments produce a desired color mix, and you may find some 2 or 3 pigment paints which mix badly!

Knowing how to mix **blacks or grays** with just two colors is extremely useful, (if you have a tube of black paint, you'll probably find you don't need it). A mixing chart will help you find which two colors mix beautifully to produce interesting grays and blacks.

Sometimes you also need to reduce the intensity of a color (paint that comes directly from the tube is at its brightest, most intense hue). A lot of artists will be tempted to do this by adding black, but black will deaden your colors!

It's much better to add a complementary hue, and your color chart will help you identify the right combination.



August was going to be a month for a break, mostly because of everyone being on vacation, hosting family or friends or just enjoying summer. However, you could pick one or two or even three of the previous challenges and practice them all in one painting. Or, if you find yourself just needing some time with your paints figuring out what you have and how you can use your colors, create some watercolor charts. Maybe you have done this before with the colors on your palette or maybe you have some "new" paints to explore in a color chart way. Here are some excerpts from Anthony Roebuck on Watercolor Charts. Let's see what you create when we get back together in September.

Mixing greens can also be quite tricky.

When we go to mix paints, we find it difficult to pick the right combination to get the right shade of green. A color chart goes a long way to helping with this.

Pinks and skin tones can be particularly frustrating to mix.

A lot of beginners will mix red with white paint. The results are similar to when you try to mix a color by adding black. Your colors will look flat and uninspiring. There are several combinations that will produce great flesh tones, and your mixing chart will help you discover them.

Do you really need all those tubes of brown, indigo and violet?

Convenience mixtures like these are useful if you need a very specific color all the time, but you can probably mix these colors with your existing palette of paints. Making your own color chart could save you money because you'll know how to mix a color using two other paints. You may find that you end up using less colors. **This is especially useful to know if you intend to paint while traveling, so you can make your own small travel palette.**

Even if you have a limited palette, you'll probably find some pleasantly surprising mixing results along the way. And in the end a good chart will make your life easier. (I've used 8 colors for this example mixing chart, but you can use more or less. You can use any combination of colors you want to test.)

So sit back, grab a coffee and have some fun!

Check out Anthony Roebuck's website (www.watercoloraffair.com) for more details, the different types of color charts, and a printable color chart grid to get you started.



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PAINT OUTDOORS
CLOSE TO HOME!



Outdoor Painting Meetups (Plein Air)

Sponsored by the Libraries of Spokane and in collaboration with Inland Northwest Outdoor Art (INOA) Group.

SWS MEMBERS ARE INVITED to join the Inland Northwest Outdoor Art (INOA) group! Registration is not required, but please message or email Valerie (valerie.woelk@gmail.com) so she knows you are coming as some locations have attendance limits. There are four more summer events to help increase more artist participation in plein air painting in our beautiful region. Artists from INOA group will meet new participants on location, to paint together for four hours. This is not a class, but artists painting together outdoors! You can look up info about these meetups, on the Facebook Page for the INOA group anytime as it is updated frequently. You may also find current info at the Spokane County Library District website.

Golden Gem Mercantile in Rockford, WA— Rural Farmland

Saturday, July 12, 2025 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
18805 S. WA-27, Rockford, WA

Forest Preserve Behind the Deer Park Library

Saturday July 19, 2025 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
208 E. Forest Ave., Deer Park, WA

Urban Pollinator Meadow, Spokane Valley Library

Saturday August 2, 2025 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
22 N. Herald Road, Spokane Valley, WA



Fall Foliage at Moran Prairie Library

Saturday September 27, 2025 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
6004 S. Regal Street, Spokane, WA



SWS MEMBER NEWSLETTER

PO Box 10298, Spokane, WA 99209
www.spokanewatercolor.org

Brushstrokes Paint & Travel

Darla's 20th Ghost Ranch
UN-Traditional Watercolor Workshop/Retreat

features watermedia with a twist!

1-7 November 2025

we live at Ghost Ranch--made famous by Georgia O'Keeffe. The workshop offers two optional field trips: Georgia O'Keeffe's home/studio in Abiquiu, NM and the Landscape Tour on the Ranch property to see where she lived and what she painted. Our lodging and meals are included.

Switzerland including France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (July 2026)!

Those who love to travel and record their memories are encouraged to join the Art Adventure Abroad—no art experience required! We gather photographs, sketches, paint and use other fun materials to make an art journal of the trip. Its great fun, easy for non-arties to do and is a unique way to record your adventure!

We incorporate special ideas for each page. Last year I wrote/published "Making an Art Journal...as You Travel—How to Ideas by Darla Bostick" a gift for those attending packed with examples. After returning to our "home" base each day, there is time for instruction and creating! Both new and seasoned artists, non-artists/spouses are welcome to join us. Bring a friend, or plan to make new ones!

Registration is taking place now!

Details: www.darlabostick.com

Darla Bostick, darlabostickart@gmail.com 940.320.5660



Paint Japan's Nebuta Festival
with...

2026!



Watercolor on the Water
Painting Workshop at Sea!

- Sailing July 25 – August 6, 2026.
- Twelve Nights Aboard the Celebrity Millennium.
- Full-Day Studio Instruction on Sea Days, Optional Plein Air Days in Port.
- Pricing Includes Cruise Booking, Workshop Instruction, Classic Beverage Package, WiFi, and Pre-Paid Gratuities.
- Reduced Fares for Non-Painting Guests!

About Your Instructor

Linda Smith has over 30 years of painting, teaching, and exhibition experience, with a primary focus on watercolor painting. She has worked with, and studied under, several nationally recognized artists throughout the United States. Her own watercolors have earned many show awards. She is published in several art publications and has also served in several consulting capacities for art education.

Visit:
www.LindaSmith.Vegas



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For More Information and to Reserve Your Painting Adventure,
Visit...

<https://trips.coastwisetravel.com/WatercolorWorkshopCruise2026>

SPOKANE WATERCOLOR SOCIETY



2024 Juried Member Show First Place Award - "Frozen in Time" by Trish Taylor

2025

Juried Member Show

September 4 to 26, 2025

Spokane Art School Gallery
503 East Second Avenue, Unit B, Spokane

Artists' Reception and Awards: Friday Sept. 5, 5-8 pm

Juror: Jenny Hyde

visit us at
spokanewatercolor.org

September Challenge Tips

By Diana Postlewait

Drop Color or Wet 'n Wet

This exercise will come in handy for another challenge coming up. **Drop color or Wet 'n Wet** is very easy and can be used for a multitude of techniques in watercolor painting.

First, you can literally **paint a "drop"** using this technique. Put a drop of clean water on your paper where you want the "drop" to be. Next, with color on your brush, gently touch the wet drop of water and let the color run into the drop. Let it dry and finish by lifting some of the color from the center, adding shading or maybe another color to enhance the shape.

You can also wet your paper - **really wet your paper** - and drop in colors here and there for a more abstract feel. Good for abstract painting, colorful backgrounds and skies. This gives you more of a "pouring" feel to your painting.

Create soft edges with the wet 'n wet technique. Paint the specific area with clear water, add color, let it run or tilt your paper to encourage the direction of the run. As it dries, "drop" in more color in the areas that need more shading, more color or a different color. This is a good way to create a loose painting and good for some florals. Don't let it dry completely if you want the loose look.

SWS in September!

Anji Grainger SEPTEMBER DEMO

Textural Techniques in WC

at the SWS General Meeting

Saturday, September 20,
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Spokane Art Supply,
1303 N. Monroe, Spokane



Anji is an award winning watercolorist and instructor. Anji began painting in acrylic. She later studied watercolor in Florence, Italy, and "plein air" techniques in Provence and Sicily. Anji's work derives its inspiration from the **magic and wonders of nature**. She is drawn to see and focus on what might not be seen or noticed and understands the **importance of not suppressing what comes from within**. She focuses on de-



tail whether it's simply the blending or bleeding of two colors like one would see on a ripening peach or the finite lines and edges of a raindrop. Her current explorations are in the discovery of how **elements of nature and texture react in watercolor to leave beautiful patterns and surprises**.

DON'T MISS IT!

