



Hot Press News

Jan. – Feb. 2023 No. 1 PO Box 984, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971 www.delawarewatercolorsociety.org

Happy New Year

We hope the coming year finds you happy and healthy and brings all good things. Our members have created so many outstanding paintings during 2022, we can't wait to see what inspiration brings in 2023.

Exhibitions Chair, Joan Fabbri, has lined up three venues for exhibitions this year, two member shows and one signature artist exhibition, so keep those brushes moving and show the world how proud you are to be a member of DWS.

2022 Annual Meeting

President Margie Wuestner welcomed members, via Zoom, to our annual meeting on December 14, 2022. Reports were provided by each board member, updated bylaws were approved, plans for 2023 and the election of the officers and directors were announced. Once business was completed, our guest speaker, Nick Serratore, Artist and Director at Rehoboth Art League presented an informative program on framing.

Congratulations to our 2023 Board of Directors and a warm welcome to its newest member, Melissa McLean.

Margie Wuestner – President
Brad Hastings – Vice President
Charlotte Hughes – Secretary
Pat Hoey – Treasurer
Exhibitions Director – Joan Fabbri
Workshop Director – Wendy Leddy
Communications Director – Melissa

McLean

Be sure to offer your assistance and support to this hard-working team.

Rick Surowicz Demo

For those members who renewed prior to January 1, a free Zoom Demonstration with artist Rick Surowicz will be available January 4, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Surowicz's topic will be "Creating Textures with Watercolor." The Zoom connection will be distributed to members prior to the meeting.



"Don's Place"
Rick Surowicz

DWS Website Update

Brad Hastings and his committee have been working closely with Techno Goober in the creation of our new website. Our current website has become very outdated and difficult to maintain. Our current webmaster, Danny Fisher, whom we so gratefully appreciate and thank for his many years of service, was not sure if anyone else would understand the foibles of the current site and keep it running.

The new site promises to be easy to update and maintain. Board members will be able to publish announcements, calendar items and images in a timely manner. Artists Bios, links to personal websites and more will be included.

If you would like to see the site, under construction, you may access it using the following link

<https://dws.flywheelsites.com>

We welcome any input or suggestions.

Exhibitions

Exhibitions Chair Joan Fabbri has lined up three exciting venues for 2023. Record the dates and pick up your brushes, make this your New Year's resolution and start now!

Members exhibition at **Nassau Valley Vineyards and Winery** May 1 through May 31, 2023. **Digital images due March 1, through March 31, 2023.**

DWS Signature Artist Exhibition at **Peninsula Gallery** in Lewes, September 2, through September 30, 2023. Each signature artist may submit three digital images using the theme "Sunrises and Sunsets." **Images are due July 1, through July 17, 2023.**

Members exhibition at the **Ocean City Center for the Arts**, October 30, through November 26, 2023. **Digital images due September 2, through September 25, 2023.**

Workshops

Workshop Chair, Wendy Leddy announced a new workshop, "**Birds and Animals**" with artist Kim Johnson-Nechtman. This workshop is scheduled for three consecutive Wednesdays, April 12, 19 and 26.



Dog portrait by Kim Johnson-Nechtman

"**Creative Backgrounds**" a three-day watercolor Zoom workshop with artist Robin Poteet, January 30, 31, and February 2, 2023.

This workshop will focus on creative backgrounds for any subject. To quote Robin "We have all done it. We've painted a great

subject and have avoided the background until the last minute. Now What? We end up painting a washy, safe, background that does little to enhance the subject. NO MORE! In this workshop students will learn how to combine realism and abstraction to take their work to the next level." Join Robin and other artists and "jazz up your backgrounds."

Day One – Introduction, demonstration and group exercises.

Day Two – Demonstration followed by participants working on their own, with instruction, if needed.

Day Three – Demonstration followed by participants working on their own, with instruction. Sharing and wrap-up during the final hour.

The application is available on our website www.delawarewatercolorssociety.org. This workshop is limited to twenty participants. DWS members \$195, non-members, \$235. Daily recordings will be provided.

Curious? View Robin Poteet's work on her website at www.robinpoteet.com.



"In Full Bloom"
Robin Poteet

Member News

Annie Strack won the M Graham Award in the Northeast Watercolor Society 46th International Exhibit, and second place award in the Society of Watercolor Artists annual exhibit in Texas. Her painting "Fishing Buddies" was

featured in the December issue of Fine Art Connoisseur magazine. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Watercolor Society.

Isabel Pizzolato's painting "Waiting" was juried into the Artists & Writers Collaboration exhibit, "Shared Visions" at the Art League of Ocean City.



"Waiting"
Isabel Pizzolato

A Lesson on Framing

Artist, Nick Serratore provided some helpful insight regarding correct framing practices. Proper framing enhances your artwork and is worth the investment to do it properly. At our most recent show at the Rehoboth Art League, there were some framing issues that were problematic. These issues may cause your accepted work to be rejected for hanging in an exhibit by the organization hosting the show or the judge.

Stop in at Peninsula Gallery in Lewes to view Nick's work. While there, pay special attention to how the work on display is framed.

- Clean mats are key. Poorly cut and dirty mats, dust, hair, and smudges are a turn-off to the judge and potential buyers. To quote Nick "seeing dirt, hair or smudges is like finding hair in your soup."
- Your work should be the focus and draw the attention of potential buyers. The frame should not distract from this goal. Avoid antique looks, heavy frames, thick black frame and brown frames which may detract from your image.

- To save money, plan your paintings to fit into standard size frames. This also works well for shrink wrap packaging.
- Keep mats neutral, off-white or pale grey. Double mats are a plus.
- Avoid bulky frames. Aim for 1" thick with a 2 ½" to 3" mat.
- Chose a frame that complements your work and suits all your framing needs. Select a new frame every few years as trends change. A frame that is simple and neutral will fit in anyone's home.
- Many galleries do not accept metal frames.
- Avoid plexiglass unless you will be shipping your work.
- Include information on the back of your work.
- The back of your work should be as presentable as the front of your work. Clean, unmarred dust covers and proper wiring are a must.

Most importantly, your presentation represents you and the image you wish to portray.

Hot Press News

The next issue of the Hot Press News will be edited by our new Communications Director Melissa McLean. Our sincere thanks to Melissa for taking on this key position with DWS. Please support Melissa and forward any member news to her at mclean.melissa@rocketmail.com

I have enjoyed my time on the Board of Directors and wish continued success to all.

Sincerely, **Isabel Pizzolato**

"If people knew how hard I had to work to gain my mastery, it would not seem so wonderful at all."

- Michelangelo Buonarroti