



# Hot Press News

MAY-JUNE 2019 NO. 3 P.O. Box 984 REHOBOTH BEACH, DE 19971

## From the President

**A**h, sweet spring has arrived and we can look forward to shedding our jackets and being outdoors. With longer and brighter days we can spend more time with our art and our paints whether in the studio or en plein air. Natural light is key to seeing correct values and hues, and of course, we now have more energy to finish those starts that we may have neglected in the last few months. The board members have been busy also arranging a series of events to inspire you.

In May we celebrate our 15th anniversary with an open house on May 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Glade Clubhouse, 16 Glade Farm Drive, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971. DWS artists who have signed up to participate can bring two paintings to display and sell as well as one shrink-wrapped piece. If you want to sign up to display your art, email [delawarewatercolor-society@gmail.com](mailto:delawarewatercolor-society@gmail.com). The event will be open to family, friends, and the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Also in May, we have a special introduction to pouring, and our portraiture workshop in June is destined to be a big hit. For those of you who missed the plein air outing and picnic last year at Lavender Fields, now is your chance to try painting in this beautiful locale. July marks our juried exhibition at Nassau Valley Vineyards and Winery. Read all about these details in the sections below. The 2019 Calendar is on our website at [www.delawarewatercolorssociety.org](http://www.delawarewatercolorssociety.org).

— **Anne Crown-Cyr, President**

## Member News

**A**nne Crown-Cyr's watercolor *5K* is among 70 works selected by juror Megan Rook-Koepsel, Gallery Director of Julio Fine Arts Gallery at Loyola University Maryland. The juror reviewed more than 330 entries before selecting the final works for the Maryland Federation of Arts Spring Member Show. The artworks will be on display May 2-25, 2019 at the Circle Gallery, 18 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21404.

Crown-Cyr's watercolors, *Abandoned* and *Loving the Lavender*, will appear in the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild anthology entitled, *Scenes: A Collaboration of Coastal Writers and Artists* in the fall.



*5K* by Anne Crown-Cyr

**Doris Davis-Glackin's** *Revisiting Geneva* and Christine A. Heyse's *Panda Paws* will be on display in the Baltimore Watercolor Society's 2019 Mid-Atlantic Regional Exhibition June 8-July 13, 2019, at BlackRock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD.



*Revisiting Geneva* by Doris Davis-Glacken



*Panda Paws* by Christine Heyse

**Annie Strack's** painting *Jon L. Seagull* was juried into the Western Colorado Watercolor Society's 29th Annual National Exhibition. She has been appointed Northeast Regional Director for the USA Chapter of the International Watercolor Society.

Congratulations to all.



*Jon L. Seagull* by Annie Strack

## Welcome New Members

Kathleen Cropper, *Long Neck*  
Sylvia Moritz, *Ocean View*  
Teena Riley, *Dagsboro*

# Second Wednesdays

**T**wenty DWS members attended the April 10 Painting Beyond Your Photographs session to learn different ways of using photo references to enhance a composition. Presenters Anne Crown-Cyr and Elizabeth Collard stressed the importance of using your own original photos and using them as starting points for new compositions. They also emphasized the idea of using your photographs to inspire new ideas and designs rather than merely copying them.



Debbie Iammatteo adjusts her landscape painting.

## Birthdays

### May

Kathy Casey  
Doris Davis-Glackin  
John Hassler  
Pat Hoey  
Wanda Kelly  
Paige Ruby

### June

Anne Crown-Cyr  
Jan Henning  
Doris Ingram  
Ellen Lawler  
June Phillips  
Diane Weber

The session covered the elements and principles of design, ways to edit and change your image – such as combining several references, changing the composition, mood, value, and color, and using your imagination to make up parts of your painting.



Kathy Cropper focuses on daffodil shapes.

## May 22-23 – Introduction to Pouring

Artist Nancy Mysak will lead participants through the major steps of pouring watercolors. This unique process is fun and can produce unexpected and exciting results. If you want to try a new technique with your watercolors, this is for you. The six-hour session is \$30.

For more information, see Second Wednesdays at [www.delawarewatercolorssociety.org](http://www.delawarewatercolorssociety.org)

## June 12 – Plein Air Paintout

In June, we'll return to beautiful Lavender Fields in Milton, weather permitting. If you've never tried plein air painting, think about doing it here. Again, we'll go around 9:30 a.m. and bring lunch. You can stay and paint as long as you wish. Free.





## Workshops



### June 9-11 – “California Vibe” Portraiture Workshop

Renown artist David Lobenberg’s use of expressive color will inspire and excite to want to think outside the box in painting with watercolor. Even if you have never painted a portrait, Lobenberg will show you an easy way to transfer an image onto your work surface. He will explain step by step, how shape, value, and color come together to create dynamic, vibrant portraits.

For details, early bird pricing, and registration go to Workshops on the DWS website.

## Exhibitions



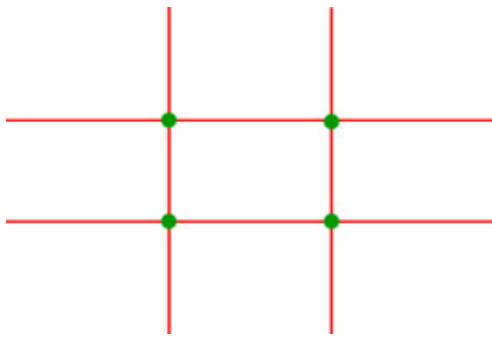
### July 2-30 – Summer Juried Exhibition at Nassau Valley Vineyards and Winery

Nassau Valley is one of our well-attended exhibitions and usually draws a larger crowd because of the lovely setting at the winery. This year the event will be highly publicized, and we hope DWS members will once again enter their best work. This is always a beautiful show to be in, so start thinking about what you are going to enter.

Artist Sharon Green is the juror and awards judge for this exhibition. Green is a signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society and the Philadelphia Watercolor Society who is past president of BWS and who continues to serve as the chair of the BWS Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition.

The deadline for digital entries is June 1 and the prospectus is available online at [www.delawarewatercolorsociety.org](http://www.delawarewatercolorsociety.org).

# How to Improve Your Composition – Rule of Thirds



**D**eveloping the best compositions can sometimes be tricky. It's important to know and understand the principles and elements of design and how to bring them together for a good composition or design. Some of us instinctively know how to accomplish this while most of us have to learn it. If we think about good composition as a puzzle with different pieces that come together as a whole, then there are some basic concepts we can keep in mind to help us.

**Relationships.** As with a puzzles, the pieces need to fit. In art, it is the relationship of design elements to one another that is key whether it is size shape, line, contrast, value, color, texture, and so on.

**Rule of Thirds.** The idea is that by dividing your surface into thirds, vertically and horizontally, and then placing key elements of your image either along these lines or at the junctions of them, you'll achieve a more pleasing visual arrangement or relationship among your elements.

**Simplicity.** Edit out the extraneous and focus on the important parts of the image that leads where you want the eye to go.

**Line.** Horizontal and vertical lines tend to add stability to a design while diagonal and curved lines add drama, energy, and movement.

**Shapes.** Triangles and squares are strong shapes; circles and ovals are softer. Again, it's important to understand how these shapes interact and relate to each other.

**Contrast.** Look at how the subject matter relates to its surroundings in terms of shapes, textures, color, value, and emphasis to determine what to change or enhance.

**Symmetry/asymmetry.** Symmetry is an even distribution of elements in design that equates with balance; asymmetry is the uneven distribution of those elements.

**Pattern and repetition.** These add interest and movement in a composition. You can use them to keep the eye moving throughout your painting toward the center of interest and points of contrast.

**Negative space.** Make sure you leave some space in and around your image allowing it to breathe and the eye to wander throughout.

**Cropping/editing.** Try using one-third of your image; try changing the horizon line. Turn your image upside down or reverse it to change the composition. Whether it's a landscape, portrait, or macro image, there is always space to try and enhance your composition to make it a bit more dramatic.

**Perspective.** Perspective helps direct the eye to create an illusion of depth and space giving a painting form and distance. In landscape painting, in particular, keep in mind which subject you want to emphasize-water, boats, marsh, distant mountains, the horizon, the sunset, or the shanty in the foreground. Think about your use of aerial perspective and the rule of thirds.

These are just a few examples of what to consider in developing your composition. It's practice, practice, practice that is key to achieving your best result.

## ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

- Line
- Shape
- Value
- Size/proportion
- Direction (rhythm & flow)
- Texture
- Color
- Form/Volume
- Negative space
- Focal point

## PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

- Harmony
- Contrast
- Unity
- Balance
- Gradation
- Dominance
- Alternation (variation)  
e.g., warm to cool; different intensities of the same color
- Repetition



Who Said?

*"If you could say it in words there would be no reason to paint."*

Edward Hopper