

Hot Press News



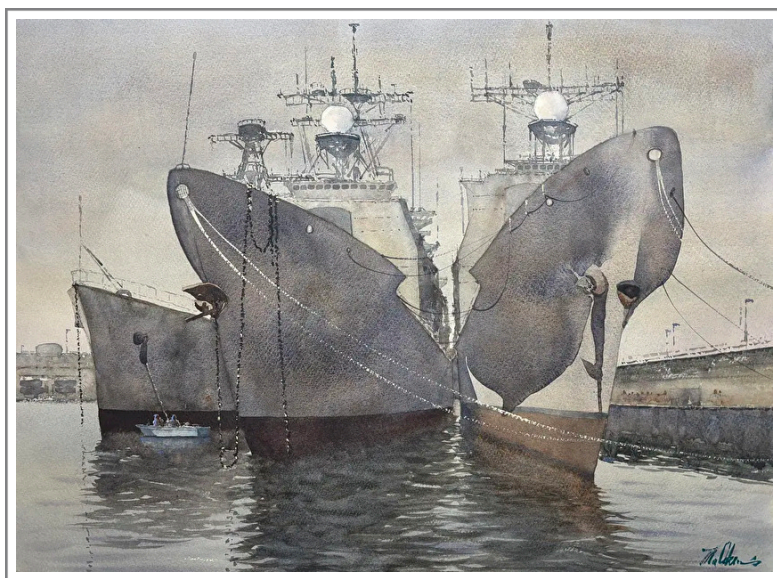
April 2026 No. 4

P.O. Box 984, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

delawarewatercolorsociety.org

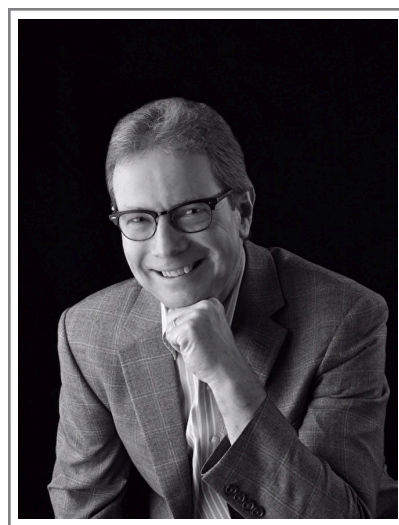
Upcoming Exhibit-It's a Shore Thing

DWS is holding a Spring Exhibit at the Lewes Library with the theme, "It's a Shore Thing". Lewes Library is located in the heart of town at 111 Adam's St, Lewes DE, 19958. The juror for the exhibit is Mick McAndrews of Downingtown, PA.



Philadelphia Navy Yard

Selected for the 159th Anniversary Exhibition of the American Watercolor Society



Mick McAndrews Artist Statement

I am a passionate painter who believes that time spent painting is

precious. My goal is to draw and paint every day and I believe that the fastest way to artistic growth is through the activity of painting. I enjoy painting outside to take advantage of surroundings, natural light, and the sights and sounds that influence each painter's creative nature. Outside in nature's studio is where I find the greatest challenge and the greatest reward. I am challenged to capture the moment because light and its effect, reflection and cast shadow changes continuously. I am forced to simplify, to reduce the overwhelming complexity of what's in front of me into only the most important shapes and values. My nature is to be spontaneous so working loose and impressionistically appeals to me. The magic of watercolor is found in the partnership between artist and medium, of finding a balance between the knowledge, technique and skill of the painter while leaving room for the magic that makes watercolor so distinctive.

Continued on next page

Important Dates for Lewes Library Exhibit

- Call for Entry due by April 15th
- Notification of acceptance May 1
- Drop-off & hang Monday, June 1 10am-noon
- Take down by Tuesday, June 30 10am-noon
- Opening Reception Friday, June 5th 5-7pm
- The Library will retain 10% of Sale price.

Call for Entry

Christine Heyse Workshop Sept 16-18 2026

Loosen Up!

This three day workshop with award-winning artist Christine Heyse will show you how to paint fresher, livelier, and more confident watercolor with that “wow” factor. Learn how to plan the right way so you can paint faster and with more confidence, create mood and atmosphere that grabs your viewers attention and gives a sense of mystery. Paint loose, but not sloppy.

If you’ve ever wondered how you might change a painting to make it better or what it needs to take it from good to great this workshop is for you!

Each day will begin with a lecture and demonstration in the morning then participants will work on their own paintings and get individual help as needed. You are encouraged to bring less successful paintings to try again using these new skills. These can be opportunities to practice new techniques or to plan for new improved versions.



In My Experience : Tips for the Watercolor Journey

You know, there's one question that comes up more often than any other when I'm chatting with budding artists new to the magic of watercolors: "Melissa, do you have any tips for me?" And honestly, every single time, it makes me smile and then my brain immediately goes into a whirlwind!

My mind instantly jumps to **all** the things – the deep dives into pigment lightfastness (because nobody wants their beautiful art to fade!), the never-ending hunt for that "perfect" brush (and the stack of "just okay" ones I've accumulated, and the countless books I've collected trying to unlock the secrets of this mercurial medium.

But if I had to distill all that learning and experimenting into one single, absolute top-tier piece of advice for a new watercolorist, it would be this: ****invest in your paper.****, it's the ultimate game-changer.

Think of your paper as the foundation for your masterpiece. When you choose high-quality, 100% cotton paper, you're giving your colors the best possible stage to perform on. It handles water beautifully, allows for gorgeous blends, and really makes your pigments sing. It transforms the entire painting experience from potentially frustrating to incredibly joyful.

Happy Painting,
Melissa

Here is a small summation of some good beginning choices:

Premium Artist-Grade Options

Professional watercolor papers are mouldmade from 100% cotton fiber, which provides superior strength and absorbency compared to wood pulp alternatives.

- **Saunders Waterford** — high-quality, 100% cotton paper favored by experienced artists; available at BLICK Art Materials and Walmart
- **Arches Cold Press** — top-tier 100% cotton paper excellent for serious beginners; most popular choice for traditional watercolorists with balanced texture
- **Arches Bright White** — mouldmade without optical brighteners; available in multiple sizes at Utrecht Art Supplies and BLICK
- **Fabriano Artistico Enhanced** — high-quality paper customers know and love; mouldmade, 100% cotton with consistent professional-grade surface

Cold Press remains most popular because it balances smooth washes with enough texture for traditional watercolor effects.

I'd love to hear any watercolor painting tips you have for the DWS membership!

Please reach out to me at:

(In My Experience :Tips for the Watercolor Journey)

mclean.melissa@rocketmail.com

DWS Communication Director

Featured Member Mitzi Harp- In Her Words

A year before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, I embarked on my journey of becoming an artist. I started with an adult learning drawing class and subsequently a watercolor course. Prior to these classes, I had no experience drawing or painting and believed I lacked any artistic ability. However, the advent of my artist journey and in particular watercolor, has transformed my life. I find myself unable to envision my existence without the art form of watercolor. Despite the hardships associated with the COVID-19 outbreak, the enforced lockdowns provided me with an unexpected opportunity to nurture my artistic abilities. I believe that I have developed a diverse range of artistic styles, encompassing the tranquility of monochromatic pieces to vibrant, occasionally chaotic, and thought-provoking creations. I derive immense pleasure from experimenting with new techniques, tools, and subjects. Most importantly, I cherish granting watercolor the freedom it deserves and allowing it to guide me through the creative process. In a relatively short span of time, painting has evolved from a recreational pursuit to a fundamental aspect of my life. I am on a lifelong journey of learning to be in charge of watercolor instead of the other way around.



Moon Visit



Strikes a Pose



Memories



Hidden Jungle



Catfish

Member News



Christine Heyse's painting, "Ferry Ride," which was awarded First Place in the recent show at the Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover, has been acquired for the museum's permanent collection. Christine shares that she "...is very honored to have her artwork selected and especially thrilled because it is unusual for a museum to collect watercolors...and very glad that it happened during my lifetime so I can enjoy this honor!"

Annie Strack, DWS, won Honorable Mention Award in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society Annual Member Exhibition.



Into the Darkness

**April 4 3:30pm and April 8 1pm
Turner and Constable!**

The Rehoboth Beach Film Society presents



Two of Britain's greatest painters, J.M.W. Turner and John Constable were also the greatest of rivals. Born within a year of each other, both used landscape painting to reflect the changing world around them. The Tate Britain in London is featuring an exhibition for their 250th birthdays. Exhibition on Screen has exclusive and privileged access to bring their extraordinary art and remarkable stories to the big screen. Discover unexpected sides to both artists with intimate views of sketchbooks and personal items and insights from leading experts. Don't miss this opportunity to see these greats side-by-side, as they so often were in life. There will be a post-film Q & A with Jamie Moore, Rehoboth Art League.

Leslie Lesko is organizing a group lunch prior to the 3:30 pm showing on Wednesday, April 8 at the Cinema Art Theater, 17701 Dartmouth Dr., Lewes, DE 19958.

Purchase your ticket at

www.rehobothfilm.com/exhibition-on-screen

Please text Leslie (302-228-0020) to be included in the lunch plans!

Patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets online. If seats are available, tickets can be purchased at the CAT box office.

\$20 RBFS Members \$25 General \$22 Senior \$10 Students

 **REHOBOTH BEACH
FILM SOCIETY**
Cinema Art Theater in Lewes

Cinema Art Theater
17701 Dartmouth Dr., Lewes DE 302-313-4032
rehobothfilm.com

Robert Fleming, Rehoboth Beach Writer's Guild (RBWG) Member

Robert Fleming, a member of the RBWG, is also an editor of a digital magazine called “Instant Noodles,” which features works by several RBWG members. You can find the magazine here:

[INSTANT NOODLES – an indie lit magazine for discerning readers](#)

Robert is seeking more visual art submissions. While the submissions are digital, the art can be in non-digital formats, such as photographs of paintings, sculptures, or fabrics.

Please visit the magazine [INSTANT NOODLES – an indie lit magazine for discerning readers](#) and consider submitting your art.

Check out the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild on their website:

Rehobothbeachwritersguild.com

Please submit all member news and recent achievements to
Melissa McLean
mclean.melissa@rocketmail.com
by April 20th

DWS Executive Board and Board of Directors

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