

Highlights



Baltimore Watercolor Society: A Mid-Atlantic Organization of Watermedia Artists

November 2019



President's Palette

A recent selection of my art book club was *The Moon and Sixpence* by W. Somerset Maugham, an old book that was (loosely) based on the life of Paul Gauguin, the French artist. It is the story of a man “possessed by the need to create – regardless of the cost to himself or others.” The “Gauguin” character in the novel was a self-proclaimed “beast,” an English stockbroker who trampled the lives of all those he touched- his wife and family whom he abandoned (without warning) to paint in Paris, the acquaintances and mistress(es) he left in Europe and the native residents and 13 year old “wife” he took in Tahiti, where he ultimately died, blinded by leprosy, but having created his masterpiece (which he had his Tahitian “wife” burn after his death). Yes, it was made into a movie. But how true was it?

Yes, Gauguin did “chuck” the life of a stockbroker to end up living a seemingly idyllic life of painting beautiful women in the South Pacific and becoming the idol of bored office workers everywhere. He too was an absolutely reprehensible character and complete egotist, calling himself “a child and a savage.” It was even rumored that it was Gauguin who drove Van Gogh to his breaking point with his sarcasm and cynicism, all the while being totally unaffected by the tragedy. Although there were many similarities between Gauguin and the book character, there were also many differences. Gauguin had actually painted as an amateur for many years while working as a successful stockbroker, and even had a large studio in the gardens of his luxurious Paris home. He visited art galleries, covered the walls of his home with contemporary paintings, and studied at many art schools, eventually understudying the celebrated French Impressionist Camille Pissarro. He did quit his job and tried to make it as a full time artist but failed, at which point his wife left him, taking their 5 children. He single-mindedly honed his craft in Brittany and Arles with the bands of (well-known) artists painting there and then traveled to Tahiti and back often. His mature style reduced forms to their basic outlines, avoiding shadows and not modeling with light and shade, being influenced strongly by Japanese prints. It is said that he “began with the complicated and systematically reduced it” (*Robert Wallace, The world of Van Gogh*) – blending reality with symbolism. Very versatile, he painted in oils, watercolor, pen and ink and pastel, did woodcuts, etchings and even ceramics. (I certainly didn’t know that.) And yes, the real Gauguin also had a predilection for teenage Polynesian girls and he died a miserable death in Tahiti after painting his masterpiece. But no, the work was not destroyed – it resides in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Many of us, like Gauguin, have had careers other than art, but creativity and art still flow strongly in our veins and like the former stockbroker, we too, must paint. He knew that in order to fulfill his dreams and destiny he must have the right tools so he studied and learned the basics and the brushwork then worked and painted and painted some

Upcoming Events

Signature Member Exhibit
Kentlands Mansion
Gaithersburg, MD
November 15-January 14, 2019
Deadline: November 1 (or until full)

Associate Member Exhibit
TBA 2020

more – at one point completing 65 canvases in 18 months - until he could say with his paints what he wanted to convey. We have our own opportunity to improve – classes and workshops here with BWS - teaching basic techniques and advanced ones, new mediums, even business. What do you want to learn? Tell us in your Survey; come learn along with us, and then Practice, Practice, Practice. You never know where it might lead. Maybe Tahiti. Or Boston.

Sherry



2020 Mid-Atlantic

Get ready for the 2020 Mid-Atlantic Exhibit!

BWS is pleased to announce the juror for the 2020 Mid-Atlantic. **Anne Abgott** has signature status in seven national watercolor societies including AWS and NWS. Check out her book, *Daring Color*, or her videos, and you will see why she has been invited to conduct over 100 workshops and serve as juror for many organizations. Get your paintings ready for her consideration. Registration will open in January.



Painting by Anne Abgott, anneabgott.com

Associate Only Exhibit

BWS will be having an “Associate Only” exhibit in 2020- additional information TBA!

Signature Member Exhibit at Kentlands Mansion

Kentlands Mansion
311 Kent Square Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

November 15, 2019-January 14, 2020
Registration closes November 1, or when full.
Registration fee: \$10
One painting per artist. Gallery commission 30%.

Please read our updated exhibit rules and regulations for all Members’ Exhibits at bws.wildapricot.org.

BWS now has multiple drop-off and pick-up locations and times for this exhibit. Please visit bws.wildapricot.org for further information and to register.

For any questions contact David Drown, davdrown@comcast.net

Welcome New Signature Artists

Additional new signature artist members will be announced next month. These announcements are made only after payment is received and the member is considered in good standing.

Welcome New Associates

Leslie Carson of Annapolis, MD

Peggy Devore of Union Bridge, MD

Christie Jones of Richmond, VA

JoAnn Lazzeri of Nottingham, MD

Leslie Marcuse of Columbia, MD

Yvonne Mucci of Verga, NJ

Regina O’Brien of Laurel, MD

Sally Olson of Lansdowne, VA

Member News

Deanna Williford had two paintings included in the Labor Day Show at the Rappahannock Art League Art Center in Kilmarnock, VA. Both paintings she entered were sold the first 3 days the exhibit was open. She will also be participating in Willowbrook Studio's 14th Annual Art Show, at Oliver's Carriage House in Columbia, MD. The reception is November 8, 5:30-8pm, and exhibit continues November 9, 12-3pm.

"Hons' Day Out," Deanna Williford



J. M. Littleton will be teaching Realistic Watercolor Workshops at the Jamestown Art Center, Jamestown, RI, November 2 & 3 and at the Cross Roads Art Center, Richmond, VA, November 23. She will also be teaching Color Theory for Watercolor at the Littleton School of Art in Towson, MD on November 16. More information at littletonart.com.

Joanna Barnum is included in the exhibit "Mythic" at the Community College of Baltimore County in Catonsville, MD, October 14-December 7, with a reception on November 1. She will be teaching "Watercolor Portraits: Fundamentals & Exploration" at the Art League of Ocean City, February 18 & 19, 2020. More info at joannabarnum.com.

Sally Davies has three time-lapse painting films screening as part of the International Utopia Film Festival on November 16, 6pm at the Old Greenbelt Theater in Greenbelt, MD. Her painting "Parenting" was juried into the 4th Biennial Maryland Regional Juried Art Exhibit at the University of MD University College Gallery in Adelphi, MD. She also had work selected for the Prince George's County Juried Exhibit at the Montpelier Arts Center and the 119th International Exhibit of Works on Paper of the Philadelphia Watercolor Society.

"My Reflection in a Digital Age," Sally Davies



Opportunities

American Watercolor Society
153rd Annual International Exhibition
Salmagundi Club
New York, NY
americanwatercolorssociety.org
Entry Deadline: November 15, 2019

Fallbrook Art Center
2020 Signature American Watermedia International Exhibition
Fallbrook, CA
fallbrookartcenter.org
Entry Deadline: November 16, 2019

Artists' Gallery of Ellicott City
Local Color
Ellicott City, MD
Open to artists residing in Maryland, DC, Virginia
artistsgalleryec.com
Entry Deadline: December 15, 2019



Baltimore Watercolor Society
 April Rimpo
 14032 Howard Road
 Dayton, MD 21036-1020



Dated Material

**Baltimore Watercolor Society, a 501c3 Nonprofit Organization
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Visit the BWS website at www.baltimorewatercolorssociety.org
 For member event registration and directory, go to bws.wildapricot.org

Member News

BWS members may submit a 60-word announcement gratis to be listed under the heading "Member News." Images will be included as space allows. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month preceding publication date, and may be edited for length or clarity. Please e-mail (preferred) your submissions to the Editor at joanna@joannabarnum.com or mail to Joanna Barnum, 21 Haven Ave., Abingdon, MD 21009

Advertising Rates

Display ads are published for the benefit of the BWS member or business who is placing the ad at the rates below, content & fee due by the 15th of the month preceding publication date.
 Quarter Page (3 1/2w x 4 3/4h) \$50
 Business Card (3 1/2w x 2 1/4h) \$25
 Contact the Newsletter Editor at joanna@joannabarnum.com for details.

In Memoriam

Richard C Kirkland Sr.