

# COLLAGE

February 2012



COLORADO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

## **COLORFULLY CREATIVE DEMO, COLLAGE-STYLE**

By Greg Chapleski

Soft-spoken and brim-full of enthusiasm with a gift of artistic creativity – that's our own Valli Thayer McDougale. She will be giving a very unique and original demonstration at the February 14th CWS meeting at 7pm.

Having had a conversation with her recently, regarding her style of creativity, I'm convinced that she is onto something that is worth learning about as we watch her demonstrate her skills. The longer we talked, the more excited she became as she explained what she does – collage style. It quickly became evident that she has immersed herself in the art world by indulging in her passion with colors, textures and design. 'Happy accidents' – a term many of us are familiar with – is what appeals to her most as she watches it happen when colors mix with each other on the paper or painting surface. Her hands move in a rhythmic motion as if directing a symphony. It was her mind's eye that creatively watches the colors move as they ever-so-gently blend with each other. Then comes another thought as she takes the next step with her creation.

Valli finds it exciting to experiment with controlled pouring of various colors directly onto the surface of the watercolor paper. "Often times, something completely new is created that could not have been planned for," she said. "It allows me to see with new eyes and to go where the painting leads me."

Check out the example of her work included in his newsletter – absolutely awe-inspiring!

Although she still paints in watercolor, she often finds her greatest creative rewards in painting with acrylics and working with mixed media. And, that could mean the inclusion of such things as tissue paper, pieces of cloth, small pictures, paper clips - yes,

paperclips – and, almost anything else her creative mind finds available.

As funny as that may sound, she makes it work with artful precision.

Valli's professional affiliations, along with CWS, include the San Diego WS, International Society of Acrylic Painters and American WS and National WS. And she's studied with many well-known watercolor and mixed-media artists such as Carla O'Connor, Frank Webb, Polly Hammet and many others.

So, if you want to see how a gifted artist dares to think outside the box, and, make it work with fascinating results, you won't want to miss her demonstration. Come with an open mind and let yourself be filled with colorful results.

We'll see you then.



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Colorado Watercolor Society is an organization dedicated to uphold the highest standards and principles of art and to promote, encourage, educate and foster an interest in fine art in all media, especially watercolor.

The Colorado Watercolor Society meets at the First Plymouth Congregational Church, 3501 South Colorado Blvd. in Englewood, (southwest corner of Hampden Avenue and Colorado Blvd.) in the Plymouth Hall.

The Collage newsletter is published monthly (except July and December) to all CWS members.

## **TO SEND ARTICLES AND IDEAS OR TO SUBMIT ADS CONTACT:**

Brian Serff, Editor  
editor@coloradowatercolorssociety.org  
720-535-5417

## The Board in Brief

By Bonnie Jones  
Corresponding Secretary



- Chuck Danford , President, called the meeting to order. Minutes from the November meeting were read and approved
- Brian Serff will be the new Collage editor. Thank you to Brian for taking over this position for CWS.
- A board committee will be interviewing several local web companies to explore the possibility of upgrading the website and having an outside company perform the webmaster duties.
- Upcoming work shops include. Kathleen Conover Feb 29- March 2 and Sterling Edwards May 29 – 31. Future workshops will feature Ted Nuttall July 10-12 and Lionel Sanchez October 9-11. Workshops are filling up quickly. Contact Terrey Harrod to sign up.
- The February program will feature Valli McDougale demonstrating her collage and painting techniques. The March meeting will give members a chance to bring in a piece of their work for a critique.
- CWS aprons are almost here! More information will be available soon about this great way to support CWS and have our name more recognizable to the community.
- CWS currently has 430 members. Members can contact Linda Sivertson or sign up on the CWS website.
- David Wicks is continuing to work on merging the policies and procedures and revising the bi-laws to update information. He and a committee will be working on a third document that lists and explains board member positions' responsibilities.
- Linda Olmstead is continuing to check out show venues for future CWS shows. Please contact her if you have suggestions for locations.
- Remember to complete the outreach form, that can be obtained from Mary Jo Ramsdale, when you volunteer your art expertise in the community at schools and senior centers.
- Congratulations to those chosen for the State Show, March 25, 2012 at Foothills Art Center in Golden, CO.

## Artist Classes & Calls

### Calls, opps & Classes

- **The 16th Annual** Plein Air Artists Colorado Show will be held at Wilder Nightingale Gallery in Taos, NM May 5-24th 2012. Opening Reception May 5th.

Deadline is February 17th, 2012. The prospectus may be seen at [www.PleinAirArtistsColorado.com](http://www.PleinAirArtistsColorado.com)

- **Chuck Danford** will begin a new six week session of watercolor classes at Ken Caryl Ranch Recreation Center. Classes are for all levels 18 years old and over. Starting Wednesday, February 1- March 7, 2012, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon.

See Chuck's work at [www.charlesdanford.com](http://www.charlesdanford.com).

To register call 303.979.4070 or online at [www.ken-carylranh.org](http://www.ken-carylranh.org).

## Member Kudos

### **The following CWS members were juried into the Own An Original Art Show at the Littleton Museum:**

David Wicks, Chuck Danford, Pat Dall, Brian Serff and Joyce Shelton. Joyce was awarded Best of Show in Water Media. The juror was CWS member, Rita derjue.

### **The following CWS members were juried into the Gateway to the Rockies Art Show at the Aurora History Museum:**

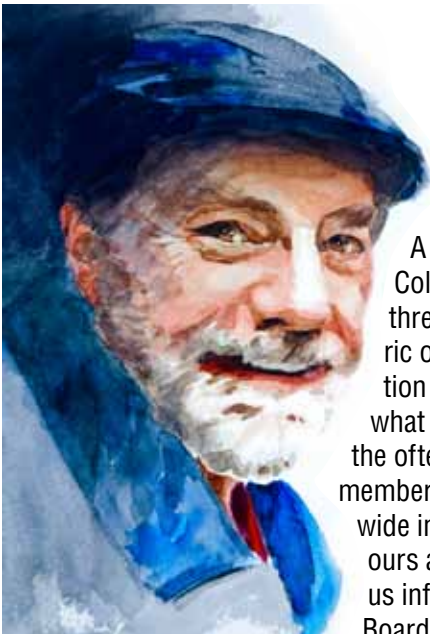
Brian Serff, Thelma Gash and Shari Lebsack. Brian Serff was awarded Second place for a Watercolor Miniature.

**Susan Montague's** painting "Meadow's Edge" has been accepted in to the 145th American Watercolor Society Exhibition in New York this spring. She also received her Signature Membership status in AWS.

**Peggy Morgan Stenmark** has a show of her watercolor paintings hanging at Englewood Solid Grounds Coffee House, through the month of February. On Saturday, February 25th, there will be a small reception from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The coffee house is located at 871 Englewood Parkway, Englewood, Co 80110

## A NEW EDITOR FOR COLLAGE

by David Guin



Self Portrait

A newsletter like Collage is a vital thread in the fabric of any association or society. It's what binds together the often far-flung members of a State-wide institution like ours and keeps us informed of Board proceedings, member activities,

workshops, art opportunities and, not least, how our dues are being spent. For those who, of necessity or choice, don't often come to the meetings it is a necessary conduit of such information and a lifeline to a supportive art family. Our thanks are due to David Castle for ably editing Collage in recent times and he now passes the baton to a new editor, Brian Serff.

Those who attended Brian's entertaining presentation last fall will be aware of his diverse experience. Born and raised in war-torn London and a naturalized inhabitant of Denver for over 40 years, he raised three children and now has eleven grandchildren close by. During this time he built and operated his own Graphic Design business and remains, as he always has been, an avid climber, skier, rafter, and mountain biker.

Brian originally came to Denver to work as an instructor at the Colorado Outward Bound School after having served in the Royal Air Force for two years as a Medic on a Mountain Rescue Team. He then participated in a nine-month climbing expedition in the Hindu Kush sponsored by the Royal Geographic Society of London. He has trekked and climbed over much of Europe and the Himalayas, areas he still enjoys returning to.

Watercolor and photography now form Brian's main pursuits and he draws on his superbly catalogued collection of photos for source material. The people of the Himalayas together with mountain landscapes are a constant theme in his work. He has been a member of CWS for three years and achieved Signature Membership last year. Brian also serves with voluntary organizations and is Co-President of Aurora Artists Guild.



So what does Serff propose for Collage? He recognizes the important role that it plays and does not see the need for any major changes. He will draw on his 40 years experience as a free-lance graphic designer in Denver and the two other newsletters he edits. Brian admires punctuality and admits he can only perform a successful editing role for all three newsletters if material is received on time. Showing his British roots, he bluntly observes that late material just won't go in. So, when is the deadline? Six days after the meeting date—and not a minute longer! I think we can all look forward to a Collage that continues to be punctual, informative and well designed.



## Presidents Letter

Chuck Danford, President, Colorado Watercolor Society

### **Is Your Art Ready for Prime Time?**

Seeing your work for what it really is takes time and mileage. This means spending some time alone in your work area. The true worth of your body of work does not solely come from family and friends, but from colleagues, competitors, and other professionals in the field. It is from all of these sources combined that you must decide if your art is ready for prime time. It is valuable to constantly rethink your individual standards of excellence. This is most often done through books and other media. It doesn't mean your style should necessarily be influenced by the exposure, but rather improved by association with the artists you admire. As the saying goes, "You're only as good as the company you keep." Look at great works in museums and galleries. Take a chance and enter an important show. These things can magically cultivate enthusiasm.

The truth is, when you switch from creation mode to critique mode, you tend to lose the magic and a more common, methodical approach creeps in, yes. The inevitable checklist begins to roll through your head... Does the painting have a sense of light? Does the painting evoke a certain mood? Does the painting have a good design? Is the painting about color, shape, light, values, contrast? Does the painting's elements support the center of interest? Is it a pleasing composition? How have the elements in the painting been placed? Does shape fit the subject (vertical, horizontal, etc.)? What could be better? Look at your work through this lens for a short time. It's part of the process.

Another aspect of getting ready for prime time is building confidence. Most artists have a certain level of confidence, but most would probably be lying if they said they didn't want more. The best ways to build confidence are to work harder, work smarter, try something different, and/or experiment with new techniques. Try all or some of these and do them so well that you can't question or doubt yourself. What matters beyond anything else is that you believe in yourself. Consequently, you will believe in your work.

Create outstanding art. Don't settle for mediocre. Now is the time to be noticed. Be professional. Keep a detailed inventory. Use high quality materials. Handle your art with great care. Talk about your art with respect. Talk about yourself with confidence. You are a professional artist; embrace your role. The only thing left to do now is ask yourself... Is my art ready for prime time?



# Dates for CWS Meetings, Shows & Events



## CWS Regular Monthly Meetings

CWS Regular Monthly Meetings

- North Critique Group: (Chairperson - Lillian Montoya): Thursday, February 9, 10am at Standley Lake Library in Arvada
- CWS Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 4:30pm
- General Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 7:00pm
- South Critique Group (Chairperson - Diana Carmody): Friday, February 24, 9-11:30am at Koelbel Library in Littleton
- Monday, February 27: Submission deadline for the January Collage and for website updates

## 2012 State Exhibition Drawing Near

by Pam Hake and Patricia Rucker, Co-Chairs

The opening reception for the 2012 State Exhibition is March 2nd at Foothills Art Center. Make sure you and your friends and patrons attend what is promising to be an outstanding exhibit. Postcard invitations will be mailed to all members of CWS. Be sure to look at the web-site for Foothills Art Center as well. They have posted a beautiful image of some of the paintings you will be able to see in this exhibit.

I want to post an early thank you to some of the donors for awards that I have received so far. Please take a look at them. Be sure to thank them and patronize their businesses as much as possible. Without their support, our exhibition would not be as successful. There are still donations to come in and I will list them as well next month.

- Frank M. Thayer Memorial Award, donated by Valli Thayer McDougale and Tom McDougale
- Leon T. Hake Memorial Award donated by the artist friends of Pam Hake
- President's Award Donated by past and present CWS Presidents
- M. Graham Watercolors
- Meininger Art Supply
- Jack Richeson and Company
- HK Holbein, Inc
- Logan Graphic Products, Inc
- Grafix
- Quiller Gallery
- Golden Artist Color
- The Great Frameup, East 9th Ave., Denver
- Creative Catalyst Productions

- Denver Art Museum
- Salis International
- Cheap Joes Art Stuff

Of course, all of the artists that enter the show contribute the most to making this such an outstanding exhibit. The quality of the work that was entered and the volunteer time that many have put into this exhibit has been above and beyond what anyone could expect.

## CWS 2012 State Watercolor exhibit

Foothills art Center - Golden, CO

Exhibit dates: March 2 - March 24, 2012

Juror: Kathleen Conover

Co-Chairs: Pat Rucker and Pam Hake

- Sunday, February 19, 2012: Hand Delivery of Paintings
- March 2, 2012: Opening Reception (6:30 - 8:30pm)
- Sunday, March 25, 2012: Artists Pickup Artwork

## Upcoming CWS Workshops

Kathleen Conover

February 28 - March 1, 2012 (\$300 members / \$350 non-members) at the Foothills art Center in Golden

Sterling Edwards

May 28 - 31, 2012 (\$300 members / \$350 nonmembers); location Tbd. Visit Sterling's website at [www.sterlingedwards.com](http://www.sterlingedwards.com).

Ted Nuttall

Coming Summer, 2012

## Upcoming General Meeting Programs

March

April

## View, download and print the Collage online!

As of June, 2011 every issue of the Collage, will be mailed the Collage to only those members without an email address on file. all other members will continue to receive an email notice when the Collage is published and enjoy it in full color on our website!



P.O. Box 100003  
Denver, CO 80250-0003

## COLLAGE

Submission deadline  
for March Issue is:  
Monday the 27th Feb

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### ***CWS Member Show Award Winners***

Congratulations to the 2011 Member Show award winners and a thank-you to all participating artists!



[www.ColoradoWatercolorSociety.org](http://www.ColoradoWatercolorSociety.org)