



TO: Members
FROM: Communications Committee
Barb Parisien and Judy Harvey, Editors

DATE: February 1, 2022

**NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY IS
COMMITTED TO WORKING TOWARD A MORE
INCLUSIVE, JUST, AND EQUITABLE ART
COMMUNITY. ALL ARE WELCOME HERE.**

MEETINGS will continue to be virtual until at least April 2022.

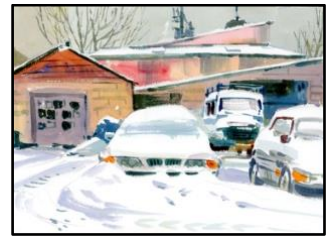
There will be no newsletter in March.

NEXT MEETING - Mark your calendar!
Virtual Demo by Shari Blaukopf

Thursday, February 17
7:00–9:00

A link to this demo (via Zoom) will be sent to you about February 16.

Shari Blaukopf is a workshop instructor, watercolor painter, and sketch blogger. Her paintings are inspired by the landscapes and cityscapes of Montreal, where she grew up, as well as by the places she travels. She paints and sketches in all seasons, but her favorite season is winter, when she often sketches from her makeshift car studio.



Shari loves to teach, travel, and fill sketchbooks with her observations — skills she's channeled during the pandemic into creating online sketching courses at Learn.shariblaukopf.com. She is the author of *The Urban Sketching Handbook: Working with Color*, and her work has been featured in publications including *Watercolor Artist*, *The Artist's Magazine*, *International Artist*, and *The Art of*

Watercolour, as well as in over a dozen books on urban sketching. She's been active in the Urban Sketchers community since 2012 and has given many watercolor workshops both on her own and internationally through the Urban Sketchers Workshop Program. Her watercolors are in corporate, government, and private collections in North America and abroad, and she's a signature member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour. You can follow her sketches on her blog, at shariblaukopf.com, and on Instagram @sharisketcher.

For more information, visit Shari's website and YouTube channel.

www.blaukopfwatercolours.com

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCHApcdN6jrBvbNYdXDOjoUg>

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Our guest demo artist for January was Pennsylvania-based artist, Brienne Brown. She is a visual artist and teacher who loves plein air painting. Brienne says, "I especially enjoy painting en plein air where each painting reminds me of where I was, of the experiences I had, the sounds, smells, and the people I met. As I try to capture the essence of a scene, my paintings are always more about

a moment in time than about a particular location."

Her demo focused on the skills and techniques for painting snow. Brienne described in great detail how to interpret the play of light on snow and how to use color and value to create the image in watercolor. The final painting of a scene near her home is called "Winter Shadows."



Brienne Brown's demo may be found on the NSWS YouTube channel at the following link: https://youtu.be/zZLf9_443fY

Brienne's website <https://www.briennembrown.com/about>

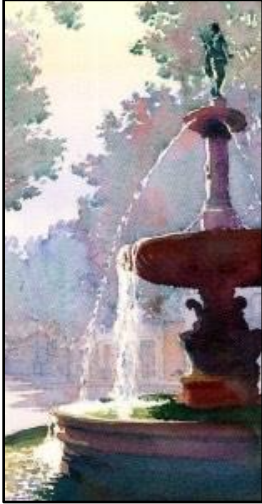
- Deirdre Vaughan

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Sandy Melander-Schildt
- Mary Sauter

WORKSHOP WITH MICHAEL REARDON

February 25-26



The deadline for registering is February 9. To register now, go to:
<https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/zkrzviw0lpnfmz/>

Sign up for this two-day virtual workshop with Michael Reardon. We will be doing 2 landscapes, from 12:30-4:30 CST with a 10-minute break in the middle of our time. The class is for intermediate to advanced artists. Recordings will be available for 30 days following the workshop along with a 30-minute review and critique, as well as mini reviews at the end of each day. Workshop is limited to 16 participants.



For additional details, see the NorthStar website under Workshops.

- **Nini Bronson**, Workshop Chair

MEMBER EXHIBITION Re-Awakening

March 14 – April 9, 2022
Wildwood Library, 763 Stillwater Rd, Mahtomedi

Thank you to members who have already registered! The first 60 members to register will be admitted. Exhibition rules and important dates can be found on the NorthStar website under Exhibitions.

Deadline for registration is February 18.

Please use this link to the application form:
<https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/z1p1rnzb1d1iqy4/>

Our juror, Kraig Rasmussen creates large atmospheric land and waterscapes. He attended the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and has been an arts activist,

teacher, museum and gallery curator, exhibit designer, arts administrator, and gallery director. Kraig has traveled extensively, sketching and prowling around art museums.

Influenced by the emerging environmental movement for clean air and water of the 1960s, Kraig lived 10 years in northern Minnesota, living the simple life of a “back-to-the-lander.” He was motivated by mankind’s detrimental impact on the natural world. Kraig says, “I have carried those concerns with me for over 50 years and they have always influenced my subject matter.” Back in the Cities currently, he likes to sketch while solo kayaking, expanding his color drawings into oil paintings in the studio.

- **Heidi Nelson**, Chair

ARTISTS’ MARKET

This will be a wonderful opportunity to show and sell your art at the State Fair Fine Arts Building. We are still waiting for confirmation, but tentative dates are Friday and Saturday, June 10-11.

Acceptable media include water media, acrylic, alcohol ink, and water miscible oil. Printed greeting cards will also be allowed. All other artworks must be original. Two-dimensional artwork only.

You will receive information soon about registration.

This event is for all of our members, beginning artists and professionals. It’s also a chance to meet each other. Paint, paint, paint—on these cold winter days!

- **Sue Olson**, Artists’ Market Chair marketartists099@gmail.com

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS



Marie Panlener

Which volunteer roles have you held?

My first volunteer role was on the Member Exhibition committee. I was Co-Chair one year, then Chair the second. After that, I was President, being the Prez for just one of those years but attending the board meetings and filling roles leading up to the presidency, and then Past-President for one year. Recently I have helped by doing graphic work for NorthStar, including a brochure. I have created gallery labels for our shows and have prepared slide shows for the

receptions.

Which has been the most fun, challenging, or fulfilling?

Being Prez was both challenging and fun. It's pretty scary to talk in front of a large group but humor made it more bearable.

Why did you decide to serve?

It's really true that when you volunteer you get more out of it than you give. You get to know people in the group. It's always more fun to go to a meeting or event where you are acquainted with the people.

Tell us a little about yourself in general: education, profession, interests.

I was a graphic artist in the corporate world for ages, now retired. I like to have a garden so I can eat my fill of homegrown tomatoes. I really miss them in the winter. My favorite sandwich is a Rueben. I'm a big fan of horseradish dill pickles. I'm scared of alligators; they seem kind of slow, but I bet they can move fast when motivated.

Tell us about your artistic education, experience, and interests.

I've been doing watercolor consistently since 2009. I've been working with gouache also for the past couple of years. My favorite brand is Holbein. I'm currently preparing a presentation on Jean-Michel Basquiat to give to another group in which I'm a board member. He is likely the most famous artist that few people are familiar with.

ARTREACH FOR JUSTICE

This column highlights artists, places, and events in keeping with our commitment to work toward a more inclusive, just, and equitable community. Our focus in 2019-2020 was on current local artists, sometimes those just making a name for themselves. We will focus this year on artists who have made important historical contributions to the wider art world.

A New Deal for Native Artists

More than just a jobs program, the New Deal's Federal Arts Project (FAP), ultimately employed thousands of artists during the Great Depression (1935-1943). In addition to jobs, it was also intended to reassure Americans and give them hope by providing art for public places, spur development of an original, American style of art making, and showcase characteristically American subject matter that Americans could identify with. Because of the project's emphasis on diversity, Native American artists were given a rare opportunity to play a vital role.

"When we look back at the Depression and that time frame, we have images of soup lines in New York and factory workers put out of jobs. A lot of people don't even realize that there were Native American artists involved in the New Deal." ¹ In fact,

Santa Fe, New Mexico, was one of many regional hubs of FAP artistic activity. Although records and scholarship on FAP artists and art are very incomplete, a contemporary survey found that more than a hundred New Mexico artists participated in FAP, including at least 30 Native artists. Sixty-five murals were located, as well as 650 easel paintings, 10 sculptures, and hundreds of native crafts, all created under the New Deal in New Mexico. Because those are only works found in public buildings, many more undoubtedly exist.

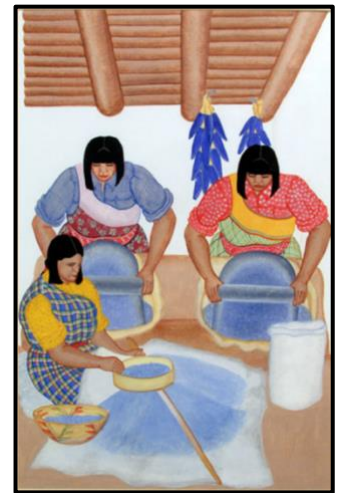
Pablita Velarde (1918-2006)



Born Tse Tsan in 1918 on Santa Clara Pueblo, near Espanola, New Mexico, Pablita Velarde defied tradition to become the first Pueblo woman to win independent recognition as a painter. She set her sights on becoming a painter when it was considered solely a male pursuit. At that time, Pueblo women traditionally painted only on pottery, and male artists were exclusively allowed to depict living people in their artwork. Nevertheless, Velarde pursued her passion, becoming the first woman to study full time under Dorothy Dunn at the Santa Fe Indian School and ultimately become an accomplished painter. Although her father discouraged her from being a painter, many of her paintings were inspired by his stories of their Pueblo ancestors and were featured in a book she illustrated on the subject.

In 1939, at the age of 21, Velarde was commissioned by the FAP to paint 84 murals depicting scenes of Pueblo life for the Bandelier Natural Monument Visitor Center, which she accomplished by 1946. She said of that time, "Painting became my life. I ate, breathed, and dreamed painting."² She carried out deep research, including interviews of elders, to ensure historical accuracy in her paintings. Velarde continued creating, selling, and exhibiting her artwork into her 80s, including murals for other public spaces. She held solo exhibitions nationally and internationally, earning major awards.

Velarde worked in oil, watercolor, and casein, often grinding her own pigments from rocks and minerals, and painting on fiber board or glass. She preferred to use pure colors found in nature rather than mixing colors. Her work features people carrying out every day traditionally male and female activities in Pueblo life: picking berries, hunting rabbits, rounding up ponies, grinding corn, and performing ceremonial dances. One can see in her paintings elements of the Santa Fe studio style, inspiration from Native mural paintings, ancient rock art, pottery and textile patterns, nondescript backgrounds, diffuse light sources, two-dimensional space, and flat shapes of often intense color.



Above: Three Women Grinding Corn, c. 1940, casein on masonite, Bandelier National Monument

Some scholars and others argue that the New Deal was not wholly positive for Native American art, that it commoditized the art and constrained it by a very traditional framework, portraying the community as part of a romantic and irrelevant past rather than a vital part of the modern progress.³ Nonetheless, individual Native American artists reaped benefits from the program. One small piece of Pablita Velarde's life stands out in this regard. On the Bandelier project, she earned \$5 a day which was a point of pride, given it was more than the men of the Conservation Corps (CCC) earned at the time. With that, she was able to build a house of her own on the pueblo she loved.

Resources

¹ In Santa Fe, on the Trail of New Deal Artists, Jori Finkel, New York Times, March 12, 2008

² Earth Notes: New Mexico Painter Pablita Velarde, KNAU Arizona Public Radio

³ A New Deal for Native Art: Indian Arts and Federal Policy 1933-1943, Jennifer McLerran, University of Arizona Press, 2012.

- Art of the Deal: How Artists helped Redefine America During The Depression, Neda Ulaby, National Public Radio.

- **Rockie Weymouth**

ART 4 SHELTER

Art 4 Shelter is an annual fund-raiser for Simpson Housing Services for the homeless. Artists are invited to donate original 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" two-dimensional art in any medium (watercolor, acrylic, oil, ink, pencil, pastels, collage, etc). Each piece of art must be accompanied by a submission form. The art should be on sturdy paper, unframed, unmatted, and signed on the back.

Visit www.art4shelter.org for submission guidelines and updates. Deadline for submission is April 25.

Since its inception in 2011, Art 4 Shelter has raised \$900,000, providing 25,714 nights of shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness. NorthStar members have been significant contributors each year. To learn more about Simpson Housing Services, go to Simpsonhousing.org.

Please consider contributing to this worthwhile cause. Mail your art to: Art 4 Shelter, 8014 Olson Memorial Hwy, #607, Golden Valley, MN 55427. Or, if you prefer, you may bring your donated art to Marilyn Jacobson, 2756 Griggs St N, Roseville, MN. Please phone first, to verify I will be home. 651-485-2617.

- **Marilyn Jacobson**, Art 4 Shelter Liaison

CHECK THIS OUT

Mia: Friends Lecture - Rohan Preston

February 10 – Pillsbury Auditorium, free

Rohan Preston has been the Star Tribune's theater critic since 1998. Over those decades, he has interviewed a raft of luminary performing artists, including playwrights Arthur Miller, August Wilson, Edward Albee, and Tony Kushner. He has the unique distinction of being an Emmy Award-winning critic, having led a Star Tribune team that won the coveted award for a documentary on the historic 2008 elections. Learn more at:

<https://new.artsmia.org/event/friends-lecture-rohan-preston>

Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery

February 17 – online or 1256 Penn Ave N 4th Floor, Mpls

Artist-In-Residence, seangarrison, presents a collection of new works: *Abstracproseality: Visual Notations from Dark to Light* is an exhibit of acrylic paintings and mixed media that documents various aspects of the African American existence and experience. His paintings and prose reflect pain, anger, joy, and love with the intent to both agitate and allow us to breathe from the "heaviness" of it all. Learn more at:

<https://www.mplsart.com/events/abstracproseality-visual-notations-from-dark-to-light>

Mia: Envisioning Evil: "The Nazi Drawings" by Mauricio Lasansky

Through June 26 – Galleries 262, 275, 276

Brutal, haunting, and raw, "Envisioning Evil: 'The Nazi Drawings' by Mauricio Lasansky" features his series of 33 monumental drawings made with pencil, turpentine, and earth colors. The exhibition, over 50 years after the series' original tour, is its first comprehensive presentation in a generation. Learn more at:

<https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/envisioning-evil-the-nazi-drawings-by-mauricio-lasansky>

NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENT

Feb 17	Online demo by Shari Blaukopf
Feb 18	Deadline for Member Exhibition registration
Feb 25-26	Online workshop with Michael Reardon
Mar 14-Apr 9	Member Exhibition at Wildwood library.

Mar 17 Reception at Wildwood library
Apr 14 Online demo by Kent Estey

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Feb. 1-7 Spring Juried Exhibition submission period
Feb 10 Suzanne Shaff demo online and in-person, Hopkins Center for the Arts
Mar 10 TBA Demo artist
Apr 20-23 Jeannie McGuire Workshop at Minnetonka Center for the Arts
Apr 22 Virtual Opening and Awards, "Spring Forth" Juried Exhibition
Apr 22-May 20 "Spring Forth" Exhibition at Minnetonka Center for the Arts

CONTACT US

Board of Directors	Deirdre Vaughan	NSWSpresidentbod@gmail.com
Membership	Laurie Mosher	NSWSmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter	Barb Parisien	bparisien@msn.com
	Judy Harvey	judyharvey48@usfamily.net

All are welcome here. We do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, (ancestry), religion, ability, political affiliation or beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.