



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

DATE: April 1, 2022

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

**NEXT MEETING - Mark your calendar!**  
**Virtual Demo by Kent Estey**

**Thursday, April 14**  
**7:00–9:00**

**A link to this demo (via Zoom) will be sent to you about April 13.**



Kent Estey is a proud member of the White Earth Nation of Ojibwe in Northwestern Minnesota. He and his wife Becky live and work on the White Earth Reservation in the village of Naytahwaush, Minnesota.

“I’ve always painted the land, sky, and water. My wife and I live in the woods and we are surrounded by the forest and the beautiful lakes of Northwestern Minnesota. Inspiration is pretty much everywhere I look. I consider myself a contemporary artist with a special interest in sky and landscapes. My paintings are typically more non-representational and abstract in nature. I love color, of course, and texture. I use a variety of mediums in my paintings, including acrylic, oil, and inks. Some of my most recent paintings feature stone, copper, and other metals. I am inspired by

earth-tones with deep shades of blue, brown, and red. My inspiration comes from nature and often my feelings and emotions are what's expressed on canvas and paper. That's my way of capturing and honoring my beautiful Ojibwe heritage."



- Kent Estey

For more information about Kent and his art, visit his website, [www.kentestey.com](http://www.kentestey.com).

## GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Deirdre Vaughan**



Congratulations and thank you to everyone who worked to ensure the success of NorthStar's Member Exhibition, "Re-awakening": the exhibition committee, the artists who participated by entering their work, the award winners, and the members who attended the reception at Wildwood Library. The theme "Re-awakening" certainly seemed fitting since this was our first member gathering in two years!

The theme has also led to my reflection on how art has sustained me through the difficult days of the pandemic. I painted, read art books, watched demos, took online classes, Zoom-painted with friends, and toured world art galleries online. There were so many art experiences that contributed to my well-being. I hope you found similar artistic outlets for your creativity and sense of purpose.

An article by Shawn Costello, "Everything I Need to Know I Learned in the Art Room," encapsulates my feelings about the positive impact of art:

- A picture is more interesting with contrast, movement, and different points of view . . . so is life.
- Purple houses, pink grass . . . there's no right or wrong way to color your picture.

- Keep an open mind about different kinds of art. Something unforeseen may become part of your expression one day.
- Honor your creative voice . . . it's what makes you unique.
- Paint from the heart. It will show, and others will sense it.

Many of you have said how much you've enjoyed our virtual demos. All of us on the Board appreciate your support and enthusiasm about our monthly Zoom meetings. We plan on a virtual meeting on April 14 with artist Kent Estey and we are excited to resume our in-person meetings on May 12 at the John Rose Oval.

In case you were unable to attend our February meeting with Shari Blaukopf, here is the private link for members to view the recording of her demo <https://youtu.be/RTdwoD672c>.

- **Deirdre Vaughan**, NorthStar President

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- Libbe Erickson
- Terri Frye
- Rebecca Hartwig
- Kelly Kastner
- Linda Strout

## **2022 NATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION**

It's hard to believe, but this year will mark our 8th Annual National Juried Exhibition! We look forward to having many of you enter this great show.

### **Key dates and information:**

The prospectus will be on the NorthStar and Call for Entry websites starting May 1. Online entries only at [callforentry.org](http://callforentry.org).

Call for Entry:	May 1 - July 1
Drop off:	August 25
Exhibition:	August 28 - November 3
Location:	St. Paul's Monastery in Maplewood, MN
Reception/Awards:	September 18

- **Leny Wendel**, National Juried Exhibition Committee Member

## 2022 MEMBER EXHIBITION "Re-awakening"

We were thrilled to have so many members in attendance at our reception and first in-person meeting since the Covid lock down.

The paintings are available for viewing through April 9, during regular library hours, at the Wildwood Library, 763 Stillwater Rd, Mahtomedi, MN 55115.

You can also view the paintings on the NorthStar website.

<http://northstarwatermedia.com/exhibitions/>

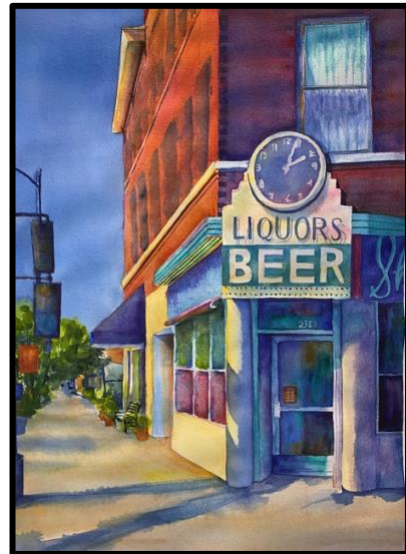
### Congratulations to the award winners!

#### Best of Show



"Sunny Smile" by Patty Schmid

#### Bea Kotz Memorial



"University and Raymond" by Carol Humpage

### Awards of Excellence

"Ready for Pickup" by Liesa Miller

"Peaks of Sun, Skies Clearing" by Art Weeks

### Merit Awards

"Marion in the Apple Orchard" by Patricia Choffrut

"Lake Superior Magic" by Nancy Larson

"Quiet on the Lake" by [Dennis Murnyak](#)

"Streak" by [Rockie Weymouth](#)

### **Honorable Mention**

"The Big Finish" by [Heidi Nelson](#)

"Three Swans" by [Marie Panlener](#)

"Into the Fog" by [Barb Parisien](#)

"Magnificent Evening Sky" by [Leny Wendel](#)

"Surviving" by [Mary Zadach](#)

Thank you to all participants and committee members who made this show possible.

- **Heidi Nelson**, Chair

### **ARTISTS' MARKET REVISIONING**

2022 is the year for new ideas and new approaches.

With much regret, the Artists' Market Committee has made a difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Artists' Market which we hoped to hold at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds in June.

NSWS is seeking federal non-profit status, which places a limit on the amount of income from non-member sources. This has been the source of most of our income from this program historically. In addition, the costs for holding the event at the State Fair Fine Arts Building have gone up considerably, making it necessary to increase expenses for our participating artists.

We are grateful to all who have participated in the past 20 years and to the committee members who have spent countless hours planning for and working to make this event fun and inspirational for NorthStar members and the community since the first Artists' Market in 2002.

We are looking at this disappointment as an opportunity. Please consider joining a committee which will revisit the current format of Artists' Market and brainstorm possibilities for the showing and sale of our artwork in 2023 and into the future.

A Zoom brainstorming meeting will be scheduled soon. If interested in sharing your ideas, please reply to **Sue Olson** at: [marketartists099@gmail.com](mailto:marketartists099@gmail.com).

- Artists' Market Committee and **Sue Olson**, Chair



## MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

Lucy LeMay



### What roles have you played as a volunteer?

Artists' Market was my first NorthStar volunteer gig. It was a fabulous opportunity to meet members face-to-face. The art we sold was first class and the demos were excellent. Working as a cashier was really fun when customers found a "little gem" to buy! I have been registration chair for NorthStar's National Juried Exhibition for the last several years.

### Why did you decide to serve?

We get out of an experience what we put into it: parenting, relationships, clubs, our hobbies. NorthStar is and will be only as strong, new, and supportive as the contributions of its members. I learn something new every time I sit next to another member. Making art can be a lonely endeavor, but NorthStar connects us all in a common passion.

### Tell us a little about yourself

My profession was art education in public schools for 20 years. Another 10 years were spent traveling a 5-state territory selling wholesale art supplies to the retail trade. I met and worked for Bob Ross, William "Bill" Alexander, Priscilla Hauser, Jo Sonja, and others as a wholesale rep for their product launches. My art supplies back then were free when new products came every week to my house from the distributors. Retirement ended the freebies, but I have a great collection of brushes including a deer foot stippler and a 1983 "happy brush."

Steve and I live in Mexico in the winter where colonial methods and patterns in pottery are enjoying renewed interest. Potters are stunning to watch when they paint a colored slip for decoration before a bisque fire.

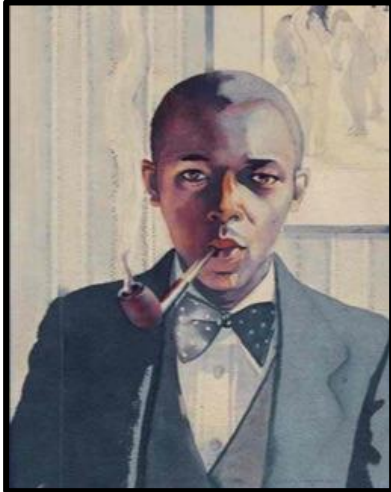
### What volunteer opportunity has been the most fun, challenging, or fulfilling?

As registration chair for the National Juried Exhibition, I see everyone's entry and look forward to seeing yours. A juried submission pushes one to improve a skill. No pain, no gain. Right? Now, where did I put that happy brush . . .

## ARTREACH FOR JUSTICE

This column highlights artists, places, and events in keeping with our commitment to work toward a more inclusive, just, and equitable art community. Our focus this year is on artists who have made important historical contributions to the wider art world.

## A New Deal for Black Artists: Samuel Joseph Brown



Samuel Joseph Brown (1907-1994), the first African American artist hired by the Public Works Art Project of Philadelphia, and the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Federal Art Project (FAP), ultimately became a renowned American printmaker and watercolorist.

Black artists, like artists of other marginalized groups in 1930s America, were given a rare opportunity by the New Deal's Federal Art Project which provided artists jobs, income, and professional development during the Great Depression. While unemployment during this time for the general labor force was 25%, it was double that—50%—for blacks.

Above: "Smoking My Pipe", (Self-portrait), 1934.

Right: "Mrs. Simmons", 1936.

Born in North Carolina, Samuel Brown made his way to Philadelphia in the 1920s where he had a sign making business and pursued his own art. After work in the WPA as a printmaker and watercolorist, he earned a degree in Art Education and taught Commercial Art in public technical schools for 35 years. He is known as a devoted teacher and mentor of other artists.



The Federal Art Project's goal of "documenting the realities of rural and urban poverty across the United States, [...] creating an indelible visual record of the Great Depression," (1) was fertile ground for the contributions of black artists like Sam Brown. His prints and watercolors feature African Americans' everyday lives, portraying the subjects in a way that preserves their dignity. The pieces shown here are representative of his portraits, but he could also stir up controversy with paintings like his "The Lynching." The Philadelphia Inquirer called it "the most shocking piece of stark realism ever perpetrated." (2)

Brown's work has been exhibited and collected by prestigious institutions, recognized in print publications, and garnered a following of some prominent patrons in his day, including Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1946, one of his paintings was allocated to the White House.

A Sam Brown painting that completely captured my heart is "Urlene, Age 9", 1956, (right) a portrait of his daughter who died at a young age. It belongs to the permanent collection of



Woodmere Art Museum with the curator's description: "Her large eyes reflect a soft purple light and her sweet collared shirt and pink bow are poignant reminders of her youth and innocence."

## Resources

- (1) Thackara, Tess. What We Know from the Brief Period When the Government Employed Artists: <https://portside.org/2021-02-25/what-we-can-learn-brief-period-when-government-employed-artists>.
- (2) Bonte, C.H. (24 February 1935). *"Philadelphia Now Has Its Salon Des Refuses"*. *Philadelphia Inquirer*. via [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com). Retrieved 2021-11-28.

- **Rocky Weymouth**

## ART 4 SHELTER

### Submission Deadline is April 25

Have you donated to this worthy cause? NorthStar members have been significant contributors each year. Since its inception in 2011, Art 4 Shelter has raised \$900,000, providing 25,714 nights of shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness.

You 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.

The deadline for submission is April 25. Visit [www.art4shelter.org](http://www.art4shelter.org) for submission guidelines, forms, and updates.

Mail your art to: Art 4 Shelter, 8014 Olson Memorial Hwy, #607, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

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

## CHECK THIS OUT

### Mia: Virgil Ortiz: Convergence

Exhibit ends April 3, 2022

This immersive experience celebrates the futuristic worlds created by multidisciplinary artist Virgil Ortiz (Cochiti Pueblo). Ortiz creates mythical superheroes living in the year 2180 from video, hand-coiled ceramics, lithographs, and



photography. The warrior figures imagined by Ortiz transcend time and space. These characters are inspired by the largest uprising in North American history: in 1680, Pueblo communities banded together to defeat a brutal colonial Spanish regime in the Southwest. This past informs the future in Ortiz's 1680/2180 series and offers the contemporary Pueblo people sources of strength for creating future realities that recognize Pueblo sovereignty and survival. Free.

Learn more: <https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/virgil-ortiz-convergence>.

### **ArtReach St. Croix – Jim Denomie | Sweet Dreams**

Exhibit ends May 7

Jim Denomie (1955-2022) is known for vividly hued narrative paintings and multi-media work that focused a critical lens on the history of Indigenous peoples and their intersection with mainstream culture. Before his recent death, Jim Denomie (1955-2022) asked Todd Bockley and Emily Marsolek from Bockley Gallery to help his exhibition continue as planned.

*"Jim was undoubtedly one of the most important painters of his generation," says gallerist Todd Bockley, who has represented Denomie since 2007, "offering a powerful and unmatched vision, one both deeply expressive of his Indigenous roots and compelling for art and non-art viewers alike."*

The ArtReach Gallery is located at 224 N 4th Street, Stillwater.

Learn more: <https://artreachstcroix.org/st-croix-galleries/>

### **Minnesota History Center – Art Speaks**

Exhibit ends July 31

*Art Speaks* reveals the stories of paintings, sculptures, photos, and more collected over the past 15 years. What do these works say about their makers, about us, and about Minnesota? More than 150 works – including paintings, sculptures, photographs, drawings, and mixed media – in sections including faces, places, abstraction, and contemporary voices. Voices of yesterday and today are included, with recently acquired pieces created in different eras, including many works from living artists.

Learn more: <https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter/activities/museum/art-speaks>

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTS**

Unity-Unitarian Church of St Paul is looking for artists to display their work in the Parish Hall Gallery. Each artist's exhibit will be for one month, with the first selected exhibit in November 2022. The application deadline is May 1, 2022. The gallery has wall space for hanging between 15 and 30 pieces of art, depending upon size.

This gallery is the busiest space in the church - hosting meetings, luncheons, social times between services, and many other activities. Hundreds of people visit this space each week.

For more exhibit information and an application form visit:

[www.unityunitarian.org/art-lives-at-unity-church](http://www.unityunitarian.org/art-lives-at-unity-church).

If you have questions, contact the Unity Art Team at [artteam@unityunitarian.org](mailto:artteam@unityunitarian.org).

## **NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS**

Apr 9	Last day to view the Member Exhibition at Wildwood library
Apr 14	Online demo by Kent Estey
Apr 25	Last day to submit artwork to Art 4 Shelter
May 1	Registration opens for NSWS National Juried Exhibition
May 1	Last day to submit application for Unity-Unitarian Church
May 12	In-person NorthStar meeting at the Roseville Oval
Jul 1	Last day to register for National Juried Exhibition
Aug 28-Nov 3	National Juried Exhibition
Sep 18	National Juried Exhibition Reception and Awards
Oct 28-29	In-person workshop with Catherine Hearing

## **MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS**

Apr 20-23	Jeannie McGuire Workshop at Minnetonka Center for the Arts
Apr 22-May 20	"Spring Forth" Exhibition at Minnetonka Center for the Arts
Apr 25	Virtual Opening and Awards, "Spring Forth" Juried Exhibition
May 12	Demo by Jim Turner at Hopkins Center for the Arts and on Zoom

## **CONTACT US**

Board of Directors	Deirdre Vaughan	<a href="mailto:NSWSpresidentbod@gmail.com">NSWSpresidentbod@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Laurie Mosher	<a href="mailto:NSWSmembership@gmail.com">NSWSmembership@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Barb Parisien	<a href="mailto:bparisien@msn.com">bparisien@msn.com</a>
	Judy Harvey	<a href="mailto:judyharvey48@usfamily.net">judyharvey48@usfamily.net</a>
NSWS Website		<a href="http://northstarwatermedia.com">http://northstarwatermedia.com</a>

**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.**

**Copyright © 2016-2022 NorthStar Watermedia Society. All Rights Reserved.**