



TO: Members
FROM: Communications Committee
Barb Parisien, Chair
DATE: October 1, 2020

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

NEXT MEETING - Mark your calendar!

Virtual Demo by James Nutt

**Thursday, October 15
7:00-9:00**

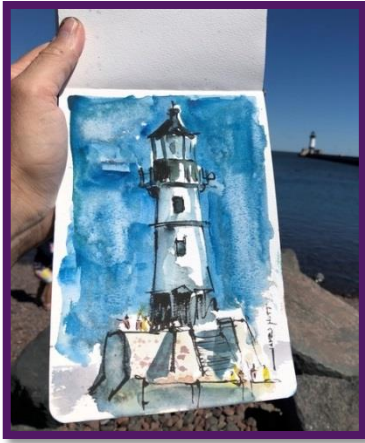


James Nutt is an architect, artist, instructor and constant sketcher. He practices architecture at BWBR in St Paul and teaches watercolor and urban sketching. Sharing a studio in the Northrup King building, he participates in monthly open studios, Art-A-Whirl, commissions, and art demonstrations.

James draws and paints constantly and carries a small kit everywhere to capture the story and energy of places and ordinary things. He focuses on energy and depth through deliberate proportion and harmony rather than accuracy. His work covers a wide range from abstract to illustration but always with an emphasis on relationships and story-telling.

In his demo, James will do a brief introduction to his process and then walk us through a painting filmed onsite while he talks through his strategy, tools, and tips. There will be a question and answer period at the end. He will share a blog post that explains his water color kit, brushes and everyday tools at www.nuttdraws.com





"I love what can be done with an energetic line, an eye on proportions, and just 3 primaries to mix from. These constraints allow me to concentrate on narrative relationships and help squeeze art into the rare still places in the day," he says.

You will be sent an email which will give you the link and instructions needed to watch the demo.

A NOTE FROM PRESIDENT DEIRDRE VAUGHAN

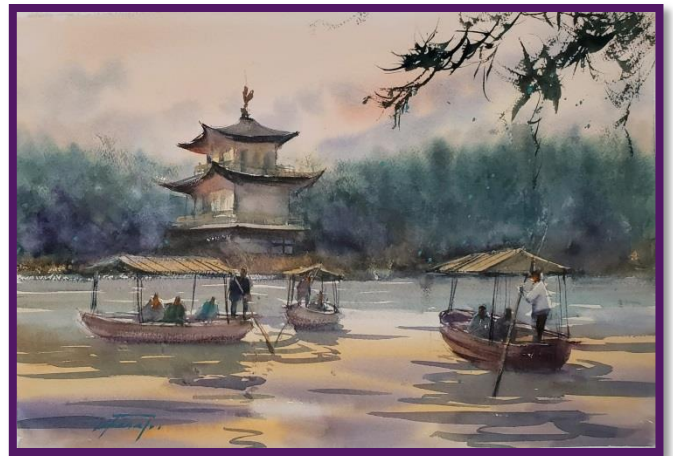
Virtual Meetings



NorthStar members who attended our first Zoom demo with Keiko Tanabe on September 17 had this to say about her demo, "That was totally awesome . . . she did a lovely job . . . Keiko was great! . . . wonderful demo . . . I could really see what she was doing." Keiko painted a Japanese temple scene entitled, *Journey Home*. She has graciously agreed to allow NSW members to access the video of her painting demo. This link is for NSW member use only and *the artist has asked that it not be shared with anyone outside of our organization.*

Link to Keiko Tanabe's demo:
https://youtu.be/AuR5oFP_aMM.

Keiko is willing to sell her demo painting, *Journey Home*, to any of our members for a reduced price. If you are interested in purchasing the painting, please contact Keiko directly: ktanabeart@gmail.com



Keiko Tanabe began her demo by explaining that she would combine an image of a temple in the background with boats in the foreground. The temple is the Golden Pavilion in Kyoto, Japan where Keiko was born. She included 3 boats with figures in the foreground. Since these were familiar images for her, she didn't need a photo. After drawing the scene on Arches rough paper, she wet the paper and painted a warm sky with raw sienna and quinacridone gold, then dark trees which blurred into the sky. She painted right through the boats with yellows and light purples, spattering with paint and water. Nothing had hard edges.

Leaving this first wash to dry, she explained her approach from vision to drawing to a first stage where she considers color harmony, lights, and darks, and then the final finishing stage, still maintaining a soft look. The three boats with figures tell the story. She added a tree branch coming into the sky, using confident brush strokes. Her brushwork is energetic, alive, and meaningful.

YouTube

NorthStar has launched a public YouTube channel. Many demonstration DVDs from past years are now available to view on YouTube. Thanks to all artists who have given permission to upload videos! Special thanks to **Sue Olson** and **Deirdre Vaughan** for making this possible.

Here is a link to the channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_tgmG-ycAYgZV7kv-Xwycg

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



Thank you to all members who have joined NorthStar for another great year. We are committed to keeping you connected to other artists and energized in your own creative journey.

If you have not yet renewed, please visit our easy-to-use online form at the link below. At the end of the form, you will be directed to the payment page to enter your card number to pay dues. If you choose to pay by check, please visit our website for instructions.

<https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/r1tua7si0v9idce/>.

Your membership dues enable us to provide wonderful artist demonstrations, workshops, exhibits, meeting spaces, and events each year.

Please consider a Premium Membership level for your dues if you have the means to show your extraordinary love of the arts and NorthStar. Each year NorthStar's Premium Members are listed on our website and acknowledged in our newsletter and on Facebook (unless they prefer to remain anonymous).

2020-2021 Membership Dues

\$38 – Individual or Signature
\$66 – 2-person Household
\$10 – College Students

2020-2021 PREMIUM Levels

\$60 – Silver
\$75 – Gold
\$100 – Platinum
\$150 – Corporate*
\$200 – Angel*

* Premium Corporate and Angel levels are welcome to advertise artwork, shows, and classes at certain NSWS events.

Special thanks to members who have renewed at Premium levels:

Platinum

Calvin DeRuyter
Paula DeZellar
Andrea Garvey
Patty Healy
Heidi Nelson

Silver

Janice Anderson
Judith Blain
Barbara Parisien

If you have any questions about the renewal process or your status, I am happy to help. Feel free to reach out to me at NSWSmembership@gmail.com.

Best wishes for staying healthy, creative, and connected!

- **Laurie Mosher**, Membership Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Greta Berg
- Robin Lackner
- Diane Pearson
- Judy Phernetton
- Lennie Richardson
- Jodie Scalisi
- Chen Zhao

NATIONAL JURIED ART EXHIBITION

Our 6th Annual National Juried Art Exhibition will be open to the public, from October 2 through November 13, 2020, at the Wildwood Library, 763 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi, MN.

Hours for viewing at the library are:

- Mon, Wed, Fri, and Sat: 10:00-5:00
- Tues and Thurs: 12:00-7:00

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, viewing or family groups are limited to 6 or less. Everyone must wear a mask and social distancing is required while in the library.

There will be no live awards ceremony or reception this year, sadly, but the exhibition team under the direction of **Janice Anderson**, has put together a virtual ceremony, including Juror Nicole Watson's comments, will be available on October 16, 2020. Awards will also be posted at the library and on the NorthStar website.

A slideshow of all 58 paintings juried into this year's exhibition will be on the NorthStar Watermedia Society website starting October 2, 2020.

- **Leny Wendel**, Publicity Chair

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barb Carriger, Liaison with Minnesota Watercolor Society

This interview is one of a series about generous members who are currently serving on the Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact any Board member if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns.



Why did you decide to become a member of NorthStar and why did you decide to serve on the board?

I had just begun taking classes at the White Bear Center of the Arts when I learned about NorthStar. I went to my first meeting and joined then. Being new to the area and also a new member of Minnesota Watercolor Society, I thought that this would be the perfect way to bridge my move, maintain my relationships, and develop new ones.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I am a native Minnesotan and graduate of the University of Minnesota. I have a diverse background. I taught middle school science for 5 years, was Director of Sales at the Carlton Celebrity Theater, a community volunteer for the Friends of the Institute, MN Zoo, MN Orchestra, and the Assistance League of Mpls/St. Paul. I recently retired from a 25 year career in corporate event planning for the automotive industry. Besides art I enjoy food, wine and travel. I have had the good fortune to travel extensively and am so fortunate to have visited and admired many of the greatest art museums and the natural wonders of the world.

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

I came to watercolor relatively late in my life. I took informal classes from Jan Forbes in her home, mainly for stress relief. I loved the color and the process, but I didn't have the time to devote to truly learning until my retirement, when I

began taking classes from Marian Alstad, Frank Zeller, Catherine Hearing, and David Smith. I feel that I am going back to school. It is a process and it takes practice and more practice. The only good thing about COVID-19 is that I have nothing but time to paint. I am so grateful for my passion of watercolor.

ONLINE WORKSHOP WITH DAVID R. SMITH, AWS, NWS



January 13-16, 2021, 9:00-4:00

David will demonstrate a wide variety of techniques including pouring, wet-on-wet, spattering, and spraying – methods and approaches that will keep your paintings fresh with exciting blends and textures, and keep you inspired and eager to explore your new watercolor capabilities long into the future.

Testimonial from Nini:

"I took an online workshop from David and was amazed at how much I learned. I loved his teaching, which was clear and enthusiastic. Having the lessons and drawings sent to me ahead of time helped me to be prepared to get as much out of his class as possible. Then having the recordings to review for a month afterwards was invaluable!"

Register and pay online at:

<https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/s4lkbij1d2jqg2>

The registration fee is \$240.

- **Nini Bronson** and **Patty Schmid**, Workshop Co-chairs

ARTREACH FOR JUSTICE

This column will highlight artists, places, and events in keeping with our commitment to work toward a more inclusive, just, and equitable art community.

You know how once you've heard about something, suddenly you see it everywhere? Local artist Leslie Barlow first came to my attention for her work with #CreativesAfterCurfew, a group that came together to create street art in community response to the killing of George Floyd in May.

Shortly afterwards, her name popped up on my Instagram feed as the leader of [Studio #400](#), an emerging artist collective located in the Northrup King Building where I happen to share a studio with several other NorthStar members.

When I saw Barlow's art mentioned again in ["Strangely Fine," a Star Tribune article](#) about the State Fair Fine Art Show, I knew I had to know more! I searched for images of her paintings, and I learned that her 2018 State Fair entry, ["Stephen, Jeffrey and Twins" \(2017\)](#) was acquired by the Minnesota Museum of American Art!

Most recently, Barlow's name appeared in an email from the White Bear Center for the Arts as the curator of their current exhibit, ["Disquietude"](#). The show features two of Barlow's own drawings, as well as works by her current group of Studio #400 artists. WBCA has posted an excellent [YouTube video tour of the exhibit](#) that includes an introduction by Ms. Barlow and interviews with each artist. Although Barlow herself works mostly in oil, several of the artists in the exhibition work in watermedia, notably Philipo Dyauli, Maiya Hartman, and Sarah Nicole. I think you'll enjoy checking them out!

How could I not have known about Leslie Barlow's work before!

Visit her website -- [Leslie Barlow Artist](#) -- to read about her many accomplishments and view examples of her paintings, which "share stories through the figure and portraiture exploring issues of multiculturalism, identity, representation, trauma, and race."

- Lynn Middleton-Koller

ART 4 SHELTER 2020

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Art 4 Shelter had another successful year!

The challenges this year included:

- Cancellation of March watercolor society meetings to collect donations of art
- Art 4 Shelter event cancelled and switched to an on line event.
- Operating expenses at Simpson increased due to changes to protect both the homeless clients and Simpson staff.

Results of event:

- 900 pieces of art were donated by 150 artists.
- 87% of Art sold in first week.
- 128 supporters paid \$100 for a "first look" and an opportunity to purchase art early.
- Artwork sold raised \$77,000, and provided 2,200 nights of safe shelter for the homeless.

- 15 sponsors donated \$30,000.

Thank you to artists who donated art for this event. Members of MNWS and NSWS have contributed generously to this event during the past 10 years. I hope some of you have been contacted by patrons who purchased your art.

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

CHECK THIS OUT!

Minnesota African American Heritage Museum and Gallery

"UNBREAKABLE: Celebrating the Resilience of African Americans in Minnesota" is the museum's inaugural exhibit on African American history in Minnesota.
<https://www.maahmg.org>

American Swedish Institute

"We Are the Story", a seven-part series of multi-site, juried quilt exhibitions that builds upon symbols of liberation, resistance, and empowerment, offering a visually compelling account of the experiences and struggles that comprise Black history. September 9 – November 1, 2020.

<https://www.asimn.org/exhibitions-collections/exhibitions/we-are-story-we-who-believe-freedom>

MIA Virtual Public Tour: Current Conversations

Discover the museum on a virtual tour with our trained tour guides. Tours are free, but registration is required. October Tour Topic is "Women in Art" - how women artists have changed and influenced art making around the world.

To register: <https://ticket.artsmia.org/catalog/tours>. Registration for next month's tours opens on the last Friday of the current month.

The Textile Center's Joan Mondale Gallery

"Gone but Never Forgotten: Remembering Those Lost to Police Brutality" is a national juried exhibition showcasing 26 quilts that honor those whose lives were violently ended due to police negligence and brutality and critiques the targeting and criminalization of Black bodies throughout history.

September 15 – December 24, 2020.

<https://textilecentermn.org/gone-but-never-forgotten/>

TIPS AND TRICKS

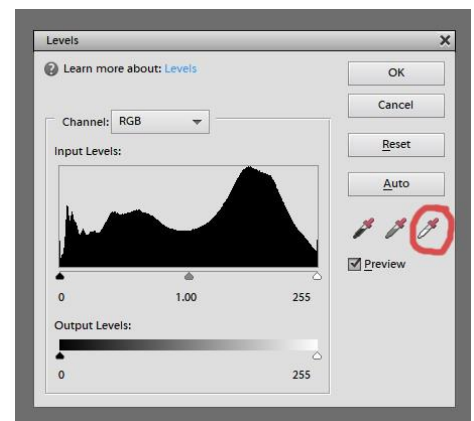
How to make whites appear white when photographing your artwork

A few years ago I was photographing a painting that had a lot of white and a lot of green. I was frustrated because the photos showed the white as light green. I tried using Photoshop to lower the saturation of the green to get the whites back, but that changed the greens to brown. Ugh!

In a Google search I learned that the greens invading my whites were called "digital noise" or unwanted color pixels that the camera picks up from surrounding areas.

Recently I was photographing a couple of images with a white background. Even with precautions, I was again having issues with white areas. I tried to remove color cast (Enhance>Adjust Color>Remove Color Cast) which helped but did not get rid of the "noise."

Finally, I used Help on Photoshop, which led me to Adjust Lighting (Enhance>Adjust Lighting>Levels). In the Levels menu there is a little eye dropper image. Select the one with white (circled in red in this screenshot photo). Click on it, touch it to one of the areas that should be white, and click again. You may need to repeat it, especially if you adjust the overall color again.



I use a tripod and a remote shutter release, so that I do not jostle the camera by touching it, and I shoot the image in Raw setting which allows me to change settings like full sun to shade. I use a low ISO (100) and a low numbered aperture (f4-f8). I like to photograph artwork outdoors on a cloudy day that is not too dark or open shade.

- **Heidi Nelson**, Past-President

NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Oct 2-Nov 13 National Juried Art Exhibition

Oct 2 Paintings selected for National Exhibition shown on website

Oct 15 Online demo by **James Nutt**

Oct 16 National Exhibition awards announced

Nov 19 Online demo by **Paul Oman**

Dec 17 Online demo by **David Smith**

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Sep 17-Oct 15 Online viewing of Fall Exhibition www.whitebeararts.org

Oct 8 Online demo by **Sonja Hutchinson**

Nov 10-14 Workshop with **Kathleen Conover**

Nov 12 Online demo by **Kathleen Conover**

Dec 10 Online demo by **Andy Evansen**

Monthly mini shows online and more information see minnesotawatercolors.com

CONTACT US

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