



TO: Members
FROM: Communications Committee
Barb Parisien, Chair

DATE: December 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 David Smith

**Thursday, December 17
7:00-9:00**



CONNECTING SHAPES BASED ON VALUES

David will demonstrate how he connects shapes based on values using the photo of the Caribou River above as a reference. His favorite subjects tend to be found in nature. Depicting a subject in great light by capitalizing on the contrast developed by light and shadow, while at the same time showcasing the assortment of jewels that happen naturally through fluid medium, all keep David eager to paint his next creation.

David has received Signature Membership with the American Watercolor Society and the National Watercolor Society.

ONLINE WORKSHOP WITH DAVID SMITH

Wednesday-Saturday, January 13-16, 9:00-4:00

Are you looking for a Christmas gift for an artist in your life or maybe a gift for yourself? Give a wonderful four-day adventure in watercolor with world-renowned local artist, David Smith. David will teach his approach to painting with two subjects, a white peony in the style of the colorful floral below and a view of the Split Rock Lighthouse.



Would you like to ask questions during the workshop? There will be an online chat window open the whole time.

Afraid you won't be able to draw and paint fast enough to keep up? David sends out full instructions, drawings, and supply lists before the workshop.

Afraid you will miss something during the workshop? You have a month of access to all of the recorded videos to watch and re-watch!

The registration fee is \$240 for members (\$265 for non-members). We think this is a steal for 28 hours of instruction *plus* live chat, critiques of your paintings, and evening discussions after the day's lesson. We hope to see you online!



Register at <https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/s4lkbij1d2jgg2>.

Registration deadline: January 1

For more information, go to David's website at www.dsmithfineart.com/workshops or email Nini at nbronson7@sbcglobal.net.

- Nini Bronson and Patty Schmid, Co-Chairs

MEMBER EXHIBITION

Just Announced!

Our 2021 Member Exhibition will be held virtually in March. A huge advantage of having a virtual exhibition is that our paintings will be easily accessible to viewers around the world to view and purchase!

All members are encouraged to participate. There will be \$700 in cash awards and we will present a special award donated by her family in memory of Bea Kotz, a long-time member and generous volunteer. Details below.

Important dates:

- Registration deadline: February 18, 2021
- Exhibition: March 1-31, 2021

Rules:

- Each paid member may submit one image completed after January 2018.
- The work must be completely original to the artist.
- Acceptable materials are watercolor, acrylic, casein, gouache, water-soluble ink, and egg tempera, with no more than 25% collage.
- Acceptable surfaces are paper, Yupo, canvas, canvas board, or board.
- The artist is responsible for insurance and the sale of any artwork. There is no commission due to NSWS for the sale of your work.
- Attach a JPEG or JPG that is under 5MB, with a minimum of 1200 pixels on the longest side. Picture the art only, no frames or mats.
- NSWS must receive a fee of \$30 with each application.
- Application forms will be available soon on the website.

Plan your paintings now. More information will follow soon.

- **Peggy Wright** and **LouAnn Hoppe**, Co-Chairs

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Volunteers are a Gift to Our Community!

While virtual monthly meetings keep us together as a community, I certainly miss the in-person meetings and the opportunity to socialize and network with other artists. Volunteering is great way to feel in touch with other members. Even though our volunteer work may be online

for now, a smaller group allows for more interaction and socialization.

When I first joined NorthStar, I became a board member almost immediately. I was a bit anxious about jumping right in, but I am so glad that I did! It's been a great way to get to know other members and develop relationships. I feel like I am contributing something to the organization while enjoying many benefits.

We currently are looking for volunteers who will work with other NorthStar members on two new short-term committees:

- Nominating – develops a list of candidates who might serve on the Board or fill other open positions.
- Website - Evaluates the website design and content, researches software options, and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors.

If you would like more information about either of these opportunities or would like to "jump right in" please contact me at deirdrevaughan7@gmail.com.

- **Deirdre Vaughan**

PAUL OMAN DEMONSTRATION LINK

Members who attended our November meeting enjoyed Paul's forest/lake scene watercolor presentation. He focused on techniques that enhance the effect of light filtering through the trees, thus drawing the viewer deeper into the forest.

Paul says, "The key to painting is to just simply observe with eyes and heart, mind and emotions, and then draw, paint, and paint a lot. I seldom tire of painting. It is a 'language' through which I see and interpret the world."



We are grateful to Paul for sharing his artistic "language" with us. Paul's demo may be found on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/k1VJ0M2YXrQ>

The demo can also be found on our NSWS website and Facebook page.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



Dear NorthStar Members,

Along with the rest of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank all of you who joined or renewed your membership for 2020-2021. As you may know, NorthStar has made significant changes to adapt to the challenges of this year. With your continued support, we can provide unique opportunities to share our passion and grow as watermedia artists. As of today, we have more active members than we usually see this time of year (nearly 200), an amazing testimony to your dedication and the strength of the NorthStar Watermedia Society.

Like you, I am proud to be part of an organization that supports artists and creative connections during this difficult time. It is especially heart-warming to have several new out-of-state members join us recently, which speaks to the growing importance of a robust and active online presence.

In addition to the premium members acknowledged in the October newsletter, we would like to thank the following new premium members:

Platinum

Andrea Bergstrom

Gold

Deborah Cunningham

Mary Tilton

Silver

Marilyn Ash

Nels Femrite

Best wishes for staying healthy, creative, and connected!

- **Laurie Mosher**, Director

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Virginia Alexander
- Andrea Bergstrom
- Mary Christensen
- Carol Foss

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW SIGNATURE MEMBERS

- Nels Femrite
- LouAnn Hoppe
- John James
- Cate Larson
- Mary Nagel Klein
- James Nutt

These members gained Signature Status upon being accepted into NorthStar's 2020 National Exhibition. The full list of Signature members can be found on the NorthStar website.

To qualify for Signature Status, a member must pay contiguous Single Membership dues every year and,

- be accepted into 3 NorthStar juried shows within a 10-year period; OR
- be given 3 awards in the NorthStar open membership shows within a 10-year period.

Each show acceptance is worth 1 point; each open membership award is worth 1 point; any combination equaling 3 would qualify for signature membership.

Once signature status is achieved, continual membership must be maintained to actually use the signature.

BEA KOTZ MEMORIAL AWARD

We received news that Bea (Beatrice) Kotz, a long-time member and generous volunteer, passed away in September. Her daughter, Kim Marlowe, notified us that memorials to her mother would be presented to NorthStar Watermedia Society in honor of Bea's appreciation for NSWS. The Board of Directors has decided to honor Bea's contributions by creating a new cash award for the Member Exhibition. Bea's family's \$500 donation will fund the newly created Bea Kotz Memorial Award. In each of the next 5 years, a participant in the Member Exhibition will be given a \$100 award.

Bea is remembered by Patty Healy, "She was a lovely and graceful person who was a member for a long time. She quietly volunteered without a lot of recognition. Over the years she served on several committees." Lisa Fertig also shared, "I had the pleasure of painting with Bea in some of my art classes at White Bear Center for the Arts. The warmth from her smile lit up the room and her genuine conversation touched us all. She always seemed to have plenty of time to listen to you. Such a caring person."



Bea's daughter, Kim, said of her mother, "Bea's watercolor subjects were widely varied, but some recurring themes included landscapes from the North Shore of Lake Superior, near our family cabin, as well as desert scenes from Arizona, where they had a winter home. Water, boats and lakeshores were a favorite feature as well as woods and wildlife."

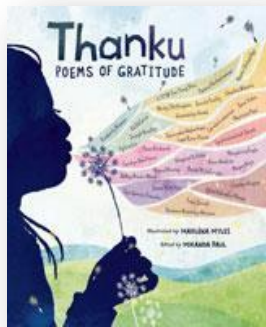


In Bea's own words: The joy of this [painting] has now been a lifelong journey. Always it has been a part of the spiritual journey that intensely modifies my life ... The grace we are given we must invest, use, so that it increases. This is how I feel about the gifts of painting and writing.

Invest it
It will grow.
It will be a Blessing."

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. "If nothing changes, nothing changes." – Earnie Larson



The Art of Marlena Myles

Marlena Myles is a self-taught Native American artist (Spirit Lake Dakota, Mohegan, Muscogee) located in St Paul, Minnesota. She has gained recognition as being one of the few Dakota women creating digital art including fabric patterns, animations and illustrations to bring modernity to indigenous history, languages and oral traditions. Growing up on her traditional Dakota homelands here in the Twin Cities, she enjoys using her artwork to teach Minnesotans of all backgrounds the indigenous history of this place we call home.

Her website, The Art of Marlena Myles, offers a great deal to see and learn. Be sure to check out her beautiful "[Dakota Land Maps](#)" and the lovely book she illustrated: "[Thanku: Poems of Gratitude](#)" (available at local independent bookstores, including Birchbark Books & Native Arts).

Above – "*Thanku: Poems of Gratitude*" by Miranda Pau, illustrated by Marlena Myles, 2019.

Meet Drew & Beverly Hammond

Drew and Beverly Hammond were among the 16 artists commissioned by the [Minnesota African American Museum & Gallery](#) to participate in the creation of the [Black Lives Matter mural](#) on Plymouth Avenue in Minneapolis last summer -- an amazing effort to express the need for healing and unity for our Nation!

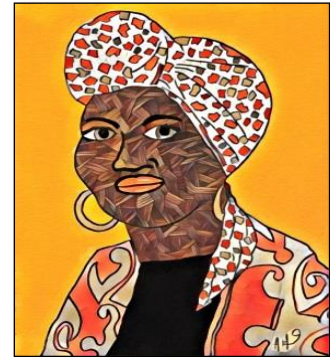
Stop by their welcoming [Berries on the Vine Gallery](#) at Studio 425 in the Northrup King Building to chat with the artists and enjoy the wide range of their work in collage, acrylics, and mixed media.

To see more of their work, check out their website, [Art Works by Drew and Beverly Hammond](#). You can also find them on Instagram: [@adrewhammond](#) and [@beverly.t.hammond](#).



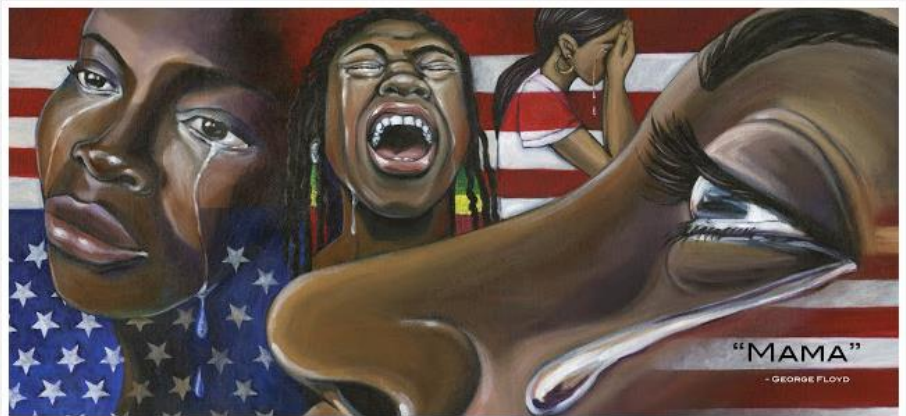
Left - "When Colors Come Together", 12x12 Ink on canvas, Beverly Tipton Hammond

Right - "Gullah Girl", 16x20, Ink, Marker & Acrylic, A. Drew Hammond



Melodee Strong – Educator, Muralist, and Illustrator

Melodee Strong grew up in St. Francis, MN, and remembers that she first began thinking of herself as an artist in third grade. She earned her BFA in Illustration at MCAD, where she is currently an adjunct in the design department. In addition to her work as a muralist and freelance illustrator, she has taught at Franklin Middle School since August 2015. Strong, a Latina woman, now lives in North Minneapolis. She says in her blog,



"the most important goal I strive for in my work is communicating positive ideas and images about the people and culture in my family and community. I want to provide a social, political, and cultural voice for a group of people that may be

misunderstood, misrepresented, and stereotyped.” Her painting “Mama”, above, was inspired by the words of George Floyd and is dedicated to all Black mothers who have lost children in this way.

Please visit Melodee Strong’s blog at: <https://melodeestrong.blogspot.com/>.

Contributors - Lynn Middleton-Koller, Francie Kaufenberg, Judy Harvey, Deirdre Vaughan, Tammy Nara.

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Middleton-Koller, Treasurer

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.



What makes your BOD position enjoyable?

I volunteered for the Treasurer position last February, knowing that I would have time to learn the ropes once I retired. All I knew then was that the job would involve spreadsheets. I love spreadsheets!

Tell us a little about yourself.

My life has followed a meandering path. I grew up in a small Minnesota town and moved to St. Paul to major in French at Hamline University. I’ve worked in membership at Minnesota Public Radio, teaching English at Orono High School, and as a business analyst at a small software firm (where I learned to love spreadsheets). My most rewarding, and final (?), career was as an elementary school librarian and technology teacher in the Mounds View School District.

In the mid-1990s I dragged my old friend and fellow “Hamlinite” Cal deRuyter to our first watercolor class. Neither of us really caught the bug until we took a workshop with Skip Lawrence who urged us to let go of watercolor “rules” and have fun! We’ve been painting companions ever since.

What sort of planning process do you use when starting a new painting?

I don’t plan. I hate planning. I end up making a lot of paintings that don’t work, but that’s absolutely fine with me. I either toss them or paint over them. The process of painting means more to me than the finished piece. I chase after that rare feeling of “flow.”

What ideas would you like to see to enhance our members' experiences?

I enjoy talking about art almost as much as I enjoy painting. Once COVID is over, or maybe even on Zoom, I would love to encourage the development of special interest groups, artists who want to share what they're working on and/or learn about new materials or techniques. For me, membership in NorthStar is all about connection.

CHECK THIS OUT!

Talking Volumes 2020

MPR and the Star Tribune sponsored the 21st season of Talking Volumes, hosted by award-winning MPR News journalist Kerri Miller. These virtual events were aired in September-October, 2020 but you can access videos of each discussion at:

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2020/08/31/talking-volumes-2020-season-guide>

The featured authors and books are:

Claudia Rankine, author of "Just Us: An American Conversation"

Helen Macdonald, author of "Vesper Flights"

Sarah Broom, author of "The Yellow House"

Isabel Wilkerson, author of "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents"

Northside Oral History Project

This local project documents 90 stories of residents who have lived in the Penn/Plymouth area over the past 50 years. Through this work, the City of Minneapolis' Division of Race and Equity elevates the stories of resistance and resilience that have made the community what it is. The first phase of the project was an exhibit at the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum & Gallery, which showcased nine stories. In the second phase, local artists have implemented creative ideas showcasing the stories for all to see, including multiple murals and projected videos on Northside landmarks. You can find more information at:

www.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/Equity.

Minneapolis Institute of Art: Foot in the Door 5

November 1, 2020 - January 10, 2021

Now marking its fifth decade, this open exhibition celebrates the talent, diversity, and enthusiasm of Minnesota's visual and audio/visual artists. Each submission must fit within one cubic foot...literally inviting artists to place "a foot" in the museum's galleries. In addition to the exhibition, there will be a virtual open studio on December 18th to celebrate the "Foot in the Door" exhibition at home! Use collage materials from home like old postcards, junk mail, and magazines to create

your own foot-by-foot art work inspired by art in Mia's collection. This year's exhibition and open studio are entirely virtual and can be viewed at:

<https://collections.artsmia.org/exhibitions/2760/foot-in-the-door>

28th Annual Women's Art Festival: A Virtual Event

Saturday, December 12th, 2020 | 10 am – 4:30 pm | A Live Online Event

The mission of the Women's Art Festival is to provide a welcoming place for women artists to show and sell their creations and to provide a fun and festive atmosphere for guests to shop, gather and enjoy community. Supporting local women artists of all experience levels, from first time exhibitors to experienced professionals, we are a non-juried show with the expectation that all goods are of excellent quality and made and sold by local women. We do not accept dealers or importers and define local as any woman who wants to travel to Minneapolis for a day of fun, camaraderie, community and creativity.

Visit any time to pre-register as a guest or to enter the festival.

<https://my.boothcentral.com/v/events/womens-art-festival>

Look at That! Discover the Joy of Seeing by Sketching

By Bobbie Herron



Explore this new, light-hearted approach to looking, seeing, and finally sketching. So-called "non-artists" will quickly develop an artist's eye. Artists will rediscover the joy of "beginner mind," back before perfectionism set in.

You will come to love those five minutes of "Look-at-That" practice which have the power to relax and reinvigorate you at a moment's notice. Best of all, when your sketchbook is filled, you will also have a travelogue of your recent adventures seeing your world for the first time. You will be amazed.

Both eBook and paperback copies are available at Amazon.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1735873004>

If you prefer to support independent bookstores, paperback copies are available at:

<https://www.indiebound.org/book/9781735873008>

DID YOU KNOW?

NorthStar members can advertise workshops they lead and classes they teach on the NorthStar website. Go to:

<http://northstarwatermedia.com/resources/members-classesworkshops/submit-classworkshop/>

NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Dec 17 Online demo by David Smith
Jan 21 Online demo by Dan Wiemer
Feb 18 Online demo by Tara Sweeney

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Dec 10 Online demo by Andy Evansen
Jan 11 Online demo by Georgia Kandiko
Feb 14 Online demo by Catherine Hearing

CONTACT US

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