



TO: Members
FROM: Communications Committee
Barb Parisien, Chair

DATE: January 1, 2021

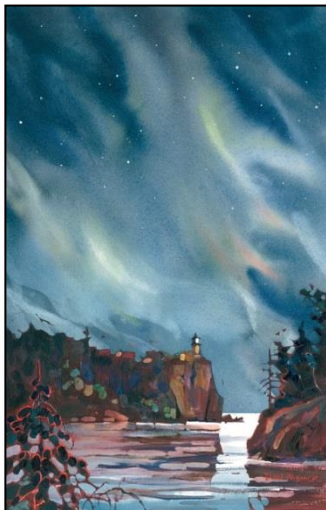
**NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY
IS COMMITTED TO WORKING TOWARD
A MORE INCLUSIVE, JUST, AND
EQUITABLE ART COMMUNITY.**

NEXT MEETING - Mark your calendar!

Virtual Demo by Dan Wiemer

**Thursday, January 21
7:00-9:00**

A link to this demo (via Zoom) will be sent to you on January 20.



Trained as a graphic designer, design is the foundation of Dan Wiemer's work. His technique uniquely combines opaque acrylic and transparent watercolor in a way that stylizes his landscapes. His work as a fine artist, illustrator and workshop instructor has evolved over the years, influenced by the Group of Seven and other Canadian painters. Dan had two extended stays in China -- painting, teaching and exhibiting. In addition to China, he has painted in Puerto Rico, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and throughout the United States.

"As an artist, design comes first and painting second. The majority of my work is watermedia. I create like a printmaker, finding negative shapes and using these to construct my scenes. I paint both on location (plein air) and in the studio."

- Dan Wiemer

Learn more about Dan and his work on his website www.danwiemer.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Linda Clyde
- Cindy Colson
- Jan Forbes
- Christina Haskins
- Ruth Ann Litterick
- Sandra Moen
- David Smith

2021 VIRTUAL MEMBER EXHIBITION

This is an opportunity for **all** of us to share our love of painting. NorthStar's annual Member Exhibition will be held in March. As a virtual exhibition, the paintings will be available for the world to view and purchase. Cash awards will be given by jurors Susan Hartzell and Sylvia Benson.

An application form is available on the NorthStar website under Exhibitions.
<https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/pytsrot0l1n4il/>

Important dates:

Registration deadline: February 18, 2021

Exhibition: March 1 - 31, 2021

Rules:

- Each paid member may submit one painting 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.
- 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.

- **Peggy Wright** pwright@rubywings.com and **LouAnn Hoppe** louhoppe@gmail.com, Co-Chairs

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

Calvin DeRuyter

In the past year, we have been featuring board members. During the coming year, we will feature some of the many volunteers who contribute their time and talents to NorthStar. We begin the year by introducing you to **Calvin DeRuyter**.

Why did you decide to become a member of NorthStar?

I joined around the year 2000. I was initially a member of Minnesota Watercolor Society and then a member of both. I really like NorthStar's wide-vision of watermedia.



What positions have you held?

I was a non-voting board member as Futurist from 2006 to 2019. I loved the "job" because it required me to examine the board's actions and let them know if I saw any long-term ramifications of decisions they were making. By nature, any board is worried, financially and otherwise, about the NOW. But decisions can have long-term and unexpected consequences. I was devil's advocate for consequences 3, 5, or 10 years down the road. I decided to serve in this position because I was worried about the long-term viability of the organization with changing attitudes toward arts organizations.

I also served as Chair of the 2013 Revisioning Committee, which met for a year making recommendations about the future of NorthStar. The most notable was the sponsorship by NorthStar of a National Juried Exhibition.

Tell us a little about yourself in general.

I have a BA in art from Hamline University. After co-owning a publishing business in St. Paul for 46 years, I retired in 2019. I taught many workshops and watermedia classes at White Bear Center for the Arts before leaving the metro area. I currently hold two part-time jobs, bookkeeper for the company which bought our publishing business, and web master for NorthStar Watermedia Society.

What has been most influential to your painting recently?

For the last several years I have been exploring the concepts of abstract art, focusing on mixed watermedia. Since my entire teaching and collector base was based primarily on landscapes, it has meant basically starting from scratch to find

my way and seek new audiences for my abstract work. I consider my landscape to be a reflection of my "outer spiritual" and the abstracts to be a reflection of my "inner spiritual." I want each painting to be a learning experience, and an attempt to try something new. I would like to aspire to the adage: In art, once you learn something, you should learn something new to add to your next artwork.

When painting a landscape, I almost always start with a photograph as an inspiration. When doing an abstract, I have already explored and extensively used automatic drawing in the initial stages of many of my artworks.

If you could give a piece of advice to a new member, what would it be?

Be aware of all the possibilities. Don't just learn a technique and stay with it after you master it. Continually reach above and beyond what you thought you would ever be able to do!

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.

"Awareness really is the beginning of change." Anita Hill.



Bobbie Herron: Seeing the World through Sketching

Bobbie became deeply involved in traditional watercolor in 1986. Although she felt she had a natural instinct for it, spontaneity slowly diminished once she began creating paintings to sell. Every piece of high-quality paper became too precious and, as a result, painting was no longer playful.

Bobbie's decision to stop watercolor painting was impacted by a diagnosis of a rare form of glaucoma. She says she let the vision impairment define her for decades, destroying her self-confidence along the way. Her attitude became more disabling than the vision loss itself, and fear robbed her of precious time to see clearly, even if only through one eye. She now has no sight in her left eye and severely distorted vision of anything more than six inches from her nose in the right. Still, she loves the eyesight she has: "I love seeing late afternoon shadows tumbling down steps in the city plaza. I swoon over the multi-colored debris piled up by a storm drain. Who cares that it is out of focus? Anything you can see is worth looking at." Sketching "simply buys more time to look, and look, and look again at the amazing, beautiful, ugly, poignant world around us."

A book she discovered in 2013 changed her life. After reading *Every Day Matters* by Danny Gregory, she returned to watercolor, then as a sketchbook artist, and more recently as a traditional watercolorist in the style of Ron Ranson.

Her advice to anyone new to sketching: “get yourself some easy warm-up exercises - just to get your eyes and hand reacquainted. Then give yourself permission to find something to simply gaze at. Study with your eyes until your heart is so full you want to make marks on a piece of paper to remember the moment.”

Bobbie currently writes a blog, *Aloft with Inspiration*, and has recently self-published a book, *Look at That!: Discover the Joy of Seeing by Sketching*.

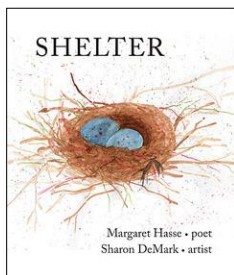
You can visit Bobbie’s blog at: <https://aloftwithinspiration.com/>.



Dove Cottage, Grasmere UK

CHECK THIS OUT!

Shelter



Local watercolor artist, Sharon DeMark, has collaborated with local poet Margaret Hasse to produce a book, *Shelter*, during the Covid-19 pandemic. The collaborators communicated mostly via Zoom as shelter-in-place changed the way people lived, worked, and looked at the world doing the past year. They took “shelter” as the theme of their work together which became a collection of 30 poems and watercolor paintings. Available in St. Paul at Next Chapter Booksellers.

The Graffiti Art of Peyton Scott Russell

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Reedy Gallery

January 14 - February 28, 2021

Check out this solo exhibition by Peyton Scott Russell (aka Sprayfinger). Peyton became the first “graffiti artist” in Minneapolis creating multiple graffiti murals while celebrating graffiti art and culture. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn about graffiti as a fine art form, movement, source of communication and enhancement to communities. You will enjoy his vibrant imagery reflecting his fine art training fused with societal and personal reflections.

<https://www.arboretum.umn.edu/painting.aspx>

Mia’s Reinstalled Himalayan, South, and Southeast Asian Galleries

October 15, 2020 – October 17, 2021

Fresh and engaging displays reintroduce audiences to the interconnected, immensely diverse artistic traditions of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Himalayas.

Virtual Gallery at: <https://new.artsmia.org/with-new-light-mias-reinstalled-himalayan-south-and-southeast-asian-art-galleries>.

Art in This Present Moment: Gizhiigin Arts Incubator

Clyde Estey, Jr. and Kent Estey collaborate on a work reflective of their shared artistic upbringing in the White Earth Nation. They grew up in a family where black ash basketry, beading, sewing, and birch bark artistry were everyday occurrences. Both artists live in the Naytahwaush community. Clyde Estey Jr. is a third-generation basket maker carrying forward the Ojibwe black ash basketry tradition. Kent Estey's preferred art form is painting on canvas. View a video about their collaboration at:

<https://www.spmcf.org/blog/art-in-this-moment-gizhiigin-arts-incubator>

CBS 60 Minutes: Architect Loses Sight, Becomes Better Architect

Chris Downey became blind at age 45 after surgery to remove a brain tumor, yet has found a way to continue working as an architect by maintaining a positive attitude and finding unique tools to help him translate his creative vision.

<https://vimeo.com/312158662>

NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Jan 21	Online demo by Dan Wiemer
Feb 18	Online demo by Tara Sweeney
Feb 18	Deadline for registering for the NorthStar Member Exhibition
Mar 1-31	NorthStar Member Exhibition viewed virtually

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Jan 11	Online demo by Georgia Kandiko
Feb 14	Online demo by Catherine Hearing
Mar 18-Apr 6	Spring Juried Exhibition
April 7-10	Virtual workshop with Pat Dews

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