



TO: Members
FROM: Communications Committee
Barb Parisien, Chair

DATE: February 1, 2021

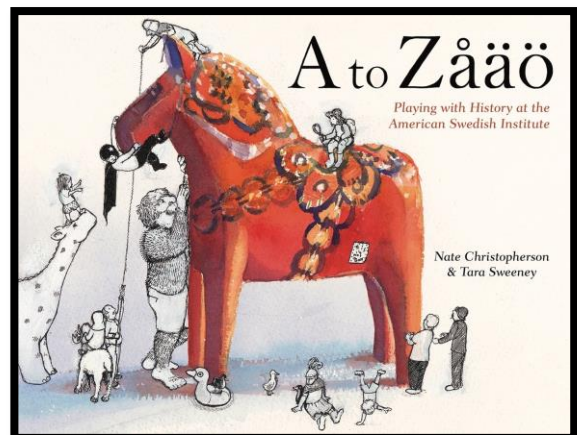
**NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY
IS COMMITTED TO WORKING TOWARD
A MORE INCLUSIVE, JUST, AND
EQUITABLE ART COMMUNITY.**

NEXT MEETING - Mark your calendar!

Virtual Demo by Tara Sweeney

**Thursday, February 18
7:00-9:00**

A link to this demo (via Zoom) will be sent to you on February 17.



Tara Sweeney is a master watercolorist known for award-winning portraiture. She is also serious about word play. Tara and her son, Nate Christopherson, co-authored and co-illustrated the Minnesota Book Award picture book, *A to Zåöö* (*shown below*) which was the inspiration for the American Swedish Institute's 2020 exhibit, "Extra/Ordinary", featuring Tara's original illustrations. Tara holds signature membership in the National Watercolor Society and Minnesota Watercolor Society. Public television's "Minnesota Original" recently showcased her work.

Tara is professor emeritus with Augsburg University where she taught drawing and painting for 25 years. She earned degrees in textile design and studio art from the University of Wisconsin and an MFA from MCAD. Plein air coursework at the West

Surry College of Art and Design, UK, was the start of her lifelong love of watercolor.

Learn more about Tara and her work on her website tarasweeneyart.com.

Tara's watercolor, "First Sip," (shown above) was one of two paintings selected to represent Minnesota in the National Watercolor Society's 50 Stars 2019 exhibition.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Kevin Hogan
- Cindy Otto

MEMBER EXHIBITION DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 18

Hurry, hurry! It's time to decide which of your paintings you will enter into the 2021 Member Exhibition. The registration deadline is **February 18**. Every member is invited to submit a painting for our show. Because the show will be virtual, it will be available to everybody around the world, increasing the opportunity for viewers to view and purchase your art.

Virtual also means you do not have to frame your painting.

Fourteen paintings will be chosen for special recognition and awarded cash prizes and ribbons.

Rules

- Current members may enter one image.
- This is a non-juried show meaning all paintings will be accepted.
- The painting must be completely original to the artist and completed within the last 3 years (after January 2018).
- Acceptable materials are watercolor, acrylic, casein, gouache, water-soluble ink, and egg tempera.
- No more than 25% collage will be eligible.
- 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 NSWS commission on sales.

Registration fee is \$30.00.

To Register and Pay:

- **Go to:** <https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/pytsrot0l1n4il/>

- If paying by check, click \$0.00 and then send a check to: Peggy Wright, 1438 Stanford Ave. St. Paul MN 55105
- Email a photo of your artwork to Peggy Wright at pwright@rubywings.com.
- Attach your artwork as a JPEG or JPG. It must be under 5MB, with a minimum of 1200 pixels on the longest side.

Do you have questions about your membership status? If so, email Laurie at: nswsmembership@gmail.com.

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

NATIONAL EXHIBITION COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

Would you like to learn about the inner workings of putting together an exciting *national* art exhibition? Our juried exhibition will be held again this fall at Wildwood Library and the team can use more help.

Please consider joining one of the small sub-committees listed below or volunteer to help out on any committee as needs might arise. No special experience or skills are required. The time commitment can vary from 1- 6 months and 1 – 36 hours, depending upon the job.

<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Contacts</u>
Marketing & Publicity	Leny Wendel – leny_wendel@msn.com
Venue Selection & Liaison	Judy Faucett – judyefaucett@gmail.com Sylvia Roman – roman4u@comcast.net
Juror Selection & Liaison	Rockie Weymouth – Rocketjs612@gmail.com
Registration	Lucy LeMay Jill Jacobson – jilljacobson@comcast.net
Awards	Sylvia Roman – roman4u@comcast.net
Sponsor Relationships	Judith Benham
Reception Hospitality	Ginny Haines
Gallery Operations	Art Weeks – aweeek4621@gmail.com

As an example, the Marketing & Publicity Committee needs help with posting publicity on social media; updating e-mail address listings for art galleries, arts organizations, and watermedia societies; and submitting public service announcements and calendar listings to local and regional newspapers.

Contact the committee chairs above or me for more information.

Many hands make light the work.

- **Janice Anderson**, Chair, National Juried Art Exhibition

Jlanderson2014@fastmail.fm

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 - starting with NSWS.

Are you available to help out with the NSWS ArtReach for Justice Program? We could use your help with researching and/or writing short articles, such as the one below, about watermedia and/or local *artists* in underrepresented groups. Tips on artists you think our members would enjoy learning about are especially welcome. The time commitment is very flexible; it could be a one-time contribution or longer, whatever works for you. For more information, please contact one of us:

Judy at judyharvey48@usfamily.net

Deirdre at deirdrevaughan7@gmail.com

Lynn at middleton.ldnsw@gmail.com

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking" - Albert Einstein

Seitu Ken Jones

Seitu Ken Jones is a vibrant multidisciplinary artist, advocate, and maker based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Seitu works with everything from wood, to clay, to glass, and steel. His work appears in public places, representing the spirit of radical social change through art and community action.

Recognized as a dynamic collaborator and creative force for civic engagement, Jones received a Joyce Award from Chicago's Joyce Foundation that allowed him to develop a project called "CREATE -- The Community Meal," in which he called attention to the need for access to healthy food by organizing a dinner for 2,000 people at a table a half-mile long.

Another of his collaborations, with local artist Ta-coumba T. Aiken and writer Soyini Guyton, was commissioned by the City of Minneapolis for the Sculpture Garden. "Shadows at the Crossroad," is a series of seven sculptures celebrating significant but overlooked Minneapolitans in history.

Read more about the exhibit at: <https://walkerart.org/magazine/shadows-crossroads-seitu-jones-ta-coumba-aiken-soyini-guyton>



When activated by water this homage to the late Twin Cities poet Kirk Washington, Jr. appears on a walkway of the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

Born in 1951 in Minneapolis, Seitu credits his artistic family as a key influence in his love of art, beginning with his great grandfather who was born into slavery.

One of his earliest influences was the Black Arts Movement and its central belief that artists have an obligation to leave their community "more beautiful than they found it." Recently his work has focused on the blending of art with nature in a variety of mediums.

While researching this artist, I was captured by his call to action to memorialize George Floyd in the streets. Seitu set up a page on his website with instructions for community members to create their own [#blues4george murals](#), again inviting community and advocacy through art.

Learn more about this artist on his website: [Seitu Ken Jones](#).

- **Francie Kaufenberg**

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

We are featuring some of the volunteers who contribute their time and talents to keep NSWHS healthy and our programs working.

Jill Jacobson



What roles have you filled as a volunteer?

I have been President twice, worked on the Artists' Market Committee as Registrar and Computer Technician, and have been Registrar for the National Art Exhibition for 5 years.

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

Serving on the Board as President and Vice President was fun, challenging, and fulfilling. The people I worked with and the members of our organization are great and interesting people. Spending time together was a joy. It is interesting to see the inner workings of NorthStar and help to solve issues related to our changing times. I have been around long enough to watch us move into the tech age with newsletter, registration, and payments going online.

Tell us a little about yourself in general.

I was a Nursing Educator at MCTC, teaching LPNs and RNs. When I retired I combined my teaching skills with my interest in watercolor and began teaching classes in some of the local community and art centers. I have loved traveling and following the sports and other interests of my 9 grandkids, pre-Covid, of course!

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

Most of my college coursework had a science focus, but I always had the other half of my brain busy with art and creativity. After my kids were out of the nest, I took up watercolor and have pursued it through week-long workshops and travel with the late Karlyn Holman and a number of other local artists. NorthStar has also increased my artistic education through classes, demos, and working with lovely and talented people.

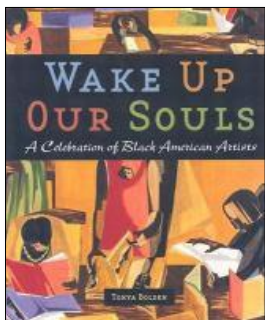
CHECK THIS OUT!

On Being with Krista Tippett

How to embrace what's right and corrective, redemptive, and restorative – and an insistence that each of us is more than the worst thing we've done – these are the gifts that Bryan Stevenson offers with his life.

<https://onbeing.org/programs/bryan-stevenson-love-is-the-motive>.

Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of Black American Artists



Award-winning author Tonya Bolden presents a history of African American visual arts and artists from the days of slavery to the present (2004). The book highlights 30 African-American artists and is beautifully illustrated with works from the Smithsonian American Art Museum's collection. I spent an enjoyable evening poring over the pictures and learning about an amazing range of historical and contemporary Black artists. Inspiring!

Available at the St. Paul and Hennepin County libraries.

– **Lynn Middleton-Koller**

Love (and Art) in the Time of Covid-19

Louann Udell's timely newsletter discusses a lot of the same things our organization is going through.

<https://fineartviews.com/?keyvalue=13722&page=Blog&Topic=Luann%20Udell>

- **Sylvia Roman**

Dynamics of Russian Colonialism in Alaska: Marlena Myles

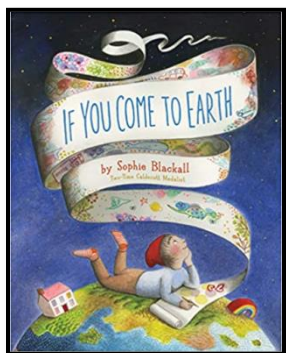
Fireside Gallery, Museum of Russian Art, Minneapolis

January 23 - February 28, 2021.

The first solo exhibition of work by Marlena Myles focuses on the intersection of immigrant and Native peoples in North America. These digitally created works bring to light the commonly unknown history of interactions between Russian explorers, settlers, traders, clergy, and Alaska Natives before the Alaskan territory was sold to the United States in 1867. These are important reflections that acknowledge indigenous histories, much needed in the contemporary United States and Minnesota. For more information, visit: <https://tmora.org/>.



If You Come to Earth



In this lovely new picture book by Sophie Blackall, a young child invites an alien to visit our planet by describing our Earth's amazing and life-affirming variety! I've seen the book in person and the watercolor and India ink illustrations are beautiful! Time spent poring over pictorial details and surprises will be rewarded! To make sure you don't miss anything, check out this excellent review in The Horn Book:

<https://www.hbook.com/?detailStory=if-you-come-to-earth>

- **Lynn Middleton-Koller**

TIPS AND TRICKS

At the January demo by Dan Wiemer, our member Linda Webster asked about the safety and sustainability of acrylics. She learned that acrylics are non-toxic, but,

as a plastic paint, they should be disposed of carefully to save our plumbing and the environment. The following website gives excellent information:

<https://www.rosemarieoleary.com/art-blog/44-don-t-pour-acrylic-paint-down-the-drain>

DAVID SMITH WORKSHOP REPORT

NorthStar's first ever online workshop in January was a great success. David Smith has a gift for making watercolor fun. In the four-day workshop, 41 students learned from their own homes or studios. It was great not to commute in the snow and cold. David taught us many techniques including how to "master the mist" and "pour a bullseye." We also learned how to soften edges with a stiff-bristled brush, connect shapes by using a continuous bead of color, create texture using blossoms and blooms intentionally, use splatter, paint negative space, and show the difference between contour and cast shadows.

At the end of each day, David graciously answered all questions and critiqued participants' paintings. The learning continues as we keep working on and perfecting the techniques. A one-month access to the class videos really helps!

We have more great news to share with you. Save the dates: May 21-22, 2021. NorthStar will host a two-day online workshop with world-renowned watercolorist, **Keiko Tanabe - Watercolor: Keep it Simple and Strong**. Stay tuned for details!

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

NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Feb 18	Online demo by Tara Sweeney
Feb 18	Deadline for registering for NorthStar Member Exhibition
Mar 1-31	Member Exhibition viewed virtually
May 21-22	On-line workshop with Keiko Tanabe

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Feb 11	Online demo by Catherine Harding
Mar 18-Apr 16	Spring Juried Exhibition, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
April 7 - 10	Virtual workshop with Pat Dews

CONTACT US

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Membership	Laurie Mosher	NSWSmembership@gmail.com
Newsletter	Barb Parisien	bparisien@msn.com
	Judy Harvey	judyharvey48@usfamily.net

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