



TO: Members
FROM: Communications Committee
Barb Parisien, Chair

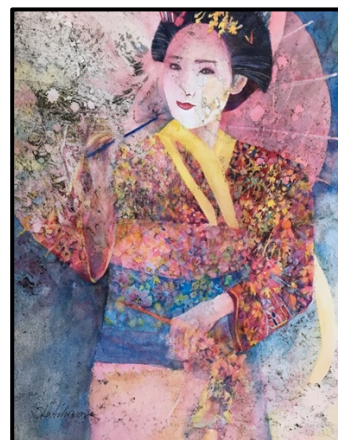
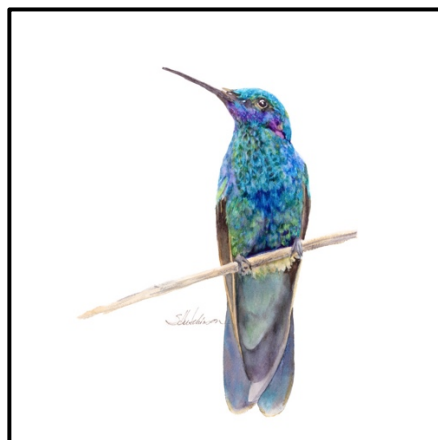
DATE: September 1, 2021

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

NEXT MEETING - Mark your calendar!
Virtual Demo by Sonja Hutchinson

Thursday, September 16
7:00–9:00

A link to this demo (via Zoom) will be sent to you about Sept 15.



Sonja is a signature member of the Minnesota Watercolor Society and a Past President of that organization. Her work has received numerous awards in local and national juried shows. She teaches watercolor painting at the Minnetonka Center for the Arts, at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and also hosts private workshops. Her work is on display in Studio 321 in the Northrup King Building in NE Minneapolis.

"For me, painting in watercolor is where spontaneity and intention collide. I find it stimulating to use processes and tools that both challenge and celebrate the fluid nature of this medium. The paintings that excite me the most tap into shared experiences and emotions. My favorite works celebrate the essence of characters, embrace a meaningful concept, or portray the stark beauty of our natural world."

- Sonja Hutchinson

For more information, see <https://nemaa.org/artists/sonja-hutchinson/>

GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Deirdre Vaughan



Hello and welcome! The Board of Directors has been meeting throughout the summer to prepare for our new membership year. Until recently we were hopeful that we would be meeting together in person at the John Rose Oval to share our love of art, see live artist demos, and connect with old and new friends. After much thought and discussion, the Board has decided, because the health and safety of our members must come first, that we will be postponing in-person meetings for September and October, at least.

We are optimistic that the current COVID-19 situation will improve by the end of October, and we will be able, at least, to meet in-person for a social gathering before the end of 2021.

We're arranging with artists to continue to provide monthly virtual demos and interactive discussions about their work. Mark your calendars for our September demo artist, Sonja Hutchinson, on September 16 at 7:00pm. A link will be emailed to members to join the meeting and view the demo.

I know we are all eager to return to our normal routines and schedules, but that moment hasn't quite arrived. Hopefully our ongoing virtual demos will provide inspiration and escape for us. As Twyla Tharp said, "Art is the only way to run away without leaving home!"

We miss you and are looking forward to "seeing" you all at our virtual meeting on September 16!

- **Deirdre Vaughan**

PLEIN AIR SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER

Plein air outings sponsored by NorthStar Watermedia Society are open to all painters. Non-members are warmly welcomed. Lunch arrangements are up to the individuals. Bringing a bag lunch is an option. We will gather between 9:00 and 10:00 AM, but you can join us at any time during the morning. If you have questions, please call one of us: Ann Sisel, 651-275-0774, or Leona Olson, 612-859-7075. The committee members won't be at every paint-out, but we will be there as much as possible.

- Sep 1 St. Anthony Park, Como and Carter Avenues near Nico Taco Bar and the library
- Sep 8 Across the Smith Avenue High Bridge with a view of downtown St. Paul
- Sep 15 Dodge Nature Center

GREAT REASONS TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

- You are important to us! Each member brings unique talents and perspectives to keep NorthStar vital and strong.
- Learn and grow as an artist with wonderful demonstrations from talented artists from around the world.
- Stay connected with other artists with virtual and in-person meetings and workshops.
- Share your artwork on the NorthStar website member slide show and other opportunities.
- Maintain your active membership status. Continuity of membership is a requirement to achieve and maintain Signature Status as well as other NorthStar awards.
- Continue to receive NorthStar's fabulous newsletter each month!
- Stay informed. Be the first to find out about local art events, plein air painting groups, upcoming workshops and classes, and exhibits.
- Access to NorthStar resources, library, and networking opportunities.
- You are an artist. Stay united to share your unique expressions of truth, beauty, and creativity!

Our membership year officially starts September 1st, 2021. Renew TODAY and join us for another exciting year!

Here is the link to this year's membership application. We strongly encourage you to **pay online** with your renewal application for 2021-2022.

<https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/k5sgzgi1fquuyb/>

There is also an option to pay by check. However, **all checks must be mailed** to the address on the application. Please **do not** pay by check at a membership meeting.

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

Stay healthy, strong, and creative!

- **Laurie Mosher**, Membership Director

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Brenda Himrich
- Kaitlin Murray
- Paul Oman
- Sandy Sathre

ARTREACH FOR JUSTICE

This column highlights artists, places, and events in keeping with our commitment to work toward a more inclusive, just, and equitable community. Our focus in 2019-2020 was on current local artists, sometimes those just making a name for themselves. We will focus this year on artists who have made important historical contributions to the wider art world.

Alma Woodsey Thomas (1891-1978)

"Through color, I have sought to concentrate on beauty and happiness, rather than on man's inhumanity to man."

Alma Woodsey Thomas (September 22, 1891 – February 24, 1978) was an African American artist and teacher who lived and worked in Washington, D.C., and is now recognized as a major American painter of the 20th century.... She achieved success as an African American female artist despite the segregation and prejudice of her time.... Thomas's reputation has continued to grow since her death. Her paintings are displayed in notable museums and collections, and they have been the subject of several books and solo museum exhibitions. In 2021, a museum sold Thomas's painting "Alma's Flower Garden" in a private transaction for \$2.8 million. ("[Alma Thomas.](#)" [Wikipedia](#))



Alma Thomas at her 1972 Whitney Retrospective. Smithsonian Magazine



***The Eclipse*, Alma Thomas (1970).
Public Domain / Wikimedia
Commons CC BY-SA 4.0**

As a student of art, an artist myself, a woman artist “of a certain age” with a love for abstraction -- I’m flabbergasted that only recently did I become aware of Alma Thomas. When images of her joyful watercolors and acrylics began popping up regularly in my InstaGram feed this spring and summer, I fell in love with her work -- especially the paintings she called “Alma’s Stripes.” They surprise me and make me think, inspire me and make me smile. I’ve even made a few little “stripe” paintings of my own. If you try some, too, let me know!

- **Lynn Middleton-Koller**, nswstreasurebod@gmail.com

Resources:

“Alma Thomas.” Smithsonian American Art Museum

“How Alma Thomas’s Radiant Paintings Plotted a New Course for Abstraction.” Alex Greenberger, ARTNews, July 23, 2021.

Alma W. Thomas: Everything Is Beautiful -- current exhibition co-organized by The Columbus Museum and the Chrysler Museum of Art.

#almathomas - InstaGram hashtag

ONLINE WORKSHOP WITH LINDA KEMP

November 5-6, 2021



Canadian artist, Linda Kemp leads workshops and symposiums in the US, Canada, United Kingdom, and France. She has written books, made DVDs, and contributed articles in magazines and books. An award winner in Canada, Linda says: “In my attempt to interpret nature’s patterns and understand how the pieces fit together, my strategy relies on simplifying the complicated and building layers using negative shapes.”

Check out Linda’s website: <https://lindakemp.com>. More information will follow.

Covid has taught us that many nationally known artists are able to teach workshops online. We will have the privilege of soaking up Linda’s instructions from the comfort and ease of our homes.

- **Nini Bronson**, Workshop Chair, nbronson7@sbcglobal.net.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

Sylvia Roman



What roles have you held as a volunteer?

I started out as Chair for the spring member show when it was still juried over 20 years ago. I served on the first Art-on-A Line committee (now Artist’s Market) as we began to develop the program. Eventually, I did Publicity and Outreach for many years. Recently, I have been working on the National Juried Art Exhibition from its original development stages to the present, as Site Coordinator.

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

That's a tough question. The positions have all been rewarding and fun, and every position has its own challenges. I'll have to go with whatever I am working on at the time I'm doing it. So, I guess right now, it's the volunteer interview for the newsletter.

Why did you decide to serve?

NorthStar Watermedia Society is a volunteer-dependent organization. To be successful, it is vitally important for the members to take responsibility and serve, whether that service is a one-time job or a long-term position. The benefit for me is that I have met and worked with many wonderful fellow artists over the years, and I enjoyed getting to know all of them.

Tell us a little about yourself in general: education, profession, interests.

I have degrees in Plant Pathology, Entomology, and Chemistry. My general areas of study involved a mix of agriculture extension and laboratory studies in newly emerging or previously unidentified diseases and their control. I am now retired and enjoy traveling with my husband (he plans all the trips!). Family, gardening, cooking, and of course - art, are high on my list of reasons to get out of bed in the morning.

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

Over 20 years ago I started looking for a hobby to take me into retirement. I took two years of drawing and then Frank Zeller's watercolor classes for a number of years. I also found studying with the wonderful NorthStar workshop instructors to be frequent game changers and terrific learning experiences. Right now, I work mostly in acrylics and some watercolor with a little collage thrown in for fun.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We have several open committee positions that we must fill to effectively serve our members. We invite *you* to consider investing your time and talent in NorthStar.

Please email NSWSpresidentbod@gmail.com if you would like more information about any of these positions.

We really need *your* help!

Board of Directors Vice President

Membership Committee

- Membership Engagement Coordinator: reach out to members in response to volunteer requests

Member Exhibition

- Chairperson/Co-Chairpersons: organize the event and communicate information to members
- Committee members: arrange various details including publicity, communications, managing entries, video the exhibit, and hanging paintings

Communications

- Writers for ongoing or occasional newsletter articles
- Social media coordinator

Monthly Meetings Committee Members to assist Chairperson

- Contact/secure artists for demos
- Communicate information to members
- Facilitate virtual demos
- Provide AV expertise for in-person demos

Workshop Committee members to assist Chairperson

- Contact/secure artists for demos
- Communicate information to members
- Facilitate demos

NATIONAL JURIED ART EXHIBITION

A reminder to invited artists: painting drop-off day is Tuesday, September 21.

10:00-1:00

Washington County Wildwood Branch Library
763 Stillwater Road
Mahtomedi

To all viewers: the Exhibition opens Thursday, September 23.

Call the library at 651-426-2042 for hours on the day you plan to visit and/or to clarify the Covid precautions that may be in place.

STATE FAIR AWARD

Every year NorthStar gives a \$100 award to a member whose painting is accepted in the Minnesota Fine Arts Exhibition.

This year, the award went to **James Turner** for his painting, *"Tandem"*, shown here. Congratulations, James!

Congratulations also to other accepted NorthStar artists:

- **Karen Knutson** - *"Remembering the Farm"*
- **Lucy LeMay** - *"Celebration"*
- **Doris Loes** - *"Dreaming"*
- **David Messing** - *"Rocky Mountain Aspens"*
- **Heidi Nelson** - *"The Big Finish"*
- **Tara Sweeney** - *"Advice"*



CHECK THIS OUT

Spirit of the St. Croix Art Festival

September 25-26, 2021 - Lakefront Park, Hudson, WI

The Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau, in partnership with The Phipps Center for the Arts, is hosting an interactive art experience. Visitors will experience original artwork of 90+ juried artists, hands-on demonstrations, and creative activities - while sampling a variety of fall flavors.

Art From the Attic

The Hopkins Center for the Arts is accepting donations for their annual sale of hundreds of pre-owned art pieces at affordable prices. The sale will be held on Saturday, November 13, 2021. 100% of the proceeds from the sale goes to support art programs and activities at the Center. For more information: <https://www.hopkinsartscenter.com/251/Art-From-the-Attic>

Minnesota Marine Art Museum

800 Riverview Drive, Winona, Minnesota 55987

MMAM is an inspiring and exciting experience. The Museum's initial collections focused on traditional marine or maritime art. MMAM is now home to some of

the greatest European and American masters through a long-term loan of a collection including Turner, Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh, Cassatt, Gauguin, Picasso, Matisse, Kandinsky, O'Keeffe, Homer, and many more.

This is a hidden gem of a museum! And a beautiful autumn daytrip.

For more information, see: <https://www.mmam.org/>

NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Sep 16	Online demo by Sonja Hutchinson
Sep 21	Drop off National Exhibition paintings, 10:00-1:00
Sep 23-Nov 4	National Juried Art Exhibition at Wildwood Library
Oct 10	National Exhibition Reception & Award Ceremony, 2:00-4:00
Oct 21	Online demo by Uma Kelker
Nov 5	Pick up National Exhibition paintings, 10:00-1:00

MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Sep 9	Zoom meeting and demo by Bob Bowman, "Strategies for Entering Art Events"
Sep 29-Nov 6	Fall Exhibition, "Lost in Paint" at Ames Center
Oct 14	Award Ceremony
Nov 4-6	Workshop with Dan Mondloch at Artistry in Bloomington

CONTACT US

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Newsletter	Barb Parisien	bparisien@msn.com
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All are welcome here. NorthStar does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, ability, political affiliation or beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.

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