



TO: Members  
FROM: Communications Committee  
Barb Parisien and Judy Harvey, Editors

DATE: December 1, 2021

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

**MEETINGS will continue to be virtual until at least April 2022.**

**NEXT MEETING - Mark your calendar!  
Virtual Demo by Stephanie Bower**

Thursday, December 16  
7:00–9:00

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



Seattle-based Stephanie Bower worked as an architect in New York City before gravitating to professional architectural illustration and concept design. She has taught for over thirty years, in New York City at Parson's School of Design and in Seattle at the University of Washington and Cornish College of the Arts. A popular instructor and Urban Sketcher, she has two online sketching classes at Craftsby.com and The Great Courses. She teaches perspective and watercolor workshops internationally, including at six Urban Sketchers symposiums.

People around the world follow Stephanie's sketches on Instagram, Facebook, and her blog. She is an international blog correspondent for [UrbanSketchers.org](http://UrbanSketchers.org), a signature member of the Northwest Watercolor Society, and has been featured in *Watercolor Artist Magazine*. She is a best-selling author of several books, including *The Urban Sketching Handbook: Understanding Perspective*, *The Urban Sketching Handbook: 101 Sketching Tips*, and *The World of Urban Sketching* (2022).

### Learn more:

Instagram @stephanieabower

Facebook @stephanieabower/seattle

[DrawingPerspectives.com](http://DrawingPerspectives.com)

## GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Our guest demo artist for November was Brazilian artist Renato Palmuti. Renato is a visual artist, illustrator, urban sketcher, and teacher. The portrait demo (below right) included a thorough description of his preferred materials and the process he follows. As he progressed through the demo, he carefully explained his thinking and his choices as he completed the portrait. He concluded the demo by showing a variety of his watercolor paintings that included sketches, portraits, and

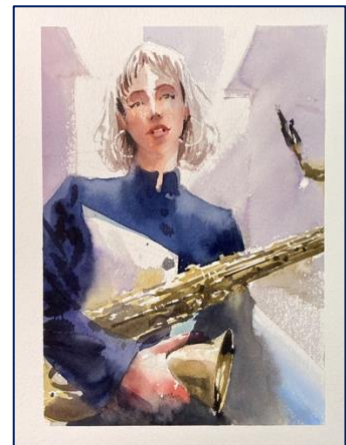
landscapes/cityscapes.

Renato Palmuti's demo may be found on the NSWS YouTube channel at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/76CjJEcFB0o>

Renato's website

<https://www.renatopalmuti.com/en/home/>



- Deirdre Vaughan

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Laurie Duxbury
- Julia Welter

## 2022 MEMBER EXHIBITION

### Re-awakening

March 14 – April 9, 2022

Wildwood Library, 763 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

Registration is now open. Please use this link to complete the application and submit your payment:

<https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/z1p1rnzb1d1iqy4/>

Our annual Member Exhibition, "Re-awakening," will be available for the world to see since it will be a virtual and an in-person exhibition. All members are encouraged to participate but only the first 60 members to register will be admitted. The exhibition will be juried with \$700 in cash awards. Registration is online only with an option to mail a check. Application forms will also be available on the NorthStar website soon.

In addition to the traditional awards, we will give a special award in honor of Bea Kotz, a past NSWS member. The 2021 Bea Kotz award was given to **Judy Gina** for Ballet Series IV Posed In Studio (right).



#### Registration Rules:

- Paid members may submit one painting completed after March 2019.
- Work must be completely original to the artist and not done in a class.
- Maximum size of framed art cannot exceed 42" in any direction.
- Acceptable materials: watercolor, acrylic, casein, gouache, water-soluble ink, and egg tempera, with no more than 25% collage.
- Acceptable supports: paper, YUPO, canvas, canvas board, or board.
- Artwork must be family friendly, no hate or nudes.
- The artist is responsible for insurance and the sale of any artwork.
- Submit a photo of your artwork digitally to **Heidi Nelson**, at [Heidinelson08@comcast.net](mailto:Heidinelson08@comcast.net). Format must be JPEG or JPG, under 5MB, 72 ppi, minimum of 1200 pixels on the longest side. Rename the file with your name, last name, first name (i.e., Nelson,Heidi.jpeg). Please include the title, artist name, medium, and price in the email.
- NSWS must receive a fee of \$30 with each application. If you prefer to send a check, send to NSWS Member Exhibition, c/o **Mary Hoel**, 1181 3rd St. NW, New Brighton, MN 55112.

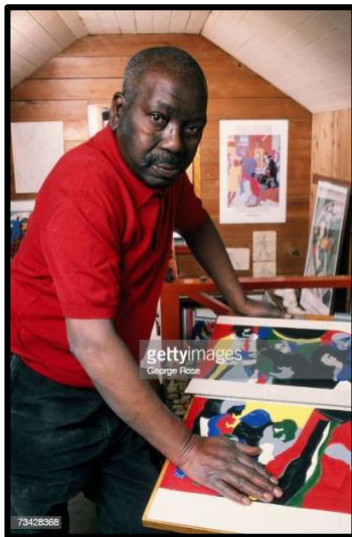
Registration Due: February 18, 2022, 11:59 PM  
Painting Drop-off: Saturday, March 12, 10:00-1:00  
Artists' Reception: Thursday, March 17, 5:30-7:30 PM  
Painting Pick-up: Monday, April 11, 1:00-3:00

- **Heidi Nelson**, Chair

## 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. 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.

### Jacob Armstead Lawrence (1917-2000)

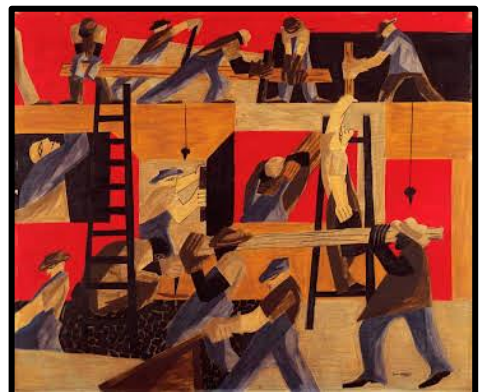


Jacob Lawrence is among the best-known twentieth-century African American painters. He is known for his colorful modernist images of the everyday life of African Americans living in Harlem and for reframing legendary American historical events in ways less heroic than realistic.

He first gained national recognition at age 23 with his 60-panel [\*The Migration Series\*](#), which depicted the [\*Great Migration\*](#) of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North. In 1941, Lawrence became the first African American artist to be represented by a mainstream New York gallery. His paintings hang in major US and foreign museums, including New York's [\*MoMA\*](#). In 2007, *The Builders* (below) was purchased

for \$2.5 million by the White House Historical Association for display in the White House.

Lawrence was nurtured artistically by several strong mentors as a child and young man. The painter [\*Charles Alston\*](#) recognized his talent while he was in grade school. The sculptor [\*Augusta Savage\*](#) taught him at the Harlem Community Art Center (where he met his future wife Gwendolyn Knight) and later recommended





him for a paid WPA position. At the Harlem YMCA, he met "[Professor](#)" [Charles Seifert](#), a self-taught lecturer and historian, who encouraged Lawrence to visit the [Schomburg Library in Harlem](#) (now the *Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture*) and to read everything he could find about African and African American culture.

"At the very start of his career he developed the approach that made his reputation and remained his touchstone: creating series of paintings that told a story or, less often, depicted many aspects of a subject. His first were biographical accounts of key figures of the African diaspora."<sup>1</sup>



One of Lawrence's best-known later series is *Struggle: History of the American People* (30 panels completed, 60 projected) in which he reimagined iconic paintings of American History.

Above: *Struggle Series - No. 10: Washington Crossing the Delaware*.

Shortly before his death he stated: "...for me, a painting should have three things: universality, clarity and strength. Clarity and strength so that it may be aesthetically good. Universality so that it may be understood by all men".<sup>2</sup>

## Resources

<sup>1</sup> [En.wikipedia.org/wiki/jacob\\_lawrence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/jacob_lawrence)

<sup>2</sup> Russell, Dick (2009). *Black Genius: Inspirational Portraits of America's Black Leaders*. Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. p. 100. [ISBN 978-1626366466](#).

PBS News Hour: How painter Jacob Lawrence reframed early American history with 'Struggle'. <https://youtu.be/ivDIA0QHHJs>

<https://americanart.si.edu/artist/jacob-lawrence-2828>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2020/jacob-lawrence-american-struggle>

**- Judy Harvey**

## ARTISTS' MARKET

Thank you to all who responded to our email regarding participation in Artists' Market. We received 50 "Yes" responses and will go forward with planning for our 2022 sale. Tentative dates are Friday and Saturday, June 10-11, 2022, pending confirmation by the Minnesota State Fair Events Department. Acceptable media include watermedia, acrylic, alcohol ink and water miscible oil. Printed greeting cards are now allowed. All other artworks must be original. Two-dimensional artwork only. No crafts, please. Guidelines for printed cards and other information will be posted to the Artists' Market page of the NSWS website.

- **Sue Olson**, Artists' Market Chair [marketartists099@gmail.com](mailto:marketartists099@gmail.com)

## MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

### Rockie Weymouth



#### What roles have you held as a volunteer?

For the last four years, I have helped with the selection of the juror for our National Juried Exhibition, as well as coordinating the jurors moving through the jurying process. In 2018, I participated in a re-envisioning committee formed to get a clearer picture of how NSWS could function most effectively, especially in meeting the needs of our artist community. I've recently signed on to work with the ArtReach for Justice group in highlighting artists in underrepresented groups via the newsletter.

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

A great benefit to all my volunteer roles is getting to know and work with our fabulous members, as well as learning more about the organization. Since I couldn't attend a lot of the meetings, I felt rather isolated until I started volunteering.

Working on the juried exhibition is a 10-month project with a dedicated group of volunteers. I am so moved, proud and grateful when I attend the final exhibition in person. It's awe-inspiring to see the diversity of inspiration, expression, imagination, and dedication from artists around the country, displayed in our show, knowing all the work that went into making it possible.

Working on the re-envisioning committee involved surveying past and present members about their experience with and hopes for NSWS, and making

recommendations to the NSWS Board, accordingly. It was a time-limited mission but it's rewarding to see some fruit from that effort playing out in NSWS today.

### **Why did you decide to serve?**

In two cases, I was asked by another volunteer to join a particular project. As a past entrant in the juried exhibition, I was invited to join the exhibition committee. Because of my interest in looking at new ways of approaching the NSWS mission, I was asked to join the re-envisioning committee. In the case of ArtReach for Justice, I responded to the newsletter committee's survey that I would like to contribute.

### **Tell us a little about yourself: education, profession, interests.**

Professionally, I taught French and German, was a licensed parent educator in early childhood programs, and worked as a human resources professional in international business and higher education. Since retiring a few years ago, I gratefully spend my time playing with grandkids, sketching and painting, keeping up my French proficiency, hiking in France, walking, knitting, gardening, and reading.

Although I've always enjoyed art making and had an art-minded mom who dabbled in watercolor, my focus on learning foreign languages and vocal music in high school and college left no elective classes for visual art. Until I took up drawing and watercolor, my artistic expression was channeled into sewing, knitting, gardening, journaling, and decorating.

In dealing with a major life transition in 2005, I decided it was time to pursue my interest in visual art by taking a drawing class at the U of M, where I was working at the time. That was followed by watercolor classes with a variety of teachers in the Twin Cities. An online watercolor sketching class I took at the very beginning of Covid has produced a tight-knit, supportive, and talented group of painters I hang out with on a regular basis. I currently take an online class with a painter in Brittany, France, and classes in the Twin Cities.

## **ART 4 SHELTER**

Artists, please begin creating 5" x 7" paintings for the 2022 Art 4 Shelter fund raiser. This is a great event which provides support for Simpson Housing Services. More information will follow in future newsletters.

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

## CHECK THIS OUT

### Artist Conversation: Only through Community with Dyani White Hawk

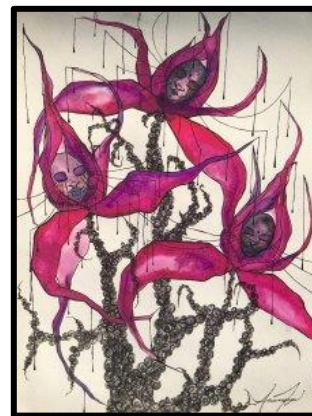
Sunday, December 5 – 1:00 PM - Virtual / On-site Event

Artist Dyani White Hawk will host a discussion on Lakota kinship and creation. White Hawk will reflect on what and who makes her artwork possible and the important relationships and cultural teachings that influence her work.

<https://new.artsimia.org/event/artist-conversation-only-through-community-with-dyani-white-hawk>

### Making Images with “Found Water” - Arianne Zager

*Star Tribune Magazine* recently highlighted artist and apparel designer Arianne Zager’s use of “natural sources of water from around the world to create watercolor gems”. Zager described her first use of “found water” as occurring in a remote area of West Africa when the only source of water to finish a painting was saltwater. She says that her brightly colored watercolors are a “nod to the unique and painful processes we women have, and put ourselves through, to be visually pleasing to everyone”. *Venus Babies* (right) was made with rainwater from the Borobudur Temple, Yogyakarta Indonesia.



[www.ariannezager.com](http://www.ariannezager.com)

[www.zagazaproduction.com](http://www.zagazaproduction.com)

## NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESULTS

We issued a survey to 237 members in October. There were 73 responses, about 30%. Thank you!

Publishing a multiple page newsletter like ours monthly is a big job for 2 editors, plus President Vaughan, the Program Chairs, and the AFJ team who provide the raw material. Health issues and vacations or holidays can make it more challenging sometimes. Consequently, we have had concerns about the future. Does the newsletter provide a meaningful service? How easy will it be to attract new volunteers when needed? Does it make sense to cut back in some way now?

We learned that the newsletter is useful to and appreciated by the members as it's currently published. It provides an important means for members to feel connected with other members and to be engaged with the organization, especially when in-person meetings are not possible.

For now, we will continue with no changes. Thanks for the vote of confidence!



## **NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS**

Dec 16	Online demo by Stephanie Bower
Jan 20	Online demo by Brienne Brown
Feb 17	Online demo by Shari Blaukopf
Feb 18	Deadline for Member Exhibition registration
Feb 25-26	Online workshop with Michael Reardon
Mar 14-Apr 9	Member Exhibition at Wildwood Library
Mar 17	Reception at Wildwood Library
Apr 14	Online demo by Kent Estey

## **MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS**

Dec 9	Online presentation - Watercolor Supplies, by Wet Paint
Jan 13	Online demo by Karen Knutson
Feb 1-7	Spring Juried Exhibition submission period
Feb 10	In-person demo by Suzanne Shaff at Hopkins Center for the Arts and online

## **CONTACT US**

Board of Directors	Deirdre Vaughan	<a href="mailto:NSWSpresidentbod@gmail.com">NSWSpresidentbod@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Laurie Mosher	<a href="mailto:NSWSmembership@gmail.com">NSWSmembership@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Barb Parisien	<a href="mailto:bparisien@msn.com">bparisien@msn.com</a>
	Judy Harvey	<a href="mailto:judyharvey48@usfamily.net">judyharvey48@usfamily.net</a>

<p><b>All are welcome here. We do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin (ancestry), religion, ability, political affiliation or beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age.</b></p>
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