



TO: Members  
FROM: Communications Committee  
Barb Parisien and Judy Harvey, Editors  
DATE: January 1, 2023

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

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Virtual Demo by Heidi Sandeck**  
A link will be sent prior to the meeting

Thursday, January 19, 7:00–9:00



Heidi Sandeck is a visual artist who straddles the field of graphic design and fine art. One constant throughout Heidi's fine art is her love for portraying plant subjects in an engaging and personal way. Botanical art offers, for her, infinite possibilities for capturing the complexity and fleeting beauty of flora. With over 340,000 plant species on our earth, the possibilities to record, educate, and inspire, continually fuels Heidi's art making.

Heidi currently works as an instructor and lecturer within Caldwell University's Graphic Design program. She also teaches Botanical Art workshops at the Morris Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate.

See Heidi's website: [www.heidisandeki.com](http://www.heidisandeki.com)

## GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

**Deirdre Vaughan**



I came across an inspirational quote that seems so appropriate for our community of artists:

"A New Year...a fresh clean start. It's like having a big, white sheet of paper to draw on."

- Bill Watterson

An image of a blank sheet of watercolor paper came to mind immediately, of course, and I felt that anticipatory feeling I always have before placing the first pencil line or brush stroke on a page. Everything and anything is possible at that moment. That sense of excitement and wonder is the doorway to my creative mind. I suspect it may be the same for many of my fellow artists.

We often make resolutions on New Year's to break bad habits or try new things. Are there ways we can do the same for our creative side by reflecting on our artistic practice? I'll begin by asking myself a few questions: Have I learned a new skill? Have I read or studied the work of another artist? Have I tried a new tool? Have I shared my art with others? Have I taken any artistic risks? Have I used my art to benefit others? It's so easy to stay on the same path we've been on. Taking a little detour could actually make us better artists and cause our creative juices to flow more freely. Imagine that blank sheet of watercolor paper and think what it would be like if you tried something brand new. Sounds exciting, doesn't it?

NorthStar Board members have been considering many of these same questions about our organization and how we can best serve our members. We have been gathering information, talking to members, brainstorming, and sifting through ideas to determine the best ways to provide activities and events that are exciting and useful to the NorthStar community.

Through a series of focus group discussions with several engaged members, we realize that variety is a key energizing force. Our members want choices that work for them. Your board has already committed to several changes for 2023, such as changing the timing/venue for the Members' Exhibition and re-visioning Artists' Market. There is a buzz of excitement about occasionally adapting our meeting format to include options based on member interests. It would be easy for NorthStar to stay on the exact same path we've been on, but isn't it exciting to imagine where a detour may lead? What image do you see on that blank page in front of us? What do you see as the future for NorthStar? If you have any ideas or feedback to share, please let me know at [nswspresidentbod@gmail.com](mailto:nswspresidentbod@gmail.com).

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**- Deirdre Vaughan**

## ONLINE WORKSHOP WITH SHARI BLAUKOPF

**February 24-25**

We're doing something new this winter for our online workshop! Shari Blaukopf who did a demo for NorthStar this last year, has agreed to do an online workshop using three of her online courses. The cost for members will be \$84 for the three bundled courses: "Winter Woods and Streams" (her newest course), "Urban Winter", and "Behind the Palms." Something *warm* to think about in the midst of our winter!



We will all work together through Zoom at the same time and will be able to stop and pause periodically as needed.

Shari will drop in at the end of each day to offer critique and answer questions.

Hats off to Shari for working out a new process for us. She does not do online workshops anymore.

Class will be limited to 15 students. Registration details coming soon.

- **Nini Bronson**, Workshop Chair

## MEMBERS EXHIBITION

**May 2-30**

Calling All NorthStar Members!

This year's Members' Exhibition is in a NEW MONTH, so mark your calendars! We are also at a NEW VENUE, the Dow Gallery in St Paul.

The first 75 paintings will be accepted, one painting per member, any water media. Get started painting! More details and the entry form will be coming soon.

### Important Dates:

March 1- 30	Entries accepted online (with jpegs of art)
April 29	Artists deliver artwork to the Dow Gallery
May 1	installation of art
May 2-30	Exhibition at Dow Gallery

May 6                      Reception and Award Ceremony, 1:30 - 3:30  
June 3                      Artists pick up paintings from the Dow Gallery

The Dow Gallery is offering a generous 25% discount on framing, and it applies to any painting, whether it's entered into this show or not. If you would like to take advantage of this optional offer, the Dow requires three weeks minimum notice. The latest date to bring your painting to them would be April 8.

If you have questions, please contact me at [maryannekinane@comcast.net](mailto:maryannekinane@comcast.net).

- **Mary Anne Kinane**, Member Exhibition Co-Chair

### Art's\* Art-Tips

Work methodically and at a steady pace. Sometimes the best paintings don't look like much at first. Be patient and get out of your comfort zone sometimes. You will be surprised with the results!

\* Art Weeks

## MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

### Carol Spohn

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

Technical support in recording demos at the monthly meeting, assisting with email announcements, and monitoring workshops on Zoom.



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

Up close contact with demo artists

#### Why did you decide to serve?

I was asked to help and, since I was recently retired, I chose to get more involved with NorthStar.

#### Tell us a little about yourself in general.

I recently retired from a legal career to be a full-time artist and instructor. I am a lifetime resident of Saint Paul where I live in a 125+ year old home with my husband Cozzie and our 2 cats Mickey and Bailey.

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

My painting journey started in 1989 when I learned to paint in acrylics during my lunch hour at the law office where I worked. If not for the step-by-step process of decorative painting, I would not have been introduced to the world of painting. In

2000 I started painting in transparent watercolor and my teaching career was launched.

Painting is my joy and often my therapy. I love teaching others to paint even more than painting for myself. Most recently I have expanded my art to include abstract work with acrylics, watercolor, and miscellaneous mark-making tools.

I have the pleasure of teaching classes in my home, at St. Paul Community Ed classes, and workshops at various art retreats. Most recently I have been leading retreats to France and Italy for students.

Learn more: [www.carolspohn.com](http://www.carolspohn.com).

## ARTISTS' MARKET

Artists' Market is back! The committee is in the process of updating the online registration form as well as other information for artists and will post to the website as it becomes available. This will be an exciting event for all NorthStar members.

If you haven't participated in the past, this is your chance to share your art. Open to all NorthStar members, beginners to professionals.

### Important Dates:

February 1	Online registration begins
June 2	Set up day
June 3-4	Sale dates

### Location

Minnesota State Fair Fine Arts Building

### Acceptable Artwork

Any two-dimensional, original (no prints\*), hand-made, one-of-a-kind artwork.

\*Printed greeting cards/notecards may be sold. No crafts, please.

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

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month we're featuring Sushila Anderson, a new member, and Calvin deRuyter, a long-time member. If you'd like to share something about yourself and your art practice, please jot down a (very) few words (500-600 characters) and email your contribution to Robin Lackner, our Spotlight curator. Robin will also send out



Spotlight invitations to a few members a month. If you hear from her, we hope you'll consider responding. Thank you!

Learn more: **Robin Lackner**, [rlackner02@gmail.com](mailto:rlackner02@gmail.com)

## **Sushila Anderson**

I'm a Minnesota stained glass artist and business owner. I've been working in glass since 2008. In addition to stained glass, I create watercolor paintings and mosaics. My hobbies include art, music and traveling.

I love meeting other artists, finding inspiration in their artwork, and learning new techniques. Movement and light feature prominently in my current style. I'm working on my newest challenge for 2023: adding a range of color values to create depth in my artwork (watercolor paintings, mosaics, and stained glass).

I look forward to participating in art groups and creating new artwork in 2023.



## **Calvin deRuyter**



Art, like life, should be about embracing change. After working for 25 years in the visual arts, I am currently focused on new beginnings. I have moved from landscapes into non-objective abstracts; from bright, overwhelming colors to the more subtle; and from watercolor into the mixture of new (for me) watermedia.

In mentoring, I want to move away from specific techniques and help others find their own paths, focusing on an understanding of the elements and principles of visual art.

I spend half of the year at my studio in Evansville, MN, and the other half in sunny Arizona.

## **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. This year we

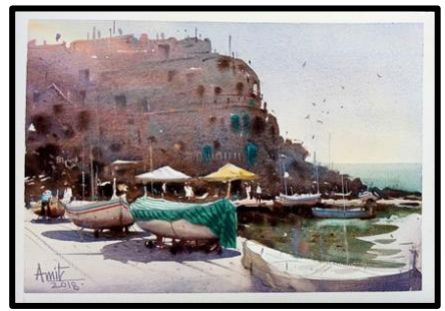
will expand our reach a little with the inclusion of artists from other countries, as with this issue.

## Amit Kapoor

Amit Kapoor is a leading master of the watercolor medium in India. He has been recognized with top international honors for his paintings and his art graces the walls of many private and corporate collectors. Painting with watercolors is one of his greatest delights and has now become an addiction for him too. He finds an ultimate bliss while painting and for him art is just like meditation.

His subjects include compositional works like streets, kitchens, platforms, and metropolitan cities where a lovely play of light and shadow and perspectives are the main traits. He has a passion for painting railway engines and platforms and has beautifully captured the hustle bustle of the platforms and the smoke of the engines in his paintings. He truly believes in the saying that "The Practice of Art isn't to make a living but to make your soul grow".

Kapoor was profiled in the Winter 2023 issue of *Watercolor Artist Magazine*, from which this material was taken. He is the principal of an art school in New Delhi and the president of the Watercolor Society of India. He attended an art event in Thailand some years ago which introduced him to several internationally renowned watercolorists. That, in turn, led to a connection to the International Watercolor Society and inspired him to head up a new branch in India. Much of his time recently is spent traveling, teaching in Europe, Australia, Spain, and Thailand, for example. He says, "I'm just traveling and enjoying my life."



His painting process begins with setting up the scene. He doesn't think of the arrangement before him as a given but as visual material ready to be framed and composed as he would like. He starts with simple pencil sketches that note the main masses and lines of perspectives. With a very critical eye, he determines whether they will make an engaging composition. If it's not working, he doesn't paint it. If he decides to proceed, he'll develop the composition with thumbnails. Only when fully satisfied, does he start painting. He is quoted as saying, "Composition is the most important part of your painting. It's a foundation on which the rest of the painting is built."

Learn more: <https://www.amitkapoorwatercolor.com>

## **CHECK THIS OUT**

### **Argyle Zebra Community Gallery ("AZ"): Call for Art 2023**

A small, women-owned, nonprofit gallery in the heart of the Lowertown Arts District in St. Paul. AZ provides unrestricted access to community exhibition space designed to showcase an artist's best work, free of submission fees, content regulations, themes, size, or material restrictions. All artists, doing whatever it is they do, are encouraged to apply. Exhibitions are juried by a rotating panel of industry professionals and curated in response to the submissions received.

Location: 308 Prince Street, Suite #130, St Paul. 651-224-3757

Learn more: <http://www.theazgallery.org/call-for-art>

### **Rochester Art Center - Nicole Havekost: Matriarchate**

January 11 – April 2, 2023

The Rochester Art Center presents a solo exhibition of monumental sculptures and multimedia installations by Rochester-based artist Nicole Havekost. The fabric sculptures resembling giant, uniquely proportioned women figures - the artist colloquially refers to them as "ladies" - were originally created for her solo exhibition at the Minneapolis Institute of Art in 2020. For *Matriarchate*, Havekost has designed new figures that will be built during the opening reception and completed during the length of the exhibition. This is a unique opportunity for the audience to directly engage with the artistic process of Havekost and have a glance at the invisible labor that is needed to create a large-scale sculpture.

Location: 30 Civic Center Drive SE, Rochester

Learn more: <https://www.rochesterartcenter.org/exhibition/nicole-havekost%3A-matriarchate>.

### **California Building: 2nd Saturdays**

Open Studios: Saturday, January 14, 1100 – 4:00

Open artists' studios and tour. The California Building is one of the first studio buildings in Northeast Minneapolis. The building has a long commitment to the arts, community, and arts sustainability in the area. Building owners, John Kremer and Jennifer Young purchased the property in 1991 and have rented studios to artists ever since. With over 80 artists as tenants, the building is an anchor in the NE Minneapolis Arts District.



Location: 2205 California St. NE, Minneapolis

Learn more: <https://nemaa.org/events/second-saturday-open-studio-2/>

### **Douglas Flanders Art & Associates Fine Art Gallery: Feel the Warmth**

Through January 28

DF&A presents an exhibition featuring vintage figurines from Dayton's 8th Floor Holiday Shows, as well as Quilts by Gee's Bend, Linda Keene and Diane Semanko. Hennepin Theatre Trust holds 34 of the vintage figurines that once graced Dayton's annual Holiday Show events in downtown Minneapolis. The set of 34 figurines, some of which are decades old and have not been on view since the 1980s, need significant repair to return to their full splendor, including animation. This year's display of five near-fully refurbished figurines kicks off a fundraising effort to renovate and repair all 34 figurines. The quilts are cool too.

Location: 5025 France Ave S, Minneapolis. 612-920-3497

Learn More: <https://www.flandersart.com>

### **Katherine E. Nash Gallery - A Tender Spirit, A Vital Form: Arlene Burke-Morgan & Clarence Morgan**

Ticketed Program and Reception (free): Saturday, January 21, 2023

Showing: January 17 - February 18

100 paintings, drawings, sculptures, and related ephemera. Arlene Burke-Morgan (1950-2017) and Clarence Morgan (b. 1950) epitomized the artist-couple: in love with each other and devoted not only to their art but also to their family and faith, and to the wider community of students and artists. Originally from Philadelphia, they moved to Minneapolis in 1992 when Clarence Morgan joined the faculty in the Department of Art at the University of Minnesota. Arlene Burke-Morgan also taught as a lecturer in the Department of Art from 1992 to 1996. Clarence Morgan retired his position as Professor of Art at the end of 2021.

Location: Regis Center for Art, East Building, 405 21st Avenue S, Minneapolis

Learn more: <https://cla.umn.edu/art/galleries-public-programs/katherine-e-nash-gallery>

## **NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS**

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|-----------|--|
| Jan 19    | Virtual meeting with Zoom demo by Heidi Sandecki |
| Feb 16    | Virtual meeting with Zoom demo by Fealing Lin    |
| Feb 24-25 | Online workshop with Shari Blaukopf              |

Mar 1-30	Entries accepted for Member Exhibition
Mar 16	Virtual meeting with Zoom demo by Lisa Fertig
Apr 20	In-person meeting with demo by Robert Jeffery
May 2-30	Member Exhibition at Dow Gallery
May 6	Member Exhibition reception at Dow Gallery
May 11	In-person meeting with art activity

## MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

Jan 12	Zoom demo by Sonja Hutchinson
Feb 9	Zoom demo by Daniel Lloyd
Mar 9	Live/Zoom demo by Deb Zeller
Apr 5-7	Don Andrews workshop, "Landscape Color and Design"

## CONTACT US

Board of Directors	Deirdre Vaughan	<a href="mailto:NSWSpresidentbod@gmail.com">NSWSpresidentbod@gmail.com</a>
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	Judy Harvey	<a href="mailto:judyharvey48@usfamily.net">judyharvey48@usfamily.net</a>
NSWS Website	<a href="http://northstarwatermedia.com">http://northstarwatermedia.com</a>	

**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.**