



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

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

## **NEXT MEETING**

### **IN-PERSON – NEW TIME AND LOCATION**

**St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1807 Field Ave, St Paul  
Thursday, May 18, 10:00-Noon**

#### **Meeting Format**

- Inspiration - Marilyn Jacobson will share her “intuitive painting” process.
- Paint-in - We’ll paint together & socialize with our fellow artists, inspired by Marilyn or our own ideas.
- Painting “ER” - Bring your problem painting to “Doctor” Lucy LeMay and she will diagnose your painting problem or help you to get “unstuck.”
- For those who are participating in Artists Market in June, a member of the Committee will be on-hand to answer questions about the market, including tips on handling sales tax and using Square.

#### **What to Bring**

- Your own art supplies & inspirations: paper, paints, brushes, source photos, etc.
- Optional - A painting you’re having trouble with or would like feedback on
- Optional - A beverage of choice, a treat for yourself or one to share

We’ll have a number of tiny paint pans/palettes on hand, cups for water, paper plates to use as make-shift palettes, napkins & paper towels.

#### **Directions to St. Luke Lutheran Church**

- From the west via 494: take Highway 5 toward the airport and continue toward St. Paul. Cross over the Mississippi River and take the next exit for

Edgumbe Rd - Shepard Rd - River Blvd. Immediately take the left fork to Edgumbe. Cross Field Ave. and turn right into the church parking lot.

- From the west, east, or north via 94: take the Snelling exit. Or, from northern suburbs, take city streets to Snelling. Go south on Snelling to Montreal. Turn right (west) on Montreal. Turn left (south) on Davern. Turn right (west) onto Field Ave. Turn right into the church parking.
- From the south via 35E: take the W 7th exit. Turn left. Turn right on Davern. Turn left on Field Ave. Turn right into the church parking lot.

Enter the Social Hall directly from the parking lot -- through the door with a short stairway or the nearby ramp.

## GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Deirdre Vaughan



I'd like to share with you some of NorthStar's successes during this membership year. We now have 200+ artists who support NorthStar by enrolling as members, attending monthly meetings, and participating in NSWS-sponsored events. Since September, we have offered three in-person artist demos, three virtual artist demos, an in-person workshop, a National Juried Exhibition, an interactive monthly meeting, focus groups, and paint-ins. In May, we will have another interactive meeting at a new place and time

to further meet the needs of our members. Our Members Exhibition will also have a new look since we are holding that show in May at a professional gallery. Artists Market is making a comeback in June at the State Fair Fine Arts Building, and members are looking forward to participating for the first time since 2020.

Another positive change has been to add a live-streaming component to our artist demos, thanks to guidance from David Nara. The NorthStar YouTube channel has over 2,000 subscribers and we are in the process of launching *NorthStar Artist Community* Facebook and Instagram groups for our members. Most of these changes were made primarily in response to feedback and requests from our members. Your Board of Directors will be meeting in May to focus on Long Range Planning for next year and beyond, so I would welcome your comments, questions, and general feedback about NorthStar events. I hope you will join us at our monthly meeting in May, the Members Exhibition reception, and Artists Market in June. We can celebrate the arts together!

- Deirdre Vaughan

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Donna Anderson
- Merry Conway
- Barbara Van Eckhaut
- Richard Mittelstadt
- Chris Rieffer
- Renai Saunders
- Stefanie Schmid
- Natalie Shapiro

## APRIL DEMO BY ROBERT JEFFERY

Robert Jeffery gave us a detailed explanation of his painting process - from his photo to the finished painting. You may view the video of his demo on the NorthStar YouTube channel.

YouTube Link: [https://youtu.be/IDLd6AtZF\\_o](https://youtu.be/IDLd6AtZF_o)

## 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 month we will introduce a museum without walls.

I became aware of the Hmong Museum on a PBS episode of "Craft in America", which was sponsored by the American Craft Council. I was surprised to learn that, in spite of having a collection, the museum has no "bricks and mortar" museum. I reached out to them to learn more.

The Museum's vision of a thriving community with a heightened Hmong consciousness is supported by their mission, to recognize and acknowledge the intersections of all things Hmong. They have already collected a variety of donated materials, including textiles, art pieces, and antique weapons, and are working toward providing a home for the learning, collecting, and preservation of Hmong history, culture, and art. Until such time, the museum partners with organizations that share spaces to tell Hmong stories. Textiles have been lent to Theater Mu and UAlbany Performing Art Center (Albany, New York), for example.

In the Hmong language, there isn't a word for "art". Instead, there are words that poetically describe forms of beauty, such as *paj*, which means flower. *Paj ntaub* (pronounced "pahn-dow"), flower cloth, is the term for textile art. *Paj lug*, flower language, is the term for poetry. One can see these in functional Hmong clothes, woven baskets, house structures, and other items. While the items are functional, it's important also that they are made with creativity and artistic skill. Innovation

combined with the tradition of learning skills from a previous generation is what makes it art.

Minnesota has been a great environment for Hmong arts because of the centralized Hmong community. Young people in the 1990s gathered and incorporated their western upbringing with their Hmong identity. Hmong art at that time included open mics, hip hop, dancing, and authors. Through these types of creative expression, the next generation was able to express themselves and the different worlds they lived in. Art has evolved and expanded throughout the Hmong community since, due in part to the global culture which has developed as a result of the Hmong diaspora. There are still strong connections to Hmong families in Laos, Thailand, China, and Vietnam and one can see a mixture of textiles, clothing, and language that combines elements of all of these in Hmong art in America today.

Today there is renewed interest in going back to traditional crafts and skills, including playing musical instruments like the *qeej* and making *paj ntaub*. Contemporary Western arts such as photography, videography, theater, and film are also important.

Many artists in the Hmong community are still figuring out how to make a living with art, often because it has to be less of a priority because it is so difficult to make a living of any kind. There are not many options available, since one of the ways to learn traditional methods is from person to person, and elders who hold that knowledge are few. There are not many opportunities or spaces to support that learning.

If you're looking for opportunities to experience Hmong art in the Twin Cities, there are many new theatrical works, Theater Mu, for example. The Hmong Museum will be having in-person activities again this summer and they hope to roll out more programming in the future. Refer to the website below for upcoming events or email to [info@hmongmuseumMN.org](mailto:info@hmongmuseumMN.org) to sign up for their mailing list.

You may also visit the Xia Art Gallery on University Avenue in St. Paul to see works by some up-and-coming Hmong and Asian American artists, as well as a gift shop. There are many cultural locations to visit, from the Center for Hmong Studies to the Hmong Culture Center. May is Asian American Month, and Hmong American Day is May 14.

The Hmong Museum has been a nonprofit since 2015, positively impacting their community and the people who participated in their projects, both preserving and healing.

For more information and places to celebrate Hmong American Day and Asian American Month, please check out these sites:

<https://hmongmuseummn.org/>

[geej](#)

[paj ntaub](#)

<https://www.xiaogallerycafe.com/>

[Center for Hmong Arts and Talent](#)

<https://www.csp.edu/center-for-hmong-studies/>

<https://www.hmongcc.org/>

**- Kris Hargreaves**

## MEMBER EXHIBITION AT DOW GALLERY

Juror Suzanne Galloway will present awards. Suzanne graduated from De Paul University, majoring in studio arts and art history. Steven Quiller's color theory has been her primary influence. She is a signature member of Southwestern Watercolor Society, Watercolor West, and the Red River Watercolor Society. Suzanne founded "Flora and Fauna Illustrata," a group of artists who work with the University of Minnesota to scientifically document plants and animals in the area.

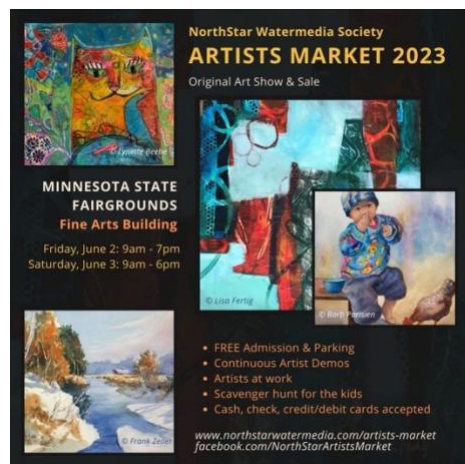
**May 2-30** Exhibition at Dow Gallery, 2242 University Ave #12, St. Paul

**May 13** Reception and Awards Ceremony, 1:00-3:30 Refreshments served.

**- Mary Anne Kinane and Shakun Maheshwari**, Committee Chairs

## ARTISTS MARKET 2023

**Calling all Artists! Registration Deadline Extended to May 8**



All NorthStar members are welcome. If you have not yet registered, please consider joining us. Show and sell your artwork, enjoy the camaraderie of other artists, and have fun!

- Set up - Thursday, June 1, 1:00-6:30 pm
- Sale - Friday, June 2, 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
- Sale - Saturday, June 3, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Please help publicize the sale by sharing to your Facebook and Instagram accounts. A JPEG and other

information for publicity, as well as a list of FAQs, can be found at <http://northstarwatermedia.com/artists-market/>

Register online:

<https://northstarwatermedia.wufoo.com/forms/zl0mcmY0cw527e/>

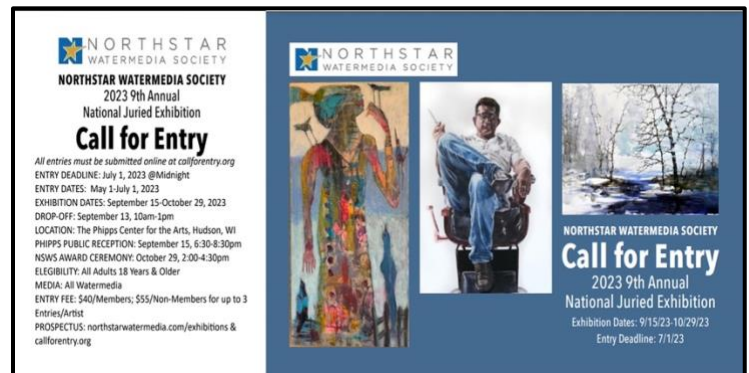
If you would like to volunteer at the sale, or have other questions, please contact me.

- **Sue Olson**, Artists Market Chair

## NATIONAL JURIED EXHIBITION

Entries for the National Juried Exhibition are now open. The final day to enter is July 1 @midnight.

This year's exhibition promises to be an especially great one at the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, WI. A renowned center for the visual and performing arts, The Phipps represents a wonderful opportunity to showcase your art to a wide variety of visitors!



The juror will be well-known artist and art instructor Dan Mackerman. As in the past, there will be minimum of \$3,000 in cash awards and an additional \$3,000 in non-cash awards!

The show itself runs from September 15 through October 29, 2023. The Phipps will host a public opening reception on September 15, 6:30-8:30 pm. NorthStar will feature the Awards Ceremony on October 29, 2:00-4:30 pm.

For those members who may be interested in a one-time or recurring \$400 National Exhibition named award donation, published under your name, group name, in memoriam, or anonymous, please contact:

[nswspresidentbod@gmail.com](mailto:nswspresidentbod@gmail.com).

Learn more: [https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals\\_unique\\_info.php?ID=11464](https://artist.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=11464)

Members who have Facebook and/or Instagram accounts, please help us spread the word and encourage friends to enter by using the jpeg image of the Call for Entry postcard (above).

- **Leny Wendel**, Committee Member

## A SIMPLE APPROACH TO TRAVEL SKETCHING

Is the thought of painting when you travel overwhelming? Here is an easy way to do this with minimal materials and preparation time.

Journaling your travels with pencil and watercolor is a richly rewarding experience for us visual people. You will discover details and nuances that would otherwise be missed. I experience travel sketching as if time slows down. My senses become greatly focused and heightened. Interacting personally with the landscapes and subjects allows me to experience travel in a new and refreshing way.

If you are with a non-painting tour group, you can easily sketch without slowing the group down. The approach is "sketch now; paint later."

Traveling light is the key. Forget about the plein air easel, multiple tubes of paint, and a buffet of brushes. Too much extra stuff can make the experience a burden. Instead, keep it very simple and it becomes a delight.



Here's what you will need in the field:

- Watercolor sketch pad - approximately 5" x 8"
- Pencil
- Phone camera

Back at the hotel:

- Small watercolor travel palette with paint
- Two or three round brushes (#12, #4, #2, etc.)
- Water (use a cup in hotel room)
- Paper towels (or use Kleenex or TP from hotel room)

I quickly sketch the basic shapes of each scene directly on the watercolor paper in my sketch pad, with only minimal detail, while touring the sites during the day.

Take a photo or two for detail reference later. Jot down the location, time of day, and an interesting fact or two. Then move on. You've captured what you need.

Back in your hotel room that evening, choose one or several sketches to quickly paint while the experience is still fresh. Paint in the shapes, paying attention to values, color, and light and shadow. Use a hair dryer in the hotel room to speed up the process. These watercolor sketches go quickly and will provide you with a happy reminder of your day's travels.

When you return to your home studio, you will have an opportunity to work some of these sketches into finished paintings that are born directly out of your first-hand experience on location.

Pictured above are my materials, and a page from my travel sketchbook. Any questions? Send me a message. I'm glad to help.

- **Paul Oman** [www.paulomanfineart.com](http://www.paulomanfineart.com)

## MAY PLEIN AIR SCHEDULE

Plein Air outings are sponsored by NorthStar Watermedia Society and are open to ALL painters. Non-members are warmly welcomed. Lunch arrangements are up to the individuals. We gather between 9:00-10:00am, but you can join us at any time during the morning.

If you have questions, please call one of these contacts: Ann Sisel, 612-275-0774 or Leona Olson 612-859-7075. The committee members won't be at every location, but we will be there as much as possible.

The complete summer schedule can be found on the NSWS website under Group Paint Events.



**Langton Lake**



**Cathedral Hill**



**Silverwood Park**

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 10 | Langton Lake Park. 1894 County Rd C2 W, Roseville                                     |
| May 17 | Cathedral Hill Park. 215 Summit Ave, St. Paul - parking lot by Cathedral              |
| May 24 | Summit Avenue Victorian homes. Pick one:<br>312 Summit Avenue - oldest remaining home |

240 Summit Avenue - JJ Hill 1891  
599 Summit Avenue - F. Scott Fitzgerald House

May 31 Silverwood Park. 2500 Co Rd. E, St. Anthony



312 Summit



240 Summit



599 Summit

- **Ann Sisel** and **Leona Olson**, Plein Air Coordinators

## ART'S ART-TIPS

One of the hardest structural elements to deal with in a painting is foreground. Overly detailed foregrounds can detract from your focus and subject matter, unless the foreground IS your subject matter, and hence the painting.

- **Art Weeks**

## WORKSHOP WITH PAUL OMAN

**October 13-14**

**Save the date.** Registration form will be on the NSWS website soon.

Learn to see and paint the landscapes of Minnesota in this two-day watercolor workshop with Paul Oman, a signature member of the National Watercolor Society and a live audience large-scale performance painter. Landscapes are Paul's first love, especially the landscapes of the Upper Midwest with their many moods and possibilities. He says, "Painting landscapes can be challenging in that they can feel empty, lacking interest, or lacking a strong focal point. What looked good in a photo is often lacking in a painting. How do we deal with this? We will explore this challenge through demonstrations and practice. I will show you ways to overcome these issues."

### **You will learn approaches to:**

- Understanding edges
- Simplifying shapes
- Seeing relationships of lines and shapes
- Designing and rearranging your reference to command viewer interest
- Creating drama

- Amplifying mood
- Understanding values and their application
- Manipulating value patterns beyond what you see/your reference material shows
- Painting light and shadow
- Using color for emotional expression
- Gaining confidence to rapidly expand your ability within your own style

Paul's easy way of presenting and demonstrating will allow you to further explore your current level of familiarity in painting and take next steps to challenge and grow your vision - to see new possibilities.

**Bring reference photos** of your own to the workshop. Take photos on your phone or iPad of landscapes that grab your interest.

- **Nini Bronson**, Workshop Committee Chair

## CHECK THIS OUT

### Veronique Wantz Gallery: Undercurrent|Wendy Westlake

Through June 24

Wendy Westlake's new body of work in UNDERCURRENT investigates the underlying spatial relationships and surface tensions between shapes and colors. Several titles and themes of these new paintings are loosely based on and inspired by a 1909 edition of Lyndon Orr's book of short stories, "The Romance of Devotion: Famous Affinities of History," which Wendy stumbled upon at a vintage bookstore.

Location: 901 North Fifth Street, Minneapolis. 612-254-2838

Learn more: <https://www.veroniquewantz.com/wendy-westlake-undercurrent>

### Mosaic on a Stick

Mosaic on a Stick is a Black-, Indigenous-, and woman-owned business. We work to put accessibility to art and creative expression at the center of our values. Mosaic on a Stick is a community art space created to promote mosaic art by selling quality supplies, teaching mosaic classes, and creating public, private, and commercial commissions. We are a studio that strives to be socially responsible in our work, invested in the community, and passionate about mosaics and the people who create them.

Location: 1564 Lafond Ave, St Paul. 651-645-6600

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

## **Maple Grove Arts Center: Green Show/NHCC**

Through Friday, May 19

Think green! Think net zero emissions and a green planet. What art does this concept drive you to create? Or go the other route and just bring us something in a predominately green color!

The Maple Grove Arts Center (MGAC) has two fine arts gallery areas, space for creating art and arts education. Art classes include offerings for emerging, novice and established artists. The center features 6-8 theme based curated art shows per year, each with opening night events.

Location: 11666 Fountains Drive, Maple Grove. 763-370-3003

Learn more: <https://www.maplegroveartscenter.org/2023-show-schedule/green>

## **Mia: Pride at Mia**

Celebrate the exceptional historical and creative cultural contributions made by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community with art, stories, virtual events, and more, curated by Mia's 2SLGBTQIA+ Staff Work Group. We acknowledge that Pride is a celebration of the decades-long fight—often led by trans women of color—that got us to where we are today. A self-guided tour seeks to highlight 2SLGBTQIA+ artists and themes through a small selection of artworks spanning centuries and social epochs.

Location: 2400 3rd Avenue South, Minneapolis

Learn more: <https://new.artsmia.org/pride-at-mia/>

## **NORTHSTAR WATERMEDIA SOCIETY COMING EVENTS**

May 2-30	Member Exhibition at Dow Gallery
May 6	Member Exhibition reception at Dow Gallery 1:00-3:30
May 11	In-person meeting with art activities 10:00-noon
June 1	Set Up for Artists Market 1:00-6:30 pm
June 2	Artists Market 9:00-7:00
June 3	Artists Market 9:00-6:00

## **MINNESOTA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY COMING EVENTS**

Thru May 20	Member Exhibition at Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
May 11	Plein Air demo by Dan Mondloch at Parley Lake Vineyard

## 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>
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.**

**Copyright © 2016-2023 NorthStar Watermedia Society. All Rights Reserved.**