

COLLAGE

June 2011



ART... ART WHO?

BY PAUL J. FOSTER, VP OF PROGRAMS

For our June program, the last of our programs prior to our summer break, we are going to try something quite different, maybe even a bit risky. We've had programs on the business of art, techniques and demonstrations of and on watercolor painting, critiques, and a number of really interesting speakers. But we have never talked about the essence of that which we pursue. We have never talked about ART. Just exactly what is art and when is it not art. A tough subject, to be sure, as everyone has his or her own definition. But, not everything is art. To get us started, here are a few definitions:

From Wikipedia - *Art is the product or process of deliberately arranging items (often with symbolic significance) in a way that influences and affects one or more of the senses, emotions, and intellect. It encompasses a diverse range of human activities, creations, and modes of expression, including music, literature, film, photography, sculpture, and paintings.*

Britannica Online defines art as "*the use of skill and imagination in the creation of aesthetic objects, environments, or experiences that can be shared with others.*"

And Leo Tolstoy wrote in an extensive essay originally published 1896, "*There is one indubitable indication distinguishing real art from its counterfeit, namely, the infectiousness of art. If a man, without exercising effort and without altering his standpoint on reading, hearing, or seeing another man's work, experiences a mental condition which unites him with that man and with other people who also partake of that work of art, then the object evoking that condition is a work of art. And however poetical, realistic, effectful, or interesting a work may be, it is not a work of art if it does*

not evoke that feeling (quite distinct from all other feelings) of joy and of spiritual union with another (the author) and with others (those who are also infected by it).

These are but a few, a very few, of the definitions of art one can quickly find on the Internet.

For the June program, we intend to use a small panel format to help us explore this challenging topic. To lead us and to facilitate the conversation will be Connie Stewart a UNC Visual Arts Associate Professor and the Executive Director of The Center for Integrated Arts Education. Sitting with Dr. Stewart on the panel will be Leon Loughridge and our own CWS Signature Member Rita Derjue. After opening comments by Dr. Stewart, each of our panel members will discuss their own work and provide us with some understanding of their own search for meaning and art in their work. The panel will then engage in a conversation eventually leading to a conversation to include and involve our membership.

By way of an introduction:

Dr. Stewart teaches Art History and Art Education classes and supervises a practicum in the public schools. Her current research explores questions and questioning in the arts instruction and in arts and literacy teaching practice. She is active within the state of Colorado in programs that support Arts Advocacy and continued arts curriculum development, especially supporting contemporary arts practices as part of the public school curriculum.

In 2002 Colorado Art Education Association chose Dr. Stewart as Higher Education Educator of the Year, and in 2006 she received the University of Northern Colorado Academic Excellence Award for Teaching Excellence in Undergraduate Education. In 2010 she was awarded the Higher Education Award winner for Pacific Region by the National Art Education Association.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Colorado Watercolor Society is an organization dedicated to uphold the highest standards and principles of art and to promote, encourage, educate and foster an interest in fine art in all media, especially watermedia.

The Colorado Watercolor Society meets at the First Plymouth Congregational Church, 3501 South Colorado Blvd. in Englewood, (southwest corner of Hampden Avenue and Colorado Blvd.) in the Plymouth Hall. The Collage newsletter is published monthly (except July and December) to all CWS members.

TO SEND ARTICLES AND IDEAS OR TO SUBMIT ADS

CONTACT:
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DATES FOR CWS MEETINGS, SHOWS & EVENTS



CWS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

- North Critique Group: 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 12th at Standley Lake Library (Chairperson: Lillian Montoya)
- CWS Board Meeting: Thursday, June 16th, 9:00 a.m.
- General Meeting: Tuesday, June 21st, 7:00 p.m.
- South Critique Group: 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 27th at Koelbel Library (Chairperson: Suzanne Bartlett)
- Friday, July 29th: Submission deadline for the August *Collage* and for website updates

UPCOMING CWS EXHIBITS

CWS 2011 New Trends Exhibition

CoArt Gallery on Santa Fe - Denver, CO
Exhibit Dates: September 12 - 25, 2011

Juror: Laura Mehmert

Co-Chairs: Vicki Tucker, Maggie Giza, and Teresa Tracy

- Friday, June 17, 2011: Entry Deadline
- Friday, July 8, 2011: Notifications Mailed
- Monday, September 12: Hand Delivery of Paintings
- Friday, September 16, 2011: Opening Reception (5-8pm)
- Sunday, September 25, 2011: Artists Pickup Artwork

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMS

June: Let's Talk Art

July: No General Meeting - Happy Summer!

August: No General Meeting!

September: Ice Cream Social

UPCOMING CWS WORKSHOPS

Birgit O'Conner

June 6 - 8, 2011 (The Sanctuary in Denver;
\$300 members / \$350 non-members)

Frank Francese

June 21 - 23, 2011 (Mile High Framing in Denver;
\$275 members / \$325 non-members)

Kath MacCaulay - Pocket Sketching

July 21 - 23, 2011 (Wildlife Experience in
Englewood; \$150 members / \$200 non-
members)

David Drummond

September 9 - 11, 2011 (\$300 members / \$350
non-members)

Peggy Stenmark

October 12 - 14, 2011 (\$150 members / \$200
non-members)

View, Download and Print the Collage Online!

Starting with the June, 2011 issue of the *Collage*, we will mail the Collage to only those members *without* an email address on file. All other members will continue to receive an email notice when the Collage is published and enjoy it in full color on our website!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Sydney Eitel, President Colorado Watercolor Society



just paint things the color they are most of the time.

I guess I use my painter's license. Do you know you own a painter's license just because you are an artist? This license allows you to paint things the way you see them. Maybe with texture when there is none or orange instead of blue. Maybe you want to paint the subject in flowers instead of in a field or rain forest. Maybe you get your abstract painting finished and you like it better upside down. Use your artistic license to make your painting to be what you want it to be. Use your creative intuition and allow yourself to break some of the rules. I think you will like your end result.

When I accepted the idea of being President of CWS, I was not a Signature Member. I set a goal to get my Signature Membership within that year because I knew that it might concern some members if I was President and not a Signature Member. Can you believe that in one year I was accepted into 3 different CWS exhibits and received my Signature Membership as I was coming into the Presidential office? I encourage you to set artistic goals. It is the only way that your dreams will be met. Getting accepted into WFWS this year was a goal I set last year and really worked toward. I know that being selected is always so subjective and random, but this year I was accepted. WOW was I

so excited. So, I encourage you to set some reachable goals and go for it. It will help get you focused.

I finally understand what galleries are looking for when they ask for a cohesive set of work. It simply means there is a common thread running through the work. When Susan, co-owner of Shackman Glass asked me if I could come up with a cohesive body of work to hang on the north wall in June, I accepted the challenge. Thus 15 paintings of a variety of birds done in acrylic with textural aspects became my common thread. Some of the birds are common birds and some are exotic birds, but all were painted in acrylic with some texture and framed in wide white mats and same molding. No two paintings are the same, but they all work together as a cohesive body of work. I could have done 15 abstracts with a little red in each and accomplished the same thing. Feathered Friends is hanging all month at Shackman Glass (3918 Tennyson St) if you want to see what I am talking about.

I encourage you to get behind Chuck and support him as kindly as you have me. He will be a strong leader and he has many good ideas for CWS. Get to know him and share your ideas with him. I will still be on the board and you can still come to me with your thoughts as well. I will be happy to pass them on for you.

I guess my final advice to you as your President is to just paint and paint and paint. The only way to learn to paint is to paint. So while I am signing off as your President, I will be painting and I hope you will be painting too. Maybe we could even paint together. Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy all the color!

From my palette to yours I wish you happy painting!



Sydney Eitel, *Arachnophobia*.

Here I am at the end of two years serving as your President. It seems as though it was just yesterday that I began. It has been a good two years and very much an honor. CWS really is a great organization for artists with many wonderful members and opportunities. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you.

I was encouraged to share my spider art with this article. I am fascinated with black widow spiders. Don't get me wrong, I don't like them living in my space, but they do fascinate me with their shiny black bodys and multiple legs. I started painting them a few years ago occasionally and the weirdest thing happened. They always sell! Usually, I put them in fun, funky backgrounds and try not to mix around their 8 legs.

Flamingos have always enticed me with their long curved beaks and slender legs. A few years ago, I set up an all flamingo exhibit and called it Introducing Pink. Who would have known that Denver has at least 2 flamingo societies? I love painting their curves and feathers and eyes and legs and I love painting flamingos. I used to collect flamingos and I must admit I still have a few. One is a 6 foot strutting bronze that I sculpted.

I am discovering that I not only love watercolor, but acrylic is fun too. Creating texture is so delightful with acrylic mediums. I just created a whole series of birds in acrylic with textural aspects to hang in a gallery the month of June. However, I don't always paint them in the colors they were created to be. I painted a few red breasted black birds, but one was purple with a green head and one was red and one was purply brown. Some are sitting in tall grass and some are sitting in a bed of red flowers. I don't seem to be able to

ART WHO?...

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Dr. Stewart's own art making uses found materials to examine issues of feminine identity, family interaction and cultural structures.

Leon Loughridge was raised in the open ranch land of Northern New Mexico, developed an affinity for the Southwestern landscape and was greatly influenced by his grandmother's involvement in Northern New Mexico art circles. Later study at the Colorado Institute of Art along with private study reinforced his abilities. In 1998, Leon purchased his first letterpress and received immediate success with woodblock prints.

Leon has continued to develop his printmaking skills and currently owns a publishing company, producing his Reduction Style Woodblocks as well as limited edition books. His woodblocks are exhibited nationally and collected by numerous museums.

Those of you who were a part of our January tour of the Denver Art Museum may have noticed a watercolor painting along with a woodblock print and some of his books in the Western Horizons Show. His web site is www.dcartpress.com.

Rita Derjue, Signature Member of the Colorado Watercolor Society, is an important proponent of the Modernist movement in Colorado. She has a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MA from Cornell University. Rita moves easily between abstract and representational work. Early abstracts inspired by German Expressionism, landscapes of her beloved Colorado, and architectural studies from her many travels are but examples of her vast body of work. She is an accomplished painter, her works are shown in 5 museum collections and she has appeared in more than 100 group shows and 50 solo exhibitions. She has won numerous awards and has been published in several books; and numerous magazine articles. The Littleton Museum showed 100 paintings in a solo show in 2005. In 2006, Rita had another solo show in "Die Burg", in Burghausen Germany, and she was a featured artist in the 2008 show at Loveland Museum Gallery.

I believe that this program will certainly challenge us to think about the big picture, ART in general and how are own work measures up and what we might do to become better artists. To prepare our minds for this meeting one of our CWS members, Elaine Appel, suggested we each write down our own definition of ART and bring them to the meeting. Please be as concise and brief as you can. Elaine will collect them at the reception table, and, at the close of our meeting, she will read a select few out loud.

This should be fun, interesting and a great way to start our summer holiday. I hope to see many of you in June.

WFWS36 FINAL RESULTS

BY GENE YOUNGMANN, CWS-WFWS36 DELEGATE

At the Opening Reception of WFWS36 on May 6, 2011 at the EXPO New Mexico Fine Arts Building in Albuquerque, the Awards were presented to the 125 artists whose artwork was selected from the 1066 submitted. CWS artists Susan Montague Spear received the Eleanor Bailey Memorial Award for her painting "She Knows", and Nancy Priest received Honorable Mention for her painting "Nevermore". Three CWS members were acknowledged for qualifying for Signature Membership in WFWS with their acceptance in WFWS36; they are Pamela Hake, Susan Montague Spear and Anita Winter. Juror Dale Laitinen was in attendance to present the Awards.

At the WFWS delegate meeting, Kathy Christensen, delegate from the Nevada Watercolor Society, presented the information for WFWS37 in Las Vegas in April 2012. The Juror will be Gerald Brommer and the exhibit will be at the Marjorie Barrack Museum on the campus of UNLV, April 13 – May 19, 2012. The Hyatt Plaza will be the hotel for the accepted artists and delegate meeting. Deadline to have your paintings and entry information to your local delegate is Friday, November 4, 2011. Look for the WFWS37 prospectus in the August Collage or visit the Western Fed web site at www.wfws.org for more information.



WFWS36 award winners including Susan Montague Spear and Nancy Priest (left) with Juror Dale Laitinen.

ARTIST CLASSES & CALLS

Calls, Opps & Classes

- The **Roxborough Arts Council** of Littleton, Colorado is presenting the first "Celebrate Colorado Artists!" annual juried exhibition to be held in the Bemis Library during August of 2011. Entry is open to all Colorado Artists and will be juried by Gene Youngmann. The entry deadline for this show is July 1, 2011. The prospectus can be printed from RAC's website: www.roxartscouncil.org.
- **Art of the Rockies Association** (ARA) in Salida, Colorado is hosting their 21st open awards show July 12th-17th. Registration forms will be available in June. Contact Sydney Eitel at sydneyeitel@hotmail.com if you are interested. This is a fun local show.
- The **Miami Watercolor Society** is proud to announce their First Annual On-Line Watercolor Show. This is a wonderful opportunity to show your work.. Deadline to enter is August 1, 2011. For details and prices, please see our prospectus on our website www.miamiwatercolorsociety.org. Winners and acceptances will be announced by August 26. Juror is Sue Archer.
- The **National Watercolor Society's 91st Annual Exhibition** to be held at the NWS National Gallery in San Pedro, CA, October 22- December 3, 2011. Entry deadline: July 9, 2011. Approximately \$25,000 in awards. Jury of selection is Ted Nutall, Mary Ann Beck and Judy Morris. Juror of Awards is Harold Gregor. Get the prospectus at: www.nationalwatercolorsociety.org.

MEMBER KUDOS

- **Jean Batchelder's** painting of a red fox, "Rist Canyon Regular", was selected to be included in the Richard Schmid Fine Art LIVE Auction to be held Sunday September 4th at the Rist Canyon Fire Station west of Fort Collins. "High Country" was accepted for the Silent Auction.
- HGTV has purchased eleven paintings of **Susan Helbig** which are now on view in the eco-friendly HGTV Green Home 2011, located in the Stapleton neighborhood in Denver. Public tours of the home continue through July 3, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays.
- **Marcio Correa** has a painting selected for the Pikes Peak International Watermedia Exhibit in Colorado Springs from June 25 to July 23, and another for the Red River Watercolor Society National Exhibit in Moorhead, MN, from June 18 to September 19.
- **Chuck Danford** had three paintings juried into the 2011 Colorado Visions Art Exhibit in Westminster. His painting "TreeTops" won the North Metro Arts Alliance Award. Chuck has also been accepted into the Pikes Peak Watercolor Society International Watermedia XVII.
- **Marcia Brill** is showing her "vehicle" paintings at the Comfort Cafe (3945 Tennyson Street), July 1 - 31. Reception is First Friday, July 1st from 6:00 to 10:00p.m.
- **Valli Thayer McDougle** is hosting an Open Studio Tour on Saturday, July 23rd from 3-8pm at her studio (8057 E. 24th Drive in Denver). Valli's work will be displayed throughout with work also in the garden. For more information or to get tickets visit www.ValliMcDougle.com. Donations will support the Art Box, a non-profit which give kids art materials.

THE BOARD IN BRIEF

By Camille Scott,
Corresponding Secretary



- Chuck Danford called the meeting to order. Minutes from April were read and approved.
- An official CWS Brochure is in the works; this new brochure will be a great community outreach piece with information about how to join our organization.
- The slate of officers was voted on through a mail-in ballot and a show of hands of the members present on May 17th. They will be sworn in at the June meeting.
- Terrey Harrod reminded us about the Birgit O'Connor Workshop scheduled for June 6-8, 2011. If you are interested in attending contact Terrey at 303-981-6004.
- Terrey reported on upcoming workshops: artists can still sign up for the Frank Francese workshop scheduled for June 21-23; Kath McCauley at The Wildlife Experience for July 21-23, David Drummond scheduled for September 9-11, Peggy Stenmark for Oct 12-14
- Reports were given by Arleen Brogan-Smith, Treasurer; Kathy Fraugnaugh, Membership; Paul Foster, Programs; Mary Jo Ramsdale, Exhibitions; and David Castle, *Collage* Editor.
- Reminder: Membership Dues are due now-- these can be paid online for your convenience or use the form that was included in the recent *Collage*.
- The program for next month is a panel discussion; Art? Art Who? We also will be introduced to our new signature members, new board members and honorees. A meeting you won't want to miss!!
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.



COLORADO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

P.O. Box 100003
Denver, CO 80250-0003

Submission deadline for the
August COLLAGE is
Friday, July 29, 2011

Your Ad Could Appear Here!

All ads are black and white.
Artwork must be camera-ready in a PDF or JPEG format.
Photos must be 300 dpi.

Ad Size	Dimensions (W x H)	Non-member Cost	CWS Member Cost
1/2 page vertical	3 5/8" x 10"	\$75	\$67.50
1/2 page horizontal	7 1/2" x 4 3/4"	\$75	\$67.50
1/4 page vertical	3 5/8" x 5"	\$60	\$54
1/4 page horizontal	5" x 3 5/8"	\$60	\$54
1/8 page	2 1/2" x 1 7/8"	\$25	\$22.50

