

# COLLAGE

May 2017



COLORADO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY



## Tips on Getting Into Shows

By Diane Fechenbach

You have created your masterpiece and submitted it into a show. The painting was not accepted, and now you wonder what you could do to up the odds of getting your work in next time. First, many paintings, regardless of how lovely they may be, are rejected at the beginning of the process – before the juror even sees them – because the artist did not prepare their entry properly. The first step in getting accepted into a show is to be sure your painting is not held up by a technical problem. Let's talk about ways to keep this from happening.

First tip: READ THE PROSPECTUS. Carefully. Follow the instructions. The show chair does not have time to check your information and/or contact you for missing information. This is true whether or not you submit a paper entry. Also bear in mind that the organization considers your entry a binding agreement. There is usually language that by sending your entry you agree to all of the terms and requirements, including size, pricing, subject matter.

Second tip: Label your file correctly (specified in the prospectus), and be sure it is properly sized height by width pixels and the correct dpi. In most shows if your file is not usable when it is received it will be set aside and never submitted to the juror. Show organizers are not your Mom. They have neither the time nor the inclination to stop and fix your file for you. In the recent CWS State Show, the show Chair, Carol Newsom, spent untold hours trying to assist artists with incorrect entries. Future Show chairs will not be able to do this for you – because of time and policy constraints. If you have problems or questions about preparing your entry, online submission services have tutorials, or call a friend to help.

Third tip: Check the prospectus for factors that disqualify the painting before it even arrives. These include "age" cutoff dates: eligible paintings must have been created AFTER a specific date, and restrictions on where the painting has previously shown (for example, not in the organization's other shows or, sometimes, not in certain shows in the area or in national shows). Also included in this list are paintings that are too large or too small, or a banned subject (like

nudes or politics). The show will automatically reject paintings that do not qualify because they cannot be hung at the gallery .

To summarize, don't risk rejection for technical problems. Be just as careful making your entry as you were making the painting.

Now we get to your beautiful painting. Artists often try to second guess what the juror wants to see, and then send something that fits the bill. Often this results in a nice, serviceable painting. "Nice" paintings are at a disadvantage when competing against great pieces for a slot in the show. Good jurors are looking for how you express YOUR artistic voice. Most jurors are not interested in seeing copies of their own work. Which brings us to the fourth tip: Always send your best work. The enthusiasm and love you put into your work will elevate it above ordinary pieces.

Always, always send the best image possible. Dozens of paintings are rejected because the photo is too dark, too light, out of focus, or strangely colored. If the juror cannot tell what the painting looks like, they will just move on to the next painting. Some of the images sent to the recent CWS State Show were so poor they could not be printed in show materials without intervention. Fifth tip: Send your painting's image to a friend and see what it looks like on their computer. Better still, send it to two or three computers and see the results. Is this what you want the juror to see?

Finally, remember that sometimes amazing paintings are not selected for a show. There was nothing wrong with the painting or the entry. Maybe there were already four sunflowers in the show and they did not need another. When one of my pieces is not selected my theory is that the juror fell on their head that morning and was struck blind.

If you have a piece that has not been selected at numerous shows (and the entry was perfect) take the painting to a critique group (CWS has two every month) and get feedback. Then head back to your studio, whip out your brushes, and give it another go. Good luck!

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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 watercolor.

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 January) to all CWS members.

### TO SEND ARTICLES AND IDEAS OR TO SUBMIT ADS CONTACT:

Brian Serff, Editor  
editor@coloradowatercolorssociety.org  
303-913-2406

# CWS Meetings, Shows, Events and Entries

## CWS Regular Monthly Meetings

- **South Critique Group:** is meeting at 9 am on the 4th Friday of each month at the Depot Art Gallery. The Depot Art Gallery is located at 2069 West Powers Avenue in Littleton, behind the Buck Recreation Center. Please contact Monique Moore at moore.monique@gmail.com if you would like an e-mail reminder before each meeting.
- **North Critique Group:** meets the last Friday of the month. At the Aar River Gallery, 3707 W. 73rd Ave., Westminster, 80030. Contact Becky Silver at 303-426-4114.
- **CWS Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be on May 16, 2017, 5:00 pm.
- **CWS General Meeting:** The next general meeting will be on May 16, 2017, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.
- **The next Collage** will be in June-submission to Brian Serff by Tuesday, May 23 to be in the June Collage.

## Upcoming General Meeting Programs

**May:** Critique with Larry Haught and Lorainne Watry.

### Critique Guidelines

Bringing paintings for critiques is strictly voluntary and not a requirement for membership or participation. Paintings do not have to be finished, they can be in progress, those paintings, which have caused stress or struggles are good candidates for critique, to hear suggestions for resolution and ways to successfully finish them. Paintings should NOT be framed or under glass. Paintings should NOT be in a plastic sleeve because of the glare. Please remove the sleeve if used for transportation. Paintings should be attached to a board to give them support, with either clips, tape or stapled to the surface. Large paintings are easier to see in a large group but that does not exclude smaller paintings, they are always welcome. Mats are optional, if a mat is used it should be white or off white. The comments of the person(s) critiquing your artwork should be taken as a suggestion and are no way meant to judge the value of your artwork. Sometimes the comments and suggestions will need to be applied to your next painting experience and not to the painting being critiqued. Critiques are a useful tool and help us grow as artists.

## Upcoming CWS Workshops

**May 16.17.18, 2017**

**Jeanne Hyland**

**Location:** TBD

**Time:** 9:00am to 4:00pm daily

**Cost:** \$300 for members, \$350 for non-members

**September 11.12.13.14 2017**

**Tom Lynch**

A return from a dramatic teacher!

**Location:** Avon/Beaver Creek Art Center

**Time:** 9:30am to 4:30pm

**Cost:** \$325 for members, \$375 for non-members

## Workshop opportunities:

**June 22 to 24, 2017**

**Soon Y. Warren, AWS, NWS**

Watermedia 3-day Workshop, <http://soonwarren.com>

Cottonwood Center for the Arts

**Info. Contact:** Claudia Jones

**Email:** [candjjones@q.com](mailto:candjjones@q.com)

**Phone:** 720-771-4448

**Workshop Info:** <http://www.pikespeakwatercolorsociety.org/images/watermedia2017/Workshop%20brochure.pdf>

**June 2.3 2017**

**Michelle Chrisman**, a Taos, NM contemporary colorist, 2 day energetic and personal instructive workshop. Demos in oil, instructs all mediums. [www.MichelleChrisman.com](http://www.MichelleChrisman.com)

**Location:** Lincoln Gallery, Loveland, Colorado

**Cost:** \$200.00, 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM, lunch provided

**Contact:** Deborah Jansen, [djansen39@aol.com](mailto:djansen39@aol.com), [www.LincolnGallery.com](http://www.LincolnGallery.com)

## Call For Entries

**Deadline:** May 12, 2017

**3rd Annual Littleton Plein Air Festival**

(May 31-June 2, 2017)

With over \$1,000 in prizes and awards, the 3rd Annual Littleton Plein Air Festival promises to be a great event for artists and art lovers. This year's Festival will include happy hours, artist's dinner, a nocturne paint out and Quick Draw competition. Our juror- Don Sahli, an internationally recognized painter- will give a demo on June 1 and present awards at the evening reception on June 2.

Registration and complete schedule for this event are available through the Depot's Art Gallery website ([www.depotart-gallery.org](http://www.depotart-gallery.org)) Space is limited, so don't wait to sign up.

**Deadline:** May 19, 2017

**97th NWS Int'l Exhibition**

(Oct.21-Dec 17, 2017)

Online entries only. Open April 1 - May 19, 2017

**Prospectus:** [www.nationalwatercolorsociety.org](http://www.nationalwatercolorsociety.org)

**Deadline July 3, 2017**

**Arvada Center Call for Entries, Art & Conflict**

Exhibition Dates September 14 - November 12, 2017

More Information and to Apply visit

<https://arvadacenter.slideroom.com>

**Deadline August 1, 2017**

**23rd Annual Gateway to the Rockies Art Show**

Aurora History Museum, September 22 - November 11, 2017

Prospectus available June 1, 2017

[auroraartistsguild.com](http://auroraartistsguild.com) [auroragov.org/arts](http://auroragov.org/arts)

Entry through [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org)

# The Board in Brief

By Sharon Wink, Corresponding Secretary

**April 18, 2017**

Outgoing Board members will advertise their areas of responsibility to general meeting members who might be interested in assuming their positions. Gary Nichols will describe the job of Exhibitions Official tonight. Although Terrey Harrod will remain on the Board, she will describe her job of Vice President of Workshops in May. Vicki Tucker will describe the job of Vice President of Programs in June.

If you are interested in filling either of these positions (Exhibitions Official, Vice President of Workshops) or the positions of Recording Secretary or Parliamentarian, contact Tim Brenner (brenner.tim@comcast.net) or Carol Newsom (carolsnewsom@gmail.com) for more information.

The "Collage" features monthly articles on CWS artists, their paintings and techniques. April's "Collage" will feature Vicki Tucker; May's will feature Diane Fechenbach.

Karen Hill, the Board's Western Slope representative, announced two meetings, May 10 and June 15, to plan for the first Western Slope CWS show to be held at the Gunnison Arts Center August 1, 2017.

Carol Newsom stated that 50 pieces of juried artwork were hung at the Foothills Art Center in preparation for the CWS show opening at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, April 20. The show will hang through June 25.

May's CWS General Meeting Program will be a critique. Bring a painting you would like successful, seasoned artists to view and offer suggestions for enhancement.

A \$200 "Frances E. Olson" award will be given annually for five years at the State Show. One of the daughters of Frances will present the award at the upcoming show.

## Vladislav "Vlad" Yeliseyev Demo!

We hope you didn't miss the outstanding demo by Vladislav Yeliseyev. His loose, fresh approach to his watercolor technique was inspiring.

Plus he demodded with a great sense of humor...Thank you Vlad!

Our April program was attended by over 80 members





# 2017 State Show is Open at Foothills

by Greg Chapleski



Although the weather was gloomy as little drops of heavenly moisture fell from the sky, everything inside was bright and alive with eager anticipation. After a four year absence, Colorado Watercolor Society was back on the gallery walls with the 2017 version of its State Show at one of the great venues in Colorado, Foothills Art Center (FAC) in Golden. An added feature to the Opening Reception on Thursday, April 20th was having the current FAC Executive Director, Hassan Najjar, at the front door greeting many of the art lovers as they entered.

Since the last time CWS was at Foothills a few changes have been made by the new management staff. Besides the new entry door, the most noticeable feature is that there are now two galleries: – three large rooms to the left and to the right and around the corner CWS is on display in a series of 5 smaller rooms, three of which used to be the gift shop. Foothills did a remarkable job upgrading all the gallery rooms with bright white walls and a new track lighting system that showed off all fifty-plus pieces beautifully.

Now about the State Show: The member-artists whose entries hang in the gallery are to be commended along with all 200+ member-entrants. Our juror, Vladislav “Vlad” Yeliseyev was hugely impressed with both the caliber of achievement and diversity of subject matter that he was privileged to jury. While Vlad chose as many as we were allowed to display, he was disappointed that many more excellent pieces couldn’t be included – they were that good.

Vlad presented the following awards:

- Best of Show – Steve Griggs for “Impossible Dreamer”
- 2nd Place – Nancy Dee for “Old Farm-site at Sunset”
- 3rd Place – Naum Katsenelson for “Last Rays”
- Mountainside Art Guild Award – Anita Winter for “LoDo Action”
- Pikes Peak Watercolor Society Award – Diane Fechenbach for “Golden Guardian”
- Honorable Mention – Kay Moore for “Driving through New Mexico”
- Frances E. Olson Award - Carol Newsom for “Musicians”

And a special, first-time, Frances Olson Award to Carol Newsom for “Musicians.” This award was given in the name of Frances Olson, a past member of CWS, who donated her entire art and watercolor library plus an extensive watercolor paper inventory, all of which were sold at a special event to CWS members. The award was presented by Frances’ two daughters, Chris Schyder and Paula Solis.

The State Show will be on display at Foothills Art Center, 809 Fifteenth Street in Golden, Colorado through Sunday, June 25th. If you haven’t seen it, make sure you get over there to see this outstanding exhibit. It will amaze and inspire you... Enjoy!

## By The Way...

While juror, Vladislav “Vlad” Yeliseyev was in town for the Opening Reception, he did more than jury and attend our State Show. He was the featured guest at the April CWS Member Meeting doing a painting demo that had the 100+ attendees in rapt attention. His method of mixing and applying paint to paper while telling stories about what he is thinking with every stroke of his painting process was both amazing and inspiring. Everyone in attendance stayed for every minute of it.

And, that’s not all: Vlad did a 3-day Workshop in the upper room at Foothills. It was filled with eager learners who listened to him explain his color theory based on four colors that can be mixed to make 18 as well as how to make each of them lighter and/or darker. He is a gifted story-teller which made the learning process fun.

That was followed by all attendees painting from an inventory of reference photos he provided. He then moved about the room with watching, asking questions, sharing his observations and giving helpful advice. No matter the skill level of each attendee, Vlad was able to impart ways to move each one’s painting process to the next level. A great time was enjoyed by all. Thank you so very much Vlad... the art world is truly blessed to have you.



# State Show Awards!



**Hassan Najjar**, Executive Director of the Foothills Art Center welcomes 2017 State Show opening attendees to the Foothills Art Center.



**Diane Fechenbach**, Award winner; **Tim Brenner**, CWS President and **Vladislav Yeliseyev** 2017 State Show Juror



**Vladislav Yeliseyev**, nationally known watercolor artist; and our 2017 State Show Juror and accompanying work shop instructor, addressing the opening crowd on Thursday night April 20th at the Foothills Art Center. He spoke highly of the quality of the artist's entries.



**Frances E. Olson's daughter's, Paula Solis** and **Chris Schyder** preparing to present the Frances E. Olson Excellence Award



**Carol Newsom** accepting the Frances E. Olson Award. Left to right, Vladislav Yeliseyev, Carol Newsom, Tim Brenner, Frances E. Olson's daughters Paula Solis and Chris Schyder



**Naum Katsenelson** accepting the CWS third place award for excellence in watercolor



Best of Show recipient **Steve Griggs** with Vladislav Yeliseyev, 2017 State Show juror and Tim Brenner CWS president



**Tim Brenner** and **Carolyn Tegeder**, president of the Mountainside Art Guild who presented the Mountainside Art Guild Award



*A Look at some State Show entries!*



*Anita Winter* LoDo Action

*Cheryl Annett*  
Spring Delight

*Marijane Sharpe*  
The Lady and  
the Path

*Don Van Horn* Train and People





# Paper and Book Sale!



The paper and book sale was extremely successful. It was something different for our members. All of the paper and most of the books were sold in the first twenty minutes.

The remaining books were donated to the Jefferson County Library System. Frances E. Olson's donation resulted in over \$900.00 to CWS.

Thank you to Frances and her family for this thoughtful donation.



## 2017-2018 Board Officers Ballot – Clip and Vote

*This is your mail-in Ballot according to By-Laws, Article V; Section 5.2.*

**Deliver your ballot to the May 16th General Meeting or mail your ballot postmarked by Friday, May 12th, 2017 to:**

**Colorado Watercolor Society**  
 P.O. Box 100003  
 Denver, CO 80250 - 0003  
 Or e-mail it to: [brenner.tim@comcast.net](mailto:brenner.tim@comcast.net)

### **New Officers to be Elected:**

Paliamentarian - Jay Breese  
 Board Member at Large - Karen Hill  
 Recording Secretary - Merrie Wicks  
 Corresponding Secretary - Shanthi Kumar  
 Treasurer - Priscilla Greenbaum  
 Exhibition Official - Open

### **Current Officers:**

Board Member at Large - Mary Jo Ramsdale

### **Retuning Officers to be Elected:**

President - Tim Brenner  
 President Elect - Carol Newsom  
 Past President - Greg Chapleski  
 Membership Official - Lynn Nebergall  
 VP of Workshops - Terrey Harrod  
 VP of Programs - Vicki Tucker

**YES / No, I am**  *In favor*  *Not in favor, of the CWS 2017-2018 Board Officers*

*Sign your name*



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

## COLLAGE

Submission deadline  
for June Issue is:  
**Tuesday, May 23**



Mary Jo Ramsdale



John Brasaemle



Bronwen Jones



Paul Foster

