

CLEAR CHOICES

TWSA

The purposes of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America are to advance the stature of transparent watercolor as a major painting medium, and to foster the appreciation and interest of both the artist and the viewing public in the medium.

Winter Issue 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Suzanne
Hetzel
President

WE'RE GOING ELECTRONIC! NEWSLETTER IN 2008

Beginning in April, 2008, (Yes, this year. Don't panic!) we will be sending the newsletter via the internet.

If we have your email address, you will receive an email message from TWSA telling you where to download the April Newsletter. Please add "newsletter@watercolors.org". to your email address book so that spam filters will not block our email to you.

If you would like to be included in this list, please send your email address to: membership@watercolors.org.

If we do not have an email address for you, you will automatically receive a paper copy of the newsletter.

If we have your email address, but you still wish a paper copy, please email: membership@watercolors.org, and request to stay on the paper copy list.

DIGITAL ENTRIES IN 2010

Starting in 2010, we will be accepting only digital entries, either jpegs or CDs. Again, don't panic! We will be addressing this in future newsletters to help you learn how to submit your paintings digitally. It is getting harder and harder to find slide film, and find places to process it. With this in mind, you will have plenty of time to prepare. We will give you all the assistance we can in understanding the variety of ways digital images can be made and sent.

CELEBRATE WATERCOLOR PREVIEW

Bloomington, MN, The Hip, Hot, Happening Place to be in June!

Preparations have already begun for a wonderful week of painting and festivities in Bloomington, Minnesota. We have much to celebrate! Some special events are planned.

•Richeson Art Materials will be a new addition to our workshop as they provide our participants with demonstrations on the latest materials, and lots of new information. We are most grateful for this partnership, as Jack Richeson

Continued Page 3

TWSA Calendar

2008

February 15 - Workshop registration and deposit due

April - Watch for your Spring Newsletter and dinner reservation form! We're going electronic!

May 16 - July 24 - 32nd Annual National Exhibit, Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington, Minnesota *Ted Nuttall, Juror*

June 9 - June 13 - Workshop
Ted Nuttall, Instructor

June 14 - Celebrate Watercolor Event
Bloomington Art Center, Bloomington, MN

June - Catalog mailed

September - Prospectus, Membership Renewal, Volunteer Form, Workshop brochure mailed

October - Watch for your Fall Newsletter!

December 31 - Membership Renewal Due

2009

January 15 - Slide/digital entry deadline

January - Watch for Winter Newsletter and dinner reservation form!

April - Watch for your Spring Newsletter!

May 2 - July 26th - 33rd Annual National Exhibit, Kenosha Public Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin, *Judy Morris, Juror*

June 1 - 5 - Workshop, *Judy Morris, Instructor*

June 6 - Celebrate Watercolor

2010

May 1 - July 25 - 34th Annual National Exhibit, Kenosha Public Museum, Kenosha, Wisconsin.
Jean Grastorf, Juror

June 7- 11 - Workshop, *Jean Grastorf, Instructor*

June 12 - Celebrate Watercolor

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND EXHIBITION CHAIR

Bloomington Art Center, Site of the 2008 Celebrate Watercolor Exhibit



Lenox Wallace
*Vice President
and
Exhibition
Chair*

Bloomington, Minnesota is the locale of this year's Exhibit, workshop, and dinner. Our organization came into being there, and it seems comforting to return.

In September, Sue Hetzel and I drove to Bloomington to connect with curators, event planners, hotel managers and caterers. In the seven hour drive, we discussed loads of possibilities for the organization. Sue sees with such clarity when it comes to streamlining processes and forms, and delineating crucial vs important issues. We talked and laughed all the way, and time flew!

We had been invited to food tasting at D'Amico's the afternoon we arrived. D'Amico's turns out to be one of the finest restaurants in town. We were extremely impressed! Their presentation was wonderful and the food...EXCELLENT! If you're coming up for the Celebrate Watercolor dinner, you're in for a treat!!!

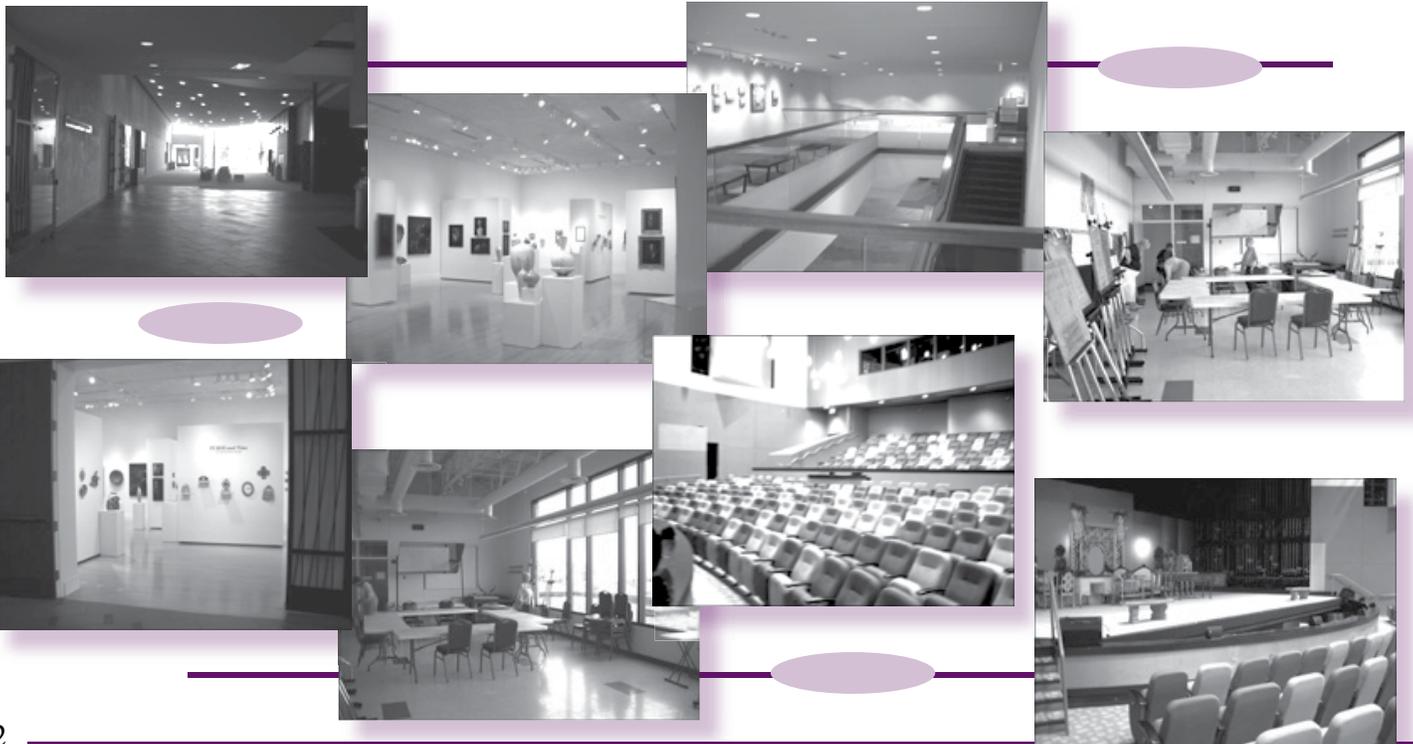
We had the pleasure of staying with Robin Berry, one of our members in Minnesota. She opened her home and family to us, and her generosity seems indicative of the nature of our sister watercolor societies in Minnesota; The Minnesota Watercolor Society and NorthStar Watercolor Society. There are approximately 300 members in each association. Because we are man-

aging an exhibit, dinner and workshop long distance, we have been so thrilled with our reception and the cooperation we've experienced with these members. Pat Undis came by with an absolutely delightful idea for our table decorations: playfully created bird houses!! . . . each an original . . . done by the watercolor societies' members. We are so excited to have such unique creations as decoration and for our silent auction.

We met with the Museum curator, Susan Anderson and her staff, the next day. Robin took us for a tour of some of the high points in the city. We plan to have a listing of these "sites" for you, as you attend the exhibit.

On the way back to Chicago, Sue & I checked out possible sites for future exhibits and were thrilled when we came across the Kenosha Museum. It seems we are the kind of organization they have been seeking out, and they certainly fit the needs we have of gallery, workshop, and dinner spaces, with hotels and caterers nearby.

Lenox



Message from the President *continued*

Celebrate Watercolor Preview

has been a longtime and generous supporter of our organization.

•Northstar Watercolor Society members, under the guidance and supreme creative direction of Patricia Undis, (one of our own members and an award winner), have made the centerpieces for our dinner event. Fabulous birdhouses! Each is individually made with the only pre-requisite that they not be built from a store bought birdhouse. The birdhouses will grace the tables, and will then be the objects of a silent auction. Copious thanks, Northstar, for your energy, creativity, and generosity!



•Dinner will be catered by an amazing group, D'Amico's. Lenox Wallace and I both had the good fortune to sample their fare, and the whole experience has remained clear in my memory. I can hardly wait! Please note on your invitation that this year's menu choices have different prices associated with them.

•Now, some thanks ahead of time to the people who have already worked hard to make this a special evening, and a special preceding week. **Lenox Wallace, VP and Exhibition Chair** will have already put in a huge amount of

work including several trips to Bloomington to make the exhibition happen. **Carole Burval** will have coordinated all the workshop plans, and sorted out schedules and details with our esteemed juror, **Ted Nuttall**. **Ann Feldman and Dick Helland** and their committee will have processed the myriad of slides and digital entries. **Kristin Dam** will have produced the outstanding prospectus back in the fall. There are so many behind the scenes that make this all happen. Please, come to the workshop, the exhibit, the dinner, and help me thank all the members who generously volunteer their time to make this happen for all of us. See you in Bloomington!

Suzanne Hetzel, President

An Interview with
TWSA 2007 Skyledge Award
Winner Cheng-Khee Chee

by Nia Pirnat

Your painting is a synthesis of your cultural heritages, would you elaborate. What aspects of each culture do you most relate to and what has had the most impact on your work?

I was born in China, grew up in Southeast Asia, and have been in the United States since 1962. Naturally my artistic career has been shaped by both Eastern and Western cultures, traditions, experiences and influences.

The traditional Chinese painting emphasizes on idea, spiritual quality, brush work, and ink tone. Paintings are done on exquisite thin unsized paper or silk. It is difficult to make changes; therefore, it must be executed with speed and spontaneity. The traditional Western watercolor emphasizes on reality, physical likeness, light, and color. Paintings are done on sized heavy cotton or linen paper. It is possible to make changes; therefore they can be gradually built up. Even with their differences,

the Chinese traditional painting and the Western watercolor accomplish the same magical esthetic quality that set watercolor apart from any other painting medium.

There are numerous examples of the synthesis of traditional Chinese painting and Western watercolor both by Eastern and Western artists. Inspired by these pioneers, I have been exploring and experimenting with different ways to synthesize the concepts, materials, and processes in the past thirty years.

Traditionally Chinese artists paint in their studios, away from the subject, because their painting tools, material, and the way of working make plein air painting difficult. Instead, they observe, feel, experience, study, and memorize the subject; and paint their understanding and interpretation of the subject. I incorporate this approach in my way of working. Years of studying koi I have developed deep feelings for and a strong attachment to them. Not only they give me pleasure and relaxation, their beautiful colors, shapes and graceful movements are very inspiring and irresistible to paint. When painting this subject I

am able to take an improvisational approach.

Traditional Chinese painting, especially landscape, emphasizes ink tone and brushwork rather than color. I love color and admire the expressive use of color by the Fauvists. I have been using more and more color in my painting.

Taoist Philosophy has the most important influence upon my painting process, finding the most natural and effortless way to express the essence of a specific subject for which I have deep feelings. Painting in watercolor I feel that feelings and energy from my heart are most directly transmitted through the brush and medium to the sensitive paper surface, transforming into the most direct, honest, and true visual marks.

My approach to watercolor painting is a dynamic process and an effort to harmonize opposite elements: yin and yang, intuition and contemplation, emotion and reasoning, incident and intention, subjectivity and objectivity, imagination and reality, abstraction and realism. The end result is the visual realization of my inner being that I hope

Continued on page 4

will communicate on a universal and timeless level.

Contents and processes are constantly evolving, broadening, and developing. Contents diversify with the expansion of experience and knowledge. Processes continue to evolve and expand as I constantly explore the most natural way to express new subject matter. With the versatility of watercolor, I can orchestrate a set of conditions for the medium to follow its natural law and create wonders. The artistic goals can therefore be accomplished effortlessly.

The techniques that I most often use to match my concepts of painting specific subjects include 1) Traditional approach for painting cityscape, 2) Saturated wet process for painting fish and flowers, 3) Improvisational approach for painting rocks and canyons, 4) Crinkling technique for painting trees and seasons, and 5) Marbling and mono-printing for painting non-objective or other subjects that are applicable. In my workshop instructional booklet *The Work of Cheng-Khee Chee* (Cheap Joe's Art Stuff 55812) I explain all these processes with painting examples.

Design elements and principles are easily understood individually. The difficulty comes from how to orchestrate them and apply to the subject matter to make a cohesive and exciting painting. To me the first step to master is to learn how to translate colors into black and white monochrome values; and how to organize these value shapes in good relationship to each other. If a beginner can breakthrough this step all the others will fall into place.

NOTICE!!!

To all Signature Members and Master Status members:

Please check to make sure you have **renewed your membership for 2008**.

Your signature status must be maintained through unbroken membership.

ALSO:

Remember to **put your TWSA signature on your paintings**. This is a great honor for you and the Transparent Watercolor Society of America to proudly display your letters.

*Signature Screening Secretary,
Catherine Nash, TWSA*

Internet Art Scam

Donna Jill Witty, TWSA, Master Status, writes to remind us of an art scam that has been around for awhile, and written about in the last few years. Unfortunately, the prospect of making a purchase "clouds the mind" and several hundred thousand dollars were bilked from artists, just in 2005. Targeted, usually, are artists who merchandise via websites and the client (crook) orders certain pieces and sends an overpayment via check or money order. The artist deposits same and sends the artwork and a check for the overpayment. By the time the check/money order is rejected as fraudulent, the artist has been fleeced of the value of the art pieces and the refund. Jill's experience has a couple of little zig zags but the basic premise is the same. Fortunately, she is astute and avoided losing to this scam.

In 2005, Robert Genn, in his twice-weekly email letter, described one version and ended with the advice to report any complaints with the Internet Fraud Complaint Center, <http://www.ifccfbi.gov> (a branch of the FBI), especially while the attempted scam is in progress. Local and foreign Better Business Bureaus (where they exist ought to be notified.) www.usda.gov/criminal/cybercrime/crimes.html traces reports on computer and internet crimes.

As always, if a transaction seems the least bit iffy, wait until the check or money order clears before following through. This might be just common sense, but we all let our brains go on leave from time to time and need to be reminded of the necessity of always being aware and prudent.

Jill, thanks for the reminder.

Member News

Awards and Publications

Don Harvie has been accepted into the following National Shows this year: Western Colorado W/C Society, Missouri W/C Society, Atlanta W/C Society, Academic Artists, Hilton Head, Georgia W/C Society (award) Red River W/C Society, of W/C Artists, Manhattan Arts, Pikes Peak W/C Society, Adirondacks National, Montana W/C Society, California W/C Society, Pennsylvania W/C Society, Rhode Island W/C Society, Mississippi W/C Society, North East W/C Society, Pittsburgh W/C Society, Audubon Artists, Southwestern W/C Society (award) New Mexico W/C Society (award) American Artists Professional League, Wyoming W/C Society, Allied Artists of America, and the International Museum of Art. Don also was published in the William and Mary Review of 2007 as well as having a painting accepted for inclusion in the upcoming "Splash 10" due for publication in 2008.

Jan Fabian Wallake received the Juror's Award at the Northern Plains Watercolor Society member's 2007 Exhibition.

Carol Z. Brody, NWS was awarded second place in the National Association of Women Artists show, "Pot Pourri" at the Cornell Museum, Delray Beach, FL. She also received the Jack Richeson Award at the Missouri Watercolor Society's Members Invitational Exhibition in Columbia, MO.

Grace Haverty has received signature status into the National Watercolor Society. Her painting received the Alice Leonard Memorial Award and will be one of the 30 paintings on the National Watercolor Society 87th Annual Travel Show. Her Painting done in Castelfranc, France is in the new book "Strokes of Genius, the Best of Drawing" a F&W Publication

Jeanne Dobie, AWS, NWS, TWSA, was Juror of Awards - 2007 American Watercolor Society Exhibition, NY. Sept. - Awards - Greater Norristown Art League Exhibition, PA. Publications: Winter Watercolor 2008. She was Profiled in an Artist-to-Artist feature. Her paintings were included in "Watercolour Artist's Colour Mixing Bible", Quarto Publications, United Kingdom. She won an Award at the

Member News *Continued*

Society of Watercolor Artists 2007, Second Prize, Ft. Worth, TX. She exhibited in the Louisiana Watercolor Society, LA. Adirondack National Exhibition of American Watercolors, Old Forge, NY. Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Lancaster Museum, PA.

Roland Lee won Best of Show at the Southern Utah Watercolor Society Fall Competition October 2007 for his painting, "Stone Buttress". He also received Best of Show from the Visual Arts Association for his transparent watercolor painting, "Thawing Out." Several of his watercolor paintings were also featured in the Fall 2007 issue of "Pioneer Magazine."

Signature member **Ratindra Das AWS, NWS, TWSA** Master Status, received the following recent awards: San Diego Watercolor Society "Hom Family Award" North East Watercolor Society "Arne Lindemark Award". Ratindra also gave a demonstration and a slide presentation for the National Watercolor Society "Plein Air Painting- a Personal Voyage" in Brea, Ca. He has been selected to exhibit in the "First Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary International Watermedia Masters" in Nanjing, China. Ratindra is one of the 26 watercolor artists who will represent the United States. This exhibit is organized by Jiangsu Watercolor Research Institute and will be held in November this year.

Frank Webb AWS, NWS, TWSA, received the Dick Blick Award at the National Watercolor Society in Beria, CA. He also demonstrated and lectured at the opening of the 87th annual exhibition. A Webb painting is included in the first Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary International Watermedia Masters, Jiangsu, China. Two of his works have been added to the McMullen-Connally collection at the Faculty Center at Baylor University. The collection features significant artists from the California School of Watercolor. In August, he produced his 5th DVD, titled, "Painting With Enjoyable Color."

Hazel Stone was selected for Signature Membership in the Kansas Watercolor Society having been juried into three KWS Great 8 Exhibitions. The current Great 8 Exhibition at The Wichita Center for the Arts hangs from November 16, 2007 to January

6, 2008. One of Stone's paintings was juried into the Taos National Society of Watercolorists' XI National Exhibit of American Watercolor at the Historic Millicent Rogers Museum, Taos, NM, August 11 - September 9, 2007. Hazel Stone was also juried into the Arizona Aqueous XXII, held at the Tubac Center of the Arts, Tubac, AZ, February 16 - April 1, 2007 and also received Signature Membership. During September 2007, two Solo Exhibitions in downtown Phoenix featured twenty-eight paintings by Hazel Stone.

Mel Stabin AWS, NWS, TWSA was honored with The Pen and Brush Award at the 94th Exhibition of The Allied Artists of America and the John C. Dioszegi Memorial Award at the 31st Exhibition of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America. Mel is the juror for Georgia Watercolor Society's 2008 Annual National Exhibition. He will also be conducting a five-day workshop for the Society. For information on Mel and his 2008 workshops, view his website at www.melstabin.com.

Vicki Morley was awarded Signature Membership in the Kentucky Watercolor Society. Her third accepted painting was juried into the Thirtieth annual Aqueous USA 2007 sponsored by KWS. The exhibit took place during October 2007 at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, KY.

Dan Simoneau was accepted into and was awarded first place in the Wisconsin Painters and Sculptors Southeast Chapter Winter Exhibition shown in the Reuss Federal Building in downtown Milwaukee. Also, Dan was recently elected gallery director of the Artists Gallery, an artist owned cooperative gallery in downtown Racine, WI.

Lorraine Ptacek's paintings were accepted into the Elk Grove's Art Centre 2007 Exhibit, in Illinois and into the National university of Health Sciences Fine Art Gallery Open Show, Lombard, IL. She won an award at the Bloomingdale Park District Museum's Exhibition, also in Illinois.

Eileen Mueller Neill exhibited recently at the University of Illinois of Chicago. One of her paintings was showcased at the Arts Center/Old Forge in New York state, and another in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society's annual exhibition and the Aqueous USA in Louisville, KY.

Dan Burt AWS, NWS, TWSA, won the Jack Richeson merchandise award at the San Diego Watercolor Society International exhibition. He was also one of 26 artists from the US selected to participate in the Jiangsu Watercolor Society International exhibition. His work was also featured in the new North Light book, *The Artist's Muse*. He also had paintings accepted in recent exhibitions in the National Watercolor Society exhibition and the TWSA exhibit. and he was juror for the annual Watercolor Society of Oregon exhibition.

Margaret Graham Kranking reports that she was juror for the Delaware Watercolor Society, Randolph county community Arts Center Gala Juried Art Exhibition, in West Virginia and the Fie Arts Fair, Oxford community Center, MD. She also and a one person exhibition at the National Institutes of Health Building 10, Bethesda, MD. Her work appeared in the United States Coast Guard collection, Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, VA; Paint the Parks Paint America, Topeka, KS; Western Colorado annual exhibition Grand Junction, CO; Watercolor Missouri National, Fulton, MO; Washington Water Color Association, Vienna, VA; Baltimore Watercolor Society Mid-Atlantic Regional Exhibition, Bethesda, MD; Women in Arts Invitational, Bethesda, MD; All in the Family juried exhibition American University, Washington, DC; and the 28th Pennsylvania Watercolor Society International Exhibit, Lancaster, PA

Thomas Wilczewski reports that his website is nowupandrunning.tomwilczewski.com

Member Workshops

Trips and Tours

Roland Lee will teach a two-week watercolor travel workshop in Tuscany, Italy September 1 - 15, 2008. Contact: roland@rolandlee.com or 435-673-1988.

Next Newsletter
Deadline is
April 2008

2008 TWSA Workshop *A few spaces are still available!* Watercolor Workshop with Ted Nuttall, NWS, TWSA

Our 32nd Exhibition and workshop will be held at the Bloomington Art Center in Bloomington, Minnesota. Ted is an extremely accomplished artist who will instruct us in painting portraits from photographs, using his distinctive style. Why not plan ahead and start taking some great people photos right now for the workshop? Mark your calendar now for the TWSA Workshop Week,

June 9-13, 2008 and our Celebrate Watercolor activities and Awards Dinner on June 14, 2008! Download a TWSA workshop brochure from our web site! **TWSA MEMBERSHIP BONUS** - TWSA members get a workshop discount, too!!! Questions? Please contact Carole Burval via e-mail at TWSA@watercolorcards.com

ART QUEST 2008

In our relentless quest to find out what makes award winning artists and paintings we thought we should ask Ted Nuttall, our 2008 juror, workshop instructor and top award winner from our 2004 Exhibition for some valuable insight. Read on.....

Where is your favorite place to paint?

I seem to be doing most of my painting in workshops and other places to which I travel. While painting for a group can challenge and force me to take risks I wouldn't otherwise take, I find that I'm more productive, and of course a little more at ease, when painting in my home studio. My studio is a beautiful, peaceful and inspiring space - I love being there. And in my studio, where I can focus entirely on the painting, I learn so much more about what I am trying to achieve in my work.

How do you choose your subject?

Considering that I paint people, I am confronted with an endless source of interesting subjects. Though, it's really through my observation of the human condition that I gain my inspiration. It's difficult to say what specific characteristics draw me to the individuals I paint - but I immediately know when I

see it. It's as though I glimpse, for just a moment, the underlying complexity or vulnerability of a person - a humanness that I relate to - and I want to tell that story in my painting.

What inspires you?

Really good art. While it might seem natural that I am most moved by figurative paintings - works by David Levine, Lucian Freud, William Beckman, and Odd Nerdrum - I am just as likely to be excited by Richard Diebenkorn's "Ocean Park" paintings or the color field paintings of Mark Rothko and Helen Frankenthaler. I'm also an admirer of Russell Chatham's landscape paintings. Of course, I have some of Charles Reid's works hanging in my house and am inspired each time I look at them. Nothing charges my creative batteries more than studying the work of those who do it best.

How long have you been painting in transparent watercolor and what got you interested in this particular medium?

Watercolor is really the only medium I have ever painted in and I remain a devotee. I had a wonderful high school art teacher who introduced me to watercolor and encouraged me to paint,



but when I graduated from high school I left painting behind. When I was about 40 my mother, who had always recognized my ability, encouraged me to come to her studio and work. It was then that I painted my first figure and began to paint in earnest. Also, I have been a fan of Charles Reid since high school, so his work, as well, drew me to the medium.

What is your weekly schedule for painting?

I must admit I am not a very disciplined painter and I struggle with this fact almost daily. I feel very fortunate that I teach as many workshops as I do - not only because I love teaching - but because it forces me to paint on a more regular basis. A large percentage of my finished work has its origin in my workshop demos. These works are never really completed in the workshop so, in the end, I do have to exercise a little self-discipline to put them back on the easel and bring them to fruition.



DVD of the 2007 TWSA Exhibit



\$15

Plus \$2.00 shipping

This is a wonderful addition to your DVD collection and what a bargain if you want to feature the exhibit at your art club meeting. Now you won't have the bother of slide carousels and projector set up.

2007 Exhibition Catalogue....\$15
Plus \$2.00 Shipping

- TWSA Pin\$5
- TWSA Apron\$5
- Old VHS from past exhibits\$5
- 25 Tips by the Best of MWS.....\$3
- Add \$3 for shipping*
- 2003 MWS Exhibition Catalog\$5
- The Last MWS Catalog*
- 2001 Anniversary Catalogue\$5

If you have questions regarding items offered for sale in Clear Choices or on our website, contact Peg Shea by mail, telephone or e-mail. Refer to the Officers and Board of Directors section to the right.

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Excitement is growing for the Best-Ever Celebrate Watercolor Exhibit Events

Inside

- Check out the Bloomington Art Center facility
- Read the juror's interview.
- 32nd Celebrate Watercolor plans defined
- Cheng Khee Chee interview
- Adventures of a President and Vice President
- Avoiding an Art Scam

Volunteers Are Always Wanted!

We are always looking for helping hands to share in the fun. If you are interested in participating in the TWSA, jobs big or small are always available. Please contact **Karen Wilden** at kwildenart@sbcglobal.net or **630 980-0871**, and she will happily answer your questions.

Celebrate Watercolor Extra Special Event!

Watercolor Demonstration
by 2007 Skyledge Winner
Cheng Khee Chee

10 am

June 14th 2008 in Bloomington

*Watch for details of this and
many more special happenings
in your
next newsletter*

BOX #111 • 738 E. Dundee Road
Palatine, Illinois 60074

The logo for the TWSA (Twin Lakes Watercolor Society of America) is written in a stylized, purple, cursive font.