

## VALLEY WATERCOLOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

THE PURPOSE OF THE VALLEY WATERCOLOR SOCIETY IS TO PROMOTE INTEREST, KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF WATERMEDIA THROUGH MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES.

### January 2025

#### CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING AND DEMO WITH  
KEIKO TANABE  
AND SOCIETY SHOW

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025, 7PM

Zoom Link for VWS General Meeting  
and Artist Demo

Date: January 9, 2025

Time: **7:00 PM** Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89693683430?pwd=epOUpJ3lmSVPa83n4AbjB0nlpPHR31.1>

Meeting ID: 896 9368 3430

Passcode: 770853

SEND SOCIETY SHOW ENTRY TO  
SELINA CHENG BY 12 NOON,  
Wednesday January 8  
[selinachengart@aol.com](mailto:selinachengart@aol.com)

#### JANUARY WORKSHOP:

**Keiko Tanabe**– Sat Jan 18 – Sun  
Jan 19, 2025, 9am - 12pm, 2-Days on  
ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS  
members, \$180 for non-members

#### For 2025 Meetings & Workshops

<https://valleywatercolorsociety.org/events/#!event-list>

#### PAINT-OUT (See page 3)

Currently suspended until further notice

### January 2025 Demo Artist: Keiko Tanabe



Keiko was born in Kyoto, Japan. As a child growing up in an art-loving family, she always enjoyed drawing and painting and won many awards in children's art contests. However, art was not her chosen field of study later on. She worked in international relations in a Japanese government trade organization in Tokyo, at a large law firm in San Francisco and a private consulting firm in San Diego.

Through all these years, Keiko knew there was in her heart the growing desire to someday become an artist. That, fueled by her love of travel and strong interest in other cultures, eventually found its way out in 2003. After learning basic drawing and watercolor painting skills at a local community school in San Diego, she took on her first project as an artist together with her father, a renowned scholar of French literature in Japan. Through the Azure Sea and Sky of Provence: A Tribute to Her Joie de Vivre (Kosei Publishing, Osaka, Japan) was published in August, 2003, authored by her father and illustrated by Keiko.

Mostly self-taught, Keiko embarked on a professional art career in 2005 and started exhibiting publicly. Since that year her paintings have been juried into many exhibitions across America, Asia and Europe. Her work has been purchased by private and corporate collectors from all around the world. In 2015 she was named an official Ambassador for Winsor & Newton. In 2018, she was appointed to the advisory board of the American Watercolor Weekly. In 2018 and 2019, she was invited to be a faculty member for the Plein Air Convention & Expo.



## President's Message



**Hello everyone,**

Happy New Year! Hope you are doing well. We are looking forward to a great year of Demos and workshops. We have a popular artist Keiko Tanabe in January. She is talented and creative and I am sure you will enjoy her demo and workshop. Our Annual Juried Exhibit opens on March 2. Please plan to join us at the Thousand Oaks Community Gallery for an in-person reception on Sunday March 9.

On a very sad note, we lost a beloved Board member Joanne Schaefer. Joanne passed away unexpectedly on December 4. She was in charge of drawings and raffle at our meetings and her cheerful personality won her a lot of friends. She volunteered for many community projects and charities. She will be missed.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on Jan 9.

**John Chapin, President VWS**



### **Valley Watercolor Society 2025 Annual Juried Exhibition**

#### ***2024 Top Honor Winners***

**2nd Place**



**Jan Godachi  
"Back Alley"**

**1st Place**



**Liz Blum  
"Fresh From the Garden"**

**3rd Place**



**Karen Holly  
"In A Clutch"**

**Reception: Sunday, March 9, 3 - 6 PM**

**Exhibition Dates: March 2 - 26, 2025**

**Thousand Oaks Community Gallery**

**2331 Borchard Rd, Newbury Park CA 91320**

### **Valley Watercolor Society 2025 Annual Juried Exhibition**

**March 2 - March 26, 2025**

**Reception: Sunday, March 9, 3-6PM**

**at**

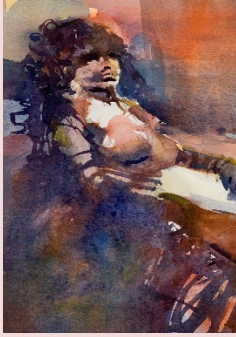
**Thousand Oaks Community Gallery**

**2331 Borchard Rd, Newbury Park CA 91320**

**Gallery Hours:  
Monday-Sunday, 10 AM - 4 PM**

Click this link for [Prospectus](#)

## November 2024 Society Show Winners



1st Place  
Gary Friedman



2nd Place  
Selina Cheng



3rd Place  
John Chapin

To enter the upcoming **January 9 General Meeting Society Show**, submit by email a JPEG **Jan 8** by 12 noon to **Selina Cheng**: [selinachengart@aol.com](mailto:selinachengart@aol.com). The demo artist will select awards: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and two Honorable Mentions. See all the entries from previous Society Shows here: <https://valleywatercolorsociety.org/society-show/>

## Classes taught by VWS Members

There is a [Teachers page](#) on the VWS website for VWS members who conduct classes, hold workshops, or teach private lessons. If you'd like to be listed, just send an email to [Newsletter@valleywatercolorsociety.org](mailto:Newsletter@valleywatercolorsociety.org) with your details. Please see our complete list of teachers online at <https://valleywatercolorsociety.org/teachers/>

## Call for Volunteers for Upcoming Annual Juried Exhibit

The Valley Watercolor Society will hold its 2025 Annual Juried Exhibit beginning March 2, 2025.

**Contact : Sylvia Crosbie**, Exhibit Chair, [sylvia\\_crosbie@bluetiehome.com](mailto:sylvia_crosbie@bluetiehome.com) or 818-902-1853. Entries are entered on [www.OnLineJuriedShows.com](http://www.OnLineJuriedShows.com). Please carefully read the [PROSPECTUS](#)

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE ANNUAL EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION.**

VWS had a very successful exhibit last year thanks to all who participated and volunteered their help. Let's make this year even better! We need your help in:

- Take-in
- Gallery Sitting
- Hospitality set-up and clean-up
- Hanging and Labeling
- Bin Art Set-up

Please email [sylvia\\_crosbie@bluetiehome.com](mailto:sylvia_crosbie@bluetiehome.com) and she will contact the individual chairs for the those tasks.

## **PAINT-OUT EVENTS**

*Don Ferre will be our coordinator for any organized paint-out events. He will provide dates and locations for any future meetings. Thank you Don for stepping in to help.*

## VWS 2024-2025 Workshop Schedule



**Keiko Tanabe**  
January 2025



**Brenda Swenson**  
February 2025



**Tom Francesconi**  
March 2025



**Sarah Yeoman**  
April 2025



**Kim Johnson**  
May 2025



**Moh'd Bilbeisi**  
June 2025

**Keiko Tanabe** – **Online** Sat Jan 18 – Sun Jan 19, 2025, 9am - 12pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

>

**Brenda Swenson** – **In-Person** Fri Feb 21 – Sun Feb 23, 2025, 10am - 2pm, 3-Days , [\[Register\]](#) \$220 for VWS members, \$260 for non-members

**Tom Francesconi** – **On-line** Sat Mar 22 – Sun March 23, 2025, 9am - 1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

**Sarah Yeoman** – **Online** Sat Apr 26 – Sun Apr 27, 2025, 9am - 12pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

**Kim Johnson** – **Online** Sat May 17 -Sun May 18, 2025, 9am - 1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

**Moh'd Bilbeisi** – **Online** Sat Jun 21 – Sun Jun22, 2025, 9am -1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

**workshop Policy:** The workshop fee includes a 10% non-refundable cancellation fee if a cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to the workshop. A 50% non-refundable fee if cancellation is made between 30 or 7 days. No refund will be made for a NO SHOW or a cancellation with less than 7 days of notice prior to the workshop. The workshop may be cancelled at the discretion of the Workshop Chair and the President if any of the following occur: there are less than 10 participants, the workshop is not at a financial breakeven point, or the demonstrator or location cancels. In this case, FULL refunds will be given. If for any reason your check or credit card payment is rejected by your bank, VWS will ask you for a reimbursement of any fine or charge assessed by your bank to VWS. After two incidents, membership will be revoked. Enroll in workshops online at <http://valleywatercolorsociety.org/events>.

Just select the desired workshop and scroll down to the "Register Now" button.

## In Memory of Joanne Schaefer



Joanne Schaefer died on 12-4-24 of a sudden heart attack. She had been the chair of the raffle tickets at the VWS General Meetings for the past 8+ years!! Her enthusiasm and sparkling personality earned large amounts of donation for the various VWS charities.

Joanne was a member of so many different groups and organizations and was the “glue” that kept so many of them going. She donated much of her time to charities and community projects.

Joanne will be missed by the large number of members who knew her. She never met a person who did not immediately enjoy being around her. She was the best goodwill ambassador an organization ever had. RIP Joanne Schaefer!

Submitted by Marie Burdick, past president.

**REMAINDERS**  
creative reuse

**REMAINDERS creative reuse**  
787 East Washington Blvd, Ste 101  
Pasadena, CA 91104

**From Norma Derr**

**Remainders Creative Reuse** is both a creative space and arts & crafts thrift store. We are focused on creative reuse and sustainability.

This place is like a Goodwill for artists and crafters. They accept just about anything as long as it's usable and resell at bargain prices.

<https://remainderspas.org/>

## ART NEWS AND EVENTS AROUND TOWN

### PLEINAIR SALON MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

<https://pleinairsalon.com/monthly-winners/> and go here for the rules:  
<https://pleinairsalon.com/competition-rules/> This is run by Plein-air Magazine.

### Check Online Juried Shows

[www.onlinejuriedshows.com](http://www.onlinejuriedshows.com) and CaFÉ [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org) for other calls for entry.

**FREE Plein Air outing with the California Arts Club** for members and guests in and around the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles. Chuck picks wonderful locations and gives friendly critiques. Fall is the perfect season to be out there painting. Join us in November. Second Wednesday of each month.

Click image to see the Facebook page



California Art Club - Los Angeles Chapter  
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)



Watercolor sketch by Cris Gordy  
Tapia Bros. Farm, Encino. October  
2024 Plein Air

## VWS FACEBOOK NOW LIVE!

The name of the VWS page is: **Valley Watercolor Society Community Service**

Enter the name in the **SEARCH** field of your FB page, then click on the name. Once it opens, click on the **LIKE** tab.

You can then follow, comment, add your paintings or interesting exhibits you know of or participate in!  
We are always looking to grow our community . We need your help to do better!

Please contact Sandra McDuffie ([sanellen1946@yahoo.com](mailto:sanellen1946@yahoo.com)) if you have questions or need assistance.

Thanks  
Sandra

## REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS

We encourage all members to actively invite fellow watercolor artists to become part of the Valley Watercolor Society. Together, let's expand our community and foster the growth of art in our localities.

## Call for Submission for VWS February 2025 Newsletter

### ***This is a call for your submissions for the February 2025 Newsletter:***

Did you get into an exhibit? Do you have a show coming up?

Are you teaching a workshop, giving a demo, or have you published a book?

What have you been painting during our at home time?

Or maybe you just want your website to appear in the newsletter.

If you have any news to share, send to: [newsletter@valleywatercolorsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@valleywatercolorsociety.org).

### **NEW MEMBERS PLEASE SEND A SELFIE HEADSHOT!**

We will post your picture under our New Member section to welcome you to the organization!

Especially now, since we are not meeting in person, nice to see a new face!

### **SUBMIT ART MATERIALS FOR SALE...!**

Cleaning out your studio? Got an extra easel? Extra brushes, paints, paper? Post in our newsletter!

### **SUBMIT YOUR WATERCOLOR ART QUESTIONS & TIPS...!**

If you have a watercolor discovery you want to share, or a burning question for our members...we want to know!

### **SUBMIT OPPORTUNITIES AND EXHIBIT VENUES, AND SHOWS YOU KNOW OF!**

Where do you go to pique your artist inspiration? Websites? museums? galleries? And what opportunities have you seen for submitting for exhibitions? In galleries, online, don't keep it a secret, tell us!

### **Those of you who regularly send newsletter items, please send them along:**

- Photos and any accompanying comments for recent VWS paint-outs
- Society Show photos & winners
- General Meeting Demo photos
- New members photos & names
- President's Message

### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

- Submissions received by the 20th will be included in the following month's newsletter.
- Submissions received after the 20th will be included in the issue after the following month.

### **Photographs (send a pic of your painting for your member news!):**

- Photographs should be high-resolution images of at least 600 pixels across.
- You may submit photographs as email attachments, in a \*.zip file (or via [WeTransfer](#)).
- Photographs sent directly by email **must be submitted as attachments**.
- **Please do not send photos within the body of the email.**
- On a Mac and unsure how? [Check out this link](#).

## DVD Library

VWS maintains a lending library for members consisting of professional instructional videos from various watercolor and water media artists and recordings of previous VWS guest artist demonstrations.

See the updated list on our website since Joe Cibere recently donated 18 DVDs

VWS DVD library is available to all current VWS members via mail. VWS will pay mailing fees to send DVDs to members in a reusable envelope; renter pays return postage using the reusable envelope, return address label will be provided. DVDs are loaned for one month; the maximum is 2 DVDs per month.

Contact Susie Tse: [sytse3@verizon.net](mailto:sytse3@verizon.net) to order. Links to lists of DVDs is available on our Web site: <https://valleywatercolorsociety.org/dvd-library/>

## Member Websites (to access website, press CONTROL then Click link)

Debbie Abshear — [debbieabshear.com](http://debbieabshear.com)

Rosemary Altshuler — [RosemaryAltshulerwatercolors.com](http://RosemaryAltshulerwatercolors.com)

Donna Barnes Robertts — [altadenaartist.com](http://altadenaartist.com)

Liz Blum — [lizblum.com](http://lizblum.com)

Selina Cheng — [selinachengart.com](http://selinachengart.com)

Sue Cohen — [suecohenfineart.com](http://suecohenfineart.com)

Sylvia Crosbie — [SylviaKCrosbie.com](http://SylviaKCrosbie.com)

Julie Crouch — [juliecrouchart.com](http://juliecrouchart.com)

Gary Friedman — [garyfriedmanart.com](http://garyfriedmanart.com)

Caren J. Gafni — [artistcarenjgafni.com](http://artistcarenjgafni.com)

Mardilan Lee Georgio — [mardilanleegeorgio.com](http://mardilanleegeorgio.com)

Susan Gesundheit — [susangesundheit.com](http://susangesundheit.com)

Dafna Gilboa — [dafnasart.com](http://dafnasart.com)

Jan Godachy — [jangodachy.com](http://jangodachy.com)

Cris Gordy — [artspirationforall.org](http://artspirationforall.org)

Omar Noorzay — [northridgeartstudio.com](http://northridgeartstudio.com)

Mary Zangerle — [maryzangerleart.com](http://maryzangerleart.com)

Judy Heimlich — [judysartstudio.com](http://judysartstudio.com)

Patsy K. Heller — [patsyheller.com](http://patsyheller.com)

Claudia Kazachinsky — [claudiakazachinsky.com](http://claudiakazachinsky.com)

Fatemeh Kian — [14kian.com](http://14kian.com)

Michlene Laski — [michreedlaski.artspan.com](http://michreedlaski.artspan.com)

Martha Inman Lorch — [marthainmanlorch.com](http://marthainmanlorch.com)

Susan L. Meisel — [slm-designs.com](http://slm-designs.com)

Shirley Peppers — [ShirleyPeppersArt.com](http://ShirleyPeppersArt.com)

Lori Pollack — [loripollackart.com](http://loripollackart.com)

Iuliia Pozdina — [iuliapozdina.com](http://iuliapozdina.com)

Midge Reisman — [midgereismanart.wixsite.com](http://midgereismanart.wixsite.com)

Greg Radionov — [gregoryradionov.ru.gg](http://gregoryradionov.ru.gg)

Debra Reynolds — [debraadamsreynolds.com](http://debraadamsreynolds.com)

Deborah Swan-McDonald — [deborahswan-mcdonald.com](http://deborahswan-mcdonald.com)

Brenda Swenson — [swensonsart.net](http://swensonsart.net)

*To list your website, please email:  
[newsletter@valleywatercolorsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@valleywatercolorsociety.org)*

## Reprint your Watercolor Paintings with Northridge Art Studio (Omar Noorzay)

Hey Watercolor Artists! Turn your paintings into vibrant, high-quality Giclée prints with our Epson SureColor P9570 at Northridge Art Studio. Affordable, stunning reproductions, with options like canvas or watercolor paper. **Why Us:**

- **Vibrant Colors:** Your work will pop with color, just as you imagined.
- **Preserve Your Originals:** Share your art without touching the original.
- **Prints That Last:** Long-lasting quality, made to endure.

Call 818.465.8222 or visit our website to get started!





Visit the [Valley Watercolor Society](http://www.valleywatercolorsociety.org) website ([www.valleywatercolorsociety.org](http://www.valleywatercolorsociety.org)). Here you can see the latest announcements, renew your membership, or register for workshops online. Check out our new membership area. Catch up on previous communications here: [Newsletter Archive](#)

## 2024-2025 VWS Board of Directors

### Officers

President — John Chapin  
1st VP Programs — Debi McDonald  
2nd VP Membership — Norma Derr  
3rd VP Exhibits — Sylvia Crosbie  
Secretary — Veronica Stensby  
Treasurer — Debbi Saunders

### Directors

Workshops — Selina Cheng  
Newsletter — TBD  
Parliamentarian — Barbara Leitzel  
Hospitality — TBD  
Student Awards — Dorothy Lee

### Committee Chairs

Website — Sharon Reaves  
Facebook -- Sandra McDuffie  
Drawings/Raffle — TBD  
DVD Library Coordinator — Susie Tse  
Paint-Outs — Don Ferre  
Society Show — Selina Cheng  
Photographer — Veronica Stensby  
Nominating — Barbara Leitzel  
Lifetime/Honorary Memberships — Marie Burdick

**Email any VWS board member at**  
[Admin@valleywatercolorsociety.org](mailto:Admin@valleywatercolorsociety.org)

Dear VWS Members,

We are asking you to give some serious thought to becoming a member of the Valley Watercolor Society Board. As you can see from the above directory, we have a number of vacant positions to fill and several more Board members have voiced their intention to retire at the end of the 2024-25 year.

We need a variety of skills and abilities for our Board. Mostly we need your enthusiasm and commitment to support VWS as a place to promote art and foster comradery. Please contact **Barbara Leitzel** at [Admin@valleywatercolorsociety.org](mailto:Admin@valleywatercolorsociety.org) if you are willing to help.

Thank you!

[WWW.VALLEYWATERCOLORSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.VALLEYWATERCOLORSOCIETY.ORG)

You are receiving VWS Newsblasts as a member of Valley Watercolor Society.

**Our mailing address is:**

Valley Watercolor Society  
San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center PO  
Box 17192, Encino, California 91416

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