

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 2026

CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING AND DEMO WITH DAVID LOBERG AND SOCIETY SHOW

THURSDAY, January 8, 2026, 7PM (Pacific
Time)

On-line via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87484146518?pwd=vdyNEi3ODGC9v69w9TeMqfn7XWs1Bg.1>

Meeting ID: 874 8414 6518

Passcode: 016830

SOCIETY SHOW ENTRY :

Please email your painting image to
selinachengart@aol.com by 1PM,
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

JANUARY WORKSHOP (ON ZOOM)

David Lobenberg: Sat- Sun Jan 17 & 18,
2026, 9AM-1PM, 2 days

[\[Register\]](#)

ZOOM: \$140 for members, \$180 for non-
members

For 2025-26 Meetings & Workshops

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

PAINT-OUT (See page 3)

Currently suspended until further notice

January 2026 Demo Artist: David Lobenberg



David Lobenberg, fine artist/teacher, has over forty years experience conducting both studio and plein air water media workshops across the U.S. and Canada. He has established a reputation for a well-organized, energetic, fun, and high-spirited teaching style. David received his Master's of Art degree from UCLA and has taught for seventeen years as an adjunct college art professor.

He has had his art exhibited and published both in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Here are just a few publications that his art works have appeared in: the *Artist's Magazine*, *Pratique des Arts*, *Plein Air Magazine*, the *Encyclopedia of Watercolor Techniques*, *Painting in Watercolor*, *Palette Magazine*, *American Art Collector*.

David has also created commissioned art works for the Amgen Tour of California, the USAF Thunderbirds, Maria Shriver, IMAX Corporation, Public Broadcasting Service, Sacramento Olympic Track and Field Pre-trials, and the National Gymnastics Association. His art can be viewed at: Lobenbergart.com, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram. David has lots of cool videos on youtube, please subscribe: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1a4te-w6zw8&t=2s>
www.lobenbergart.com



President's Message

Hello Everyone,



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you all had a great holiday season. I am looking forward to the new year. We are starting our demo/workshop season with David Lobenberg, a very colorful and creative artist. You will enjoy his whimsical portraits.

February is our art charity month. We continue to support a very worthwhile organization-Free Arts for Children. Your donations will be matched by VWS up to \$500 in aggregate. Please see page 5 of this newsletter for details. Thank you for your support!

2026 Annual Juried Exhibition is just around the corner. The opening is scheduled for March 2026. Entries acceptance started on Dec 1, 2025 and ends on January 31, 2026. We are looking for volunteers! Please contact Exhibit Chair Sylvia Crosby if you can help.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on January 8 on ZOOM.

Happy Holidays!

John Chapin, President VWS

Valley Watercolor Society 2026 Annual Juried Exhibit

The Valley Watercolor Society will hold its 2026 Annual Juried Exhibit March 3-27, 2026.

This will be an **in-person** exhibit for **active members** only at Thousand Oaks Community Gallery, 2331 Borchard Rd., Suite A, Newbury Park, CA 91320.

Prizes:

Top Honors:	First Place \$300.00
	Second Place \$250.00
	Third Place \$200.00
Special Honors (3):	\$150.00
Honorable Mention (5):	\$50.00

Entries open:	December 1, 2025
Entries deadline:	January 31, 2026
Acceptance notification begins:	February 13, 2026
Accepted Paintings Take-in	March 2, 2026 (10 AM - 12 PM)
Award Judging:	March 2, 2026
Exhibition dates:	March 3 – March 27, 2026
Take-down	March 28, 2026 (10 AM – 12 PM)
Reception and Awards Presentation:	March 8, 2026 (3PM-6PM)

Contact Sylvia Crosby, Exhibit Chair, at sylvia_crosbie@bluetiehome.com if you have questions.

Please click this link for prospectus; [VWS_2026 Annual Juried Exhibit Prospectus.docx-rev..rtf](#)

November 2025 Society Show Winners



1st
Debra Reynolds



2nd
Rosemary Altshuler



3rd
Pamela Robertson



HM
Makarand Desai



HM
Nancy Flint

To enter the upcoming **January 8 Society Show**, please submit an image of your painting to **Selina Cheng**: selinachengart@aol.com by 1PM on **Wednesday January 7**.

The demo artist will select awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 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 with your details. Please see our complete list of teachers online at <https://valleywatercolorsociety.org/teachers/>

Welcome New Members

Happy New Year and Welcome to our new members and our returning members. I look forward to your participation. Thank you for your support.

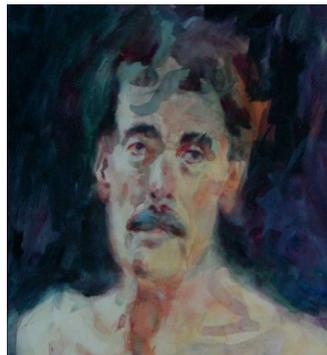
New member: Ajai Chen, Los Angeles

**Edina Russak
Membership Chair**

VWS 2025-2026 Workshop Schedule



David Lobenberg
January 2026



Robert Sherrill
February 2026



Joseph Stoddard
March 2026



Ron Stocke
April 2026



Frank Eber
June 2026

David Lobenberg –**Online** Sat Jan 17 -Sun Jan 18, 2026, 9am - 1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

Robert Sherrill - **Online** Sat Feb 17 -Sun Feb 22, 2026, 9am - 1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

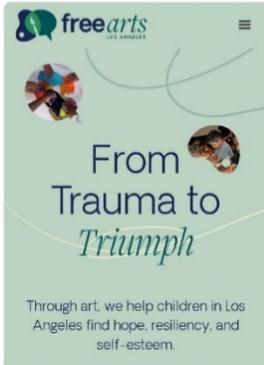
Joseph Stoddard –**In-Person** Sat Mar 21, 2026 10AM-3PM, 1-Day [\[Register\]](#) \$90 for VWS members, \$125 for non-members

Ron Stocke –**Online** Sat Apr 18- Sun Apr 19, 2026, 10am - 1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

Frank Eber –**Online** Sat June 27- Sun June 28, 2026, 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 berevoked. Enroll in workshops online at <http://valleywatercolorsociety.org/events>. Just select the desired workshop and scroll down to the "Register Now" button

Member Art News



Free Arts for Children

Please help us support Free Arts for Children again this year. We will extend the collection till April 30th. This nonprofit is a very worthy cause and VWS will match donations collected up to \$500. Your donation is tax deductible.

www.freearts.org

Please your check made out to **VWS** and mail to **Debbi Saunders 3333 Alana Drive, Sherman Oaks CA 91403**
Or, by **Zelle** to **VWSociety**.

United Picture Frame

Contact: Alan Greenstone , 310-497-9219

PICTURE FRAMES FOR WATER COLORS AND OTHER WORKS ON PAPER

Custom made any size you want

Frames come with Plexi Glass/Acrylic Face, Mat & Foam Core Back

All frames are wood

28x36 (good for full sheet) \$145.00

21x28 (good for half sheet) \$115.00



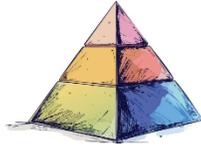
You can also buy the plexi glass, mat and foam board backing separately
We deliver to most places in southern california for 18.00

ART NEWS AND EVENTS AROUND TOWN

SFVACC

ART EXHIBITIONS & CLASSES

Open Call to Artists



**CHROMA, COLOR
and CONTRAST**
OPEN CALL: DEC 1 2025–JAN 25 2026

Chroma, Color, and Contrast OPEN CALL for In-Person Exhibit

SFVACC invites artists to explore the expressive force of color in all its forms — from the saturated and electric to the subtle and restrained. This exhibition looks at the interplay between hues, values, and intensities, and how contrast can spark emotion, define space, or disrupt expectation. We welcome work that examines color as language, as sensation, and as an agent of mood, movement, or meaning.

Juror: David S. Rubin

Dec 1, 2025 – Jan 25, 2026

NWS National
Watercolor Society
Advancing Watermedia since 1920

NWS
NATIONAL WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

**2025 NWS 105th International Open Exhibition
EVENTS AT THE NWS GALLERY**

Live Demonstrations
Friday, October 10, 2025
11:00 AM - Michael Holter, NWS
12:30 PM - Ratindra Das, NWS-GM
2:00 PM - Bill Hook, NWS-M
\$30/Person (limited seating)

Meet & Greet Artist Event
Friday, October 10, 2025
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Awards Reception Ticketed Event
Saturday, October 11, 2025
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
\$28/ Person (includes light bites, drinks & more)

Please complete your registration with payment to reserve your place at the Awards Reception and for the Live Demonstrations

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.

Other Calls for Entry

Online Juried Shows www.onlinejuriedshows.com

CaFÉ www.callforentry.org

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. Click link below for direct access:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=valley%20watercolor%20society>

You can then follow, comment, add your paintings or interesting exhibits you know of or par

We encourage ticipate in!

We are always looking to grow our community . We need your help to do better!

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

Thanks

REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS

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 2026 Newsletter

This is a call for your submissions for the February 2026 newsletter: Due on the 25th of January:

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.

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.

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: sytse210@gmail.com 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)

Rosemary Altshuler—RosemaryAltshulerwatercolors.com

Liz Blum — lizblum.com

Selina Cheng — selinachengart.com

Sue Cohen — suecohenfineart.com

Sylvia Crosbie — SylviaKCrosbie.com

Julie Crouch — juliecrouchart.com

Gary Friedman — garyfriedmanart.com

Caren J. Gafni — artistcarenjgafni.com

Mardilan Lee Georgio — mardilanleegeorgio.com

Dafna Gilboa — dafnasart.com

Jan Godachy — jangodachy.com

Jim Huppenthal—jimhuppenthal.com

Mary Zangerle — maryzangerleart.com

Judy Heimlich — judysartstudio.com

Fatemeh Kian-- 14kian.com

Michelene Laski — michreedlaski.artspan.com

Sandra McDuffie — sandramcduffie.net

Susan L. Meisel — slm-designs.com

Shirley Peppers — ShirleyPeppersArt.com

Iuliia Pozdina — iuliapozdina.com

Midge Reisman — midgereismanart.wixsite.com

Debra Reynolds — debraadamsreynolds.com

Deborah Swan-McDonald — deborahswan-mcdonald.com

Brenda Swenson — swensonsart.net

***To list your website, please email:
newsletter@valleywatercolorsociety.org***

Newsletter

Visit the [Valley Watercolor Society](http://www.valleywatercolorsociety.org) website (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 — Edina Russak
3rd VP Exhibits — Sylvia Crosbie
Secretary — Barbara Leitzel
Treasurer — Debbi Saunders

Directors

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

Committee Chairs

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

Email any VWS board member at
Admin@valleywatercolorsociety.org

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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