

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.

May 2026

CALENDAR

**GENERAL MEETING AND DEMO WITH
LIZ WALKER AND SOCIETY SHOW
(Zoom)**

**Thursday, May 14, 2026, 7 PM-9PM
(Pacific time)**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84214969604?pwd=ZByDj4N1k7wHc0TfrJ6iabgFiyXec.1>

Meeting ID: 842 1496 9604

Passcode: 209922

SOCIETY SHOW ENTRY :

**Please email your painting image to
selinachengart@aol.com by 1PM,
Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

MAY WORKSHOP (Zoom)

Liz Walker, Sat-Sun May 23 & 24, 2026,
9AM-1PM, 2 days

[Register]

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

For 2026 Meetings & Workshops

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

May 2026 Demo Artist: Liz Walker

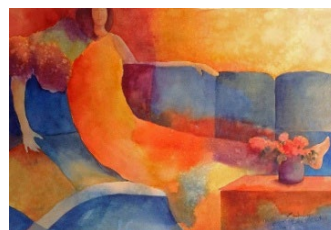


Liz Walker was born in Pennsylvania and raised in San Antonio, Texas--a large metropolitan city infused with the culture, language, and architecture of Mexico. This experience has had a profound and positive affect on her life and most certainly influences how she chooses the colors and subject matter in her paintings.

In 1980, Liz received a B.A. in Art from Trinity University, but, like many artists, found financial security in an unrelated field: writing software user manuals for a computer company. In 1997 after considerable soul-searching, Liz quit her stressful job and devoted herself completely and wholeheartedly to the thing she was put on this earth to do—PAINT.

Watercolor was Liz's first medium of choice, but since 2005 she has mainly painted in acrylics and acrylic marbling. Her paintings have been exhibited both locally and nationally and have won numerous awards. Her works are in private collections in Texas, Massachusetts, California, Colorado and Oregon. In 2020 she received First Place in the 47th Annual Rocky Mountain Watermedia Exhibit for her black and white painting "Upon Closer Inspection".

Visit her website www.lizwalkerart.com for more information.



President's Message



Hello Everyone,

We are almost coming to the end of the year! The artist for this month's demo and workshop is Liz Walker. Liz, a multi-talented artist, excels not only in watercolor but also in acrylic and acrylic marbling. Liz is very creative and has a great sense of color and composition. You will enjoy her demo.

During the summer recess in July and August, we have arranged a special workshop by a well-respected artist, Tom Lynch. This will be a 1-day online workshop scheduled for July 18. See page 4 for registration details.

Keep painting! It's good for your soul. See you all at the May 14 meeting.

Best,
John Chapin, President

2026 Student Awards

Each year, Valley Watercolor Society invites students in the San Fernando Valley high schools to submit artworks created in watermedia to participate in the Student Awards competition.

This event is chaired by Dorothy Lee and the art jurors: Liz Blum, Cathy Fickes and Judy Heimlich.

Each student submits 3 art works of their own choice. Judging is based on content and skill level. Each winner receives a cash scholarship award of \$250.

In the 2026 contest, we received 9 entries from 5 high schools.

The three winners are:

Megan Pacquing, 11th grade



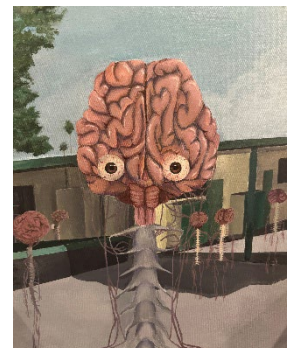
"Princess", acrylic

Brianna Reyes Ramirez, 12th grade



"Chicana in LA", acrylic

Delilah Yen, 11th grade



"Self Portrait", acrylic

April 2026 Society Show Winners



1st
Gary Friedman



2nd
Timothy Kitz



3rd
Debra Reynolds



HM
Selina Cheng



HM
John Chapin

To enter the upcoming **May 14 Society Show**, please submit an image of your painting to **Selina Cheng**: selinachengart@aol.com by 1PM on **Wednesday May 13**.

The demo artist will select awards: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and two Honorable Mentions.

See all the entries from previous Society Shows here: <https://valleywatercolorssociety.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@valleywatercolorssociety.org with your details. Please see our complete list of teachers online at <https://valleywatercolorssociety.org/teachers/>

Welcome Members

Welcome to our new members. we look forward to your participation.

- Nadine Suber, Oak Park, CA
- Mojgan Khandani Ardalan, Los Angeles
- Susan Lavin, Thousand Oaks

As our fiscal year's end approaches, I wish to remind you that you may renew your membership at this time, without any interruption, by simply going to our website. You may also mail a check (\$50) payable to Valley Watercolor Society (c/o Kym Duxbury, Treasurer, 28223 Lolita Lane, Santa Clarita, CA 91350)

On May 30th, if you have not yet renewed, you will receive a reminder letter asking you to do so by June 30th. As mentioned earlier, the annual dues are \$50. Those with Lifetime Membership, your status has not changed.

We look forward to another excellent year of watercolor activities. Please consider volunteering your talents. We are most appreciative of your support and participation.

Thank you for being a part of our journey,

Edina Russak
Membership Chair

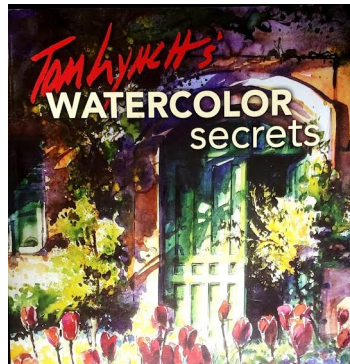
2026 VWS WORKSHOP



Liz Walker
May 2026



Frank Eber
June 2026



Tom Lynch
July 2026

For more details on the workshop please click [Register](#)

Liz Walker –**Online** Sat -Sun May 23 & 24, 2026, 9am - 1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [[Register](#)] \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

Frank Eber –**Online** Sat-Sun, June 27 & 28, 2026, 9am - 1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [[Register](#)] \$140 for VWS members, \$180 for non-members

Tom Lynch –**Online** Saturday July 18, 2026, 9am -4pm, 1-Days on ZOOM, [[Register](#)] \$120 for VWS 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://valleywatercolorssociety.org/events>. Just select the desired workshop and scroll down to the "Register Now" button

Member Art News

Barbara Leitzel

Barbara will have three paintings on display in the Thousand Oaks Art Association 2026 Open Juried Show. The titles of the paintings are *Five Sisters* and *Dazzle* (acrylics) and *Crisp Luffs 2* (serigraph). The show will be held at the Thousand Oaks Community Gallery, Newbury Park from Monday, May 4 to Wednesday, May 27. The reception will be on Sunday, May 17 from 1 to 3 pm.



Barbara's watercolor *Neighbors* has been accepted to Buenaventura Art Association's 37th Annual Open Competition which will be held from May 2 until May 28, 2026 at the Ojai Art Center located at 113 S. Montgomery St. in Ojai.

The reception and awards ceremony will be held on May 9 from 1 to 3 pm.



Deborah McDonald

Deborah Swan-McDonald received the third place award at the Shelly Lazarus 4th Annual Excellence in Watercolor competition. The show was at the TAG gallery in Los Angeles in the month of March. The title of the painting is, "Grand Central Market Los Angeles".



ART NEWS AND EVENTS AROUND TOWN



SAN DIEGO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

Call For Entry

For prospectus:
www.sdws.org

THE SAN DIEGO WATERCOLOR SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL FORTYSIXTH EXHIBITION
2026 CALL FOR ENTRIES
WATERCOLOR • ACRYLIC • MIXED MEDIA
SDWS ENTER February 1 through May 8
WWWSDWS.ORG JURIED BY ANA LAURA SALAZAR SDWS

Ana Laura Salazar From Above

2026 INTERNATIONAL EVERY DAY | SEP 27 • OCT 31

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

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

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:



[FaceBook Link](#)

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) if you have questions or need assistance.

Thanks, Sandra

REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS

We request 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 June 2026 Newsletter

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

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](#)

2025-2026VWS 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 — Kym Duxbury

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Newsletter — Selina Cheng
Parliamentarian — Barbara Leitzel
Hospitality — Debbi Saunders
Student Awards — Dorothy Lee

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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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