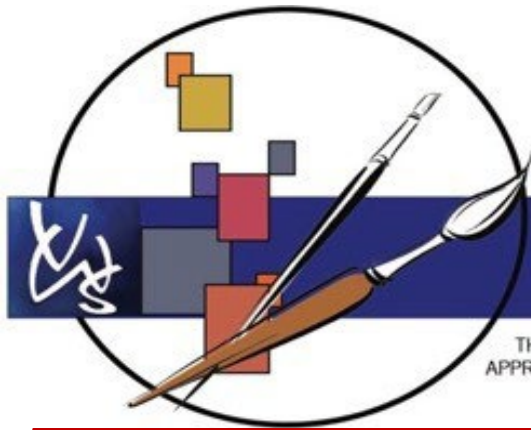




VALLEY WATERCOLOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

September 2026

CALENDAR

**GENERAL MEETING AND DEMO WITH
JOHN PAUL THORNTON AND
SOCIETY SHOW (IN-PERSON)**

**Saturday Sept 5, 2026, 10AM -12PM
(Pacific time)**

Meeting Address:

**San Fernando Valley SRAR office
7232 Balboa Blvd, Lake Balboa CA 91406**

There will not be on-line access for this meeting. Please [\[Register\]](#) here to attend.

SOCIETY SHOW ENTRY :

To participate please bring your paintings to the meeting (matted or framed).

No WORKSHOP in September

For 2026 Meetings & Workshops

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

September 2026 Demo Artist: John Paul Thornton



John Paul Thornton is an American artist, educator and speaker. He is the author of the book: "Art And Courage: Stories to inspire the Artist-Warrior Within."

John Paul attended courses at Otis Parsons School of Design and California State University at Northridge, where he received his B.A. while working with two distinct voices in American art: Hans Burkhardt and Saul Bernstein. Extensive travels throughout Europe have given him the opportunity to study the history of Western Art. Invitations to work and teach in Mexico, India, China, Nepal, Japan, Russia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Israel have expanded his knowledge of Ancient, traditional Eastern, Islamic, Pre-Columbian and Jewish art and Architecture. As an award-winning professional painter, he regularly conducts workshops and lectures to audiences around the globe. He has had the honor of being invited to lecture in China at the International Conference on Comparative Studies of Modern Chinese and Western Art Education at Shandong University. Japan's Global Culture Center invited John Paul to represent the United States in exhibitions in Tokyo and in Cairns, Australia.

He has taught at The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California State University of Los Angeles, The Skirball Cultural Center, American Jewish university, Pierce College, the Los Angeles Unified School District Conservatory of the Arts, and the Sophia School of Painting in Tokyo, Japan. He also served as Art Education Coordinator with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs working on projects with MOCA, the Getty Research Institute and on International Sister-City exchanges with Taxco, Mexico. John Paul's paintings are in numerous private collections. He lives in Los Angeles, California.



President's Message



Hello Everyone,

Hope you all had a wonderful summer! Our first meeting for the new year will be **in-person** on **Saturday September 5**. We welcome our demo artist John Paul Thornton at this meeting. John Paul is an internationally acclaimed painter, well known for his portrait oil paintings. You will enjoy learning from him.

There will not be on-line access to this meeting. Please [\[Register\]](#) here to attend.

Our Programs and Workshop chairs, Debi McDonald and Alanna Chandler, have worked very hard over the summer to put together a wide array of exciting artists for demos and workshops for the coming months. Please follow the links on page 4 of this newsletter for more details.

Hope to see you all at the September 5 meeting at the SRAR Office.

Best,

John Chapin, President

Valley Watercolor Society 2027 Annual Juried Exhibit

The Valley Watercolor Society will hold its 2027 Annual Juried Exhibit March 2-13, 2027.

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

Entries open:	December 1, 2026
Entries deadline:	January 31, 2027
Acceptance notification begins:	February 13, 2027
Accepted Paintings Take-in	March 1, 2027 (10 AM - 12 PM)
Award Judging:	March 1, 2027
Exhibition dates:	March 2 – March 13, 2027
Take-down	March 14, 2027 (10 AM – 12 PM)
Reception and Awards Presentation:	March 7, 2027 (3PM-6PM)

We welcome members who can help with the Exhibit during take-in and at the reception. Please contact Sylvia Crosby, Exhibit Chair, at sylvia_crosbie@bluetiehome.com if you have questions.

Please click this link for prospectus; [VWS 2027 Prospectus](#)

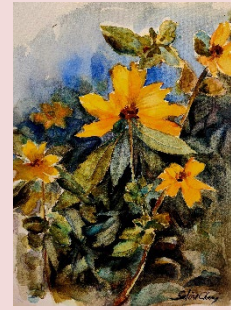
June 2026 Society Show Winners



1st
Gary Friedman



2nd
Debi McDonald



3rd
Selina Cheng



HM
Debra Reynolds



HM
Elana Goldheimer

To enter the upcoming **September 5 Society Show**, please bring your paintings to the in-person meeting.

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 Members

New members:

Dana Priskorn, Agoura Hills, CA
Susan Lavin, Thousand Oaks, CA
Abbe Barron Los Angeles, CA

Susan Pierce, Westlake Village CA
Lois Julian, Calabasas, CA



Dane
Priskorn

Welcome back to all our returning members and a special welcome to all new members. Those who have not yet renewed your membership, you are now past due. Please renew with us immediately. Do not let this be your last email from us. We have many wonderful activities planned for this fiscal year including our annual members only exhibit and we want you all to be able to participate.

This is an all-volunteer organization and we appreciate any assistance you may be able to provide. Let us know.

If I can be of assistance, please reach out to me via email at Rcstle@sbcglobal.net. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Thank you for being a part of our journey,

Edina Russak
Membership Chair

2026-2027 VWS WORKSHOP



Fatemeh Aya Kian
Oct 18



Vladislav Yelisseyev
Nov 21



Debbie Abshear
Jan 16



Ian Stewart
Feb 20-21



Pam Wenger
Apr 17



Shelley Prior
May 22

Fatemeh Aya Kian –Online Sun, Oct 18, 2026, 9am - 1pm, 1-Day on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$70 for members, \$90 for non-members

Vladislav Yelisseyev –Online Sat, Nov 21, 2026, 9am - 1pm, 1-Day on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$70 for members, \$90 for non-members

Debbie Abshear –In-Person Sat, Jan 16, 2027, 10am - 3pm, 1-Day In-person [\[Register\]](#) \$70 for members, \$90 for non-members

Ian Stewart –Online Sat-Sun, Feb 20 & 21, 2027, 9am - 1pm, 2-Days on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$140 for members, \$180 for non-members

Pam Wenger –Online Sat, Apr 17, 2027, 9am - 1pm, 1-Day on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$70 for members, \$90 for non-members

Shelley Prior –Online Sat, May 22, 2027, 9am - 1pm, 1-Day on ZOOM, [\[Register\]](#) \$70 for members, \$90 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

Member Art News

Gary Friedman

Gary Friedman is excited to announce his watercolor painting '**Birdy Creek**' has been accepted into the NWS (National Watercolor Society)'s 106th International Exhibition! Jurors Ratindra Das, Robbie Laird and Gale Webb selected 100 out of 700 worldwide submissions. The exhibition will be held at the NWS Gallery in San Pedro, CA. from October 1st to November 1st.

Gary teaches a 'Watercolor Art Class' at the Simi Valley Sr. Center on Saturdays from 9:30am to noon. You can register at rsrpd.org



Barbara Leitzel

Barbara has had two watercolors, ***ER Anxiety*** and ***When Our Eyes Met***, accepted by the Santa Cruz Art League for their exhibition entitled *With Love: Examining Attachments and Emotions*. The exhibition will take place from September 2 until September 25, 2026 at Santa Cruz Art League, 526 Broadway, Santa Cruz, California. The reception will be held on September 4 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.



Barbara's watercolor, ***Misspoke***, was accepted by the North American Watercolor Society's International Online Exhibition. The exhibition opened on August 1 and will run until September 14.



Art News Around Town

Call For Entry
www.onlinejuriedshows.com



Anaheim Art Association
62th Annual Open Juried Art Competition

Entry Opening: 8/1/2026
Entry Deadline: 10/11/2026,
Locale: Open to Southern California Artists.



collage artists of america

Collage Artists of America
Portals

Entry Opening: 8/1/2026
Entry Deadline: 10/1/2026,
Locale: Open to artists worldwide

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 October 2026 Newsletter

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

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

Micheline 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](#)

2025-2026 VWS Board of Directors

Officers

President — John Chapin
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2nd VP Membership — Edina Russak
3rd VP Exhibits — Sylvia Crosbie
Secretary — Barbara Leitzel
Treasurer — Kym Duxbury

Directors

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

Committee Chairs

Website — Selina Cheng/Sharon Reeves
Facebook -- Sandra McDuffie
DVD Library Coordinator — Susie Tse
Paint-Outs — Don Ferre
Society Show — Selina Cheng
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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