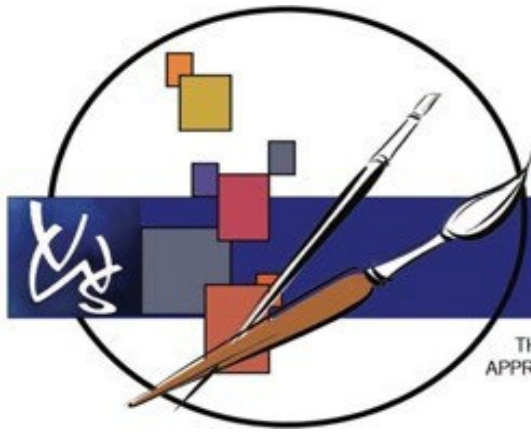




VALLEY WATERCOLOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

October 2026

CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETING AND DEMO WITH
FATEMEH AYA KIAN AND SOCIETY
SHOW (ZOOM)

Thursday Oct 8, 2026, 7PM -9PM (Pacific
time)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85829952453?
pwd=rbVDPt2ztabhVV7cDJrI5Z73al5X
do.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85829952453?pwd=rbVDPt2ztabhVV7cDJrI5Z73al5Xdo.1)

Meeting ID: 858 2995 2453

Passcode: 749851

SOCIETY SHOW ENTRY :

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

OCTOBER WORKSHOP (Zoom)

Fatemeh Aya Kian, Sun Oct 18, 2026,
9AM-1PM, 1 day

[Register]

\$70 for members, \$90 for non-members

For 2026-2027 Meetings & Workshops

[https://valleywatercolorssociety.org/even
ts/#!event-list](https://valleywatercolorssociety.org/events/#!event-list)

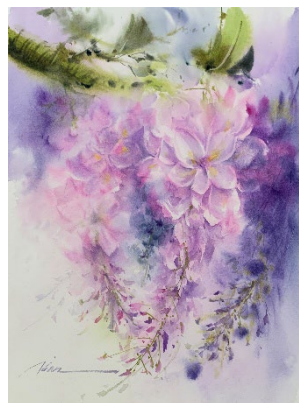
October 2026 Demo Artist: Fatemeh Aya Kian



My artistic journey started with calligraphy at a young age. I achieved the highest level of it in my country and then decided to make a shift in my career to explore the world of painting, so I tried doing colored pencils, oil, pastels, and some other mediums for a while. I believe all that background led to me picking watercolor as my main passion, and without it, I would never be successful in watercolor. I have a university degree in color theory & motive design, and am now pursuing interior architecture at UCLA. I've had multiple solo and group exhibitions in my country, in Oklahoma, where I lived for two years, and here in Los Angeles. Perhaps I'm known mostly by my students as a floral painter, which indeed I love to do, but I also love doing landscapes, still-life, portraits, and figures.

Visit Fatemeh's Website for more info:

www.14kian.com



President's Message



Hello Everyone,

Hope you all are well! Hopefully you made it to the in-person meeting on September 5. Our demo artist **John Paul Thornton** was very informative and a fantastic artist. We all had a fun time seeing many old and new friends.

For October Fatemeh Kian will give a demo at the General meeting and an online workshop on Sunday October 18. Fatemeh is best known for her floral paintings but she also excels in landscape, still-life and portraits. You will enjoy her effortless teaching style and beautiful florals.

Hope to see you all at the October 8 meeting on Zoom.

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](#)

September 2026 Society Show Winners



1st
Jessica Falcone



2nd
Debi McDonald



3rd
Liz Wager



4th
Ofra Dor

To enter the upcoming **October 8 Society Show**, please submit your painting image to selinachengart@aol.com before 1 PM on Wednesday, October 7, 2026.

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/>

Welcome Members

Thank you to all our renewed members and welcome back to an exciting year of painting, learning and sharing. We have much in store for you in the coming months. We welcome all our new and lapsed-returned members for this membership year and thank you for joining us:

New and lapsed-returned members:

Paula Brynen, Los Angeles
Pamela Markhem, Moorpark
Edie Levenson, Culver City
Deborah Lenny, South Pasadena
Janet Raffalow, Valley Glen
Cheryl MacAller, Chatsworth
Lois Julien, Calabasas
Dana Priskorn, Agoura Hills
Dian Peterson, Somis

Cheryl Knight, Chatsworth
Marlene Markhem, Moorpark
Carolyn Tranovich, Valencia
Michele Ficks-Hellman, Burbank
Jessica Falcone, Encino
Louise R. Rochleind, Woodland Hills
Susan Pierce, Westlake Village
Abbe Barron, Los Angeles
Susan Lavin, Thousand Oaks

Be sure to take advantage of all your wonderful membership privileges. Visit our website for details and always open and read our emails for the most up-to-date information.

Those of you who have not renewed, your membership expired. Do not let this newsletter be the last communication you receive from us. Please, reactivate your membership by going to our website and paying your dues.

We are an all volunteer nonprofit organization and your membership and participation keeps us going. Spread the word about us to your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, students and consider volunteered your skills, talents, and time. We would love to have you on board.

I look forward to seeing you at our next event. Please be sure to say, hello.

Edina Russak
Membership Director VWS
Rcstle@sbcglobal.net

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, 2026, 10am – 3pm 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

Deborah Swan-McDonald

Deborah Swan-McDonald was awarded first place in landscape and first place in portrait/figure categories at the Mid Valley Art League exhibit.

The show is at the Millard Sheets Art Center at the Fairplex in Pomona. The show ends October 3, 2026.



Pam McDonald

Pam will have a one woman watercolor show at 1545b Victory Blvd, Glendale 91205 through October 30. Open Monday -Friday 9 AM-5PM. Opening reception is on October 10.



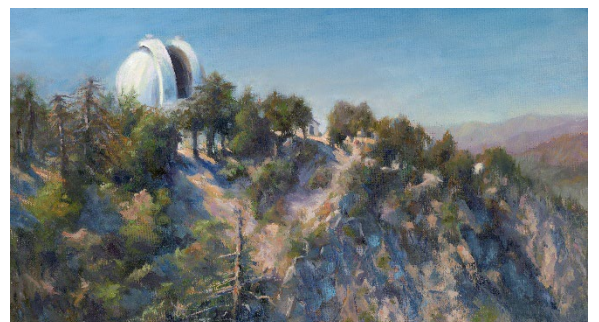
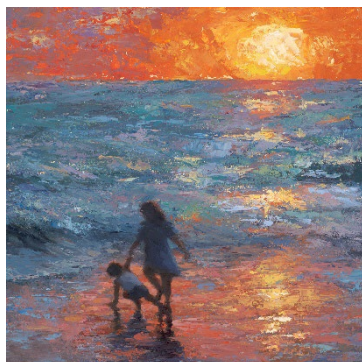
Jessica Falcone

I'm thrilled to announce that four of my paintings have been juried into the **California Art League** exhibition called the *Expressions of California* which will be at the **Beverly Hills Art Show** October 17 & 18. Show hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both weekend days

Kline Academy of Fine Arts: *Open House, Student & Faculty Exhibit*

November 7th & 8th, 2026, Saturday, Nov. 7th, 5pm to 9pm Live Music, Sunday, Nov. 8th, noon to 5pm Free Art Demos. Address: 3264 Motor Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90034 Phone: (310) 837-7194

Web: <https://www.klineacademy.com/>



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 November 2026 Newsletter

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

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/>

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/>

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

Rosemary Altshuler — RosemaryAltshulerwatercolors.com

Selina Cheng — selinachengart.com

Sue Cohen — suecohenfineart.com

Sylvia Crosbie — SylviaKCrosbie.com

Julie Crouch — juliecrouchart.com

Jessica Falcone — jessicafalcone.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

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

Committee Chairs

Website — Selina Cheng/Sharon Reeves
Facebook -- Sandra McDuffie
DVD Library Coordinator — Susie Tse
Society Show — Selina Cheng
Nominating — TBD
Lifetime/Honorary Memberships — Marie Burdick

Directors

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

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

Copyright © 2026 Valley Watercolor Society, All Rights Reserved.