

# Ohio Watercolor Society

July/August 2026 Newsletter

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## Watercolor by Design...Ratindra Das Workshop Recap

Tom Sorrell



The OWS workshop this year was taught by Ratindra Das at the Canticle Center in Sylvania. It was perhaps fitting that his last workshop took place at a University that is closing its doors. For the students, however, it seemed instead like a new beginning as they encountered innovative ideas and approaches to painting in watercolor.



Ratindra's emphasis in each daily exercise focused on shapes, design and color, and little on technique. At the same time, he demonstrated approaches using soaking-wet, damp and dry paper, creating landscapes (in the broadest sense) that were dynamic and powerful. Each day started with a painting demo, interwoven with amusing accounts of his life experiences and adventures in painting.



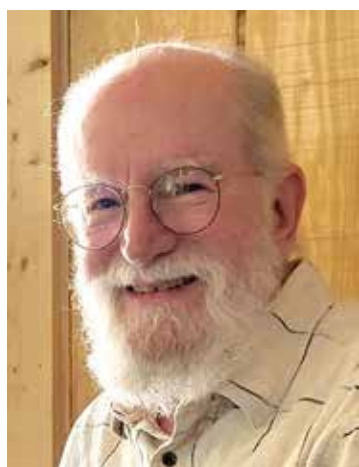
Students then painted from value studies done in pencil that they drew from personal reference materials. Painting from the drawing while ignoring the original photo reference was either liberating or maddening depending on one's disposition. Ratindra's humor and empathy with the students' frustrations helped break old habits to yield some excellent paintings.

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## Welcome New Signature Members



**Billie Dickson** led a childhood as the daughter of a career Air Force officer. She graduated from Miami University with a degree in Business. After a few years as a stay at home mother, and several classes in drawing and watercolor at a local community adult school, she began a 30 year career as a YMCA professional. She continued painting and even worked in a few workshops before retiring in 2009. Then she began painting in earnest. Workshops with nationally known artists, including Fred Graff, Judi Betts, Alicia Farris, and Steve Rogers, among others led to a more advanced level of confidence and competence. She attained active status in the Western Ohio Watercolor Society in 1978 and is a past President of WOWS, and of Fairborn Art Association. Now in her 80's, Billie enjoys painting a variety of subjects, on a variety of surfaces. Transparent watercolor is her medium of choice. She continues to develop her skills in workshops, and has a dedicated day each week to paint with friends. Billie lives in Beavercreek, Ohio. Her two daughters and granddaughter live nearby. Her paintings can be found in private and corporate collections.



**Jack Hickson** earned a BFA degree in 1979 at Kent State University in Design and Crafts, General. He pursued ceramics predominately. After almost 40 years of no artistic pursuits, Jack tried watercolors and quickly found he could no longer draw or paint. After taking a beginning drawing class from Alice Incorvia at the Kenmore Community Center he fell back in love with drawing. This led to some progress in painting, and he fell in love with the medium. He's pursued classes and workshops, entering exhibitions as often as possible to receive feedback on my progress. Still trying to discover and refine my "style." OWS Signature Membership has long been one of his top goals. Jack began painting in 2017 after retirement, studied with Jerry Zelinskas at Canton Art Museum and followed this with classes at Cuyahoga Valley Art Center with Sally Heston. Workshops with David Rankin, Kit Palencar, Yuki Hall, Chris Leeper and Mark Giangaspero. Jack's awards include Butler Institute of American Art, 86th Area Artist Annual Exhibition, Honorable Mention for *Grandpa's Vise*; Mansfield Art Center, 77th Annual May Show, Thomas Gene Zaugg Award for Best Watercolor; Euclid Art Assoc. 2022 Spring Art Show Best in Show, Best Watercolor; CVAC Human Figure Exhibition Honorable Mention for *Natural Curiosity*; Mansfield Art Center, 76th Annual May Show, Thomas Gene Zaugg Award for Best Watercolor for *A Feast at the Holly Berry Festival*; Euclid Art Assoc. 2019 Lake Metroparks Fine Art Show 2nd Place Watercolor for *Desolation Sunrise*.



**Tessa Kalman** Creating art has been a constant throughout Tessa Kalman's life. It was her favorite subject in high school, where an encouraging teacher urged her to pursue her talent. Tessa went on to attend Wittenberg University on an athletic scholarship and continued to take art electives alongside a pre-veterinary science curriculum. A pivotal shift came when she learned of Ohio State University's Medical Illustration program — a highly selective course of study accepting only six students per year. She transferred to OSU, was accepted into the program, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Illustration. She spent the following 31 years at the Dayton VA Medical Center, where she led illustration, graphic design, and print production services, retiring in 2021 to devote herself fully to her art. Through workshops and continuing education, Tessa has studied under nationally recognized artists, such as Andy Evansen, Keiko Tanabe, Eric Michaels, David R. Smith, and Janet Rogers. Her work has been featured in local and regional exhibitions, including several solo shows. In 2022, she joined the Fairborn Art Association and the Western Ohio Watercolor Society, where her paintings have won top awards and found buyers in juried local competitions. She was elected president of the Western Ohio Watercolor Society in 2024, a role she continues to hold, and is a trustee on the executive board of the Ohio Watercolor Society.



# Welcome New Signature Members

**Rose Schultz** is an alumna of Edgecliff College and Miami University with a master's in art education. She taught art to middle school students in Edgewood School District in Butler County for 32 years. Since retiring Rose has spent considerable time on her artwork, concentrating on water media, collage, and pastels. Rose's personal interests are reflected in the subject matter of her paintings. She enjoys small boat sailing and has a special affinity for paintings involving boats and water. Portraying the effects of wind on water and sails is of special interest to her. She also enjoys rendering geometric building shapes against the organic shapes of nature. As a member of Fairborn Art Association and Western Ohio Watercolor Society, she has won prizes in several member shows. Her work has also been awarded prizes in Miamisburg, Middletown and Kettering exhibitions.



**Andrea Walker** graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in illustration from Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. She has participated in numerous juried exhibitions and been featured in several publications including *The Art of Watercolour* magazine in 2026. Andrea's artistic approach to contemporary realism incorporates attention to detail, strong design, traditional techniques, and a realistic rendering of light and texture through many layers. She is known for both her black & white and color artwork, and currently focuses on watercolor. A common thread throughout her work is intricate, thoughtful detail that is unveiled as the viewer spends more time with the painting. Her compositions and designs focus on bold, dominant shapes and trailing pathways of light and color leading through the piece. She uses strong lighting to help emphasize form and bring textures to life. These varied textures are one of her main inspirations, and she enjoys the technical approach of rendering realistic textures through layers. Along with form and texture, energetic colors are also used throughout her watercolor paintings, and specifically looks for subjects with interesting, varied colors. *While my artwork is, in part, a reflection of the objects themselves, my work has much more to do with my inner world as a person. In a way, my watercolors are more like a self portrait than a still life. All of my work embodies tight, detailed realism with an emphasis on craftsmanship and refinement. This is an outward expression of my finding order and beauty in the chaos of life. My watercolors are a balance of technical acumen and the much more personal depths where that originates.*



**Howard Wood** is a self-taught artist who has long admired watercolor, but only applied myself to the medium starting in 2021. He is awed by the great landscape painters, past and present. To quote one of them, *there are no bad subjects, only bad paintings*. So it is that he decided to focus on the Ohio landscapes and cityscapes where he has spent most of his life. While his work is strictly representational, Howard finds that watercolor can make a picture magical. *I strive to make magic with atmosphere, distance, light, shadows, and sometimes mystery. I have much to learn and have never painted a masterpiece, but there are times when I think I will.*



## Member News:

News which may be included: awards, publications, solo or small group shows (*other than our OWS exhibitions*), serving on juries, additions to permanent collections, signature membership in *other art societies*, participation in art festivals and other unusual art adventures. Please make sure news is briefly and clearly expressed...but please send news to your reporter!



## NEWS from the NORTHEAST

**Mary Pat Oliver** reporting

**Brian Asquith** has a watercolor painting, *Small Tortoise Butterfly*, in the Erie Art Museum's 103rd Annual Juried Show. His work will also be featured in the summer edition of the CAN Journal and an event hosted by CAN was held at Brian's 78th St Studios location in May. Brian will have a solo show at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens from May 29 - September 22; the opening celebration was held on May 29th.

**Amy Lewandowski's** watercolor painting, *Henge*, has been included in the Cleveland Museum of Art's Lake Effect: Artists from Cleveland Now exhibit at Cleveland Museum of Art's Transformer Station. The exhibit includes 66 artworks selected by a panel of jurors out of 1,700 submissions from 950 artists and will be on view from July 9 through December 6, 2026.

**Tim Myrick**, is excited to announce his upcoming Fall Solo Exhibition at the Cleveland Botanical Garden/ Holden Forest and Garden Theater Gallery, 11030 East Blvd, Cleveland, OH 44106. The exhibition titled "Immersed in Nature", will feature a number of his nature-themed watercolors, highlighted by his current Pollinator Series. Image above is one of this series, *Lady of the Rose*, 22" X 30", watercolor on Arches cold press paper. The show is September 26 to November 8, 2026.



**Nancy Notarianni's** painting, *Jennifer*, was accepted into the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve 2026 NEW NOW Show. The show is at Tri-C's Easton Campus Gallery from Sept. 3- Oct. 22. Opening reception and awards is Sept. 3. Nancy also had

a solo show at the Malvina Freedson Gallery in Winton Place, Lakewood Ohio in June-July, 2026. The opening reception was held on June 26th. After her solo show, Nancy's watercolor students will have a group show at the same location. Nancy had 6 watercolors in a group show of the Evergreen Artists at the Medina Library and had 6 watercolors in an Evergreen Artists' show at Laurel Lake Retirement Community in Hudson, Ohio.

**Natividad Lopez Ortiz (Suni)** was awarded Second Place for, *Spill the Tea*, (at right) as well as an Honorable Mention for, *Let's Play*, in a juried show in North Carolina.

**Kathy Sabbath Oravec** had four paintings selected for the Atrium Health Medical Center Art Gallery in Charlotte for a three month rotation early this year. The health center creates a partnership that inspires healing in the hospital and the promotion of local artists. Kathy was the co-director for the 2027 Western Region annual exhibition in May. The show was hosted by the Art Gallery in Hendersonville, North Carolina. She also won third place for her painting, *Temecula*. In November, Kathy will be having a show of her work at the Rock School Art Galleries in Valdese, North Carolina.



**Susie Schreiber** has been selected to do a demo on October 3, 2026 at The Florida Watercolor Society's annual convention.

**Virginia Simons** will be having a solo show at The Moses Art Gallery in The Gathering Place, 25425 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, Ohio. There will be an artist's reception during the first week in November (date TBA). For further info, contact The Gallery at 216.595.9547.

Three OWS members won awards at the YWCA Women's Art show in Youngstown Ohio, **Brenda Myers Cohen**, **Jody Nudell**, and **Lynne Rosati**. This show exhibits diverse topics as well as mediums, and styles. The show was up until July 25, 2026.



**Rick Surowicz** has earned signature membership in the Transparent Watercolor Society of America with the acceptance of his painting, *Tangled Barn*, (below) in this year's exhibition.



ica 113th Annual (online); a finalist in Richeson75's annual on-line Landscape show; and she curated and appears in a group show: "DiverSCAPE" being held at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts 8/3 - 9/17 (Findlay, OH).

Look for **Dennis Zimmerman** at the Findlay Art League where he will be having a one-person show. It will run for the entire month of September.



## NEWS from the SOUTH

**Thomas Schroeder** reporting



## NEWS from the NORTHWEST

**Micki Ansberry Brown** reporting

**Norma Frances (Wiles) Thomas-Herr**, now living in Wauseon, has watercolors and notecards at the Toledo Artist Club in Toledo; Junk and Disorderly, Wauseon; and The Black Swamp Council Gallery and Art Studio, Archbold. Norma just turned 87 and is still creating and loving life every day. Happiness is the key to life.

**Tom Sorrell** had his painting, *Stranded*, accepted into the AWS 2026 Associate Members Online Exhibition. His painting, *Range Rovers*, was chosen to appear in the 53rd Annual Rocky Mountain Watermedia Show that starts in September. Tom received the 3rd place award at the Toledo Festival of the Arts in June.



**Jennifer Sowders** is a 2026 Grant Recipient of the Marianna Hofer Endowment Fund which will fully fund the Golden Apple Artists Residency that she will attend in Downeast Maine at the end of August. She is currently showing in the "3rd Acrylic International – Biennial Juried Exhibition" (Kenosha, WI); in the Butler's 89th Midyear (Youngstown, OH), Allied Artists of Amer-

On March 21, **Gina Judy** was awarded Best in Show for her painting, (right) *Sunset Walk, St. Croix*, by juror/Pittsburgh watercolorist Peggi Habets in the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society Annual Member Exhibition "Waterworks." Gina currently is in Lexington, Kentucky's Regional "AquaVenture" sponsored by the Kentucky Watercolor Society and the Women's Art Club of Cincinnati's 133rd Regional Juried Exhibition. She also had two pieces in the Rockies West National (CO) and won an award. She recently was in the new-member show at Ketchup City Creative, Pittsburgh, for the Pittsburgh Print Group and had two watercolors in the North Hills Art Center. She had a watercolor painting, *Generations*, juried into the Sweetwater Art Center's national call for entry "Crafted In The Valley: Contemporary Voices In Appalachia."



**Kathleen Kuhn** had two paintings accepted to the Evendale show: *Hats Off to You* and *The Vault*. (shown below)



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## NEWS from the SOUTH

**Thomas Schroeder** reporting

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The Greater Cincinnati Watercolor Society is hosting a workshop with Bradley Hendershot from Oct. 15-17 at the ArtsConnect facility in Springfield Township. Spaces are limited. If interested, register online at [greatercincinnatiwatercolorssociety.org](http://greatercincinnatiwatercolorssociety.org) or call 513.522.2108.

The Greater Cincinnati Watercolor Society will display their club show at The Barn in Mariemont, Ohio starting August 5.

**Gary Brooks** will be the Juror of Awards for the Indiana Artists Club Member Show in September.

**Keith Shebesta** had a solo show at The Barn in Mariemont in July.

**Tom Schroeder** did a demo for the Greater Cincinnati Watercolor Society in July. **Andrea Walker**, will be doing a demo for the club in September.

In June, several OWS members participated in the Fairborn Art Association's Annual Members Show. This exhibition was juried by nationally renowned watercolorist Steve Rogers, who chose the following OWS artist paintings for awards:

**Tessa Kalman, OWS:** 1st Place "Water for Horses"



**Jane Trame:** Honorable Mention "Sunny Waterlilies"



**Tessa Kalman, OWS:** Juror's Merit "Bringing in the Beans"



At the WOWS meeting on May 19, our guest demonstration artist was OWS signature member **Yuki Hall**. Her demonstration



of expressive ink drawings was a "not to be missed" affair. Everyone in attendance at this presentation was duly impressed and thankful to Yuki for sharing her insight and wisdom.

The Western Ohio Watercolor Society (WOWS) held their Spring Fine Art Exhibition at the Champaign Country Arts Council Gallery in Urbana, OH. The show was judged by Laura Carpenter Truitt, the gallery coordinator at Rosewood Arts Center and the coordinator for Adult Wellness Programming at the Springfield Museum of Art. OWS members chosen for awards were: **Jeanette Ferguson, OWS;** 2nd Place Award: *Pomegranates and a Pear*.







## NEWS from the CENTRAL AREA

**Pam Hartford** reporting

Early summer, **Kevin Buckland** and his wife were juried into the 2026 51st Delaware County Arts festival held in May. There were over 170 exhibitor booths featuring local and regional artists and crafters. Kevin served as an Art Judge for the 2026 Congressional Youth Art Competition. High School students submit entries to their congressional representative's office for the competition. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol. He also served as the Art Judge for the 52nd Annual Boston Mills Artfest June 26 - July 3, 2026 in Peninsula, OH.



1st Place, Kevin Buckland

He received a "First Place" at the 65th Haus und Garten Tour 26... Kevin's second year running receiving a first place for painting En Plein Air. This event is sponsored by the German Village Society and the Central Ohio Watercolor Society as an annual fund raising event for German Village.

Kevin was juried into the 2026 Lancaster Festival Downtown Art Walk through July 25.. He

exhibited with his wife, Pertina, at their art booth inside the lobby of Park Bank.

Kevin will be presenting a Fall Watercolor Workshop at Lakeside, Ohio scheduled for October 5 - 7, 2026. Workshop is filled with waiting list with a possibility of a second workshop later in October.

Kevin is Chairman for the Ohio Watercolor Society 50th Year Anniversary Exhibition...a very special exhibition schedule for 2027 featuring the OWS Permanent Collection. Details to come.

Kevin's Fall Watercolor Class Schedule:

Lazelle Woods Recreation Center- September 17 - October 22 (six week session) 10am - 1pm and 6pm - 9pm

Upper Arlington Bob Crane Center Classes September 16 - October 21 (six week session) 6pm - 9pm

E-mail: kevinbucklandart.com for more info.

**Suzanne Accetta** is honored and grateful to have been included in numerous national exhibitions, where her work has received several awards. Recently, she was featured in a six-page article in the 62nd edition of *The Art of Watercolour* international magazine. There is a humorous story behind that opportunity: assuming

the interview requests were an online scam, she deleted the emails. Fortunately, the president of another watercolor society contacted her to let her know the invitation was genuine — a reminder of how many scam artists today. Suzanne's exhibition, "Mending a Heart, One Brushstroke at a Time," will be presented through the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Art in Medicine program from January through March 2027. Tentative plans are also underway for a fall 2027 exhibition at a museum in Talladega. Her book of the same title has been warmly received, with many readers sharing how its message of healing through art has offered encouragement and comfort as they navigate loss and grief.



The Central Ohio Watercolor Society (COWS) show at the German Village Meeting Haus came to a conclusion on July 10, 2026. Twenty-three of the COWS artists displayed 39 paintings with six paintings sold. At the Haus and Garten Tours post tour volunteer party, two awards for this show were announced. OWS Central Region Members were the recipients:

Best in Show — *Neil Avenue, Arena District* by **Howard Wood**  
People's Choice — *Purdy Puddles Alley* by **Rick Mock**

On a hot Sunday, June 28, 2026, several members of the OWS Central Region painted portraits of homes in the German Village Haus and Garten tour. Members participating were **Pam Hartford**, **Fran Mangino**, **Leslie Laufman**, **Vivian Ripley**, **Jericho Starzynski**, and **Laura Sommers**. Awards were presented following the conclusion of the Haus and Garten tour. **Kevin Buckland's** painting won 1st place and **Pam Hartford's** painting won 2nd place.



2nd Place, Pam Hartford



Fran Mangino



Leslie Laufman

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# Ratindra Das OWS Workshop

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A critique of the week's work took place on the final day, and Ratindra invited everyone's input. His own insights and humility served well to help everyone see their successes despite stepping out of their comfort zones. It was a memorable workshop!

A heartfelt Thank You to Erin Szavuly, Art Department Chair at Lourdes University. Even as she was working to finish her own efforts to shutter the department after closure of the University, she helped in numerous ways to make sure the workshop would succeed.



## NEWS from the CENTRAL AREA

**Pam Hartford** reporting

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More painted portraits of homes in the German Village Haus and Garten tour.

left: Vivian Ripley  
middle: Jericho Starzynski  
right: Laura Sommers



## Watercolor Ohio 2026 Reception & Banquet Information

Saturday, September 26, 2026

The Awards Banquet for Watercolor Ohio 2026 will be held at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts in Findlay, Ohio. Cost is \$45 per person for the buffet dinner. A form is posted on the OWS website for banquet registrations payable either online or by check. .

1pm — Opening reception  
5pm — Social Hour (cash bar)  
5:45pm — Dinner  
6:30pm — Awards presentations

Marathon Center for the Performing Arts 200 W Main Cross St Findlay, OH 45840 419.423.2787



### OFFICERS (Terms vary)

|                           |                    |                                |              |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>          | Vacant             | <b>Treasurer</b>               | Aileen Cave  |
| <b>1st Vice President</b> | Tom Sorrell        | <b>Recording Secretary</b>     | Aileen Cave  |
| <b>2nd Vice president</b> | Janealla Killibrew | <b>Corresponding Secretary</b> | Lynne Rosati |
| <b>3rd Vice President</b> | Jen Sowders        | <b>Membership Secretary</b>    | Lynne Rosati |

### TRUSTEES (Term Runs January 1 – December 31 of the given years)

| 2024-2026 TERM                       | 2025-2027 TERM                        | 2026-2028 TERM                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| George Kocar <i>Bay Village</i>      | Thomas Schroeder <i>Cincinnati</i>    | Howard Wood (AS) <i>Dublin</i>     |
| Rick Mock <i>Powell</i>              | Sharon Stolzenberger <i>Kettering</i> | Kevin Buckland <i>Lewis Center</i> |
| Tessa Kalman (AS) <i>Beavercreek</i> | Rob VanNatta <i>Walnut Creek</i>      | Thomas Harwood (AS) <i>Niles</i>   |

### PAST PRESIDENTS

|                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Don Getz, 1978-1988<br>Homer Hacker, 1988-1990<br>Marilyn Hughey Phillis, 1990-1996<br>Jean Deemer, 1996-2000 | Beverly Reiley, 2000-2004<br>Theodore W. Vassar, 2004-2008<br>Chris Leeper, 2008-2012<br>Barbara Rollins, 2012-2016 | Tom Sorrell, 2016-2020<br><br><b>Immediate Past President:</b><br>Mike McEnroe, 2020-2024 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Exhibition Travel Show Coordinator**  
George Kocar

**Newsletter Editor/Exhibition Catalog**  
Nancy Notarianni

**Permanent Collection Curator**–Open

**Angel/Patron Coordinator**  
Jeanette Bill-Cole

*Regional News should be addressed to the following correspondents.  
Please use the reporting forms on the OWS website's newsletter page.*

|                  |                      |                                |               |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Northeast</b> | Mary Pat Oliver      | <b>Southeast and Southwest</b> | Tom Schroeder |
| <b>Northwest</b> | Micki Ansberry Brown | <b>Central</b>                 | Pam Hartford  |

**Next Newsletter – November/December 2026**  
**Deadline: November 16**



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[www.ohiowatercolorsociety.org](http://www.ohiowatercolorsociety.org)