



APRIL 21ST: IN PERSON at SCA * ABS Delivery Date, too!

Sebastopol Veteran's Building, 282 South High St., Sebastopol, CA

PARKING: To make room for the FoodBank Truck, please park across the street, in first parking lot (left of building), or in few spaces closest to the road on right side of building

10:30 Board • 12:00 Potluck • 1:00 Art Demonstrator: Diana Mujamdar (see p.7)

To attend, AWS requires Proof of Vaccination & a GOOD Mask • Remember your NAMETAG!

April Prompt: CELEBRATIONS • MAY Prompt: LAKES/RIVERS/STREAMS



We are so sad to report that one of our beloved members, dear **Linda Nease**, passed on March 8 after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. We were so happy she got to come to our February meeting and we were able to visit with her. She was a kind and wonderful human

being, "almost angelic" as one friend described.

Linda's cherished niece Melissa Hammond wrote, **"Raise a glass, pick up a paintbrush, write a note, dig in the garden, or go out for a walk. She would want it that way."**

If you would like to send a note to her husband, **David McDonald**, the address is **1442A Walnut St. # 257, Berkeley, CA 94709.**

Yes, Berkeley! Linda loved the AWS group so much, she traveled from East Bay to Sebastopol for meetings and participation in the ABS since 2006, when she was invited to join by Margot Comstock.

Linda was born in Memphis, Tennessee but lived her schoolyears in New Orleans, where she was artistically inspired by her wonderful Aunt Sunny. Linda studied interior design/space planning and made her living in that field, from New York to San Francisco. Prior to that, her love of travel led her to become a flight attendant, where she was able to get to Greece, and she has been many times since, fulfilling her love of art and Greek mythology and images.





FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hi Everyone,
It was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic AWS members at our last meeting.

This is the crazy time of year with all the last minute things to be done for our annual Apple Blossom Art Show (finally!).

I will keep my message short as I want you to use your time and eyesight to **read every inch of this newsletter!** There is much for you to know written here.

*Please also look for a weekly email with **IMPORTANT** Information and reminders*

for our show.
It is in 3 weeks!

REMEMBER YOU NEED TO MAIL YOUR ENTRY FORM AND CHECK BY AT LEAST APRIL 8th TO GET IT TO LORRAINE BY THE 11th!



Carol Mills - "Apple Blossoms" 11x15 watercolor

I want to give a big thank you to Linda L. Reid for all her hard work getting this show to happen!

Take care of yourselves and each other.
Love, Carol

April 21 Refreshments

Please have your contribution (enough to serve 12 people) on the table so the potluck is ready to start promptly at noon.
Thank you.

Sandwiches/ Finger Food

Susan Barri
Sonny DuPuis
Rhonda Johnston
Rhonda Myrtle
Susie Moore
Gail Radice
Dorothy Rapalyea
Sue Rogers
Marilyn Sommer
Gary Wilson

Dessert/Fruit

Susan Bradford
Allene Donato
Carolyn Jarvis
Carol Leif Gianni
Marjorie Murray-Cortez
Rita Rhine



Sebastopol Venues: May 19 - July 21, 2022*

Coffee & Moore

CURRENTLY: Carol Mills
NEXT: ??

Sonoma Burger

CURRENTLY: Gail Mardfin
NEXT: Carol Mills

Specialty Center

CURRENTLY: Dana Rodney & Carol Mills
NEXT: ??

Tombe Realty

CURRENTLY: Linda Grainger
NEXT: ??

Umpqua Bank

CURRENTLY: Gail Mardfin
NEXT: Deni Marrone

SIGN UP IN THE NEW BOOK FOR 2022

OR ASAP CONTACT Deni Marrone (408) 202-3875
*Approximate; Current artist will arrange with next artist as to a mutually convenient day/time to change.



Merrie Krisl - "Limes" 4.5x10 pastel

Glorious Greens Prompt - more on pages 4 & 5

AWS Board Minutes

March 17, 2022

Members Present: Patty Bird, Merrie Krisl, April Lynch, Deni Marrone, Gail Mardfin, Carol Mills, Lonna Necker, Fran Nielsen, and Linda L. Reid.

Meeting was called to order at 10:40 by President, Carol Mills.

President: Carol read an announcement of the death of our wonderful **Linda Nease**. Fran will send a card from AWS to her family. Gail will list the family address in the newsletter should people wish to send individual sympathy cards.

Carol, Gail and Lonna will not be able to be at the **June picnic**. Will call for volunteers to arrive early and secure some tables.

Carol had the **artist statement books** available. Every member is encouraged to make a one- or two-page statement of their work. These books will be available at the ABS and other events for anyone looking for more info on a particular artist.

We have ordered 3 years of ribbons as prices went up this year and will probably increase over time. Patty moved and Gail seconded that we take the cost of those (\$600) out of the Jacque Meilke funds. This was approved.

Treasurer: Patty reported a balance of \$4606.56. We have paid our room rent through September.

ABS: Linda noted we still need volunteers for the hours of the show. Starting time was changed to 11a.m. on Saturday due to the parade. Cards and

posters are available for dispersal. Gail will send a digital postcard to everyone. She suggested waiting on posting anything until April. Two weeks before the show is a good time. Carol asked about displaying donated paintings. We may be able to use a wire screen. Carol noted that going in person to the west county wineries is the best way to get donations. Gary Wilson will work on this. April asked if she could sell her book at the show. *Wildflowers!: A Guide to Identifying Wildflowers in the Wine Country of Northern California* contains a collection of her photographs. This was approved.

Vice-President: In April, Diana Majumdar will demonstrate mixed media collage finished with encaustic. In May, Donna De La Briandais will talk about composition and color in watercolor. We will have this demo on the patio. There will be a critique in September and Paul Kratter will demonstrate a seascape in oil in November. Our prompt next month is Celebrations.

Gravenstein Apple Fair: This will be held at Ragle Park August 13th and 14th with a somewhat smaller footprint. Fran needs to reserve a space by April 1. She will ask for a show of hands at the member meeting of those who want to participate. AWS pays the entry fee and recoups most of this from those participating. The club takes 10% of sales and the fair 10%. If you are interested, see Fran for details.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:53.

Merrie Krisl, Recording Secretary

Wiring the back of your art

Too high Too low Just right



Wire should be semi-taut and about 1/4 to 1/3 down from the top edge of the frame. Work should be clean, especially glass.

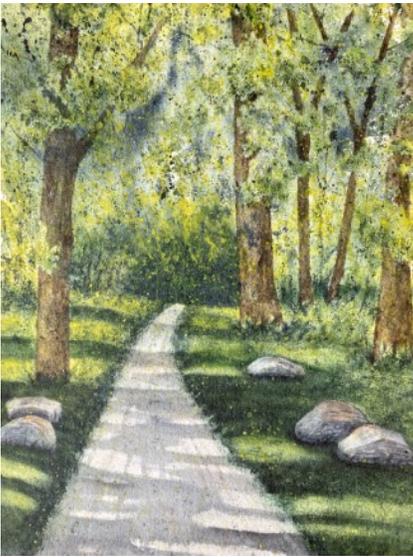
And remember to wear your nametag when you are working at the Apple Blossom Show!

Reminder: Please wear your NAMETAG
to AWS meetings! It's so helpful to new members and to those who have a hard time remembering names, and that would be....me! I keep my nametag in the car; that way when I remember I forgot to wear it, I only have to go out to the parking lot! - gm



Bev Kjeldsen-
"Glorious Greens" 6x6 oil

GLORIOUS GREENS



Kathy Byrne -
ABOVE: "Path Through the Trees"
14x11 watercolor
BELOW: "Redwood Trees"
7x5 watercolor on board



Paula Pearce -
"Turn Point Lighthouse, San Juan Islands"
4x5 watercolor, pen & ink



Marilee Wingert -
"Plump Peas" 5x9 watercolor



Nancy Tulloh -
"Wetlands" 18x24 acrylic
"Leaping Horse" 18x24 acrylic
"Greenery" 17x21 acrylic on wood board



March Prompt



Lonna Necker -
"Euphorbia" 9x12 oil

MORE GLORIOUS GREENS

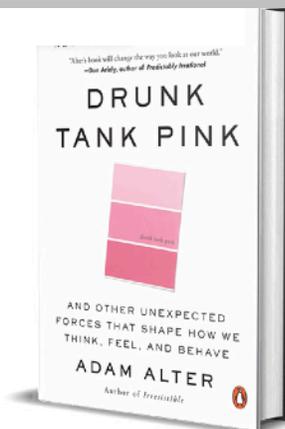


Carol Mills -
 “Reflecting Duck” 20x16 watercolor / “Glorious Greens” 13x10 pastel



Kim Winter -
 “Eat Salad” 24x36 acrylic

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



Drunk Tank Pink by Adam Alter

This particular shade of hot pink is used to temporarily reduce hostile, violent or aggressive behavior, making it an excellent choice for holding cells. It’s officially named Baker-Miller pink after the directors of the Naval Correctional Facility where psychologists painted jail cells with it and discovered that the color calmed aggressive prisoners. Pretty soon football teams started using it for visiting teams’ locker rooms, hoping to tame rivals’ testosterone. It’s the title of a book by **Adam Alter**, an NYU professor of marketing and psychology, in which the author describes how features of the environment—including colors—shape how people think, feel, and behave.

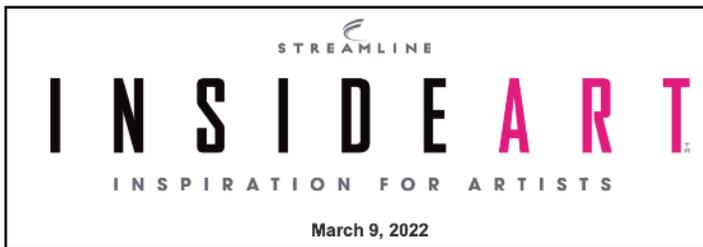


Gail Mardfin -
 “Beyond the Vineyard”
 11x11 watercolor



AFFAIRS OF THE ART
 This droll 16-min film I told you about in January was nominated for an OSCAR in this year’s Animated Shorts! Watch here: <https://www.newyorker.com/video/watch/the-new-yorker-shorts-a-family-brought-together-by-pigeons-and-eyeball-filled-jars>

- gm



WHY PAINT FROM LIFE?

Edited from original article by Christopher Volpe

The danger of working from photos is that you can become a slave to what's there and rob yourself of the opportunity to discover your own feelings and ideas in the paint. You can get lost recording all the details you can, when a painting can be so much more than what a camera can record. Direct observation, as in *plein air* painting, submerges you in sensory experience. It invites you to become intimate with your subject in a way that your phone's camera does not. But using your phone as a viewfinder to test potential compositions? Taking reference photos in case you see something you can use in them later? I do it all the time.



Debra Noss, Photo Blue

To me the question of *plein air* vs. studio is moot; both are tools, and I'd rather be judged on what's in the painting for the viewer to find than on anything to do with process.

Painting from life, whether it's a portrait

or a *plein air* landscape, offers the artist certain qualities of experience and knowledge that painting from photos does not. It encourages an active engagement with your subject, potentially influencing color and temperature decisions and choices about how and where to move the eye, what to leave in, what to leave out, and what to flat out invent in the heat of the moment.

Perhaps it depends on whether the finished product or the learning experience matters to you more. Painting from life is one of the best ways to grow as an artist.

American illustrator Dean Cornwell summed it up well when he said, "Do what the camera can't do - the camera can't add the spiritual." The sooner one gets to that point as an artist the better, by whatever means necessary.



NEWS FROM ANNIE MURPHY SPRINGER

Happy birthday to Annie, who will be celebrating her 87th on April 13th!

In recognition, NorCal Public Media will be rebroadcasting eight "interstitials" Annie created, a series of short videos called **WONDERS OF WATERCOLOR**. They will appear on its revamped website shortly, or you can go to her website to see bite-sized (under two minutes each) mini-lessons about watercolor painting filmed in Bodega/Bodega Bay and other places around Sonoma County. "The scenery alone is worth the time!" she says. She talks about picking a location, creating a composition, painting greens, color blending, and controlling watercolor. <http://www.anniemurphyspringer.com/pbs.php>

She enjoys doing watercolors on Yupo paper, several of which are at the Artisans' Co-op Gallery in Bodega village. Visit her website [anniemurphyspringer.com](http://www.anniemurphyspringer.com) to learn about her small-group watercolor classes, too – she'll be teaching another series in May. <http://www.anniemurphyspringer.com>

Never one to slow down, Annie is taking an acting/performing class on Thursdays, which overlaps with our AWS meetings – but it will culminate in a comedy act on April 9th at Occidental Center for the Arts. Talent Show goes from 2-4pm. <https://www.occidentalcenterforthearts.org/upcoming-events>

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT from LONNA NECKER

Based on our recent survey of members, we had a significant number who recommended **Diana Majumdar** as a presenter. Diana has given presentations for us and others in the past and has presented interesting and novel procedures in a warm and welcoming way.

Diana Majumdar

Since a very early age Diana was exposed to art in many forms and shapes. She grew up in Estonia in the last days of the Soviet Union. Like many children, she was first introduced to art through her father. She loved watching her father draw. Diana loved it when he taught her the basics of watercolor. He took her to see museums in Estonia, Russia, Armenia, and gave her his large set of art books and his very old watercolor set. Her father had dreamed of becoming an artist, and even though his life took him in a



“Autumn Leaves”
16x12 mixed media

different direction, art has stayed with him and enriched his life and hers. So when the choice for a field of studies presented itself and Diana had to ask herself what she would like to learn, the choice was easy. She is on her way to graduating from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. The academy has offered her the opportunity to explore different subject matter from traditional landscape paintings to still life and portraiture.

APRIL 21 PRESENTER: DIANA MAJUMDAR



Diana Majumdar will be demonstrating **mixed media collage with an encaustic finish**. Born and raised in Estonia, this Petaluma artist's work reflects her joy in experimenting with different media and subject matter fused

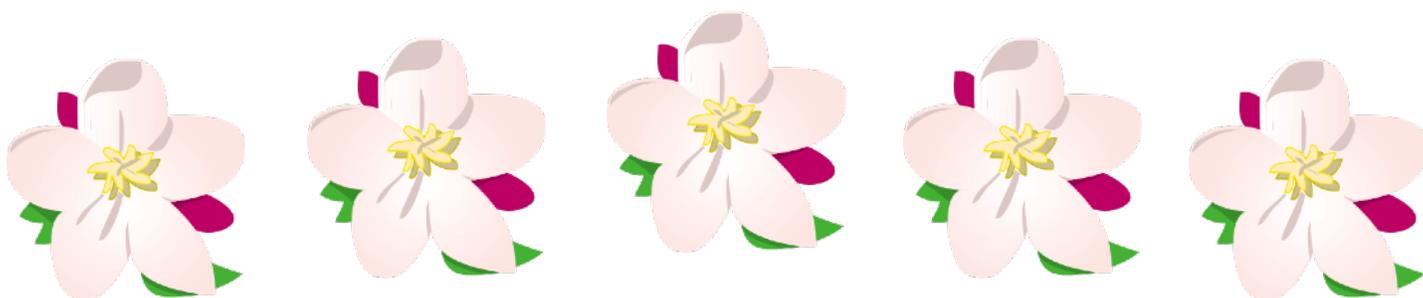
together. The demonstration will begin at approximately 1 o'clock. To see and learn more, visit dianamajumdarart.com.

Experimenting with different media is a major part of her experience at the Academy. She believes the wide exposure to art she had as a child has been reflected in the varied classes she's taken at the university. She's taken clay sculpture, figure drawing in charcoal, acrylics in mixed media work, and of course her favorite classes - oil and watercolor painting. Diana's work reflects this variety of exposure and she intends to continue on the same path of experimentation.

Diana's work is a process of discovery. Each painting consists of many layers of different materials and mediums. Sometimes Diana combines mediums that traditionally shouldn't go together. She often uses encaustic to fuse the layers together to achieve a deep complex surface. Diana finds beauty in the most mundane and small objects of nature, like the Queen Anne's Lace that grows freely on the side of the roads all over Sonoma and Marin and like the bright leaves on the branches of fallen oak trees in Petaluma.

Each of her paintings is a discovery of the *intimacies of nature* rather than the majesty of Yosemite Valley or the awesome vistas of the coast.

Take good care,
Lonna



SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Reverberations:two A Visual Conversation April 9 to May 15

OPENING RECEPTION
Saturday, April 9, 2-4 pm

Each of the 50 artists selected for this exhibit was given a poem to respond to visually and there will be several poetry readings scheduled as part of this exhibit.

Ekphrastic poetry is poetry inspired by a work of art. In 2018, Sebastopol Center for the Arts premiered "Reverberations: A Visual Conversation," an exhibition in which poetry was written in response to pieces of artwork.

Reverberations:two A Visual Conversation reverses this dynamic, asking artists to create a piece of artwork in response to poems. Each artist in the exhibit was given a different poem to respond to.

Two ABS members are featured in this exhibit:
Kim Winter's painting and **Linda Loveland Reid's** poetry contribute to this two-way conversation.



Susan Bradford recently attended her 60th high school reunion. Lennox High no longer stands but that didn't stop old friends from having a great time. Part of the festivities included a raffle of several items, including the oil painting "Sonoma Coast" by Susan, won by her good friend Sally. Susan went to high school and college

in the L.A. area, before moving back east, where she had lived as a child.

Put your flyers and postcards up
beginning the week of April 1st!
Spread the word:

2022 Apple Blossom Art Show & Sale

Artist Reception
Friday, April 22
7-9 pm

Free Admission
Art, Food, Drinks & Music

Art Show & Sale
Saturday and Sunday
April 23 • 11 am - 6 pm
April 24 • 11 am - 5 pm

Enter a raffle to win
an original framed painting!

Vote for your favorite piece!



Book in Show 2019
Santa Rosa 95403 by Susan Bart



Art Workshop of
Western Sonoma County

Sebastopol Center
for the Arts
282 South High St.
Sebastopol, CA

awsomeart.org



Founder's Award 2019
There's a Crowd by Fran Nielsen



ETHEREALS

Mixed media paintings and collages
by

Gail Mardfin

An exhibit at the Center for Spiritual Living
2075 Occidental Rd, Santa Rosa

Artist's Reception

Tuesday, April 5 • Noon-2pm

Exhibit hangs through April

Sunday services @ 9am and 11am

Or call (707) 546-4543



March 17 Meeting



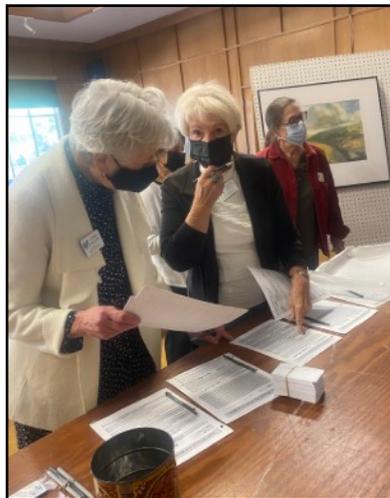
Great to see some folks we haven't seen in awhile! Marjorie Murray-Cortez and Arlene Parnay - both in St. Patrick's Day colors!



There was a great selection on the buffet board for Patty Bird - and the rest of us - to choose from : ribs, shrimp, pizza, wraps, deviled eggs - and more on the sweet end of the table too!



Here's another name on our Member Roster come to life! Dorothy Rapalyea - she brought an array of bright collage-like acrylic paintings (you can see two behind her).



ABS Chair Linda Reid is checking the committee sign-up sheets, along with Lonna Necker (left).



Our fearless leader Carol keeping us informed on all the details of the Apple Blossom Show - it's been awhile!



While some stayed inside to lunch others took advantage of the sun (and shade) on the patio. L to R, Rhoda Bloom, Carol Mills, Hedda Gold, Rhonda Myrtle, Susan Bradford, and Carolyn Jarvis.



46 members came to the March meeting and by the end, all the ABS postcards and flyers (designed by Gail Mardfin) were taken to spread the word!



New member ALLENE DONATO recently found AWS online and came to her first meeting in March, where she introduced herself. She works in a range of media, including printmaking and acrylic painting.

Michael Coy, Guest Artist

By Kim Winter & Lonna Necker



Michael Coy photo by April Lynch

March meeting's Guest Artist Presenter, Michael Coy, used our new digital projector to share his own work and that of others to demonstrate the important use of light in visual art. According to Coy,

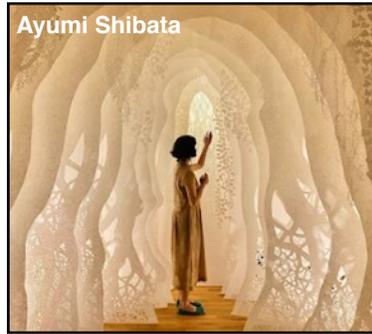
much of art is "about the light."

Michael graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles. He worked in the entertainment and advertising industries as a storyboard, pre-production, and ideation artist. His clients, wide in range, included: Disney Imagineering, Disney Online, Microsoft, Sony Television Animation, Activision, Warner Bros., Propaganda Films, and Lucas Learning.

After moving from L.A. to Northern California, Michael began painting both narrative and landscape paintings, as well as continuing freelance work. In recent years he has created two interactive projects for Burning Man that received Honoraria Grants. Coy has taught private painting workshops for over a decade and continues to teach from his home studio.

Michael Coy's powerpoint presentation was quite enlightening! He began by taking our group on a visual hike through his own paintings and illustrations...seascapes of water gushing with light, as well as figures, flowers, and magic fantastical illustrations.

Speaking quickly, Michael gave us a tour of nine different artists, using several examples by each of them he'd selected to illustrate and emphasize the use of lights and darks.



Ayumi Shibata

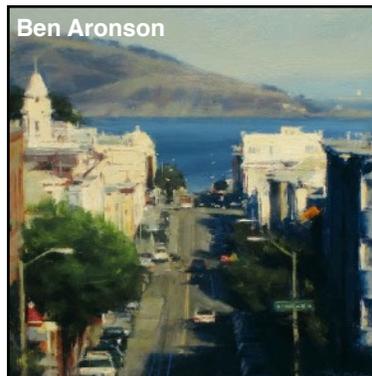
There were three artists who had the most appeal to me (Kim).

Ayumi Shibata: Ayumi creates beautifully delicate, all white paper-cut sculptures. These lace-like works range from very small to life size. Illuminated from behind, they are ethereal and somewhat spiritual.



Sandy Ostrau

Sandy Ostrau: Sandy's oil paintings are contemplative abstract landscapes, Diebenkorn-ish in essence. Comfortable earthy colors with blocks of darks and lights, give them their depth and emotion. Their design is balanced and calming.



Ben Aronson

Ben Aronson: Ben makes painterly oil paintings of urban landscapes. They combine photo-realism with gestural immediacy. His paintings concentrate on the importance of scale and light with good balances of warms and cools.

It was wonderful to have our first in-person guest artist presentation after two long years, and we look forward to welcoming Diana Majumdar in April.



The Gravenstein Apple Fair in Ragle Ranch Park, Sebastopol will be held August 13-14. Find out more and let Fran Nielsen know if you are interested in being a participating artist that weekend! jwfnpw@sbcglobal.net or (707) 823-3542

Member Profile: Marilee Wingert

by Paula Pearce

Paula: So, Marilee, where were you born and raised?

Marilee: I was born and raised in the fog belt of San Francisco, near the campus of SF State University. It was the 1950s, a time when we played outside after school and felt safe to explore far and wide on our bikes or with the use of the local bus system.

P: Who inspired you when you were a young person?

M: Through elementary and middle school my teachers inspired me to be curious and to be a lifelong learner. They made education feel vital. The extra-curricular activities, like field trips and glee club performances, opened our horizons. As for sports, I have fond memories of swinging from the school's monkey bars.

P: What is your educational/professional background and how did you use it in your life?

M: My degree in Asian Art History from the University of California at Santa Barbara led me on an international path. Upon graduating I spent three years in Asia, first as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines and then as a student of Buddhism, flower arranging, tea ceremony, and the Japanese language in Kyoto, Japan. My love of other cultures and of humanitarian work took me to Guatemala where I worked for UNICEF and met my future husband, Steve. He was just beginning a 50-year career in social and economic development in third world countries. Because of his work, we lived in Bolivia, Honduras, Costa Rica, and back to Guatemala over a period of 20 years. During an assignment in Washington DC, I earned a master's degree in counseling, which prepared me for my future as the Mental Health Coordinator for the U.S. embassies in Guatemala and in Costa Rica.

P: What about children?

M: In 1978 our son, Jeremy, was born and two years later our daughter, Anya, arrived. They were both raised in Central America. Now we enjoy the company of three - soon to be four - grandchildren!



"Size 7 Please" 19x25 watercolor

P: In the many places that you've lived and visited, did you pay attention to the art that was created there?

M: Always!! I was fascinated by the artistic expression of each culture. For example, the Mayans are famous for their weaving. A Mayan weaver agreed to give me lessons. For two weeks I lived in her thatched-roofed hut with walls made of sugar cane while she patiently taught me. I feel honored to have had that experience.

P: How did creativity play out in your life before painting with watercolor?

M: While living in Japan, I learned that food can be prepared with both flavor and aesthetics in mind. That principle still guides me. My biggest creative project was in 1981 when I designed our beach house and supervised the carpenters who built it in a remote fishing village in the Bay Islands of Honduras. To this day, our entire family enjoys spending time there.

P: What inspired you to paint watercolors?

M: Last year, my daughter Anya, gave me, my sister, my granddaughter, and herself a one-year subscription to an online watercolor class entitled "Let's Make Art." Then I got hooked.

P: How long have you lived in Sonoma County?

M: When I was a child, my family had a cabin in Feters Hot Springs near the town of Sonoma. We moved here in 1995 and live near the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

P: How did you find out about AWS?

M: My good friend Merrie Krisl invited me to join and I did.

Conclusion by Paula:

I want to welcome a brand new member, Marilee Wingert. This was an amazing journey through her life and vast travels and cultural awareness. I am thrilled with this whole process and hope all the members have a chance to take this journey too.

Where's your Artist Statement?

Everyone can have up to two sheets (front and back) about you: bio, statement, examples of your work, etc. Some of the ones in the binder are quite old, so time to update!

The book is available during the ABS for people to peruse.

Bring yours to the April meeting, or at the latest, to the reception Friday night.



FRIDAY APRIL 21 - ABS RECEPTION What to bring & when...

All artists must bring a **plate of hors d'oeuvres or sweets - finger foods only, no utensils needed to eat them - to share at the reception.**

There should be **enough for 12 people.**

Please deliver your offering **by 6:45pm.** The reception runs from 7 to 9pm.

Please note: If you bring a non-disposable bowl or plate, be sure to take it home with you that night!

Thanks to Food/Hospitality Committee Chair Judy Goldberg & her team!

As seen on Twitter:

Someone painted the cement barriers into a giant Toblerone



dawn
@poetryandcocomo

if I see this on the road I'm biting

RileyStreet

art supply

RileyStreet Art Supply

103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa
(707) 526-6421

Mon. - Sat. 9:30am - 5:30pm

Sun. 11:00 - 4pm



AS AN AWS MEMBER, REMEMBER TO ASK FOR YOUR 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL NON-SALE ITEMS. DOES NOT INCLUDE MATBOARD.