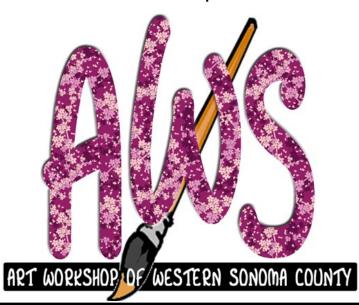
Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County 8214 Covert Lane • Sebastopol CA 95473



AWSOMEART.ORG · APRIL 2025

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

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

10:30 Board • 12:00 Potluck • 12:30 Meeting

1:30-2:45 - Digital Painting: Becky Brendlin, Chris Field & James Reynolds

April Prompt: "TRUNKS" • May Prompt: "LINE OF SIGHT"

2025 Apple Blossom Art Show & Sale

Artist Reception Friday, April 25 7-9 pm

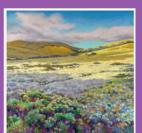
Free Admission
Art, Food, Drinks & Music

Art Show
Saturday and Sunday
April 26 • 10 am - 6 pm
April 27 • 10 am - 4:30 pm

Vote for your favorite piece of art!

Enter a raffle to win an original framed painting!

Sebastopol Center for the Arts 282 South High Street Sebastopol, CA



Best in Show 20 Head in the Clouds by James Reynolds (past





Art Workshop of Western Sonoma County

awsomeart.org



APRIL DEMO:

Digital Painting with Becky Brendlin, Chris Field & James Reynolds

Digital art is an art form unto itself that is created using art apps on laptops or tablets. Along with more traditional media (painting, drawing, printmaking), these three artists also work in digital media. They will share examples of work they have each created using these modern tools and demonstrate such techniques

using our overhead projection system, so we can all see the digital magic as it is created.

Come learn about something new! See VP Lonna's article on page 3 to find out more.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT LINDA L. REID

Okay, so that's a big painting!

Largest painting in the Louvre. It's by Veronese and I was thrilled to be standing there - to be in Paris, to spend all day at the Musée d'Orsay and the next at the Pompidou, not to mention, exquisite food.

Our first five days were in London where we hit the Tate Britain and Tate Modern, the National Museum of Art, and the Victoria and

Albert Museum, while still getting out in the countryside for Stonehenge.

Fabulous twoweek trip! Some luck helped. I was able to walk 3 to 5 miles a day without collapsing. I fell on the



escalator and didn't die. And our plane left Heathrow just before the fire closed down all the flights.

I did pick up a nasty cold the day we left so was unable to attend the AWS March meeting of which I understand Lonna Necker, Gail Mardfin and Allene Donato pulled off without a hitch! Thanks so much.

Looking forward to another fabulous Apple Blossom Art Show with great art by our members! Get your application in by the deadline of April 10.





The sun is on the way, so they say, and will bring gorgeous May flowers. Lots to be grateful for in our lives as we share our talent and enthusiasms with one another.

Au revoir, Linda



Karin Lease • Sebastopol Joyce Pointe • Sebastopol

PLEASE NOTE!!!

The count for the 2026 Apple Blossom
Show requirements
begins this month, April 2025,
and goes through March 2026.

Be sure to sign in EVERY meeting at the Welcome table, noting if you brought food &/or art, so that your efforts are recorded.

Record your food at food table, too!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT · LONNA NECKER Greetings,

You have yet again produced some incredible art for **March's prompt**, **Favorite Backgrounds** (See page 6 & 7). The prompt brought out some fascinating stories and studies. All the rest of our art pieces were spellbinding and some were highly unusual and unique. Thank you for your adventuresome art and constant productivity.

The **APRIL PROMPT** — for those needing one — is **TRUNKS.** Think: trunks of trees, storage trunks. Swimming trunks, torsos, etc.

Our March program was Beverly Bird once again leading our annual Member Critique. She provided a critical eye and encouraged us all to look and find the bits and pieces of a creation that enticed us or put us off. I think all the members who presented their pieces learned something and were encouraged by the input. (See bottom of page 9.) Thank you, Beverly.

The **APRIL DEMO** will be unusual in two ways. First, three artists will demo together - AWS members Becky Brendlin, Chris Field and James Reynolds. Second. the medium is new: **DIGITAL PAINTING.** Much like traditional painting, this relatively new art form requires a mastery of color, composition, and technique — but instead of pigment on canvas, these artists paint with pixels. The artists can control a vast array of tools and options, such as brush size, texture, and opacity. Unlike physical media, where paint layers physically mix, digital painting allows for seamless layering, enabling artists to refine details, play around with color, and achieve effects impossible with traditional methods. Says James, "It is possible to mimic the look of watercolor, oil or pastel, OR one can choose to break from tradition and create a new look, all while avoiding toxic fumes and paint in your hair!" Right now, Becky, Chris, and James have a group show in the STOP gallery - please see the display ad on page 6.

As an aside: Thank you for your camaraderie and good cheer with one another. We have become a larger group, with much diversity. Your continued interest in the focus of art is greatly appreciated.

Thank you and take care,

Lonna

LOOKING AHEAD... PROGRAMS FOR 2025

with thanks to VP Lonna Necker

APRIL: Becky Brendlin, Chris Field & James Reynolds -Digital Painting

MAY: Julia Kay, author of PORTRAIT REVOLUTION - Participatory portrait drawing

June: Picnic

July: Linda Reid - Art History Slide Lecture

August: Elisabeth Van Nuys -The Mastery of Making Paper Maché Objects

September: Teri Sloat - Pastels

October: Judy Pagnusat - Origami book making

November: Gage Opdenbrouw - Plein air painting



SLATE TILES painted with acrylics by Gail Mardfin (left) and Charito Shetty for the Luther Burbank House & Gardens fundraisers. If you have a slate, please return it in APRIL or DECEMBER.

AWS BOARD MINUTES MARCH 20, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Vice President Lonna Necker.

Board Members Present: Lonna Necker, Judy Boles, Merrie Krisl, Gail Mardfin, Allene Donato, Judy McFarland, Fran Nielsen, Deni Marrone, Judy Goldberg, Lorraine Stribling, Carol Mills, Susan Nestor

Board Members Absent: Linda L Reid, Judy Pagnusat, Patricia Marina

Non-Board Members Present: Julia Hansen

Discussion:

· Apple Blossom Show:

Judge: Richard McDaniel has agreed to judge the show.

<u>Duties:</u> There are signup sheets for all tasks on the back table for the general membership to sign up.

Reception: The back door to the art center will be locked for ingress, though egress will still be available. Everyone must come in the front door. There will be someone stationed at the food table during the reception. Food will be delivered to the table slowly instead of all at one time. Members will be encouraged to bring finger food for 24 people. We need small plates, napkins and paper cups. We have red wine and champagne for the reception, but we need white wine. A sign-up sheet is on the back table. Bring wine to the April meeting. Allene will purchase plastic cups, cider, and bubbly water.

<u>Application</u>: Lorraine emailed the entry application to all eligible members and there are printed applications on the back table for those who don't have printers. Today is the last meeting to count bringing food and art toward eligibility for this year's show. Tallies for 2026 ABS begin next month.

<u>Contracts</u>: Linda L. Reid is working with SCA and the Chamber of Commerce and will be finalizing the contracts this week.

Music: Linda has also taken care of the music for the reception.

<u>Publicity:</u> Gail Mardfin has put large and small posters and postcards on the back table and there is a sign-up sheet for locations. Members should pick them up today, but not distribute them until April 1st. Printing costs were up from last year. Posters can also be picked up at Gail's house.

<u>Donated Work:</u> For donated small works, notched hangers on small lightweight works (gallery wrap canvas or cradled panel) will be acceptable and need not be framed. Works on paper or boards must be framed and ready to hang using wire.

- · **Hospitality**: We need another volunteer.
- · <u>June Picnic</u>: Consensus of the board is to have the picnic at Riverfront Regional Park. We will not pay to reserve an area, but someone will get there early and save tables. Members will be encouraged to bring their own chairs. Everyone should bring a pot luck dish. Attendance will count toward next year's ABS show.
- Treasurer's Report: Merrie Krisl reported the general checking account balance is \$6120.85 and the Mielke awards account balance is \$4486.07. Merrie has submitted the IRS application for reinstating our non-profit status. Merrie will be writing up a job description for the treasurer that list tasks needed to be done each month of the year. Gail suggested that all board members who have specific duties also write up a job description and/or list of monthly tasks.
- **Programs:** The prompt for April is "Trunks." The demonstrations have been scheduled for the rest of the year. The next Newsletter will have a complete list of demonstrations and prompts for this year.



AWS BOARD MINUTES, cont.

- · <u>Membership</u>: Judy McFarland reported that current membership stands at 116. If members do not sign in for attendance, bringing food and/or art at the welcome desk when they arrive at a meeting, they will not be given credit toward ABS eligibility. Reminder to also sign-in food at the potluck table.
- · **Correspondence:** Fran Nielsen reported several cards sent last month.
- · Raffle: There will be 4 Lucky Bags today, including the RileyStreet gift certificate.
- Gravenstein Fair: Carol Mills reported the cost will be \$625 for 10x20 foot space. There will be room for only about 6 artists. 3 artists have already signed up. No jewelry will be allowed this year.

11:45 a.m. Motion to adjourn: Lorraine Stribling Second: Gail Mardfin Motion passed. Submitted by Judy Boles, Recording Secretary

HOSPITALITY NEEDS 1 MORE

Come join the wonderful team of Marcella Ford, Stan Healy, Diana Jones, Charito Shetty, and Joyce Torres! Thanks for volunteering, Joyce!

Generally, three people are needed at each meeting, arriving at 11:00 (to set up and get the coffee going). Two stay 'til about 1:45 and one until the presentation ends.

The team signs up in advance so that people can work in the months that are best for them.

AWS exists — with its monthly potluck — only because of volunteers like YOU. We need ONE more. (The person who volunteered at the March meeting volunteered by mistake.) Please send an email awsomeart@gmail.com if you can fill this important 6th role. THANK YOU!

A NOTE TO ALL

If you signed up, you are expected to bring 12+ servings, but as you can see, we will be short this month. We are always fine in the dessert department; we need enough main course food for all! Bring what you like to eat.

--> You are welcome to bring food even if you did not initially sign up — just be sure to sign in at the potluck table AND at the Welcome table to be recorded for next year's ABS eligibility.

April 19 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.

Remember to record it at the food table and

SANDWICHES/ FINGER FOOD

Patty Bird Jan Blake Judy Boles Cindy Gillespie Hedda Gold Diana Jones Brian Kellogg Gail Mardfin Judy McFarland Nancy Sanchietti Elizabeth Springs Judith Tischlek Linda Weber Gary Wilson Kim Winter MORE NEEDED



DESSERT/FRUIT

Enid Barnes
Susan Barri
Katha Engblom
Christine Field
Pamela Heck
Bob Hart
Cindy King
Merrie Krisl
Patricia Marina
Paula Pearce
Joyce Pointe
Katie Sanderson
Elisabeth Van Nuys

LUCKY BAG SALES (aka RAFFLE)

Volunteer Needed

WELCOME TABLE Karin Lease

March prompt: Favorite Backgrounds



CHERYL WOODS' "Crane Rising" uses shimmering splatter in the form of Ranger Distress Spritz, which comes in many colors. Cheryl advises, It's easy to get unwanted big blobs and the color names are not always accurate," but she loves them. Time to experiment!"

At right, SUSIE MOORE's painting process is spontaneous and intuitive, and she loves to employ her

last-used



palette as textural background for her next art work, such as the LION shown (and SHEEP on table.).

DIGITAL VISIONS

Chris Field





Reynolds



Located at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts in the women's restroom & hall (men welcome when room cleared)

March 19, 2025 through May 2, 2025
• Closed Monday • Tuesday 12-4, Wed-Sun 10-4 •

MARCH ART SHARE



Cindy Gillespie's textural painting reflects her color impression of the Death Valley.



Elizabeth Van Nuys' most recent paper machè bowl is detailed with twine and a textured patina created with acrylic and shoe polish.



In creating this abstract foliage still life, Karin Lease thoroughly explored "the greens" and some stencil resist techniques.



Using a collage background, Marilyn Dizikes' colorful floral still life was painted boldly and with dimension.



New member Joyce Pointe told of her struggles with her painting of grapes and hence, named it "Grapes of Wrath".



Sharing her painting of children at play, ruchel leah bloom spoke of their infectious joy.



March 20 - May 15

Coffee & Moore

CURRENTLY: Kathleen Andre

MAY 15: Carol Mills

Fandee's Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Marilyn Sommer MAY 15: Linda Dove-Pierson

Hair Masters

CURRENTLY: Charito Shetty & Cheryl Woods (through April, then Deni Marrone) MAY 15: Joy Dellas & Barbara Goodman

Hole in the Wall Restaurant

CURRENTLY: Linda Dove-Pierson MAY 15: Kathleen Andre & Kathy Byrne

Sonoma Chocolatiers & Tea House

CURRENTLY: Joyce Terres MAY 15: Susan Barri & Cheryl Woods

Specialty Center

CURRENTLY: Joy Dellas & Barbara Goodman

MAY 15: AVAILABLE

Umpqua Bank

CURRENTLY: Enid Barnes MAY 15: Gail Mardfin



Photographer Avinash Pandey

classic Coke cans on black in

captured an abundance of

"Falling."

Sally Privette's latest hand woven basket was influenced by the colors of a field of California poppies.



Cindy King showed her "doodled" peacock (now called "zentangle") on her ink drawing on watercolor background.

STOP IN & VISIT OUR VENUES! How about a future show with a friend? After visiting the venue, sign up with

Venues Coordinator Deni Marrone call or text (408) 202-3875

The Livery CoWork

CURRENTLY: Enid Barnes, Susan Bradford, Allene Donato, Pamela Heck, Gail Mardfin, Patricia Marina, Deni Marrone, Marilyn Sommer,

Be sure to contact Deni soon to reserve your spot beginning in May for a 2- to 4-month rotation at the Livery.



Susan Bradford - "Volcanic Hills of Maui" 9x12 oil



Pamela Heck "Night Crows" 9x12 mixed media



Christine Paschal -

"Blue Sea Dragon Seascape" 7x5x8
Made with Cosclay polymer clay with
aluminum foil & wire for the armature.
"It is a work in progress. The sand dollar
is what I'm still working on, trying to get it
more realistic as a Live Sand Dollar."

Art by AWS Members

If you want to see your art in the newsletter, please send it to awsomeart@gmail.com
by the Wednesday following the meeting — or anytime, and I will save it for the next available newsletter. Please include title, dimensions, and medium.

- GM, ed



Avinash Pandey "FM Radio Sculpture" photograph
The originals are 15.5x11.5 prints from 4x5
transparencies. I also built the FM radio
sculpture many years ago.



Paula Pearce - "Lake Tahoe" 11x14 mixed media

Paula was
happy to
report this is
the first time
she's been
painting since
her husband
Jeff passed
two years
ago. Yay,
Paula!





Carol Mills -"Jack" 14x11 watercolor



Diana Jones - "Flowers of Peace" 14x10 watercolor



Lorna Ho "White Horse" 36x24 acrylic
This painting recently sold at
Fandee's Restaurant Congratulations, Lorna!





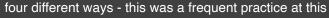








MEMBERS' WORKS CRITIQUED BY BEVERLY BIRD & OTHERS Beverly gave her insights on each piece & then asked the artist if there was specific feedback they were seeking. From top left: A pointillist landscape by Jan Blake; Bonnie Smith wove & painted on gold gesso; Nancy Tulloh discusses her abstract as Lonna Necker looks on; Judy Goldberg turns Gary Wilson's abstract watercolor





critique; Karin Lease's mixed media with ginkgo leaves; Patty Bird's new view of a pastel rose; Judy Boles' long view at the Coast; Lorna Ho studies her collage; Barbara Hoffman's watercolor of a mountainside cabin. Not pictured: Beverly's painted vineyard view or ruchel leah bloom's watercolor of children. Thank you to all!





One of our AWS members, Linda Grainger, will be moving this month to live with her daughter in Rancho Cordova, CA. I first met Linda in 2016, sitting next to her in a watercolor class taught by Barbara Marlin-Coole. We were also both in the Artists Round Table art group (now defunct), and she invited me to share a show in a Santa Rosa A.R.T. venue. It was the first time I had framed and shown any watercolors!

During the pandemic, when AWS met on Zoom – for 19 months! – some will remember we would "highlight" a member, to learn more about them and their home studios. I went to Linda's house to video an interview with her and we became even better friends. In the spring of 2024, Linda had a big show of her watercolors at Steele Lane Community Center and I helped her prepare for it. The following is from the show card that was on display there.

LINDA GRAINGER at her Steele Lane show reception

- Gail Mardfin, Editor

Linda Grainger still remembers the beauty that captivated her as a child living in a small fishing village in Taiwan, as she watched the glistening water drip from the fishermen's nets, "dancing in the sun. All my life, I have been searching for that kind of beauty in the peaceful, quiet moments of life, the tiny things my eyes see around me."

Whether a seascape, landscape, still life, or images of everyday people, this award-winning Sonoma county watercolorist is attracted to her subject by how she feels about it, not what she thinks about it.

Two strong forces pushed her to choose watercolor as her main medium: an encouraging art instructor whose wet-on-wet paintings inspired her, and the transparent, mysterious nature of the watercolor medium itself, sometimes found in the Chinese brush paintings that were her tradition.

Born in Peking, Linda's family fled south to escape the war with Japan, and then fled again to Taiwan with the Communist takeover. She was educated in Taiwan, received her teaching degree, and then emigrated to the US in the mid-60s, where she earned a second degree at UCLA and worked while raising her family.

Upon her retirement in 2002, she pursued her lifelong dream of being an artist, and has been painting nearly daily ever since. A member of the California Watercolor Association (CWA) and Artist Workshop of Western Sonoma County (AWS), Linda enjoys the majestic feeling she gets as she picks up a brush to create her beautiful images.

Linda, we are sorry that you're leaving us, but all of us in AWS wish you good health and the very best in your new life – with lots of time for painting!

Wow, so many opening receptions this month, April 5th, 17th, and 19th PLUS the Apple Blossom Show, April 25! See you there!

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION!

Showstoppers Artists Collective

in the Co-Create space at 186 North Main St., Sebastopol

Saturday, April 5 11am-5pm

AWS members Susan Bradford and Elizabeth **Gomes** are two of the inaugural members of the collective. Susan



will have 12 paintings (one shown in inset) and Elizabeth is pictured standing by her exhibit.

It will be a community hub of uplifting art, artists, gifts and workshops. Artists interested in joining or learning more should see the space and meet with C.M. Connelly, who is in charge. More information at www.supershowstoppers.com

MARILYN SOMMER **Showing at Hotel E**

37 Old Courthouse Square, Santa Rosa



Spring Art Reception Thursday, April 17 5-7pm

Wine/beer and hors d'oeuvres



1200 River Road, Fulton, CA

TWO OPENING RECEPTIONS

with music, wine & refreshments

SATURDAY, APRIL 19 · 1-4pm

LINDA REID

will be showing 20 of her artworks



& CIRCLE OF SIX ARTISTS

Kathleen Andre, Barbara Goodman, Patricia Marina, Linda Dove, Lorna Ho, Linda Weber



Both shows run April 5 - July 6



TWO MORE APRIL RECEPTIONS!!

James Reynolds will be the featured artist at the Sebastopol Gallery (150 North Main St.) from April 1st to May 31st. The Artist's Reception is April 19th from 4 to 6. James will also be participating in an exhibit at Corrick's (637 4th St, Santa Rosa) for the month of April. The show is called "Taking Wing" with a Reception on April 4th, from 5 to 7pm.



AWS member Robert Miliano (shown with his wife, Francesca Miliano, also a member) has 27 paintings displayed on two walls in the Cloverdale Arts Alliance Gallery through May 23. The opening reception was a big success with sales of several paintings that night. Prolific Robert says many of the paintings on display were finished over the last four months. *Congratulations, Robert!*



Alyson Dobbert (right, with Kim Winter) has a a lovely show of more than a dozen paintings at **The Art House** (a boutique hotel & suites at 670 Seventh St., Santa Rosa) now **through June 17**. The reception in March was very well attended. Located two blocks off Old Courthouse Square, Hotel E and the Art House are related — and both host wonderful receptions!

Call for Entries

Venue: Santa Rosa Arts Center
Submit exhibit-ready entries in
person April 27 from 11am-3pm
Title: Small Works Show Still Life: A Moment in Time
(1-2 pieces; 12" or less on all sides)

Exhibition dates: May 3 - June 29 More info: santarosaartscenter.org



Gail Mardfin and Carol Mills had a great day at the Legion of Honor for the Members' Preview of the Wayne Thiebaud show, "Art Comes from Art." Don't miss it; it runs through August 17 and features his unique still lifes, portraits, landscapes, and more. Click to watch an 11-minute film about how Thiebaud based so many of his pieces on works from art

history: https://www.famsf.org/stories/wayne-thiebaud-film



AWS member **Becky Brendlin** and her husband Gary are members of The Maile Swing Band, which plays all Hawaiian - both Hapa Haole (words in English) and Olelo (Hawaiian language). They'll be playing **Sunday, April 26th at the Sebastopol Farmers Market from 10:00 to 1:30**. Come by before or after enjoying the Apple Blossom Festival and Art Show for fresh veggies and fresh music. You'll think you're shopping in Hawaii!



NOW IN THE GALLERY,
A Contemporary Photography Exhibit





MONTHLY ART SHARE

Show & Tell: Photography & Beyond

Wednesday, April 9 • 3 - 5:30pm Sliding Scale: \$10/\$15/\$20 Click here: **RSVP is required**

Max 12 attendees. RSVP required. Other artists and non-artists are welcome as "listeners."

This month's theme is Photography, however, you are not limited to this style.'

Bring ANY one of your masterpieces or something in-the-works to share. Our discussions will inspire and motivate the beginner to the expert.

Each artist has 10 minutes for discussion and input from attendees.

Light refreshments will be served.

Moderators: Kim Winter & Linda Loveland-Reid.

CALL FOR ENTRY

International Fiber Arts XII

Deadline: *April 15, 2025*Exhibition: *June 21-August 3, 2025*CLICK FOR PROSPECTUS

REMINDERS FOR THE 2025 APPLE BLOSSOM ART SHOW



SPREAD THE WORD! Gail has sent out JPGs & a PDF to everyone to share with your email contacts & social media.

Please keep track of where you are placing your posters & postcards.

- >> We have a REGULAR AWS MEETING ON APRIL 17 to go over final details.
- >> There will be sign-up sheets if you have not yet signed up for your volunteer hours...
- >> Please bring a BOTTLE OF WHITE WINE to the meeting, for the ABS reception.
- >> Arrive at 6:45 to the Reception on Friday, April 25 with FINGER FOOD, ENOUGH FOR FOR 12-24. Come through the front door of the Arts Center.

FYI:

The CA tax on sales at the Apple Blossom Show is 9.75% (not 9.25, as stated on the entry form for the show).







103 Maxwell Ct, Santa Rosa (707) 526-6421 • <u>www.RileyStreet.com</u> Mon. - Sat. 9-5:30 I Sun. 11-4