



WaterMedia

April 2018



Backsplash by Cynthia DiDonato

SPRING INTO SPRING

As this is being written, the heaps of snow left over from winter storm Skylar are beginning to melt, and from underneath it small buds are appearing which had begun blooming on trees before the nor'easter hit. It's hard to remember that spring will soon relieve winter of its duties when the weather keeps telling us otherwise, but those little green bursts are like a promise that there is something wonderful waiting for the right time to reveal itself. Painting is often like that. Sometimes we become frustrated with what we're producing, and it seems that the disappointment just piles up like snow, one layer on top of another. However, every artist knows that if they're patient, a magnificent piece might just emerge from it all, and even if it doesn't, we just start again, the way the seasons do. The important thing is to keep at it. RIWS is happy to wait it out with you, but we too know that we can't become completely idle, which is why we're always planning ahead.

Our spring classes are up on our web site and we believe they're just the right thing to get your creative juices flowing. Also, information on our next show, the *122nd Annual Members Show*, can be found under the Exhibitions tab. In this newsletter we're giving you a sneak peek at info for the *RIWS National Show 2018*. It's not too early to start thinking about what you want to submit. Before you know it, summer will be here and we'll be wondering where spring went.

We're excited about all our upcoming programming and about your participation. Spring forward, everyone!

President's Corner

Rhode Island Watercolor Society continues to surprise and impress me. I'm overwhelmed by the talent and the sense of community at a show opening, the quality of instructors and the gallery's work space, our email and newsletters, the excitement in our publications (thanks to Andrea), and the dynamic personality of our gallery director who always makes everyone feel welcome and supported (thank you, Sam). At each board meeting, the positive energy and ideas are endless. There is so much we would like to do. Just in the last year our walls were painted, the lighting upgraded, air conditioning installed, and we now have a commercial humidifier ready to come online and new flooring scheduled. Yet with our board of ten and our staff of two, there are limits to what we can accomplish. There are always more exciting things we can do, and we welcome all of you to be part of them.

I hope to see you at our annual meeting on April 7th to find out how you can be involved. Remember, this space belongs to all of us.

Jackie Habig, President

Director's Corner

RIWS has had a strong start to the year with the amount of classes we have been hosting. We've had an Instagram class, a collage class, alcohol ink classes, as well as all kinds of watercolor classes. There was one day in particular when we hosted both Cynthia DiDonato's Instagram class in the morning, immediately followed by Sue Klas Wright's watercolor class in the afternoon. On top of that, it was a drop off day for the 122nd Annual Members Show. Our little boathouse was hustling and bustling from open until close. I have a fond memory of pausing briefly to admire the wonderful hum of our space here in Slater Memorial Park. Specifically, I remember thinking, "This. More of this." We have such an incredible space here and I'm thrilled to see it being used so fully. We also recently had a free presentation by national award winning artist Jennifer Littleton that was very well received. There were a lot of new faces in attendance, showing us that our reach continues to lengthen.

I think it's important to note the role that our members play a major role in all this. You all represent a huge portion of the participants enrolled in our programming, but you also represent one of our strongest forms of advertising. In a community like ours, word of mouth is quite possibly the strongest way to spread the news about us. It helps fill our classes, our workshops, our shows, and our demonstrations, but more than anything else it brings people into our space. Once folks are in the door, it's easy to show them all it is that we do here. All this is to say thank you all for everything that you do for us and please join us on April 7th for the Annual Member Meeting.

Sam Green, Gallery Director

RIWS Member Interview

CYNTHIA DIDONATO



How did you get started as an artist?

My earliest art education began when I minored in art at Rhode Island College. Later in the 80's I studied art again by taking courses in watercolor, sculpture, and photography at local colleges, eventually becoming certified to teach art education. Not until I retired from teaching full time did I immerse myself in painting.

How would you describe your style?

I enjoy working as a non-representational artist in watercolor and acrylic, always exploring experimental techniques.

Do you work in other mediums?

In the last two years I have been exploring digital painting/collage using the iPad professional app called Procreate and iColorama, as well as other programs.

Where do you enjoy painting most?

I enjoy painting in the studio as well as Plein Air. You can find me painting Plein Air on Fridays with Paintingaround, a plein air group

I co-run with Elinor Thompson who began the group close to nine years ago.

What role has RIWS played in your artistic career?

RIWS has played an important role in my career. It has helped me be part of a wonderful community of artists. RIWS classes and workshops have made it possible for me to explore other styles and techniques over the years.

How do you determine if a piece is finished and/or successful?

My artwork is finished or successful when it moves me personally.



Relic

Contact Cynthia

Email: cindyknits@gmail.com

Web site: <https://cynthiadidonato.wordpress.com>

122nd Annual Members Show

EXHIBITION DATES:
APR 7 - MAY 10

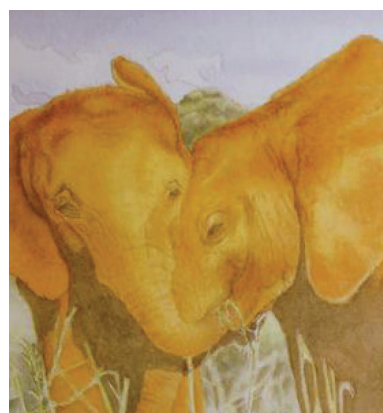
ART STUDIO FOR KIDS

WITH ELIZABETH O'CONNELL

4 Saturdays, May 5, 12, 19, 26, 1:00 - 3:00pm
Class size limited to 10
\$100, RIWS members' children

Contact Elizabeth at eoconnell401@gmail.com

RHODE ISLAND WATERCOLOR SOCIETY



REALISTIC WATERCOLORS VIA TRANSPARENT WASHES

INSTRUCTOR: J.M. LITTLETON

JULY 14 - 15, 2018
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

RIWS NATIONAL SHOW 2018

- WATERMEDIA ONLY -

OPEN TO: Any artist residing in the USA

JUROR: Vladislav Yeliseyev

EXHIBITION DATES: Sep 15 - Nov 8

OPENING RECEPTION: Sep 15, 2-4pm

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE: Aug 15

DROP OFF / DELIVERY: Aug 17 - Sep 8

JURYING OF AWARDS: Sep 12

PICK UP / SHIPPING: Nov 9 - 24

MORE INFO COMING SOON

Dates to Remember

February 24 - April 5	The Brilliance of Color Open Juried Show Exhibition
March 28 - May 2	Sue Klas-Wright: Watercolor Workshop (no class April 11)
March 28 - April 5	122nd Annual Artist Members Show Drop Off
March 30 - May 18	Evelyn Bernal: Wet on Wet Techniques in Watercolor Workshop (Intermediate-Advanced)
April 6 - 21	The Brilliance of Color Open Juried Show Pick Up
April 7	122nd Annual Artist Members Show Opening Reception / Annual Members Meeting
April 7 - May 10	122nd Annual Artist Members Show Exhibition
May 5 - May 26	Elizabeth O'Connell: Art Studio for Kids (Ages 5-9)
May 10 - 12	Andrew Kusmin: Watercolor Workshop
May 11 - 26	122nd Annual Artist Members Show Pick Up
May 13 - June 21	Jack Haran: Watercolor Workshop
June 20 - 22	RIWS Invitational: East Side Art Center
July 14 - 15	J.M. Littleton: Realistic Watercolor via Transparent Washes

Upcoming Workshops

SUSAN KLAS-WRIGHT TASTE FOR POSSIBILITIES

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 28-MAY 9 (NO CLASS APRIL 11)
12:30-3:30PM EACH DAY



ELIZABETH O'CONNELL ART STUDIO FOR KIDS (AGES 5-9)

SATURDAYS, MAY 5-26
1:00-3:00PM EACH DAY



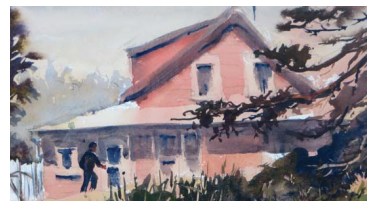
ANDREW KUSMIN WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

THURSDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 10-12
9:00AM-4:00PM EACH DAY



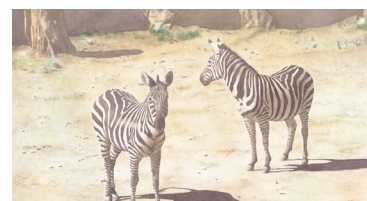
JACK HARAN WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 20-22
9:00AM-4:00PM EACH DAY



J.M. LITTLETON REALISTIC WATERCOLOR VIA TRANSPARENT WASHES

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, JULY 14-15
9:30AM-3:00PM EACH DAY



PLEASE VISIT US AT [RIWSGALLERY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:riwsgallery@gmail.com) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL OF OUR EVENTS.

RIWS Newsletter Information

Officers: President: Jackie Habig, Vice President: Leslie Godfrey, Treasurer: Dennis Finlay, Corresponding Secretary: Elinor Thompson

Directors: Evelyn Bernal, Paula Correia, Bernadette Pace, Liz Palter, Denise Petrin, Frank Robertson, Dyan Rook, Mary Wojciechowski

Editor: Sam Green, Gallery Director

Design & Layout: Andrea Braga, Gallery Assistant

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Email to: riwsgallery@gmail.com including "Newsletter Submission" in subject title