

Brush Strokes

WESTPORT ART GROUP

Summer 2016

President's Letter

Dear Members,

To start with, let me offer up a paean to the talent and artistic skills the members of the Westport Art Group demonstrate consistently in exhibitions, classes and festivals. Perhaps one of the best examples of this is the inaugural Cuttyhunk Art Festival where WAG members took first, second and third place awards.

But there is much more to painting than the creation of beautiful works of art, the winning of competitions and praise or the sale of these endeavors. While I have always appreciated and enjoyed the end results of others' artistic efforts, I had always resisted the frequently posed question of when was I going to start painting. This past fall I enrolled in a beginner level watercolor class. Time flew by in each class, as I got lost in the process. What I experienced has been witnessed and expressed by many others but perhaps most eloquently by Sir Winston Churchill in an essay called *Painting As a Pastime*. If you can find a copy it is well worth reading in its entirety.

Among his observations was this:

Painting is complete as a distraction. I know of nothing, which, without exhausting the body, more entirely absorbs the mind. Whatever the worries of the hour or the threats of the future, once the picture has begun to flow along there is no room for them in the mental screen.

Once absorbed in the drawing and painting process, all worries and concerns just evaporate for the moment. When the painting time is done, I feel more able to deal with whatever had been occupying my mind.

While art awards and sales are probably not in my future, they are not my goals in taking up pencil and paintbrush. I will continue to work at the skills I am starting to learn. Hopefully, I will see many of you at future workshops, classes, exhibitions and art trips.

Peace and Progress,
Bruce Hubbard, WAG President

Annual Spring Open Juried Show, "Coastal Light", April 16 – 24

Special thanks to our judge, Kelly Milukas, for lending her expertise as a painter, sculptor and an internationally known professional in the field of art.

The winners:

Best Interpretation of the theme "Coastal Light"

"Dead Calm" Oil on Canvas, by
Gary Hoyt

CATEGORY I PRIZES

First Prize: "Night Cone" Oil on Canvas,
Robert Abele

Second Prize: "Contrast" Pastel,
Sarah Brown

Honorable Mention: "Calm Day at Stony
Point" Acrylic, by Alita Marks

Honorable Mention: "Comfy
and Cozy" Watercolor, by
Peggy Call-Conley

Honorable Mention: "Sanctuary" Oil on
Board, Gary Hoyt

CATEGORY II PRIZES

First Prize: "Sailor's Delight" Reduction
Woodcut, Gary Hoyt

Second Prize: "The Four Winds" Mixed
Media, Mi Ok Song

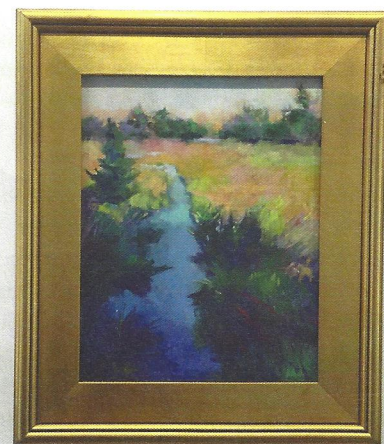
Honorable Mention: "Sunbathers Round
Hill" Oil on Canvas, Robert Abele

Honorable Mention: "Salty Brine"
Watercolor, Jacklyn William

Honorable Mention: "Early Morning
Workout" Watercolor, James Constantine

Thanks to all the artists who participated
and submitted their artwork to make the
show a wonderful display of artistic talent!

And thanks to Hospitality
Chairperson, Nancy Nagle, for an array
of delicious refreshments and festive
reception for artists, members and guests;
the many gallery attendants who shared
their time and energy to make the show
a success: Peter Lenrow, Sharlie Sudduth,
Christine Belanger, Jill Moran, Elizabeth
Brinkerhoff, Linda Bush, Barbara
Chadwick, Maryteresa Hicks, Alita Marks,
James Constantine, Roseanne O'Connell,

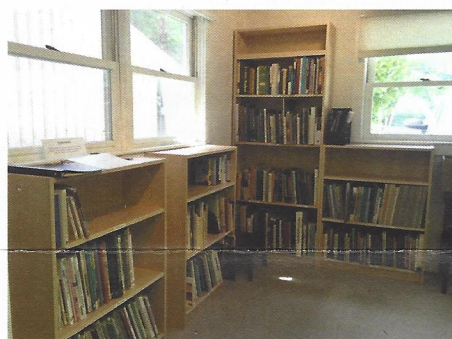


**Category I, Second Prize
"Contrast" Pastel, by Sarah Brown**

Story continues on page 2

Calendar of Events

Kid's Summer Art Camps	July 11 – 15 and August 1 – 5
Open Studio Tours	July 16 & 17 August 20 & 21
Summer Community Show	July 22 – 31 10 AM – 4 PM
Diamond Jubilee Celebration	Sunday, July 24 5 PM – 7 PM
The Art of Flower Arranging	Wednesday, July 27 6 – 8:30 PM
Peoples Choice Awards	Sunday, July 31 at 3 PM
Small Painting Raffle Winners Announced	Sunday, July 31 at 3:30 PM
Exhibition for Classes	September; Date TBD
Annual Meeting	October 24
Holiday Fair	December 3



Library News from Christine Belanger

The WAG Lending Library will soon be available to members. New bookcases have arrived and the books are in the final stages of being categorized. With over 400 books available the library is a valuable resource for every artist. A listing by category will be kept in a binder. The book shelves will be labeled by category. A log book will be provided so members may record their name, the title of the book and the date it was borrowed as well as the date it is returned. New donations are welcome and a box will be placed in the Library Corner for them.

Current titles include "how to" books in every medium, reference books as well as monographs and museum catalogues. Interested in taking up pastels? *Painting in Pastels-Beginners Guide* by Jenny Rodwell might be a good place to start. If you are looking for inspiration or a new direction in your art Nita Leland's *The Creative Artist* may get the ball rolling. So stop by and have a look. Happy reading!

Lyndsey Getchell Awarded Westport Art Group Scholarship

Westport Art Group has announced that Lyndsey Getchell of Dartmouth was the recipient of a \$750 scholarship awarded June 1st. In the past several years, the Westport Art Group has offered and awarded many scholarships to local area high school seniors who have demonstrated serious interest in their high school art programs and plan to study art in college. As a result of an excellent application and portfolio review by the Westport Art Group Scholarship Committee, Getchell was chosen to receive

this year's scholarship. Getchell is a 2016 graduate of Dartmouth High School and is a honor student who excelled in her art classes as a talented and creative student. Getchell was awarded several ribbons for her work at the Dartmouth High School art shows during her time there. Getchell plans to attend UMass Dartmouth in the fall and major in art.

For more information on the scholarship program, please visit www.WestportArtGroup.com.

Spotlight Artists!

Westport Art Group members showing on South Coast Art Tour

Sixteen artists from the WAG will be showing their work as part of the South Coast Artists Open Studio Tour at the Westport Art Group building, 1740 Main Road in Westport. 19 more will show in their studios. Mediums used in original works by the artists include oil paint, pastel, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media, and hand-pulled prints.

The artists showing July 16–17 at WAG are: Robert Abele, Christina Glaser, Heide Hallemeier, Sue Prideaux, Sharlie Sudduth, Paul Vien, Jackie William, and Deanna Woods.

The artists showing August 20–21 at WAG are: Donna St Amant, Robert Abele, Mary Benefiel, Sarah Brown,

Madeline Ferraz, Janet Gendreau, Peter Lenrow, and Jill Moran.

Showing in their studios in July are: Phyllis Adams, Mary Sexton.

Showing in their studios in August are: Christine Bean, Elizabeth Coxe, Marjorie Jensen, Nancy Whitin.

Showing in their studios in both July and August are: Susan Cabral, Kris Donovan, Maureen Fleming, Barbara Healy, Carolyn Lock, Kelly Milukas, JP Powel, Jennifer Rashleigh, Karen Raus, Mary Ann Rousseau, Susan Strauss, Nancy Whitin, Denise Zompa.

To see further work by several of the member artists, please visit westportartgroup.com/gallery, or visit southcoastartists.org for a map.

Annual Spring Open Juried Show

Story continues from page 1

Barbara Healy, Charlotte Smith and Janet Gendreau; Gallery Manager, Sarah Brown and her crew, Janet Gendreau, Denise Zompa, and Heide Hallemeier for hanging the show; Mary Sexton, our graphic designer, and our Press and PR Chairperson, Christina Glaser; the WAG Board of Directors for spending hours of time vetting the plans and details for the show; and, last but not least, thanks to Bruce Hubbard for moving tables and chairs, making the space perfect, posting signs all over the South Coast and many other tasks to numerous to mention!

Top Right: Mi Ok Song Bruining with her prize-winning piece; Below: Janet Gendreau with Peggy Call-Conley



Robert Abele's Atelier: My Treasured Art Reference Library

When I started my formal art training at the School of Visual Arts, I was a young aspiring artist who had the world at his feet. Of course, I knew within a few years my paintings would be gracing the halls of the Metropolitan and MOMA. I soon stepped off that cloud and was put in my place by the amazing talented instructors with whom I was so privileged to study. During critiques, I would hear all these names from art history and I didn't have a clue what the instructor was talking about. I soon realized that knowledge of art history is essential to the development of an artist. This is important no matter what age you are.

A very wise artist told me back in 1993 to treat myself to one art book a month and soon I would have a library that would be a portrait of me and my influences. Since, I have amassed a very diverse collection of books ranging from photographers, painters, poets and all sorts of inspiring material. A good art library should also include how-to books as well. Anytime an artist I admire writes a how-to book I rush to buy it, there will always be something to learn. I have an extensive collection of artist biographies as well, which are great for learning about an artist's technique. For artists like John Singer Sargent, who left little clues about their process, I have learned so much from a good biography.

An art book library can become costly and it takes up space, but even a strong collection of a few dozen books is better than none. You may say, I don't need books I have a computer; you would be right. There is something about sitting in a comfortable chair and flipping through a beautiful book. For me, I will always prefer a book to the computer.

Art books are not always printed in such wide numbers; therefore it is wise to buy a book when you see it. After I see a show that I liked, I always buy the catalog. Just scanning my collection, I have well over 20 titles. I don't treat my books like fine pieces of art either. I drag them to the studio and use them just as I would a tool. I write in the margins and dog-ear the pages—you will often see paint stained corners covered with my fingerprints. The only time I have ever been fingerprinted I might add. One book I treasure and the one I credit for my love

of plein air painting is *Corot in Italy*. This book documents Corot's travels through Italy painting pochades. Corot was one of the first artists to take his materials out of the studio and document his travels in paint. Unfortunately, this book is out of print and can cost quite a bit to obtain. I recommend checking EBay or Amazon for out-of-print art books.

Here are a few books I recommend that have been very helpful to me.

The Oil Painters Pocket Palette,
Rosalind Cuthbert.

The Watercolor Pocket Palette,
Moira Clinch.

Both books are published by North Light Books. These books offer a wealth of color mixing knowledge that is simple to follow. They unfortunately are both out-of-print but can usually be found online.

Chevreul on Colour, Michel Eugène Chevreul. A masterpiece on colour theory but also out-of-print and hard to find.

Hawthorne on Painting, Charles Hawthorne. A wonderful account of student stories describing Hawthorne's master technique on landscape painting.

The Art Spirit, Robert Henri. This is one of my most referenced books and a must have.

I love Barrons art books they are simple to understand and packed full of useful information. Don't be fooled by how simple they look, they are almost written for a child.

The Materials of the Artist, Max Doerner. A historic documentation of art supplies.

Hensche on Painting, Henry Hensche. Explores Hensche's amazing technique and very useful to the landscape painter.

Gist of Art, John Sloan. A wonderful book, often read and reread.

Elements of Drawing, John Ruskin. Ruskin is a master art critic full of useful information.

The Art Forger's Handbook, Eric Hebborn. Don't kid yourself—lots of info in this book on technique and quick solutions to art making.

The Grove Book of Art Writing: Brilliant Words on Art from Pliny the Elder to Damien Hirst, Martin Gayford. A great collections of personal stories about artists.

Monographs in my book collection include: Whistler, Morandi, Hopper, Homer, Turner, Porter, Dickinson, Constable, Corot, Sargent, Joan Mitchell, Jane Freilicher, Jane Wilson, Wolf Kahn and many more. These titles offer a broad sweep of who I am as an artist.

Who are you?



Christine Belanger, plein air painting

From the Classes

Essential Drawing

Mondays at WAG, 9 am – 12 pm

Learn the basics of drawing!

\$15 per session

\$40 per 4-week month

\$50 per 5-week month

Thursday Painting

Thursdays, 9 am – 12 noon

Thursday class is painting on location.

We are going to great sites including many private spaces by invitation.

Robert is inspiring everyone to improve their artwork with his enthusiasm for plein air painting. Thursday class map is on WAG's website at the bottom of the Classes page and on the home page.

Information regarding class location is updated on WAG's Facebook page: facebook.com/westportartgroup. If you would like to be included on the Thursday Painting email list, please contact Barbara Healy at edlundhealy@comcast.net, info@westportartgroup.com, or (508) 636-6773.

\$15 per session

\$40 for a 4-week month

\$50 for a 5-week month

Visit www.westportartgroup.com/classes for more information about our classes.

Lees Slips

Please Save Lees Slips!

Thank you to our members who donate their slips to us. Lee's will donate 1% of the total. We received **\$801.17** from the Lees program for 2015.

Lees will send us money if YOU:

- give the slips to a board member or art class student
- mail the slips to WAG, PO Box 157, Westport Point, MA 02791

NOTE: Please don't circle anything on the slips!

BrushStrokes Deadline

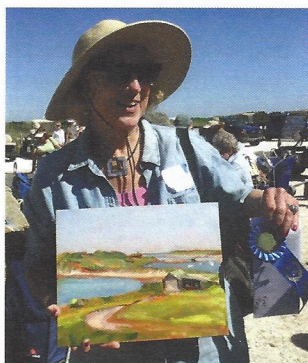
Friday, September 16 for the October 2016 issue. Email information to: info@westportartgroup.com.

Members Gallery

All members are eligible to have their artwork shown in the Members Gallery. Send 4 or 5 digital images with titles, plus a brief bio or artist statement to Mary Sexton at info@westportartgroup.com for inclusion. It's FREE! Please participate.

Cuttyhunk Plein Air Festival

Several WAG plein air painters participated in the first Cuttyhunk Plein Air Festival on Saturday June, 18. WAG was well represented taking home three prizes: First Place, Mary Benton (photo); Second Place, Heide Hallemeier; and Third Place, Barbara Healy. It was a beautiful day for painting and enjoying Cuttyhunk. Thank you to our hosts: The Cuttyhunk Cultural Council, the Cuttyhunk Historical Society and the Long-Range Planning Committee.



Board Meetings:

Thursday, July 14, 1:30 PM

Thursday, August 11, 1:30 PM

Thursday, September 14, 1:30 PM

2015 - 2016 WAG OFFICERS

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Janet Gendreau, Vice President

Brianna McAvoy, Treasurer

Peter Lenrow, Recording Secretary

Nancy Mackay, Corresponding Secretary

Sharon Connors, Membership Secretary

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Toni Keavey

GALLERY MANAGER

Sarah Brown

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