

THE WATER MARK

CENTRAL FLORIDA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

Published monthly August through May

GO OUTSIDE & PAINT

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - October 2016

OUR NEXT MEETING

Mary Dall, President: *First, I want to give a shout out, big Thank You! to Terri Chin for taking over the president's duties for the October 2nd general meeting and demo. As always, she did a great job. Terri is always willing and very able to be of assistance to me and the society at a moments notice. I was sorry to miss the wonderful demo by Lynn Ferris on Sunday, but family matters sometimes take precedence. I know we sold a lot of tickets for the beautiful painting by Frank Francese that was donated by Jackii Molsick. I know too that many of you probably turned in your workshop surveys—or at least I hope so. Thanks to Sharon Stitely who did a wonderful job setting up the refreshments. Next month our new hospitality chair should be back in Florida for that meeting. Luckily, I was back in town to pop in on the workshop from time to time, greet Lynn Ferris and see what our talented workshop artists were doing. What fun! The workshop was great and even menacing Hurricane Matthew stayed at bay until it was over.*

Please look at the special article presented in this newsletter concerning the board invitational Casselberry Show in December. Please follow the entry directions on page 6. We're calling this show "The Hidden Gem." CFWS really is a hidden gem with multiple facets. We hope that folks will discover the Central Florida Watercolor Society and all of its artistic talents

and diversity as they view our show during the 2016 Off the Beaten Path: Seminole County events. We are anticipating a lot of foot traffic and hope to have a wonderful turn out and show. Just around the corner will be our exciting juried show at SOBO too! We are so excited about this show and the fact that SOBO reaches so many people—we had wonderful sales last year. Each year our juried show gets bigger and better. What talent we have!

Cheers, Mary



The **November** meeting of the Central Florida Watercolor Society will take place in the Germaine Marvel Building of the Art & History Center - Maitland on November 6th at 1:30 pm. The demonstration will be presented by **Rebecca Wilkinson** who had two winning paintings in the Member Show last spring. She also has a painting in the current FWS Show in Ocala. Rebecca is a former teacher whose passion for painting and travel has taken her to locations as exotic as Japan, Eastern Europe, and the jungles of Central America. However, the abundance of her favorite subject matter is a wonderful aspect of being back in Central Florida. Water reflections, abundant wild life, exotic flora abound right outside her back door.

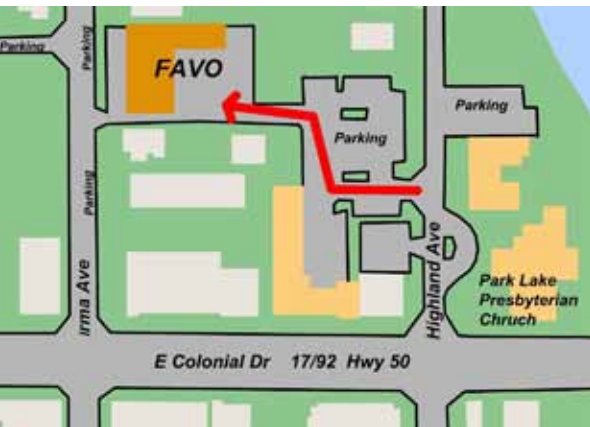
Come see her demonstrate her "winning ways" with watercolor.

Members whose names begin with H-L are asked to bring the snacks. Finger food only, please. Consider bringing something other than sweets for our sugar-challenged members.

centralfloridawatercolor.org

"Thanks for keeping me on the CFWS newsletter list. I enjoy hearing the news and miss being in the society's activities. Tell all I miss them." - **Ralph Dunagin**

Ken Austin and Chauncey Nelson are artists-in-residence at Favo, faithartsvillage.com. FAVO offers a unique destination for those who want to support Orlando's growing arts community. Meet artists and see the new pieces they've created. On first Fridays you have an opportunity to buy an original or a print, or a one-of-a-kind piece of jewelry. The motel setting presents a unique opportunity to give back to the community. There will be food trucks and music at the next 1st Friday event on November 4th, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Located off Colonial Drive, behind Park Lake Presbyterian Church.



Thank you to **Karen Bowden** for her dedication to our library. Karen has been carrying the books in to our meetings and carefully arranging them for many years. She organizes them in a way that makes it easy for us to find resources for our knowledge of our art.

Events



The Florida Watercolor Society

This year the Florida Watercolor Society Convention was held at The College of Central Florida CF Webber Gallery in Ocala. **Nancy Larkin** made arrangements for a bus to take a group there. They left the MAC parking lot at 9 am on Saturday, September 24. Participants spent the day at the Ocala Hilton Trade show watching demos and buying bargains.



Mary Dall and Sharon Stitely share thoughts d'Art

Some were treated to a demo full of tips by **Jamie Cordero** who will be doing



Jamie Cordero makes "Bubbles"

a demo and workshop for us in February. What a great preview! The Webber Gallery was a short bus ride from the Hilton where they viewed the 2016 exhibit, delighting in discussing technique and style with those who understood. The Exhibit will run till October 21st.

Teresa Chin led an August workshop on Chinese Brush Painting for the Young Artists Group at the Artegon Marketplace. Afterward, they invited a few guest artists to participate in an "Ink and Allegory" exhibit at the CityArts Factory in downtown Orlando. The exhibit relates to the use of sumi ink as the medium with allegory or symbolism incorporated in the artwork. **Nita Rizzo** and **Teresa Chin** were among the artists who were accepted. The exhibit opened September 15th and runs through October 14th.



Above: Teresa Chin demonstrates the plum blossom in Chinese painting style.



Teresa sold her painting "Hurricane, Scene from My Backyard".

August Workshop

Mike Bisceglia, Teresa Chin and Donna Coulantes had paintings accepted for the 2017 Rotary Club of Casselberry Community Art Calendar. The theme is "Our Central Florida Community." All of the original work will be displayed at the Art House October 31st through November 30th. A special reception, in honor of the artists, and the presentation of the 2017 Rotary Club of Casselberry Community Calendar, will be at the Casselberry Art House on Friday, November 4, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Artists will be asked to sign their calendar page for attendees. Light refreshments will be served.

Terri Chin has put together a book that outlines some exciting **Plein-Air** outings to be set up for the third Saturday of each month, October through April (possible date changes due to holidays.) We are looking for individuals to host one of these outings until we find someone who would like to be our **Plein-Air** Coordinator. There have been some great group experiences in the past. Let's keep it going!

Please let us know when you are accepted to a show or win a prize. We all enjoy hearing about your success...

CALL TO ARTISTS

Calling all artists who would like to participate in the 10th Annual Downtown **Clermont Art Festival**, November 5th & 6th. Champions for the Arts! <http://clermondowntownpartnership.com>
Vendors / Exhibitors: Please contact Ron Smart, 352.247.4640, or Claire Vaccaro, 407.718.3199, for more details. info@clermondowntownpartnership.com.

Call to Artists, **Winter Garden Art Association**. Submit on line at wgar.org. The prospectuses for the November & December Exhibitions are available at the website for the Winter Garden Art Association/127 SoBo Gallery at www.wgart.org/calendar.htm. This is a great way to show your work in our community! You can also contact Kim Minichiello at kimminichielloart@me.com for information.

IMPORTANT DATES

SCHEDULE FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON

- Oct 12-19 Jpegs submitted for Casselberry Art House "Hidden Gem" Exhibit
- Nov 6 Rebecca Wilkinson, artist - general meeting and demo.
Members who's names begin with H-L are asked to bring the snacks. Finger food only, please.
- Dec 2-30 Casselberry Art House Exhibit "Hidden Gem" Representative show/Board Invitational (See page 6)
- Dec 4 Holiday Party - general meeting and In-House Member Show.
- Dec 4 Deadline for jpegs for Annual JURIED-Member Show Winter Garden Art Assn. SOBO Gallery (See page 7)
- Dec 9 Casselberry Art House "Hidden Gem" Reception 6 to 8 pm
- Jan 8 Nancy McDonald, artist, - general meeting and demo
- Feb 2 Opening Reception and Awards: CFWS Annual JURIED-Member Show Winter Garden Art Assn. SOBO Gallery
- Feb 5 Jaime Cordero, artist - general meeting and demo.
- Feb 6-8 Jaimie Cordero, Workshop in the Germaine Marvel Building \$300 for members (\$350 for not-yet-members)
- Mar 12* Caryn Dahm, artist - general meeting and demo.
- April 2 Dana Daydodge, artist - general meeting and demo.
- May 7 General meeting - Social and/or demo.election of officers.
* Meeting moved to second Sunday due to Holiday.

Plein-Air Opportunities

Saturday, October 15th **Sally Hall** is hosting a *Plein-Air* at Lake Concord Park in Casselberry, 127 Quail Pond Circle. Take a look at the changes around the Casselberry Art House in preparation for our gallery show there in December. Come at 10:00 bring a lunch. casselberry.org

Saturday, November 12, we have been invited back to **Rebecca Wilkenson's** Lake home at 1240 Brumley Road, Chuluota to paint from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. She will provide: Coffee and Biscotti in the morning; Soup, Broccoli Salad and Flat Bread, Iced Ginger Green Tea at lunch; Ice Water all day. **Please RSVP** to: rdwilkinson@earthlink.net so she has an idea how much food to prepare. She will email you the directions to her home.



October Demo

The **Gallery at Willow Creek**, located at 4725 E. Lake Drive, Winter Springs, Florida, is inviting local artists to exhibit. If you would like to be considered for a two month display please send a brief bio, your contact information and 3 jpegs of your work to both jeff@jlphoto-graphic.com AND ftambrino@gmail.com for review. The purpose of The Gallery at Willow Creek is to praise God, share His followers talents, enrich and inspire the cultural life of Willow Creek Church and the community. (While the selection of works is not limited to those of a "religious" nature, some subject matter may be deemed inappropriate by the Willow Creek Arts Committee and will not be shown at the gallery.)

Join the Art & History Museums - Maitland as it kicks-off the 2016-17 Season with a month packed with programs, historic renovations and technology improvements. Visit the website: artandhistory.org for details on these and other programs. The **Historic Sanford Welcome Center** Announces next month's theme for The Art Walk at www.sanfordartwalk.com/#!artists-inquiry

WORKSHOPS

Tom Jones will be performing a demo at ARTSYSTEMS OF FLORIDA, Winter Park on the first Saturday of December during their Sidewalk Sale. Contact the Store at 407.679.4700 or 800.759.0946 Email: repro@artsystemsfl.com. Check out all of Tom's paintings and workshops on his website: www.TomJonesArtist.com.

Do you need to brush-up on technique in your watercolor paintings? Looking for new ideas to improve your skills? Come join a 4 week small group experience that takes place in Nancy Larkin's home on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am. The first session will be on November 3rd. To sign up you can Email **Nancy Larkin**, instructor, for details. (nsloxid@gmail.com)

Roberta Lerman's art class at the Maitland Senior Center is an informal class for all levels and meets on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 3:30 pm. The price is \$5.00 and includes

There were 67 members and 3 guests present to see **Lynn Ferris** give us a lesson on rendering Light and Shadow. She pointed out how shadows can take a painting from "sweet" to "poignant," and make it memorable. Starting with a limited palette of Pthalo Blue, Alizarine crimson and Cadmium yellow she made a "shadow map" on her composition of varied shapes. She wet the side of a bowl shape and added the combined colors, rolling the values from dark to light. Working in a circular pattern to avoid the wet areas, she defined shadows, referenced a light source and established the composition. "If the shadow map works, the composition works!" The white of the paper represents light. "Shadow is the absence of light. So, I'm taking away the light." You can see where you need to selectively darken. A drop of water and a thirsty brush brings out a glow. Water will make a color "migrate," modeling the objects with darker shadows.



When the background was dry she began adding the local color. Pure cobalt "with lots of water" was washed over the shadow map of the pitcher. The color "self-adjusted on the different planes of the object, making perfect gradations of color. Next a red box was rendered in the same way building relative value. "Focal point transcends subject matter." Be aware of the use of color to balance the composition. Pthalo blue, Pthalo green and Alizarine crimson makes a "no fail" dark background. Mix and mingle these colors to make it more interesting.

There was a lively question and answer session that followed. Ms. Ferris has a wonderfully descriptive way of responding to questions, which encouraged the crowd to be interactive -- a taste of the workshop that would follow on Monday.



Dot Cline won Lynn Ferris' demo painting



a short demo at the beginning of each class. For information call 407.644.3542.

Nancy McDonald teacher... retired art educator offers Watercolor and Acrylic classes on Tuesdays 9 am to noon in the Fran Carlton Center, 11 Forest Avenue, Apopka. Call 407.464.6724. **Experienced** painters only. This is an open ended class. Beginners can call for information about other class opportunities.

Kim Minichiello, GWS, PWS, LWS will be teaching the following workshops and presentations at the Winter Garden Art Association/SoBo Gallery October 20, Photoshop as an Artists Tool-one day workshop. November 5 & 6, Bold & Dynamic Watercolor - two day workshop. December 8, Lunch & Learn: Marketing Strategies for Artists-lecture/presentation. For more information visit Kim's web site at www.kimminichiello.com & to register the WGAA web site at www.wgart.org/workshops.

Don't forget to "Like Us" on facebook!

Local Art Shows

Oct 15-16
8th Annual ARTOBERFEST
Winter Springs Town Center

Oct 22-23
Mount Dora Craft Fair
on the downtown streets

Nov 6,7,8
Mainstreet Fall Festival
Historic Downtown Melbourne

Nov 5-6
10th Annual Downtown
Clermont Art Festival

Nov 11-13
"Art Under the Stars"
Maitland Rotary Art Festival

Nov 19-20
The 20th Annual ArtWorks of
Eau Gallie Fine Arts Festival

Nov 19-20
24th Annual DeLand Fall Festival
of the Arts on Woodland Blvd

Around Town

Hidden Gem Gallery Show in Casselberry

Our "Hidden Gem: CFWS" Casselberry Art House reception is **December 9th** from 6-8. How perfect for us as Casselberry Rec Center, just 1.5 miles down the road will be hosting a FREE vendor fair as part of their Art & Music in the Park. Any CFWS artist who wishes to man a table and sell paintings, note-cards, etc. may do so at no cost, but space is limited. This is an indoor activity with tables and chairs provided by the Rec Center. Therefore, little set up will be required. Please contact Lynn Hoppes at 4078-262-7700 ext. 1507 or email: lhoppes@casselberry.org. for sign up and details. More information is also available on the Casselberry website.

CFWS is suggesting that artists work in tandem between the Rec. Center where the food trucks and music will be located, then come for dessert--cookies and light refreshments served by CFWS at the ART HOUSE or stop in at the reception and then go on to the Rec. Center to cap off the evening. A map to guide you from the Art House to the Rec. Center will be provided in the November newsletter.

RAFFLE

This watercolor, valued at \$750, by acclaimed artist Frank Francese can be yours. It is a full sheet matted. Jackii Molsick donated it to CFWS. Just purchase a raffle ticket at one of our meetings. You need not be present to win.

The donation is \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.



14th Annual Juried Member Show

The show will be at SoBo Gallery in Winter Garden on **February 2nd, 2017**.

Entries should be sent to: mzzjane@cfl.rr.com beginning on November 1st. **Deadline** for jpeg entries is midnight, Sunday, **December 4th**. We will accept good, sharp jpegs in any size. They must be cropped to show the artwork only. Cost to enter is \$25 for one entry, \$30 for two. We expect to hear back from our juror, Jaimie Cordero, by end of December and will email letters of acceptance/rejection at that time.

See page 7 for entry information.

LIBRARY Stop by the CFWS Library table, hosted by Karen Bowden, to see a variety of books, videos and CDs to take home and absorb at your leisure. New books have been added! You can also visit our library online at <http://tinyurl.com/cfwslibrary>.

CASSELBERRY ART HOUSE SHOW

127 Quail Pond Circle, Casselberry, FL 32707

December 2-30, 2016

If you've read your newsletter you know that CFWS is hosting its 11th Annual Juried Show in the spring, but you also know we have been invited to have a special art show at the Art House in Casselberry for December of 2016 as part of the roads reopening/Christmas Tree Lighting /Seminole County Arts Celebration. Our show will be in conjunction with the 2016 Off the Beaten Path, Seminole County events. Following that theme we have christened our show:

"Hidden Gem: Central Florida Watercolor Society."

General Information on the Hidden Gem Show at Art House-Casselberry, show: We are hoping to present "the full-body of the art created by CFWS members." Subject matter, style, and categories will be taken into account.

1. Non-juried board invitational. First come, first serve will be honored if possible, but in the event we do not get enough variety, we may have to "jump" down the line.

2. Rules and waiver paperwork will be available on our website or at the Nov. meeting. Please read the Casselberry Art House rules for displaying art. Casselberry commission on sales is 20%

3. There is a small, \$5 donation (non-refundable) fee collected once your slot has been reserved to cover the cost of refreshments, paperwork, signs, and pamphlets. (cash or check only) Someone will be collecting the fee at the November meeting or pay at install.

4. The painting may be one that has appeared in a previous show at the Art House or other venue but not a painting that

you plan to exhibit at the February Juried show. Paintings done in workshops are not permitted.

5. One painting per artist. Approx. 50 paintings total on display.(10 alternate-need/room basis)

6. Open to all members in good standing.

7. No painting may be removed prematurely unless sold and/or agreed upon by Art House and CFWS.

8. Paintings must be framed and ready for hanging. Plexiglas in lieu of glass. White or cream mat (as primary mat if double matted). No saw-tooth backings. Wire-hanging only. Mat exception is made for stretched watercolor canvas. Matting exceptions may be made for experimental or special case pieces but are subject to CFWS board approval.

9. Back of painting upper right should include: Artist name, title of painting and price. (Tags will be emailed to participants.)

10. All sales are between the artist and buyer.

11. Light refreshments will be served at the opening reception. December 9, 2016 (6-8)

12. Drop off date for paintings at the Art House is December 2, 2016. (Time will be announced.)

13. Pick up of paintings at Art House is December 30. (Time will be announced.)

14. Sign-up will be done by email to Mary Dall at marydall@bellsouth.net beginning on October 12th until October 19th.

Simply email Mary at marydall@bellsouth.net with the subject line HIDDEN GEM and the information asked for below (in that order) followed by a SMALL jpg of your painting.

1. You will receive an email confirmation that your jpeg was received.
2. Selection will be made on October 20 and participants will receive a second email stating whether a painting is accepted or not or if it is an alternate.

Please send the following information in this exact order followed by small jpg image:

1. Full Name
2. Phone
3. E-mail address
4. Level of expertise: professional, near-professional, intermediate, novice, (This show represents all levels.)

5. Title of painting
6. Style: (i.e. traditional, miniature, oriental, portrait, commercial, illustration, experimental, etc.)
7. Subject: (Casselberry does not allow nudes or erotica.)
8. Approximate size framed
9. Asking price or NFS
10. I have submitted (accepted or not) to the CFWS juried show(s) in the past. Yes. No. New member
11. I plan to enter CFWS's primary show, the 11th annual Juried Show. Yes. No. Not sure.

Followed by a small jpg.

Thank you! This is sure to be a great show!

CENTRAL FLORIDA WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

11TH ANNUAL JURIED MEMBER SHOW 2017

SOBO Art Gallery

Winter Garden Florida

The deadline for submission is December 4th, 2016. Paintings must be in Watercolor. Our juror will be Jaimie Cordero. The show will hang at SoBo Art Gallery until April 15th. All accepted art must be framed with Plexiglas and ready to hang with a wire. Each artist may submit one or two jpegs. No jpegs will be accepted after December 12th! You must be a member in good standing to enter!!!

Jpegs are to be sent online to Jane Brinckerhoff, mzzjane@cfl.rr.com. We will accept good, sharp jpegs in any size. They must be cropped to show the artwork only. When sending the e-mail entry to Jane be sure to include your name, e-mail address, phone number, title, price and framed size. Prices should reflect the fact that the gallery will charge a 30% commission on sales of paintings. The digital files must be named as follows: last name in CAPS + first name in lower case, #1, or #2, and the title of the painting. The file format must be jpg. Also indicate "2017 Annual Member Show" in the subject line.

The entry fee is \$25.00 for one painting, \$30.00 for two, which includes a \$5.00 each fee to the gallery. You can pay by mail, on the website (centralfloawatercolor.org) with Paypal, or bring a check to the Treasurer at the December 4th Christmas meeting. Make checks payable to Central Florida Watercolor Society (CFWS). If registration Form and fee is mailed to the Treasurer, Jerry Snyder, at 225 Royal Liverpool Ln, Orlando 32828, it must be **POSTMARKED** by December 4th.

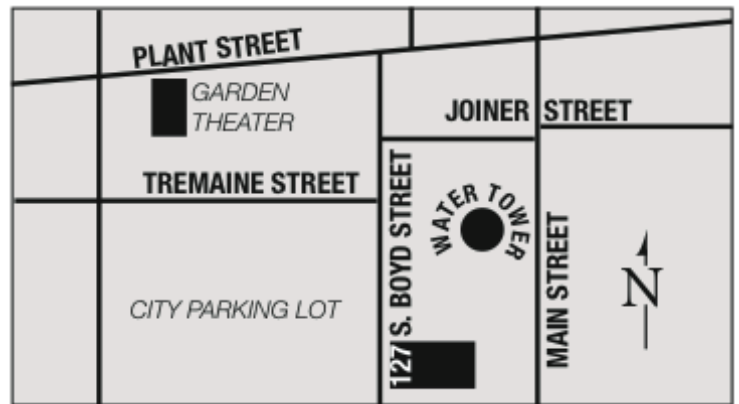
Please put the following information on the back of your painting:

Artist Name _____
Artist phone # _____
Title: _____
Price: _____

We will get the images to Jaimie Cordero around December 15th or (via a CD) and she will return the list of paintings that have been juried into the CFWS SoBo Gallery Show by the end of December. Each artist may submit up to 2 paintings and may have 0, 1 or 2 paintings selected for the show (depending on the size of the paintings submitted and space in the front room of the SoBo Gallery. This area can hold 30 to 50 paintings, dependent on framed size. Jane will send notifications to artists by January 10, 2017.

Accepted work must be dropped off at SoBo Art Gallery in Winter Garden on January 28th by 11:00 am. SoBo Art Center is located at 127 South Boyd Street in Winter Garden. Phone: 321.794.8157. Jane Brinckerhoff, Nancy Larkin and Mary Dall. will be doing a convenience drop-off of paintings at the Art & History Center-Maitland between 8:30 and 9:30 on January 28th. Paintings will be retrieved from the gallery on April 15th and brought back to A&H.

The opening reception will be Thursday, February 2nd, 2017 from 5:30 to 8:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. Participants are asked to bring a beverage. Prizes will be awarded then.



Bring to December meeting or Mail this bottom portion to CFWS Member Show, 225 Royal Liverpool Ln, Orlando 32828

CFWS 2016 Annual Member Show Registration/Entry Form

Name _____ Phone number _____

Email address _____

Title #1 _____ Framed size _____ price _____

Title #2 _____ Framed size _____ price _____

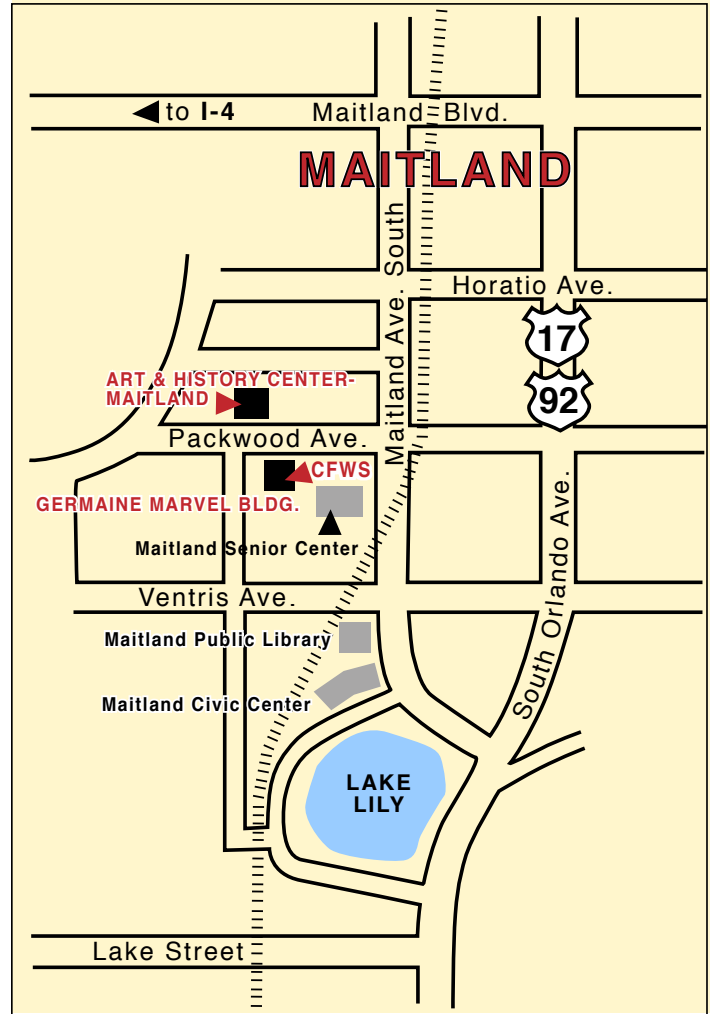
Each submitted entry is \$20.00, two for \$30. Make check payable to CFWS. Be sure to send this form with check POSTMARKED by December 4th to: CFWS Member Show, 225 Royal Liverpool Ln, Orlando 32828

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES 2016-2017

WELCOME

President	Mary Dall marydall@bellsouth.net	407.359.7752
Vice President	Terri Chin tschin@mindspring.com	407.677.6289
Secretary	Ann Hague amhague01@earthlink.net	407-538-4449
Treasurer	Jerry Snyder jsnyder2048@gmail.com	407.381.1376
Hospitality	Marge Reed reedmapa@cfl.rr.com	716.912.0603
Greeters	Suzie Greenlee-Mamon sgreenlee@cfl.rr.com	407.339.8426
Membership	Rita Watts wattsrh@earthlink.net	910.445.1400
Publications	Janet Asbury aquanews@earthlink.net	407.739.7975
Web Coordinator	Mike Malloy mjmalloy@mmalloy.net	407.455.3307
Publicity	Judy Kaye jkworldtraverler@aol.com	407.491.7479
Workshops	Rich Lewis rdl5151@hotmail.com	407.359.2897
Workshop Registrar	Faye Tambrino ftambrino@icloud.com	407.830.7182
Shows/Galleries/ Member Show	Jackii Molsick jmolsick@gmail.com	352.459.3585
	Sandi Hanlon-Breuer bluewater50@juno.com	352.742.7798
Librarian	Karen Bowden bowdenartist@yahoo.com	407.443.3440
<i>En Plein-Air</i>	TBA	
A&H Liaison	Roberta Lerman robynoriginals@embarqmail.com	407.644.3542
Advisor	Ken Austin kenastinnws@cfl.rr.com	407.423.5741
Audio	David Williams dewhome@embarqmail.com	407.629.4058

The monthly meeting for **October** will be held on Sunday, **October 11** in the Germaine Marvel Building, 341 Packwood Avenue, Maitland across from the Art & History Center - Maitland. We meet at 1:30 pm.



**Come be on the board.
It's a great way
to get to know everyone!**

The position of *Plein-Air* Coordinator is open for the 2016-17 Season. Curious? Contact Mary Dall at: 407.359.7752 or marydall@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Articles and Member News

Please send your news, articles, photos and announcements to aquanews@earthlink.net. Submit artwork as a jpeg. Deadline is the 10th of each month. We look forward to hearing from you and about you!!

All of these people could use some help!

How To Be

ARTIST

By Ken Austin

THE WATERWORKS

Ken Austin, NWS © 2012/Ken Austin, NWS

We are all products of our time, our upbringing and our experience. So is art. We see in art what we know about, accept as normal, and have experience with. But if our grandparents convinced our parents, and they convinced us that art was a waste of time, we'll have that same opinion. If we were taught that the value of art was in its ability to picture things realistically, we're likely to believe the same. And if their standard for quality of art was its degree of realism, we'll think the same. We can't help it.

But the history of art is the history of challenge, of change, and of leading. It is not for the faint of heart or for the copyist. It is the realm of the creative people in the culture of our times.

That great blunderbuss of a teacher, Ed Whitney said people asked him why he was an artist and he responded, "Because it is an honorable profession which produces works of beauty". When I heard this at one of his demos, I was astounded because I'd never thought of art as a "profession" - a kind of work, or a pleasant pastime maybe, but never a profession. Lawyers and doctors have professions, but art? I, the son of an artist, was a product of that same society that portrays artists as goofy outsiders who delight in confounding the public with their suspect activities and the strange work they produce which they (ha-ha) call art.

Well, to be a lawyer or doctor or architect, a license is required, but not to be an artist. Chefs, builders, even gamblers are labeled as "professionals", so I should have been prepared for Whitney's description of an artist. And ever since, I've taken it to heart that to be an artist is to take a place in that long line of professionals who have shaped our view of society as much as society has shaped theirs.

I guess this ramble is about how hard it is to focus on making painting about what's on the paper instead of what's in front of you, and why I try to be forgiving and understanding

if people don't get it right away or at all. There was a time when I didn't understand that either, and artists were goofy outsiders calling strange things art. Learning to move toward the painting and away from "the subject" seems counterproductive, but only as long as you're in the copyist zone. When you learn that you are in charge of the work and not the reverse, you are forever absolved from having to reproduce what you see before you. You are no longer judged by verisimilitude. You are on your own. You are an artist.

How can you make it easier when you are the artist - when it really is just up to you and when you have to be held accountable for what you paint? Well here's what works for me:

- ☞ Learn the mantra: "**This is only paint on paper.**" Learn to say it early and say it often. If the painting doesn't work, start over.
- ☞ Create with elements, judge with principles. Learn the elements of design and how to use them in your work. As you work, think about the principles of design and how your painting is stacking up on that end. Is it balanced? Is there repetition? Is there unity, dominance, contrast? And so on until you know which way you're headed and what's primary in your design.
- ☞ Trust yourself. After a lot of time and experience you're going to find that your instincts are carrying you through. The direct line from your brain to the brush tip is simply an express route to making art. The faster you can get the idea there, the better your work will be.
- ☞ Find what you love/like in art. Be it flowers, *plein air*, abstract, portraits, or whatever, it will be better art if you love painting it.
- ☞ Try new things. We all get bored with repetition. New stuff from workshops, classes, painting with buddies, new ideas, techniques, whatever, can brighten up your paintings and renew your interest in the medium.
- ☞ Find a place and a time to paint regularly. This is hard to do when you have a family, a house, a job, but some regularity can identify that time as "yours". When it's yours, you can do better work and work better.
- ☞ When you do something right, say what it was out loud and listen to remember! We forget if we don't verbalize.

And again:

- ☞ Say the mantra

These are only a few of the tools we can use to progress in our pursuit of better art. So throw off that yoke of social opinion of artists as dorks and turn professional. As my dear mother-in-law used to say, "If you don't think well of yourself, nobody else will!"

Meanwhile, Keep your brush wet!



*Ken Austin teaches design and watercolor painting at Crealdé School of Art. Contact Crealdé or go online at www.crealde.org, or contact Ken for more information.