

Watercolor Society of Oregon's Watermark

www.WatercolorSocietyofOregon.com

Vol. LXX, No. 1

February 2026

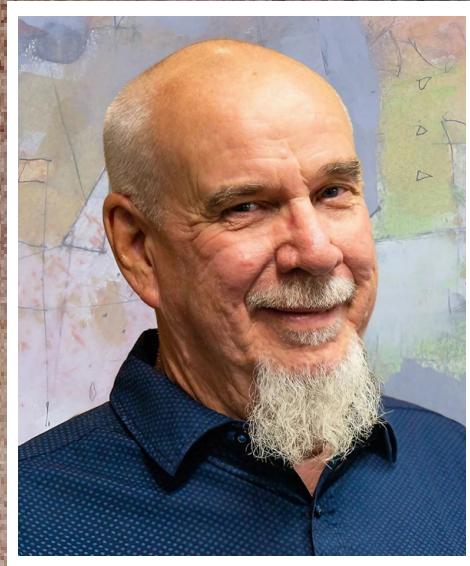
"Merri McMinnville" Spring Convention

April 10-12, 2026

Read more on page 14



Windowpane No. 75 by Stan Kurth



Juror Stan Kurth

Stan Kurth's 4 Day Workshop

Read more starting on page 22

Get More Involved with WSO by Volunteering

Learn more on page 4

Immersive Art Retreats at Menucha

Read more on page 7

Watermark

Watermark is the newsletter of the Watercolor Society of Oregon and is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November.

WSO is a 501(c)(7) as determined by the IRS.

WSO PRESIDENT:
Debbie Loyd

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Shannon Cazinha

Send articles and images that are of general interest to the WSO membership to the editor via email and file attachments. The due date for the May issue of **Watermark** is April 15, 2026.

NEWSLETTER DESIGN & ADVERTISING:

DESIGN:
Elizabeth Zimmerman

ADVERTISING:
Send advertisements and payment to:
Tara Bay

ROSTER CHANGES:
Jan Premo

In this Issue	
President's Message	3
Past President's Message	4
Education Director's Report	5
News Roundup	5-6
WSO Workshops at Menucha	7
Membership Director's Report	8
Welcome, WSO New Members for 2025	9
Fundraising for Artists' Success and Growth	10
WSO Important Dates February 2026 – February 2027	11
Looking Ahead	12
Kudos and Call for Entries.....	13

Convention Central

2026 Spring Convention

Spring Convention Overview	14
Things to Do in the Convention Area	14
Online Registration for 2026 Spring Convention	15
2026 Spring Experimental Exhibition Calendar	15
2026 Spring Convention Schedule	16-17
Breakout Sessions at a Glance	18
Breakout Sessions	19-21
"The Intuitive Painting Mindset" Juror Workshop by Stan Kurth	22
Lodging near Linfield University, McMinnville, OR	23
Restaurants in McMinnville	24

2026 Fall Convention

Introduction to 2026 Fall Exhibit and Convention	25
--	----

A little note from Elizabeth: Click on any of the above articles, and you will be directed to that exact page! And to get back to this page click on any **Watermark** on the top of a page.

A big *Thank you* to our supporters and advertisers

René Eisenbart **M. Graham Paints**
Winnie Givot **Eric Wiegardt**
Village Gallery of Arts **Merri Artist**
Robert Burridge **Angela Wraitz & Jeannine Miller**

Click on an advertiser (above) to see their ad and click on their ad to be redirected to their website!

Would you like to advertise in **Watermark**?
Click here to download Ad Reservation Form and details.

And we can't forget another big *Thank you* to the Watermark Editing Team: Shannon Cazinha, Susan Escobar, Debbie Teeter, Terri Rottman, Chris Kondrat, Connie Faulkner, Kathryn Oliver-Garnett, and Patty Duncan.



WATERCOLOR
SOCIETY OF
OREGON

President's Message

Debbie Loyd, WSO President



I recently asked WSO board members what they loved most about WSO. It was hard to miss the common theme of **community**. One said that painting tends to be isolating and WSO helps with that. Another said that conventions feel like family reunions. Still another mentioned the joy of being able to "talk art" with fellow artists. Critique groups are also seen as a source of community.

We live in a time and a society with a great need for connection and community. Digital technology and political divides have led to increased loneliness and isolation. Covid made us aware just how important our relationships are. Covid not only kept us physically apart, but it created more technology and political division.

I think artists are natural connectors. We value authenticity and strive to express it in our work. We look for what makes something beautiful or meaningful to us, and we use design and composition to share that. In other words, we look under the surface. It's almost as if the process of painting begins the process of community. When artists come together, they have so much to share and talk about.

Sharing art is like sharing a part of us. In fact, Harold Osborne once said that the real subject of every work of art is the artist himself. We can't help but reveal parts of ourselves. We can't even sign our name without showing something of who we are.

It takes courage to be vulnerable. That's why we sometimes feel we are not good enough or our art is not good enough. We come together and find out that who we are is more than just OK. We share similar struggles, similar feelings, and have similar values. We support each other and encourage each other. This is community! I can't think of anything better than community that helps each of us become our best self!



EXPERIENCE

ART

with René Eisenbart

www.rene-art.com

Winnie Givot
Sisters, Oregon

Upcoming Classes & Workshops - 2026

Summer Workshops

- Basics of Watercolor: June 15-17
- Portraits in Watercolor: June 29-July 1
- Creating Textures in Watercolor: August 2-5
- Yupo and Watercolor: August 24-26

Friday Class Sessions
Watercolor, Drawing, Connection
9:30-4:00

- Winter 2: Feb. 20-Mar. 20
- Spring 1: April 10-May 8
- Spring 2: May 15-June 5

Int'l Painting Retreats

- Tuscany: Sept. 12-23, 2026
- France: Aug. 28-Sept. 11, 2027

See more at
www.winniegivot.com

Past President's Message

Becky Meier, Past President



Help! We need your talents, energy and enthusiasm! Is there one of the following positions you would be willing to do, or do you know someone who would be great at a position?

Open Positions:

- Vice President
- DVD Librarian
- Communication Chair
- Logo Merchandise Coordinator
- Membership
- Assistant Treasurer
- Convention Director - Spring 2027
- Convention Chairs - Fall 2026, Spring 2027, Spring 2028
- Assistant Editor, Watermark
- Watermark Co-editor (share role with Shannon)
- 2nd Co-editor, *Watermark* (replace Shannon at end of 2026)
- Watermark Proofreader
- Convention Technical Assistance
- Convention Photographer

A big thank you to Judith Baer who has taken on the job of Historian!
Call me or email me if interested - see the *WSO Digital Roster* for my contact info.



2 BURRIDGE DIGITAL TOOLS



1 Goof-Proof Color Wheel app for iPhone and iPad. Download from the MAC App Store for \$9.99



2 eWorkbook for iOS and Android. Full color, active video and audio clips. Order from RobertBurridge.com \$49.95



RobertBurridge.com

Learn. Create. Share!

Annual Art Dollars for Scholars Community Show, All Artists Welcome!
\$10 entry fee - Art due May 3 - Show Days May 5 - 31 2026

Fees for artists support funding provided by VGA for scholarships for high school seniors. Come help us support young artists!

Art Classes for Adults and Children
Scan to find out more!

ArtChat and Refreshments 2nd Sundays 3-5pm **FREE!**

Mar. 8: Youth Art Month Show by Westview High School
Apr. 12: Spring Awards Show
June 14: Dollars for Scholars Awards

Serving the community since 1963
1060 NW Saltzman Rd, Portland, Oregon 97229



Education Director's Report

Katherine Abdun-Nur, Education Director

I am so pleased to share recent updates and accomplishments from the past quarter, along with ongoing initiatives and upcoming opportunities for our members. **Our commitment to fostering creativity and learning within the watercolor community remains strong**, and I am proud to highlight the ways we have continued to support artists at all stages of their journey.

This quarter, we successfully updated and added content to the Education webpages on the WSO website. One of the highlights is an article by member artist and teacher Tess Myers, entitled "[How to Get Started in Watercolor](#)." If you are a beginner or early intermediate artist, you'll surely benefit from reading Tess's thoughts. Please also share it with your friends. You'll find it under the Education tab on the website.

Critique Groups are a great way to build and grow an art community. If you haven't seen it yet, our video, *Expanding Access to Critique Groups* is worth watching!! You can find it here: [WSO Critique Groups Video](#).

In addition, if your Critique Group is interested in booking a workshop or other educational opportunity, check out the [WSO 100 Club webpage for grant opportunities](#)! The 100 Club is a wonderful partner and supports our WSO members. Make sure to read their article in this publication.

We are actively working on establishing some online educational opportunities. Stay tuned!

Your enthusiasm and dedication continue to make the Watercolor Society of Oregon a vibrant and supportive community for artists. Please contact me with any questions, suggestions, or ideas for future educational offerings at: education@watercolorsocietyoforegon.com

Keep creating!



WSO News Roundup

Website Director's Report

Dan Perich, Webmaster and Carol Putnam, Website Liaison

WSO Website Updates

Over the past few months, we've rolled out several website updates designed to be useful, and hopefully a little inspiring:

Easier access to the Membership Roster: A new page in the Membership section walks you through how to find the digital membership roster. Find it from the main menu at [Membership > Membership Roster](#).

Simplified exhibition prospectuses: Prospectuses are now standardized – one standing prospectus for the spring exhibition and

(continued on page 6)

WATERCOLOR
PAINTINGS LOOK BETTER
with M. GRAHAM COLOR

Made with Honey for Richer
Color and Prevents Hardening

www.mgraham.com

WSO News Roundup ... continued

one for the fall exhibition. No changes from year to year, reducing confusion for everyone. Find them under [Exhibitions > Prospectus](#).

New guidance for national competitions: A new page shares insights and helpful forms from a breakout session at our 2025 Fall Convention, led by several highly respected WSO instructors. It's designed to encourage and support members considering a national exhibition. Find these resources under [Exhibitions > Preparing for a national competition](#).

Expanded Education resources: The Education section has been significantly refreshed, with new material on Critique Groups and a brand-new page on *How to Get Started in Watercolor*. See all the new material under the *Education* menu.

Take a look – you might find something that makes your next step a little easier (and more fun)!

If you have questions about the website or suggestions for content, contact WSO's Webmaster, Dan Perich, or our Website Liaison, Carol Putnam. Please refer to the *WSO Digital Roster* for their contact information.

Historian's Report

Judith Baer, Historian

Hello, let me introduce myself to you. I'm Judith Baer from Salem. I'm happy to say that I'll be the WSO's next Historian. My report is short and sweet. I'm just learning what the requirements of the job are. I'll be contacting various board members soon about their end-of-the-year reports. If anyone has any suggestions on what would make your job and mine easier, I would love to hear them. Looking forward to a wonderful 2026! If you would like to contact me, please refer to the *WSO Digital Roster* for my contact information.

Western Federation of Watercolor Societies (WFWS)

Robin Becic, Western Federation of Watercolor Societies Delegate

Over \$10,000 in Awards for WFWS' 51st Exhibition

February 1, 2026 is the deadline to submit your entry for Western Federation Watercolor Society's 51st Exhibition if you act now! All current WSO members are eligible. If you need help entering, contact your delegates, Robin Becic or Rene Eisenbart. Please refer to the *WSO Digital Roster* for their contact information.

The show will be at the Curtis Center for the Arts in Greenwood Village, CO, May 4 - June 27. We anticipate a strong showing from WSO members, as Oregon looks forward to hosting WFWS here in Newberg in 2027!

To download the prospectus or enter online, go to coloradowatercolorsociety.org.

WSO Workshops at Menucha

Sherree Rodriguez, Menucha Liaison



As you may know, WSO partners with Menucha Retreat & Conference Center to host artist workshops twice a year. Menucha provides \$25 per participant to WSO as a bonus. Here are some exciting workshops currently on the calendar.

Go to <https://watercolorsocietyoforegon.com/education/menucha-workshops> for more details.

Spring 2026: Pen and Ink with Watercolor — Elevated

Anji Grainger

May 11 – 14, 2026

In Anji's workshop, participants will explore how the addition of ink can enhance paintings, adding new layers of texture, and visual interest. Participants will experiment with new techniques that bring depth and a professional touch to their artwork.

Techniques she will demonstrate include the mastery of pen strokes, integrating pen and ink with watercolor in new and proven ways including penning and printing with a leaf, stenciled backgrounds, and the characteristics of different inks including waterproof and non-waterproof India ink. Participants will complete a finished painting using preexisting and new skills.

Anji's website: www.bluepansycottage.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/anjigrainger



Fall 2026: Watercolor Portraits from the Ground Up

Tess Myers

November 2 – 5, 2026

Website: <http://www.tessmyers.com/>

Instagram: [http://www.instagram.com/tesslacoiled_art/](https://www.instagram.com/tesslacoiled_art/)

Spring 2027: Painting with Pastels

Susan Kuznitsky

May 3 – 6, 2027

Website: www.susankuznitsky.com

Instagram: [http://www.instagram.com/susankuznitsky](https://www.instagram.com/susankuznitsky)



Membership Director's Report

Jan Premo, Membership Director



A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THAT RENEWED BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025!

You will be in the 2026 Master Roster. Thank you all for your loyalty and follow through with a timely renewal. We will be preparing the list and proofreading the members that joined and renewed by December 31. Unfortunately, we still have a few "MIAs," but we will be generating an addendum when they renew to get their information online as well. The process of proofing and uploading to the website takes some time. When the process is complete, we will provide you with a link to access that WSO 2026 Member Roster. Reminder, FOR YOUR SECURITY, to access the online Roster you must have your current membership email that you use for our email communications.

We continue to grow each year and with new membership WSO evolves with new ideas and energy. Each one of you makes a difference, truly. We are always looking for members who are able to contribute to the organization with their time and energy. Please consider looking into opportunities that will help us continue to grow and evolve as a vibrant art community. We appreciate all the volunteers that are currently quietly giving of themselves. Consider being a part of that special group.

Also, for many of you, like myself, it is really important to access the many critique groups for your continuing artistic growth. Make this year the year of growth by becoming involved in critique groups. It is one of the best benefits and key supports for your growth as an artist. You will get the most out of your membership with WSO critique groups. We do not have the benefit of a meeting place most of the year (except conference), but we do have the ability to gain from the great talent of our 500+ membership by participating in critique groups. Thank goodness for our "Critique Zoomers" that run those groups — their time and energy is such a blessing to this organization.

I look forward to meeting you at the spring conference this year. Don't forget to consider submitting your work to get into the WSO Spring Experimental Exhibition. February 1, 2026, is the last day for online submission: <https://watercolorsocietyoforegon.com/spring-prospectus>. Or at the very least register for the conference with this link: <https://watercolorsocietyoforegon.com/conventions/spring-2026-registration>.

ERIC WIEGARDT
AWS-DF, NWS

VISUAL PLEASURE FOR GENERATIONS



WORKSHOPS 2026

ONLINE WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS

PAINTERLY 3-DAY - FEBRUARY 17-19

MONTHLY PAINT-ALONG

WEEKLY COMPOSITION CLASS

PLEIN AIR DESTINATIONS

JUNE - MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER - ATHENS & HYDRA, GREECE

LONG BEACH, WA WORKSHOPS

PAINTERLY - MARCH 10-13

PLEIN AIR - JULY 7-10

www.ericwiegardt.com

360.665.5976

gallery@ericwiegardt.com



Welcome, WSO New Members for 2025

Jeannine Miller, New Member Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new WSO members for 2025. We wish to express a warm welcome from WSO members, board members, and staff.

We will be holding two New Member Orientation Meetings this year. The first meeting will be during the 2026 Spring Convention in McMinnville, OR, on April 10 –12, and the second meeting will be during the 2026 Fall Convention October 2 – 4 in Welches/Mt. Hood. I will be leading both meetings. We will have several board members present at both meetings to help answer any questions you may have and to welcome you to WSO. Please be sure and sign up for the meetings when you sign up for breakout sessions during the conferences.

The MerriArtist

Hosting the Spring Convention Meet-and-Greet

JOIN US FOR:

15% OFF ALL REG PRICED ITEMS
GIVEAWAYS
NEW PRODUCTS

See you there!

EVERYDAY
DISCOUNT
CODE: WSO
10% OFF

www.merriartist.com 503-472-1684

865 NE HIGHWAY 99W STE C, MCMINNVILLE, OR 97128

Experiments in Expression

Workshop Series
3-days...

Day 1 -- May 14th

Woven Painting

Angela Wrahtz



Day 2 - May 15th

Painting Marbling

Jeannine Miller



Day 3 - May 16th

Gelli Printing

Jeannine & Angela

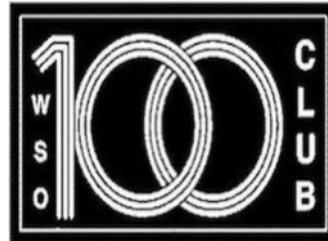


MORE INFORMATION &

REGISTRATION:

WWW.NEWVIEWCLASSES.SQUARE.SITE

503-318-0993



Fundraising for Artists' Success and Growth

Joy Nunn, WSO 100 Club President

Many of you may already know about the WSO 100 Club, Inc. but for those who are new or for those who might like a refresher here goes. The WSO 100 Club is the foundational fundraising organization for WSO and is a 501(c)3 organization making all donations to the WSO 100 Club tax deductible. The WSO 100 Club has a separate governance, with a mission to maintain and grow endowments to fund WSO's artists awards and educational programs. As such, it also has its own board of directors.

The 2026 board includes these continuing 2025 officers: Kathleen Riopelle (Past President), Ann Moore (Secretary), Karen Grandidier (Treasurer) and Suzy Carroll (Investment Director). We are fortunate to have one new team member, Pam Fortier (Vice-President). Pam was raised in Bend and worked in Camas, WA, until retirement. She returned to Bend and became a watercolor artist after joining Sage Brushers Art Society who also introduced her to WSO. As an active member she was determined to learn all about this medium and this organization. She was quick to notice the need for volunteers, and this year volunteered to become our VP. She wants to build WSO 100 Club's fundraising efforts and continue the success of prior conventions. As President, I hope to carry on with all that our previous President, Barb Hutchings, so skillfully brought to this position before me — growing the award and educational endowments and securing our ability to support WSO programs.

Thank you to all our members and supporters for a great and successful 2025.

Not only did we have two wonderful conventions, the WSO 100 Club also experienced a financially strong 2025 year due to the many donations made and the fundraising support of WSO members and non-members. We raised \$6,245, dramatically exceeding our annual goal, covering our program expenses and contributing to endowments. WOW!! The Spring and Fall Conventions had 46 raffle "giveaways" from 34 vendors, stores, studio instructors, and WSO members together with 69 hand painted cards contributed for sale by our WSO Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Award Winning Artists. Critique groups contributed a total of \$3,355 to the Spring and Fall awards. The Annual Appeal campaign at the end of the year was successful, bringing in substantial operating income for our "general fund" and for the award and educational endowments. With so many causes out there, it is encouraging to know that **our donors continue to support WSO programs by their year-end charitable contributions to the WSO 100 Club.**



WSO Important Dates

February 2026 – February 2027

Shannon Cazinha, Watermark Editor

February 2026 February 1, 8:00 pm — The 2026 Spring Experimental Exhibition closes for entries. Watermark published; look for detailed information about the 2026 Spring Convention in this issue. February 21 — Online Registration for Spring Convention opens.	March/April 2026 March 14, 8:00 pm — Online Registration for Spring Convention closes. April 10 - 12 — The 2026 Spring Convention, Stan Kurth, Juror, McMinnville. April 13 - 17 — Stan Kurth Workshop, McMinnville. April 15 — Due date for articles for May Watermark.	May 2026 May 1 — Watermark published; look for 2026 Fall Watercolor Prospectus in this issue, or online. May 1 — Ron Stocke Workshop opens for Active and Lifetime Members. The workshop is October 5 - 8, 2026 .
June 2026 June 1 — The 2026 Fall Watercolor Exhibition opens for entries. June 16 — Ron Stocke Workshop registration opens for Subscriber Members.	July 2026 July 15 — Due date for articles for August Watermark. Paint! Finish your painting(s) and submit images by August 1, 2026!	August 2026 August 1, 8:00 pm — The 2026 Fall Watercolor Exhibition closes for entries. Watermark published; look for detailed information about the 2026 Fall Convention in this issue. August 15, 8:00 am — Online registration for convention opens.
September 2026 September 5, 8:00 pm — Online registration for convention closes.	October 2026 October 1 - December 31 — 2027 WSO Membership dues collected. October 2 - 4 — The 2026 Fall Convention, Ron Stocke, Juror, Welches/Mt Hood Resort. October 5 - 8 — Ron Stocke Workshop, Lions Club, Welches. October 15 — Due date for articles for November Watermark.	November 2026 November 1 — Watermark published; look for the 2027 Spring Experimental Exhibition Prospectus in this issue, or online. Kathleen Conover Workshop registration opens for Active and Lifetime Members. The workshop is April 5 - 8, 2027 .
December 2027 December 1 — The Spring Experimental Exhibition opens for entries. December 16 — Spring 2027 Juror Workshop registration opens for Subscriber Members. December 31 — Pay 2026 WSO membership dues by this date.	January 2027 January 15 — Due date for articles for February Watermark. Paint! Finish your painting(s) and submit Spring exhibition images by February 1, 2027!	February 2027 February 1, 8:00 pm — The 2027 Spring Experimental Exhibition closes for entries. Watermark published; look for detailed information about the 2027 Spring Convention in this issue. February 13 — Online Registration for Spring Convention opens.



Looking Ahead

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director

The convention venues have been booked for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027. The Fall 2026 convention booked in Welches/Mt. Hood Resort is just around the corner. **WSO desperately needs leadership for the Fall 2026 Convention to step up today to ensure a successful convention.** Please consider volunteering your talent to finish the job to ensure a vibrant and rewarding Fall 2026 Convention.

I am excited to announce the Spring 2027 Exhibit and Convention will take place at the new Corvallis Museum in downtown Corvallis, and the exhibit will display for 3 months. **WSO also needs to immediately identify Convention Chair leadership to guide the Spring 2027 Convention to success.** If you live in the valley, it's time to jump in and begin designing the convention on behalf of your community.

Please consider volunteering for either the Fall 2026 or Spring 2027 Convention Chair roles

NOW! Task checklists and a chair handbook exist to assist you. I am available with advice and guidance to get you started today. Successful conventions are key to the success of WSO and the enjoyment and education of WSO members. Please consider contributing your talents to keep WSO a successful art community!

The Medford Critique Group is providing the Convention Chair leadership for the Fall 2027 Convention. They will soon identify an exact location and venue in the southern Oregon area, such as Ashland, Medford or other suitable location in that part of the state.

Conventions in 2028 are wide open and ready for your leadership. It is never too soon for your critique group or you alone to offer your talents to ensure the success of the 2028 WSO conventions.

Also, consider volunteering NOW! for the WSO Convention Director role to replace me after the Spring 2026 Convention. I am available with advice and guidance to get you started in this leadership role as well.

Spring 2026

Juror:

Convention:
Workshop

McMinnville/Linfield University

Stan Kurth

<https://stankurth.com>

April 10 – 12

April 13 – 17 (5 days)

Fall 2026

Juror:

Convention:
Workshop:
Help Needed:

Welches/Mt. Hood Resort

Ron Stocke

<https://www.ronstocke.com/>

October 2 – 4

October 5 – 8 (4 days)

Convention Chair(s), Breakout Session Coordinator, Workshop Coordinator, Installation Team

Spring 2027

Juror:

Convention:
Workshop:
Help Needed:

Corvallis Museum

Kathleen Conover

<https://kathleenconover.com>

April 2 – 4

April 5 – 8 (4 days)

Breakout Session Coordinator, Workshop Coordinator, Installation Team

Fall 2027

Juror:

Convention:
Workshop:
Chairs:

TBA

Soon Warren

<http://soonwarren.com>

October 1 – 3

October 4 – 7 (4 days)

Medford Critique group

Spring 2028

Juror:

Convention:
Workshop:
Help Needed:

Location: In Your Community

Stephen Quiller

<https://www.quillergallery.com>

April 7 – 9

April 10 – 13 (4 days)

Convention Chair(s), Workshop Coordinator, Installation Team

Kudos and Call for Entries

Sarah Bouwsma



Jean Lea was awarded First Place in the Professional Fine Art 2D category at the Oregon State Fair for her painting, *Wapato Loving Tree Frog*. Her painting entitled *Gaiety Hollow Garden Path*, earned the Elsinore Gallery Award at this fall's "Paint and Write the Town" exhibition, hosted by (Willamette Valley) Artists in Action.

WSO members Liz Walker, Ruth Armitage and Chris Stubbs had their paintings accepted into the California Watercolor Association 56th National Exhibition by jurors Pat Moseuk and Dongfeng Li. Ruth received an award for her painting *Totem*, and Liz was awarded for *Curvy*. Exhibit dates are January 31 – March 15, 2026, at Arts Benicia, in Benicia CA. <https://www.californiawatercolor.org/>

Ruth Armitage is having a solo show titled "Between Certainties" that runs through November 30, 2026, at Waterstone Gallery, 124 NW 9th Ave, Portland, OR.

The entry deadline is February 1, 2026, for Western Fed! Go to <https://watercolorsoforegon.com/exhibitions/wfws/> to learn more.

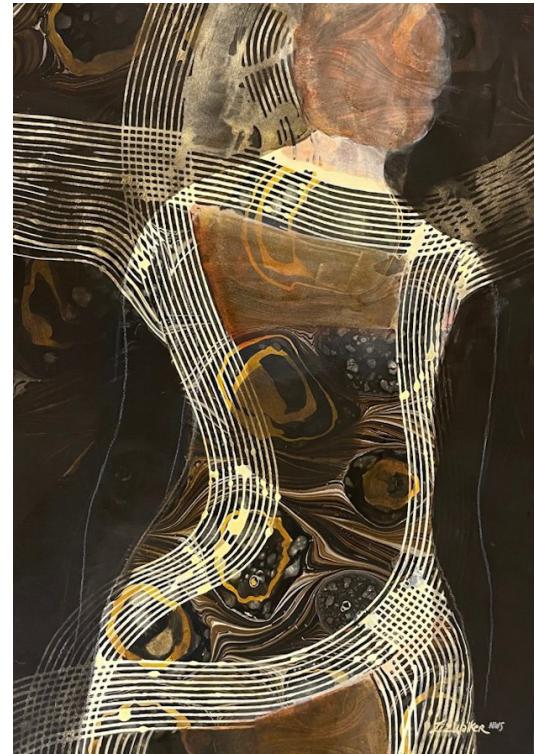
Please send me news about your art shows, awards, and publications. Calls for Entries are welcome too. Please see the WSO *Digital Roster* for my contact information.



Wapato Loving Tree Frog by Jean Lea



Gaiety Hollow Garden Path by Jean Lea



Curvy by Liz Walker



Totem by Ruth Armitage



Convention Central

2026 Spring Convention

Spring Convention Overview

Mary Jo Vranian, Convention Director and 2026 Spring Convention Chair

"Merri McMinnville"

Grab your backpack and binders because it's time to go back to school! Our WSO 2026

Spring Experimental Exhibit and Convention will take place at Linfield University in McMinnville in beautiful Yamhill County. Some of the highlights include:

- Friday night Meet and Greet at the new Merri Artist store in downtown McMinnville from 5 – 7 pm
- The 2026 Spring Experimental Exhibit on display for members and the public beginning Friday at noon through May 9
- All classes, business meetings, the juror workshop, and meals held on the Linfield Campus
- Cafeteria lunch available for attendees on Saturday
- 2026 Spring Experimental Exhibit Social and Awards Dinner held in the Nicholson Library on Saturday night at Linfield
- Stan Kurth five-day Juror Workshop — ***there are still openings*** and optional dormitory housing available for workshop attendees

Be sure to look at the cost-saving lodging options: a great group rate at the Best Western and dormitory-style lodging on the Linfield Campus. See the Schedule of Events below for more information.



Linfield University



Merri Artist Store New Location

Things to Do in the Convention Area

Mary Jo Vranian, Convention Director and 2026 Spring Convention Chair

McMinnville offers something for everyone to enjoy. You may want to arrive early just to enjoy its many attractions. Area highlights include:

- **Historic Downtown McMinnville** — Stroll Third Street for boutique shopping, art galleries, and antique stores. Enjoy local coffee shops, tasting rooms, wine bars, and excellent restaurants.
- **Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum** — Home to the famous Spruce Goose, hundreds of aircraft and space exhibits, and the space and aviation-themed [Wings and Waves Waterpark](#); great for families and aviation enthusiasts.
- **Wine Tasting & Vineyard Tours** — McMinnville is in the heart of Willamette Valley wine country with over 200 wineries within just 20 miles of town. Many offer tours and tastings in spring.
- **Parks & Outdoor Recreation** — Joe Dancer Park: trails, sports fields, and picnic areas. Miller Woods Conservation Area: hiking and wildlife viewing. Harvey Creek Trail: pioneer cemetery and valley views.
- **Yamhill County Valley Heritage Center** — Over 40,000 sq ft of displays showcasing the area's agricultural history including many types of vehicles, farm and logging equipment, and other historical artifacts.

Visit <https://visitmcminnville.com/> for a comprehensive guide to area food, drink, activity, and lodging options.

2026 Spring Convention

Online Registration for 2026 Spring Convention

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director and 2026 Spring Convention Chair

Convention registration opens Saturday, February 21, at 8:00 am, and closes Saturday, March 14, at 8:00 pm. You will be able to register for all convention events and access wait lists using the link that will be emailed to you on February 21. After verifying your selections online, you may pay via credit card, PayPal, or mail in a check. Use the information provided on your confirmation sheet (which is emailed to you immediately after registration) for instructions on where to send your check payment.

You will be sent an email reminder about registration approximately one week prior to the February 21 opening of convention registration. Another email reminder will be sent on the morning registration begins — that email will have the link to register for the convention. Alternatively, you may register from the WSO website (under Conventions > Spring 2026 Convention > Registration) when convention registration opens to the public on February 23.

Remember to print your itinerary at home and bring it with you to the convention, as there will be no printed itineraries at the venue.

Tip: If you pay with a credit card or via your PayPal account, the applicable platform fees will be clearly noted at checkout. You can always pay by check to avoid any extra fees.

Convention Refunds

Per WSO policy, refunds are made only if a reservation is canceled within five days after the close of online registration, or in the event of serious illness, accident, or death in the family. All refunds, less a \$5.00 processing fee, will be mailed or refunded after the convention ends according to the original method of payment. The deadline to request a “no fault” refund for the 2026 Spring Convention is on or before March 20, 2026.



2026 Spring Experimental Exhibition Calendar

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director and 2026 Spring Convention Chair

December 1 (Monday)	Online painting submissions open
February 1 (Sunday)	Online submissions close
April 8 (Wednesday)	Shipped paintings must arrive by this date Ship to: Linfield University 900 SE Baker St, Unit A450 McMinnville, OR 97128-6894
April 9 (Thursday)	10:00 am – 2:00 pm: Hand deliver paintings to: Nicholson Library, Linfield Campus SE Lever St, McMinnville, OR
April 9 (Thursday)	Hanging of paintings
April 10 (Friday)	9:00 – 11:00 am: Judging of exhibit by Stan Kurth
April 10 (Friday)	12:00 pm: Exhibit opens for public viewing Nicholson Library, Linfield Campus SE Lever St, McMinnville, OR
April 10 – 11 (Friday – Sunday)	Spring 2026 Convention weekend
April 11 (Saturday)	Art Opening Reception and Awards Dinner
April 10 – May 9	Exhibition hangs at Nicholson Library
May 10 (Sunday)	Painting pickup 12:00 – 2:00 pm at Nicholson Library

2026 Spring Convention

2026 Spring Convention Schedule

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director and 2026 Spring Convention Chair

Friday, April 10

WSO Board Meeting

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Currents Gallery

532 NE 3rd Street, McMinnville

2026 Spring Experimental Exhibition Opening

12:00 – 5:00 pm

Nicholson Library, Linfield University
Lever St, Linfield Campus, McMinnville**New Member Orientation**

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Currents Gallery

523 NE 3rd St, McMinnville

**Meet and Greet Member Reception — \$15**

5:00 – 7:00 pm

The Merri Artist

865 OR-99W Suite C, McMinnville

Hospitality Table

5:00 – 7:30 pm

The Merri Artist

865 OR-99W Suite C, McMinnville

The hospitality team welcomes members and guests to McMinnville. Check in to pick up your badge and welcome bag and review convention information. **Please remember to print your itinerary at home and bring it with you.**

WSO 100 Club Fundraising Activities

5:00 – 7:00 pm

The Merri Artist

865 OR-99W Suite C, McMinnville

Saturday, April 11

Hospitality Table

8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Keck Science Center

325 SW Linfield Ave, McMinnville

Logo Merchandise WSO 100 Club Fundraising Activities

8:15 am – 4:00 pm

Keck Science Center

325 SW Linfield Ave, McMinnville

Breakout Sessions — \$15 each

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Keck Science Center

325 SW Linfield Ave, Linfield Campus, McMinnville

Twelve breakout sessions will be offered, including two critique sessions with Stan Kurth. For detailed information on the breakout sessions, see "Breakout Sessions at a Glance" on [page 18](#) and the individual session descriptions on [pages 19 to 21](#).

2026 Spring Convention

2026 Spring Convention Schedule ... continued

Cafeteria Lunch Option — \$15 each

12:15 – 1:30 pm

Choose from a wide variety of meal options that will satisfy all dietary needs. Grab a tray and make your selections at the “all-you-can-eat” style cafeteria.

Dillin Hall

340 SW Linfield Ave, Linfield Campus, McMinnville

Special Member Panel: The Art Gallery Business — Free

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Keck Science Center, Graf Theater

325 SW Linfield Ave, Linfield Campus, McMinnville

The panel member artists will be discussing the art gallery business including co-ops.

Art Exhibition Opening Reception — Free

Awards will be displayed on the artwork for the reception

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Nicholson Library

SE Lever St, Linfield Campus, McMinnville

WSO Awards Banquet — \$50.00 per person

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Nicholson Library

SE Lever St, Linfield Campus, McMinnville

Catered dinner will be served buffet style and include:

BBQ Chicken Breast

BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich

Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Fruit Salad, Corn Bread

Dessert

Sunday, April 12

WSO Business Meeting — Free

9:00 – 10:45 am

Keck Science Center, Auditorium

325 SW Linfield Ave, Linfield Campus, McMinnville

Come and learn more about what is happening on the business side of WSO. Coffee and tea served.

Lecture and Demonstration by Juror Stan Kurth — \$15

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Keck Science Center, Graf Theater

Get a sampling of Stan Kurth’s style of abstract painting.

Monday – Friday, April 13 – 17

Stan Kurth Workshop — \$550.00

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Riley Hall, 2nd Floor

SW Pioneer Way, Linfield Campus, McMinnville

Spaces are still open. Read more on [page 22](#).

2026 Spring Convention

Breakout Sessions at a Glance

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director

9:00 am – 10:30 am	Painting Skies from Calm to Dramatic with Michelle Myers* Graf 111 – 115	Let's paint on Fiber Paste with Pam Haunschild Graf 117	Making Watercolor Magic with Children's Picture Books with Tami Lohman* Graf Theatre
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	Painting with Gouache and Ink Resist with Ann Moore* Graf 111 – 115	Skip the Brush, Grab the Card with Terri Gonzalez Graf 117	Juror's Critique 1 Graf Theatre
12:15 – 1:30 pm	Pre-order a cafeteria meal ticket and choose whatever you want or choose a local restaurant. Here is a list of restaurants.		
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Mouth Atomizer and Made-up Tools with Margaret Godfrey* Graf 111 – 115	Daniel Smith Watercolor: An Immersive Experience with Scott Stevenson Graf 117	Juror's Critique 2 Graf Theatre
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Gallery Panel Panel: Helen Brown (Tumalo Art Company), Tara Choate (Pacific Artists' Co-Op Gallery), Pam Haunschild, and Ruth Armitage		

Click on any of the above squares to view the session description.

*Video recording available; see [pages 19-21](#) for details.

2026 Spring Convention

Breakout Sessions

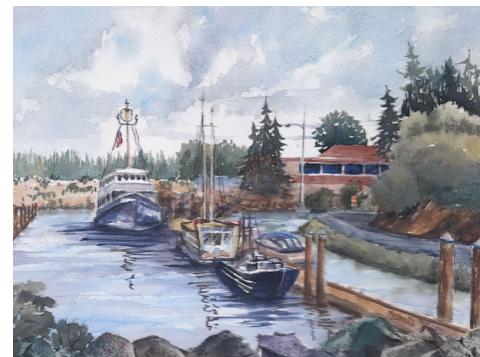
Painting Skies, from Calm to Dramatic,* \$15

9:00 – 10:30 am, Graf 111 – 115

Presenter: Michelle Myers

Limit 30 participants

In this breakout session students will paint various sunrises, sunsets, calm and stormy skies. There are many ways to create an interesting sky; we will work hands-on to give some of them a try.

**Let's Paint on Fiber Paste, \$15 + \$10 materials fee**

9:00 – 10:30 am, Graf 117

Presenter: Pam Haunschild

Limit 25 participants

Fiber paste makes a wonderful ground, especially for watercolor, which adds dimension to your paper surface. Come and paint on a pre-textured paper, receive a piece of fiber paste "paper" that can be used as a collage element or for image transfers, and practice applying fiber paste yourself.

Video recording link not available.

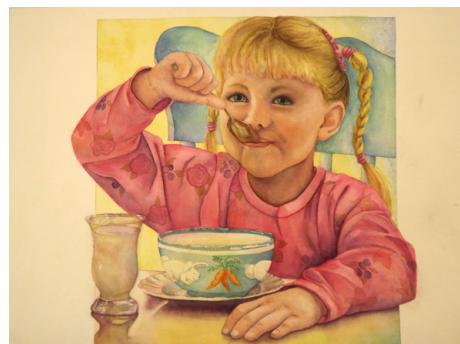
**Making Watercolor Magic with Children's Picture Books,* \$15**

9:00 – 10:30 am, Graf Theater

Presenter: Tami Lohman

No limit participants

Do you love children's picture books? Ever wondered if you could write and illustrate your own? The answer is YES! In this breakout session, we'll survey a variety of works from successful watercolor illustrators whose art is sure to inspire you. We will then explore how you can get started both writing and illustrating a picture book, from coming up with story ideas, designing your illustrations, and creating a "Storyboard" you can submit to a publisher or develop into a picture book you can publish yourself.

**Painting with Gouache and Ink Resist,* \$15**

10:45 am – 12:15 pm, Graf 111 – 115

Presenter: Ann Moore

Limit 25 participants

Intermediate workshop in which participants will paint a simple image using the rich opaque quality and brilliant colors of traditional gouache, protect your image with one or two additional layers of gouache, then flood your work with India ink and transform it into a dramatic painting with the abstract quality and mystery of batiks and woodcuts.



(continued on page 19)

2026 Spring Convention

Breakout Sessions ... continued

Skip the Brush, Grab the Card

10:45 am – 12:15 pm, Graf 117

Presenter: Terri Gonzalez

Limit 25 participants, Intermediate level

Have you ever thought of starting a painting with an old plastic credit card and a spray bottle? This workshop offers a process-oriented and instinctive versus intentional way to begin your painting that will spark our creative juices, loosen us up and see where it leads us. This technique can incorporate a landscape, an abstract or a combined composition, using repetition and motion. This can result in a spontaneous surprise!

Video recording link not available.

Juror Critique, \$15

10:45 am – 12:15 pm or 1:30 – 3:00pm, Graf Theater

Presenter: Stan Kurth

Critique, Limit 20 participants, No limit for auditor

Stan Kurth, our juror and workshop instructor, will critique 20 images of water media paintings submitted by WSO members. This critique session is an opportunity for input from an experienced instructor and juror. Learn how to improve a painting and what makes a painting stand out. Participants submit an image for critique with this option. The auditor option grants other attendees the opportunity to observe the critique.

*Video recording link not available.***Mouth Atomizer and Made-Up Tools,* \$15**

1:30 – 3:00 pm, Graf 111 – 115

Presenter: Margaret Godfrey

Limit 45 participants

Margaret Godfrey will demonstrate how to use objects from around your house to create texture, points of interest, patterns and linework in paintings. Do you have a mouth atomizer in a drawer and don't use it? Margaret will show you how valuable it can be in your art making.

**Daniel Smith Watercolor: An Immersive Experience, \$15**

1:30 – 3:00 pm, Graf 117

Presenter: Scott Stevenson

Limit 30 participants

Join Scott Stevenson, a passionate DANIEL SMITH Artists' Materials Brand Ambassador and Sales Representative, for an engaging and educational watercolor workshop. This interactive session is designed for artists of all levels who are curious



(continued on page 20)

2026 Spring Convention

Breakout Sessions ... continued

about the art and science behind DANIEL SMITH's world-renowned watercolor and gouache products. Through lively discussions and hands-on demonstrations, Scott will share the rich history of DANIEL SMITH, the innovative paint-making process, and the unique qualities of their PrimaTek mineral-based colors.

Participants will explore topics such as pigment lightfastness, granulation, and the inspiration behind their iconic colors. Scott's conversational approach encourages questions, fosters creativity, and empowers attendees to experiment with new techniques and colors. Expect to walk away with a deeper understanding of watercolor materials, practical tips for enhancing your artwork, and renewed inspiration to bring your imagination to life.

Video recording link not available.

Getting into a Gallery – Member Panel, Free

3:30 – 4:30 pm, Graf Theater

No limit participants

Join us for a panel discussion of regular and co-op art galleries. Topics will include:

- how should I approach a gallery
- how does a gallery work
- what sells in a gallery
- how much does it cost to be in a gallery
- Q and A time for members

Video recording link not available.

***Video available for \$15 per video.** Videos can be purchased during the online convention registration process. Links to purchased videos will be sent out about two weeks after the convention and will be accessible for one month online.

Link to breakout session supply lists:

<https://watercolorsocietyoforegon.com/conventions/2026-spring-supplies/>

2026 Spring Convention

“The Intuitive Painting Mindset”

Juror Workshop by Stan Kurth

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director

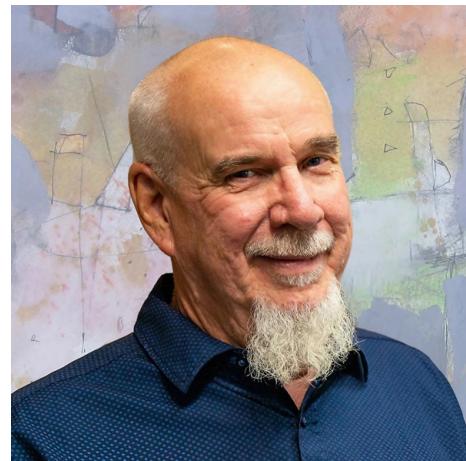
In this workshop, you will become acquainted with the intuitive painting mindset. In her book *Mindset*, Stanford psychologist Carol Dweck proposes that human qualities are not fixed — they can be cultivated. People can grow and improve in any area, including sports, art, music, business, parenting, or relationships. This growth also applies to intellectual skills.

You will begin to shift from a fixed mindset that separates traditional representational painting from abstraction. It is entirely possible to understand and incorporate both approaches in your work.

Using various mark-making tools, watercolor, and gouache, lessons will begin without reference or preconceived ideas. You'll create paintings from arbitrary design elements and bring them to completion using principles of design. The goal is to develop a painting that aligns with your personal aesthetic — whether representational or nonobjective. The only criteria: no reference, and a willingness to let the process guide the outcome. Each day's lesson will vary from the previous day.

Artist and workshop instructor Stan Kurth embraces a growth mindset that permeates his life and his work. Stan has drawn and painted most of his life starting with a small oil painting he did when he was four years old. Now he adeptly straddles the line between abstraction and representation in his works featuring emotion-laden compositions, color, and edges. He has a Bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University and enjoys Signature status in a number of organizations, and Master Signature distinction in the National Watercolor Society and the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies.

The fee for the five-day workshop is \$550 and it will be held in Riley Hall on the Linfield University campus, located in McMinnville, Oregon. This large conference room has natural light, excellent Audio-Visual equipment and a kitchen/breakroom for attendees to utilize. Parking is close by and there is an elevator for use to access this second-floor room. The workshop coordinator will have coffee, tea, water and light snacks each day. Linfield is offering a small dormitory building just for WSO workshop attendees, offering mostly double occupancy rooms, shared baths and a full kitchen at very low rates per night. Information for dorm lodging is in the lodging article. There are still openings for the workshop — see registration detail for more info.



Juror Stan Kurth



LEARN MORE ABOUT STAN'S WORKSHOP

Supply list is posted on the WSO website [here](#).



2026 Spring Convention

Lodging near Linfield University, McMinnville, OR

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director

Best Western McMinnville Inn (.5 miles)

Special Group Rate for WSO Members on Friday and Saturday night:

\$164/king or \$174/2 queen; Weeknight rates drop to \$144/king and \$154/2 queen.

Use this link to book and get the group rate:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.38172.html?groupId=7Q1YN8K7

or call: (503) 472-4900

Room block will be released on March 10, 2026.

2035 S Highway 99W, McMinnville

Modern amenities, breakfast included, pet-friendly.

Dormitory Occupancy on Linfield Campus:

There are a few spots open for dorm-style lodging over the convention weekend. You must have your roommate if booking double occupancy and you must book the same number of nights. Preference given to workshop attendees.

Check-ins on Thursday or Friday, April 9 or 10, check out on Sunday, April 12.

Double occupancy 2 nights total amount: \$115/person

3 nights total amount: \$165 per person.

Single Occupancy 2 nights total amount: \$215, 3 nights total amount: \$315

Includes sheets, blankets, pillow and towels. Shared bathroom for the dorm.

No in-room bathroom. Kitchen availability for limited use.

First come, first served. Email your booking request to Mary Jo Vranizan. Please see the *WSO Digital Roster* for her contact information. Payment details will follow.

McMenamins Hotel Oregon (.7 miles)

\$144 – \$300/night

310 NE Evans Street, McMinnville

Historic hotel with restaurant/bar, right in downtown.

(503) 472-8427

McMinnville Inn (2.1 mi.)

\$107 and up

381 NE Highway 99W, McMinnville

(833) 372-3414

Comfort Inn & Suites McMinnville (1.7 miles)

\$175 – \$250/night

2520 SE Stratus Ave, McMinnville

(503) 472-1700

Red Lion Inn & Suites McMinnville (1.7 miles)

\$107 – \$117/night

2535 NE Cumulus Avenue, McMinnville

Budget-friendly, breakfast, pool.

(503) 472-1500

Airbnb & VRBO

Many homes and apartments are available, including historic houses and farmhouses within walking distance of Linfield University.



2026 Spring Convention

Restaurants in McMinnville

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director

Historic Downtown McMinnville: Third Street is the heart of McMinnville's dining scene, featuring boutique shopping, art galleries, antique stores, and excellent restaurants. You'll find a variety of local coffee shops, wine bars, and eateries along this vibrant street.

La Rambla Restaurant & Bar (Dinner only) \$\$\$\$
238 NE 3rd St, McMinnville, OR 97128-4819

Crescent Café (Breakfast and Lunch) \$\$-\$\$\$
526 NE 3rd St, McMinnville, OR 97128-6213

Pura Vida Cocina (Lunch and Dinner, vegan, vegetarian, GF) \$\$-\$\$\$
313 NE 3rd St, McMinnville, OR 97128-4728

Wildwood Café (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) \$\$-\$\$\$
319 NE Baker St, McMinnville, OR 97128-4920

Nick's Italian Café (Dinner) \$\$\$
521 NE 3rd St, McMinnville, OR 97128-4614

Golden Valley Brewery (Lunch and Dinner) \$\$\$
980 NE 4th St, McMinnville, OR 97128-4308

McMenamins Hotel Oregon Pub \$\$-\$\$\$
310 NE Evans St, McMinnville, OR 97128

And so much more to explore on your own!



Introduction to 2026 Fall Exhibit and Convention

Mary Jo Vranizan, Convention Director

After 14 years, WSO returns to the foothills of majestic Mt. Hood for our Fall 2026 Exhibit and Convention, October 2 – 4, 2026. Mt. Hood Oregon Resort will be the venue for all activities. Their stunning convention center can hold all our events and the hallways outside of the meeting rooms will display our exhibit and vendor fair. A block of rooms with a group rate is in place for WSO members who wish to book early (phone 503-662-2245). <https://www.mthood-resort.com/gallery>

Ron Stocke will be the Juror. He is an award-winning watercolor artist and a regular contributor to Watercolor Artist Magazine as well as other publications. He teaches comprehensive workshops throughout North America and Europe, frequently conducts demonstrations and lectures on various art materials, and has created a safe, environmentally friendly studio. His 4-day Workshop will run October 5 – 8, 2026, and registration will open May 1, 2026.

We need a few integral volunteers to make this convention come together:

- Breakout Session Coordinator
- Exhibit installation team
- Juror Critique Coordinator
- Workshop Coordinator
- Communications (Watermark articles and promotions)
- Award Dinner Decorations

Most of these tasks can be done virtually from anywhere. Please see the *WSO Digital Roster* for my contact information. Please jump in and help make this convention happen.

