



Newsletter

1st Quarter 2025

Opening Reception, Awards Ceremony and Gallery Talk Sunday, February 23, 2025

No doubt about it: Aquarius is our premier event of the year. Open exclusively to residents of California, this year's 48th Annual Show features forty-two works. If you do one thing between February 20 and the **end of March**, do yourself a favor and stop in to view this vibrant collection of watermedia. The **Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony** is Sunday, February 23, from 2 to 4 pm, upstairs at Art Center Morro Bay.

Not a reception kind of person? The Art Center is open daily from 12 to 4pm, so it's a perfect lunchtime diversion next time you're traveling Hwy 1 between San Luis and Ragged Point. If you choose to skip the reception, however, here's what you'll miss: an air of

excited, enthusiastic tension; eager artists honored to chat with you about their work; hushed conversations as artists and guests tune in to hear our juror of Awards and Selections, Keiko Tanabe, give her Gallery Talk, the how and why of the show she has curated. In her Juror's Statement, Keiko explains, "I looked at certain aspects of a painting such as design, composition, originality and mastery of the medium. Each artist who submitted their painting demonstrated a unique blend of elements of art that invited me to look into their creative mind...."

Please join Keiko in looking into [the] "creative mind[s]" of these forty-two selected artists.

(For **Workshop Info**, please see [page 6.](#))

Aquarius
2025



CALL FOR ENTRIES

Spring Show

In our Virtual Online Gallery



Email entries accepted Mar 16-21 at
ccws@ccwsart.com

Mar 23-28 Member judging 'til
midnight

Mar 30 Winners Announced on
Website

Remember, every show you enter is one more opportunity to showcase your creative talent. It doesn't cost you anything! You're going to paint anyway, right? So...**what are you waiting for?!**

Basic Procedures for Members Entering the Virtual Show

1. One (1) original work per member.
2. No size requirements.
3. Members will vote for the winners.
4. Email a jpeg (at least 200 dpi), including your name and the name of your painting.
5. Your image should be cropped to show only the painting: no matting, background or frame in the photo.
6. No computer modifications.

Central Coast Watercolor Society

PO Box 922 Nipomo, CA
93444-0922

www.ccwsart.com

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Spring Show CFE
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President's Message

Aquarius 2025 is about to begin!

The reception for the Aquarius Show will be held from 2:00–4:00 on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at Art Center Morro Bay. Keiko Tanabe who is the Juror and Judge for the show will be there to give a gallery talk regarding the strength of the pieces that were selected. Awards will be announced at 2:30.

This year we have increased the award amounts. The first place award is \$800, second place is \$600, and the Judges award is \$500. There are several other cash and merchandise awards that will be presented as well as recognition of our new signature member. A Signature Member is a person who has had their work accepted into three Aquarius shows.

Did you submit one or two paintings and not get in the show? Don't be disappointed or feel like it is time for you to stop painting. Remember the Juror for the show is only one person and this one person does not have the last word on what is "art" and



Linda Denton, CCWS President

what isn't. While Keiko is a very talented artist in her own right, she is not the "be all to end all". The job of the Juror is to curate the show. Each show will have a variety of paintings, and it could be that several artists already submitted a painting similar to yours and we can only put one or two paintings with the same theme as yours in the show. Not being selected to be in the show doesn't mean you are not a successful artist.

What does it mean to be a successful artist? "Artists Network" recently posted an article entitled, "How Do You Define Success as an Artist?" In this article they quoted 17 noted watercolor artists. Not one of them was quoted as saying they felt successful when they got into a

Continued on Page 3

Our Mission

The Central Coast Watercolor Society was founded in 1976 with the main purpose of fostering interaction, creative activity and artistic development among watercolor artists living on the Central Coast.

In addition, we seek to further the interests, appreciation, activity and growth of watercolor and water media through educational programs and art shows for the community and our membership.

The Central Coast Watercolor Society is classified by the Internal Revenue Code as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

President's Message
(Continued from Page 2)

show. For the majority of them the feeling of success came when they knew they had completed the painting they set out to accomplish. It wasn't the number of sales they had over the years or the number of shows in which they had been accepted. It was the act itself, to be able to create. Keep painting: they are not all successful but just think of the knowledge you gained along the journey.

Linda Denton

Welcome to our newest Members

**The Central Coast Watercolor Society extends a very warm welcome to our newest members.
We are so glad you have joined us.**

Laura Bennett
Los Osos

Joan DeGasparis
Pismo Beach

Dianne Long
San Marcos

Guillermo Bermudez
Los Osos

Lana Blades
Arroyo Grande

Ingrid Brink
Baywood Park

John Fiscus
Goodyear, AZ

Jaqueline Francis
Ojai

Steve Kennington
Santa Maria

Norma Neil
Bakersfield

Sandra Osborne
Menefee

Debra Piazza
Morro Bay

Ann Purdy
Santa Barbara

Lily Sanders
Santa Barbara

Michelle Von Dollen
Atascadero

Denise Pieracci
Walnut Creek

Michaelyn Wickersham
Atascadero



Membership Fee
Still a bargain at just \$30!

PAST DUE NOW

The Benefits Far Outweigh the Cost!

CCWS membership runs January 1 to December 31.

Signature Membership will be canceled as well as DVD Library privileges if you have not renewed by **March 31, 2025.**

Click the PayPal logo to the right to go to the website Renewal page and pay now. You do not need a PayPal account: you can pay with a credit card.



If you prefer to pay by check, please mail it to:

Central Coast Watercolor Society
PO Box 922

Nipomo, CA 93444-0922

Be sure to include your email address.

Volunteer Opportunities

**When a lot of us do a little,
we can get a lot done!**

Hospitality

The Hospitality Chair provides serving tables, makes coffee and cleans up. You ensure that all supplies are available. Currently, supplies are stored in four large plastic bins.

This is a Board Position so you would be required to attend Board Meetings.

Historian

The Historian collects, categorizes and puts into binders all documents relating to CCWS functions, e.g., Board Agendas, Board Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Reports, Newsletters, Aquarius Brochures, etc. Binders dating from 1987 to the present are currently kept in one large plastic storage bin. **This is not a Board Position** so you will not be required to attend Board Meetings.

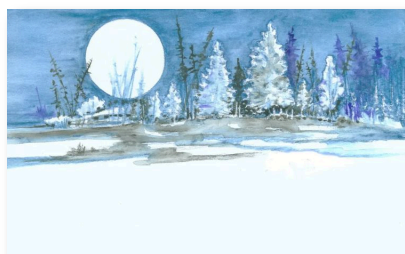
Contact President Linda Denton
at ldenton1011@gmail.com

CCWS Members Only Holiday Card Show 2024

Here they are -
Winners of our Fifth Annual
Holiday Card Show!

THANK YOU to the **thirty-eight** artists who entered what has now become our annual **Holiday Card Show**. Thank you also to all who took the time to vote. These are the winning paintings you voted for.

In case you missed this celebration of the Winter Holiday Season, or if you'd just like to revisit the entire show, it is still on our website at ccwsart.com



Best Seasonal - "Silent Night"
© Edie Schneider



1st - "Moon Glow"
© Steve Roller



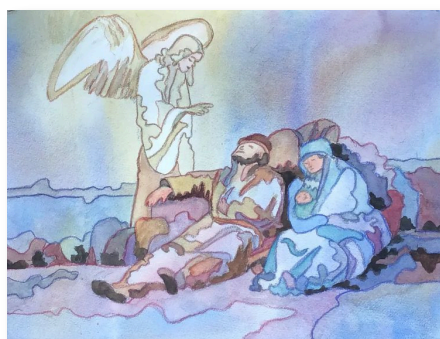
2nd - "Winter Alley"
© Jan Godachy



3rd - "Snowbound"
© Ken Christensen



Honorable Mention - "Simple Joys"
© Jennifer Spotten



Best Religious - "To Egypt You Must Go"
© Mike Grahek



Best Humorous - "Merry This!"
© Debbie Valentine

Names in **RED** indicate
CCWS Signature
Members.



Honorable Mention - "Rockies in December"
© Chuck Crotser



Honorable Mention - "Sierra Winter"
© Gary Gery

Upcoming Meetings

February 18* - Pam Haste - Sharing a Creative Journey



"Fall Splash of Color"

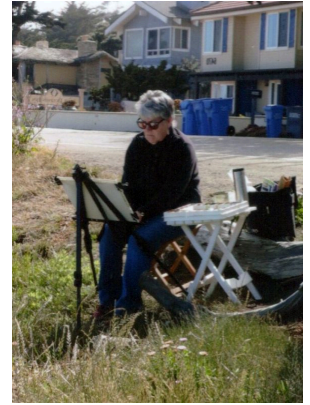
© Pam Haste

About sixteen years ago, Pam discovered a new joy in creating art with watercolors. She explored this medium under the instruction of John Barnard and participated in various watercolor workshops. Throughout her creative journey, Pam found new possibilities and enjoyment in learning, meeting new people, and deepening her appreciation for the beauty around us. She enjoyed painting plein air, painting with others, and the transparent and per chance quality of this media in her studio. Pam is a Signature Member of the Central Coast Watercolor Society and a Paso Robles Art Association Life Member. She has also participated in Arts Obispo Open Studios.

In her upcoming presentation, Pam plans to discuss her exploration of watercolors, sharing valuable insights and advice from her teachers and books that inspire her to be expressive, fearless, and true to herself in her journey in watercolor. She will cover techniques, recommended books, and galleries to visit, along with a short demonstration of her work.



"Fractured Landscape at the Pinnacles" © Pam Haste



Pam painting en plein air in Cambria

View Pam's website at pamhasteart.com

***Note special meeting date due to Aquarius workshop.**

March 25 - Sunny Patton - Airbrush and Watercolor



Sunny on her spotted Saddle horse, Lucy

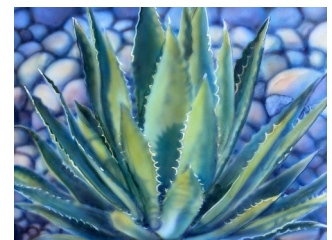
It has been a lifetime love for Sunny to draw and paint. She holds a degree in Fine Arts from Pepperdine University, Malibu CA. She continued her education with classes at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena CA and at numerous workshops throughout the country. Many of Sunny's paintings

hang in private collections in the US and Europe. Sunny is a current member of the Central Coast Watercolor Society. For her presentation, Sunny will demonstrate how she uses an airbrush with watercolor to achieve soft blends and special effects. I think we're in for a special treat!

View more of Sunny's work at sunnypatton.com.



Images © Sunny Patton



Upcoming Meetings (cont'd)

April 29 - Pop-Up Gallery & Potluck - 12:00 pm at our Nipomo Church Venue

What's not to love about a potluck? I've said that before, I know, but it bears repeating. This is one of the few times we all gather to just sit around and talk and, of course, eat (unless you come to Monday Morning Painters)! This is a "casual" gallery event. If you're not yet an experienced artist, or you haven't been confident enough to enter a show, this low-key, nonthreatening event is a great way to take that first step. It's also fun to see what our members have been



Thirty plus members enjoying lunchtime conversations this past October.

working on. If you are one of our professional artist members, or have been painting for a long time, no doubt your work will inspire and encourage some of our less experienced members to keep working at and enjoying watercolor.

To participate in the gallery, your painting will need to be matted. A frame is great, but not necessary. Check in with Sue at the reception table when you arrive to get a number for your painting. Members in attendance will receive ballots to vote for the winners.



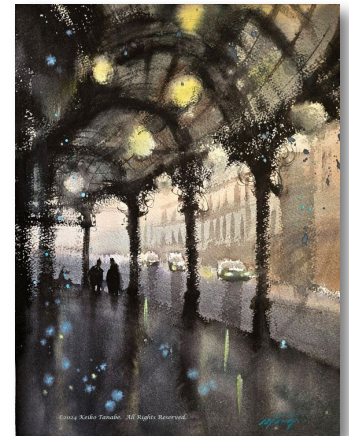
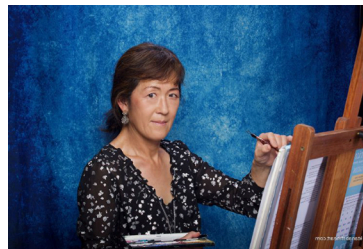
Elaine Tillman, pondering her ballot selections.

Aquarius 2025 Workshop Reminder

presented by
CCWS CENTRAL COAST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

Keiko Tanabe - Painting Impressions with Watercolor

Do you paint everything that your eyes see? In this class, you will start seeing things differently and learn how to turn reality into a captivating, impressionistic image. The goal is to capture the essence of the subject that conveys a certain mood and atmosphere. Keiko will show you how to take the initial inspiration through the simplification process to an expressive painting that is strong in composition and content.



"Seattle Pioneer Square"
© Keiko Tanabe

Be sure to stop in for a visit at Keiko's extensive website,
ktanabefineart.com

Workshop info:

Mon, Tues, Wed, February 24-26, 2025
9:00am to 4:00pm (doors open 8:30am)
Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church
1235 Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA
— see map on [page 9](#).

Food: Morning snacks and lunch will be provided each day along with coffee, tea, and water. Feel free to bring your own food if you have special dietary needs. A fridge is available.

This workshop is full!

Recent Meetings

December 3 – Luda Bryan Demonstration- Painting Florals

Liudmila (or Luda, as she is called) graciously stepped in at the last minute to fill in for Tracy Taylor. For this presentation, Luda showcased her step-by-step approach to bringing a rose to life on paper.



With the image drawn and the background painted around it, Luda began by defining the petals and leaves - edges and textures. She uses only very transparent paints in order to capture the translucent nature of the flower.

While we waited for this stage to dry (Luda never uses a dryer on her work), she talked

briefly about her background: she moved from Russia to the Central Coast 27 years ago; she met her husband (from Ukraine) in San Luis Obispo. A former dental assistant, Luda took up her watercolor brushes 10 years ago, concentrating her efforts on florals and animal portraits. Recently, she has begun experimenting with acrylic.

Continuing on to the final stage, Luda added another thin layer of paint, creating sharp edges of pink with touches of Dr. Ph. Martin's Bleed Proof White. Examining the completed rose, I was captivated by its translucence, its fragility, its perfection. Thank you, Luda, for your inspiration.

Be inspired by more of Luda's work at her Instagram site, [fineartbyliudmila](https://www.instagram.com/fineartbyliudmila).



Step 2: applying transparent color



Step 3: adding the finishing touches



Step 1: laying in the background

January 28 – Aquarius 2025 Digital Presentation

Continuing a tradition of the past several years, January's meeting featured a digital slide show of ALL the Aquarius 2025 entries, not just the ones that have been accepted into the exhibition. Sixty-seven artists from all over the state submitted 111 paintings through EntryThingy, a digital software specifically for art exhibitions and competitions. For this show, our juror, Keiko Tanabe, selected forty-two paintings, forty-two artists.

CCWS webmaster/publicity chair, **Jeanie Smith**,



Jeanie queuing up the digital slide show

prefaced the slide show with a brief summary of the process of selection.

Before sending the digital photos on to Keiko, Jeanie inspects each one to ensure it meets the criteria specified in the Prospectus. This year, only a few got it wrong!

Fortunately, EntryThingy automatically creates the slideshow for the juror. By the time of our January meeting, Keiko has already made her selections. For our benefit, last names were indicated on each of the 111 images we saw. Be assured that **Keiko never sees the artists' names**, only the titles and whatever description each artist includes on EntryThingy.

Following the presentation, most of us agreed that seeing the artwork in person allows for a deeper connection. Visiting the Aquarius show at Art Center Morro Bay is sure to offer an irreplaceable, multifaceted experience that's not just about viewing art but also about feeling it.



**Do you have news
you would like to
share with our
membership?**

**If you have received an award,
been accepted to a show,
achieved a milestone and you
would like to share with our
group, please email your informa-
tion to mcneils0911@gmail.com,
prior to the deadline for the next
issue. The deadline is always
shown at the bottom of
the calendar page.**



MY MODERN MET
SHARE | INSPIRE | CONNECT

Myra McBeth suggested I
check out mymodernmet.com. So I did...and found
this bit of trivia:

"In 1841, American painter
John Goffe Rand invented
the metal paint tube, allow-
ing artists to easily transport

paint anywhere they went. The simple piece of
equipment was the first of many objects de-
signed specifically for plein air painters, and the
movement is still as popular as ever. Whether

Plein Air Painting Opportunities Wednesday Morning

There are two plein air groups:

PACA is based in Morro Bay.
pleinaircoastalartists@gmail.com

Wednesday Irregulars is based in Cambria.
camarnold@145107922.mailchimpapp.com

Thursday Morning

This group meets at various locations in San Luis Co.
thursdaywatercolor@gmail.com

How to Maximize Your [Workshop] Experience*

- Lay aside any ego. Come with a humble attitude.
- Come prepared with the prescribed materials. Not having those materials available can cause frustration for you and the instructor.
- Take everything in: watch what's happening on the paper; look for the thickness of paint as well as the colors used.
- Practice, practice, and practice...*repeatedly* (and bring a sense of humor)!
- Have a desire to learn, to focus, and to try new things.
- Put aside unrealistic expectations. This is not a competition and you're not here to create a masterpiece.
- Embrace frustration. Your knowledge base is almost always going to outrun your painting ability. Flip it so that it becomes motivation.

**PleinAir Magazine, Feb-Mar 2025, Vol 15, Issue 1, pp. 15-16.*

you want to capture city streets or paint your fa-
vorite beach, there're a few tools you'll need to get
started."

To find those tools, go to mymodernmet.com,
type "plein air" in the search box, look for the ar-
ticle, **Here's Everything You'll Need to Start
Painting "en Plein Air" This Spring**, and you're
on your way!



~NEW~

Tuesday Afternoon Paint-In Los Osos

Just getting underway, this **NEW** group will have its
first paint-in on Tuesday, March 4, noon til 2:30.
You'll be going to the Switzer Community Hall at
Morro Shores Mobile Home Park, 633 Ramona
Ave., Los Osos 93402. RSVP with Jackie Sterios,
jackiesterioshome@gmail.com



Come Paint with Us on Monday Mornings!

What: Paint-In Session

When: Every Monday morning

Where: Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

RSVP: Please sign up when you receive the email invite each week.

Monday Morning



What is a "Paint-In" ? Bring whatever you are working on and spend the morning painting with other members of CCWS. Share tips and techniques and try new things. Be inspired and motivated. Make new friends. This is a **FREE** benefit of CCWS Membership.

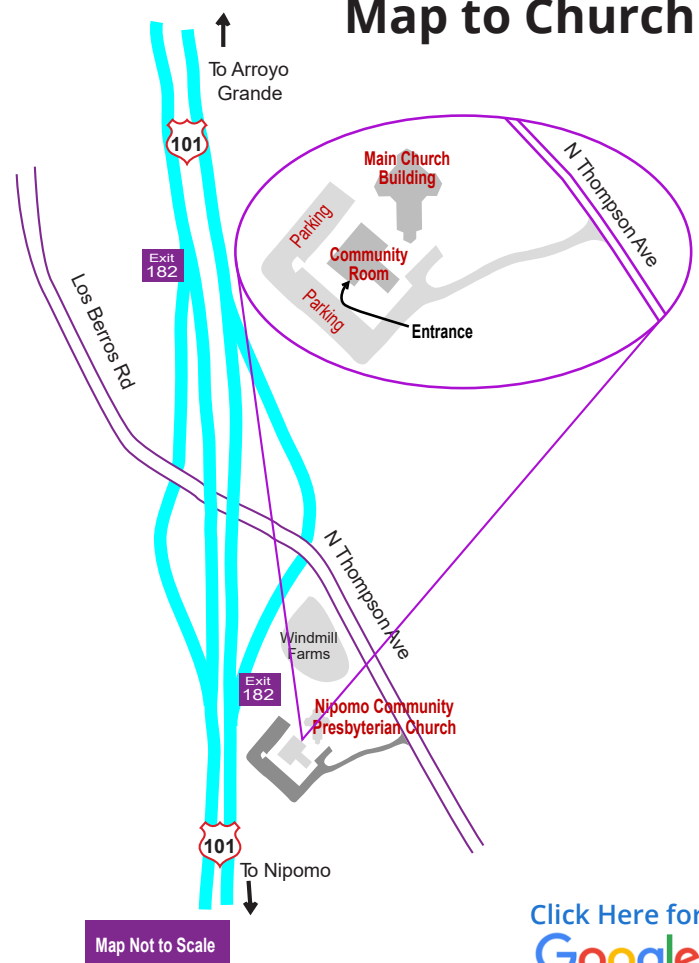
Critique: About 10:15, we do a completely optional, very informal, peer critique. There are some very accomplished artists among the CCWS membership who will generously share their knowledge with you, make suggestions, all very positive.

Where: Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church, 1235 Thompson Avenue. See map.

Who can Attend: Active (dues paid) CCWS members are encouraged to take advantage of this great member benefit. You may invite a guest to introduce them to this CCWS event and if they want to continue they will need to join CCWS.

Covid Update: Although CCWS no longer requires attendees at live events to be vaccinated, it is still recommended, and also requested, that you stay home if you have any symptoms of illness. Thank you for your consideration!

Map to Church



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

Meeting Reminder

CCWS meets the last Tuesday of each month, unless notified of a **date change** for that month.
CCWS Monthly Meetings begin at 1:00 pm
The first 1/2 hour is a social time and demonstrations start at 1:30 pm.
SLO United Methodist Church, Wesley Room.
1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo.

Monday Morning Paint-In

presented by
CCWS CENTRAL COAST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

**Nipomo Community
Presbyterian Church**

9:00 am – noon

Upcoming Events:

Feb 18 – Pam Haste - Sharing A Creative Journey
Note change of date

Feb 24-26 – Aquarius Workshop - Keiko Tanabe

Mar 25 – Sunny Patton - Airbrush & Watercolor

Apr 29 – PopUp Gallery & Potluck Lunch

May 27 – Brian Reed - Abstract Art

Aquarius 2025

Feb 18 Receive hand-delivered paintings,
10am-12pm at Art Center Morro Bay,
835 Main St., Morro Bay CA

Feb 20 Exhibition opens

Feb 23 Opening Reception, Awards and Gallery
Talk, Sunday – 2:00 – 4:00pm

Mar 31 Exhibition closes

Apr 1 Pick-up hand-delivered art
10:00 to 11:00am

Spring Members Only Show In our Virtual Online Gallery



Entries accepted Mar 16-21

Mar 23-28 Member judging 'til midnight

Mar 30 Winners Announced on Website

Please do not enter before Mar 16th

1st Annual Acrylic Live March 26-28, 2025

24+ of the world's best
acrylic artists that you can't
get anywhere else...or in
one place.

acryliclive.com/acl2025



**12th Annual Plein Air
Convention & Expo**
May 19-23, 2025
Check it out at
pleinairconvention.com

PS: You don't have to be a plein air artist to attend!



Newsletter Deadline: The deadline for articles, photos, calendar events, member news and general information for the 2nd Quarter 2025 edition of this newsletter will be **May 1st**. Please send to Editor, Sandy McNeil: mcneils0911@gmail.com. The newsletter will be **published May 15, 2025**.