



## Opening Reception, Awards Ceremony and Gallery Talk Sunday, February 25, 2-4 pm

Plan on attending this year's Aquarius Exhibition between February 22 to April 1 at the Art Center Morro Bay. Or better yet, plan on attending the **Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony** which will be on Sunday, February 25 from 2 to 4 pm. Art Center Morro Bay hours: 12 to 4 pm daily. The annual Aquarius Watermedia Exhibition is a favorite Central Coast tradition sponsored by the Central Coast Watercolor Society. Entry is open exclusively to residents of California.



This year's Juror of Selections and Awards and our Aquarius Workshop leader is **Joe Cibere**. Joe will also be doing a Gallery Talk at the Opening Reception. He is a Signature Member of the National Watercolor Society and his artwork demonstrates his love of nature and wilderness. His "abstract realism" painting style integrates strong design and balance with a sense of illusion. His work is part of both corporate and private collections. Registration for his Aquarius Workshop is now wait-listed.

[Register Here](#)

### Spring 2024

## Members Only Show



### CALL FOR ENTRIES

### In our Virtual Online Gallery

**Mar 17 - Mar 24** Entries accepted til midnight  
Mar 27 - Apr 3 Membership voting til midnight  
Apr 7th Winners Announced on Website

Email jpeg entries to:  
[ccws@ccwsart.com](mailto:ccws@ccwsart.com)  
Starting March 17th

**All members are encouraged to enter!**  
**Voting will be by the CCWS Membership.**

We will have four online Members Only Shows again this year, starting with the Spring Show. This is a great chance to practice entering an art show. The procedure is almost the same as entering a show like Aquarius except it is free to enter, and you don't have to frame your painting. Also, our online shows are not juried. Every member is welcome to enter. It gives you a good reason to practice taking a great photo of your work and emailing it at the proper resolution to enter the show.

### 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), include 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](http://www.ccwsart.com)

### **President**

Linda Denton

### **Vice-President**

Michael Grahek

### **Secretary**

Leslie Parsons

### **Treasurer**

Julie Diani

### **Membership**

Susan Sevier

### **Publicity**

Jeanie Smith

### **Workshop Coordinator**

Brian Reed

### **Aquarius Exhibitions**

**Open**

### **Historian and Hospitality**

**Open**

### **Webmaster**

Jeanie Smith

### **Newsletter Editor**

Dail Schroeder

### **Past President**

Jerry Smith

## In this Issue

- 1 Aquarius Opening and Info and CFE Spring 24 Members Only Show
- 2 President's Message
- 3 Volunteer Opportunities/Renewal 24
- 4 Paint Outside/Welcome New Members
- 5 Congrats to our Members' Success
- 6 Congrats to Christmas Card 23 Show Winners
- 7 Upcoming Meetings
- 8 Aquarius 24 Workshop Reminder
- 9 New Editor for Newsletter
- 10 Monday Morning Paint-In Info
- 11 Calendar of Upcoming Events

## President's Message

Several years ago Malcolm Gladwell wrote a book called "Outliers". In the book he looks at people who are 'outliers' in their profession. He goes on to explore the factors that contribute to high levels of success, such as opportunity, cultural background, and practice. It challenges the idea that success is purely based on individual talent or merit and provides insights into how to create a culture of success.

The reasons for a person's success in any field comes down to many things. The concept that struck me the most was the number of hours professionals spend on developing their talent. Gladwell discusses the need to have a minimum of **10,000 hours of practice**. I was surprised to find out that Michael Jordan would spend hours outside as a child playing basketball. I just always assumed he came by it naturally.

In reading this I am reminded of what every artist of every watercolor workshop we have had has told us. "If you want to improve you have to paint." So many of us are so afraid of 'making a mistake' that we don't even get started. I remember at one of our workshops the instructor ac-



*Linda Denton, CCWS President*

tually took a full sheet of watercolor paper, crumpled it and threw it away saying, "It's just paper". He was trying to help us overcome the fear of painting.

I would like to offer to you the benefit of our Monday Morning Painters group. We are all on our own path to 'success' in watercolor painting. Some have been painting for years and others have been painting for a month. The idea is to get together with like-minded people to explore your creativity and play. We also have a time for a critique. This allows us to learn how to improve and to also get ideas on how others approach their work. If you are not comfortable displaying your work that is okay too. I promise you will come away with new ideas and friends.

Please join us on Monday mornings and start practicing your craft.

*Linda Denton*

## 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.



# Volunteer Opportunities

## We Need Your Help

Please consider volunteering for

### Aquarius Exhibition Chair

Contact President  
Linda Denton at

[ldenton1011@gmail.com](mailto:ldenton1011@gmail.com)

Even though we just held elections at our Annual October Business Meeting and elected new officers to help guide our organization going forward, no one has yet volunteered to be our Aquarius Chairperson. This is a critical position that needs a person who can plan ahead. Especially critical since we are already planning for Aquarius 2025.

If you read our Mission Statement, it will be crystal clear why this is so important. It states "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 annual Aquarius Exhibition is a 47-year tradition on the Central Coast and it is an asset to our group.

Please consider volunteering to help with this important project for your watercolor society and for your local art community, and the general public.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Reminder for 2024

### 2024 Membership Dues Membership Fee Still a bargain at just \$30!

### PAST DUE NOW!

Membership in the Central Coast Watercolor Society runs from January 1st through December 31st each year. If you have **not** paid your dues for 2024, **please do so as soon as possible**. We would love to have you as a member in 2024.

You can click the PayPal logo to the right and it will take you to our website Renewal page. You do not need a PayPal account, you can pay with a credit card.

If you prefer to pay your membership fees by check, please make your \$30 check payable to CCWS and mail it to: CCWS, PO Box 922 Nipomo, CA 93444-0922. Be sure to include your email address.

**If you have already renewed your membership, Thank you!**



## Volunteers NEEDED!

### Hospitality Chairperson

Responsible for food at our workshops and meetings. Since there are not very many restaurants close to our workshop venue, luckily we are able to serve food for workshop attendees. You don't have to cook the food, just make arrangements to pick it up or have it delivered, and make arrangements for plates, utensils, etc.

### Historian

Someone who is detail oriented and has room to store some binders which contain the history of our organization. This is a Board of Directors position. Our history as a 501(c)(3) non-profit would come into play if we were audited. It also reflects the role we have played in the Central Coast art community for nearly half a century. It's also really fun to look through.

If you would be interested in helping out, please contact President Linda Denton: [ldenton1011@gmail.com](mailto:ldenton1011@gmail.com)



## Fridays, 9:00 til about noon.

Contact: Sandy McNeil,  
mcneils0911@gmail.com  
or (805) 868-5074

Dress in layers (don't forget a hat), bring your materials to sketch and/or paint, water to drink, a folding chair, and a lunch or snack. The informal critique is more like a show and tell . . . and leave!

**FYI:** Because there are just a few of us so far, an RSVP so I know to expect you would be appreciated.

And remember, **RAIN CANCELS!**

## The Friday Outsiders' Schedule

If you enjoy or would like to try painting outside with a group of like-minded artists, you might want to check this out! Sandy McNeil, a long-time member of the Central Coast Watercolor Society has organized a plein air group and is hoping to find some artists that would like to join her at various North County locations to spend a few hours on Friday mornings painting, drawing, etc. and making new friends.

**February 16 - Barney Schwartz Park**, 2970 Union Road, Paso Robles, 93446. There are 2 entrances into this park: the main entrance, which ends in a cul de sac, and a secondary entrance accessed via Iversen Way. Take the Iversen Way entrance and drive UP the hill to the parking area. There is a pond here, a paved trail around it and benches. We'll set up in this area.

**February 23 - Hunter Ranch Golf Course and Restaurant**, 4041 CA-46. Go East on CA-46 about 4 miles. Turn right into Hunter Ranch and proceed up the hill to the parking area. Nice views of the golf course. The restaurant opens at 9am for breakfast and lunch.

[Click Here](#) for more Friday Outsiders Paint-Out dates and locations.

## The Thursday Morning Plein Air Painters

The Thursday Morning Plein Air Painters group is currently on *pause*. We hope to be able to schedule new painting days and sites this Spring. If you would like to be included, please email [thursdaywatercolor@gmail.com](mailto:thursdaywatercolor@gmail.com) to be added to the group email list and for a notice of upcoming paint-out dates and sites.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

**Beate Amler**  
Avila Beach

**Ellen Maldonado**  
Paso Robles

**Cammy Shields**  
San Luis Obispo

**Diane Babcock**  
Nipomo

**Nancy O'Malley**  
Avila Beach

**Janis Spire**  
Nipomo

**Deborah Brown**  
Atascadero

**Ann Pacheco**  
Arroyo Grande

**Bridget Todd**  
San Luis Obispo

**Ken Christensen**  
Los Osos

**Ronē Prinz**  
Morro Bay

**Jim Trask**  
Arroyo Grande

**Gary Gery**  
Avila Beach

**Tony Segale**  
Morada

**Rachel Villa**  
Solvang

**Melissa Johnson-Barash**  
Pismo Beach

**Julie Wilson**  
Arroyo Grande



# Congratulations!

to our members who have been juried into prestigious shows and honored with awards

**CCWS Signature Member Edie Schneider** needs one more entry in Watercolor West to be eligible for Signature Membership in that organization as well. This piece was accepted into the National Exhibition, "Portraits - Human and Animal" 2024 at the Modern Visual Arts Gallery in Bethlehem, PA.



"Madam Dragonfly" © Edie Schneider  
Watercolor collage.

**Signature Member and Vice President, Mike Grahek** was invited to be the "Featured Artist" at the Santa Maria Valley Art Gallery for February and March. Mike has fourteen paintings on display and for sale.

Mike has been painting for over 30 years. He continues to refine his watercolor style by trying out new ways to communicate his impressions of the world to the viewer.



"Redwood National Park"  
© Mike Grahek

He often paints en plein air and is inspired by the beauty of the central coast.

Be sure to stop by and have a look if you're in the Santa Maria area, or maybe even make a special trip. The gallery displays their art at the Santa Maria Airport, parking is free and the Gallery is open daily from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm.



More of Mike's work.

**Signature Member Jan Godachy** was accepted to the 1st Annual "Women in Watercolor" Members Only International Online Exhibition.



"Turbulence" © Jan Godachy, watercolor on Yupo.

**Jan** was also Juried into the Valley Watercolor Society's Annual Exhibition by Kathleen Scoggins who did a workshop for us back in 2022. She received a **2nd Place** award for this painting.

The show is at the Thousand Oaks Community Center Library Gallery through the end of February.



"Back Alley" © Jan Godachy

Some of our CCWS members have been selected for the **Beacon Art Show**, held annually at the SLO United Methodist Church where we hold our monthly meetings. **The Opening Reception** will be Friday, March 1 from 5 – 8 pm. The show is in the main church building.





## Congratulations! To the Winners of our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Card Show!

**THANK YOU** to all of you who took the time out of a busy holiday season to participate in our 4th Annual Virtual Christmas Card Show. Thirty-three of you entered the show which provided a nice representation of the excellent quality of work that our CCWS members do. Thank you also to all of our members who took the time to vote. These are the winning paintings that you voted for.

In case you missed it or just want a look back at the rest of the entries, it is still on our website at [ccwsart.com](http://ccwsart.com)

### Favorite Painting



"Deep December" © Sandy McNeil

### Best Holiday Paintings



1<sup>st</sup> - "Snow Globe"  
© Marie Angelus



2<sup>nd</sup> - "Jack"  
© Edie Schneider

### Best Winter Paintings



1<sup>st</sup> - "Snowy Colorado"  
© Chuck Crotser



2<sup>nd</sup> - "Country Christmas"  
© Beth Ostapiuk

### Best Religious Paintings



1<sup>st</sup> - "Road to Bethlehem"  
© Michael Grahek



2<sup>nd</sup> - "Behold"  
© Holly Branch

### Best Humorous Paintings



1<sup>st</sup> - "Mama's Little Helper"  
© Carol Roberts



2<sup>nd</sup> - "Xmas Rock 2"  
© Kathy Miller

CCWS Signature Members' names are shown in **Red**.



# Upcoming Meetings

## January Meeting – Slide Show of ALL 97 Aquarius 2024 Entries



One of the excellent paintings submitted for Aquarius 24.

At the January meeting, members had a chance to see all 97 entries that were submitted by 57 artists for consideration to be juried into Aquarius 24. Artists spoke out when their painting was shown. Great fun!

The overall consensus seemed to be that there were a lot of great paintings that were submitted. Apparently, Joe Cibere, our Juror, said that he had a hard time



Members enjoying the Aquarius Entries Slide Show prepared and presented by Jeanie Smith.

deciding which paintings should be in the show because there were so many excellent ones to choose from. Can't wait to see the show!

Please note special meeting date.

## February 20 – Linda Cunningham's Demo – Inktense Watercolor Pencils



Growing up in Reseda, CA in a family full of artists, Linda has been drawing as long as she can remember. She works across multiple mediums and especially enjoys capturing nature. She continues to learn new skills and shares her knowledge and talents with anyone willing to learn. Linda lives in Nipomo with her

husband, John and their dog Lucy.

Inktense Blocks or Pencils can be used just as they

come on wet or dry paper and fabrics. They do indeed provide very intense colors. Once they dry they are permanent and can be layered without lifting.

You won't want to miss this exciting way to paint from scratch or just to learn about this product as an additional medium to mix with your traditional watercolors.



## March 26 – Tricia Reichert will do a Presentation on Journaling



Born and raised in England, Tricia graduated from Battersea College, London University and taught high school before relocating to the U.S. with her husband. Seriously focusing on art as a career over 30 years ago, she excels in portraiture in both pastel and watercolor. She also

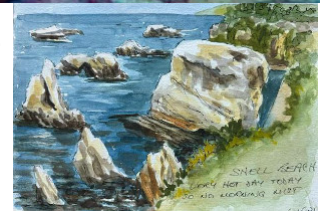
does drawing, printmaking and sculpture. She is an excellent teacher, and offers a wide range of classes and private instruction at her home studio/classroom. She has also taught various art classes through Cal Poly's Extended Education division for the last 16 years.



In the Village of Arroyo Grande.

See more of her work @ [triciareichert.com](http://triciareichert.com)

Collection of Journals



Shell Beach Rocks on a clear day in June.





## April 30 – Pop-Up Instant Gallery



From the October 2023 meeting.

The idea of an instant gallery started way back in 2015 as near as I can tell. We have had one twice a year since then except during Covid when we couldn't meet in person. We usually had a good turnout and a good number of paintings entered into this informal one-night show. Before COVID we were able to have a Pot Luck dinner at those meetings. We moved last October's meeting to our Nipomo Church venue so we could enjoy a pot luck lunch along with our instant gallery. It is really fun to see what our members are painting.

We don't think the church in SLO will let us have food in our meeting room anymore, but the April meeting will still feature a Pop-Up Gallery. So please consider bringing a painting. It doesn't need to be framed but it should be matted.



Members enjoying a pot luck dinner back in 2015. After dinner we voted for a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and several honorable mention awards and handed out prizes.



This is last October's General Business Meeting. We elected new Board of Director Officers, had a pot luck lunch and enjoyed participating in an instant "Pop-Up Gallery".

# Aquarius 2024

Joe Cibere

# Workshop Reminder

presented by

**CCWS** CENTRAL COAST WATERCOLOR SOCIETY



*Joe Cibere*  
JOE CIBERE WATERCOLORS

Joe Cibere's Aquarius 2024 Workshop will be Mon, Tues and Wed, **February 26, 27, 28, 2024** at the Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church, 1235 Thompson Avenue, Nipomo, California — see map on **page 10**.

**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.

**Hours:** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Doors open at 8:30 for set-up.

Workshop is full but there is a waitlist. Register at [ccwsart.com](http://ccwsart.com)



## Introducing Our New Editor for the CCWS Newsletter!



**Sandy McNeil** has been a member of CCWS since 2017. She paints with the Monday Morning Painters and received her Signature Membership in 2022.

With no publishing experience or background to rely on, she has bravely volunteered to take over the production of this newsletter. Sandy and I are working together so she can learn the software that I have been using to produce this

newsletter. A high-end publishing application, it has lots of tools that make it easy to achieve a professional look. Plus she will have all the newsletters from the past eight years for reference and the recent ones to use as templates. Sandy has stated that she likes the newsletter the way it is but I am sure once she gets up to speed on producing it, she will put her own spin on it. At least I hope so; it should evolve. Below is her bio in her own words.

---

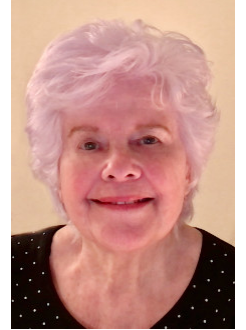
"People who know me well would say I come by my artistic talent naturally. However, I didn't take up my brushes until recently. While I have lived on California's Central Coast for most of my life, originally, I lived near Cleveland, Ohio. I graduated from Miami University (Oxford, Ohio) with a BS in International Studies. I went back to school in Albuquerque NM to take accounting classes, passed the CPA exam, and went to work for 30+ years as an accountant because the work was math-oriented, challenging, and mostly portable.

When I vacated my Orcutt, CA accounting office in 2016 in search of my second life, I signed up for the first of a handful of classes at Allan Hancock College. My biggest take-away from "The Joy of Drawing" class? Sketch something - anything - every day. Sketching on a daily basis easily lends itself to journaling and, since 2017, that has been my daily challenge: to sketch or do some small piece of artwork *every* day in addition to the journaling. I have accumulated no less than 40 Mole-skine Journals, full of artwork rendered in pencil (graphite), charcoal, ink, colored pencils, pastels, coffee, and of course, watercolor. Nowadays, this challenge is an excuse to get out of the house and have an adventure.

As the incoming CCWS Newsletter Editor, I am hopeful and undaunted. For Dail, this transition is huge; she has worked unceasingly to create a beautiful newsletter. With your help, we'll keep it going."

*Sandy McNeil*

I have been doing the quarterly newsletter since 2015. Having retired from a 20-year career in Graphic Design, it was my honor and truly a pleasure to produce this piece for the CCWS Membership. It is only because I need to focus on my health right now that this will be my last issue.



I am very sad to give it up because I truly love doing it. I will always be deeply indebted to Jerry Smith for helping me know what to include in each issue and for writing many of the articles for me. And especially for putting up with my many phone calls to answer questions about how CCWS works, and what I should include about any particular subject.

I especially want to thank CCWS Secretary, Leslie Parsons, who has been my copy editor, proof-reader and a good friend through the years. She made me look smarter than I really am by catching my mistakes. Leslie has said she will continue to work with Sandy as she takes over the production of the newsletter.

Many of you have been contributors to the newsletter over the years; you have my thanks and appreciation as well. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Sarah DeLong and Linda Denton for contributing many photos.

*Dail Schroeder*



# 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**

**Paint-In**

presented by



**CENTRAL  
COAST  
WATERCOLOR  
SOCIETY**

**COVID-19 Rules:** The church is requiring participants to have been vaccinated and boosted at least 2 weeks prior to attending. Each person can have their own table if desired.

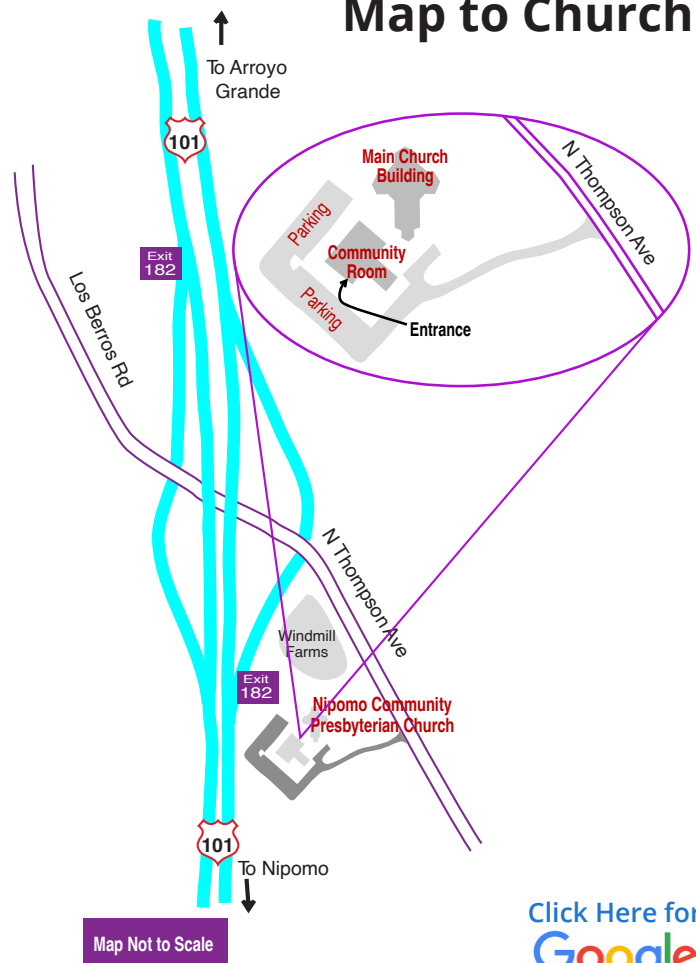
**What is a "Paint-In" ?** Bring whatever you are working on and spend the morning painting with other members of CCWS. Share tips and techniques and try new things. Be inspired and motivated. Make new friends. This is a **FREE** benefit of CCWS Membership.

**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.

## Map to Church



[Click Here for Google Map](#)



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

## 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 Meetings:

### Special Date – Feb 20

The normal February meeting date was moved forward one week because of the Aquarius Workshop.

**Feb 20 – 1:00 pm – Linda Cunningham Demo**

Linda will tell us all about Inktense Watercolor Pencils and demonstrate how to use them.

**Mar 26 – 1:00 pm – Tricia Reichert** will do a presentation on Journaling.

**Apr 30 – 1:00 pm – Instant Pop-Gallery** with voting on paintings submitted and Awards presented.

Aquarius  
2024

Feb 22 – Apr 1, 2024

**Feb 20** Receiving hand-delivered paintings, 10:00 -11:00 am at Art Center Morro Bay, 835 Main St., Morro Bay, CA

**Feb 22** Exhibition opens

**Feb 25** Opening Reception, Awards and Gallery Talk, Sunday – 2:00 - 4:00 pm

**Apr 1** Exhibition closes

**Apr 2** Pick-up hand-delivered art 10:00 to 11:00 am

### Aquarius Workshop with Joe Cibere

Feb 26, 27, 28

The Workshop is full, but there is a waitlist and sometimes a slot will open up. You can register on the website.

See page 8 for more info.

[Register Here](#)



**Mar 17 - Mar 24** Entries accepted til midnight

Mar 27 - Apr 3 Membership voting til midnight

Apr 7th Winners Announced on Website

**All members are encouraged to enter!**

**Voting will be by the CCWS Membership.**

**Email jpeg entries to: [ccws@ccwsart.com](mailto:ccws@ccwsart.com)  
Starting March 17th**

**Newsletter Deadline:** The deadline for articles, photos, calendar events, member news and general information for the 2nd Quarter 2024 edition of this newsletter will be **May 1st**. Please send to Editor, Sandy McNeil: [mcneils0911@gmail.com](mailto:mcneils0911@gmail.com). The newsletter will be **published May 15, 2024**.