



Aquarius 2021

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Digital Entry Deadline, February 1, 2021, 10 pm

The 2021 Aquarius Show that was meant to run February 25 through April 5, 2021 will be transitioned to an online show because of continuing issues with COVID-19. It will be free to current members and \$30/\$40 for non-members. Unlike our Members Only online shows we have been doing, we are honored to have Robert Burrige as our juror for selections and awards. He will be judging the show as he would a traditional gallery Aquarius Show.



"Make More Wine,"
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Accepted artists and winners will be posted on the CCWS website February 14th. Please click the link below to visit the CCWS website for more information about the show and for a link to Robert Burrige's website.

Also see Calendar page 11 for more Aquarius information.

Aquarius 2021



Christmas Card Show

2020

Entries Accepted
December 6 - 12

Member Judging
December 15 - 19

Winners Announced December 21st

As painters, more often than not, the holiday season creates extra demand for our work. Sometimes, as a painting gift for our families and friends but the big draw is as a cover for an annual holiday card. It is this Christmas card painting we are inviting you to enter into CCWS's 2020 Christmas Card Show.

Your entry painting must have been used as a cover on your Christmas card (any year) regardless of the subject material. For example, some Christmas cards by CCWS members have featured a Central Coast landscape, an ocean scene or perhaps an animal or bird.

The point is the painting subject matter is open for this show and is not limited to decorated Christmas trees or snow scenes.

The entered card painting must be your original work and not done by someone else. It may have been entered in previous art shows. Any water media is acceptable.

Each artist may enter 1 jpeg. Email your entry to: ccws@ccwsart.com starting December 6th. An announcement reminder about the show will be sent out on December 1, 2020.

Central Coast Watercolor Society

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President's Message

Many times, I have had members ask how a juror selects the winners in a show. The question needs an in-depth response rather than an answer like, "The judge picks what he or she likes." As a first pass this is true but more discussion is required to complete the answer. As an example, this is how I did my selection for the October Members Only Show winners.

For this show, I did my selection of winners early in the morning from my iPad. Using the iPad for this process was a first for me as I usually do the voting from the CCWS website's preview program before posting the show to the web. The use of this preview program has allowed me a great deal of freedom in viewing the show as I can stop a frame, go back, forward etc. As a side note this process could also be available for all members who use an iPad. If you think this would benefit your selection please let me know. I can make a duplicate version of the show for this viewing freedom. This version will work on iPhone as well.



Now let's return to the subject of how the judging is done.

All judging that I have witnessed and participated in involves a first viewing the show which is done without selecting any individual paintings for consideration. The purpose is to "frame" the show. This means to fix the body of work as a whole. The next viewing of the show is to determine the selection of impact paintings. "Impact," meaning paintings that have a high degree of visual recognition. This is normally described in a gallery as ones that catch your interest when viewed across the room. For example, like seeing someone in a red coat with a snow scene as a background.

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.

Member News

President's Message

Continued from page 2

Once this impact painting selection pass is complete it is time for a very close look at the entire show again to locate those paintings that are outstanding for non-impact reasons. Now, the complete list of paintings selected will be considered as possible winners. I next prepare a spreadsheet which has several items that will be rated for each painting selected. The items I used for the October show were design, value, use of media and

harmony of the painting. When the spreadsheet has been developed I view the show one more time and rate each of the individual paintings from 1 to 10. Now for one more viewing of the show as a double check that my list is complete.

From this point, it is just a matter of mathematics to determine the ranking of the show winners.

Congratulations to all who entered the October show and especially those that participated in the winners selection.

Jerry Smith

Annual CCWS Membership Fees

If you are a current dues-paid CCWS Member in good standing for the year 2020 . . .

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the loss of our regular activities, your membership will be extended through **December 31, 2021**

The normal membership year is from January 1 to December 31.

COVID-19 UPDATE

by President Jerry Smith

Where are we going and when will we resume CCWS programs?

Lets look at some hard facts.

- Most of CCWS's membership is in the 50-plus age bracket.
- 85% of all COVID-19's 227,000 plus deaths are in this age bracket.
- A new long-term forecast predicts a significant increase in COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. by the new year.
- There are many public health researchers who advise that we avoid the "three C's" — closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowds, and close-contact settings.
- Restaurants have attempted to make indoor dining safer by requiring masks, reducing capacity and spacing out tables, but a growing body of evidence suggests *it is still a high-risk activity*.
- Under the latest projections from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington's School of Medicine, COVID-19 deaths could rise to 410,451 by the end of

2020. In a worst-case scenario, there could be an estimated 620,029 fatalities.

- The difference between the projected and worst-case scenarios comes down to how diligent authorities are in mandating masks and social distancing, according to the report.
- Dr. Fauci says, "I do foresee that with a successful vaccine and the continuation of some form of public health measures, as we progress through the months of 2021, getting towards the third and fourth quarter, we will see a considerable approach towards some form of normality."

Now with all these points to consider, CCWS's wonderful church meeting venues must consider the health of all users of their facilities and their doors are still closed. If you have reached this point in this article, you will understand a little better why CCWS may not be able or advised to restart our in person programs until at least the third quarter of 2021.

Have a quiet holiday season and stay well.

OCTOBER 2020



Currently Showing in the CCWS VIRTUAL ONLINE GALLERY

Our virtual October Members Only Show which was posted November 4th is currently available for viewing on the CCWS website. Be sure and check out the show if you haven't already.

A big thank you to the 36 artists who entered the show and the 62 members who took the time to vote for their favorites. Just a side note, there was a 2 vote difference between 1st and 2nd.

Folks seem to be enjoying the online shows that have temporarily replaced the pop-up galleries that we usually have at our normal monthly meetings.

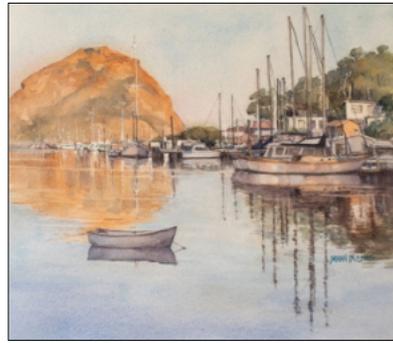
CONGRATULATIONS WINNERS of the October Online Members Only Show!

First Place



"Dalidio Ranch"
by Chuck Crotser

Second Place



"Morning Stillness"
by Sarah DeLong

Honorable Mentions



"Ivy the Waterdog"
by Marjory Abeyto



"Spring Will Come"
by Carol Roberts



"Happy Burritos"
by Mary Osko

A Note About the Winning Paintings –
The Virtual October Show closed November 10th, and we felt it would be too rushed to get comments from the winning artists in time to publish

them in this issue. We did however want to announce and congratulate the winners. Comments about the paintings will be published in the 1st Quarter 2021 issue, available February 14th.



"Trash Talking," 15" X 22"

"Trash Talking"

by **Diann Johnston, Patty Litzenberger, Dalna Mills and Pat Soenke**

This is a fun story about how four really good friends collaborated on a work of art during a pandemic when painting together wasn't advisable.

In the October Virtual Members Show on the CCWS website you might remember this painting. It didn't win an award, however, the story behind it won my admiration and I felt the need to share it with all of our readers. I asked the ladies to send me their version of

how the painting was created.

One more reason I wanted to share this story. There's a chance it might inspire others within our membership to form a similar collaborative group to create a painting. To this end, webmaster Jerry has said he would be happy to create a category in the April Member Show for paintings created in this fashion. Depending on how many entries of this type are received of course.

Pat Soenke shares her version of the painting "Trash Talking." For many years, Dalna, Diann, Patty and I have gotten together to paint somewhere in the county. We usually paint outside, or if the weather is bad, we find a place inside.

Diann was the instigator for this collaborative project and stretched the paper and got everything ready to go. The painting started out with an abstract background that included some stenciling. We passed the painting around and each person added to it. It involved some collage, layering of paint, and more stenciling. When it looked finished, we got together for a masked and distanced critique and decided it was done.

It's pretty scary to paint on the same painting with 3 other people, but the agreement was to make it fun and to just see what materialized. I love the bold nature of this painting, the humor that evolved and the story it tells.

We're starting work on another. I hear that the background is done and the next person in line is starting on it. Haven't seen it yet - can't wait!

Diann Johnston, the instigator, shares her take on the collaborative painting "Trash Talking." Pat, Patty and Dalna have been really encouraging friends. I had never done plein air/journaling, and they generously welcomed me to join them in a weekly painting outing. We have been painting together for quite a while, sharing experiences and techniques, and just enjoying the exploration of art together. I could not resist asking them if they would want to participate in a collaborative piece - just to enjoy the work of one another, and to create something together. It was really an interesting process. It reminded me of the challenges we each face in our individual work, like solving a puzzle. When I received the painting, I had to set it up, reflect, figure out

what inspired me in the composition and how I could achieve my own approach to what was there. It made me smile, just the idea and that we all feel comfortable enough to just enjoy the process. We are currently working on the next one, and a different order in passing the painting. Order last time was Pat, Patty, Dalna and Diann. The first one last time, will be the last in line this time. Can't wait!



The artists from left to right: Patty Litzenberger, Diann Johnston, Pat Soenke and Dalna Mills.

AUGUST 2020

Members Only Show

presented by
CCWS CENTRAL
COAST
WATERCOLOR
SOCIETY

VIRTUAL ONLINE GALLERY

And the winners are . . .

CCWS hosted another great virtual online show in August.

Our President, Jerry Smith, has been hard at work and doing a wonderful job of producing virtual art shows on our CCWS website for all of our members to participate in and enjoy. We owe him a big thank you for providing this activity while many of us are mostly still staying at home. Hopefully we are using this time to create beautiful artwork.

The winners of the August show were asked to tell us a little bit about their paintings, just as they would be asked at one of our "pop-up" instant gal-

leries at our monthly meetings. Their answers are shown with their winning painting.

In an unusual turn of events we had a tie for first place in this show. I've presented them here alphabetically for lack of a better way to honor two talented artists with excellent paintings in our show.

For this August show, we added a new award. Hoping to encourage new artists, we gave an award for the best painting from an artist entering an online show for the first time.

Congratulations to all the August Winners!

First Place Winners, August 2020 Members Only Show

CCWS Signature Members, Diann Johnston and Rosanne Seitz



"Mixed Blessings"
by Diann Johnston

"Mixed Blessings" was done from a picture of Wanda, my hiking buddy. I had taken it for the "California Vibe" workshop, but never used it. I decided to paint Wanda after completing "30 Portraits in 30 Days." I have never done portraits before and I was feeling inspired.

This was an attempt to do a portrait. I anticipated that it would be really difficult, but it turned out to be surprisingly quick and straightforward. I did do a small color study that resolved some of the compositional and color issues.

Continued on next page.



"Laguna Wetlands"
by Rosanne Seitz

My inspiration for this painting came to me as I was driving on Foothill Boulevard one evening at sunset between O'Connor Way and Los Osos Valley Road. At the lowest spot I looked to the right and saw the sunset with the light reflected in the ponds of water in the pasture. There was an egret and the whole scene was beautiful. The next day I went back and took photos. Then I did the painting at home because parking at that spot was impossible.

Continued on next page.

Diann

Continued from page 6

With this "portrait attempt," I was trying to express Wanda. She is half Irish and half Chumash, and grew up in Santa Maria. She appreciates nature and loves animals and this portrait seemed to capture her spirit. The flag behind her is a Chumash tribal flag. Like in this time of COVID, the title "Mixed Blessings" seems appropriate.

Rosanne

Continued from page 6

I decided to do a full sheet watercolor so that I would have enough space to show the sky and the expanse of land leading up to the water. I wanted to be sure to capture the light of the sunset and sky hitting the top of the layers of foliage as it moved closer to the foreground.

If I were to paint this again, I would leave out the top of the hill that is farthest back on the left side. It is accurate but not needed for the message of this painting which is the color and the majesty that drew me to it. That was the message I wanted to share.

First Time Winner – Virtual Show

This award is for the best painting by an artist who has never entered any CCWS online show before.

Janet von Freyman

My inspiration for this painting was a picture I took when I visited Kyoto, Japan a few years ago. Gion is Kyoto's Geisha district where hostesses work in the clubs and restaurants. It is also where women apprentice and learn to be a Geisha. I was told none of the Geisha want their pictures taken when they are walking on the street. Also, that apprentice Geisha do not wear full robes, only jackets. As I was leaving the district, the van I was in stopped at a crosswalk for an apprentice Geisha to cross the street. She appeared to be walking away from Gion after a day's work. This woman struck me as so forlorn and distant. I snapped the photo through the window and was able to capture only the top half of her. Over the years, I looked at the picture numerous times. Partly because she looks so forlorn and partly because I love the colors of her jacket. And always I wondered if I could paint her. She has been on my "try to paint" list of for quite a while.

This painting was a challenge for me. I was motivated to capture her so did a rough charcoal and then a detailed graphite sketch. I usually do a detailed graphite sketch so I can see the values and the aspects that you think you see but don't. I use the detailed sketch as a value study



"Geisha Apprentice, Kyoto Japan"
by Janet von Freyman

when I start to paint. I sketched the outline on the watercolor paper and completed the pen and ink first. I left it on my easel for a month and looked at it each day. I was afraid to start as I was uncertain as to how I could paint the robe and give the feeling of the material and folds. Same with the face, I was uncertain. But in the end, I followed the darks and lights and tried not to think about the objects.

I wanted to capture and express her forlornness and her beauty. A limited palette seemed appropriate for the mood of this painting, in the end I used only 4 colors, one of which was the white gouache on her face because the white of the watercolor paper did not convey her masked looking appearance.

More Winners on the next page.

August Members Only Show

Continued from page 7

Honorable Mention Winners, August 2020 Members Only Show



"Mail Pouch Barn"
by Chuck Croster

Chuck Croster

Since moving to SLO in 1966, I've always been intrigued by this barn on Highway 1, just north of town. A number of years ago, the

barn was re-roofed and the historic sign was lost. I came across an old image of this structure and decided to paint an impression. Of course Bishop Peak provides an amazing backdrop for this setting. I've done a number of sketches and paintings of Bishop Peak, and it never gets old.

I'll admit that I've always enjoyed painting ranches and farmsteads, so it was easy to select this painting from a number of paintings that I've recently done. Although the detail of the barn has changed, I still enjoy viewing this local iconic scene as I pass by. As the light changes throughout the day, so does the mood. I purposefully utilized a more colorful palette in this interpretation, while still trying to maintain the key compositional elements. I wanted to capture the juxtaposition of the structure with Bishop Peak as well as the "layering" of the landscape and topography as the scene recedes. The colorful palette allowed me to convey a more joyous rendition of the scene.

If I were to paint this subject again, I think I might try it in a vertical format and provide more focus on the structure. Currently, I don't believe that there is a strong enough focal point. The barn, the peak and the landscape elements seem to have equal importance in terms of value.



"Nashville Farmer's Market"
by Mary Gilman

Mary Gilman

Almost a year ago, I explored Nashville, TN, on my way to attend a wedding in Sevierville, and, as usual, I painted a couple of scenes outside, one of which was near

a farmer's market, which featured huge pumpkins, baskets of squash, cairns of pumpkins, masses of chrysanthemums, in addition to the usual fruits and vegetables. The vibrant autumn colors impressed me, even though I had come there to paint the elevated railroad trestle nearby, so I sketched and photographed the market and kept thinking about the pumpkins and flowers. Finally, last month, I painted "Nashville Farmer's Market" with the goal of capturing the exciting colors and dramatic contrast between the bright sunshine and deep shadows under awnings and of revisiting some paints I have had for years and have hardly touched, a set of Yarka dry watercolors. I added figures from a photo to the sketch I had made on location, and I rearranged the elements of the scene to provide a pathway.

Usually, I paint large, but for this painting, I used a page in a sketchbook. The smaller in size and different paints created less transparency than I usually achieve, but I enjoyed the change. I ended up using concentrated paints that were bold, like the subject. If I were to paint this scene again, I would probably revert to using a half sheet of 140 or 300 pound paper and my regular tube paints. I would strive for more watercolor effects than I have in this painting, which looks like gouache or tempura, even though I didn't use any white.

I did paint the railroad trestle as soon as I returned from my trip, but I like this painting better.

One more Winner on next page.

August Members Only Show

Continued from page 8



"Street Band"
by Mary Ann Osko

One More Honorable Mention Winner, August 2020 Members Only Show

Mary Ann Osko

There is nothing more dramatic than the effects of low lights, loud music, and funny looking band members. That's what inspired me to paint this watercolor, "Street Band," of a farmer's market I visited in Tucson, Arizona.

I began with thin washes to block in the shapes and define the composition. The values were built up gradually, and I painted the figures loose and distorted, with no detail on their faces. In an earlier version, I had more space between some of the figures, but I repainted it, placing the center player higher, and overlapping the others. If I were to do this painting over, I would use more cool colors, since the event occurred in the evening, and the light was low.

The memory of this performance had stayed in my mind and developed into a subject I wanted to paint. Freed from a show theme, I had the freedom to explore this event without shifting my attention to a subject more in keeping with an assigned theme.

WELCOME to CCWS

The Central Coast Watercolor Society would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members and welcome back those who are rejoining.

Marjory Abeyta
Los Osos

Welcome Back

Jeri Edwards
Arroyo Grande

Thomas Lawlor
Atascadero

Gary Miyamoto
Atascadero

A Great Way to Stay Connected!

 **Members' ArtSpace
on Facebook**

**OPEN for
Business!**

A place to share your paintings with other members and see what other artists are working on as well as stay connected to a community while being quarantined at home.

This is a closed group linked to the CCWS Facebook page. You must be a CCWS member to join and post.

Log in to your Facebook account. Then click on "Visit Group" under the CCWS banner.

You will be taken to the "Members' ArtSpace" page. Underneath the photo, click on "Join." You must answer the question provided. The moderator, Mari O'Brien, will review your answer and approve your membership based on your answer to the question.

Thank you to Mari for hosting and monitoring this internet space for our group to use.

Join the community today!

“I’ll Take You There”

“As I was driving around the Carrizo Plain in March, I was keeping my eye on the clouds and the way the sun would shine through at different times to highlight the vast expanse of grassland. The clouds were spectacular that day and arranged themselves into a beautiful composition.”



“Boundless” by Rosanne Seitz, 29" x 37"



CCWS Signature Member, Rosanne Seitz's

normal painting practices have provided her the perfect activity during the months of COVID-19 terror. It turns out that you can easily, safely and naturally socially distance while you are plein-air painting, even with other painters. You are outside in the fresh air with beautiful scenery, not “locked down” in the house. For Rosanne it probably just feels normal since she has spent a good deal of her painting career outside painting incredible landscapes.



“Temetate Ridge Foothills”
by Rosanne Seitz, 22" x 28"

Her solo show and sale at Art Central entitled *“I’ll Take You There”* features over 20 works

An Art Central Gallery Show

featuring
Rosanne Seitz

through November 23rd

Mon-Sat 10am-4pm



created and inspired by her trips to some of the beautiful, majestic places on the Central Coast. If you hurry, you will still have time to catch the exhibit which runs through November 23, 2020. Art Central is located at 1329 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo.

Benefitting “Learning Among the Oaks”



A portion of the proceeds from this show will benefit ‘*Learning Among the Oaks*,’ a program of the San

Luis Obispo Land Conservancy which is carried out at 2 or 3 local schools and educates youth on our Oak Woodland habitats and wildlife. Hopefully the students will go on to lead hikes or give programs to others. You can learn more by visiting their page on the ‘Land Conservancy of SLO’ website. Etty, (owner of Art Central) has offered to match Rosanne’s donation to this wonderful program.



Video sampling of the show.

<https://vimeo.com/465149132>

Just in case there is someone in our group that doesn’t know about Art Central, I would like to give Etty, her staff and her store a shameless plug and a “big” thank you. Etty opened the store nine years ago and during the COVID pandemic she has managed to make art supplies available to our local creatives even when we couldn’t go inside. Curbside service worked out great. The 2400 sq ft store includes just about anything you might need to make art as well as a 1000 sq ft Fine Art Gallery which routinely showcases the work of our many talented local artists. In non-COVID times there is also a wide selection of workshops and demonstrations with local instructors. These will continue again when appropriately safe to do so. There is a membership discount program for frequent buyers that Etty says, “if you’re an art supply store junkie, it might just be worth your while!” Check out Art Central on Facebook and Instagram @ArtCentralSLO.

Monthly Meetings on Hold:

CCWS normally meets the last Tuesday of each month except for December. Due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic, we will not be meeting until the State of California, the CCWS Board of Directors and the CCWS Membership feel it is safe to do so.

Until We Meet Again:

December 2020

A **Special Christmas Card Show** for those of you who paint your own Christmas cards. You can send them virtually to the entire membership via our CCWS website online gallery, no postage required. Something tells me a lot of us wouldn't mind some extra Christmas cheer this year. More information on the front page.

February 2021

Aquarius Show – This will be an online virtual show, but it will be juried and judged by renowned local artist, Bob Burrige. He will judge this show as though it was a traditional gallery show.

Awards: 1st, 2nd and 2 Honorable Mentions

Digital JPEG and Entry Form Deadline: February 1, 2021, 10:00 pm

Entry Fee: Free for current dues-paid CCWS members
Non-members, \$30 one painting, \$40 for two paintings

Only one painting per artist may be selected

Posting of accepted artists and winners: **February 14th**

Please read the complete show prospectus at this link.

April 2021

Members Only Show – Virtual Gallery

This show will continue our online virtual galleries and will follow the same format and procedures that we have done in 2020.

June 2021

Members Only Show – Virtual Gallery

Until we can have gallery space and visit freely another virtual show will have to do.

Monday Morning

Paint-In

presented by
CCWS
CENTRAL
COAST
WATERCOLOR
SOCIETY

Our Monday group painting sessions at the Nipomo Community Presbyterian Church are **on hold** until further notice.

Newsletter Deadline: The deadline for articles, photos, calendar events, member news and general information for the 1st Quarter 2021 edition of this newsletter will be **Feb 1, 2021**. Please send to jsmithp38@sbcglobal.net or dails@earthlink.net. The newsletter will be published February 15th, 2021.