

CANADIAN WATERCOLOUR

Issue #8



Winter 2023

- Thank You Renee Lipka
- New president Ian Wright & The new board of directors 2023
- Members Gallery
- Spotlight - Peggy Burkowsky
- Cynthia Cabrera - *Learn by doing nothing*
- Ingrid Lefevre exhibit
- Gord Jones - Beautiful Nature
- Upcoming IWS Canada Events

Peggy Burkowsky

The quarterly magazine by IWS Canada

A bright watercolour future as your new IWS Canada President.

For the last couple of years we have been very fortunate to have Renée Lipa guiding our organization. Throughout Covid we had to find ways to keep things going without the ability to meet in person. It certainly wasn't an easy period in which to be IWS Canada president, but she did so with great skill and dedication and for that we sincerely thank her for her many contributions.

As former IWS Canada VP for the last 2 years, I have now been confirmed by the board of directors to become the new president of IWS Canada. This is a very exciting opportunity and I will work diligently to make IWS Canada an exciting and vibrant place to be. With plenty of activities planned, and now the opportunity to meet again in person we have a lot of things planned, including our first post covid gallery exhibit spearheaded by Coral Ye Chen.

Other events to look forward to will be more meetings over zoom to discuss our work and learn from each other, as well as local in person gatherings and tours where we can visit other chapters of IWS and paint and learn in new surroundings.

I'm looking forward to this new challenge and will work as hard as I can to make IWS Canada a place where we can all become the best painters we can be by learning from each other in a tight knit community that supports each other in as many ways as possible.

Ian Wright
IWS Canada President



Statement from the new Vice President; Luan Quach

Dear colleagues,

My name is Luan Quach and I am so humbled and honoured to be the new Vice President of IWS Canada.

I live in the Greater Toronto Area with my wife Bonnie and besides painting, I enjoy watching NBA games, traveling, and spending time with my two grandkids.

After retiring from my career in engineering, I have regained full focus towards commissioning artwork, exhibitions, and holding workshops. My paintings have been fortunate enough to win many prestigious awards and be showcased internationally. I used to dabble with different mediums until I switched to watercolour as my primary medium four years ago. My specialty is vin portrait painting.

The last couple years of the pandemic have shaken up how artists traditionally create, collaborate, showcase, and inspire. With that, I am keen on evolving our "new normal" in the art world and ensuring it is continuously evolving and dynamic regardless of the circumstances. I am so proud of the IWS Mission, using art to bring people together and using our passion to promote peace, harmony, love, and acceptance of each other's differences. Since the past leadership team has set the bar so high, I'm eager to quickly get up to speed so we can get started on exciting plans for 2023. I'm very much looking forward to getting to know all of you so please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Wishing you all an exceptionally happy and safe holiday season and hope that the New Year brings you much health and happiness!

Yours truly,

Luan Quach
IWS Canada Vice President



Our new Board of Directors for 2023

President of IWS Canada: **Ian Wright**
Vice President: **Luan Quach**
Past President: **Renee Lipa**
Honorary Director: **IWS Globe President Atanur Dogan**
Treasurer: *Vacant*
Secretary: *Vacant*
Regional Directors: **Peggy Burkosky**
Youth Director: **Rose Butler**
International Director: **Coral Chen**
French Translation: **Ingrid Lefevre**
Media Manager: **Cynthia Cabrera**
Marketing & Events Coordinator: *Vacant*

**As you can see we have a few vacant spots open.
If you would like to get involved please contact us at iwscanada@gmail.com**

Thank you Renee!



Renee Lipa, our beloved president for the last 3 years is sadly moving on to greener pastures. She has been a bulwark of IWS Canada throughout the entire period of covid, most certainly very challenging times in which to oversee a watercolour society that is used to having in person workshops and gallery exhibitions. Her efforts to deal with these challenges have been exemplary, Under her supervision we instituted the online 3D gallery, and the new expanded IWS Canada magazine which you are enjoying now!

She has assured us that she is stepping down as President, but will still be around and involved with IWS Canada in the future. She has been a joy to work with. We thank her dearly for all her help and guidance, and wish her well on her new endeavours.

A tough act to follow, In her stead, former Vice President Ian Wright, will now be the new IWS Canada President, with Luan Quach as the new Vice President. We look forwards to many great new ventures to come in the future for IWS Canada.



Renee's Statement from this year's Annual General Meeting

Another year has come and gone. I have enjoyed being your president and providing leadership for the past two years. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone on the board to support you as members. I want to thank all those members who stepped up to volunteer and take part in our activities.

Looking back on the year, we started the year with a momentous event celebrating the 10th Anniversary for IWS Globe and World Watercolour Month. Members were invited to join a full day zoom workshop event featuring 7 Canadian artists and IWS Canada members Luan Quach, Cynthia Cabrera, Roberta Luchinski, Coral Ye Chen, Elena Markelova, Alice Bottrill, and Ian Wright with a guest visit from our Global President and Founder Atanur Dogan. It was an incredible day of learning and sharing.

In February, the North American Exhibition "Giving Light to the World", where IWS Canada, IWS Mexico and IWS USA collaborated to create the international exhibition in 2021, featured the top 6 international artists in a live exhibition in Mexico. Special recognition was given to our members Anne McCartney for winning first place, Luan Quach 2nd Place and Ingrid Lefevre for Best in Show Canada.

As we progressed through year, members were invited to participate in our 3D gallery exhibitions "Peace", "Heat", and "Autumn Glow". These exhibitions were showcased via our 3D online gallery and shared on our social media platforms and website. We enjoyed seeing everyone's beautiful paintings and sharing these exhibitions with our global community. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making these exhibitions a success.

At the beginning of 2021, we introduced our first IWS Canada magazine to further connect our members across Canada and internationally. This year we looked to further expand the magazine introducing more articles to help us get to know each other better and promote learning. We also worked with area reps to promote collaboration with local businesses to offer advertising and discounts to our members. All of these initiatives were a great success and I hope they will continue to keep progressing as time goes on.

As my current term as IWS Canada President comes to a close, I want to thank everyone for the encouragement and support they have given me over the past two years. It has been an amazing journey and I have enjoyed sharing it with all of you. Looking forward, I hope IWS Canada continues to grow as an organization offering new opportunities to our members and encouraging artists to continue to work together to explore new reaches for watercolor.

I wish everyone all the best.

Renee Lipka
Outgoing President IWS Canada



Thanks for everything Renee!

Members gallery of recent work

Member's Gallery



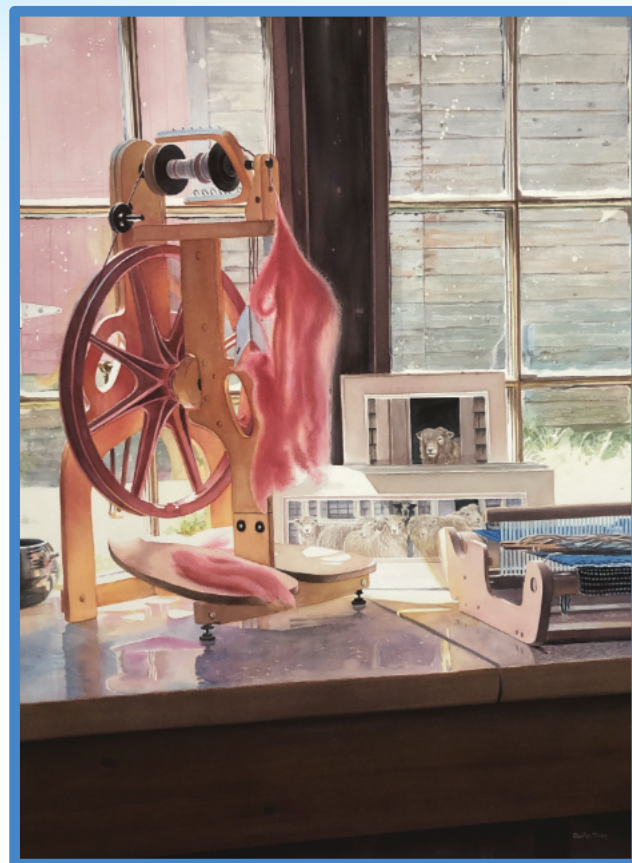
Gord Jones
Winter Song



Roy Tibbits
Old Homestead



Bonnie Steinberg
Snowfall on Dundas St.



Shelley Prior
The Country Wool Shop



Atanur Dogan
Sisters From India



Rosemary Tannock
Hanging Out



Roberta Luchinski
Silent Flight



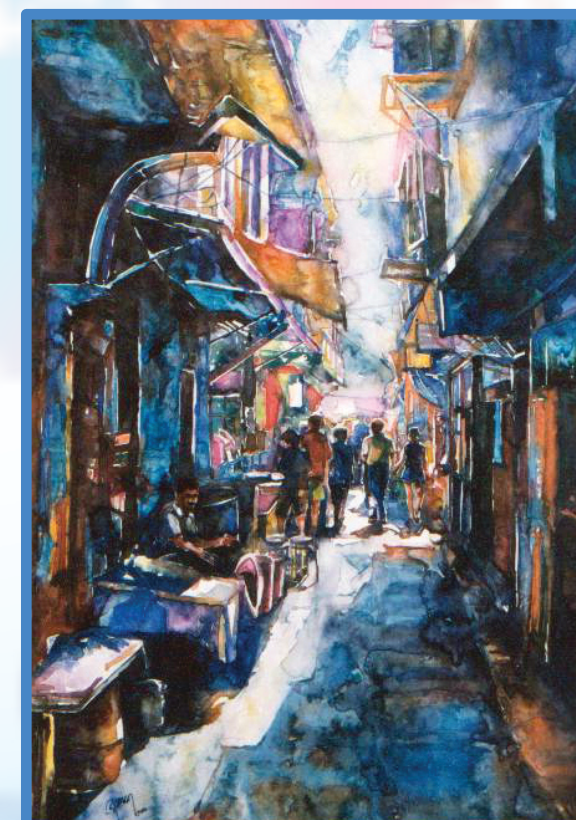
Laurel Best
Red Barn in Winter



Rita Dauchot
Cowboy



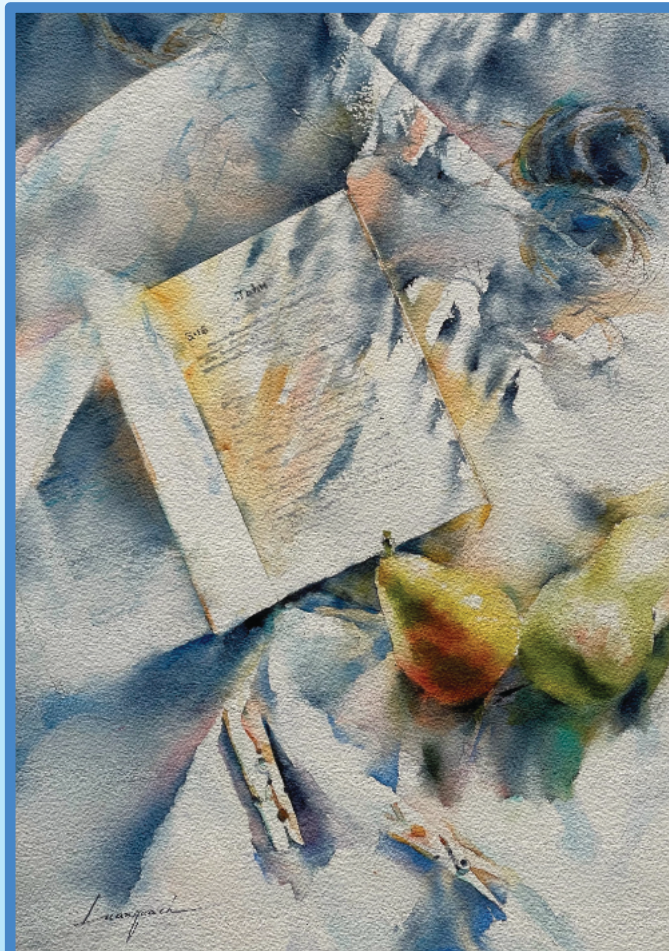
Michael Solovyev
Damn This Coffee is Too Hot



Asuman Dogan
Market Street



Luc Boivin
Relaxing Moment



Luan Quach
John 3:16

Louise Champagne
Grand Vent



Louayne Maihara
Rocky Mountain Autumn



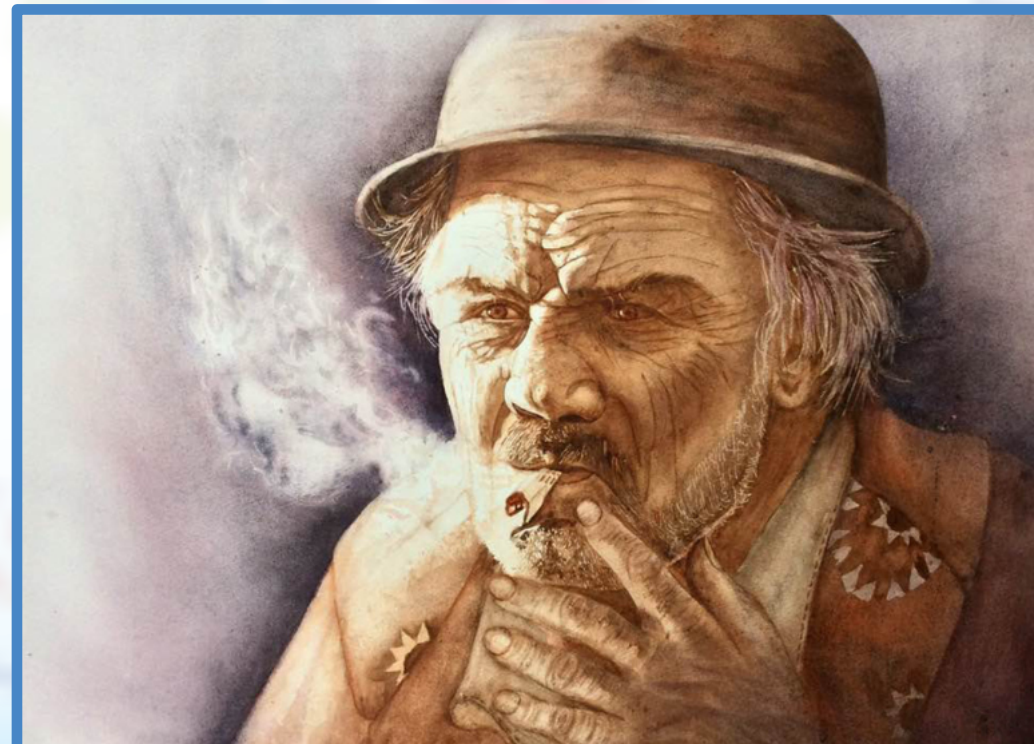
Ingrid Barviau
First Snow



Joyce Goodwin
Kitty on the Deck



Irina Bakumento
Turquoise old house in winter



Ingrid Lefevre
Matteo



Abbas nejad haghghi Azadeh
A Window in the Sun



Tracy Li
Forest in my dream



Janice Evans
First Snowfall



Aykut Gurcaglar
Gibraltar Point Lighthouse



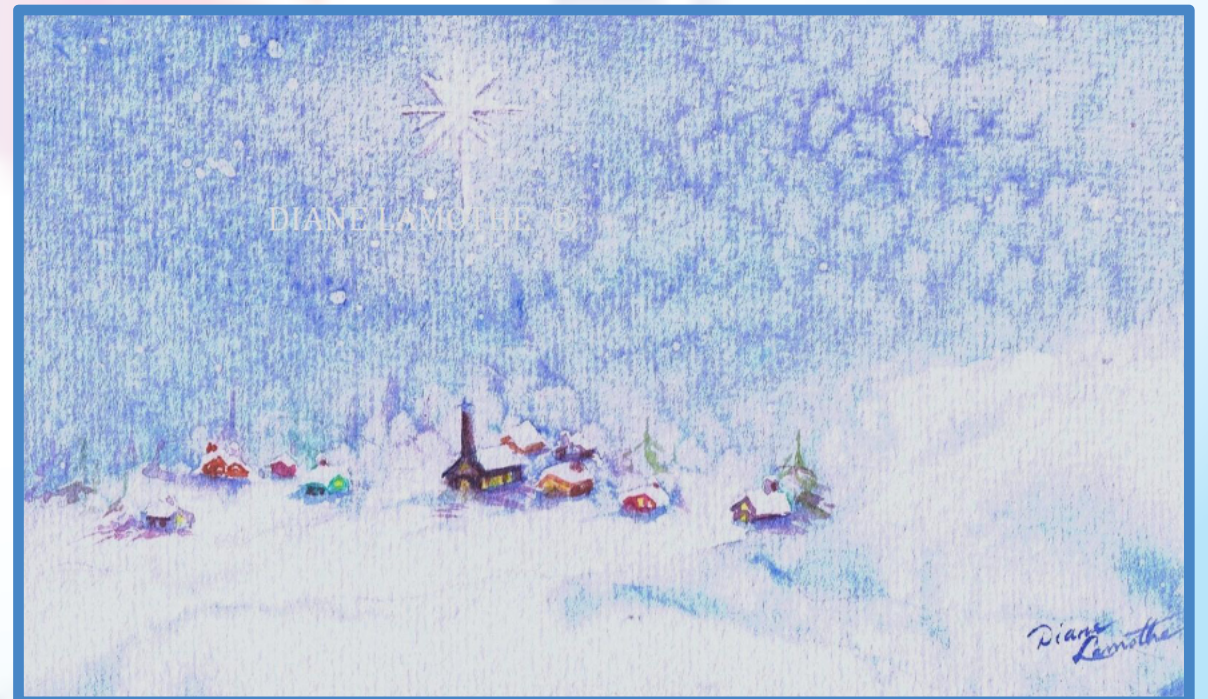
Gaetan Pelletier
Expecting Spring



Elle Zavarei
Solitude



Celinda Stevens
Drinking



Diane Lamothe
Paix de Noël



Diane Beauieu
Clairière



DeSève Andrée
Étude chevaline



Diana Avramova
Monk



Cynthia Cabrera
Portrait of Mia



Cam Wilson
Niagara On The Rocks



Ann Mackenzie
A Life Well Lived



Anca Dimoff
Jam Jar & Knife



Adele Partington
Sherwood Inn



Azadeh Abbas nejad Haghighi
Life & Love



Coral Ye Chen
A Girl



Farhad Salehi
Relax



Ian Wright
Fluffy Cat

Peggy Burkowsky

From delegate to regional director

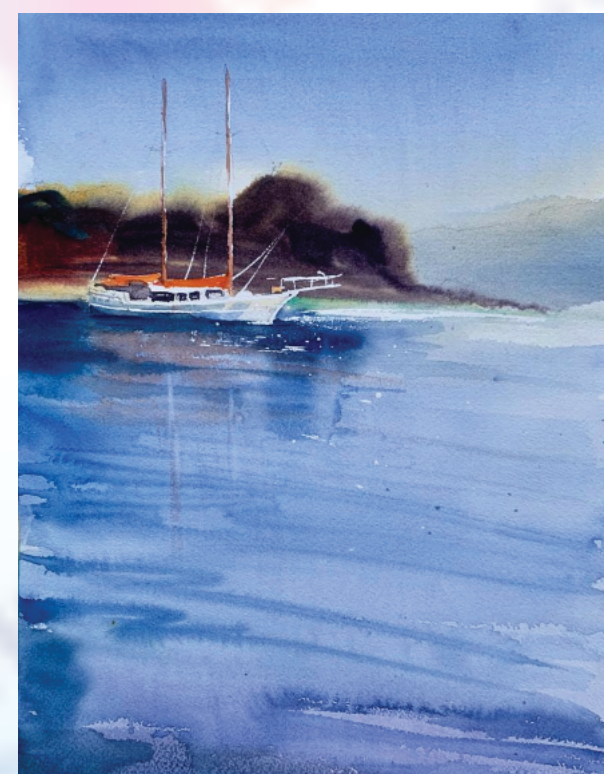
Since 1973 Peggy has experienced training in commercial design, illustration and painting through the Federation of Canadian Artists workshops and international events such as the infamous Fabriano in Aquarello, Italy in 2015. She has attended and instructed workshops in Fabriano Italy, Spain, Croatia, Japan and beyond. She is a member and instructor with the International Watercolor Society and VAWAA (Vacation With An Artist) international organization.



Donna Chamberland
Prelude to Winter



Jan Fretz
Holly Happiness



Anchored in the Aegean Sea



Swan Pond

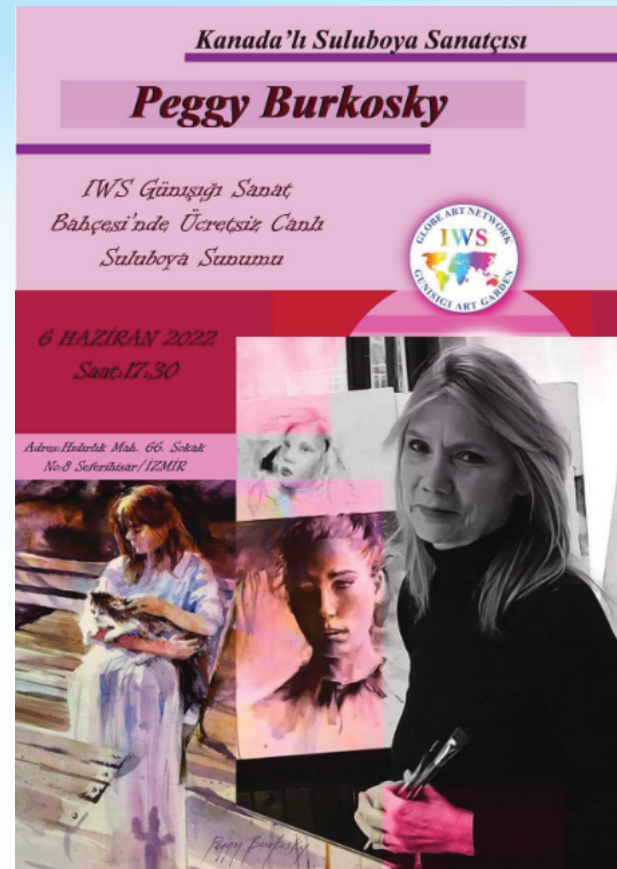
In May of 2022 I was invited as a Canadian Delegate to the "10th Anniversary Festival in Izmir, Turkey, participating in the Opening Ceremony of the Festival and Exhibition, as well as world-class watercolor artist demonstrations, exhibitions, panels and workshops.

We were honoured by welcoming speeches from the Mayor of Izmir including arts and cultural professionals from local museums and art galleries.

These events included visits to museums and heritage sites such as Ephesus. Our subsequent painting tours throughout small villages in Izmir were memorable and provided many images for future paintings. Of course painting, eating and fellowshiping with International artists and painters from Turkey was a great highlight. The Turkish culture is warm and honouring to visitors, treating us to the best of hospitality.

I was fortunate to hold demonstrations as an invited international artist in Izmir at Ekrem Gun's Art Garden and Ranatolye Art Studio.

As Regional Director for IWS Canada I look forward to building the network of watercolorists here in Canada in 2023. I will be hosting a 5 Day Art Camp organized by IWS Painting With Peggy and IWS Doganart Jan 31 to Feb 4, 2023 at The Old School House Arts Centre in Qualicum Beach BC, (Vancouver Island).



Canadian IWS Delegate in Turkey



Ancient Pathways of Mugla Turkey

Learning by doing nothing

How an Information Detox can increase your clarity and creative purpose

At the end of June, I painfully realized what I needed to do. I was neglecting many areas of my life and my creative practice was slowly becoming a source of frustration. I was overwhelmed by my always-increasing list of ideas and felt like I never had enough time for painting or whatever else I thought was imperative for me to do.

Maybe you can relate: the best way I can describe what I was feeling is Noise: Overlapping incoherent noise constantly in the background of every thought and conversation robbing me of gratitude, of being in the moment.

I presumed that I needed to do something drastic to clear my mind, but I was unsure how to stop the endless flow of information.



The first thing I decided to stop was content creation then I started sleeping more. That should have been enough, or so I thought, but every time I looked at my phone I feel immediate guilt to see what my artist friends were working on. They continued to bring beauty and inspiration to the world but for the time being, I wasn't able to appreciate their work.

Like an oversaturated sponge, I felt guilty for resting and missing out on the chance to materialize another project. Each time I said no to a potentially great endeavor I felt torn.

But my mind understood what I was trying to achieve so I decided to take a step further on my quest for silence.



Information detox

I stopped consuming social media and unsubscribed to all email newsletters making sure I made a list to subscribe back to when I felt ready (I counted 46).

I stopped watching or reading the news, and listening to podcasts, and I only read, and watched TV for recreational purposes, making sure I ceased if it stopped fulfilling its purpose.

The first few weeks were the hardest, the fear of missing out is real. All I could do was repeat the words of Morgan Harper Nichols: "You are not missing out on what is not meant for you"

"What information consumes is rather obvious: it consumes the attention of its recipients. Hence, a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention and a need to allocate that attention efficiently among the overabundance of information sources that might consume it". -Herbert Simon

Looking inward instead

There is a very effective method of honing our creative voice or "Developing a style" by consuming and filtering through the myriad of creative noises to learn what resonates. But today, I am making a case for being Selectively Ignorant.

For 59.9% of us (The percentage of the world population with internet access), the problem is not the lack of information, but too much of it.

It is imperative to learn to ignore or redirect all data and interruptions that are irrelevant, unimportant, or unactionable.

As artists, we need to say no to ideas even when they are compelling, relevant, and doable if they distract from the current goal. It is impossible to do it all, especially not at the same time.

"People think focus means saying yes to the thing you've got to focus on. But that's not what it means at all. It means saying no to the hundred other good ideas that there are. You have to pick carefully. I'm as proud of the things we haven't done as the things I have done. Innovation is saying no to 1000 things." _Steve Jobs



It seems like an extreme luxury to be able to disconnect from the world for that long. There is an argument to be made for the need for consistency when it comes to marketing our work (if marketing is indeed required) but I am willing to bet that for most of us, the desire to create something genuine and honest that transcends is the highest goal.

There cannot be too much good art out there, and good things are worth waiting for. Art lovers are not going anywhere, we can disappear and count ourselves fortunate if a handful of our followers even notice our absence

The fear of being forgotten is real. We are victims and participants of a culture that requires our constant presence to remind others that we are alive and thriving. The phrase "Out of mind, out of sight" has never been more relevant. It is contracultural to act on a different truth, that reminds us that our true friends and lovers or our work will wait and those who won't are not worth our time.

"It's hard to find anything to say about life without immersing yourself in the world, but it's also just about impossible to figure out what it might be, or how to best say it, without getting the hell out of it again".

-Tim Kreider

New beginnings

I found myself one weekend at the end of summer cleaning the studio. I allowed the general household litter and donations to take over the space and it had become a confusing mass, a ramble of scattered belongings and unfulfilled plans, projects staring me in the face mockingly, and mountains of maybes.

I took the items one by one, like a meditative act of putting back the pieces of my brain where I wanted them to be, organizing my thoughts and priorities, and donating a lot of its content.

The experience went from uncomfortable and exhausting to healing and revitalizing, the perfect final act of this experiment of nothingness.

"The greatest need of our time is to clean out the enormous mass of mental and emotional rubbish that clutters our minds and makes all political and social life a mass illness. Without this housecleaning, we cannot begin to see. Unless we see, we cannot think."

-Thomas Merton



The takeaways

It had been a while since I created something for myself that no one will ever see.

Something switched in my mind this summer, the revelation that something must be sacred.

The importance of the enjoyment of the art creation, the realization that we are here to give and experience love and not to achieve, and whatever we do and make should be an expression of that love.

I am learning that today when a myriad of information and infinite possibilities exist at our fingertips the most important skill that can be learned, is to say no.

To leave unfinished the book we started as soon as we discover that is neither nurturing, useful, nor entertaining. And (with the risk of sounding like an irresponsible citizen) turn off the news to concentrate our energy on the matters in which we can make a difference.

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes-including you".

-Anne Lamott

So one time, without really expecting it, I stopped in the middle of the day and realized the background noise was gone.

What lay between my thoughts was silence. I am not sure when I first noticed or how long it took me to get there, but I was living in the moment, and it was glorious.

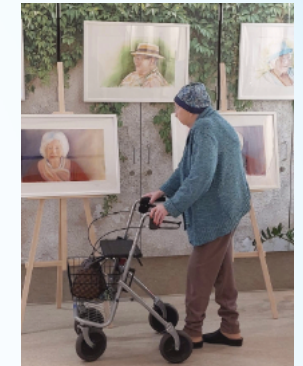
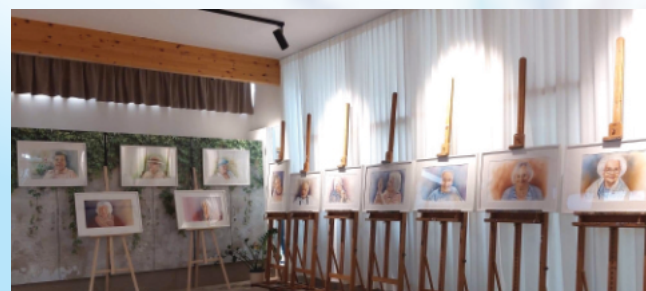
So that was the bravest, most worthwhile thing I did this summer: nothing at all.

Cynthia Cabrera is a fine artist and designer enjoying life in Western Canada. Get in touch at cynthiacabrera.art@gmail.com through Instagram DM [@cynthiacabrera.art](https://www.instagram.com/cynthiacabrera.art) or learn more about her work at www.cynthiacabreraart.com



Ingrid Lefevre - Latest Exhibition

Here are a few photos of my exhibition 'het heiveld in aquarelle' that took place from 28.10 till 6.11 in the Heiveld, (a daycare centre for retired residents.) 25 people were painted, and I also met them to talk about their life. Those texts were also in the exhibition.



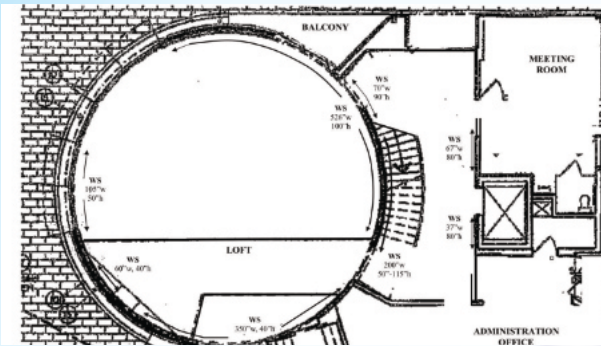
Upcoming IWS Events

IWS Canada - Live Gallery Exhibition Sept 27th 2023 to January 16 - 2024

IWS Canada has been fortunate to secure a grant and be able to present at the Michael Wright Art Gallery from **September 27th 2023 to January 16th 2024** in Port Coquitlam BC.

Thanks to Coral Ye Chen for all her hard work in securing this Grant and venue.

More info to follow soon, but for now you can have a look at some pictures from the venue.



To Celebrate World Watercolour Day (January 23rd)
IWS CANADA PRESENTS OUR...



Interactive Art Show

Monday • January 23rd

7pm to 9pm EST



Starting from 3pm (Eastern Standard Time)
A Zoom link will be sent via email to all members.

It's an online opportunity to meet fellow IWS Canada members, share your work, your favourite tips, tricks and materials, and most of all get to know fellow watercolour artists around Canada. All in support of World Watercolour Day, and IWS Globe.

World Watercolour Day January 23rd

After a successful trial run, we will be continuing our live meeting and discussion as IWS Canada's Interactive Art Show. Our contribution to World Watercolour Day, on January 23rd 2023 to include some demos and more. Monday January 23rd, 7-9pm Eastern Standard Time. We hope you can join us!

Gord Jones - Beautiful Nature



Rushing Rapids



Fall Reflections



Winter Road

Gord Jones has been a watercolour artist for over 35 years. He is an elected member of the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour and the Society of Canadian Artists. The surrounding landscape in Haliburton has been a great source of inspiration for most of his paintings. His work consists mainly of landscapes – scenes that the viewer may recognize from a walk in the woods or a view across the lake.

Gord loves how watercolour allows him to transfer the light and shadow from his photographs to his paintings. His approach is to interpret the essence of his chosen subject rather than producing detailed likenesses of actual places. He wants the viewer to enjoy the luminosity of the medium, the white of the paper shining through and the impression of the landscape with a simplicity of washes and strokes.

Gord teaches at the Haliburton School of Art & Design and is scheduled for three one-week workshops in 2023. He does regular online workshops

Ann MacKenzie - Reflections on painting

Writing an article about your painting history makes you look at memories of the journey which has long since subsided into the fog of old age. Until I was 45, I had only done acrylic, and very little of that. It took my daughters' wonderful art teacher to assign them weekly sketches to get me back into art.

Finding a class to encourage exploration of watercolour vaulted me into a love for the medium. I still take workshops when I can to experience other techniques by a wide variety of artists to expand my own skills, or, at the very least, to identify what I like doing and what I don't.

Writing this article also had me recalling that first teacher who shared the intricacies of this media and instilled some of her viewpoints I still hold. I don't own tubes of black or white. If I lose the white(ish) of the paper, it's gone; start over. Save white, mask it, or the painting doesn't have any. Don't tell her that once I cheated with gouache and a toothpick to add tiny hairs to a sunflower bud.

For the past 15 years, I have scheduled painting time with a fellow painter so I was forced to take out my project and work on it. We now meet twice a week by Facetime - she's in St. Catharines, ON, and I'm in Nova Scotia for half the year (Toronto the other half). Survival of COVID depression moved us to meet twice a week instead of once to keep ourselves



Sunflower Bud



Braided Onions



Lunch

busy and our calendars from being blank.

My paintings, the ones I do for myself, are more focused on close up subject matter like mushrooms and rocks in water and less on landscape. For years, I gave gifts of portraits to weddings after I took a course with Atanur Dogan. The commissions I take now are for urban sketches of people's homes, mostly. My first apartment in Toronto was in Roncesvalles where houses are old and vastly interesting. Now I paint homes in Lunenburg and the South Shore, and cottages around me. I do a lot of trees and shrubbery in these house portraits, so I guess landscapes are still peeking around corners.

I would describe my work as realistic despite my goal for two decades to 'loosen' up. When I work from a photo, this is especially true. Rarely are backgrounds white paper - I like to suggest things in the distance. I use masking to cover my main focus subjects so I can get more consistency in the background. I am a dedicated 'lifter' in everything I do because I like the soft effect of removing paint to reveal the negative underneath. To that end, all my paints are liftable; I buy only those which are transparent, will layer well, and which will bend to my will.

I am a great fan of splashing water and splattering paint to get texture, and dropping paint into big wet sections to see what magic the pigment will perform. Sometimes I do this to a quarter sheet (or several) and wait until it dries to see what the subject will be. My only 'loose' painting technique. Then I follow its lead.

In a workshop a few years ago, I was introduced to grape leaves as printing tools; I still do a few of these a year for the pleasure of peeling back the crusty leaf to see what hides beneath. After teaching the theory of round objects - grapes, oranges, eggs, whatever - I have my adult students do one of these grape leaf paintings by adding their own grape clusters to the result. The pleasure and surprise on their faces is thanks enough.

While I try to use my own when possible, I have stumbled on a Facebook group called 'Free Reference Photos for Artists' where there are thousands of photos of everything imaginable. Sharing a finished painting with the photographer makes us both very happy.

Watercolour painting is a hobby for me with the added perk of a few commissions when I advertise on Facebook neighbourhood groups. I suppose my goal is to actually enter a few competitions in the future.

antsyart.com

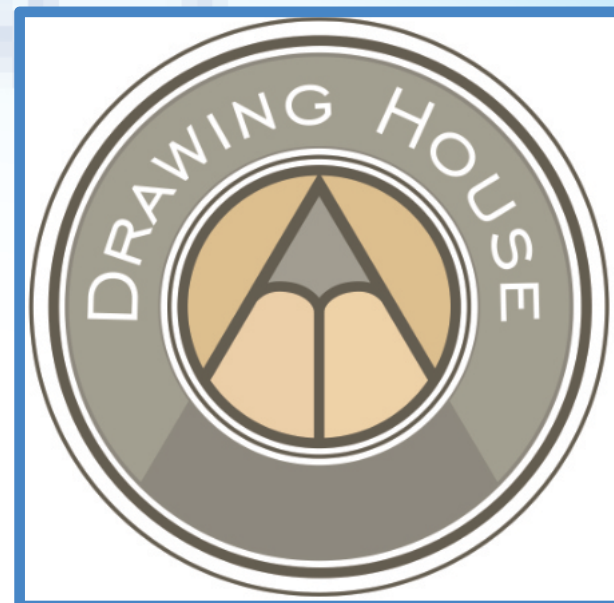


Frank's House



Translucent Gathering

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Stop by to speak with a local artist

about your latest project while you shop.

We stock a variety of artist supplies including many of the important watercolour products you desire. Our beginner level products are Koi, Fabriano, SM*LT and Strathmore. For the professional artist, a few of the brands we carry are Arches, Fabriano, Daniel Smith, Holbein, Sennelier and Winsor & Newton.



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Happy New Year 2023

Don't forget to share with us any of your upcoming events, awards, or projects. IWS Canada is here to help foster and encourage all our members to reach towards greater enjoyment and creation of watercolour in Canada and around the world. You can send your news, contributions, offers, classes and upcoming events at any time to iwscanada@gmail.com

Special Thanks to Luan Quach & Ann MacKenzie for proofreading and checking,
and Christiane Fortin for help with the French translation.