



Coachella Valley
Watercolor Society

Brush Up April 2026

General Meeting: April 13, 2026

5:45 PM Social, 6:15 PM General Meeting
at the Joslyn Center
73750 Catalina Way, Palm Desert, CA 92260

April Demonstrator: Dave Howell



For Dave Howell, watercolor painting is an attempt to relate the emotion of nature's light show. He prefers watercolor because of its spontaneous and somewhat unpredictable nature

Art has always been a passion for him. Dave studied fine art at Mesa Junior College in San Diego in the late 60s. Viet Nam and other issues interrupted the process. Later in the late 70s he studied under master watercolorist Jerry Stitt in Redmond Washington.

After a busy life as a firefighter and family provider he built a boat and sailed away for 10 years with his then girlfriend, Judy. In French Polynesia the beautiful light show reappeared.... "It was like biting into some sweet juicy fruit." Dave took up the brushes again. He painted small format works as he sailed with his now wife Judy to 36 countries and over 36,000 ocean miles

After 10 years of voyaging, Dave and Judy have moved back on land. Now having a stable land-based environment, the quest continues. He was previously active in the San Diego Watercolor Society and is a past exhibiting member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon.

Dave has now relocated to La Quinta California, where he is currently active with the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society, The Desert Art Center, Desert Plein Air Painters and he teaches watercolor art at Old Town Artisan Studios in LaQuinta.

Web site:

www.colorbydave.com

Sailings Journals:

<https://www.sailblogs.com/member/svfreebird/>

Eail:

david.onefreebird@gmail.com



Grotto



Break in the Weather



Secret Cove

President's Message



Bob Hannah, President

CVWS 2025 – 2026 Officers

President: Bob Hannah

Exec. VP: Connie Zane

1st VP- Programs:

Open

2nd VP – Shows:

Mary Anne Brower &
Ian Cooke

3rd VP – Publicity:

Kathy Weyer

Treasurer: Cindy Mason

Recording Secretary:

Alicia Siegler

Corresponding Secretary -

Newsletter: Jean Grover

2025-2026 Committee

Chairs:

DVD Library: Vera Knowles

Grants: Nancy Rizzardi

Membership:

Connie Collins

Painter of the Month/Year:

Connie Zane

Raffle: Sharon Mabrey

Sunshine: Cindy Green

Web Chair: Lance Brechbill

Workshops:

Sue Ober & Traci Davis

April 2026

The big Annual Show has come and gone but the accolades keep coming! Ian Cooke and Mary Ann Brower, co-chairs, and their vast army of volunteers did an outstanding job in organizing and implementing this large undertaking. The two co-chairs were very quick to give credit to all the volunteers. Everyone commented on how well the exhibition was presented in the best gallery in Palm Desert. This year the extra exhibition day was well received by all who attended, and many people purchased some great artworks from our incredible members.

The winners of our show were numerous and very well represented across our society membership. They will be listed and mentioned later in this newsletter along with their winning paintings and photos of the artists.

The Amit Kapoor workshop beginning on the 23rd of March will be one not to miss. As a world recognized “Master” watercolorist he will be teaching and demonstrating his talent to lucky student attendees for four incredible days of learning. There are a few open spots still available so don't miss this one!

March was the month of announcing a proposed slate of elected officers for the next bi-annual season. An election committee, comprised of Connie Collins, Jean Grover, Cindy Mason and Kathy Weyer developed a slate of candidates for presentation to the membership. The slate, along with the opportunity to make nominations from the floor were presented at the March general meeting & in this newsletter. In April we will conduct a vote at the general meeting to confirm the election results for the next two seasons.

Our demonstrator for March was Mike Cedeno, a CVWS member and a former employee of the Walt Disney company for many years. He has won numerous awards and last year received the Best of Show at the Desert Plein Air festival. Thank you, Mike. The demonstrator for April will be our own Dave Howell.

April will also be our last general meeting until the fall, since the May meeting will be conducted via Zoom with our Painter of the Year (POY) competition. Remember if you've won any ribbon during the season at our Painter of the Month, you're eligible to enter a painting in the POY.

Keep up those miles on the brush,

Bob

March 2026 Painter of the Month

Photos courtesy of Terry Simons

1st Place: Annette Zack



2nd Place: Atsuko Hewett



3rd Place: Juli Sexton



Honorable Mention: Kyoko Iguchi



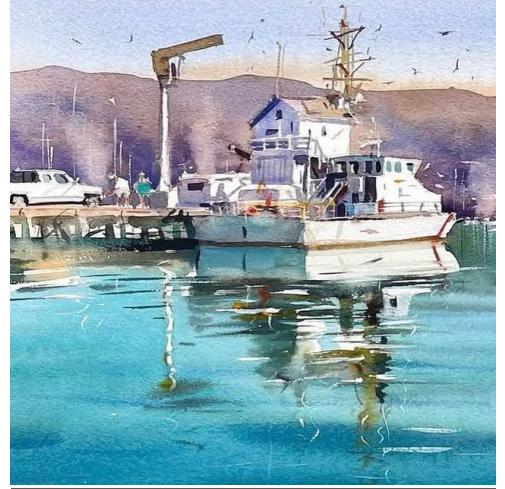
Demonstrator's Choice: Laura Biscaro



To enter POM, text or phone Connie Zane at 775-846-9719

Workshops

CVWS Watercolor Workshop with Amit Kapoor



We are thrilled to be able to bring this exclusive four-day watercolor workshop featuring world renowned master Amit Kapoor to our CVWS membership. If you are looking to master the wet-on-wet technique or find more confidence in your brushwork you need to take up this rare opportunity to learn from this global master right here in the desert.

Event Details:

March 23 – 26, 2026

Hosted at our premier location with the Best Western on highway 111,
Palm Desert, California

- Capturing light, landscape and value.
- Watch Amit's process from initial sketch to final washes.
- One on one feedback to help you refine your style.
- Learn to create glow and depth in your paintings.

"Watercolour is not just about painting; it's about playing with water and light" – Amit Kapoor

There are still a few spaces left. Please register now before this opportunity is gone.: Visit our website www.cvws.org to register or contact me for more information. watertonsue@gmail.com

Susan Ober – CVWS volunteer

Membership

Welcome to New CVWS Members:

- Janet Barajas
- Anne Finch
- Emelita Gascon
- Sandra Kalas
- Kathryn Kleiter
- Alice Santos
- Jane Zimmer

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

Submitted by Connie Zane

Really, it's me.

The other day, someone told me they enjoy these short essays and, in the same breath, asked if I write them myself or if they are AI generated. Let me assure you that I would not be putting my name on something that was not my own, any more than I would dream of putting it on a piece of artwork that was produced by Artificial Intelligence.

I'm not put off by the question, since it was asked by someone who knows me well and I know they did not intend to offend; they just were curious. They were expressing appreciation for something while simultaneously questioning its legitimacy. And that is what strikes me as an oddly disturbing product of our current ethos.

The seeds of doubt sowed in the past several years have made us wary of many things that we previously used to trust - things we automatically assumed were genuine. Now, when we see something as really good, do we automatically ponder if it was constructed by a "super" brain, rather than a human? Did our creative spirit just get hijacked by a machine?

For a while now, I've wondered how long it will be before we also mistrust the artwork that is submitted for our own shows. Are Computer-Generated graphics legit? Can we conjure up a great design with AI input and print out a perfect painting? Can anyone detect that that's what we've done? It brings a whole slew of moral and judgmental questions into view. I pose no answers; Just food for thought. It's concerning and will require our attention at some point. Artificial Intelligence offers us a lot, but caution must also come into play as we learn to use it.

In regard to my monthly written ramblings, perhaps in the future I'll misspell a few words and come up with some poorly-constructed sentences to convince you that it's truly a real person writing this.

Membership, continued

Correction: New member Jean Bradley's name was incorrect in the March 2026 CVWS Newsletter, so we express our apologies to Jean.

You may remember **Jean Bradley** from a demonstration she did for us last December.

Jean decided to join CVWS after several of our members encouraged her to do so.

She is a lifetime artist, beginning when she was a child. She knew at eight years old she wanted to be an artist.

Jean began to work with acrylics after thirty years with watercolor; she wanted bright colors and so began working with acrylics. She has shown her art in various places, won first prize in the Whittier Art Gallery, and an Honorable Mention in another event.

Jean and her husband, who is a metal sculptor, lived here for ten years and moved to New Hampshire; they stayed for six years, and decided that wasn't the place for them, so they moved back last June for good. They have four sons, none of whom have picked up the art bug from two artist parents.

They lived in Hawaii for ten years, where they had a special spot at the Hyatt where they sold coconuts painted on coconuts, which turned into a great business, adding items for sale. They moved back after 9/11.

They have joined the Artist Council and DAC. In fact, Jean began teaching an acrylics class at DAC beginning February 16 on Mondays from 1:00-4:00.

Welcome Jean!



Membership, continued

JUST FOR FUN PROJECT

– Submitted by Kat Weyer

This is a palette cleanser after the show, giving us an opportunity to just have some fun and explore something new!

We had photographs given by various photographers in the community at our March meeting for members to take home and interpret using any medium they want on paper: watercolor, collage, paper art, a little bling, your choice, and to have some fun and play! If you did not attend the meeting and want to participate, please email katmweyer@gmail.com. We can get a photo to you via email.

Please, we want the presentations to look pretty much the same, so:

- **Don't Mat it**
- **Don't Frame it**
- **Don't Sign it**

Just bring your photograph with your art to the April meeting. Your artwork will next go to the Pen Women for an interpretation using poetry or a short story based on your piece, so please remember to bring it!

We will put your masterpieces on our website for everyone to see and will get everything back to you via snail mail since we are at the end of our season.

Thanks to all who participate!

Kat

Correction to March 2026 CVWS Newsletter:

Due to this editor's misunderstanding of the origins and nature of the JUST FOR FUN project, some editorial decisions were made in the CVWS March newsletter that implied the project was an official collaboration between DAC and CVWS. (This error was subsequently corrected in the online March 2026 version of the newsletter.) So, to clarify, the JUST FOR FUN project, initially conceived by Diana Shay Diehl of Mojave Light Studio and a member of DAC, was not intended to be an official collaboration between The Desert Art Center and the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society, only a creative project to be enjoyed by some artists who may be members of one or both organizations. - JG

News

2026 CVWS ANNUAL SHOW



What a Show!

Well, after all the preparation and a lot of hard work from the many volunteers, we have competed another marvelous show. It really was a great effort and all the volunteer teams coordinated well. Mary Anne and I appreciate all the effort put in by so many people. The Artists Center commented how well our volunteer system works (and they see lots of shows over the year)! We also had a great judge in Mark Leonard, who took a lot of time selecting the winners. Anyway, congratulations to the following for their awards and wonderful art.

We also particularly want to express our thanks to the sponsors who donated vouchers and gift certificates to many of our winners. Just that little something extra to add to the colored ribbons.

Now, we are aware that nothing is perfect, so if you have ideas or comments, please send us an email. We already have the dates booked for the first week March 2027, so jot your ideas down now before you forget!

Ian Cooke and Mary Anne Brower

Thank You to everyone who made the CVWS 2026 Annual Show such a success!

- Co-Chairs Mary Anne Brower & Ian Cooke
- Publicity – Kat Weyer & all who distributed show cards
- Transportation - Dave Ruechelle
- Take In - Diane Schoenrock and her team of volunteers
- Hanging Team – Ian Cooke & his great crew
- Show Photographer – Terry Simons
- Show Demonstrators – Kathleen Scoggin, Jean Bradley, Dave Howell, Terry Simons, Connie Zane, Karin Harris, and Suzy Voss
- Raffle Baskets – Sue Ober & Raffle Sales team
- Visitor's Sign in - Annette Fragasso & team
- Cashiers – Connie Collins, Cindy Mason & team of volunteers
- Show Check-out – Traci Davis and team

2026 CVWS ANNUAL SHOW, continued

Photos courtesy of Terry Simons

Best of Show:

Mike Pascavage

Throwing Shade



Publicity Award:

Jennifer Winn

After the Rain



Emerging Artist:

Karen Stein

Town Center



Traditional Category:

First Place:

Annette Zack

Autumn Vines



Second Place:

Robin St. Louis

An Offering of Flowers



Third Place:

Dave Ruechelle

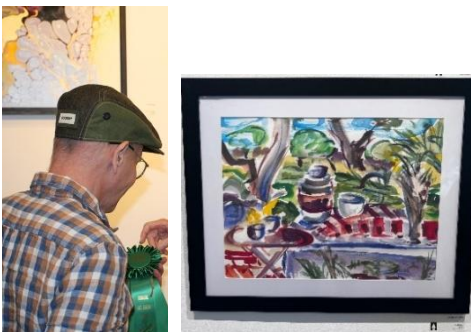
Bodega Pier



Traditional Category Honorable Mentions:

Richard Fox

Objects on a Patio



Mary Anne Brower

Spring Flight



George Dobosh

Abducted



2026 CVWS ANNUAL SHOW, continued

Traditional Category Honorable Mentions, continued:

Ian Cooke
Red as Rubies



Alicia Siegler
High Desert



Suzy Voss
Sun Worshipper



Open Category

First Place:
Ellen Jean Diederich
Magic of the Night



Second Place:
Karin Harris
Mist in Golden Mountains



Third Place:
Cindy Mason
Fall in Small Town



Open Category Honorable Mentions:

Jean Bradley
Blue



Jean Grover
Mala Pua



Mandy Main
Amber Glow



2026 CVWS ANNUAL SHOW, continued

Mini Masters Category:

First Place:

Sylvia Smith
Romantic Afternoon



Second Place:

Traci Davis
The Family Tree



Third Place:

Deborah Harrup
Pretty in Pink



Mini Masters Honorable Mentions:

Kyoko Iguchi
Guardian Angel



Maggie Dover
Autumn Landscape



Arlene Hirsch
Sea Flowers



2026 CVWS ANNUAL SHOW STATISTICS

Members Entered	63	<u>Sales</u>		61
Members Sold	32			
<u>Entries</u>	260	Bin Paintings		24
Traditional	137	Framed Paintings		37
Open	76	Traditional	17	
Mini Masters	47	Open	7	
		Mini Masters	13	
<u>Estimated Attendance</u>	731	<u>Sales per Day</u>		
Wednesday	223	Wednesday	\$4,421	
Thursday	134	Thursday	\$3,572	
Friday	98	Friday	\$1,979	
Saturday	140	Saturday	\$1,930	
Sunday	136	Sunday	\$3,078	
		Total	\$14,980	
<u>Entries</u>		<u>Sales Ranges</u>		
Between 1-3 Paintings	37	\$50-100	\$1,267	11 Paintings
Between 4-6 Paintings	13	\$101 - \$200	\$5,568	35 Paintings
Between 7-8 Paintings	13	\$201 - \$400	\$4,524	14 Paintings
		\$401 - \$1,000	\$3,741	6 Paintings

2026 CVWS ANNUAL SHOW, continued

Annual Show Co-Chair Mary Anne Brower shares a Thank You note received from our 2026 show judge:

Mary Anne -

Just a quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed having a chance to see all of the terrific work from the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society yesterday. Thank you again for lunch - and for the check. - I was grateful for everyone's help and conversation.

Hope the reception was fun and that the numerous winners were delighted (and that those who were not on the final list weren't too disappointed!).

All the best -

Mark

Mark W. Leonard

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THE CVWS 2026 ANNUAL SHOW:

- **Art Works Framing and Gallery**
74-405 Highway 111, Palm Desert 92260
- **Back Street Bistro**
72820 El Paseo, Palm Desert 92260
- **Desert Art Center**
550 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs 92262
- **El Patio**
78370 Highway 111, La Quinta 92253
- **Eureka**
74985 Highway 111, Indian Wells 92210
- **French Corner Café**
72423 Highway 111, Palm Desert 92260
- **Grill-A-Burger**
73091 Country Club Drive, Palm Desert 92260
- **La Spiga**
72557 Highway 111, Pam Desert 92260
- **Le Fe Wine Bar**
73900 El Paseo, Palm Desert 92260
- **Shermans Deli and Bakery**
73161 Country Club Drive, Palm Desert 92262
- **Trio**
707 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs 92262

CVWS Grants



A report from Tools for Tomorrow: 2025 – 2026 CVWS Grant Recipient

By Andrea Hecht, Executive Director

Due to the generosity of the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society, Tools For Tomorrow was able to purchase high quality watercolor supplies, including postcards, paper, paints, and pencils for elementary school students in the 2025-2026 school year.

Approximately 1,000 students learned watercolor techniques including wet-on-dry, wet on-wet, and oil pastel and crayon resist.

This school year, we were excited to expand our watercolor offerings with a travel-based project that included a watercolor postcard paired with travel journals that were donated by a local business. Students learned about US National Parks, imagined a visit to their favorite one, and created their very own watercolor postcard based on their imaginary trip.

This new project was popular with both teachers and students! Lessons were done as a crayon/watercolor resist, or as a watercolor pencil project. Students were excited to learn about the National Parks and to discover postcards, many for the first time.

Watercolor paints continue to be one of our most popular materials and continue to be used for multiple lessons. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society, which allows us to provide high quality, watercolor-specific paints, pencils and paper, elevating the quality of work our students are able to produce.

Odds & Ends

An election of CVWS Board members will be held at the Annual Meeting on April 13, 2026. The nominating committee of the Board presents the following nominees:

New Incoming Officers:

President - Kat Wyer

1st Vice President-Programs - Carrie Bova

3rd Vice President Publicity – Open

Returning Officers:

2nd Vice President-Shows – Mary Anne Brower and Ian Cooke

Treasurer - Cindy Mason

Recording Secretary - Alicia Siegler

Corresponding Secretary-Newsletter - Jean Grover



If you hear of someone who needs a bit of cheer or support, please contact our Sunshine Chairman, Cindy Green at (425) 765-9509 or cindynwrs@seanet.com



Editor's Note: If you have a topic or feature that you'd like to see included in the CVWS newsletter, or on the CVWS.org website, please send an email to: cvwsnewsletter@gmail.com

Many CVWS members offer excellent painting instruction and classes. Call for information:

Ian Cooke	760 408 3313
Ellen Jean Diederich	701-799-9505
Bob Hannah	206-409-9786
Karin Harris	808-268-0847
Dave Howell	425-319-5858
Moira Johannessen	760-322-2523
Diane Morgan	760-902-8855
Alicia Siegler	650-207-0585
Suzy Voss	209-768-7647
Connie Zane	775-846-9719



Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/cvwatercolor/>



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