



Coachella Valley  
Watercolor Society

# Brush Up February 2026

## General Meeting: February 9, 2026

5:45 PM Social, 6:15 PM General Meeting

at the Joslyn Center

73750 Catalina Way, Palm Desert, CA 92260

## February Demonstrator: Robert Flemming



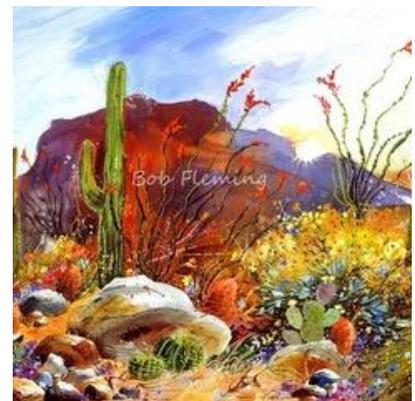
Robert A. Fleming was born in Cleveland, OH. He obtained his formal art training at Miami University in Ohio. He began his painting career at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City. Bob was also a graphic designer in TV at KTVW in Oakland, CA.

The wet-in-wet technique of his original watercolors have a fresh and spontaneous feeling. He now spends his time doing art shows in the southwest.

Some of his recent awards have been: Poster Artist of the Borrego Springs Art Show; First place in Watercolor at the Indio Southwest Show.

This past summer Bob had his historical golf painting of the 1913 US Open accepted into the Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine, FL.

Website: [www.nanandbob.com/robert-a-fleming](http://www.nanandbob.com/robert-a-fleming)  
[www.facebook.com/RobertFlemingNancyLynn/](https://www.facebook.com/RobertFlemingNancyLynn/)



# ***HELP WANTED – CVWS President & Program Chairperson***

***for our 2026 – 2027 Season***

***Everyone Has Something to Contribute – We Need YOU!***



## **CVWS President duties:**

- Serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Society and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, supervises and controls the affairs of the Society.
- Begins serving in July after being elected in April and is limited to two (2) consecutive full (two year) terms.
- Sets the agenda and presides over CVWS board meetings.
- Presides over general CVWS meetings (October to May).
- Creates or delegates the development of an upcoming year calendar.
- Provides for the filling of any empty chair or board positions that occur.
- Organizes a nominating committee (by January) for any new officers needed for the next season.
- Oversees the voting for new officers at the April general meeting.
- Presents new officers for the next season at the May general meeting.
- Negotiates the yearly contract for the general meeting facility (typically done in June/July before the new season begins in October.)
- Assists the CVWS Annual Show chair(s) in setting the contract for the Annual Show/Sale in the spring.
- Maintains and adds to the President's binder of information as needed and passes it on to the next President.

## **CVWS Program Chair duties:**

- Serves as First Vice President on the Board of Directors.
- Secures and contracts with demonstrators and speakers for the general meetings (October through April).
- Obtains promotional materials (a bio and photos) from demonstrators and forwards them to the newsletter editor for publication in the monthly CVWS newsletter.
- Coordinates with the Painter of the Month/Year Chairperson to secure a judge for Painter of the Year in May.
- Holds office for two (2) years following the annual election and is eligible to be elected for additional terms.
- Sub-committees: Audio/Visual Technician; Raffles; Video Library.

**If you are interested in more information about either of these positions, please contact Cindy Mason at [cindylmason@me.com](mailto:cindylmason@me.com) by February 10, 2026.**

# President's Message



*Bob Hannah, President*

## CVWS 2025 – 2026 Officers

**President:** Bob Hannah

**Exec. VP:** Connie Zane

**1st VP- Programs:**

Alleyn Yasskin

**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

## February 2026

We had very good attendance at our Taste of Watercolor workshops in January, and I am happy to report that the feedback from participants was very positive.

I want to congratulate and recognize Sue Ober and Traci Davis for their outstanding job organizing these workshops and making them run smoothly.

As we continue our journey into 2026, we have fun experiences ahead.

This will be the last newsletter before our Annual Show in early March. So, if you're anything like I am (somewhat of a procrastinator) you need to get painting and prepare your masterpieces for the show.

Speaking of preparation, for those new members or members who haven't previously participated in an Annual Show, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that you know and understand the framing requirements for this show. We are known for quality exhibitions, and correct framing is a big part of the appearance of quality. Please read the rules on framing requirements online at <https://www.cvws.org/wp-content/uploads/cvws-annual-show-2026-rules.pdf> so your entries will not be rejected due to framing issues.

The Annual Show is our organization's primary money raiser through art sales and gift baskets. Don't forget the February General Meeting will be the last opportunity to donate items for the gift baskets. Donations of physical gifts must be in new and unopened condition and be able to fit in the basket. Some items that seem to be well received are candies, golf balls, wine, certificates for greens fees at a local golf club, instruction books and other items you think would interest a buyer. Non gift basket items we need are bottles of white wine for the opening reception. NO RED WINE is allowed at our venue, the Artist Center.

Get busy painting those masterpieces.

Keep up those miles on the brush,

Bob

# CVWS 2026 ANNUAL SHOW

## Showtime Beckons!

Now that you've recovered from all your Christmas and New Year Festivities, the next major event on the horizon is the CVWS Annual show!

The show is once again at the Artists Center which we used to call the Galen. This year we have an extra day, so intake is Monday, March 2. The reception is Wednesday, March 4 and the show runs till Sunday, March 8.



At this stage publicity is a major focus. We will have thousands of publicity cards available at the February general meeting. Please take a bundle or two, pass them around or leave them in places where interested people will find them.

I hope many of you will enter, display your art and hopefully, sell paintings or win a prize.

Entries should ideally be via our website, although if this is impossible for you, we will have a few printed entry forms at the February meeting. If you are entering the show on the website, be aware the whole of the picture button is active, not just the bar with the text. Although we would encourage you to enter early, be warned that entries cannot be altered or changed after entry.

There is no Plein air category this year, but we welcome Plein Air paintings and they can be entered in the Traditional or Open categories. The rules for the Minis have changed. The maximum painted area must be no more than 10" on the longest side. Any frame should be no wider than one inch around the painted area.

Many of you have volunteered in the past and we value that. If you haven't helped before, we shall be passing around volunteer sheets at the next meeting. Please add your name if you'd like to help. It's an exciting and fun week and I promise you will enjoy taking part! - *Ian Cooke, CVWS Annual Show Co-Chair*

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**Entry Deadline:** Enter online by midnight February 16th, or mail entry form to CVWS, P.O. Box 565, Palm Desert, CA, postmarked no later than February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Intake:** Monday March 2nd, 9.30am to 11.30. Paintings will not be accepted after the 11:30 deadline. Deliver artwork to Artists Center, 72567 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260.

**Gala Reception, Award Presentation and Sale:** Wednesday March 4th, 2025, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Show Dates:** Wednesday March 4th to Sunday, March 8th, 2026, from 10:00am– 4:00 pm, 3.30 on Sunday.

**Pick Up:** Sunday, March 8th, 2026, from 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Work will not be released early.

**Eligibility of Artists:** All artists who are currently CVWS members are encouraged to enter.

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## DONATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL SHOW

As most of you are aware, our annual Members Show and Sale is coming up at the beginning of March. One of the things that makes the show a success is our raffle baskets. We rely on your donations!

Then CVWS Basketeers work long hours in the dead of night to make these baskets happen!

All money raised helps to fund expenses for the show. You can drop your donations at the next monthly CVWS meeting on February 12th, 2026 (last chance before the show). All donations are greatly appreciated.

Items that work best in baskets are not too heavy or big. We appreciate all the unique and interesting items that we receive and try to incorporate them into baskets of interest.

Themes could include:

Food (Italian, Chinese, Thai...), Art Supplies (can't ever have enough art supplies), Gift Cards, Glassware, Wine, Smelly stuff (soaps, lotions, candles...) Golf, Pickleball, Games or puzzles, Sweets or Chocolate....

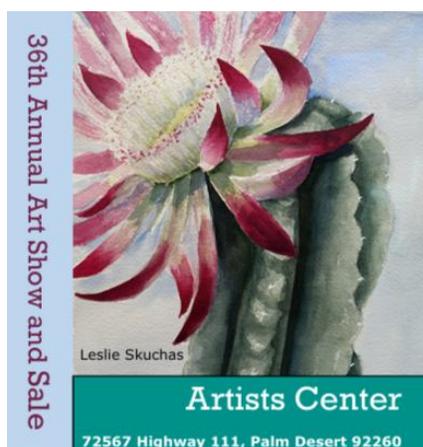
*We can also use baskets* – not too heavy or too small.

Thank you all for your past generosity. We are looking forward to seeing all the cool stuff for this year's baskets.

Sincerely, The CVWS Basketeers



***To see details of the  
2026 Show Rules &  
Prospectus – visit  
[www.cvws.org](http://www.cvws.org)***



# Workshops

**Highlights from our Taste of Watercolor Workshop:** In early January, CVWS presented our second Taste of Watercolor series of workshops. It did not disappoint. We hosted five fabulous CVWS artist instructors for a different skill each day. We welcomed a great gathering of new members and semi-new members, almost one third of our membership showed up to participate! A very special thanks to Buffy Kaufman, Connie Zane, Alleyn Yasskin, Jim Nelson and Ellen Jean Diederich for their commitment to the watercolor society. Looking forward to the next one!



## **Amit Kapoor Workshop - Four days from March 23 - 26, 2026** Register at [www.cvws.org](http://www.cvws.org)

We are very pleased to be able to present this incredible opportunity to all CVWS members and non-members alike. Amit Kapoor comes to us from New Delhi, India. He is an internationally recognized watercolor artist receiving top honors in multiple areas including the Silver Star Award from the National Watercolor Society here in the USA. Check his Instagram postings, Facebook and an incredible array of YouTube videos. A CVWS member who has registered for the workshop shared with us her excitement:

***Painters: An incredible opportunity is coming to Palm Desert in March: Amit Kapoor, world-renowned watercolor artist is conducting a workshop! When I was in Washington D.C. two years ago, there was a 3-block long banner across the front of the Art Museum exhibiting his work!***

***I received this workshop as a Christmas gift from my family. Don't miss this opportunity to paint with this master! It's not often someone of this caliber comes to our desert. Hope to see you there!*** --Judy Helbling



[www.amitkapoorwatercolor.com](http://www.amitkapoorwatercolor.com)  
Instagram: @amitkapoor\_watercolors



# January 2026 Painter of the Month

Photos courtesy of Terry Simmons



1<sup>st</sup> Place and Demonstrator's Choice:  
Karin Harris



2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Alisa Ashbrook



3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 3rd - Donna Haggerty



Honorable Mention: Joyce Kingman



**CORRECTION:** The December POM 3rd place award winner was erroneously listed as Karen Stein....it should have been Lorna Boa. Please accept our apologies, Lorna.

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

# Membership

Welcome to New CVWS Member:

- Donna Maul

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

Submitted by Connie Zane

### *Show Off*

The Annual CVWS Show & Sale is just around the corner. It's our big chance to show off, strut our stuff and display the beauty of water media.

However, it seems that no matter how carefully we prepare our paintings, inevitably we arrive at the show to check-in and find that there's a speck under the plexiglass, or an unnoticed blemish on the mat that sends us to the fix-it table. It's terribly frustrating to find there's something amiss after you've spent so much time not only creating something you're proud of, but also with all the busywork of matting, framing, labeling, etc.

These glitches stop an entry in its tracks and cause undue stress. But there is a solution: scrutinize your work BEFORE entry day. I know all too well how easy it is to simply not see flaws. And sometimes, even professional framers will fail to notice a speck of lint in a framed piece. Here are some suggestions:

1. Complete your framing early. Then check it twice before entry day. This sounds easy, but I find that unless I put these tasks on my calendar ahead of time, I'll procrastinate and then it doesn't get done as I intended.
2. Have another set of eyes go over every inch with a fine-toothed comb. It's too easy to overlook our own mistakes, so buddy up with an artist friend and check each other's work. Also, double check your labels/entry forms for consistent titles, prices & categories. You'd be surprised how many times these don't match on entry day.
3. Stock some extra mats, plexiglass, and frame parts (if you do your own framing) and bring them to check-in in case you need to change out anything. It is better to have them at the ready in the car, rather than have to go back home or be without replacements at all.
4. If you have bin paintings, bring extra cellophane bags in case there's a rip or smudge that doesn't pass inspection.
5. If you use a professional framer, carefully inspect your painting BEFORE you leave the shop.

Our beautiful creations deserve a pristine, professional presentation, so take special care. They represent much more than just ideas and paint...they are a part of our souls, and they should reflect us at our best. Can't wait to see them. Connie Zane

***Have you renewed your CVWS membership for the 2025 – 26 season? Visit [www.cvws.org](http://www.cvws.org) today!***

# News



## DONATIONS TO CVWS

At this time of year, we ask our members to donate items for the raffle baskets in addition to beverages for our Annual Show Reception. The response to our request is always fully supported by our members, and based on all the 'goodies' received at our January General Meeting, this year is no exception!

*In addition, we kindly invite you to support our Annual Show by making a monetary donation. Your generous contribution will help us cover event expenses and ensure a memorable experience for all participants. Every donation, big or small, is tax deductible, makes a meaningful difference, and is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!* -- Cindy Mason, CVWS Treasurer



### **Celebrating the Life of Tracy Ellen Hartman**

Friday March 13, 2026 at 12:00 PM

The Garden Fellowship

38633 Jefferson St., Indio CA 92203

People are encouraged to wear bright colors to celebrate Tracy's joyful life.

Please RSVP at: <https://tracypaints.com/>

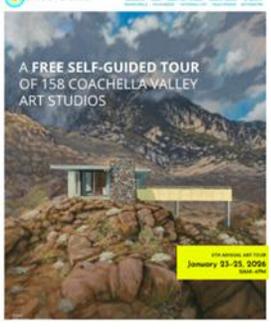
Vera Knowles has shared that Tracy Hartman's art will be on display at the La Quinta Museum from Tuesday February 10 - Saturday 21, 2026.

# Kudos

CVWS member Mandy Main shares, “It's high season in the desert, when the weather is perfect and art comes out to play. My art calendar is full, and I'd love to share what I have coming up. Hope our paths cross at one or some of these events.”

<p><b>California Desert Plein Air Festival 2026</b> – Exhibition at the Artist Council in Palm Desert January 15-February 1. Sunday, January 18 I'll be doing an Artist Demo from 1-3pm.  <a href="https://californiadesertpleinair.com/">https://californiadesertpleinair.com/</a></p>	
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	<p><b>La Quinta Museum – In Your Dreams Exhibition</b> – Now through February 28.          Reception January 17 from 5-7.  <a href="https://www.playinlaquinta.com/arts-culture/la-quinta-museum/">https://www.playinlaquinta.com/arts-culture/la-quinta-museum/</a></p>
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<p><b>18</b>  <b>Mandy Main</b>          PAINTING &amp; MIXED MEDIA          71620 Gardess Rd          (Mandy Main)          Rancho Mirage  <a href="http://mandymainstudios.com">mandymainstudios.com</a>          @mandymainartist</p> <p>mandymainstudios@yahoo.com          (760) 508-1382</p> <p><b>Atmospheric landscapes, representational modernism</b>          My midcentury modern watercolor and oil paintings use dramatic lighting and composition to focus on details of buildings. They contrast the hard-edged, intricate geometric shapes of the architecture with the organic forms of desert landscape and flowing palm trees.</p>		
<p>Desert Open Studios – Friday January 23-Sunday January 24, 11am-4pm. A free self-guided tour of 158 Coachella Valley Art Studios. I will be in my home studio, #18 on the map. <a href="https://desertopenstudios.com/tour/handbook/">https://desertopenstudios.com/tour/handbook/</a>          I am honored to have been selected by Kelly Golightly to be part of a subset of the many locations, a curated tour called “Desert Muses” composed of seven trailblazing women artists.</p>		

**Eye on the Desert, KESQ Television** – Monday January 26 at 12:45pm. I'll be interviewed by Patrick Evans about the upcoming ACE Exhibit, “Timeless Traditions – Modern Context”.

 <p><b>Mid-Mod Exhibition</b>          February 6-8 &amp; February 12-15 •          10:00 AM-4:00 PM          In commemoration of Modernism Week and all that is Palm Springs, we host a special exhibit of midcentury modern themed artwork in the Terry Masters Memorial Gallery. Be there or be square! The show is open for two weekends</p>	<p>Desert Art Center – The Mid Mod Show, an exhibit in celebration of Palm Springs Modernism Week(s). Open on two weekends, February 6-8 and 12-15, 10-4. Opening Reception Friday, February 6, 5-7pm. <a href="https://www.desertartcenter.org/">https://www.desertartcenter.org/</a></p>
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**Artist Council – ACE Exhibit “Timeless Traditions – Modern Context”.** As part of a collaboration with Palm Springs Modernism Week, I'll be giving a Talk on Mid-Century Modern Architecture, illustrated with some of my 150+ modernism paintings. <https://www.artistscouncil.com/>

**Rancho Mirage Artist Studio Tour** – A free, self-guided tour of artist studios in Rancho Mirage. One day only, Saturday March 21, 11am-4pm. Come to my house on that day and pick up a map, or go to the Rancho Mirage Library to see the Pop Up show of artists who won't have their studios open, and pick up a map there.

All above-mentioned events are free of charge except for the California Desert Plein Air Festival 2026 ticketed reception.

# Odds & Ends

**We are always interested in hearing about any good news you have about your creative life (awards, show acceptances, etc.).**

Submissions to the newsletter may be sent *on or before the 15th* of the month to [cvwsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cvwsnewsletter@gmail.com)



*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](mailto: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](mailto:cvwsnewsletter@gmail.com)

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

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



**Instagram:**  
<https://www.instagram.com/cwwatercolor/>



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<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=coachella%20valley%20watercolor%20society>