



Coachella Valley
Watercolor Society

Brush Up January 2026

General Meeting: January 12, 2026

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

January Demonstrator: Chris Cozen

Chris Cozen was an early childhood educator who loved art for several decades before becoming an artist. She was fortunate to train with Golden Artists Colors as a member of their Working Artist/Artists Educator program, and to travel to present lectures and workshops on acrylics and acrylic products.

For the last 5 years Chris has worked with the Artists Council to build their Education Program at The Artists Center in Palm Desert, where she teaches a few times a year.

At our January general meeting, Chris will be demonstrating the use of water-soluble marking materials (Pastels, pencils, etc.) as well as acrylic paints to create a composition with several layers.



Website: <http://chriscozenartist.com/>

Facebook: chriscozenartist or Chris Cozen

Email: chriscozen@gmail.com



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:

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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: Tracy Hartman

Sunshine: Cindy Green

Web Chair: Lance Brechbill

Workshops:

Sue Ober & Traci Davis

January 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I was very pleased to see so many members at the December General Meeting. Once again, the entrants in Painter of the Month had some wonderful paintings. Sue Ober's "Chicken" was beautifully done and earned First Place as well as the Demonstrator's Choice award. I want to continue to encourage you to participate in the monthly Painter of the Month competition. Remember, any ribbon received in a POM automatically gets you into Painter of the Year in May.

Speaking of Sue Ober, she's also our very capable Workshop Chair who has lined up some wonderful learning opportunities for you to improve your painting skills this year. As a past instructor in the Taste of Watercolor course, I can say that by taking one or more of the one-day workshops this January, you will learn a variety of skills taught by some of our more experienced members. A small piece of advice: Don't try to copy an instructor's style. Take a few little jewel tips from them and apply them to your own painting style.

In March you truly have a unique chance to work with the world renowned, Amit Kapoor of India. I've had the pleasure of knowing him since 2015. In the intervening years I've attended many of his demonstrations all over the world, from Vietnam to Central Europe, the Middle East in Dubai and most recently in Reno in May 2025 at a PACE Convention. I urge you to check him out. Just google him, or better yet, go to YouTube and watch some of his demonstration videos. Taking his CVWS workshop in March is a rare opportunity to get tutelage from a true master of watercolor.

Keep up those miles on the brush,

Bob

Remembering Tracy Hartman



Sadly, longtime CVWS volunteer Tracy Hartman passed away recently. We remember her with gratitude for her years of service on the CVWS board as our Raffle Chairperson. Speaking about Tracy, fellow Board member Vera Knowles said, “Tracy was bubbly and always kind. She devoted her life to helping and serving others.” Tracy lived in the Coachella Valley for 30 years, where in addition to CVWS, Tracy was also a member of the Urban Sketchers and the Plein Air Association. Before she retired, Tracy worked as a legal secretary, and later as a Home Organizer. She was devoted to her art practice, painting in acrylics, watercolors and oils. Her work is currently on display at As Time Goes By in La Quinta.

Some of Tracy’s paintings, courtesy of Vera Knowles:



December 2025 Painter of the Month

Photos courtesy of Terry Simmons

1st Place & Demonstrator's Choice: Sue Ober



We had two 2nd Place winners:

Ken Crouser



Connie Collins



3rd Place - Karen Stein



Honorable Mention - Bonnie Moy



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

Membership

Welcome New CVWS Members:

- Juanita L. Clifton
- Susan Kanning

Member Contribution

Submitted by Connie Zane

READY or NOT

Have you ever read an art book and thought, “Well, that was a waste of time.... nothing to learn here.” Then, ten years later, you picked up that same book (intending to discard it) only to discover to your surprise, that there is something in there worth investigating after all. Then you wonder, “How did I miss that? THIS is good stuff.”

Perhaps the reason is that we grow and change every day. What we were not ready to learn ten years ago, may now be totally spot on. Teaching kids taught me that not all children are ready to learn the same material at the same time. And adults are no different. Before we can be receptive to new ideas, we need to be ready.

Most artists pass through fairly standard phases of development. Generally, beginning artists are focused on methods and techniques. This stage targets: simply how to get the paint on the paper; mix colors effectively; handle brushes; learn gimmicks and tricks that make the painting process easier and produce the results we want.

Intermediate artists tend to focus on how to manage form, space, composition, symbolic language, and the elements and principles of design. It is a broad area that may take many more years to master than techniques and has more of a conceptual basis to learning. While the beginner’s needs deal mainly with concrete methods and skills, this intermediate level involves ideas over techniques.

Eventually, the Advanced artist, presumably having mastered the nuts and bolts of art, may spend more time focused on subtle concepts of mood and personal expression... trying to inject expressiveness, philosophy and aesthetic beauty into what they portray. Not to say that beginners don’t aspire to the same goal... it’s just that there are many concrete stages to work through before this more expressive phase may become the primary objective.

The bottom line is, keep moving forward AND don’t throw out those books that you may think are irrelevant today. For tomorrow, they may just be exactly what you need.

Have you renewed your CVWS membership for the 2025 – 26 season? Visit www.cvws.org today!

Grants

Time for Giving

Submitted by Nancy Rizzardi, CVWS Grants Chair



Ever since moving to the Coachella Valley I have been impressed with the generosity of the people in our community. There are so many opportunities to show compassion and support for our residents and charitable groups.

CVWS is a not-for-profit group designated as a 501-3c that supports art education for children. The donations given by our members to make gift baskets for the Annual Art Show Gift Baskets Drawing is our primary source of income to support our art education goals.

This past year the CVWS Grants committee distributed over \$1600.00 of our funds to purchase art supplies for three art education programs here in the valley. They were Saul Martinez Elementary School, Young at Art, which is affiliated with the Coachella Valley History Museum, and Tools for Tomorrow Inc.

Each of these groups have sent us thank you notes along with photos of the students' art.

Cindy Mason, our CVWS treasurer, and I attended a summer art display and awards ceremony for one of these programs. We were impressed and wowed to see the accomplishments of the students who were enrolled in the Young at Art program.

As you consider your holiday and end-of-the-year donations, please keep in mind these charitable art groups, or visit www.cvws.org to make a tax deductible donation to the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society's Grants Program.

We are happy to help you to foster the artists of tomorrow.

Workshops

Raffle Baskets 3.0

Greetings, and a great big thanks to all who have donated to the raffle baskets in the past. These efforts have generated upwards of \$2000 annually for our watercolor society! We are again asking for donations, and know you will come through with flying colors (watercolors!)



We have a small team of basket-teers that toil away behind the scenes looking to make glamorous baskets each year for our annual show. But it all rides on you – our valued members – and what you are able to donate. Just bring your items to our monthly meeting at the Joslyn Center on Monday January 12, 2026. We will take it from there.

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

Themes could include:

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

We can also use Baskets – not too heavy or too small. Baskets donated in the past have been fantastic.

Thanks again for you past generosity. We look forward to seeing all the cool and interesting stuff again.

Sincerely,

The Head Basket-teer: Sue Ober

Workshops, continued

The CVWS Workshop Committee is proud to offer you two incredible workshops this season!
We don't want you to miss either one! Full information is on our webpage: www.cvws.org

'A Taste of Watercolor'

January 5-9, 2026



Mon, Jan 5: Watercolor Pouring with Stencil Techniques

Buffy Kaufman. (This class is currently full, but a wait list has been created.)

Tue, Jan 6: Design and Composition
Connie Zane



**Wed, Jan 7: Surface Stories:
One-Day Abstracts with Water
Media & Texture'**
Alleyn Yasskin

**Thurs Jan 8: Portrait Painting
in Watercolor**
Jim Nelson



**Fri, Jan 9: 'Exploring Gouche
with Watercolor**
Ellen Jean Diederich

Please sign up today while there are still openings!

Watercolor Workshop Recipe

Smooth • Watery • Glowing • Textured

Ingredients

- Brushes – all shapes and sizes
- Palette of bright fresh paint
- 3–4 pieces of watercolor paper
- 1–2 water containers
- Pencils, erasers, markers, pens
- Paper towels
- Optional reference photos

Instructions

1. Mix and mingle with like-minded artists.
2. Lay out materials and mix thoroughly.
3. Wet paint and/or paper — prepare to be amazed.
4. Let dry. Repeat as needed.
5. Wrap or store finished artwork once fully dry.

Workshop Details

Instructor: Amit Kapoor

Website: AmitKapoorWatercolor.com

Dates: March 23–26, 2026

Cost: \$550 (members)

Yield

3–4 beautiful paintings

Prep Time: Forever

Painting Time: 4 days

Bonus Tip

Add a friend or two for extra creative flavor!

www.cvws.org

Workshops, continued

Don't miss this incredible opportunity! **Amit Kapoor**, one of the world's leading contemporary watercolorists, will be here **March 23-26, 2026**.

Amit is recognized internationally with great honor, and a list of his numerous international awards is available online.

It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to welcome him here and this workshop should sell out quickly so please don't wait!



www.amitkapoorwatercolor.com

Instagram: @amitkapoor_watercolors



It has been said about Amit that his art captures the very soul of his subject. He loves to teach his students how to simplify a detailed scene and break it down into a manageable composition. Part of his simplifying is playing with light and shadow.

His teaching for us will include:

- ***Fundamentals of Composition** – building strong, expressive layouts for compelling paintings

- ***Light, Tone & Atmosphere** – creating mood, depth, and brilliance through value and color

- ***Perspective & Viewpoints** – understanding camera angles, staging, and spatial relationships

- ***Step-by-Step Demonstrations** – Watch Amit paint live as he explains his process in real time

- ***Signature Style Techniques** – Discover the methods behind Amit's world-renowned style



This is one you don't want to miss!!

Sign up now online at www.cvws.org

News

Doris Peterson, a long-time and well-regarded member of CVWS, has passed away. Attached is the announcement of her memorial service which was held on December 11, 2025.



Coachella Valley Watercolor Society

36th Annual Art Show and Sale

Leslie Skuchas

Artists Center
72567 Highway 111, Palm Desert 92260

Wednesday March 4th - Sunday March 8th
10am - 4pm (Sunday 3:30pm)
Admission is free
Art demos at 11am & 1:30pm each day
Reception and Awards Ceremony
Wednesday March 4th, 5 - 7pm

CVWS stimulates the visual arts by means of demonstrations, shows, workshops, and art education for adults and children.

www.cvws.org

CVWS Annual Show

The time for our biggest event of the year, our annual show, is getting close. Do paint for the show!

We need winning paintings and ones to sell!

Advertising cards will be available at the next general meeting. Take a bundle and distribute to friends and neighbors!

Here's a preview with the winning painting for publicity photo from last year's show.

- Ian Smith

Odds & Ends

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: We are currently in need of someone to serve as CVWS Program Chair for the rest of the 2025-26 season.

Contact Bob Hannah (206-409-9786) if you are interested.

CORRECTION: Apologies to Candie Blankman, whose name was mis-spelled in our December issue.



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
Moirra Johannessen	760-322-2523
Diane Moregan	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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