



Coachella Valley
Watercolor Society

Brush Up

June 2026

Winners of Painter of the Year 2025 - 2026

1st Place - Ellen Jean Diederich - *Iris impressions*



Runner Up - Juli Sexton – *Pookie*



**Honorable Mention - David Howell
- *Dune Shadows***



Many thanks to Judge Harold Walkup.

Painter of the Year

Thank you to everyone who participated in Painter of the Year 2025-26



President's Message



Bob Hannah, President

CVWS 2025 – 2026 Officers

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2nd VP – Shows:

Mary Anne Brower
& Ian Cooke

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Kathy Weyer

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Newsletter: Jean Grover

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Grants: Nancy Rizzardi

Membership:

Connie Collins

Painter of the Month/Year:

Connie Zane

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Workshops:

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June 2026

Buon Giorno Tutti Amici di CVWS,

As I write this, I'm sitting in a very nice little apartment in my favorite town in the world, Orvieto, Italy. It's located approximately 90 minutes by car north of Rome and this is my 8th trip in the last 10 years to this same little town. I'll be here for about a month, and it's been rainy and cold for these first few days but is expected to warm up next week and I'm really looking forward to that.

This is my last official act as your President, and it only seems fitting that I do it from a half a world away.

The final Painter of the Year Competition included 22 entrants from this past season and the judge, Harold Walkup, officiated and critiqued each of the individual paintings submitted. Congratulations to the winners, First place: Ellen Jean Diederich, Runner Up: Juli Sexton, and Honorable Mention: David Howell.

This summer you'll have plenty of opportunities to keep up those miles on the brush with our summer challenge. This year, according to Connie Zane, the subject will be Food. There should be more info below. It will be fun to see all the different paintings at our first meeting in October.

Have a great summer and keep those brushes dancing!

Ciao,

Bob

The CVWS 2026 Summer Challenge

Food for Thought

Historically, food has played a prominent part in art. Growing, gathering, preparing, cooking, eating, still life scenes, etc., have all been favorite subjects. Let's see what you can come up with this summer. Hopefully it will be something simply scrumptious! You can post your Food Art online at CVWS.org prior to our October Zoom Meeting so that we can all enjoy what everyone creates. Posting details will be sent in an email in September. Here are some examples from art archives:



Membership

Welcome to New CVWS Members:

- Mary Garfinkel
- Starr May

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

By Connie Zane

Are we there yet?

How do we know when our painting is done? Does it need just a few more touches, or would that be too much? It's a common dilemma for all of us, so here are a few ways to help you decide:

1. Put a mat on it. Your painting nearly always looks better when you see it in a mat.
2. Take a photo, then change it to black and white. This helps you evaluate the value pattern and determine how your eye travels around the painting.
3. Squint while you look at it. This filters out the details and helps you see the major shapes.
4. Reduce the size. When you use your phone to make a photo and move it to your desktop, it reduces the size so that you can more clearly assess the major values and shapes.
5. Stand back. Same result as #4 above. Set it across the room and study it.
6. Go take a break and put your painting in a spot so you'll see it when you return to the room. Looking at it with fresh eyes and a new angle can help you see things you missed up close.
7. Cover any questionable parts with blank paper to see if it enhances or detracts from the composition.
8. Before adding a glaze or object to a painting, overlay an acetate sheet on your painting and make your changes on that to assess the modification prior to changing the actual painting. This works for both watercolor or acrylics.
9. Look at your painting in a mirror. Sometimes seeing things in reverse will help you see what it might need.
10. Look at your painting upside down or sideways. This can sometimes make composition corrections easier to see.
11. Put it on the back burner. Stop working on it for now and come back in a day/week/month when you're less invested in the project. Sometimes we just need to step away and let go of our momentary expectations.
12. Consider the idea that perhaps it IS done. Joseph Zbukvic says, "The last words an artist says before spoiling a painting is, "I'll just do this"".



SUMMER READING FOR ARTISTS

(Thank you to Connie Zane.)

This is a short list of novels, mysteries, biographies, and inspiration-packed choices to get lost in when you're not painting this summer.

[The Creative Act](#) - by Rick Rubin. Lots to get your creatives juices flowing.

[Spring Cannot be Cancelled](#) - by Martin Gayford. A view of David Hockney's art and sense of wonder as shared in his letters to Mr. Gayford over the years.

[Big Magic](#) - by Elizabeth Gilbert. A wonderfully entertaining "keeper" about getting inspired.

[Ninth Street Women](#) - by Mary Gabriel. An engaging review of the most impactful women artists of the 40's and 50's. You might find yourself wanting to read it twice.

[Sacre Bleu](#) - by Christopher Moore. A tad spicy, but humorous mystery novel about the demise of Van Gogh viewed by his peers, Lessard and Toulouse-Lautrec.

[Create Anyway](#) - by David Limrite. May be just the spark you need to light your creative fire.

[The Artist](#) - by Michael Finkel. True story that traces the fascinating exploits of Stéphane Breitwieser, a French art thief who stole more than 200 artworks.

[The Creative Habit](#) - by Twyla Tharp. Practical guide on ways to make creativity a habit from this iconic, innovative choreographer.

CVWS Founding Member

Mary Minamide

April 6, 1927 – April 16, 2026

(Originally published in the Desert Sun)



Mary Minamide (April 6, 1927 – April 16, 2026) passed away peacefully in her sleep in La Quinta, California, on April 16.

Mary was born in Long Beach, California, to Midori and Tatsuzo “Tom” Endo. Mary’s childhood years were spent in Long Beach with older brother Isamu Harry and younger brother Bob Shigeo, until EO 9066 forced her family to relocate to Rocky Ford, Colorado, then to the nearby Amache Relocation Center. After eight months at the center, Mary had the opportunity to leave and join a family in Kingston, Rhode Island, where she completed high school. After the war, she then returned to Long Beach and reunited with her family, where she attended Long Beach Junior College.

In 1951, she married Sadao “Sam” Minamide. They had two children, Perry and Janet. In 1959, the family moved to Indio, California. Mary obtained her bachelor’s degree and teaching credential, leading to an 18-year career as a kindergarten teacher.

Mary and Sadao celebrated their retirement in 1986. In 1990, Sadao suddenly passed away. In the years following, she kept busy with her faith, community, family, and love of art, music, and travel. She was a very active member of Shepherd of the Valley Church in Indio, participating in the United Methodist Women in Faith, planning social events and regularly volunteering, and leading Sunday school. She was a devoted Christian, attending Bible study groups, studying and reading Scripture daily, and living a gracious, loving, generous embodiment of His word. She was known among some members of the congregation as a literal “angel” for her kind, patient spirit.

Mary was a founding member of the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society, fostering a vibrant community of watercolor artists and practicing and developing her own skills as an artist. She was a fan of painting en plein air during treasured summer visits to her rustic fishing cabin in Bridgeport, California. It was a place that began as a dream of Sadao’s to host trout fishing trips, but which Mary oversaw as a place of respite, restoration, and connection for the family of which she now was the matriarch. She also shared her art skills with children as an art teacher, and the wider public as a volunteer at the Riverside County Fair, where she entered her own art for display as well as her students’.

She was actively involved in the Coachella Valley Historical Society, volunteering to support the museum and teaching art classes to children of all ages. She was also a member of philanthropic society PEO, Chapter HH. Mary was a skilled gardener, tending to a thriving rose garden abundant with blooms. She traveled extensively, journeying throughout the U.S. as well as visiting China, Egypt, England, Canada, and Japan. She played piano proficiently, accompanying robust renditions of “Happy Birthday” at community and family gatherings, and enjoying treasured recordings of classical music.

Mary was steadfast and gentle and calm, no matter what chaos swirled around her. She had a gentle but bright sense of humor. She never drank, swore, or raised her voice. She wore bright red lipstick every day and kept her hair neatly permed. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and sister in Christ. She was a bit of a card shark.

Mary is survived by her son Perry (Elaine) Minamide and daughter Janet (Bruce) Rhodewalt, as well as grandchildren Leah (Brian Hamilton) Minamide, Amelia (Ben) Rhodeland, Daniel (Teresa) Minamide, Elisa Minamide, and Keith Rhodewalt, as well as great-grandchildren Miles and Amaia Minamide, Margot Rhodeland, and Mika Hamilton. Mary is also survived by many beloved relatives. She will be dearly missed.

Mary’s final resting place will be at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, California. Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Shepherd of the Valley UMC Indio or Coachella Valley Watercolor Society.

News

BREAKING NEWS!

According to our Publicity Chair Kathy Weyer:

**“We are working on a show and sale with
the Desert Art Center**

from October 11-18, 2026.”

Details to follow.



**HELP
WANTED**

Social Media Outreach

*This is such an important piece in today’s world,
and we need to get in the game!*

If you love using social media and are consistent with it, would you please help us by maintaining our [Instagram and Facebook](#) accounts?

We can feed you information to post and you can keep an eye on the responses to maintain professionalism. You would be coordinating with Jennifer Winn, our new Publicity Director.

This could be really fun if you love social media. Contact Kathy Weyer at kathy.weyer@att.net if you’re interested.

Interviewer/Writer for new members “Getting to Know You” Articles

We have an opening for someone to get in touch with new members, welcome them, and ask them about their artwork and their lives. You’d be surprised how much comes out of a twenty-minute conversation! Once your conversation is done, you can write up an article of about 250 words and submit it, along with a picture of the new member and a piece of art they are proud of. You will be coordinating with our fabulous Director of Membership, Connie Collins as well as Jean Grover, the newsletter editor. If this raises your interest a bit, contact Kathy Weyer at kathy.weyer@att.net. It’s a fun way to get to know new members and make them feel welcome.

Odds & Ends

2026 GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT:

“The mission of CVWS is to promote the creative talents and art appreciation of its members and *to stimulate art interest and support art education for the young people in the Coachella Valley.*” In keeping with our mission, the CVWS Board of Directors has selected our 2026 grantees. Congratulations to Tools for Tomorrow and Young at Art.

- Nancy Rizzardi, Grants Chair

Thank You to our 2025 – 2026 Newsletter Team: Contributors *Connie Zane* and *Kathy Weyer*, draft reviewer *Robin St. Louis*, and email blast distributor *Connie Collins*. Our monthly newsletters could not be done without you, and I am so grateful for your generosity! – Jean Grover, editor



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/>



Facebook:

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