



Coachella Valley  
Watercolor Society

# Brush Up

## March 2026

### General Meeting: March 16, 2026

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

### March Demonstrator: Michael Cedeno

Michael Cedeno was the cartoonist in high school. His mother was an award-winning artist and supported his artistic endeavors beginning at the age of three or four.

He was accepted into the California Institute of the Arts while in high school. After completing high school, he went to college and did three films at "Cal Arts". His third film caught the eye of Disney and was accepted into Disney's first animation program. Mike worked at Disney for over 30 years as a Supervising Directing Animator and a Character Designer. After leaving Disney, he was an adjunct professor at Otis College for Arts and Design for 13 years teaching Animation as well as Life Drawing and Instructional Drawing for Animators. Over the years he always maintained that painting was, and is, his passion. Mike has shown his work in galleries throughout the West Coast for the last 40 years. Since "almost" retiring from Animation, he's continued to make painting his lifelong passion.



# President's Message



*Bob Hannah, President*

## **CVWS 2025 – 2026 Officers:**

**President:** Bob Hannah

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**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

## **March 2026**

As we continue our journey into 2026, we have fun experiences ahead. This will be the last newsletter before our Annual Show. The deadline to sign up online was February 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 at [www.cvws.org](http://www.cvws.org) so that your entries will not be rejected due to framing issues.

I want to thank all of you who contributed to the Annual Show Gift Baskets. They are a major source of income to our society, so your contributions were really important and appreciated.

This also will be the last newsletter prior to the Amit Kapoor workshop. *If you ever wanted to take a workshop from an international watercolor star, this is your opportunity.* Don't miss it. It's a great price for the opportunity to learn from someone with his worldwide reputation and talent.

I look forward to seeing all your paintings at the Annual Show!

Keep up those miles on the brush,

Bob

# February 2026 Painter of the Month

*Photos courtesy of Terry Simmons*

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jean Stroud



2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Ellen Jean Diederich



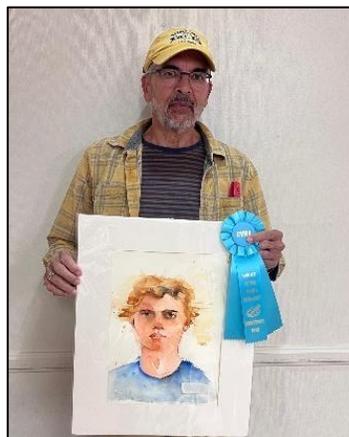
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Mary Anne Brower



Honorable Mention: Richard Fox



Demonstrator's Choice: Jim Nelson



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

# Membership

## Welcome to New CVWS Members:

- Stacia Armstrong
- Mary Barr
- Jean Bradley
- Michelle Coonan
- Judith Harlan
- Henriette Heiny

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

*Submitted by Connie Zane*

### Artistic Power

Recently, I watched an interview with renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma. He's an awe-inspiring figure - endlessly joyous and engaged in the world around him. He's currently involved in a project with animal research scientists to study the songs of whales. As it happens, the tone and frequency of whales' voices match those of the cello. He is going to sea (in his 80's), playing his cello aboard a small yacht in the open ocean, as crew members record the whales' responses. He's very enthusiastic about this. He says, "Music is energy. It makes things happen. If bluebirds can fly over the rainbow..., why can't we?"

Actually, all creative endeavors incite energy. Music, painting, dance, sculpture, poetry, literature, acting all create energy of one type or another - emotional energy, sympathetic energy, joyous or melancholy or kinetic energy. If we are able to tune in, we respond. Subsequently, that response stimulates additional fields of energy and then more things begin to happen as a result. As Einstein said, "You can't destroy energy."

Yo-Yo Ma states his goal is to "change the world through [musical] art." We visual artists also have power to change things: to send our message to others, to share the energy of a specific idea. We have the opportunity to transmit the essence of a moment, a place, or a memory. When our ideas are expressed from the heart, they have the power to move and inspire not only our immediate circle, but also a far broader audience. Like ripples in a pond, our ideas and images may reverberate on a larger scale than we might imagine.

In a world where so much energy is being expended on displays of power as a destructive, negative force, we painters have the opportunity to create positive energy through the power of visual art just as Mr. Ma creates it with music. How great is that?

At the end of the interview, Yo-Yo Ma played his trademark piece, Bach's Cello Suite #1 in G Major. You may not recognize the title, but you would definitely recognize the melody. At the end of his performance, he seamlessly transitioned to "Somewhere over the Rainbow" as an apt conclusion, and played with such sensitivity and passion that it brought me to tears.

Now THAT'S what the positive energy of great art can bring us. That's true power. I wish you could have seen it

# Membership, continued

## Getting to Know You

By Kathy Weyer



**Karen Stein** is a whirling dervish. She cannot stay still, always on the move for a class, a gathering, always looking for something to do. To give you an introduction to her personality and her life, when she was a small child, her mother said, “Can you please enjoy a hobby without turning it into a business?”

A single mom with two very small children, (in no particular order) she opened a clothing manufacturing firm in Boston, worked in New York City on Fifth Avenue in home furnishings, moved into children’s wear, opened up a retail store selling children’s clothing, moved to L.A. and opened up another manufacturing firm, working six days a week for the past 30+ years.

Whew.

In the meantime, she was teaching fashion design three days a week. (“I’d take my coffee break for three hours in the afternoon”) and go back to work. She also painted, had three-day shows, and produced art to sell in galleries.

Karen moved to Sun City four months ago from L.A. She works in water-based acrylics, and her tool preference is the palette knife, scraping away layers to seek figures in what’s underneath. Welcome, Karen!



You may remember **Jean Bradley** from our demonstration in December. After several members encouraged her, she joined CVWS!

Jean is a lifelong artist (she knew this when she was eight years old). After thirty years working in watercolors, she wanted bright colors, 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, then decided that wasn’t the place for them and moved back last June for good. They have four sons, none of whom have picked up the art bug from their two artistic parents.

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

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



## Membership, continued



**Michelle Coonan** is a creative, although with an engineering and construction background, (she spent 25 years managing Public Works buildings, mostly schools), you wouldn't know it. She explains it by wanting to color outside the lines and be free!

Michelle has been painting for 36 years, but with her career and raising a family she didn't have much time to indulge until retirement. She began with oil, moved to acrylics, and finally settled on watercolor when she and her husband took a trip to Europe and she bought a watercolor travel kit, admitting she didn't know what she was doing. By the time they came home, she was comfortable with it, if not entirely productive.

At Christmas she received a gift certificate for classes at the DAC, and she discovered not only the DAC but the CVWS at the same time. She is very enthusiastic about her painting and plans to continue classes. Her goal is to accept that imperfection is entirely acceptable (compare that with the engineering career!), embrace the imperfect, and relax; it's all going to be okay.

She lives in Palm Valley with her golf-obsessed husband, paints when he tees off, and keeps in touch with her son, her daughter, and five grandchildren.



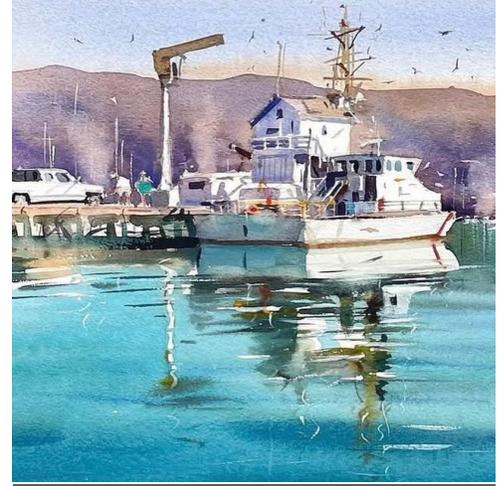
**Lynn Mikel** lets her heart lead her where it wants to go. She has a doctorate in Naturopathic Health and a Master's degree in Psychology. She practiced for 25 years, then was moved to help patients recover through Occupational Therapy, which she did for 15 years. Now she works with non-speaking autistic people to help them communicate using a letter board. Following her heart's direction, Lynn is a woman who helps others in a big way.

She and her husband of 26 years and their eleven-year-old dog Stella (who seems to be a mascot for Rancho Mirage) are half-timers here from Seattle. Lynn retired three years ago and decided to indulge in watercolor, drawn in by colors and aesthetics, practicing every day by herself. She is taking classes at DAC and feels as though she is progressing. They have two children living in Seattle.

She looks forward to meeting members and being part of this community. Welcome, Lynn!

# Workshop

## 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 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](http://www.cvws.org) to register or contact me for more information. [watertonsue@gmail.com](mailto:watertonsue@gmail.com)

Susan Ober – CVWS volunteer

# News



## CVWS ANNUAL SHOW

Well, now the time has come: SHOWTIME! By the time you read this, entries to the show have closed but you may have time for a few final brush strokes. Then there is presentation: good clean mats, glass and frames are essential, as is a hanging wire. Make sure our Intake helpers cannot reject your work because of sloppy presentation.

Now, there are a couple of practical issues: If you have entered several paintings, when you arrive at the Artists Center, look for the 'helpful people' who will assist you with your armful of paintings. Then look for the station marked with the first letter of your last name. Join the line and all your paintings, including bin art, will be checked in at the same time. Remember that **intake is on MONDAY March 2, 9-11am** and we will not accept price or title changes or late entries. The hanging staff have a big job to do in a short while!

So, thanks in advance to all you volunteers and good luck to all of you who entered the show!

- Ian Cooke, Annual Show Co-Chair



# News, continued:

## JUST FOR FUN:

### A collaborative project with photographers from the Desert Art Center

Submitted by CVWS Publicity Chair Kathy Weyer

Want to do something different or break out of your creative rut? We have a project for you in collaboration with photographers from DAC and Pen Women – Palm Springs. No entry fees, no judging, no framing, no constructive criticism, no pressure...just the thing after the stress of the annual show.

**At our March 16<sup>th</sup> CVWS general meeting**, we will have a selection of photographs submitted by some members of the Desert Art Center. You can select a photograph that appeals to you, take it home and paint your own interpretation of it. Paint realistically, abstractly, collage on it, whatever you want on 8" x 10" or 9" x 12" paper.

**At our April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting**, bring your artwork (please, no framing, sleeves or mat) along with the original inspiration photograph.

Then we will send all the CVWS artwork (without the photo) over to the Pen Women, where their writers will develop a short story or poem based on your painting.

CVWS artwork and Penwomen's contributions will be shown at the Penwomen's May meeting and photos will then be revealed with each piece of artwork and story or poem. CVWS artists are invited to the meeting.

We will take pictures of the inspiration photo and your artwork side by side and put them on the CVWS website. We will also invite the contributing photographers to go to our website and see your masterpiece alongside their masterpiece.

And finally, because our May meeting is a Zoom meeting, we will send you (via snail mail) both your artwork and the submission from the Pen Women after the Pen Women's May meeting.

***That's it! Have fun, get loose, be silly or serious, but most of all have some fun and do something different!***

# Kudos



**Ellen Jean Diederich** will be doing a demonstration at the Artists Center:

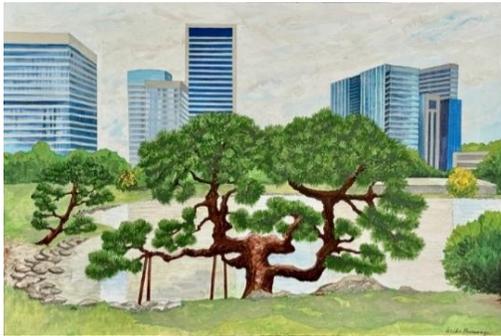
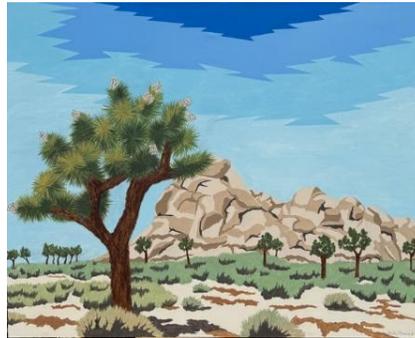
*“Gouache: An Opaque water-based medium”*

Date: Feb 27, 2026 - 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM

Location: The Artists Center 72-567 Highway 111,  
Palm Desert CA

**Mike Pascavage** was juried into two recent art shows at the Artists Center:

For the **2026 Plein Air Festival**, Mike’s 4’ x 5’ acrylic on canvas “Joshua Tree” entry was selected in the Studio Division of the event.



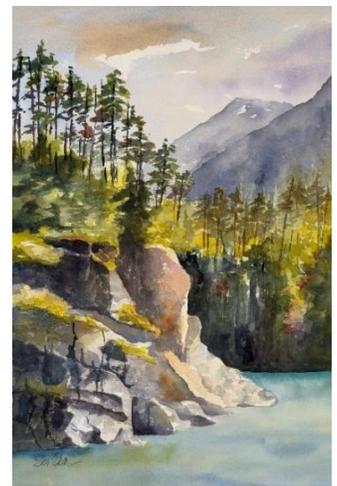
In the February Artist Council Show – **Timeless Traditions, Current Context**, Mike’s 30” x 40” acrylic on canvas painting highlighting a 300-year-old pine tree in the Tokyo Imperial Garden at Hama-rikyu was juried in.

**Sue Ober** had a painting selected to exhibit in the International Watercolour Festival 2026 in her home province of Alberta, Canada.

This exhibition will feature artists from over 20 countries, and the entries will be on display in Calgary and Banff.

Banff is the first National Park in Canada and has an incredible worldwide audience. So, if you are in Alberta in August from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, look into this festival and exhibition in Calgary and Banff.

[www.Watercolourcalgary.com](http://www.Watercolourcalgary.com) (Yes there is ‘u’ there)



*On the Rocks*

# Odds & Ends

## GRANTS

Hello CVWS members,

I am currently sending out the grant application forms for 2026-7. We are looking for opportunities to fund art education for children.

- Pre-school, elementary, middle or high school
- Other youth programs (before or after school, vacation recess, weekends)

If you know of someone, please have them contact me for an application form.

Thank you for helping CVWS to fulfill our mission to provide funds for purchasing water-media art supplies and related educational materials for the benefit of children and youth in the Coachella Valley.

Thank you, Nancy Rizzardi [nancyrizzardi@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrizzardi@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>



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