



Coachella Valley
Watercolor Society

Brush Up November 2025

General Meeting: November 10, 2025

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

Demonstrator: Ian Cooke

Ian Cooke had a successful career in the United Kingdom in horticulture and landscape design. He wrote and illustrated nine gardening books and managed some large estates while living in the UK.

He took up watercolor painting after his retirement in 2008. Ian says, "Inevitably I tend to paint flowers and plants but also enjoy the challenge of other subject matter. I tend to paint precisely with my flower paintings in what I call a semi-botanical style." He has won awards in both the UK and the USA, including "Best in Show" for the 2025 CVWS Annual Show for his painting, "Botanica".

In addition to teaching a weekly class, Ian leads occasional short workshops. He says he admires the work of John Singer Sargent and Gary Bukovnic.



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: Tracy Hartman

Sunshine: Cindy Green

Web Chair: Lance

Brechbill

Workshops:

Sue Ober & Traci Davis

November 2025

Welcome back! The cooler weather has returned and with it my inspiration to create another masterpiece—at least in my own eyes.

Our first meeting via Zoom in October was very well received by those attending and we saw some incredible paintings from our Summer Challenge. Our members never cease to amaze me with their talent and the imagination showcased in their paintings.

Our Painter of the Month will continue monthly throughout the season and will be judged in November at the general in-person meeting at the Joslyn Center in Palm Desert. Beginning in November, a sign-up sheet will be at the general meetings for the following month. To sign up in November, please contact Connie Zane via her personal email found in the membership roster or in this newsletter. It promises to be another great year of fantastic paintings by our Painter of the Month participants each month. As a reminder, if you receive any ribbon in Painter of the Month during the 2025-2026 season you are eligible to exhibit and compete in our annual Painter of the Year show in May. However, if you are a POM winner in any month this season, you cannot compete again during the season.

Regarding our CVWS Annual Show, please **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** and get those paintings started. The dates this year are **March 2, to March 7, 2026**. We're very fortunate this coming year, because we will have an extra day in the gallery which means an extra day for sales. The take-in will be Monday, March 2nd and pick up will be Sunday, March 7, 2026.

Of course, throughout this season, there will be wonderful demonstrators at our General Meetings as well as great workshops to enhance your learning and painting skills. More on that later. Stay tuned!

In the meantime, keep putting those “miles on the brush”!

Bob

SUMMER CHALLENGE 2025

Thank you to all who participated this year!



Painter of the Month

October 2025 Zoom Meeting

1st Place: Alicia Siegler

High Desert



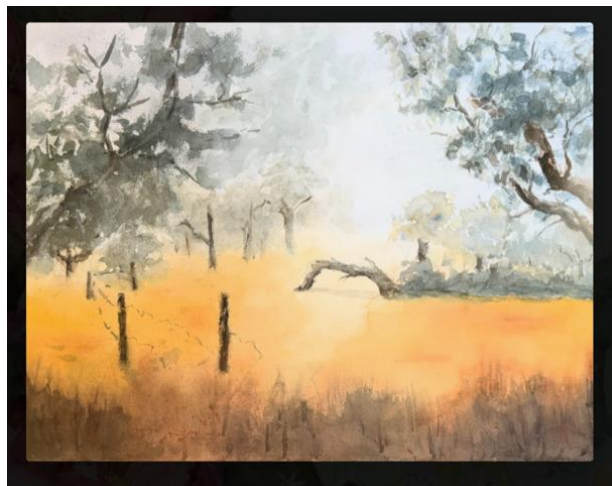
2nd Place: Ian Cooke

A Sunny Summer's Morning



3rd Place: Bob Hannah

Magic Meadows



Honorable Mention: Connie Zane

A Rose for Mom



To sign up in November, please contact our POM chair Connie Zane at cpinenuts@gmail.com. The deadline is the Friday before the meeting. Please remember that you are required to have painted your POM submission within the last 2 years.

Membership

Welcome to New CVWS Members:

Wendy Alderson
Bette Levine
Cindy Smith
Karen Stein
Colleen Tupper

Member Contribution

Written by Connie Zane

In Praise of Neutrals

One of my all-time favorite art books is [Making Color Sing](#) by Jeanne Dobie. It's a classic and has inspired several decades of painters. Her use of neutrals, which she calls "mouse colors," turn pure colors into something glorious. Put it on your reading list to learn more about using a variety of greys/neutrals to make paintings come alive.

When you use a neutral next to a pure hue, it magnifies the luminosity and richness of that hue. But it's important to choose the right neutral. The way to determine if the neutral is "right" depends on the pure colors' relationship to the neutral. If you mix equal amounts of blue with orange... you'll get a grey neutral. If you add more orange, you'll get a warm grey-neutral - (grey orange). If you add more blue to the original mix, you'll get a cool grey-neutral - (grey blue).



If you put that warm grey orange against a pure blue, it sings and creates contrast and impact. If you put the cool, grey-blue against the pure orange, it also sings or vibrates. See how much more impactful this blue and orange seem compared with the samples below.



When you pair the grey blue with the pure blue or the grey orange with the pure orange, the contrast decreases and the neutral serves more as a blending color. The visual impact lessens as each hue harmonizes with its neighboring color. This is a subtle but important shift. Your decision on which to use depends on where you want viewers to look. Contrasts will typically get the most attention.

Mixing any complimentary color combination will produce greys: Red/Green, Blue/Orange, Yellow/Purple, Rust/Teal, etc. It will serve you well to make a palette of greys from the colors you frequently use to see what is possible. Then use your own chart to determine what neutrals will work effectively in your paintings. Here's an example of a neutral chart that I use from colors in my palette. Be sure to label each color swatch, because it's easy to forget which colors you've combined to make neutrals.



Membership

Getting to Know You!

Written by Kathy Weyer



New CVWS Member Cindy Smith tells me she is a late-blooming creative, but after a short conversation with her, this reporter discovered she always had the urge to create through sewing, quilting and teaching home economics classes for middle and high schools.

When her husband, a professional tennis player, received an outstanding job offer, they moved to Tacoma where she helped him run a tennis club. They committed to staying for one year and stayed for 40! They retired in 2020 and grew weary of commuting from Tacoma to the desert, so they found a beautiful new environment in Oceanside where they spend half the year, the other half in Heritage Palms.

Cindy feels like a beginner, but in truth has been in the art world for about ten years, mostly using colored pencils. She joined CVWS because she saw the workshops offered and wanted to increase her skills and learn new techniques. Her goal this winter is to focus on portraits of people and animals.



Workshops

Submitted by CVWS Workshop Chair Sue Ober:

Let's Take a Quiz....



- ☐ Looking for a Day Off?
- ☐ Painter's Block?
- ☐ The kids don't know what to get you for Christmas?
- ☐ All of the Above....

Do you have several tubes of gouache lying around not sure what to do with them?

Ellen – Day 5

Have you ever wanted to perfect a painting of Aunt Mildred?

Jim – Day 4

Do you need refresher or help with the principles and elements of design? (Always)

Connie – Day 2

Do you need a Day Off? Experimenting with different papers, inks and collage could be the answer.

Alleyn – Day 3

Would you like to work more with transparent watercolor and experience the pour technique?

Buffy – Day 1

All this is available to you as these CVWS instructors show you the ropes. You will also laugh, maybe cry, meet new friends, meet old friends, and have a few snacks. Please visit the website CVWS.org for more information.

We are once again presenting these five day/five instructor symposia. Take 1, 2, or all 5 – it's up to you.

www.cvws.org and The Taste of Watercolor 2026 is where you should be!

Workshops, continued

Save the dates!

'A Taste of Watercolor'

January 5 – 9, 2026

This workshop consists of five individual workshops, each lasting one day. Each day will feature a different CVWS instructor teaching a single topic. These classes are geared to the advanced beginner and intermediate painter. The attendance/pricing scale has been set to encourage you to select those topics most appealing to you and that fit within your timeframe, interest, and budget. We welcome you to join us for the whole week or choose those days that fit best for you.

Place: Best Western Conference Room, 74695 CA-111, Palm Desert, CA. Phone: 888-961-9802

Time: 9am – 4pm with a lunch break on your own. Morning coffee and a few snacks will be provided.

Workshop Materials: A supply list will be sent upon receipt of your application and the beginning of the season.

INSTRUCTORS and SCHEDULE

MONDAY, January 5, 2026 – 'Watercolor Pouring with Stencil Techniques'



Buffy Kaufman is a watercolor pour artist working in transparent watercolor using a variety of methods.

Her watercolor pouring and stencil techniques create atmospheric watercolors. She serves as a Brand Ambassador for Daniel Smith Watercolors and holds the status of Signature Member with the Louisiana Watercolor Society and Women in Watercolor.

The goal of this workshop is to explore watercolor pouring with stencil techniques – focusing on connected shapes and the powerful dance between negative and positive space.



TUESDAY, January 6, 2026 – 'Design and Composition'



Connie Zane has given private and small group watercolor classes for over 20 years. Connie says, "Nothing is more fun than picking up a brush and seeing what happens".

The goal of this workshop is to present a broad, yet easy-to-remember overview of the Principles and Elements of Design. Connie will demonstrate and lead you in how to arrange shapes, lines, and color to simplify a painting, establish unity and balance, and guide the viewer's eye to the artist's desired focal point.



Workshops, continued

'A Taste of Watercolor'

WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2026 – 'Surface Stories: One-Day Abstracts with Water Media & Texture'



Alley Yasskin will provide a playful day exploring how water media and textured surfaces can transform your abstract art. Using watercolor, fluid acrylics, and inks, you will work on a variety of materials (some provided) like Yupo, watercolor paper and textured collage backgrounds, to create layered and expressive pieces.



The goal of this workshop is to experiment with different surfaces and create surprising effects; to add texture with stamping, stencils, and collage; to loosen up and trust your creative intuition; and to build strong abstract compositions with color & shape.

THURSDAY, January 8, 2026 – 'Portrait Painting in Watercolor'



Jim Nelson has always loved watercolor, studying the works of John Singer Sargent, Winslow Homer, Andrew Wyeth and others, as well as the paintings of the impressionist and post-impressionist period. Since retiring as a cancer research biochemist, Jim is now devotes his time to painting and travel, studying art & artists from around the world. He earned signature status in Watercolor West in 2017 & CVWS Painter of the Year in 2015-2016.



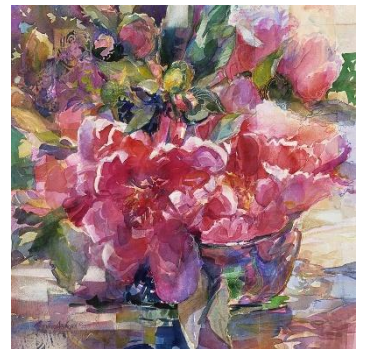
The goal of this workshop is to learn to model the face with color and value.

FRIDAY, January 9, 2026 – 'Exploring Gouche with Watercolor'



Ellen Jean Diederich has been painting professionally since 1985 and holds a BFA in Fine Art. She exhibits widely and is the author and illustrator of "Progressive Painting – Your Creative Journey", two children's books, and is a popular workshop instructor.

The goal of this workshop is to explore gouache with watercolor. The techniques learned and practiced will extend your versatility and can give new life to failed watercolor paintings or recycled paper.



Workshops, continued

REGISTRATION for

'A TASTE OF WATERCOLOR'

January 5-9, 2026

	Instructor	Topic	Instructor Contact	I Choose This One
Mon Jan 5	Buffy Kaufman	Watercolor Pouring with Stencils	bk@watercolorpour.com	
Tue Jan 6	Connie Zane	Design and Composition	www.artworkbyconniezane.com	
Wed Jan 7	Alleyn Yasskin	Surface Stories: One-Day Abstracts	alleynyasskin@gmail.com	
Thursday Jan 8	Jim Nelson	Portrait Painting	jnelson286@gmail.com 734-355-4029	
Friday Jan 9	Ellen Jean Diederich	Exploring Gouche with Watercolor	www.givinity.com 701-799-9505	

***COST FOR CVWS MEMBER:** \$100 for one day; \$90 for each additional day

***COST FOR NON-CVWS MEMBER:** \$120 for one day; \$100 for each additional day

**** You are encouraged to sign up and pay online at www.cvws.org to reserve your spot in this popular workshop.** You may also bring your application and payment to a monthly meeting or mail it to CVWS PO Box 565 Palm Desert, CA 92261. Not paying online will delay the receipt of your registration, possibly allowing the workshop to fill up before your application is received.

For mailing or in-person application, please submit the following with your payment:

NAME (print legibly) _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

Please sign me up for the following days:

Mon, Jan 5 _____

Tue, Jan 6 _____

Wed, Jan 7 _____

Thurs, Jan 8 _____

Fri, Jan 9 _____

Total Days attending: _____ Member/Non-Member (circle one) **TOTAL COST*** _____

Workshops, continued

Master the Art of Watercolor

with Internationally Acclaimed Watercolor Artist Amit Kapoor

Exclusive 4-Day Amit Kapoor Workshop – March 2026

- March 23 – 26, 2026
- 9AM - 4PM
- Palm Desert, California



Spots are limited — register early! www.cvws.org

www.amitkapoorwatercolor.com

Instagram: @amitkapoor_watercolors

Join Amit Kapoor, one of the world's leading contemporary watercolorists, for an immersive hands-on workshop in the heart of the California desert. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to join internationally acclaimed watercolor artist Amit Kapoor. Amit has received over 50 international awards and is noted as the only watercolorist from India to receive the Silver Star Award from the National Watercolor Society. It will be an honor for the CVWS to host him here in the Coachella Valley.

Known for his glowing landscapes and dynamic cityscapes, Amit will guide participants through his signature techniques and artistic approach to watercolor. Whether you're just starting out or refining your watercolor skills, this workshop is designed to spark growth, build confidence, and expand your creative voice.

What You'll Learn

- Fundamentals of Composition – Build strong, expressive layouts for compelling paintings
- Light, Tone & Atmosphere – Create mood, depth, and brilliance through value and color
- Perspective & Viewpoints – Understand 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

*Workshop Cancellation Policy may be viewed at www.cvws.org



News



Remembering Jane Ferris Gillingham

Long time CVWS member, Jane Ferris Gillingham died peacefully in her sleep on September 28, 2025. Jane focused on painting after her retirement from teaching in 1995 and was an active plein air painter, winning frequent CVWS awards for her lovely landscapes, animal and nature paintings. We are saddened by her passing, but happy that she lived such a good and full life. Jane was 92. Her sweet nature and sunny disposition will be missed.



Annual Show changes

This year we have added Monday for our Annual Show at the Artists' Council. This means that intake will be on Monday morning, 2 March at 9.30.

Our award ceremony and reception will be held on Wednesday March 4th.

The Show will be open until Sunday afternoon.

This year there will be no Plein Air category but those who would normally enter this section are welcome to exhibit in the Traditional or Open categories. The Mini Masterpieces category will have a size maximum of 10" on the longest side. If you do not have frames within this dimension, black 8"x10" frames are available at Target for \$6 or from Amazon at two for \$6.99. The latter includes a matt. We are not so rigid about hanging wires for Minis and will accept saw tooth or similar hangers, but they must have some means of wall hanging. The Show Prospectus and Rules will be posted on the website soon.

Ian Cooke and MaryAnne Brower

News, continued

CVWS IN THE NEWS!

Our Publicity Chair Kathy Weyer reports that CVWS will have an ad coming out in Palm Springs Life and Arts & Culture Magazines soon. For future reference (since the 2025 deadline has passed) they have a special offer for artists who are interested in taking out their own ads. Contact their sales representative at Palm Springs Life: 760-325-2333

From CVWS member Susan Newland: Some of our CVWS members will be participating in an art show in Imperial County to benefit the Imperial Valley Food Bank. This show has been a staple in the Imperial Valley for at least 60 years and one that CVWS members may be interested in the future.

Annual Imperial Valley Palate, Palette, and Pallet

Local art, wine tastings, hors d'oeuvres, and live jazz

Thursday, October 30, 2025

6 pm

Imperial Grove, 486 West Aten Road in Imperial

Pre-sale tickets are \$25 at IVP3.org

CVWS 2025-2026 Schedule

Oct 2 - Board Mtg. Zoom 4PM

Oct 13- General Mtg. ZOOM 5:45PM Summer Challenge, POM by CVWS Board Members.

Nov 6 - Board Mtg. Zoom 4PM

Nov 10 - General Mtg. Joslyn Center 5:45PM - Demo Ian Cooke, watercolor

Dec 4 - Board Mtg. Zoom 4PM

Dec 8 - General Mtg. Joslyn Center 5:45PM - TBA

Jan 1 - Board Mtg. Zoom 4PM

Jan 5-9. Taste of Watercolor workshops - Best Western, Palm Desert

Jan 12 - General Mtg. Joslyn Center 5:45PM - Demo -Chris Cozen - Mixed Media

Feb 5 - Board Mtg. Zoom 4PM

Feb 9 - General Mtg. Joslyn Center 5:45PM - TBA

Mar 2 - Show take in 9:30-11:30 AM

Mar 4 - Show Judging (Judge= Mark Leonard)

Mar 5-8 Show Reception (Wed 5-7 pm) & Show (daily 10-4pm)

Mar 8 - Show Pick up 3:30-4:00 PM

Mar 12 - Board Mtg. Zoom 4PM

Mar 16 - General Mtg. – Joslyn Center 5:45PM - Presentation of 2026-7 CVWS Board officers for April vote, Demo -Robin Becic - Water media Batik

Mar 23-26 - Workshop, Amit Kapoor

Apr 2 - Board Mtg. Zoom 4PM

Apr 13 - General Mtg. Joslyn Center 5:45PM - Vote for new Board Officers

Demo -David Howell - watercolor

May 7 - Board Mtg. Zoom 4PM

May 11 - General Mtg. Zoom 5:45PM - Painter of the Year Judge: Harold Walkup

June 4 - Board Mtg. Zoom

Odds & Ends

Editor's Note: Thank you to the CVWS board members who provide timely information about the events & activities of our organization for the newsletter each month.

And a special expression of gratitude to those who contribute above and beyond the call of duty:

- * Connie Zane for her "Membership Contribution" articles
- * Kathy Weyer for her "Getting to Know You" articles
- * Robin St. Louis for graciously proofreading our newsletter each month prior to distribution.

Thank you to Alicia Siegler and Kathleen Scoggin for this explanation of "water media".

CVWS was originally founded as a strictly watercolor organization, and our organization has had a long and well-regarded history. As newer water media products have come on the market our artists have used their creativity to experiment with these new products, and today you can use the following products in your CVWS paintings: Acrylic paints, Acrylic inks, Watercolor inks, Gouache and Casines.



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
Moir Johannesssen	760-322-2523
Diane Morgan	760-902-8855
Alicia Siegler	650-207-0585
Suzy Voss	209-768-7647
Alleyn Yasskin	503-206-9313
Connie Zane	775-846-9719



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



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