



Coachella Valley
Watercolor Society

Brush Up October 2025

General Meeting via ZOOM: October 13, 2025

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

You will receive a link to this meeting by email a few days before the meeting.

Zoom Step-by-Step Guide (page 12)

Welcome to the 36th season of the **Coachella Valley Watercolor Society!**



This season we look forward to bringing you a year of interesting and informative demonstrations, workshops, and opportunities to exhibit and sell your artwork. As you engage in these activities this season, you will see old friends and make new ones who share your interest in creating art!

At our October 13th Zoom meeting, members who have not yet returned to the valley will be able to attend and participate. We will have Painter of the Month by Board members, and you can share your entries for our 2025 Summer Challenge. (See page 3 for details).

From November-April we will continue to meet in-person on the second Monday of the month at the Joslyn Center, with one exception: since our Annual Show ends Sunday, March 8, our March general meeting has been moved to the 3rd Monday, March 16, at the Joslyn Center. In May we will have our usual Zoom meeting for Painter of the Year judging and critique.

President's Message



Bob Hannah, President

CVWS 2025 – 2026 Officers

President: Bob Hannah

Exec. Vice President:

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

October 2025

Yippee! Summer's Over!

The heat is gone and now it's time to focus on your paintings, creating new masterpieces and renewing your membership in the CVWS. I hope you all have been painting up a storm over the summer wherever you may have been. Unfortunately for me, it's the first summer I've ever spent here as family situations dictated no other options.

Financially, our watercolor society is solvent. However, at our Board meeting in September we were shown some pretty grim numbers for our fixed operating expenses. Namely, that our in-person general meetings at the Joslyn Center represented 52% of our total operating expenses. To address this and other expenses, we looked at reducing these expenses and increasing income.

First and foremost, we've negotiated a decrease in our rent and associated expenses that will save us approximately \$1,500 a year. This year we will also add an additional Zoom meeting to save facility charges: our first meeting of the year—October 2025. October is traditionally our lowest attendance meeting as our seasonal members don't usually arrive until November at the earliest.

Secondly, we looked at increasing our fixed revenue source: membership dues. Our current dues of \$55/year are at the low end of watercolor society membership fees for a society that offers a non-juried annual show, workshops with experienced instructors, quality demonstrators at our monthly meetings, Painter of the Month, and Painter of the Year competitions.

Our last membership dues increase was in 2017, eight years ago, when it increased \$10/year from \$45 to the current \$55. At our September 2025 Board meeting, the Board approved an increase of \$10 a year to \$65 for an individual annually. Couples will also incur the increase of \$10/year to \$85 per year. Not including potential new members, we will increase our membership dues revenue by approximately \$1500/year. In total we've been able to increase our bottom line by \$3,000 +/- annually. There is still a small deficit but we're on the right track.

Keep putting those "miles on the brush"!

Bob

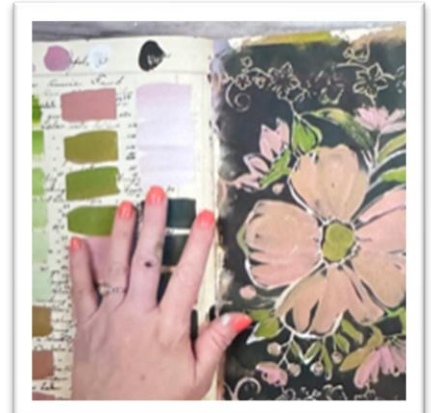
2025 Summer Challenge



Non-representational



Abstract Realism



Other Stuff

Our Summer Challenge this year is "Abstract."

Abstract art is an art form that uses shapes, colors, forms, and lines to create a composition independent of visual reality, rather than attempting to accurately depict the real world. It serves to communicate emotions, ideas, and intangible experiences, often abandoning realistic subjects for a more expressive, non-representational style.

That may mean something different to each artist...realistic subject matter painted in a "wonky" manner, or something totally non-representational, just a figment of your creative imagination.

Or, if you have neither, show us something else you worked on this summer. We love seeing what you're working on and having you tell us about it.

**Please share what you have come up with
at our October 13th Zoom meeting by clicking on this
link <https://www.cvws.org/sc26> to upload your photograph
by September 30.**

-- Connie Zane, Painter of the Month Chair

Membership

Welcome to New CVWS Member:

- Judi Coltman

CVWS has not raised dues in eight years, however, our day-to-day expenses have continued to rise during that time.

Beginning this year, annual dues will be:

\$ 65.00 for single membership

\$ 85.00 for a couple

*Please renew your
2025 – 26 membership
on the
CVWS website
www.cvws.org*

before October 31, 2025.

Share your proud moments with our members!

CVWS newsletter editor Jean Grover is requesting that if you have any news about your creative life (recent shows, awards, etc.) you email her at cvwsnewsletter@gmail.com no later than the 15th of the month for our next newsletter edition. Please include a photo if possible.

Member Contribution

Submitted by Connie Zane

It's OK to Stare

Artist, Jenny Nelson, calls it the “staring chair”. It’s the place she sits to stare at her work-in-progress. Think about how you’d benefit from arranging a seat, a time, and a commitment to do this for yourself on a regular basis. There is much to learn from self-critique.

I can get so caught up in the frenzy of creating that often I forget to carefully scrutinize what I’ve painted. But it’s important to make time to really assess our work, and to look at it as though it came from someone else.

Often, I’m so invested in what I’ve just produced, I don’t see the glaring errors or questionable choices that I’ve made in the process of creation. Only later when I’m less involved can I objectively evaluate my work. Sometimes it even takes months before a blatant flaw becomes apparent. Then, all of a sudden, I’ll see something that I’ve never noticed before and think, “Wow, how did I miss that all this time?” Or a solution to some problem finally dawns on me, out of the blue, in a painting I’ve looked over a dozen times.

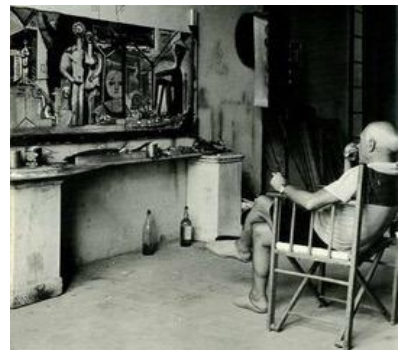
Self-delusion is a strong force. We really do have blinders on when it comes to our own work. And the more I acknowledge that, the easier my self-critiques and fixes become. If I put a painting in a spot that I’ll see right off when I enter my studio, it helps me to see it with fresh eyes and notice what aspects jump out. I also try to spend time really scrutinizing specifically what I like and don’t like about it, and I write this down.

In one of Nelson’s recent blogs she says, “Your looking time is sacred. This is when you evaluate, get deep and make decisions about your work that wouldn’t happen otherwise.” She says her “staring chair” is a comfortable spot from which she can spend time reviewing a painting in depth. She’s collected a series of photos of artists from Manet to Rothenberg seated in their “staring chairs,” contemplating their work.

Here’s one such photo, depicting Picasso deep in reflection.

Knowing that you’ll benefit and learn, strive to give yourself that same reflecting time as often as you can. And when you do, just know that you’re in good company.

“To look at something as though we had never seen it before requires great courage.” - Henri Matisse



Workshops

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 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 Gouache 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.elenjeandiederich.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** 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 _____

Thur, 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



www.amitkapoorwatercolor.com

Instagram: @amitkapoor_watercolors

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

Join Amit Kapoor, one of the world's leading contemporary watercolorists, for an immersive hands-on workshop in the heart of the California desert. Known for his glowing landscapes and dynamic cityscapes, Amit will guide participants through his signature techniques and artistic approach to watercolor.

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

Hosted by the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society

Whether you're just starting or refining your watercolor skills, this workshop is designed to spark growth, build confidence, and expand your creative voice.

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



Kudos

Veronique Branger reports:

Summer 2025 went by fast with lots of creative fun events. My husband and I participated in the outdoor Art in the Park events in Idyllwild as artists/vendors and had quite a few sales (see photos, below). Anza Borrego Art Institute sold one of my paintings. I am getting ready for the CVWS 2026 season art show, nine shows at the Desert Art Center and I will be an artist/vendor at Art on Main art events in downtown La Quinta December through May 2026. Make sure to stop by my booth!

Congratulations Veronique!



CONGRATULATIONS To Joyce Kingman:

Sun City Arts and Crafts show,
Spring 2025:
People's Choice Award &
1st place for "Cactus Garden".



JOYCE KINGMAN · SPRING 2025 1ST PLACE WINNER

A lifelong observer of nature's quiet beauty, Joyce Kingman finds endless inspiration in everyday surroundings. "I'm drawn to the vibrant details that might otherwise go unnoticed," she explains. Her work often explores "the contrast between texture and color, softness and strength."

Her award-winning piece *Cactus Garden* was sparked by a photo she took close to home. "I photographed a cactus in my neighborhood, then added the rocks and background to highlight the vivid, almost electric colors of the blooms," she says. The result is a bold, visually arresting study in opposites: "I love how the sharp, prickly surfaces of the cacti contrast with the delicate, smooth petals of the flowers—a striking and unexpected balance of toughness and grace."

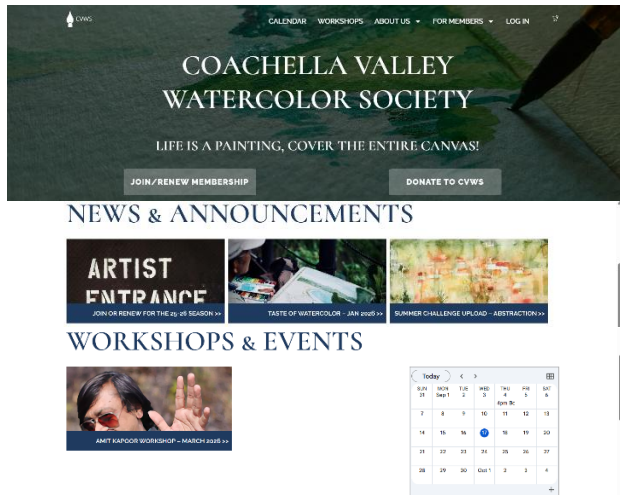
Cactus Garden
Joyce Kingman (watercolor)

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

Submissions to the newsletter are due
on or before the 15th of the month to:

cvwsnewsletter@gmail.com

Odds & Ends



Kudos to our awesome webmaster, Lance Brechbill for redesigning our CVWS website this summer.

Check it out at www.cvws.org

***Thank you, Lance,
for the job well done!***



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
Alleyn Yasskin	503-206-9313
Connie Zane	775-846-9719



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



Follow us on social media!

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

Instructions for Joining our October 13, 2025

CVWS Zoom Meeting

We recommend you log in 10 minutes before the meeting to get yourself set up.

ALSO Watch the YouTube Videos at the end of this page.

1. Zoom works best: a. Desktop Computer or b. iPad or Tablet or c. IOS/Android Phone.
2. Get on your device, open your CVWS email and look for "Meeting ID#...write this number down. Then click on the link in the email that says "Join Zoom Meeting". This will take you to Zoom. If you want to listen via regular telephone (not smartphone), use any of the teleconferencing phone numbers at the bottom of the email invitation.
3. When Zoom opens, click Join a Meeting.
4. It will ask for the Meeting ID Number and Password, which will be in your email invitation. Enter your name. This identifies you to others in the meeting.
5. Click Join. Then Click Join with Video or Join Without Video, if you don't want others to see you.
6. Click Join with Computer Audio. If you don't have a microphone enabled on your device, you can type in your questions during the Q&A using the Chat feature at the bottom of your screen. If you use an Android or IOS phone, tap the screen and the controls will appear. **YOU'RE IN!!**
7. When you enter the meeting, you will see the person that is talking on your full screen ("Speaker View"). If you would also like to see the other participants in the meeting in a grid layout, switch to "Gallery View". The controls for these are: a. Desktop Windows or Mac: On the top right of your screen. b. iPad: On the top left. c. Android/IOS phone: Swipe left to switch from Active Speaker view to Gallery View. Keep swiping left to see more of the gallery.
8. Your microphone and video on/off are on the bottom left of a desktop. Tap the screen for smartphones and iPads and the toolbar will come up. You will see icons for the microphone and video with a bar through them if they are not on. During the meeting presentations, your mic will be off unless you're called on to ask a question, and then the meeting manager will turn on your mic.
9. If you want to leave the meeting, click End, then Leave Meeting. **There are a number of good videos that you can watch to help you use Zoom for the first time. Here are a couple:**

Joining a Zoom Call for the 1st Time – A Fun and Easy Connection: <https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQ0E>

Joining a Zoom Call for the 1st Time – A Cozy Step by Step Guide: <https://youtu.be/6fIYWnfTc5o>