



Coachella Valley  
Watercolor Society

# Brush Up

## February 2025

### General Meeting: February 10, 2025

5:30 PM Social, 6:15 PM General Meeting  
at the Joslyn Center

73750 Catalina Way, Palm Desert, CA 92260

### Demonstrator: Stella Canfield

Stella Canfield's art is known for its deep emotional content, the dynamic of the brush stroke and vivacious colors. She creates intuitively and spontaneously in a relaxed, natural way of expressing her individual emotional response to the subject or scene she paints. Her work is charged with the energy of her own life, her passion for people and nature. The inspiration for Stella's art comes from her appreciation of beauty and her positive view of the world. Stella prefers to introduce symbols, giving the viewers the opportunity to visualize the details. This way she strives to emotionally involve them as partners, to give them a feeling of ownership of the painting. She believes that art is a way of spiritual communication.

Stella was honored by Daniel Smith with two Stella Canfield's Artist Master Sets of her favorite colors and included in CEO John Cogley's one-on-one video interviews titled In the Artist's Studio. She was included in Life with John Cogley.

Today Stella teaches watercolor, juries and participates in exhibits initiated by art organizations in the USA, Europe and Asia. She has received many international awards for her work. Her paintings are in several private, corporate, and museum collections in America, Europe and Asia.

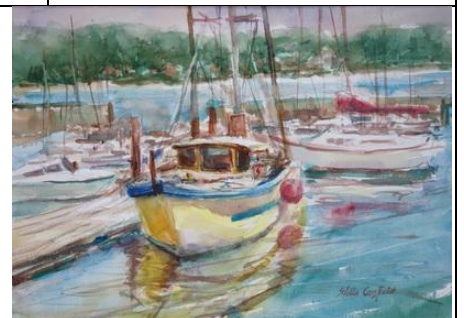
Stella's work and contribution to American art are published in the book by Karlyn Holman Watercolor: The Spirit of Spontaneity. Her biography is included in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in American Women.



[www.facebook.com/stella.canfield](https://www.facebook.com/stella.canfield)

[www.instagram.com/stellacanfield](https://www.instagram.com/stellacanfield)

<https://www.stellacanfield.com>



# President's Message



*Bob Hannah, President*

## **CVWS 2024 – 2025 Officers**

**President:** Bob Hannah

**Exec. VP:** Connie Zane

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Alleyn Yasskin

**2nd VP – Shows:**

Mary Anne Brower &  
Ian Cooke

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**Treasurer:** Cindy Mason

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**Newsletter:** Jean Grover

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**Equipment:** John Ressler

**Grants:** Nancy Rizzardi

**Membership:**

Connie Collins

**Painter of the**

**Month/Year:**

Marilyn Blitz

**Raffle:** Tracy Hartman

**Sunshine:** Cindy Green

**Web Chair:** Lance Brechbill

**Workshops:**

Sue Ober & Traci Davis

## February 2025

An exciting lineup of things to come for CVWS is beginning to become a reality.

We just had a great demonstration at our January meeting from member Ellen Diederich. Her expressiveness and color selection were wonderful to watch.

Also at our January meeting was the start of the push leading up to our Annual Show in March. We had several donations (many, many thanks to those people who contributed). But we still NEED MORE. Our gift baskets are a major fundraiser for us so additional help is needed, including donations of such things as new art supplies, videos, candy, cheese and crackers, golf greens fees, art lessons, and, of course, wine!

Bring your donations to our February General Meeting. It will be one of the last opportunities to make easy drop off donations.

In February our demonstrator will be Stella Canfield. Following that, she will teach a 3-day workshop at the Best Western Plus in Palm Desert on Highway 111. Stella is an internationally known watercolor artist who has judged and shown her work in exhibitions around the world. Her workshops are straight forward, tell it like it is, with humor and an incredible love of passing on her knowledge to her students. We are looking for 3-4 more students to fill the workshop and make it a truly outstanding experience. How about it? Do you want to improve your art and up your game? Then this workshop is for you. The cost is \$450 for 3 full days of learning, laughing and painting.

In March we will have the highlight of our season: our Annual Show. Ian Cooke and Mary Anne Brower have successfully, and profitably chaired past shows and provided a great four-day experience in the wonderful venue at the Artist Center at the Galen in Palm Desert. If you've never been to the Galen, it's a beautiful place to hold an exhibition. You can enter paintings into our show without fear of rejection because you don't need to be juried in. Besides the traditionally framed, open, plein air and mini paintings you can enter, there is an additional opportunity to sell up to eight (8) bin paintings, Please read the prospectus on the website [www.cvws.org](http://www.cvws.org) for all the rules and regulations as well as the pricing guidelines for your work. This year there are new minimums in the bin paintings and the framed paintings, so to make this show a financial success, please only place paintings in the bin that you would have framed for the show but couldn't because of the number of framed pieces you are limited to entering. Remember, paint, paint, and paint some more!

Also, we need to keep the push on to get new members.

Until next month, keep putting those "miles on the brush"!

Bob

# January 2025 Painter of the Month

(Photos courtesy of Terry Simmons)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mandy Main



2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Buffy Kaufman



3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Robin Staton



Honorable Mention: Ian Cooke



Demonstrator's Choice: Juleen McElgunn



*Ellen Diederich presenting the award*

**There are three ways to enter Painter of the Month:** 1) Sign up for next month at the General Meeting POM desk (Best!). 2) Email Marilyn Blitz, POM Chair [mblitz@gmail.com](mailto:mblitz@gmail.com). 3). Call Marilyn 252-381-0993. 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:

- Tom Doherty
- Patricia (Patty) Keller
- Bonny Moy
- Suzanne Pierson
- Juli Sexton (returning member)

## Member Contribution

Submitted by Connie Zane

### “Show Off”

The Annual CVWS Show & Sale is just around the corner. It's our big chance to show off, strut our stuff and display the beauty of water media. However, it seems that no matter how carefully we prepare our paintings, inevitably we get to the check-in and find that there's a speck under the plexiglass, or an unnoticed blemish on the mat that sends us to the fix-it table. It's terribly frustrating to find there's something amiss after you've spent so much time not only creating something you're proud of, but also all the busywork of matting, framing, labeling, etc.

These glitches stop an entry in its tracks and cause undue stress. But there is a solution: carefully scrutinize your work BEFORE entry day. I know all too well how easy it is to simply not see flaws. And sometimes, even professional framers will fail to notice a speck of lint in a framed piece. Here are some suggestions:

1. Complete your framing early. Then check it twice more before entry day. This sounds easy, but I find that unless I actually put these tasks on my calendar way ahead of time, I'll procrastinate and then it doesn't get done as I intended.
2. Have another set of eyes go over every inch with a fine-toothed comb. It's too easy to overlook our own mistakes, so buddy up with an artist friend and check each other's work. Also, double check your labels/entry forms for consistent titles, prices & categories. You'd be surprised how many times these don't match on entry day.
3. Stock some extra mats, plexiglass, and frame parts (if you do your own framing) and bring them to check-in, in the event you need to change out anything. Better to have them at the ready in the car, rather than to have to go back home or be without replacements at all.
4. If you have bin paintings, bring extra cellophane bags in case there's a rip or smudge that doesn't pass inspection.
5. If you use a professional framer, carefully inspect your painting BEFORE you leave the shop.

Your beautiful creations deserve a pristine, professional presentation, so take special care. They represent much more than just ideas and paint to us...they are a part of our soul, and they should reflect us at our best.

Can't wait to see them.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU!

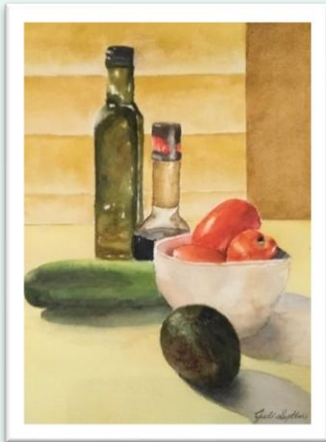
by Kathy Weyer



## Juli Sexton

Juli Sexton joined the CVWS before COVID and has just rejoined after taking a hiatus from the COVID aftermath. She is a part-time resident of Indio and lives half the year in Alaska.

She and her husband owned a retail greenhouse in Alaska. As a hobby, she dipped into needlework, mostly making quilts and following a pattern that did not include the creativity she craved. Two of her employees were art majors and one day a woman came in who was a watercolor artist and, as life has it, she began lessons with her friends, and they maintain those classes to this day. She has also joined a small watercolor group here in town with a few of our own members, and is enjoying being with other artists and learning more about this new form of art.



Juli admits she does not have a particular style developed and has yet to determine what her genre is. When we spoke, the phone call interrupted a landscape painting where she admitted landscape may not be her special favorite! She looks forward to more meetings, getting to know others in the group and watching the demos to learn new techniques and run home to try them with both of her watercolor groups.

Welcome back, Juli!



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU! continued

### Bonnie Moy

Bonnie Moy is a part time resident in Desert Hot Springs. At the last meeting of the Spa City Paletteers she received a postcard from our president to come to a meeting as his guest. Bonnie's main residence is in British Columbia, where she has lived for quite some time, coming down to DHS for the past ten years to a vacation home in Vista Montana.

She was overwhelmed with the membership, the demonstrator, how well the CVWS is organized, and immediately joined. She was particularly impressed with the Painter of the Month program and plans to participate.

Bonnie's career began as a display and design artist for a department store. Her artwork branched into acrylic on canvas and now she's leaning into watercolor! She has also been a realtor for the past 33 years and works on her painting skills as a member of the Canadian Art Federation. Her pieces tend to involve action and storytelling and she is looking forward to focusing on a specific style. She looks forward to participating in CVWS in the future. p


(RIGHT: "Crescent Beach Beauties" was awarded People's Choice 2023 Paletteers DHS.)  
(BELOW: "Home Run Waiting Game" depicts the building of a new affordable home project, where I contributed 50 paintings for an auction to support this effort.)





# CVWS ANNUAL SHOW March 2025

**Entry Deadline: Online by Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> or by mail to CVWS, P.O. Box 565, Palm Desert, CA, before Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>.**

 <p><b>35th Annual Art Show &amp; Sale</b></p> <p><b>The Galen Artists Center</b></p> <p>72567 Highway 111, Palm Desert, 92260</p> <p>Thursday March 6th - Sunday March 9th 10am - 4pm—Admission free</p> <p>Art Demos at 11am &amp; 1.30pm each day</p> <p>Reception and Awards Ceremony Thursday March 6th, 5 - 7pm</p> <p><a href="http://www.cvws.org">www.cvws.org</a></p> <p><small>CVWS stimulates the visual arts, by means of demonstrations, workshops, shows and art education for adults and children.</small></p> <p>Michael Cedeno <b>Coachella Valley Watercolor Society</b></p>	<p>Intake is planned for Tuesday March 4. The evening reception on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm. The show will be open to the public and for sales from Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>. General hours are 10am to 4pm (3pm on Sunday). Pick up will be on Sunday March 9, at 3pm.</p> <p>Any queries or offers of help to: <a href="mailto:iancooke49@gmail.com">iancooke49@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:mabrower43@gmail.com">mabrower43@gmail.com</a></p>
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We are now really going live for the next CVWS show. Many of you will have been approached regarding helping either setting up the show or helping while it is running. Please offer a few hours to help if you haven't already.

Please go ahead with your entries as soon as you can. Too many people entering at the last minute can cause the site to crash which is stressful for all of us. If you find the web entry daunting, get someone to do it with you. This helps Lance and the other entry staff considerably.

Now to the art itself. Remember the minimum price you set for all traditional, plein air and open entries must be \$150 and for bin paintings and Mini Masterpieces, \$95. You can bring EIGHT bin paintings but do select well. Don't just use the bins for old work that hasn't sold. This is for good quality work that just isn't framed. Paint for the bin!

Do bring raffle items for Sue Ober to make up into gift baskets. We also would value the donation of white wine that we can use at our Thursday reception. Yes – don't forget that Thursday 5-7pm reception and awards!

And finally, do start to publicize our show. We need visitors to view our art and hopefully purchase! Publicity cards will be at the next meeting in bundles of 25. If you know shops, restaurants, hotels or other venues that will display them do take a bundle and distribute. -- --Ian Cooke, Annual Show Co-Chair

A great big thank you to those who donated at the January meeting for our raffle baskets for the Annual Show. There is some really great stuff. Just to remind you that the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society financially supports art for youth right here in the Valley. All donations are appreciated. A bit of what we can use...BASKETS, I am looking for about 14 - 18 inches across and about 8" deep. We have a great collection of art books, wine, candles and art supplies that tend to get a little heavy. ART SUPPLIES, anything will work. If you have a brush or two that you never use, we can bundle them with other things to make a great looking display. Of course we are still looking for glasses, specialty food items, golf stuff (stuff for the male artists), candy or chocolate, the sky's the limit. Thanks again. The next meeting for drop off is February 10th, plenty of time to gather! -- Susan Ober [watertonsue@gmail.com](mailto:watertonsue@gmail.com)





## Exhibition Rules for CVWS 2025 Show

**General:** Show entry is eligible to all current Paid-up members of the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society.

**Allowed:** Original art created in the last two years; Art shown at a meeting or 'Painter of the Month'

**Not Allowed:** Art created in a class or workshop; Art that is a copy or a study of another artist's work (including commercial photography). This is because of copyright laws; Any art that is not original to the artist; Art previously exhibited in any CVWS judged show; Art that is damaged, inappropriate for public display (i.e., nudity), improperly framed, or does not meet entry requirements; Clip frames

**Sizes and Entries:** Annual Show sizes: Maximum 46", minimum size 5" on any outside edge of frame, canvas or board.  
Mini Masterpiece show sizes: Maximum 14" on the outside of frame or canvas edge.  
Maximum of **EIGHT** paintings, with up to **THREE** in any category or **TWO** in the Mini Masterpieces.  
Each artist is allowed to enter only **THREE FULL SHEETS** (image size 22" x 30") TOTAL IN THE SHOW.

**Mediums:** Artwork must be water-media painted in a primarily aqueous manner.  
Non-water-based media may be integrated but cover no more than 20% of the artwork.  
No oils, water-miscible oils, encaustics, or photography are allowed.

**Traditional Presentation Category:** Artwork may be presented on watercolor paper, paper-based board, watercolor canvas, Yupo or other synthetic paper. To be accepted into the show and judged, all traditional presentation paintings **MUST** be matted and framed (mats may be any color but must be clean and well cut). No clip frames are allowed.

Plexiglass must be used if frame is larger than 16" x 20". Frames 16" x 20" or smaller may be under glass or plexiglass. Floated framed paintings (no mat) must have spacers to keep art from touching inside plexiglass and be floated on mat board.

Paintings must be backed with foam core, mat board, or other hardboard (i.e., Masonite) no cardboard is allowed. All frames must be wired. Do not pull the wire tight. Wire should be secured one-fourth of the total height down from the top of the frame, looped through D-rings. (No eyelet screws are allowed). Maximum **THREE** paintings

**Open Presentation Category:** Paintings may be on wrapped canvas or 'cradled' painting panels with a **minimum depth of 1½"**. The sides of wrapped canvases must be staple free and neatly finished or painted. Mats and frames are not required. **No glass or plexiglass in this category is allowed.** Canvas boards (including clay board, gesso board or canvas) **less than 1½" deep** must be framed. These paintings must be protected with a layer of medium, acrylic varnish or paint, including sides. All work must be wired ready for hanging. Maximum **THREE** paintings

**Plein Air Category:** Plein air paintings may be presented in Traditional or Open format but will be displayed and judged in the Plein Air category. 80% of submitted work must be painted plein air; the remaining 20% may be painted in the studio. The subject may be from any location. Maximum **THREE** paintings

**Mini Masterpieces Category:** Paintings must have a maximum of 14" on the outside of the frame edge or a minimum of 5". Artwork should comply with either Traditional or Open category rules but will be displayed and judged with the Mini Masterpieces Category. **Maximum TWO paintings allowed in this category.**

**Bin Paintings:** All paintings must be original. Acrylics on paper or canvas board are allowed. All work must be matted and backed with clean foam core, mat board or stiff cardboard the same size as the mat and enclosed inside an acetate sleeve that has been fitted to the size of the mat or professionally shrink-wrapped. No cardboard backing or kitchen shrink wrap is allowed. Bin paintings will not be judged. Maximum **EIGHT** paintings per artist in the bins.

(For a complete listing of the 2025 Show rules & prospectus, visit [www.cvws.org](http://www.cvws.org)).



# Workshops

## Upcoming Workshop for the CVWS:

### **Stella Canfield - February 11-13, 2025**



As you read this, we are preparing for our next in person workshop. We are hosting Stella Canfield in Palm Desert in February. A couple of seats are still available. This is a three-day event from the 11 to the 13 at the Best Western Hotel in Palm Desert. Each day we run from 9 AM to 4 PM, with a break for lunch. Stella has been to the desert previously and I had the opportunity to take her workshop. Wonderful! Please visit our website CVWS.org for more information or to register. Feel free to send me a note if you have any questions.

[watertonsue@gmail.com](mailto:watertonsue@gmail.com)

Susan Ober - workshop volunteer

*Preview this YouTube Watercolor Demonstration by Stella Canfield:  
Field of Poppies: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzI-UPX3n80>*



# News

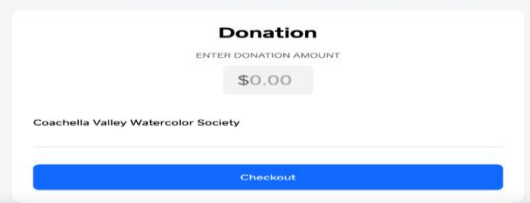
## From CVWS Treasurer Cindy Mason:

CVWS is so lucky to continue to have generous member donors. We received a total of \$1,800 donations in December 2024.

I had already reported on the \$1,500 from Nancy Rizzardi to offset our \$2,000 per day rent at the Galen.

In addition, \$200 was received from Cindy Mason (yours truly), again in support of the Annual Show, and \$100 was received from Fred Hardy in support of our General Fund.

**Thank You – Thank You – Thank You!!!!**



**If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to CVWS, visit our website at**

<https://www.cvws.org/donation/>

## Plein Air



*Photo courtesy of Terry Simmons*

As some of you may remember, the CVWS had a very active Plein Air group called the Field Mice. Over time I have met a lot of great people painting in the great outdoors. Unfortunately, our Field Mice group has been discontinued, but that does not mean there is no Plein Air in the desert.

The Desert Plein Air Association is very active and accepts painters from all mediums. This group also hosts a festival every January here in the desert. The California Desert Plein Air Festival has just concluded, and I was able to participate in it for the last four days. A gallery showing from the festival is available until February 2 at the Galen Artist Council Gallery (same venue as our annual show). If you get a minute stop by and see the creations from amateur and invited professional Plein Air painters.

The Desert Plein Air Association and the California Desert Plein Air Festival both have informative websites if you are interested in paint outs in the Valley. There are several CVWS members in the group and they would welcome any questions.

Submitted by: Susan Ober

# Kudos

*We are pleased to acknowledge the creative accomplishments of our CVWS members: awards, show acceptances, etc.*



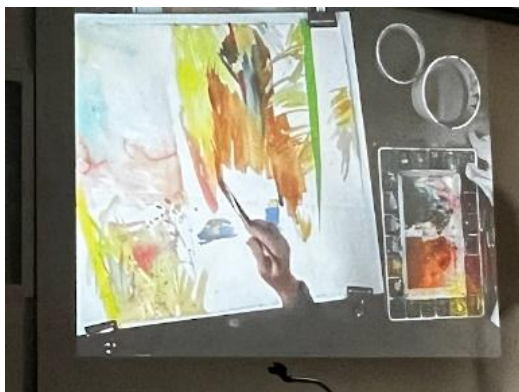
Veronique Branger will be showing her work at the Southwest Arts Festival in Indio, January 23 – 26, 2025.



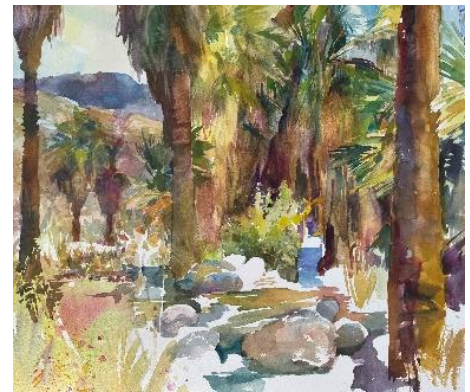
Several CVWS members will be participating in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of Desert Open Studios January 24 – 26, 2025

<https://www.desertopenstudios.com/tour-guide>

**One of the benefits of membership in the CVWS is the opportunity to experience demonstrations by local and national artists at our monthly meetings. The demonstrator for our January 2025 meeting was our own Ellen Jean Diederich:**



**Demonstration at the January 13<sup>th</sup> general meeting**  
(Photos courtesy of Terry Simmons)



**Ellen shared a photo of her painting-in-progress at the time of this publication.**

**Thank you, Ellen!**



# Odds & Ends



## Coachella Valley Watercolor Society GRANTS PROGRAM

CVWS members I need your help. I have agreed to chair the Grant committee. If you know of a worthy organization that supports children's art education, would you please let me know ASAP. Feel free to give them my email address if they would like to contact me directly. If you are interested in being on a grant committee just let me know. It's a good way to become involved in the organization that we love so much. Thanks for your help, Nancy Rizzardi [nancyrizzardi@gmail.com](mailto:nancyrizzardi@gmail.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>Kathleen Scoggin</b>	<b>503-515-9633</b>
<b>Alicia Siegler</b>	<b>650-207-0585</b>
<b>Connie Zane</b>	<b>775-846-9719</b>
<b>Alleyn Yasskin</b>	<b>503-206-9313</b>



*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)*

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