

Morning Light by Ari De Goes Jr
2019 International Open Exhibition



ROBBIE LAIRD
VIEW FROM
THE INSIDE

Approaching winter, and soon a new year, my thoughts become more introspective than in spring when new life and possibilities pervade all my senses. As I began my term as the president of the National Watercolor Society, nearly two years ago, spring pervaded the air!

I had faith that this venerable organization, close to its 100th year of existence, would always be here for aspiring artists. I knew in my life it had been here, even before I was aware that such an iconic beacon existed to show the way for the very thing that gives me so much joy in life! That thing is painting in watercolor!

As a child, I was a persistent explorer and I just knew I was the first to discover the magic of watercolor. It wasn't until I became an adult of 17, that I learned of others who had not only made the discovery before me, but had banded together to ensure that magic was valued and preserved for future artists. They formed an organization dedicated to the ongoing support of exhibition and learning opportunities for watercolor explorers into the future. I was filled with awe and admiration for NWS and I aspired to one day belong to this family. That was my view from the outside. It was a goal I wanted to achieve. I did not dream of how much learning and support I could have along the way by participating with these artists as, we grew together, in our mutual quest to be the best we could be.

Now my view of NWS is different. It is from the inside. I know how supportive NWS

continues to be for aspiring artists throughout their creative journey. Lessons and mentoring pervade like the onset of spring. Yet I know that this is a delicate balancing act for artists who care about the organization and make the commitment to help it continue. It is the balancing act of being an artist and a role model.

My role models for this commitment are those we know by name as artists we have been inspired to follow. Some have been and some are still among the most successful artists of their time. When I look at who they were and are, I find that many of them were our early NWS presidents and board members during NWS's beginning and its evolution during these nearly 100 years, from the California Watercolor Society to the current National Watercolor Society. These role models are artists whose paintings we know and revere. As my role models, I see that they did more than the art that was their passion; they supported and encouraged each other as artists, and also gave some of their precious time to NWS to provide those opportunities for us. They were our future! Because of them, in the words of this year's NWS Judge of Awards, Brian Rutenberg, "The NWS represents a level of excellence that is known around the world!"

We are now in their position and hold the future for the artists who follow us. It is our turn to be role models. The future of NWS is formed by decisions we make today and tomorrow. Every day we can make decisions and be role models. The values we model are the foundation we build for the future.

I recently heard a talented young artist say, "We have no need for societies or organizations." The message was that societies like NWS are passé and unnecessary. OLD! To be more specific, 100 – 150+ years old! Everything is digital

now. This young artist has continued to enter NWS Exhibitions, won awards, and recently served on a committee for NWS. Those actions speak louder to me than the words. Clearly NWS has perceived value.

There was a time when some NWS members believed it was time for a change for NWS. With nominations made from the floor at the annual meeting, several new board members were elected who believed a new direction would make our society stronger and more relevant. Although shocking and even disruptive at the time, they proved it was a positive move for the future. We are the role models for the future. We give some of our precious time to support that which has supported artists in the past, supports all of us today, and can continue to support artists in the future through whatever means are the most current and relevant for the striving artists of their time.

For our upcoming Centennial Celebration Year, I propose a toast to an NWS mentor and role model, Loa Sprung, only recently passed. She was a long-time artist, friend, past president and consummate supporter of NWS. The toast is also for the many other artists and their supporters who have performed the balancing act of being artists and role models by giving some of their precious time.

Here's to our role models for the future of NWS!

In the upcoming year of celebration, there is still a lot of work to be done. Let's get started and do this together!



Robbie Laird
President

100 Greetings to All!

BY PENNY HILL

Our centennial celebration year is 2020. What would those founding artists coming together to promote the genre of water media think of the innovations today?

The anticipation of our international open exhibitions have proven to be a showcase for artists from around the globe to present their never-before-seen works to the world audience. Of course nothing compares with the experience of spending time in front of the works and even meeting the artists at our opening reception. Through modern technology we have the exhibition available to view at your leisure online and this year have added the didactics to each piece in addition to our catalog.

NWS wishes to encourage you to participate in all our exhibitions. There is at least one if not all that will interest you. Beginning Jan 1 we will open the entries to our Annual Members Exhibition. Of course you must be a member to enter, which you can do just before entering. It is open to all works that have not been exhibited in past Members Exhibitions.

Our second and biggest exhibition is the International Open Exhibition the entries for which open April 1. Please remember only work that has never been in a national or international exhibition can be considered. Regarding the signature status process, your submission of three additional paintings should showcase and be in the same style and subject matter as your accepted work.

Be prepared for that call. It will come around the middle of June when we announce and verify the accepted exhibitors. The second path to signature status is to be accepted into the international Open

Exhibition three times. More and more artists are achieving it that way. We even had the first-time achievement of three consecutive acceptances.

We also have several international exchange exhibitions, most recently with the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour. These events provide an exchange of works in the corresponding countries and amazing opportunities. We have a second exchange of works showing work from the NWS and the Canadian Society Of Painters in Water Colour.

In addition, we also host showcases of our regional groups. We are always in need of everyone's talents and goodwill to enable us to achieve our mission of providing encouragement, innovation and exchange of ideas. Come on board the exhibition team. The tasks become smaller as we expand the number of volunteers.

So hold the dates for our receptions in 2020.

Annual Members Exhibition

May 7 — June 21

Reception May 9th

Juror: Carlson Hatton

100th International Open Exhibition

October 1 — December 20

Reception Weekend of October 18

Jurors: Katherine Chang Liu, Dean Mitchell and John Salminen

Judge of Awards: Mary Whyte

Come join in the excitement! ❖

NWS 2019 International Open Exhibition Attending Artists

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW BIRD



Susan Harper



Kathy Simon-McDonald



Susan Poole Gibson



Joe Cibere



Carla Gauthier



William Hook



Mary Rollins



Leonardo Dolfini



Kathleen Giles



Elke Memmler



Iretta Hunter



Diane Chencharick



Lana Privitera



Ken Goldman



Stephanie Goldman

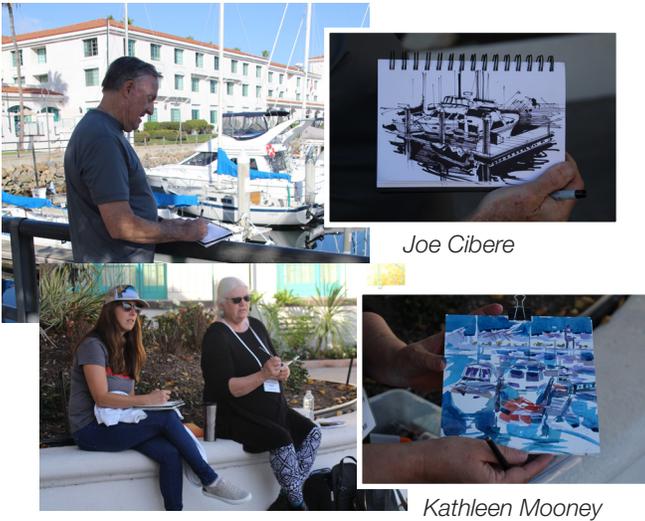
New NWS 2019 Signature Members



Elke Memmler, J. Anna Roberts, Jorge Leon, Diane Chencharick, Lana Privitera, Kathy Simon McDonald, Andy Evansen, **Not Shown:** Chien Ping Chiu, Stephanie Goldman, Stephen Kuhlman, Ze Ze Lai, Janet Laird Lagasse, Nancy Neale, Riaz Samadhan

International Exhibition Opening Weekend Events

Plein Air Painting, San Pedro Harbor



Lecture and book signing by Brian Rutenberg



Awards Luncheon



A Big “Thank You” to Our Donors!

BY DENISE WILLING-BOOHER, NWS VP-AWARDS

We were gifted with an amazing 100 donations for the 99th NWS International Open Exhibition. A big thank you to our NWS members and donors! You inspire and honor us with your awards and support of our love of water medium arts. Artists, please make a point to support the donors below with your business; they support us all. Visit our NWS website *Members Only Page* for great “Special Discounts and Opportunities.”

2019 Donors:

Airfloat Systems, American Frame Corporation, Ampersand Art Supply, Artwork Archive, Biafarin Inc., Blick Art Materials, Denise Willing-Booher, Chartpak Inc, Cheap Joe’s Art Supply, James & Kathleen Cornelius, Creative Catalyst Productions Inc., Dixon Ticonderoga, En Plein Air Pro, Escoda Brush Factory, Frame Destination Inc., Douglas Greer, Golden Artist Colors Inc., Gold Coast Watercolor Society, FL, HK Holbein Inc, Hahnemühle USA, International Society of Experimental Artists, Jack Richeson & Co. Inc., Jerry’s Artarama, JJC Industries LLC/Daniel Smith, Kanuga Watermedia Workshops, Harriet & Arthur L. Kaye, Legion Paper, Lori Pitten Jenkins, Lowri Lee Sprung, Alice Leonard, Masterpak, Valli Thayer McDougle, M.Graham & Co., National Watercolor Society, Grace Niwa, NWS Past Presidents, NWS Signature Members, Oregon Coast Council for the Arts, Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, Philadelphia Watercolor Society, Salis International Inc., Savoir-Faire Fabriano & Raphael, Bonese Collins Turner, Watercolor USA Honor Society, Watercolor West, Winsor & Newton/Col Art

A special thanks to the vendors who shared their amazing products and knowledge with us at the NWS International Open Exhibition opening weekend: Cheap Joe’s Art Materials, Golden Artists Colors, Rymar Art Inc. and Savoir-Faire, Fabriano & Raphael.



Accolades

Ron Bigony NWS, AWS, received signature membership in the American Watercolor Society.

Matthew Bird, NWS, TWSA, received **Best In Show** and **Best Still Life** in the International Guild of Realism's 14th Annual Juried Exhibition for **Magnolia Still Life**, **2nd Place Award** in San Diego Watercolor Society's 39th International Exhibition for **A Work In Progress**, the **Merit Award** in the Northwest Watercolor Society's Waterworks Unplugged show for **Looking Forward**. **Winter** was a finalist in the *International Artist* magazine, still life competition.

Associate Member **Sagnik Biswas's** painting **Bell Tower, Dubrovnik** was selected for publication in *Splash 20: Creative Compositions*. Sagnik has also written an article titled *Peopling The Landscape* for the "Bright Ideas" section of *Watercolor Artist* magazine, October 2019 issue.

Ellna Kay Goodrum, NWS, has a painting published in *Splash 20-Creative Compositions*. She also won an award in the 39th San Diego International Exhibition.

Jeff Hagen, NWS, was juried into the Brown County Art Guild in Nashville, Indiana, as a life member.

Michael Holter, NWS, released his first DVD, *7 Steps to Watercolor Portraits*, through Creative Catalyst.

Stan Kurth, NWS, WFWS, SDWS, received the **NimbusFrame.com Award** in the 46th Annual Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition. He has a feature article in the 2019 November/December issue of *Watercolor Artist* magazine. He was co-exhibitor in a two-person show with Valerie McMullen at the Phoenix College Eric Fischl Gallery in October.

Roland Lee exhibited over 100 paintings at a 40-year retrospective solo show at the Dixie State University Sears Art Museum. His painting **A Time of Peace** was purchased by the St. George Art Museum for their permanent collection. His second hardcover book of watercolor paintings, *Discovering Zion, A Pictorial Guide to Zion National Park*, was released in September. He was also selected as a juror for the 2019 Wasatch Plein Air event in Utah.

Chuck McPherson, NWS, WFWS, WW, SDWS, secured a fourth Signature (WW) with **Harbor Lights** being juried into the 51st Watercolor West International Exhibition. **Beached Caballero** won a **Top 15 Appreciation Award in Realism** in the Abu Rawash Prize 3rd International Watercolor Contest; the watercolor was also a **FAV15 winner** in the FASO Bold Brush Online Competition. Chuck juried the Escondido Art Association November 2019 Exhibition.

Associate Member **Sandra Pearce** was Juror for the Portland, OR Plein Air Exhibit.

David Poxon, NWS, RI, has brought the **International Watercolour Masters** back to the UK in May 2020. NWS members included in the exhibition are Matthew Bird, Jansen Chow, Pasqualino Fracasso, Laurie Goldstein Warren, Xi Guo, Julio Jorge, Mark Mehaffey, Dean Mitchell, Kris Preslan, Thomas Schaller, Mikhail Starchenko, Konstantine Sterkhov, Iain Stewart, Keiko Tanabe, and Zhou Tianya.

Associate member **Alisa Shea** received the **Second Place award** at the North East Watercolor Society 43rd Annual International Exhibition for her painting **Worth My Salt**, and an **Honorable Mention** at the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society 40th Annual Exhibition for **Digestivo**. She received the **Charles Strissel Memorial**

Accolades

Award at the Illinois Watercolor Society 35th National Exhibition for **Requiem for a Baby Grand**, and the **Richard Clubb Memorial Award** for **Jazz is Jazz** at the Watercolor USA 2019 Exhibition. Ms. Shea also qualified for Signature Membership in the Transparent Watercolor Society of America this June.

Annie Strack earned Signature Membership in the Northstar Watermedia Society. She juried the American Artists Professional League's 91st Grand National Show at the Salmagundi Club, and the Unionville Fair Art Exhibit in Pennsylvania.

Lorraine Watry, NWS, received the **Third Place Award** for The Pennsylvania Watercolor Society's 40th Annual Juried Exhibition.

Lois Ward Wolford, NWS, BWS, has received the Silver Medal for her painting **Three for Breakfast** at the 2019 Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition. This painting was also selected for publication in *Splash 21*. Her painting **Girls on a Mission** received **Honorable Mention** in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society 40th Annual International Juried Exhibition and the **PWCS award** for her painting **Breakfast Alone** in the Philadelphia Watercolor Society 119th Anniversary International Exhibition of Works on Paper.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MARCH 1, 2020

Please **follow the newsletter guidelines** on the right when you make your submissions!

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

We are proud that our members receive so many accolades; however, we are limited in what can be included.

WE PRINT the following for Signature and Associate members:

- Awards (only from national or international exhibits open to all artists. No "members only" shows.) Indicate the award[s] you received.
- Recent publications that include your work
- Special honors (i.e., signature membership to national art groups; serving as juror; having work added to permanent collections, etc.)
- Inclusion in invitational, solo or two-artist exhibitions

WE DO NOT PRINT:

- Your workshops or websites
 - Your inclusion into exhibits (unless you get an award and it is in an exhibit open nationally to all artists)
 - Items more than 6 months old
- Submitted material will be edited if it does not conform to the above criteria OR in order to fit space available.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Indicate your member status (signature or associate)
- ACCOLADES: Submit your information **PROPERLY FORMATTED** and in the 3rd person. Use the Accolades section in this newsletter as a guide. Be specific about titles and dates.
- ARTICLES will be reviewed for content and relevancy. NWS reserves the right to accept or reject articles and to edit the contents to fit.
- IN MEMORIAM: NWS will publish one submitted photo, space permitting.
- CALL FOR ENTRIES: Submitted and applicable to NWS will be posted on our website.
- WE REQUIRE A PERSONAL SUMMARY OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE GLEANED FOR CONTENT.

DEADLINES:

Spring: March 1; Summer: July 1; Winter: November 1.
ONLINE PREFERRED | NWSnewsletter@gmail.com
(Indicate "NWS Newsletter" in subject line, or it may be missed.)

MAIL-IN | NWS Newsletter Editor, 915 S. Pacific Avenue, San Pedro, CA 90731-3201

Dues Notice: January is the New April

BY NANCY SWAN, DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

This has been a year of change and the board is adjusting to it along with you. In the process, corrections are being made to our system. Some of you recently got a letter with an invoice stating that by paying those dues it would be paid to April of next year. That was actually the letter from last year, inadvertently attached to the invoice this year. We are currently doing the necessary housekeeping on our website, adjusting settings and cleaning up our data base, so please bear with us as we improve.

January 1 is when to start paying dues. Our All-Member Exhibition entry is in January, so be aware that your dues must be paid before entering that exhibition.

Attention Signature Members:

Getting dues in by the deadline is especially important to you, as you could lose Signature status if overdue too long. We realize many of you have been Signature members such a long time that the change may be hard to remember. We will be reaching out by email, maybe a phone call and maybe a last-ditch postcard. Before that happens, if you have extenuating circumstances, please contact us by email or letter. The board may be able to help you retain Signature status. You are important to us.

Attention Associate Members:

You are not obligated to pay dues every year but must do so to benefit from membership discounts and have access to other members' contact information, as well as some videos. Our system only renews you one year at a time, so if your membership has lapsed you must contact us to update to the current year manually. (Important to do before entering exhibitions.) Please do not create a second profile; we will not remove your information if you are lapsed. You can make a level change back to Associate pending renewal. Pay your dues and we will update your year. Your important past history is embedded in your original profile.

You are a vital part of our organization and we look forward to creating many more opportunities

for participation. Please consider these advantages of membership and be part of our organization as we celebrate 100 years in 2020.

Please renew your membership of \$50 per year. Renewing online is easy:

- [Log-in to your profile](#) using your email and password. If you do not remember your password you may reset it at the time of login.
- Check your information and update as necessary; you may now have an alternate email address.
- Click on Invoices and Payments or the link in the emailed invoice: "View invoice online." No PayPal Account is needed. Sign in as a guest and use a credit card.
- Mailing a check for \$50.00 to the NWS Gallery is still an option. The gallery address is: NWS Membership, 915 S Pacific Ave, San Pedro, CA 90731. ❖

Nancy Swan, Membership Director
NWS4Membership@gmail.com



NEW NWS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

July 1 – November 1, 2019

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------|
| Victor Akpan | Nigeria | Vicky Merryman | CA |
| Ksenia Annis | TX | Kathleen Mulligan | OR |
| Haozhen Bai | Australia | Jan Mullins | |
| Jan Becker | NJ | Jennifer Nye | PA |
| Terry Binns | | Tess Pliskovskaya | Belarus |
| Scott Bodell | TX | Toshi Potts | |
| Dana Brock | Texas | Irina Povaliaeva | Russia |
| Noreen Brunini | VA | Mingyang Qin | WA |
| Barbara Buckley | NY | Ted Reeves | IN |
| Ashely Carlos | WI | Todd Rutherford | CA |
| Kar-Keat Chong | MN | Gene Sakamoto | |
| David Contreras | | Crowden Satz | CA |
| Diomedes Corneli | Argentina | Ann Scott | MA |
| Brian Cornelius | CA | Juliet Scott | CA |
| Mak DEHEJIA | MD | Eebecca Sentgeorge | OR |
| Beverly Eckmann | WA | Derek Sepulveda | |
| Su Er | CN | Sharon Serrago | TX |
| David Graybill | FL | Shauna Shane | CT |
| Tom Hardy | CA | Mutsuko Shigetomi | |
| John Hayes | OK | Nicki Smith | CA |
| Bradley Hendershot | PA | Louise Soe | Ca |
| Cynthia Hepworth | UT | Cecilia Stewart | Va |
| Kimiko Higashida | | Jane Strong | TX |
| Lindsay Hirsch | CA | Sarah Sullivan | CA |
| May Nah Ho | Singapore | Rosemary Therkelsen | CA |
| Laura Hollenbeck | MI | Janine Tinklenberg | MI |
| Vaishaly Jaiprakash | CA | Candice Tucker | Mi |
| MARITZA Jauregui Neely | AL | Natallia Valiukevich | Belarus |
| Rebecca Johnson | NM | Sydney Villegas | |
| Susan Johnson | MA | Jeff Wang | Taiwan |
| KEN KESSLER | CA | Joanne Wright | NY |
| Jian Kou | China | Julie Wu | CA |
| Mariko Kowalski | UT | Masae Yanaga | |
| Ze Ze Lai | Hong Kong | Margaret Zaleski | IL |
| Angelina Ligomina | OR | Francisco Zarate | TX |
| Mei Lin | China | Wenyi Zhang | China |
| | | Dabai Zhu | CA |

2020 Calendar

January 1 - 31, 2020 Regional Exhibition

February 6 NWS/CSPWC *Visions Adjoin*,
NWS Gallery, 5-9 PM

April 19 *Visions Adjoin* Exhibition Closes

May 8 NWS Annual Members Exhibition
Opening Reception 2-7 PM

June 28 NWS Annual Members
Exhibition Closes

July 16 *50 Stars* Exhibition Opens

September 6 *50 Stars* Exhibition Closes

October 1 100th International Open
Exhibition Opens

14,15,16 Mary Whyte Workshop

17 IOE Opening Reception

December 20 100th International Open
Exhibition Closes

Celebration Events To Be Announced



All exhibitions, demonstrations and workshops are held at:
NWS Gallery
915 S. Pacific Avenue
San Pedro, CA 90731-3201

IN MEMORIAM Loa Ruth Sprung, NWS, Past President

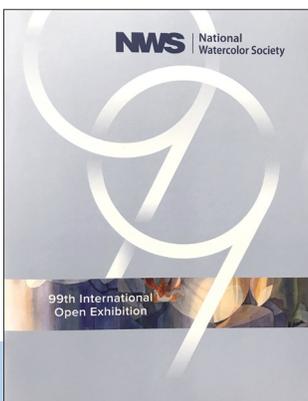


Loa Ruth Sprung, born in 1922, Studied at the Chicago Institute of Art in 1943 and 1944. Married John Sprung in 1948, two children, John Leon Sprung and Lowri Lee Sprung. Studied at Chouinard, Los Angeles,

in the 1950's. Became a Signature member of National Watercolor Society in 1975. Served on their Board of Directors in several capacities including President in 2003. Received the "Arts and Humanities Award" from NWS in 2006. She taught all media in Long Beach at Poly High School and also Adult Education for the city of Los Angeles. She retired in 1987.



Carmageden, 30" x 22" watercolor,
by Loa Sprung



The 99th Annual Catalog
is available for purchase.
Contact us to buy this or
past editions:

www.nationalwatercolorociety.org/store



Orbit
Denise Athanas
2019 International Open Exhibition

NWS MEMBER PROFILE: LOA RUTH SPRUNG

BY DEBBIE ABSHEAR

The National Watercolor Society will celebrate its 100 Year Anniversary in 2020. To start the celebration and to recognize long-time members, we will be sharing some of their stories. We hope you enjoy their memories and insights on being an artist.

If you know someone you would like to see profiled, please contact Debbie Abshear by email at sabshear@att.net or by telephone at (310) 989-9906.



Loa Ruth Sprung was born in 1922, studied at the Chicago Institute of Art from 1942-1944. Married John Sprung in 1948, and had two children, John and Lowri.

Loa became a Signature member of NWS in 1975 and served on its board of directors in several capacities including president in 2003. Loa received the “Arts and Humanities Award” from NWS in 2006. Loa’s daughter has sponsored an annual award for more than 10 years named the “Loa Ruth Sprung Award”, for the best non-objective painting at the NWS Annual Show.

Loa studied at Chouinard Art Institute, Los Angeles, in the 1950’s. She taught all media in Long Beach at Poly High School and also adult education for the City of Los Angeles. Loa retired in 1987.

Loa recently celebrated her 94th birthday and has not slowed down. She paints daily and was recently honored to have an exhibition in China with 100 of her paintings. Loa and her daughter Lowri flew to China to attend the opening.

Loa continues to mentor artists daily in her studio in San Pedro, California. The artists who paint and print in her studio share that they feel privileged to spend time with someone so dedicated and passionate about the arts. Loa has a broad knowledge of composition, painting and printing practices and is often called upon to critique and offer advice. She is cherished for her gentle reminders and compassion.

What motivated you to join NWS?

Fellow artist Lucille Brown Green, who was also my art professor and fellow ‘Women Painters of the West’ member, talked me into at least “try for the

NWS membership.” The year was 1975, and in 1977 I served on the board as a secretary. NWS had two secretary positions in those years, one who kept the minutes and one who handled all the letters the president had to send out. I was secretary number two. Way back then there were no associate members, and no computers.

If you could give your younger self some advice about being an artist, what would you say?

Attend a normal school and become a teacher of art for grades K through 12. I did attend the Chicago Institute of Art, an excellent school, but there were no lessons on how to teach young people. In the year 1940, I don’t think any person dreamed of being able to live by painting alone. In fact, being a “fine” artist was frowned upon; people considered the idea impossible, a way to goof off.



Oh Say Can You See | 32x48 watercolor by Loa Sprung

Who was your greatest teacher?

Ed Reep of Chouinard Art Institute was my greatest teacher. The Chicago Institute of Art had excellent teachers. Maholy Nagy from Germany’s Blaue House taught in Chicago just before the war started in Europe. Joyce Triemen, who was my age, happened to be a student in one of the life classes, and life model, Cleo, who many years later, I was surprised to meet again in California.

What is your happiest art moment?

Every time I feel I have completed a painting worth saving.

For a student wanting an art career, what advice can you give them?

Earn a doctorate in art history and become an art

professor in a college.

What do you see as the biggest change in the watercolor world?

I think the quality of/in art supplies has improved both in paper and paint. Sadly, I feel artists depend too much on photographs. The idea of painting just like some well-known artist is more prevalent these days. Then again there are more people painting today than at any other time in history, alas more dilettantes.

What is your favorite art tool?

My \$100, sable, one-inch, flat watercolor brush.

If you couldn't be an artist, what would you have done instead?

I would have studied to become an archeologist.



Carmageden, 30" x 22" watercolor, by Loa Sprung

What is your favorite painting and why?

Any painting created by Dean Mitchell. This gifted man works with a compassionate heart and a sensitive brush.

What piece by another artist is your favorite or most memorable?

On the lower level of the Prado in Madrid, the black paintings by Goya are hung; I saw them and was overwhelmed, became weak in the knees. ❖



Night on Bald Mountain, 22" x 30" watercolor by Loa Sprung