

## 2026 Spring Presenters

### APRIL

*Stephanie Bower*

April 28, 2026  
6:00–8:00 pm PDT



Seattle-based artist Stephanie Bower brings a rare blend of architectural precision and expressive watercolor to every page. A licensed architect who began her career in New York City, Stephanie now collaborates with renowned firms such as Olson Kundig, Perkins+Will, and Mithun, creating luminous pencil and watercolor illustrations that capture the spirit of place.

For more than 25 years, Stephanie has inspired students at Parsons School of Design, the University of Washington, and Cornish College of the Arts. A globe-trotting urban sketcher, she has taught at eight international symposiums and leads workshops worldwide, sharing her passion for perspective and on-location sketching.

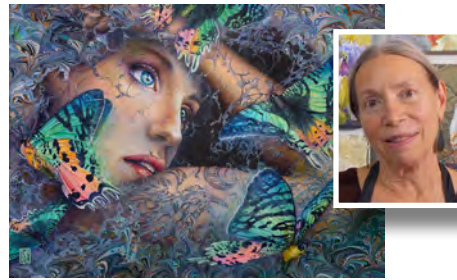
An award-winning artist and best-selling author, Stephanie's demos are packed with insight, energy, and practical techniques. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from a master who makes architecture come alive with watercolor.

**For more information:**  
[www.drawingperspectives.com](http://www.drawingperspectives.com)

### MAY

*Rene Eisenbart*

May 26, 2026  
6:00–8:00 pm PDT



Award-winning watercolorist René Eisenbart, signature member of the American Watercolor Society and National Watercolor Society, creates paintings that celebrate beauty in the raw and imperfect. From an early age René knew she would be an artist. That lifelong calling has evolved into a vibrant contemporary style.

She spent 25 years illustrating for *The Oregonian*, painting birds, flowers, and everyday subjects—transforming them through her expressive vision. Today, René layers acrylic marbling and textured grounds beneath luminous watercolor, where playful figures and unexpected narratives emerge. Her work invites viewers into a world of possibilities, leaving space for personal interpretation.

René's upcoming demo promises insight into her marbling process, rich surfaces, and storytelling approach. Join us for an inspiring presentation from an artist who brings imagination and experimentation to life.

**For more information:**  
[www.rene-art.com](http://www.rene-art.com)

### JUNE

*Pam Wenger*

June 23, 2026  
6:00–8:00 pm PDT



Portrait artist Pam Wenger brings heart, and insight, to every figure she paints. A retired teacher with a lifelong love of portraiture, Pam has studied with acclaimed watercolor masters Ted Nuttall and Charles Reid, refining her craft while being open to growth and inspiration.

She captures the quiet dialogue between artist and subject—through expression, gesture, and thoughtful composition. Pam's portraits reveal likeness, presence, and personality.

Her award-winning work has been recognized in prestigious exhibitions including the American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, and the Baltimore Watercolor Society Mid-Atlantic Shows, as well as features in *Splash*, *Artist's Magazine*, and *Watercolor Artist*.

Pam's upcoming demo offers an opportunity to watch her bring a portrait to life—thoughtfully, intuitively, and with the expressive sensitivity that defines her work.

**For more information:**  
[www.pamwenger.com](http://www.pamwenger.com)



**The Northwest Watercolor Society Newsletter**  
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 Bellevue, WA 98015-0387  
 www.nwws.org

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 (Subject line: NWWS Hot Press)

**HOT PRESS EDITOR**



*Editor's Marks*

by D'Arcy Heiber

We've finally turned the corner into spring, an especially welcome marker in the Pacific Northwest for most of us. It's time to climb out of your den and adopt a more outdoor-focused lifestyle, like tending or painting in your garden—or maybe in someone else's. In fact, "gardening" is the theme of this issue's Gallery (pages 15 & 16). Thank you to all who submitted your beautiful art!

You might want to make plans to attend May's PaintOut on beautiful Sammish Island. I joined February's PaintOut, where we all had a marvelous time together, despite weather that was a bit ... inhospitable. PaintOut is a great place to make new friends!

If you'd like to take a virtual trip to Italy to discover how pigments are created, see my story on page 6 about an unforgettable Verona factory tour.

And of course, we have some outstanding demonstration artists lined up for our spring meetings (page 1).

Here's wishing you a creative and art-filled spring!

*Spring Hot Press Index*

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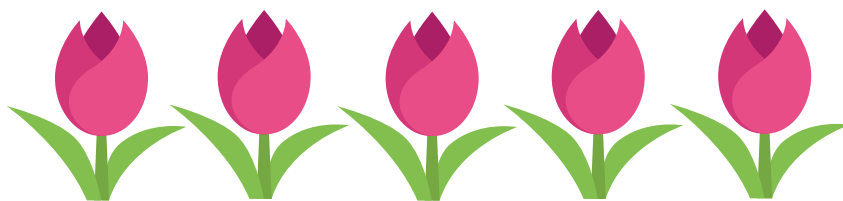
**HOT PRESS**  
**SUBMISSION DUE DATES**

**WINTER DEADLINE**  
**DECEMBER 1**  
 January/February/March Issue

**SPRING DEADLINE**  
**MARCH 1**  
 April/May/June Issue

**SUMMER DEADLINE**  
**JUNE 1**  
 July/August/September Issue

**AUTUMN DEADLINE**  
**SEPTEMBER 1**  
 October/November/December Issue



While at our February NWWS PaintOut on Samish Island last week, a woman excitedly remarked, "I just joined—now what are my member benefits?" Generally, someone looks at our organization and then makes a membership decision, so I was surprised she'd not taken that path. Nevertheless, there was plenty to tell her.

She is now aware of the treasure-trove of instruction tucked into our website and can view over 45 hours of art demo instruction, anytime, anywhere, and as many times as she'd like. The list of well-known artists who generously share their thoughts and processes makes this a membership bargain by any measure. I encourage you to take a scroll through the list and pull inspiration from any of them.

Beyond the valuable traditional watercolor demos, we have recordings from abstract artists, acrylic artists, gouache artists, and on February 24th, 2026, Scott Gellatly was our first casein artist. No matter what media you love most, Scott's demo was unique, thoughtful, and took the mystery out of this ancient, versatile medium.

Our Waterworks Online Exhibition juror, Michael Solovyev, gave us an outstanding demo, which is now available in the library. We have also added the recording of Mike Kowalski from his March 24th, 2026, general meeting demo. Both artists will be teaching two-day workshops in April, and their demos are a great way for you to preview their talents prior to their workshops.

The works of Gellatly, Solovyev, and Kowalski are very different from one another, but each offers instructional jewels that you don't want to pass over. After those three, there are 42 more waiting for you. Tuck in and dig in. With so much media vying for your attention, I know that NWWS reruns will be among your favorites.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Roskopf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Roskopf, NWWS President

# Waterworks Awards Reception

**WATERWORKS**  
*Online*

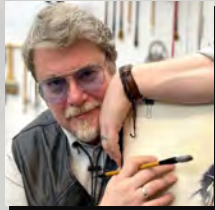
*2026 Awards Reception*

Friday, May 1, 2026 ~ 5-7 PM on Zoom

[CLICK HERE to register.](#)

*Michael Solovyev*

NWS, SCA, NEWS  
IWS, PWCS, CSPWC



Join us as our internationally renowned Juror and Instructor – Michael Solovyev – presents the accepted artwork and award winners of the NWS 2026 Annual Waterworks Membership Exhibition. *Enjoy the exceptional talent of our NWS members!*



*Breakfast with Maria*  
by Lana Privitera

*Golden Love*  
by Caitlyn Leline-Hatch

*Amazing Grace*  
by Dana Thompson



## WATERCOLOR PLEIN AIR WITH ANDY EVANSEN

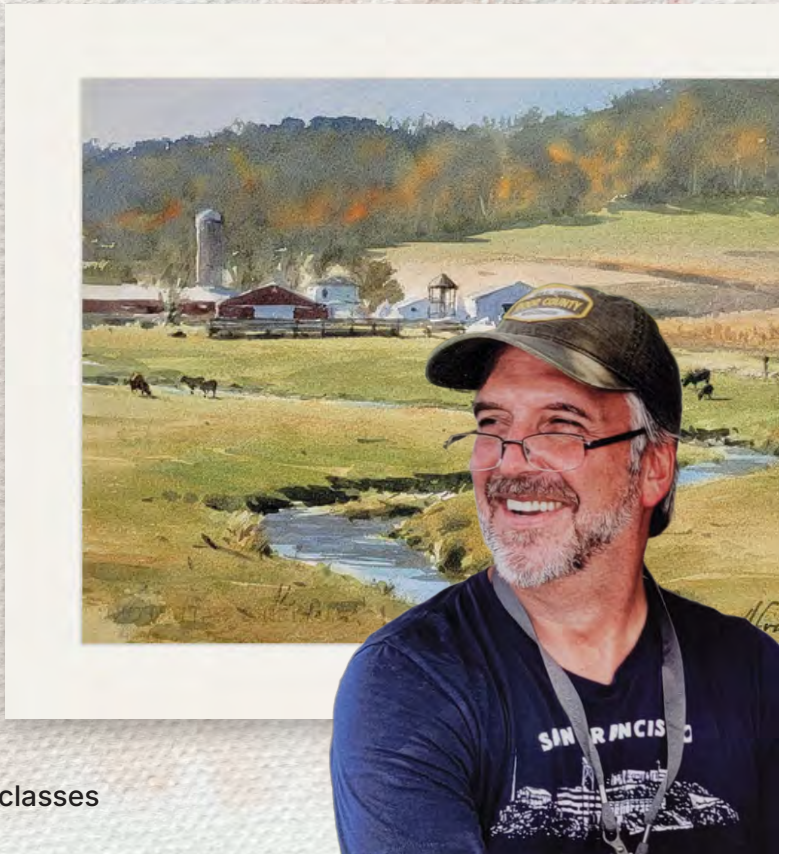
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**Pacific Time**

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# Touring the Factory Where Colors Bloom— Dolci Colori, Verona

by D’Arcy Heiber



*Dolci Colori exterior*

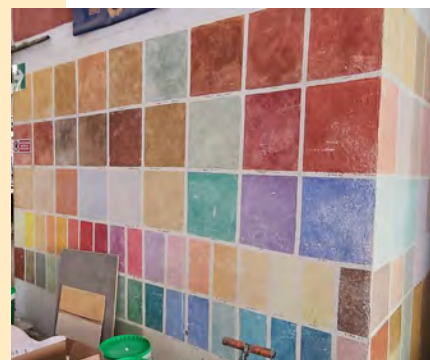
Have you ever wondered just how the pigments in your paints come to be? In 2023, while on an art trip to Verona, Italy, our group had the good fortune to tour Dolci Colori, a company that has been providing natural pigments for art and architecture since the early 20th century.

What is pigment used in? Pigment is what provides the color in any type of paint, from watercolors to house paint. It may be natural or manmade.

Verona sits on an amazingly rich geologic area that has supplied natural red, green, yellow and black earth pigments for millennia. The city is known for its brilliantly colored buildings that have been painted with pigments made from the surrounding earth.

Dolci Colori is currently run by third-generation owner Andrea Dolci. Their pigments are used worldwide to color paints used by artists and restoration architects.

Andrea himself guided our tour. Upon entering the building, we were greeted by the sight of colorful swatch-painted walls and small barrels topped with little mounds of pigment samples—a color feast for the eyes. I’m sure all of us fought the urge to take a pinch of each of the colors!



*Wall of color swatches*



*So many colors!*

— Continued on page 7



*Andrea Dolci speaks to our tour group*



*Grinder full of pink dust*

We followed Andrea back to a large room with multiple grinding machines that were covered in the most colorful dust you can imagine: brilliant shades of blue, green, yellow, pink, and ochre. We were welcome to ascend the steps and peer into the grinders, which were not running at the time. As I came down the steps, my hands were coated with fine umber-colored dust. Dust was everywhere. Lining the walls were tall industrial shelves, where bags upon 1000 kilo bags of raw materials—basically, rock—awaited processing. Imagine leaning against something, only to discover it is an open bag of over a ton of raw sienna pigment!

A large oven sat nearby, where raw pigments were calcified at different temperatures to create specific shades. For example, sienna is baked to produce—you guessed it—burnt sienna.



*Calcifying oven*



*Giallo limone*

— Continued on page 8



Grandma mixes paint swatches

In another, much quieter room, Mariella Muraro, Andrea's mother ("Grandma") stood at a large table and mixed paint samples for color swatches. I'll always remember the cast-iron collapsed spiral staircase at the end of that table, which was casually used for shelving. Brilliant. I have wanted a cast iron spiral staircase ever since.

Proceeding to the front office, we admired a wall of fabulous old wooden cabinets filled with jars of pigments. It seemed like vials, jars, and buckets of brilliant colored pigment were everywhere, as one would expect in a pigment factory, but we visitors were simply not accustomed to seeing this richness of color.



Cabinet full of color



Cast iron staircase as shelves



Been there—done that!  
Got the tee shirt and the book

We were excited to learn that we could take home—gratis—a beautiful, 225-page book written by Daniela Rosi that chronicles the history of the Dolci family and the modern workings of their company. It's titled *Conosci La Fabbrica Dove Fioriscono I Colori?* ("Do You Know the Factory Where Colors Bloom?") It's a wonderful memory of Dolci Colori, and I used it to gather facts and confirm memories for this story. We also happily bought Dolci pigment-dyed tee shirts and collected some free watercolor samples.

The tour of Dolci Colori remains one of the highlights of our trip to Verona, and an unforgettable memory.

# DANIEL SMITH



## YOU'RE INVITED!



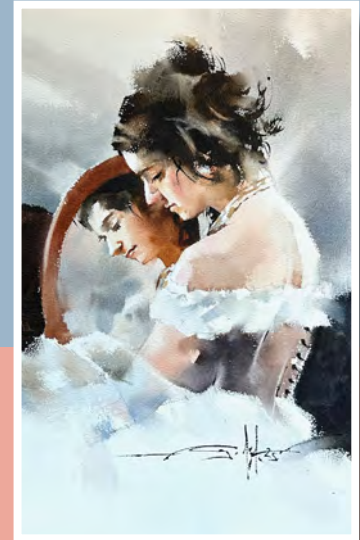
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<https://danielsmith.com/daniel-smith-50th-anniversary/>

# The Portrait in Watercolor— Light & Dynamic



## Join Michael Solovyev

**NWWS TWO DAY ONLINE WORKSHOP**

**April 16 – 17, 2026 • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PDT**

Michael is often called a “sunny watercolorist” — his airy, transparent paintings look as though they emit sunlight. His traditional academic art education, extensive experience as a theater stage designer, and his career as an oil painter, have informed his current priority as a watercolor artist—the depiction of light.

Michael will introduce you to the project construction technique that he uses most often—step-by-step and layer-by-layer image construction, using both dry brush technique and soft transitions.

**WatercolorOnline.com**

**LIMITED TO 22 PARTICIPANTS**

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for 30 days after workshop

### REGISTRATION FEE

\$175 – NWWS Members

\$225 – Non-members

If you are a non-member, join *before* registering and save \$50 on the workshop fee.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

There is a cancellation fee of \$50. If you cancel *before* April 1, you will receive a full refund minus the \$50 cancellation fee. If you cancel *on or after* April 1, the refund will be half of the workshop fee minus the \$50 cancellation fee.



**NORTH WEST  
WATERCOLOR SOCIETY**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[workshops@nwws.org](mailto:workshops@nwws.org)

[www.nwws.org](http://www.nwws.org)

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# WORKSHOP IS SOLD OUT!!



# Painting in the Shadows

**MIKE KOWALSKI**  
NWWS TWO DAY  
ONLINE WORKSHOP  
April 22 – 23, 2026  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PDT

Mike’s workshop will feature a few things that will help with shadow painting. Students will do some sketching based on reference material, as well as a value study. The value study can be invaluable in providing a mental “road map” for the actual painting. He will also cover color mixing. There is no need to make shadows dull—they can be enhanced with subtle changes in color and temperature to add depth and pop to paintings.

Mike will use a simple still life exercise to teach basic approaches to shadow painting. He will also focus on the landscape, including a figurative element as well.

[mikekowalskifineart.com](http://mikekowalskifineart.com)



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**RECORDINGS AVAILABLE**  
for 30 days after workshop

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SAMISH ISLAND

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Three wonderful times each year, approximately 40 artists arrive at beautiful, 90-acre Samish Island Campground to breathe the clean air and concentrate on creative endeavors. We call it "paint camp." The view is breathtaking, the ambiance welcoming, and the food (provided) delicious. Artists make new friends and reunite with old friends they've not seen in awhile. At paint camp, every day belongs just to you.

**REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1, 2026**

**CLICK: LEARN MORE AND REGISTER**



# NWWS Plein Air Group/Seattle

## Plein Air 2026!

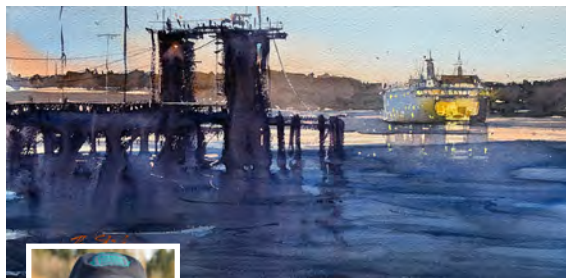
by Suze Woolf

Plein Air 2026 will get going at the beginning of May. We'll go out every Wednesday morning from then until the end of October. We roam to a wide variety of places, trying to alternate the natural world and urban grit. If you have signed up (or will before May), you'll get an email asking if you want to remain on the list. If you say you do, soon thereafter you'll receive a message with details of our first meetup. Traditionally we begin at Gas Works Park. Join us—it's so much fun to be around other painters in painting outdoors from life!

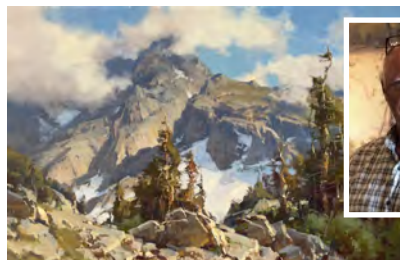


Roger Whitlock

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Jessica Bryant



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Driscoll's Straight  
by Geoff Allen



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Artwork: Derek Gundy

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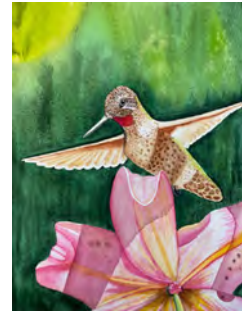
**A Gardener's Prayer**  
Dana Chamma



**Blue Flower**  
Jia Chen



**Barbara's Japanese Magnolias**  
Chryl Corizzo



**Tiny Garden Diner**  
Karen Greenstreet



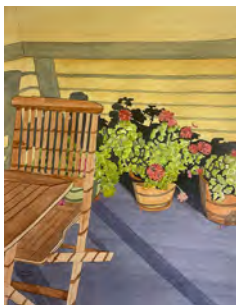
**Eric and His Sunflowers**  
D'Arcy Heiber



**Yellow Angel Trumpet**  
Victoria Jendretzke



**A Park View**  
Sarah Koca



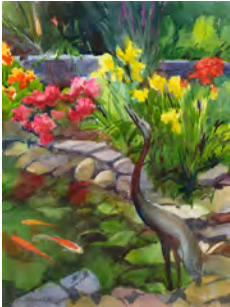
**Geraniums on My Deck**  
Marion Leggett



**Crystal Springs**  
Kristie Mooney



**Slugs Coddiwomple**  
Julie Mortimer



*Garden Crane*  
Molly Murrah



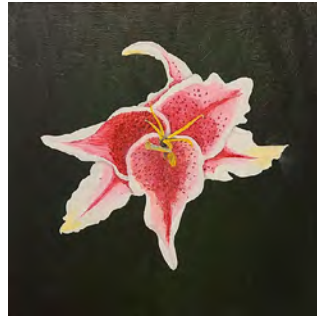
*Perennials*  
Karen Robinette



*Tomatoes*  
Deborah Roskopf



*My Little Summer Paradise*  
Alexandra Savelieva



*Lily Stargazer*  
Eric Shellgren



*Hydrangeas*  
Sheila Simmons



*Tending Her Garden 2*  
Liz Walker



*Albee's Gloves*  
Rick Woods



*The Waltz Echinaceas*  
Sandra Woods

Summer issue's theme: **WATER**

Email one entry, JPEG format, under 1 MB to:

[newsletter@nws.org](mailto:newsletter@nws.org) by June 1, 2026

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# Kudos

## CONGRATULATIONS

to six artists who have earned  
NWWWS Signature Membership!

**Dennis Gough**

Olympia, Washington

**Richard Kessler**

Redmond, Washington

**Karen Leigh**

Kalispell, Montana

**Charlene Hall**

Anacortes, Washington

**Chihiro Pierce**

Juneau, Alaska

**Marion Holte**

Boise, Idaho

Annie Strack, NWWWS, won an honorable mention award in the *Pennsylvania Watercolor Society Annual Member Exhibition*. Her paintings were also juried into *49th Southern Watercolor Society Exhibition*, *Western Federation Watercolor Society 51st National Exhibition*, *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine, and she was judge of awards for the *Philadelphia Watercolor Society Annual Member Exhibition*.



*Transparent Trio* by Lisa Pope NWWWS, was selected as a finalist in the *Splash 27: The Best of Watercolor* art competition. Her painting will be published in a special issue of *Artists Magazine*, scheduled for publication in July.

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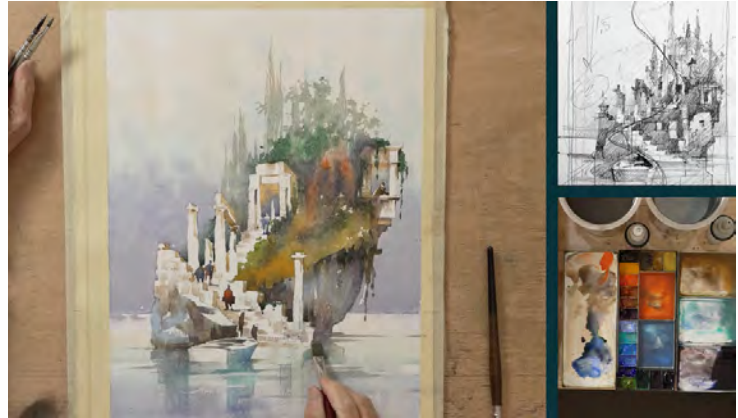
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Claudia B.  
Terracotta Student

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NWWS 86TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL

## OPEN *Exhibition*

AN ONLINE,  
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OCT. 30 - DEC. 11, 2026

**PROSPECTUS  
AVAILABLE  
MAY 8, 2026**

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JULY 8, 2026  
11:59 PM (Pacific)



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▶ Learn more about this prestigious exhibition on [our website, nwws.org](https://www.nwws.org)

# Hot Press SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*Hot Press* is published quarterly and welcomes your submissions celebrating all things watermedia. The editor decides which articles will be published, in what issue, and may edit your content for clarity and space considerations.

## TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS:

- 1. NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Published at no cost to members. **Maximum Limit 50 words.** Announcements are accepted from recent events. Submit text in a **Word** document. Accompanying images (photos and artwork) must be submitted separately, not embedded in articles. Image requirements: **300 dpi, JPEG** format, clearly labeled, and included along with the text.
- 2. DISPLAY ADS:** Accepted as quarter page or half page (either horizontal or vertical). Ad specs: **300 dpi, PDF** format, and sized at 100% scale. Must be **print-ready** with **working links included** for all **websites** and **email addresses**. Ads are not proofed or edited by NWWWS. **NOTE:** Paid ad rates are lower for NWWWS members.
- 3. COPYRIGHT ADHERENCE:** No articles or images copied from websites are allowed **without written permission**.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENT EXAMPLES:

Personal achievements such as: awards from juried exhibitions, inclusion in publications, magazines articles, books, special recognition or honors, art educational opportunities, signature membership, and more.

## HOW TO SUBMIT NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements are accepted online through the submittal form found by clicking: "Submit an Announcement."

Click Here: <https://www.nwws.org/nwws-hot-press-newsletter/>

## FEATURE AND EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES:

Are you a writer and would like to contribute? Please contact the *Hot Press* editor prior to submission.

## DISPLAY AD EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

Art educational and travel opportunities, in-person or online workshops and classes, advertising of member or non-member manufactured professional grade art materials, "Calls for Entries" for juried or non-juried exhibitions, and more. Only content relevant to our art-loving readers is accepted.

## HOW TO SUBMIT PAID DISPLAY ADS:

Display ads are only accepted online through the submittal form found by clicking: "Submit a Display Ad." Noncompliant ads cannot be published. See ad sizes on right.

Click Here: <https://www.nwws.org/nwws-hot-press-newsletter>

**DISPLAY  
AD  
SIZES**

**VERTICAL  
HALF PAGE**  
3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"W x 10"H

**QUARTER  
PAGE**  
3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"W x 4<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"H

**HORIZONTAL  
HALF PAGE**  
7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"W x 4<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"H

## **HOT PRESS** SUBMISSION DUE DATES

**WINTER DEADLINE**  
**DECEMBER 1**

January/February/March Issue

**SPRING DEADLINE**  
**MARCH 1**

April/May/June Issue

**SUMMER DEADLINE**  
**JUNE 1**

July/August/September Issue

**AUTUMN DEADLINE**  
**SEPTEMBER 1**

October/November/December Issue

## **SEND QUESTIONS TO:**

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