

## Coming Soon

### Reminder

TnWS dues are \$35 and due in January. See the [TnWS website](#) for more information.

### January 26, 2026

ArtChat Zoom

### February 1, 2026

Entries open

### March 1, 2026

Entry deadline

### May 9, 2026

Exhibition Public Opening

### May 12–15, 2026

Workshop with Sterling Edwards

### May 16, 2026

Opening day of TnWS exhibition activities

### May 16, 2026

TnWS General Meeting

### July 24, 2026

Traveling Exhibit opens in Humbolt

### September 15, 2026

Traveling Exhibit opens in Columbia



*Blustery Day* by Lisa Cantrell

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## President's Message

Dear TnWS Members,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, I'm excited to share news that feels even better than any holiday surprise:

planning for the **2026 Biennial Exhibition** is well underway—and it is already shaping up to be an extraordinary celebration of the finest work our Society has to offer.



Your most important date is **February 1, 2026**, when

registration and submissions officially open for the 2026 Biennial. Please take a moment to revisit the **Prospectus and all key materials** so you'll be fully prepared.

Our Exhibition Chair, **Wendy Latimer**, continues to pour her exceptional organizational skill and steady leadership into this effort, guiding a dedicated team committed to creating a professional, inspiring, and memorable experience for every participant. We are truly fortunate to have her at the helm.

We are also grateful for the tireless efforts of **Ellen O'Kelley, Awards Chairperson**, and **Barbara Bouton, Merchandise Awards Chairperson**, who have been both boots on the ground and online, actively recruiting Award Sponsors. Their outreach has resulted in strong new contacts, and their dedication is instrumental in shaping a meaningful awards program for our artists. We still need your participation—both in supporting your regional award and in bringing potential sponsors to **Ellen** and **Barbara**. Your involvement strengthens the impact and visibility of our Biennial Awards.

In addition, **Yuson Yi** has invested tremendous care and thought into planning the **2026 Sterling Edwards Workshop**—an opportunity many of our members have been eagerly anticipating. Her work ensures that this workshop will be both meaningful and accessible. And, as you know, any remaining seats were opened to non-members after **December 15, 2025**, extending this opportunity to the broader arts community.

We are also delighted that **Ann McKenzie Aiken** will once again lead our **Traveling Show**, carrying the excellence of **TnWS** across Tennessee and beyond. This exhibition introduces our work to new audiences, and Ann's thoughtful leadership ensures its continued success. For this reason—and for so many moments when she has stepped forward to assist and elevate **TnWS**—we are proud to recognize Ann as our newest **Golden Volunteer**.

To our **Regional Directors**—thank you. You keep our members informed, engaged, and celebrated. Your connection to your regions ensures that every member feels included, supported, and valued.

And none of this important information would get to you without **Mike Hill** and **Mark Cobbe**! I'm thankful for their patience and expertise, day after day, in their work for our monthly *ArtBeat* and online presence.

As we look toward to our 2026 Biennial, I want to offer this encouragement: *new and longtime patrons of watercolor alike are eagerly awaiting what **you** will create this year.* They believe deeply in the talent within this Society. Let's rise to meet their anticipation. Brushes up—let's make this Biennial a true reflection of the heart and spirit of **TnWS**.

As 2026 begins, I am filled with gratitude for your creativity, your commitment, and your

generosity of spirit. This Society continues to thrive because of you, and I look forward to all the beauty, growth, and shared accomplishments the new year will bring.

Warmest wishes for a joyful and inspired 2026,

**Cheryl L. Massey**

*President, Tennessee Watercolor Society*

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## From the Editor

Gosh, I'm speechless! As I sit here writing this, it is the day after Christmas. I've just come in from working outside in the yard, and I was wearing a short-sleeve t-shirt and sweating. Not that I minded it, but it sure was weird. Is this really Middle Tennessee? Reminds me of my boyhood days in Central Texas. Maybe that is why the cover painting is of a cold, blustery day – brrrr, the painting just evokes feelings of cold and shivering and winter!

Paramount question! How many resolutions do you still have that have not been broken already? Do you know what the cure for that is? Don't make any! Just be the same wonderful, warm, beautiful selves that you are. And for those of us who aren't, we do have things to look forward to this month. Let's face it, after all the holiday festivities, January can feel a little bit... meh. This month is all about beating the "meh" vibes by doing things that bring us joy and removing things that bring us down.

Being an old (about to retire in June) smelly troglodyte, I live under a rock and seldom come out – at least 4 times to do some newsletter work. I like my rock; it keeps those I don't want

to mingle with away. On Jan. 7th, it will be Old Rock Day, and I will celebrate my rock. Other things one can look forward to are Elvis' Birthday (1/8) and Bagel Day (1/15). But as a troglodyte, I look forward to 1/21 – National Hugging Day and 1/24 – National Compliment Day. Troglodytes don't get many of either! We aren't cute and cuddly or adventurous like Hal Wright's "Bosc and D'Anjou"!



However, the day we as **TnWS** members can hold dear is 1/31 – Inspire Your Heart with Art Day! This is a reminder to each of you that you still have time to paint a painting for the Biennial. It is also a reminder that if you happen to be in my area, knock on my rock or tap me on the shoulder if I am out sunning, and remind me to paint my exhibition painting!

We hope you enjoy this January 15, 2026 Winter issue of ArtBeat and that something in the words, news, and photos sows the seeds of creativity, loosens your death grip on that brush, and lets it FLOW! Keep your brushes wet and your paper stretched!

**Mike Hill**

*Editor*

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# The 2026 Biennial Juried Exhibition

tennessee watercolor society

## Announces

**The 2026 Biennial Juried Exhibition #40**

**and the 55th Anniversary of TnWS**

**Dates of Exhibit: May 9–July 19, 2026**

**Hosted by The Customs House Museum and Cultural Center**



**Customs House Museum & Cultural Center**

[customhousemuseum.org](http://customhousemuseum.org)

## **Our Juror: Internationally celebrated watermedia artist, Sterling Edwards**

Located in Historic Downtown Clarksville, Tennessee, the Customs House Museum & Cultural Center features award-winning exhibitions, interactive exploration areas for children of all ages, and beautiful spaces for special events.

**Chairpersons: Wendy Latimer** and **Jan Ducharme**—Co-Chairperson/Sterling Edwards liaison

## Important Details & Dates

**Location:** Customs House Museum  
Clarksville, TN

**Juror:** Sterling Edwards

**Exhibit Dates:** **May 9–July 19**

**Workshop Dates:** **May 12–15**

**Friday Night Social:** **May 15: TBA**

**Opening Day Events:** **May 16, 2026**

Merchandise Demos, Lunch, Board meeting, Reception, and Presentation of Awards and Catalogs

**Delivery of Art:** Shipped work received

**between April 27 and May 1**

**In-person delivery:** **April 29 between 10:00 and 2:00 CST**

## Entry Details

**Pat Patrick, Intake Chair**

Exhibit Entry Dates: **February 1–March 1**

Juror notifies **Pat** of entry selections **March 31**

**Pat** is to notify selected/non-selected artists approximately **early April**.

## Lodging

**Leah Foote, Chair**

DoubleTree by Hilton Clarksville Riverview

50 College Street, Clarksville, TN 37040

Phone: 931-919-5044

Price: \$145 with chef-prepared breakfast, \$135 without breakfast

Parking Garage is free with a reservation

Make your Reservation directly with the Double Tree and tell them you are part of the **TnWS** block of rooms

## Workshop

**Yuson Yi**

**Instructor/Juror/Judge:** **Sterling Edwards**

**The Sterling Edwards Workshop is full, and**

**TnWS is now accepting requests to be put on the waiting list.**

**The Tennessee Watercolor Society** is maintaining a waiting list of those still interested in attending the workshop. We often get cancellations, so there is still a chance you can take this wonderful workshop with Sterling Edwards.

If you would like to be placed on the waiting list, please complete the **Waiting List application** on the **TnWS** website and we will add you to the list. **You do not need to pay the registration fee at this time, but you will be sent a link to a form to pay once a seat has opened up.**

For more workshop details, please visit [www.tnws.org](http://www.tnws.org).

Please send a confirmation email to **Workshop Chair, Yuson Yi**.

## Awards Report

**Ellen O'Kelley**

Awards Chair

**Barbara Bouton**

Merchandise Awards Chair

**Wendy Latimer**

Renewing Awards

**Awards Sponsors:** Ellen has been busy locating potential Corporate Sponsors by contacting over 35 companies, either located in Clarksville or with ties to Clarksville. So far, F&M Bank has agreed to fund a \$1,500 Purchase Award! Ellen expects smaller award donations to be secured early next year. If you know of a Business or Private Sponsor that would like to sponsor or participate in an Award, please contact **Ellen O'Kelley** at [ebok7078@gmail.com](mailto:ebok7078@gmail.com).

**Merchandise Awards Update:** We have been busy contacting art suppliers across the country to request that they become sponsors of our upcoming Exhibition. These sponsorships generally take the form of gift certificates that allow award winners to choose products from the supplier. To date, the companies that have accepted our invitation to become sponsors and

to provide one or more Merchandise Awards are:

- **Airfloat Systems**
- **Ampersand Art Supply**
- **Blick Art Materials**
- **Golden Artist Colors/QoR**
- **Holbein Artist Materials**
- **Jack Richeson & Co.**
- **Plaza Art Materials and Picture Framing, Nashville**

Requests to additional companies are pending, and we expect to secure additional sponsors. This will enable us to provide a robust number of Merchandise Awards to artists whose paintings are selected by Juror Sterling Edwards.

**Barbara Bouton**, Merchandise Awards

**Renewing Awards:** Review your 2024 Exhibition Catalogs. Many of the Awards will return, including the regional awards. The amounts may differ, but we need everyone in their region to sponsor. Pledging to return: long-time Jeffrey A. Shoham's \$1200 Purchase Award, Katsuyo Nakahara Memorial Award, The Marilyn Brisbois Memorial Award, Past Presidents' Award, Friends of John McLean Award (\$250), Members of **TnWS** Beauty of Water media Award, and the long-time sponsor, Knoxville Watercolor Society.

**Unsure:** Totally Transparent Watercolor Award: We do not yet have sponsors for the TTWA. If you would like to contribute to it or any other Award, please contact **Ellen O'Kelley** or **Wendy Latimer**. Regional Awards: contact your Regional Coordinator.

## 2026 Exhibition Team Report

The Exhibition Team and the **TnWS** Executive Board are working to develop all details, which will be released later. In the meantime, below are the dates that we know for your 2026 calendars:

See the **printable prospectus** on the **TnWS** Website for full entry details. Please read all of the details for painting eligibility and requirements. Contact **Wendy Latimer** with any questions.

Exhibition dates: **May 9, 2026–July 19, 2026**

Entry dates: **February 1, 2026–March 1, 2026**

Notice of selections: **By early April, 2026**

Shipped art due: **April 27, 2026–May 1, 2026**

In-person delivery to Clarksville: **April 29, 2026, 10:00am–2:00pm CST**

Workshop: **May 12, 2026–May 15, 2026**

**9:00 AM to 4:00 PM CST**

Pre-opening day, Friday night social: TBA

**TnWS** opening day activities: **Saturday, May 16, 2026**

- Product demos by Jerry's Artarama of Knoxville
- Lunch
- General meeting
- Opening reception with the Presentation of Awards

Customs House Museum Member's Reception  
TBA

Last day open at CHM: **Sunday, July 19, 2026**

Take down and pick up: **Monday, July 20, 2026**

Transfer of Traveling Exhibit: **Thursday, July 23, 2026**

## 2026 Exhibition Team

### Executive Board and Regional Contacts

Exhibition Chair: **Wendy Latimer**

Exhibition Co-Chair/Liaison to Juror: **Jan Ducharme**

Entry Intake Chair: **Pat C. Patrick**

Workshop Chair: **Yuson Yi**

Hotel Liaison Chair: **Leah Foote**

Traveling Exhibition Chair: **Ann McKenzie Aiken**

### **Ann NEEDS a trainee for 2028**

Traveling Exhibit New Protective Envelopes:  
**Alston Beckman**

Awards/Sponsor Chair: **Ellen O'Kelley**  
 Awards Team: **Barbara Bouton** and **Wendy Latimer**

### Volunteers Needed:

- **Traveling Exhibit Chairperson for 2028 to train now with Ann.**
- **Hospitality Chair for Opening Day: NEEDED**
- **Hospitality Chair for Friday night dinner: NEEDED**

Volunteers will be needed now as we get closer to the date and Opening Day. Contact Wendy at [Has4angels@aol.com](mailto:Has4angels@aol.com) for more information and choices.

## Upcoming Schedule for Traveling Exhibit

Reported by **Ann McKenzie Aiken**  
*2026 Traveling Exhibit Chair*

**Customs House, Clarksville,**  
**May 9, 2026 – July 19, 2026**

Terri Jordan, Curator  
 Phone: (931) 648-5780 Ext. 2038  
 Email: [terri@customshousemuseum.org](mailto:terri@customshousemuseum.org).

- Exhibit opening: **May 9, 2026**
- Exhibit closing: **July 19, 2026**
- Exhibit installation: **May 4, 2026**
- Pickup removal: **July 21, 2026**
- Delivery to Humboldt: **July 22, 2026**

**West TN Regional Art Center, Humboldt**  
**July 24, 2026 – September 4, 2026**

Bill Hickerson, Director  
 Phone: (731) 784-1787  
 Email: [WTRAC@aeneas.net](mailto:WTRAC@aeneas.net) or  
[B\\_Hickerson@bellsouth.net](mailto:B_Hickerson@bellsouth.net)

- Exhibit opening: **July 24, 2026**
- Exhibit closing: **September 4, 2026**

- Exhibit installation: **July 22, 2026**
- Exhibit removal: **September 7, 2026**
- Delivery to Columbia: **September 8, 2026**

**Pryor Gallery, Columbia State, Columbia,**  
**September 15, 2026 – October 23, 2026**

Gabe Trius, Curator  
 Phone: (931) 540-2883  
 Email: [gtrius1@ColumbiaState.edu](mailto:gtrius1@ColumbiaState.edu)

- Exhibit opening: **September 15, 2026**
- Opening reception: **September 16, 2026**
- Exhibit closing: **October 27, 2026**
- Exhibit installation: **September 8, 2026**
- Pickup Removal: **October 28, 2026**
- Delivery to Chattanooga: **October 29, 2026**

**Clear Story Arts, Chattanooga**  
**November 6, 2026 – November 28, 2026**

Danielle Quisenberry, Director  
 Phone: (423) 228-0215  
 Email: [danielle@clearstoryarts.com](mailto:danielle@clearstoryarts.com)  
 Rick Herrmann, Curator

- Exhibit opening: **November 6, 2026**
- Exhibit closing: **November 28, 2026**
- Exhibit Installation: TBA
- Exhibit Removal: **November 30, 2026**
- Pickup Exhibit: **November 30, 2026**

Thanks again to all who help make the Traveling Exhibit possible!

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## The Healing Arts

### Our Artist Members' Projects and Journeys

If you are engaged in helping someone or a group of individuals through teaching, donating or any other outreach program, please help us inspire others with your story. Contact **Wendy Latimer**.

## Statewide News

Tired of paper nametags at a **TnWS** exhibit or event?



Members may order a **TnWS** name tag with the **TnWS** logo and their name printed on it. The Cost is \$19.90, paid directly to the vendor, and the name tag is mailed directly to your home. To order your name tag, [download](#), print and complete the form and mail it to the vendor along with your payment. This form is available 24/7 on [www.tnws.org](http://www.tnws.org). If you are like the ArtBeat editor, you might order more than one so that when you misplace or lose one, you have another in reserve – just in case!

### Treasurer Report

Check in on the **TnWS** website in the “Members Only” area.

**Pam Austin**  
*Treasurer*

### Arts Advocacy

If you haven’t gotten your Arts Specialty plate you should!

### Specialty License Plates Support Arts in Tennessee

What better way to tell the world you support the arts than with a TN Arts Commission arts plate? Simply take your old plate to your county

clerk and have it swapped. They will prorate your tag fees, so you don't have to wait until your tag renewal is due. They are also available through the [Tennessee Department of Revenue website](#).

**Tag Name:** Tennesseans for the Arts

**Available to:** All Tennessee Residents

**Annual Fee:** \$61.50, of which \$35 goes to the Arts

**Proceeds Benefit:** Tennessee Arts Commission

**Peach McComb** is the new head of the Arts Advocacy Committee. If you are interested in Arts Advocacy and have information and news that may be of interest to the **TnWS** membership, please let **Peach McComb** or your **regional representative** know!



### Membership Report

Our current total membership as of January 1, 2026

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Region I                | 34         |
| Region II               | 108        |
| Region III              | 48         |
| Region IV               | 41         |
| Region V                | 13         |
| <b>Total Membership</b> | <b>244</b> |

Membership Chair: Pat C. Patrick

### Facebook Report

Since our October ArtBeat, the **TnWS** Facebook page has surpassed 600 members. That’s quite a milestone and indicates that people in TN are

interested in watercolor and want to learn more. Many who ask to join report that they have been told it is a great place to be inspired and to learn in a safe environment. (We try hard to keep it safe!!) In a single day, the number of people engaged in a challenge or specific post may range from a handful to 100 or more. It is an indication of what kind of people are on Facebook that our most active posts are the ones that welcome new members of the group or celebrate someone's achievements. It is a very welcoming place to share art and be inspired. If you haven't joined us yet, you can do so by following this link: [www.facebook.com/groups/121548374564377/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/121548374564377/)

**Marie Spaeder Haas**  
*Facebook Chair*

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## New Forms on the TnWS Website

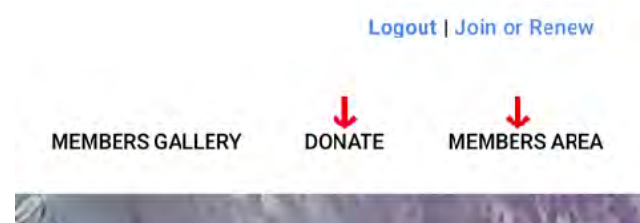
Some months ago, we experienced some problems with the forms on the website. Due to technology marching on, and some of the software we used not supporting the changes, much of what happens behind the scenes with our various forms on the website stopped working.

We have been working like mad to get things back up and running, and now all our usual forms have been rebuilt to support new software. In the process, we have modified some of the forms, specifically the Membership and Donation forms.

In the past, you could donate to the General Fund, a single, specific award, or to "Events." The main change to these forms is that you may now specify which award, or awards, and the amount, or amounts, you wish to donate. For example, you may donate to your region award AND a different amount to the "Beauty of Watercolor" award.

The Donation form works the same way, except that the awards are always shown.

In addition, the Donation form is now accessible two ways: the former way, where you have to log in as a user, go to the "Members Area" and



scroll down; and the new way, which is accessible from a new "Donate" menu on the home page. The new way does not require you to log in as a user, it simply takes you directly to the Donations form.

When you either renew your membership or donate to the awards, you will receive an email. If you have made a donation to **TnWS**, the email will have your donation itemized for tax purposes. If you do not receive this email, please contact [Pat C. Patrick](#).

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## Golden Volunteer Ann McKenzie Aiken

It's probably an undocumented fact that finding volunteers is one of the most difficult tasks for volunteer organizations. Those who **DO** volunteer don't do so for a merit badge, prestige, or status. They do it because they believe in the purpose of the organization and see its value and its future, and the good the organization can do. For several years now, **TnWS** has chosen to honor some of our prized volunteers, just to let them know we appreciate all the hard work they do, quietly and without fanfare.

In this issue of *ArtBeat* (in itself a product of numerous volunteers), Tennessee Watercolor Society would like to recognize one of our

unsung heroes, Region 3 member **Ann McKenzie Aiken** from Lookout Mountain. I had the opportunity recently to ask **Ann** about her history with **TnWS**. After joining at the age of 39, her young children and career consumed most of her time. Somehow, she was able to achieve her signature status within the first five years! When she retired in 2019, she felt she could make up for all those years that she was an active but non-volunteering member.

Since 2020, **Ann** has served as chair of the biennial **TnWS** traveling exhibits. This involves booking venues with signed contracts,



coordinating a travel schedule, and recruiting regional volunteers to carefully transport the paintings from one venue to the next, with local committees on hand to hang and welcome them. All of this happens so that the excellence of our members can be seen by a

broader audience. From personal experience, I have watched **Ann** do this and more, even transporting the art herself when needed.

**Ann** has found volunteering a way to deep-dive into the practice of art and to really feel a part of our organization. Above and beyond all else, **Ann** adds, the best thing that has happened has been the opportunity to make new friends through volunteering. There have been challenges, of course, as you would expect. Currently, **Ann** is hoping to find another member who could work with her and perhaps be willing

to take over when the time comes for her to retire.

What you may not know about **Ann** is that she was a practicing architect for 47 years, 40 of those years in private practice in a male-dominated field. She can take credit for the design of many projects in Chattanooga and the southeast. During those years, she was an active volunteer with the American Institute of Architects.

But perhaps one of her most important volunteer efforts happened when she traveled to Haiti for mission work in 1995 and was asked by the Episcopal Bishop of Haiti to design and build a school in a remote area called Petit Harpon. From Port-au-Prince, it is a 2-hour van ride (only 28 miles) to Leogane, followed by a 1-hour truck ride up into the mountains, and a 1-hour hike to the school.

After recruiting a Chattanooga Contractor, a Structural Engineer, and 15 volunteers from the Church of the Good Shepherd, they raised \$30,000 and broke ground in January 1996. Four years later, the school was dedicated. **Ann** lost count after 30 trips with over 100 volunteers. The good news is that the school survived the earthquake of 2011, while the church, where they camped, was flattened. They spent the next 5 years rebuilding the Church, St. John the Evangelist Episcopal. The school is still thriving today (despite Port-au-Prince being besieged by gangs) with a faculty of 20 teachers and 320 students, grades Pre-K through 12.

As I listened to **Ann** tell her Haiti story, I could hear the passion in her



**Ann** and volunteer cutting rebar



Ann and Foreman – Marselle



Completed school building

voice and the excitement of such a remarkable

experience. So

I had to ask her if her years on this project had influenced her art in any way..... Her answer, "Simply put, Haiti has affected every aspect of my life and interests." We are so grateful that Ann has shared her time and experience with the **Tennessee Watercolor Society**.

**Marie Spaeder Haas**

## More About Volunteering for TnWS

Selecting Golden Volunteers is one way **TnWS** recognizes and honors its dedicated volunteers. Watercolor societies like **TnWS** can't survive without an involved, enthusiastic cadre of volunteers. It is essential for all members to consider volunteering in some capacity to ensure the organization's continued success well into the future. It is also very important that, as our membership ages, we recruit younger watermedia painters into the organization.

Do you know of a dedicated **TnWS** volunteer who should be honored as a Golden Volunteer?

Please notify **Mike Hill** or your Regional Representative.

## In Remembrance

### Helen Burton

April 27, 1934 - October 28, 2025

Remembering **Helen Burton**. There's a lot of information packed into that dash between Helen's birth and death dates. When I first met **Helen** 16 years ago, her reputation as Cleveland, TN's favorite artist was well established. She already had a long list of accomplishments, recognitions, and volunteer positions, and many more have been added since. Those who knew her will remember her for her thoughtfulness, kindness, and presence above all else. Helen's commitment to **TnWS** included chairing statewide and local exhibitions and coordinating events for the Chattanooga region. As social media became a popular tool, **Helen** became a very active member of the **TnWS** Facebook community, welcoming, encouraging, and engaging with participants on a daily basis. She participated in regional exhibits, group lunches, gallery visits, and the Chattanooga region's monthly Zoom meet-ups well into this past fall. She attended ArtChat presentations and virtual general meetings enthusiastically,

embracing the new technology, and if she had to miss an event, was eager for a personal report. She inspired us all by her recent generous donations of beautiful prints of her art, matted and framed, to those acquiring housing from

Habitat for Humanity in what she labeled Art from the Heart. Whatever **Helen** did, she did perfectly!

When **Helen** received her cancer diagnosis just a short few weeks before her death, she chose to accept her situation with grace, calling longtime acquaintances to let them know and thanking them for

their friendship. She chose to give away a lifetime of studio materials—paint, paper, equipment that had served her well. She welcomed friends and family for some final goodbyes and continued to play Scrabble with family most evenings. She ended her life with the same attention as she had lived it.

We are grateful for the model of living a good and generous life that **Helen** painted for us and can only try to emulate her as best we can. She will be greatly missed. For details on **Helen's** life and legacy, visit [The Cleveland Banner](#).

There has been a Region III Helen Burton Memorial Award set up. We welcome and encourage members to consider donating to this Award.

## Signature Status Bylaws Update

Before her passing, Helen Burton expressed a heartfelt wish for the Tennessee Watercolor

Society to recognize artists who have demonstrated long-term commitment and excellence through repeated acceptance into our Biennial Juried Exhibitions. She believed strongly in celebrating dedication and achievement, and we are honored to carry her vision forward.

As of **January 7, 2026**, We are pleased to share that the proposed bylaws amendment to add additional Signature Status levels has **passed by membership vote**.

As approved by the membership, the following new Signature Status levels are now established:

**Gold Signature Status** – awarded to artists accepted into **12** TnWS Biennial Juried Exhibitions

**Silver Signature Status** – awarded to artists accepted into **8** TnWS Biennial Juried Exhibitions

We thank our members for their thoughtful participation and are grateful to honor Helen's legacy in a meaningful and lasting way. We look forward to announcing those who have reached Gold and Silver Status in a future ArtBeat.

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## ArtChat

Our January ArtChat will feature a fresh and exciting focus. We are pleased to welcome **Richard Rice** (Region III) and **Wendy Leonard** (Region II) as our guest artists, who will share how they have expanded their creative work into more commercial opportunities.

**Richard**, a retired history professor, has been publishing cartoons since 1975, including more than 100 cartoons featured in *The Wall Street Journal*. **Wendy** is the author and illustrator of the recently published children's book *The Crown, the Quilt, and the Cobbler*. Together, they will discuss their creative journeys, lessons learned, and practical insights on broadening an artistic career beyond traditional avenues.

As always, there will be time at the end of the session for audience questions and discussion.

**ArtChat will be held on Monday, January 26, from 5:00 p.m. CST / 6:00 p.m. EST.**

The Zoom link will be sent a few days before the event.

We hope you'll join us for this informative and inspiring conversation.

**Vickie Montgomery**

## Regional News and Reports Region I



*This Face*  
by **Jan Alice Keeling**

### Events

- Members: Region I **TnWS** members
- Exhibit: Exhibition at the Ned
- Location: The Ned  
314 E. Main  
Jackson, TN 38301
- Date: Was **December 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025**

This was an exhibition open to all Region I **TnWS** members, as well as any artist in the West TN area. There were 46 paintings in the show.

News? See it, Hear it, Share it!



## Region II Applause

Member: **Jan Alice Keeling**  
 Painting: *This Face*  
 Award: Second prize for Watercolor and Wash  
 Exhibit: Art Ability  
 Location: Malvern, PA  
 Date: **November 20, 2025**  
 Judges: Stacie Brennan, Ernel Martinez, Lisa Murch



*Prayer Ties Trio*  
by **Alston Beckman**

Judge: Carlyle Johnson, Professor of Art, Tennessee State University

Member: **Alston Beckman**  
 Painting: *Prayer Ties Trio*  
 Exhibit: Tennessee Craft 2025 Members Exhibition  
 Location: Pryor Art Gallery  
 Columbia State Community College  
 Columbia, TN  
 Dates: Was **October 27, 2025, to December 19, 2025**



*Collaboration Gone Awry*  
by **Pam Austin**

Member: **Pam Austin**  
[pamaustinart.com](http://pamaustinart.com)  
 Painting: *Collaboration Gone Awry*  
 Award: Purchase Award - Purchased by TSU for their Permanent Collection  
 Exhibit: Shoals Art Invitational Works on Paper at the University of North Alabama  
 Location: Florence, AL  
 Date: Was **September 30, 2025, to November 25, 2025**

## Region III

### Applause

Member: **Arline Mann**  
 Painting: *Little Artemis*  
 Award: Mary Bryan Memorial Award  
 Exhibit: Academic Artists Association 75th Annual National Exhibition  
 Location: Arts Center East  
 Vernon, CT  
 Dates: Was **October 12, 2025–November 2, 2025**  
 Juror: Julie Beck



*Little Artemis*  
 by **Arline Mann**

Member: **Arline Mann**  
 Painting: *Ming Wardrobe*  
 Exhibit: American Women Artists – Of Mark and Meaning  
 Location: Customs House Museum  
 Clarksville, TN  
 Dates: **February 12, 2026 to April 2, 2026**  
 Juror: Not selected yet



*Ming Wardrobe*  
 by **Arline Mann**

### Events

Members: **Sandra Boone, Harriet Chipley, Beth Jacobs, Liz Klinefelter, Edna London, and Nora McNeil**  
 Exhibit: *Water, Water, Every Where*  
 Location: Alexian Village of Tennessee Retirement Community  
 Signal Mountain, TN  
 Dates: **TBD March**  
 “Water, Water, Every Where” is an art exhibition by residents of Alexian Village, a retirement home in Chattanooga. The show highlights water media, but other art forms will be included. Six of our **TnWS** members are residents in this all-inclusive community (**Sandra Boone, Harriet Chipley, Beth Jacobs, Liz Klinefelter, Edna London, and Nora McNeil**). All **TnWS** members are invited to attend the opening reception.



*Re-enactor at Tunnel Hill*  
by **Nora McNeil**

Member: **Richard Rice**  
 Exhibit: Winter - Association for Visual Artists (AVA) in partnership with CHI Memorial Hospital  
 Location: AVA Exhibition Space, Second Floor of CHI Memorial Hospital (Chattanooga, TN)  
 Dates: **December 3, 2025, to early April, 2026 (to be determined)**



*Acadia Bridge*  
by **Richard Rice**



*Snow Butte*  
by **Richard Rice**



*Last Snow*  
by **Richard Rice**

Member: **Richard Rice**  
 Exhibit: Pathways and Portals  
 Location: Earlanger Main Hospital near D Elevators, Chattanooga, TN  
 Dates: **December 10, 2025–June 3, 2026**



Member: **Mary Ahern**  
 Exhibit: The Inexpressible Contained exhibit presented by Unsent Letter Mailbox & ClearStory Arts  
 Location: ClearStory Arts  
 1673 S. Holtzclaw Ave.  
 Chattanooga, TN  
 Dates: The opening reception was **January 2, 2026, 6-8 pm**. Further dates to be announced

A unique gallery showcase of art pieces inspired by local anonymous letters. The show highlights how art enables us to voice what words alone cannot carry. Mary is collaborating with Playful Evolving Monsters, a theatrical company, to create an art piece based on an anonymous

letter. For more information, go to [unsentlettermailbox.com](https://unsentlettermailbox.com) or [www.clearstoryarts.com/events](https://www.clearstoryarts.com/events)



*Moontime*  
by **Sandy Brown**



*Chase the Moon*  
by **Sandy Brown**

Member: **Sandy Brown**  
 Exhibit: A 4-person Invitational Exhibit  
 Location: Hetzel Art Gallery  
 445 Church St SE #2101  
 Cleveland, TN  
 Dates: **February 2026**

## Region IV Applause

Member: Accepted members and paintings follow  
 Painting: Paintings listed below  
 Exhibit: 2025 Open Show for ORAC (Oak Ridge Art Center)  
 Location: Oak Ridge Art Center  
 Oak Ridge, TN  
 Dates: Was **October 4, 2025, to November 15, 2025**

### Honorable Mention and People’s Choice Award



*Symphony Night*  
 by **Elizabeth Wright**



Top Right:  
*Locked in Time* by **Judy Lavoie**



Middle Right:  
*Blackberry Blossom* by **Judy Lavoie**



Bottom Right:  
*Bad Hair Day* by **Judy Lavoie**

**Kimme Goodson Memorial Award:  
Depicting Love of Pets and Domestic Animals**



*March Madness*  
by **Holly Beck**



*Tobias the Cat*  
by **Holly Beck**



*Fence Row Mystique*  
by **Claudia Balthrop**

**Honorable Mention Award**



*Not Your Everyday Cha Cha*  
by **Claudia Balthrop**

It's a watercolor utilizing only indirect painting methods such as spray paint, atomizer, splatter...no brushwork

**Anne B & John Moore  
Memorial Award**



*Kudzu Reimagined*  
by **Susan Miller**



*French Horn Girl*  
by **Susan Miller**

Member: **Judy Lavoie**  
 Painting: *Scotland the Brave*

**Judy Lavoie** has recently been accepted as a member of the Whiskey Painters of America. This exclusive group of watercolor artists uses whiskey and other spirits to dilute their pigments. The organization promotes the fine art of miniature watercolor paintings. Membership is limited to no more than 150 artists and is based on the artist's credentials and submitted artwork. Four or more exhibitions and sales are held each year, and the art is popular with collectors. Learn more and see samples of **Judy's** new whiskey paintings on her [website](#).



*Scotland the Brave*  
 by **Judy Lavoie**  
 4"x5", painted with watercolors and Scotch Whisky

Member: **Kate Aubrey**  
 Painting: *Denouement*  
 Award: Silver Medal  
 Exhibit: 32nd Annual Red River Watercolor Society National Juried Watermedia Exhibition  
 Location: Diederich Art Gallery at Minnesota State University Moorhead.  
 Dates: Was **August 25, 2025, to September 19, 2025**  
 Juror: Kim Johnson Nechtman



*Denouement*  
 by **Kate Aubrey**

Member: **Kate Aubrey**  
 Painting: *Undimmed*  
 Award: People's Choice Award  
 Exhibit: 32nd Annual Red River Watercolor Society National Juried Watermedia Exhibition  
 Location: Diederich Art Gallery at Minnesota State University Moorhead.  
 Dates: Was **August 25, 2025, to September 19, 2025**  
 Juror: Kim Johnson Nechtman



*Undimmed First Fiddle*  
by **Kate Aubrey** by **Kate Aubrey**

Member: **Kate Aubrey**  
 Painting: *First Fiddle*  
 Award: 2nd Place Award  
 Exhibit: Northwest Watercolor Society 85th Annual International Open Exhibition  
 Location: Yuan Ru Art Center  
 Bellevue, Washington  
 Dates: Was **November 8, 2025, to December 1, 2025**  
 Juror: Frank Eber

Eligibility: Open to all members of the **TnWS** Eastern Regions (I,II,III) and members of KWS  
 Goals: The **Tennessee Watercolor Society** and the Knoxville Watercolor Society are bringing together the talents of their members to demonstrate the excitement, beauty, and variety of water media paintings.

Member: **Lil Clinard**  
 Exhibit: **ARTSCLAMATION!**

## Events

Members: **Members of Regions III, IV, and V**  
 Exhibit: Power of Water Exhibit - 2026 Upcoming Spring Exhibit for members of the **TnWS** Eastern Regions and the Knoxville Watercolor Society  
 Location: Oak Ridge Art Center  
 201 Badger Road  
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
 Dates: **March 7, 2026, to April 11, 2026**  
 Reception and Gallery Talk:  
**March 7, 2026 from 1 pm to 4 pm**

ARTSCLAMATION! A charity fine arts exhibit and sale supporting Covenant Health Peninsula Center was hosted at the Standard, a new exhibit space in downtown Knoxville, on **December 4-6, 2025**. All proceeds benefit the patients and families receiving behavioral health services at Peninsula Hospital and outpatient clinics. **Lil** was juried in along with 53 artists, including jewelers, painters, sculptors, and potters from across the Southeast. **Lil** had many of her original acrylic paintings on exhibit. The event was very successful, raising over \$250,000 for Peninsula Center.

Member: **Representing the Knoxville Watercolor Society**  
 Exhibit: All Media Exhibition  
 Location: Fountain City Art Center  
 Knoxville, TN  
 Dates: Was **November 6, 2025, to January 5, 2026**

### Members Participating Include:

**Nancy D. Webb:** *Autumn Dogwoods, Oconaluftee*

*Autumn*

**Connie Cliff:** *Grief, Seeking Solace*

**Marlee Parnell:** *Morning Stroll, Rolling Hills*

**Lee Edge:** *Blue Bird*

**Karen McKinney:** *Magnolia Splendor, Pastoral Peace, Sheltered Fruit*

**Max Robinson:** *The Solitude of Sundown II, Back of the Bay, Monhegan Island, Maine*

**Liza Wright:** *Gone to Flowers Every One, Larry Gould, Return to Antarctica*

**Judy Jordan:** *Light from the Quarry, We Hear Your Voices*

**Lil Clinard:** *Pool Play, Tree Line, Waiting for the Tide*

**Cheryl Massey:** *Java & You, Memories*

**Kate McCullough:** *Stream(ing) in the Woods*

**Susan B. Miller:** *Good Morning Boy, the Lookout*

**Mary Dougherty:** *Hoping to Tour, the Piper, Backwoods Shed*

**Paula Browning:** *Marsh Fishing, Collecting the Catch, Marsh Grasses, Rushing Stream*

## Classes

Member: **Kate McCullough**  
 Class: Watercolor Class  
 Dates: **January 20, 2026**, for eight weeks  
**Tuesdays 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm**  
 Location: Oak Ridge Art Center  
 201 Badger Ave  
 Oak Ridge, TN  
 Link: [Kate McCullough](#) or the [Oak Ridge Art Center website](#).

## Call for Artists

Exhibit: Plateau Creative Arts Center Open Juried Show  
 Location: Plateau Creative Arts Center  
 Centerville, TN  
 Dates: **April 3, 2026, to April 30, 2026**  
 Entry Deadline: Tentative – **March 30, 2026**

Please check the [Plateau Creative Arts Center website](#) for updates.

## New Members

Let us welcome the following new members to the fold!

Region I

Region II

Region II

Region II

Region II

Region II

Region III

Region IV

**Jan Condle**

**Nancy Bowron**

**Allison May**

**Shanna O'Connor Owen**

**Kathy Shorkey**

**Dianne Szlachetka**

**Priscilla Bell**

**Susan Van Aalton**

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## 2024 – 2026 Executive Board and Committees

Board Updates Overall:

### Executive Board

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| President:       | <b>Cheryl L. Massey</b>   |
| Vice President:  | <b>Marie Spaeder Haas</b> |
| Secretary:       | <b>Leah Foote</b>         |
| Treasurer:       | <b>Pam Austin</b>         |
| Past President:  | <b>Lil Clinard</b>        |
| Member at Large: | <b>Gayle Seale</b>        |

### Committees

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Membership Chair:  | <b>Pat C. Patrick</b>     |
| Grants:            | <b>OPEN</b>               |
| Traveling Exhibit: | <b>Ann McKenzie Aiken</b> |
| Arts Advocacy:     | <b>Peach McComb</b>       |
| Historian:         | <b>Patsy Sharpe</b>       |

### Social Media Team

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| TnWS FaceBook: | <b>Marie Spaeder Haas</b> |
|----------------|---------------------------|

### Website Team

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Administrator: | <b>Mark Cobbe</b>  |
| Liaison:       | <b>Lil Clinard</b> |

### Data Administration

Data Administrator for Exhibitions and Entry In-take: **Pat C. Patrick**

### Newsletter Team

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Editor:   | <b>Mike Hill</b>  |
| Designer: | <b>Mark Cobbe</b> |
| Writer:   | <b>OPEN</b>       |

### Regional Contacts

|            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Region I   | <b>Charley Highers</b>    |
| Region II  | <b>Wendy Latimer</b>      |
| Region III | <b>Marie Spaeder Haas</b> |
| Region IV  | <b>Judy Jordan</b>        |
| Region V   | <b>Barbara Jernigan</b>   |

Contact information for all TnWS members is in the Members Only Section of our website.

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## Next Issue Reminder

Our next issue of *ArtBeat* will be published on **April 15, 2026**. Please send your Applause and News to your **Regional Representative** by **March 10, 2026**.