April 2017 Watercolor Newsletter

Exhibitions of Note

Cathy Hegman, Insomniacs Dream Boats, AWS Gold Medal of Honor
American Watercolor Society 150th Annual Exhibition
Upper Gallery
April 03-22, 2017

The American Watercolor Society is one of the oldest and most prestigious art societies in the world. The AWS Exhibition is one of the premiere watercolor exhibits in the world. For more information, visit www.awsinc.org or email info@americanwatercolorsociety.org.


Wonder and Whimsy: The Illustrations of W. Heath Robinson
Delaware Art Museum
Wilmington, Delaware
March 4, - May 21, 2017

While little known today, during his lifetime William Heath Robinson (1872 -1944) was ranked with Arthur Rackham and Edmund Dulac as one of England’s foremost illustrators. Beginning in the 1890s Robinson developed a linear style that looks back to the innovations of the Pre-Raphaelite illustrators and forward to the art nouveau creations of Aubrey Beardsley and others. He illustrated a broad range of texts, including William Shakespeare, Rudyard Kipling, and the fairy tales of Hans Christian Andersen, in addition to children’s books he wrote himself. He is best remembered today for his humorous depictions of Rube Goldberg-like contraptions and gentle satires of contemporary life. http://www.delart.org/exhibits/wonder-and-whimsy/
Exhibitions to Enter Artwork

49th Watercolor West International Juried Exhibition
City of Brea Art Gallery
Brea, CA
Juror: John Salminen
Transparent Watercolor Exhibition
Deadline: June 29, 2017
October 14-December 17, 2017
For prospectus and further information: www.watercolorwest.org

Museums

American Watercolor in the Age of Homer and Sargent
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Philadelphia, PA
March 1 - May 14, 2017
This extraordinary gathering of rarely seen masterpieces traces the rise of a uniquely American medium. Shaped by the genius of Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent, the watercolor movement tells a story about innovation, experimentation, and the creation of bold new ways of seeing the world. [http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/851.html](http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/851.html)

The National WWII Museum
New Orleans

After the failure of the Gallipoli campaign appeared to have ended his political career in 1915, the “Muse of Painting” appeared to rescue Churchill from his deepest bout of “Black Dog” (the nickname he gave his deep depressions). His cousin introduced him to watercolors while in the garden at Hoe Farm. Churchill at first timidly attempted to apply paint to the canvas; when he realized that the canvas would not strike back, he entered whole-heartedly into the effort. Being Winston Churchill, a man who did things for history, naturally he early began to paint in oils. Painting was the one activity which he did for the sheer pleasure, enjoyment, and challenge of the art, and without a political motive. It claimed his attention for the rest of his life, and was perhaps the surest method he had of relaxation.

Painting was not a frivolous delight to Churchill. Painting appealed to a very deep element in his personality, a serious and meaningful key to his being. Painting connected Churchill to the pursuit and creation of beauty in the world. Churchill the painter was a different man than the world had become accustomed to know. In this field, he eagerly sought advice and consultation, and was willing to take direction from others. In his political and literary talents,
he was the supreme judge. But in his attitude towards painting, Churchill not only subordinated his will, but submitted to an inner light and higher power.

Churchill's goldfish pond at Chartwell

Churchill the painter became quite committed and accomplished in his hobby. He eventually built a painting studio on the grounds of his home.

A man in a hurry most of his life, the muse of painting stilled and becalmed Churchill’s sense of the passage of time and life, of the movements of history. It centered and brought out his spiritual conviction of the immutability of nature, and the joy of living in the natural world.

Dr. Keith Huxen is the Senior Director of Research and History at The National WWII Museum. For the entire article: [http://www.nww2m.com/2011/09/winston-churchill-painter-2/](http://www.nww2m.com/2011/09/winston-churchill-painter-2/)

**Demonstrations, Workshops and Lectures**
Expressive Landscape Drawing with Anita Lehmann
Daniel Smith: Seattle Art Store Event
Seattle, Washington
April 1-2, 2017

Expressive Drawing/Design in Landscape will guide you through stimulating exercises. The workshop will focus on expressive drawing, a free-form abstract approach that any eager artist can master. [http://seattledanielsmithevents.blogspot.com/2017/02/free-demo-2-day-workshop-expressive.html](http://seattledanielsmithevents.blogspot.com/2017/02/free-demo-2-day-workshop-expressive.html)

Books, Catalogues and Publications

-Back cover detail

American Watercolor in the Age of Homer and Sargent Hardcover
March 7, 2017
by Kathleen A. Foster

The fascinating story of the transformation of American watercolor practice between 1866 and 1925

The formation of the American Watercolor Society in 1866 by a small, dedicated group of painters transformed the perception of what had long been considered a marginal medium. Artists of all ages, styles, and backgrounds took up watercolor in the 1870s, inspiring younger generations of impressionists and modernists. By the 1920s many would claim it as “the American medium.”

This engaging and comprehensive book tells the definitive story of the metamorphosis of American watercolor practice between 1866 and 1925, identifying the artist constituencies and social forces that drove the new popularity of the medium. The major artists of the movement – Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, William Trost Richards, Thomas Moran, Thomas Eakins, Charles Prendergast, Childe Hassam, Edward Hopper, Charles Demuth, and many others – are represented with lavish color illustrations. The result is a fresh and beautiful look at watercolor’s central place in American art and culture.

In the News

Antonio Calderara, fondazionecalderara; Acquarello (Watercolor), 1959.

Courtesy Stefan Hildebrandt Gallery

Antonio Calderara
A self-taught Modernist painter, Italian artist Antonio Calderara was also a draftsman and a graphic designer. He is known for his non-figurative imagery, inspired by the works of Kazimir Malevich, Piet Mondrian and Josef Albers, thus it is based on geometric abstract art which relies on the power of color field painting as well. His two-dimensional squares and serigraph works became the artist’s only practice after his participation at the 1959 Venice Biennale. As a watercolor artist, Antonio Calderara employs the same visual ideas, through works on paper and cardboard.  
http://www.widewalls.ch/contemporary-watercolor-artists/

Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) was a Scottish architect, designer and artist, who became a major figure in the Art Nouveau movement. His greatest masterpiece was the Glasgow School of Art which is still an inspiring place to study art today. In his own lifetime, Mackintosh never received the acclaim he was due from his native country. He was more greatly appreciated in Europe, particularly Germany and Austria. In 1923 he gave up design and architecture and moved to the south of France, where he worked as an artist painting watercolors of the landscape. His watercolours have a strong sense of design that reflects his architectural interests.
Lorraine Loots decided to create one miniature painting a day for the 365 days. The resulting series, entitled Postcards for Ants, is truly incredible. ‘I challenged myself to create a miniature painting every single day for the entire year,’ Says Lorraine. ‘The project evolved and people started booking sentimental dates making suggestions for the painting to be done on that day. Every day, I posted the completed picture online.’ She says that the purpose was to set aside one hour each day to pay attention to singular details of life around her.
Georgia O’Keeffe, Sunrise, 1916

**On-line Newsletter Editor**
Kathy Gaye Shiroki, Curator of Museum Learning and Community Engagement