

Send News of solo shows, awards, and other honors to: Mark de Mos

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News due by the 25th of the month.



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NJWCS Calendar of Events

2023 Annual Online Associate Members' Show

works & awards on NJWCS.org April 2023-April 2024

2023 Elected Members Online Show

The 2023 Online Elected Member show is currently open for entries. We've increased the award money and are delighted to introduce our Awards' Judge, Andrew M. Kish III.

Entry fee: \$15. **Deadline for entries: May 15.**

Go to NJWCS.org for more information.

Zoom Reception/Awards: June 23 Posted June 24

2023 Open Juried Show. September 9-30

Middletown Art Center (36 Church St)

Member News

NJWCS welcomes four New Elected Members:

New members will be featured in the June Meet the Members

JAMES MALONEY * Little Egg Harbor, NJ.

RANDY MAYER * Atlantic Highlands, NJ

YVONNE MUCCI * VERGA, NJ

TIM SATERNOW, AWS * Jersey City, NJ

HENRIETA MANEVA and Sean Carney will be exhibiting at **The Arts Council of Princeton's Taplin Gallery** (102 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08542) from May 13-June 10. Their exhibition, "*Form and Foundation*" features "Anthropomorphic shapes floating, clinging, existing in interior spaces, employing intense color and collage". The reception is Saturday, May 13 from 3-5pm. Regular hours are Mon – Thu 9am-5pm and Fri & Sat 10am-4pm. www.artscouncilofprinceton.org



MICHAEL SCHERFEN, AWS was commissioned by **Middlesex County** to do five portraits for their current exhibition in the **Cornelius Low House** (1225 River Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854) The exhibition, which runs until June 30, also features works by Micah Williams. Micah was an itinerant portrait artist from 1790 to 1833 who worked primarily in Middlesex

and Monmouth Counties. Mike's portraits are of everyday people from Italy, Spain, France, Mexico, England, Ireland and the US. The House is open Wed-Fri, 10-4PM, Sat-Sun 12-4pm, free admission.



M. Scherfen

In Memoriam: JILL CROUCH of Scotch Plains, NJ, before moving in with her daughter in Martinsville, NJ, where she passed away peacefully on April 29, 2023 at 77.

Jill had always had many passions: painting, gardening, and Broadway musicals among them. She held a *Bachelor of Science* and *Master's* degree and "her career spanned *Clinical Hematology, Virology, Chemistry* and *Molecular Science* at **Yale**. She presented papers written for medical journals in places such as Taiwan, Canada, and Suriname."

She retired in 2011 and was able to delve into her artistic passions. She began to take lessons in watercolor at the **Visual Arts Center of New Jersey (VACNJ)** with Donna Read and Animal Portraitist Andrea Gianchiglia. She became an "Exhibiting Member" of **Essex Water Color Club** in 2013, and by 2016 had won a number of awards and had her first solo exhibit at **VACNJ** in their *Strolling Gallery*, sponsored by their Members' Committee. She received the *Pat and Richard Morgan Award (2nd)* in **NJWCS Associate Members Show** in 2017 for "Out for a Walk" (below), and was elected to membership in 2019. Crouch also shared her talents as a founding member of **VACNJ's Member Committee** and on the **NJWCS** board.



"For the most part, I enjoy painting animals. As I bring them to life with paint on paper, I believe they are smiling back at me; no matter what the circumstance or message I am trying to convey. With each painting, it is my goal to include a little humor, a message for the viewer and an interesting twist on humanity as I continue to improve my technical skills and appreciate the freedoms of working with watercolor media. Ultimately, it is my sincere hope in the future to technically improve my art, better express my thoughts and goals and to connect more clearly with my viewer as I move forward with humor and grace."

"Jill will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Her kind heart, infectious smile, and passion for art and science will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know her. Her legacy lives on in her beautiful artwork and the memories she created with her family and friends." (quotes from her obituary)

"What, No More Peanuts", J.Crouch.

"Out for a Walk", *Curtis Hillyer Memorial Award* from the **VACNJ** in 2017.



"I am not an artist" (written for a solo show in 2015)by **JILL CROUCH**

I am an experimental Biologist who has always had a passion for Art. I spent the better part of my life working alone, at a laboratory bench, in a hospital environment for almost 40 years.

With my retirement in 2011, at the close of my professional career, I began to use my love of the Arts to find similar joy and fulfillment in my life. My humble and respectful "journey" started in hopes that someday I will feel qualified and comfortable calling myself an "Artist".

I've learned that like Experimental Science, Art deserves respect, understanding, and commitment for success. It is necessary to study and understand the subject well, experiment with the vision, produce the best product possible, and determine if the product is relevant, does it have a clear message and finally is it marketable?

Will art save lives? Yes, it is saving mine! I was lost and Art found me. It makes me happy, gives me an identity, value to my community, and a new outlook for my future. The "journey" moves on from here.



"Walking Tiger". J. Crouch

JILL CROUCH Remembrance from **JOE ZIEGLER**. (NJWCS TREASURER)

Jill was the 1st VP when I became Treasurer in the summer of 2020. Although I never met her in person, she was instrumental in leading the society into the age of Zoom meetings and Zoom award receptions due to the Covid pandemic. Her email exchanges with me gave me an awakening and helpful insight into the realities and politics of serving on a large board. Reading her obituary, I discovered she had a career in the medical sciences field, which probably explains why she was a very detail oriented person, and she always tried to ensure that processes were followed accurately and fairly. Jill was also a very strong advocate for the associate members in our society, lobbying for their fair representation and the ongoing continuance of the Associate members' show.

Unfortunately, in 2021 Jill had to undergo a critical and difficult surgery, was beset with some serious health issues afterwards, and was forced to resign her position on the board in October of 2021.

"The NJWCS was near and dear to Jill's heart. When she moved to NJ to be closer to me after my father passed away, she dove into watercolor painting head first. Painting was a barometer for when she was doing well she would paint for hours!. If she was not feeling well, but didn't want to admit it, I knew because she wasn't painting. Creating art was her therapy and the friends she made in the process were a blessing."

"I am not an artist" was used in her eulogy

Shared by her daughter, Carolyn Varger.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the NJWCS, to support a Memorial Award in the Open Show.



Meet the Members:
MKEN HAMILTON, NWS of West Orange has been a member since 2002, won the *Silver*

Medal in 2008 and was *President* 2008 - 2010. He received an *Associate in Applied Science* and a *Professional Diploma in Art* from **Spokane Falls College**, and a *Professional Art Diploma* from the **New School of Visual Concepts**, Seattle. He continued his studies with Mario Cooper, Frank Webb, Alvaro Castagnet, and privately with Daniel Schwartz, the **Art Students League** and **School of Visual Arts**. His numerous awards include the *Nummie Warga Memorial Award* in 2017 and the *Lawrence Founder's Award* in 2013 from the **NJWCS**; *The Joan Rudman Award* in the *Hudson Valley Art Association show* in 2020 and the *Thomas Moran Memorial Award* in the 2010 **Salmagundi Club Non-Member Show**. Ken is also an *elected member* of the *American Artist Professional League* and a *signature member* of the *Hudson Valley Art Association* as well as continues to foster his figurative work at **YYY Studio** (Dover) and **South Avenue Arts** (Garwood). As a *signature member* of the **National Watercolor Society** he was among exhibitors to be included in their *Traveling America Tour* and by special invitation he showed at the *Shanghai Zhujiyajiao* and the *Qingdao International Watercolor Exhibitions* in China. The **Qingdao Art Museum** purchased a painting for their permanent collection.

Ken worked many years as a freelance illustrator. With his ardent interest in observing people, he developed the habit of carrying a sketchbook everywhere to draw on the spot. This proved invaluable to his work. He also painted from the model on a regular basis. His painterly style lent itself to editorial realism; when more detail was expected as in mass market he felt the spontaneity was lost. Ken yearned for more self-expression and, since the mid-90's, pursued his primary passion in fine art. While he has worked in many mediums, the versatility of watercolor most defines his artistry. He is interested in the ability for pigments to intermingle after applying washes and the relative ease to put something down shorthand. Ken finds fascination with the relationship of portraying the likeness and spirit of the subject while still knowing he's looking at paint. Not one for formulas, he likes to approach his work as a journey exploring the possibilities while making a connection with the viewer.





ANN C. TAYLOR of West Caldwell, NJ became a member in 2006 and was *President* 2010-12. She began her studies at the **High School of Industrial Arts** in Manhattan, and continued her studies at **Brooklyn College** where she earned a *B.A. in Fine and Applied Arts*. Ann also studied at **The School of Visual Arts(Summit)**, the **New School for Social Research**, and the **Yard School of Art** (Montclair). She is member of the **North East Watercolor Society, Pastel Society of NJ** and **GSWS**, and was featured at the **Alfa Gallery** (New Brunswick) in 2010. Besides

winning numerous awards from local art groups, she won the *Garden State Watercolor Award* from **GSWS** in 2006 and *The Contessa Bonardi Award* (4th) from the **NJWCS** in 2012.

Her paintings cover a wide variety of subjects, but many include the compositional element of water, and her love of color and light.

Ann's husband, ALLEN TAYLOR, also became an active watercolorist after retiring from a career in advertising. They were both very active with the **Essex Water Color Club** where she was a long-time president, and Allen created an extensive monthly newsletter, and followed her as a member of **GSWS, NEWS** and **NJWCS**. Sadly, Allen passed away in 2016, ending a long and successful partnership.



"Beware of Bee" A. Taylor



"Dry Oasis"



Venice Pigeons A. Taylor



FLORENCE ROSENBERG, of Parsippany, NJ, has been a member since 1996, and was *President* from 2000-02. She earned a *BS* in *Art Education* from **New York University**, an *MA* from **Columbia University**, and continued her art education at **the Art Students League**. Flo was a member of the **AAPL**, **National Association of Women Artists**, was chosen for one of their traveling shows, and has been *President* of the **EWCC**.

objects that she paints. She delights in the way they combine and interact with one another and in how light affects them. A former textile designer(1970's), Florence has an affinity for texture and surfaces and finds that rendering cloth, glass and silver presents interesting challenges. Flowers and fruit add warmth and life to her works, while opaque black backgrounds emphasize negative space and produce a dramatic contrast.



Reflections (14" x 28")

F.Rosenberg "Reflections" in [Portraits2](#)



EVETTE CHUSID of Roseland, NJ has been a member since 2001. She was very active with the **Essex Watercolor Club**, and the **NAWA** where she gained membership and served as *Treasurer* in the late 1990's, winning the *Betsy E Melcher Memorial Award* for "Millennium Series" from the **National Association of Women Artists (NAWA)** in 1999 and the *A Friend's Award Dorothy and Charles Plohn Jr* in 2004 from the **Garden State Watercolor Society** for "Windows of Time".

E. Chusid "Windows of Time"



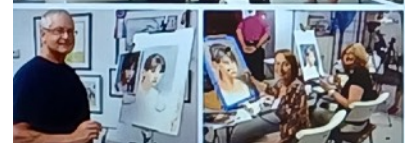


Art Centers & Societies in New Jersey: There are many art groups around the state that have helped to develop new artists. They not only provide classes and a chance to get to know other artists, they also provide the first place for artists to show, and gain confidence.

Essex Watercolor Club (ewcclub.com) holds its meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the Livingston Community Center (enter at back or left side) at 204 Hillside Avenue. The **EWCC** is New

Jersey's oldest active watercolor organization, founded by 27 watercolor artists in 1932, to meet, share ideas, discuss techniques and exhibit their work. "We are a teaching club, dedicated to providing opportunities and activities that foster this objective." It has included a who's who of NJWCS and AWS members. Among the numerous NJWCS members who served as president of **EWCC** are **ANN TAYLOR, JOHN WOLFF, FLO ROSENBERG** and **SUSANNA ANASTASIA**.

It holds 6 regular meetings a year where they provide a watercolor demonstration with a renowned artist which is recorded and can be found on their website Ewcclub.org. There are three member exhibitions with awards a year and they also sponsor workshops. There are two levels of membership, Elected and Associate. To be an Exhibiting Member artists have to bring 3 paintings to the November meeting so that a 3-member panel can vote on membership.



KEN HAMILTON and the importance of sketching from Life:



"With Ken's ardent interest in observing people, he developed the habit of carrying a sketch book everywhere he went, drawing on the spot. This proved invaluable to his work. He also continued to paint from a model on a regular basis. His painterly style lent itself to editorial realism. While the commercial work laid an advantageous foundation in picture making he yearned for more self-expression than working on others ideas. In pursuing fine art, the last 25 years he finds his senses are more awakened through a greater journey of one's growth through seeing, interpreting and experiencing the world."

A (Quick) Prehistory of NJWCS part 2

By the mid-18th century, watercolor was used in England in maps and topographical painting, bringing the medium into the modern era. People started to paint on location, vacationing with paints, but watercolor was still not seen as a respectable and unique fine art medium. JMW Turner (1775-1851) created modern watercolor on handmade papers and newly available pigments created modern watercolor, using layering, wax, etc. He made larger scale fine art pieces and was the first watercolorist to become a member of the **Royal Academy of Art**. He went on to recreate his effects in oil, and still inspires us today. One of the artists he inspired was Thomas Moran who came to America, and became a major artist here. He not only painted huge oil panoramas that went into the *Capitol Building* in Washington, his on-location watercolor sketches popularized the first **National Park, Yellowstone**. Moran briefly had a studio in Newark around 1870.



JMW Turner



Thomas Moran

In 1866 the **American Watercolor Society** was founded, having its first shows cosponsored by the **National Academy of Design**. At this point most of the people painting in watercolor were women, as it was not a good medium for supporting a career but was clean and mobile. Winslow Homer began to paint in watercolor in the 1870's, which were popular and critically acclaimed.

In the early 1900's John Singer Sargent began to paint in watercolor for enjoyment, and later became more serious, working transparently, and on location. Some 20th century artists chose watercolor for modernist and avante-garde purposes. Maurice Prendergast of the Ashcan School worked in a bold, colorful, with minimal detail in an effect that makes one think of stained glass.



Winslow Homer



John Singer Sargent



Maurice Prendergast