

Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's  
68th Annual Exhibition



Best of Show  
*Synthesis*  
by Denise Athanas

*AQUOUS PEN* 2014

October 4-25, 2014

## *About the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society*

The Pittsburgh Watercolor Society was founded in 1945 to “develop, encourage and maintain interest in watercolor painting.” From the original 20 founders, we have grown to over 200 members who pursue their passion for painting through our workshops, exhibitions, guest artists’ programs and demonstrations, news exchange, social media connections, volunteer opportunities and social events. We are an active, exciting group of artists committed to supporting one another and sharing our enthusiasm for watercolor with the community, locally and regionally. Potential new members are welcome and encouraged to submit work for screening either in the Fall or Spring. Visit our website for current information, members’ gallery, events, application process, and more: [www.PittsburghWatercolorSociety.com](http://www.PittsburghWatercolorSociety.com).

### **PITTSBURGH WATERCOLOR SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Phiris Kathryn Sickels, President  
Eileen Sudzina, Vice President  
Linda Kauffman, Treasurer  
Therese Geever, Secretary  
Sue Schneider, Ex Officio

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Darla Duffy – At Large  
Peggi Habets – Facebook  
Katie McMichael – E-Blasts  
Michalina Pendzich – Membership  
Jan Pini – Webmaster  
Kate Powell – Aqueous Co-Chair  
Sue Schneider – Workshop  
Samira Shaheen – Publicity  
Phiris Kathryn Sickels – Aqueous Co-Chair  
Suzie Sparks – Awards  
Catherine Weisz - Social

## *President's Message*

The Pittsburgh Watercolor Society presents to you the 68th Annual Aqueous Open International. As always, this exhibit showcases the best of watercolor artists both regionally and internationally. This year's juror, Donna Zagotta, is a nationally recognized artist, teacher and juror. Donna did an outstanding job both in her selection and in the awards to make this a vibrant and exciting exhibit.

I truly enjoy the opportunity to be a part of this Aqueous 2014. As I reviewed all of the submitted images for this exhibit, I was enchanted and overwhelmed by the range of talent, technique, subject and color in these entries. Truly, the best show in town! I think you will find that this extraordinary exhibition of watermedia art will please your senses and inspire you to seek your artistic joy in watercolor.

A big thanks goes to all the volunteers who made this show possible, both through donations and hard work, especially to Kate Powell, our dedicated 2014 Exhibition Co-Chair. I could not have done this without her eager assistance. And again, a sincerely huge thank you to Cindy Fox for patiently and expertly producing this year's catalog.

Now that I am "knee deep" in this PWS Presidency, I have begun to appreciate all of the work done by our previous President, Sue Schneider. We all owe her a big THANKS! for all of her efforts. We are an all-volunteer organization and we depend on all of our members to help the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society to succeed. Please volunteer!

Congratulations again to each and every artist in this wonderful exhibition.

Phiris Kathryn Sickels  
President, Pittsburgh Watercolor Society  
Aqueous Co-Chair

## *Chair's Message*

Welcome to the 68th Annual Aqueous Open presented by the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society. This show, juried by Donna Zagotta, emphasizes the broad and expressive qualities of watercolor as a medium. We are thrilled to share it with you all.

Having only joined PWS in March, this is my first Aqueous and I am honored to experience it by serving as the exhibition co-chair. This exhibition resulted from the labors of many gracious individuals. We are especially honored to have Donna Zagotta as our juror and workshop instructor this year. We are grateful to Kathleen Zimbicki, Connie Clutter and Dana Steadman for their efforts to install this exhibition. Because of Catherine Weisz, Eileen Sudzina, and Trisha Warren we can savor the opening and celebrate the closing of Aqueous 2014. Many thanks to Cindy Fox for the stunning catalog and postcard design. Finally, without co-chair, Kathy Sickels, this beautiful show would not have been possible.

May this exhibition excite and inspire through the beauty of watercolor!

Kate Powell  
Aqueous Co-Chair

# *Juror of Selection and Awards*

**DONNA ZAGOTTA**, AWS/NWS

## **JUROR'S STATEMENT**

First of all, I would like to congratulate each and every artist who is included in this year's Pittsburgh Watercolor Society exhibition. Secondly, I would like to thank the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society so very much for the honor and privilege of being your juror this year. It was a joy to jury this exhibition because of the many quality paintings entered. Since there are no rules to guide jurors in selecting a show and its awards, each juror necessarily brings his or her own subjective and sometimes "quirky" opinions to the process, and it is those opinions that form the standards that guide their choices.

My standards for jurying are the same standards I set for my own work. I look for personal, unique, and imaginative paintings that contain a personal visual language and a solid design. I also look for fully resolved works that communicate something meaningful, whether a subject is present or not. I also look for beauty. Not beauty for "pretty's sake", but the kind of beauty that results when an artist is passionately engaged with all of the above.

Donna Zagotta, AWS/NWS

## **ABOUT THE JUROR**

Active professionally for over 25 years, Donna Zagotta is an internationally recognized artist, teacher, juror, and writer. She has accumulated numerous awards and is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, National Watercolor Society, Watercolor West, and Transparent Watercolor Society of America. Her work appears in numerous publications and she has been teaching classes and workshops since 1990.

Donna's paintings have evolved from an early emphasis on traditional watercolor techniques and traditionally influenced realism to an unconventional use of the watercolor medium and the exploration of the area that lies between realism and abstraction.



*Girl With the Pink Umbrella*  
by Donna Zagotta



Denise Athanas *Synthesis*  
Mt. Pleasant, S.C.  
\$4,200 40" x 40"



Ann Averback *Another Tree on a Hill*  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\$2,000 20" x 28"



Sim Cha *Benevolent Basset Hound*  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\$4,000 30" x 36"



Connie Clutter *Bliss*  
Washington, Pa.  
\$450 20" x 24"



Rachel Collins *Woodland Marsh II*  
Alexandria, Va.  
\$2,500 37" x 29"



Cynthia Cooley  
*Old Havana*  
Verona, Pa.  
\$1,000 26" x 16"



Elaine Daily-Birnbaum  
*Penumbra*  
Fitchburg, Wis.  
\$3,800 30" x 30"



Terry Evers  
*A Gathering*  
Tucson, Ariz.  
\$3,000 38" x 30"



Nancy Deckant  
*Blue Morning*  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\$3,000 28" x 36"



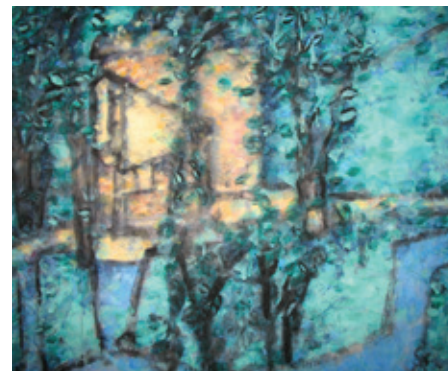
Gary Eckhart  
*Lemon Compote*  
Warren, Vt.  
\$1,100 19" x 15"



Marion Skinner Grelle  
*Surveying the Situation*  
Indiana, Pa.  
\$900 16" x 12"



Peggi Habets *Disconnected*  
Bethel Park, Pa.  
\$4,900 40" x 32"



Patricia Helmick *Trees of Cold Creek*  
Fairmont, W.Va.  
\$3,500 34" x 34"



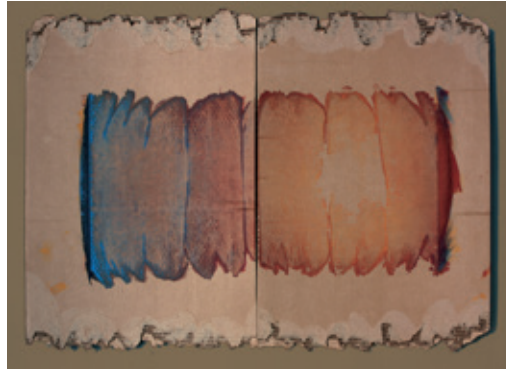
Sally Heston *Lighthouse Point*  
Broadview Heights, Ohio  
\$800 22" x 28"



Carol Hubbard *Antithesis*  
Monroe, Conn.  
\$2,500 20" x 36"



Charlotte Huntley *Derby Dress Code*  
Lafayette, Ca.  
\$4,000 22" x 30"



Kazi Ishraki *Persistence of Memory*  
Jamaica, N.Y.  
\$500 30" x 40"



Michael Jacques *Shirt*  
Blawnox, Pa.  
\$450 40" x 32"



John James *White Peaks*  
Arlington, Texas  
\$1,050 30" x 26"



Paul Johnson *Waterbottles*  
Freedom, Pa.  
\$700 36" X 36"





Ardythe Jolliff  
*Lonely Lotus*  
Edgewater, Md.  
\$800 29" x 20"



Gloria Karn *Choice*  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\$850 29" x 21"



Marguerite Kazalas  
*Glacier Point, Yosemite*  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\$2,000 25" x 33"



Woon Lam Ng *Good Shot*  
Singapore  
\$2,000 11" x 15"



Calvin Lynch *Mission Street*  
Confluence, Pa.  
\$1,000 24" x 33"



Marianne Marino *Cocktails*  
Allison Park, Pa.  
\$900 19" x 22"



Katie McMichael *Secret Fantasy*  
Westerville, Ohio  
\$1,000 25" x 30"



William McAllister  
*Vintage Django - Oxford*  
Braddock, Pa.  
\$2,900 27" x 20"



Eileen Mueller Neill  
*Soaring Kite Watchers*  
Riverwoods, Ill.  
\$5,300 37" x 30"



Jenie Nickolls *Bridge to Terabithia*  
Elizabeth, Pa.  
\$150 14" x 17"



Rosemary Osnato  
*Ascending Women*  
Montague, N.J.  
\$1,100 20" x 26"



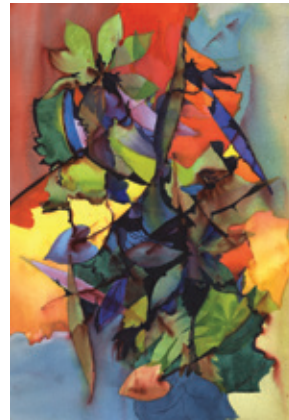
Kathy Oravec *Love Lahaina*  
Thompson, Ohio  
\$900 24" x 30"



Kit Paulsen *La Meridiana Hillside*  
Washington, Pa.  
\$1,100 21" x 25"



Ann Pember *Symphony*  
Keeseville, N.Y.  
\$900 22" x 28"



Sherrie Plonski *Verdant Chaos*  
Coraopolis, Pa.  
\$500 30" x 24"



Pamela Price *The Adventurer*  
Monroeville, Pa.  
\$500 23" x 18"



Roc Prologo *The Rebel*  
Freedom, Pa.  
\$850 18" x 22"



David Reed *City Beyond Repair*  
Westerville, Ohio  
\$1,000 14" x 20"



Anthony Rogone *Old City Iris*  
Rocklin, Ca.  
\$2,500 28" x 42"



Nicole Ryan *James River Blues*  
Mercer, Pa.  
\$1,500 29" x 35"



Sally Sheffler *Inspired by Iris*  
Crescent, Pa.  
\$700 23" x 22"



Phiris Sickels  
*Lady in the Strip District*  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\$1,000 32" x 40"



Roland Stevens *Morning Paddle*  
Pultneyville, N.Y.  
\$1,650 24" x 30"



Eileen Sudzina *West Newton PA*  
McKeesport, Pa.  
\$1,000 26" x 32"



Ron Thurston *No Agenda*  
Coraopolis, Pa.  
\$2,000 29" x 34"



Debra Valentino *The Gig*  
Gibsonia, Pa.  
\$1,500 40" x 32"



Frank Webb *Grain Elevator*  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\$900 15" x 22"



Gilmore Van Stone *Window Shopping*  
Salida, Colo.  
\$1,200 24" x 32"



Valdoris Wright *Images of Patience*  
Naples, Fla.  
\$1,000 28" x 36"

## Awards

### BEST OF SHOW

The Pittsburgh Watercolor Society Award of Excellence  
Denise Athanas, "Synthesis"

### SECOND PLACE

Eileen Sudzina, "West Newton PA"

### THIRD PLACE

Elaine Daily-Birnbaum, "Penumbra"

### CAD SCARLET AWARD

*In memory of Linda Fruhwald*  
Debra Valentino, "The Gig"

### PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD

Ron Thurston, "No Agenda"

### PRESIDENT'S CHOICE AWARD

Awarded to a Pittsburgh Watercolor Society member  
Peggi Habets, "Disconnected"

### AWARDS OF MERIT

William McAllister, "Vintage Django – Oxford"  
Salis International Award

Katie McMichael, "Secret Fantasy"  
Salis International Award

Patricia Helmick, "Trees of Cold Creek"  
Salis International Award

Frank Webb, "Grain Elevator"  
Artists and Craftsman Supply

David Reed, "City Beyond Repair"  
Cheap Joe's Art Stuff Award

Terry Evers, "A Gathering"  
Golden Artist Colors, Inc.

Charlotte Huntley, "Derby Dress Code"  
Rosemary & Company Artist Brushes

## Special Thanks

The Pittsburgh Watercolor Society thanks these dedicated members, friends and volunteers who have helped make this exhibition a success:

Connie Clutter  
Cindy Fox  
Linda Kauffman  
Katie McMichael  
Jeenie Nickolls

Michalina Pendzich  
Jan Pini  
Donnie Pomeroy,  
Spinning Plate Gallery  
Sue Schneider

Samira Shaheen  
Suzie Sparks  
Dana Steadman  
Eileen Sudzina  
Tricia Warren

Catherine Weisz  
Kathleen Zimbicki

# The Spinning Plate Gallery/Artist Lofts

5720 Friendship Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

(at the intersection of Baum Blvd., Friendship Ave. and East Liberty Circle)

The Spinning Plate Artist Lofts, formerly the Constantin Pontiac car dealership, is a 37 unit live/work apartment building designed to meet the needs of low income artists and their families. It includes 7 efficiencies, 17 one bedroom, 11 two bedroom and 2 three bedroom apartments, and each one has a workspace within. A community gallery space coordinated by a resident gallery committee is available free to residents.

The Plate began life in 1927 as an elegant art deco Hupmobile auto dealership designed by renowned local architect Maximilian Nierdlinger. Its sweeping lobby, staircase and balcony, lobby and exhibition space terrazzo floors and industrial windows are reminders of its glamorous past. The Spinning Plate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

