

DECEMBER, 2022

SPOKANE WATERCOLOR SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was opened at 9:30 A.M. by President Oral Carper for general discussion. New member Kris DeBruine from Sedro Wooley was introduced and showed some of her work. SWS now has 80 active members, 28 of whom are signature members.

The meeting and presentation by Brienne Brown were both recorded.

President Oral called the general meeting to order at 10:00. Oral reminded members that dues are due by January 1st. There is a grace period of 1 month. After Jan 31st members who have not paid will have their names removed from the roster. Members who have been dropped may have a \$10 reinstatement fee. Send payment to Gay Witherspoon.

Board Positions for 2023 are:

President- Oral Carper, Vice president- Kim Gardell, Secretary – Gloria Fox, Media and spring show chair – Margo Sety, plein air and meeting presenters – Kathi Eckerich. SWS needs a treasurer. Gay Witherspoon is filling that role temporarily.

National Juried Show:

Oral, show chair, reports registration is now open through Café. Registration for this show ends Feb 12th at 11pm PST. Those entering more than 1 piece should enter them both at the same time. An early entrees is encouraged as the process can take a while. There is an entry fee discount code for members. Entry access is www.callforentry.org. Contact Oral with any questions.

Social Painting:

Spokane Art Supply has made the studio space available to SWS for a sharing, painting, learning experience on Fridays from 4-6 for the month of January. There is no charge to attend. Oral will be present.

Challenge Paintings:

There were several entrées. Most were of snow and/or holiday scenes. Joy Gruenewald won the drawing. Carrie Dugovic is compiling challenge painting submissions. Send to carrie.dugovic@gmail.com.

Workshop Report:

Margo reported that registration for the Iain Stewart spring workshop will open December 18th. Dates are April 20-23, 9:30-4:30 daily at Spokane Art Supply. Members have 1 month to register and receive a discount. Discounted member fee is \$450 until January 22nd. The fee then becomes \$600 for members

and others. Access the website to register. Complete both the registration and payment to be recorded as registered.

Guest Artist Presentation:

Oral introduced our guest presenter Brienne Brown who demonstrated painting a snow scene. She is a signature member of National Watercolor Society and several other groups. She is also a published artist. She provided an image and supply list for those who would like to paint the scene. She gave many tips on painting snow, stressing that it is seldom really white white, but a range of warm to cool tones depending on the lighting. Planes facing the sun will be the lightest. Brienne always does a value study before beginning a painting. Working at about a 30 degree angle she starts the painting by doing a light first wash working with puddles of primary colors. She used an oriental style brush with very long flexible bristles. She also brushes water over the areas that will be left white to avoid any sharp edges. Her pigment is about like tea at this step, but will thicken as she progresses through midtones to darks. She prewets the sky area to get enough water on the paper for a very smooth application. If work becomes too dry a light spray of water is used. She lets this first wash dry before proceeding. Starting with the background, Brienne mixes various shades of grey as she works from puddles of primary colors with some additions. She uses some lavender in all her paintings. She does not mix large areas of color but rather makes small adjustments of color (warm or cool) on the paper and on her palette as she proceeds. She often sprays a bit of water to keep the painting "alive" and uses a damp clean brush to soften edges. As she moves to the middle ground and even the foreground she focuses on painting shadows using an array of mid-values. She leaves areas of dappled light rather than painting solid shadows. She treats trees and other objects as abstract shapes and connects shapes when possible. This mid ground painting will be covered in many places by darker foreground objects. She stops painting to look at the work periodically. With foreground shadow areas already in place she paints the dark foreground objects last. Even within the dark shapes she varies the colors to provide more interest. The amount of detail to add is by personal choice. She stressed continuing to think about the composition as you add detail. Brienne estimated it would take her about another hour to complete the painting. She will send an image of the painting at this point and one of the completed work to the SWS website. Her work can be accessed on her website, as well as at Traveling Studio.com, and in her book *A Moment in Time*. It was a very informative and easy to understand presentation that offered inspiration to all painters of snow. Thank you, Brienne.

Respectfully submitted by SWS Secretary, Gloria Fox, December 18, 2022.