



APRIL/MAY Newsletter

APRIL/MAY, 2020
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CULTURAL CENTER AT PONTE VEDRA BEACH REMAINS CLOSED

Well, OBVIOUSLY, no April meeting...and May is very likely a no-go, too. **We'll keep you informed. But in the meantime, you don't have to miss out on demonstrations by wonderful watercolor artists. Click these blue links and then "allow" your browser to take you to inspiration and education!**

[Top 60 Watercolor Blogs](#)

This is a site that wants to collect bloggers, but the blogging artists seem very good, though **some sites are kind of "buy my paintings."** **Take your time, don't fry your brain, check out a couple each day.** I am always taken with the ones who include live demos. Here are 2 of my favorites, I just copied descriptions from the websites:

4• [Painting the Watercolor](#)

About Blog Follow her blog to keep up with interesting links to artists who work with this technique, Watercolor Techniques are explained through videos. Analysis and presentation of watercolor books and magazines and Links to pages around the world related to watercolor. Click on the arrow at the bottom of a displayed painting and watch a video of it being painted!.

I know, this artist's site looks like it is written in Spanish...but there are English translations there, and the videos I looked at were set to music, with no dialog.

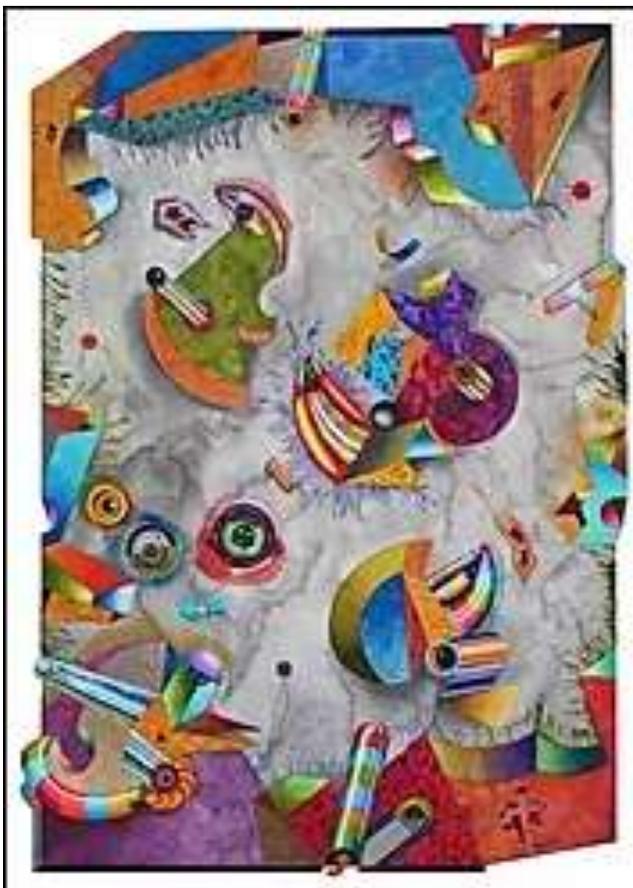
On the website, you will play videos by clicking the white arrow at the bottom of the paintings.



8. [St. Louis Watercolor Society](#)

Webster Groves, MO **About Blog** The Saint Louis Watercolor Society was formed in 1996 by a small group of dedicated, visionary artists for the purpose of providing educational opportunities to artists interested in watermedia, and to exhibit watermedia artwork to the public. **Frequency** 1 post / week **Blog** stlws.org

With a link to the [43rd Southern Watercolor Annual Juried Exhibition](#) (Great Show, click to browse) where Miles Batt II received the Gold Award for his painting "Sainly Migration." Congratulations, Miles!



There is one question that lots of members have had recently:

“WHEN CAN I GET MY PAINTING FROM THE CULTURAL CENTER?”

Thanks to Tuni’s persistence, JWS will have access to the CCPVB on

Wednesday, May 6 and Thursday, May 7 from 2:00pm - 4:30pm.

Members who entered paintings can pick them up during those hours as no-one else will be in the building at other times.

Get your painting or arrange to have someone pick it up for you as we do not know when the CCPVB will be open in the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello JWS Members, well, here we are, still at home.

I sincerely hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and safe. You may have experienced some restlessness and be wondering how we will ever get through this quarantine. Know that we are making it and doing a good job at it!

Please continue to stay home and follow coronavirus guidelines. Togetherness may change from what we are accustomed to but one thing for sure, at a social distance, I am very excited to see your quarantined paintings. I know you have been painting and I want to see them!

Please know that your board members are working hard behind the scenes for new ways of showing our work and getting us back together. We are a strong group and we will remain strong in every way. I miss all of you and look forward to seeing you not in May, maybe not in May, but there is a rainbow out there where I will again see your smiling faces. Keep painting and stay home for now,

Chris Olmoguez, President, Jacksonville Watercolor Society

FYI: SOME ISSUES OF BOARD DISCUSSION IN APRIL

A combined April Agenda/Report was emailed to Board members in lieu of a physical meeting due to the Coronavirus quarantine and board members were asked to comment on concerns and issues.

Chris expressed concerns about future JWS activities and keeping members safe under new guidelines.

Suggestion was made to reach out to general membership to check on them. Are our members safe? Have any of our members contracted the virus?

Current and future shows

Spring Show will be removed from CCPVB May 6 and May 7 from 2:00-4:30 p.m.

It is unknown at this time whether the Fall 2020 Show will be at Westminster Woods, as was scheduled.

Several board members suggested moving the Fall Show or, both the Spring and Fall Shows online.

Planned Programs (Covid status unknown)

Ted Head will present if May meeting is held

October – Linda Kemp

January 2021 – Tom Jones

Sept. – Robert Leedy

November – Pablo Rivera

Planned Workshops (Covid status unknown)

Fall Workshop – Linda Kemp

Spring 2021 Workshop – Don Andrews

May need to offer workshops online if social distancing continues.



Janet Killackey writes our book reviews.

*Janet knows we have some time on our hands this month, so she finally got **all** the Newsletter Space she wanted!! Four pages of inspiring recommendations that will fire up your artistic sensibilities and qualify you as a sparkling and motivational conversationalist—once we can have those conversations again!*

So here we all are. We all have a goodly amount of time to read now. In short, now is the time **for slow reading. To that end, I've included a few favorites of mine. Granted some of them are off** the wall – have little to do with art except in flakey ways but to my mind all of them are connected.

Being an artist isn't only about painting. It is so much more than that. It is a way of communicating what is deep inside you. Most times you have no idea what you are saying – what you think you are saying through your paintings. But every now and then your painting **touches a heartstring in another's soul and you are "seen". Here goes!**

Vision and Art by Margaret Livingstone

One of my very favorites!!! The original release of *Vision and Art* in 2002 successfully bridged the gap between science and art. Livingstone explored how great painters fool the brain. Within the study of the field of neuroscience are in-depth analyses of the phenomena found in major works of art. There are many charts and diagrams that illustrate her points.

Why does *Mona Lisa's smile seems so mysterious?* and *Monet's Poppy Field* appear to sway in the breeze? Why does *Mondrian's Broadway Boogie Woogie* blink like the lights of Times Square,? and *Warhol's Electric Chair* pulse with current?

Drawing on history and her own cutting-edge discoveries, she offers intriguing insights, from explanations of common optical illusions, to speculations on the correlation of learning disabilities with artistic skill. Did you know that most kids who have trouble communicating verbally are naturally highly skilled artists? By skillfully bridging the space between science and art, *Vision and Art* will give you new techniques to use in your own art, craft, and will thrill any reader with an interest in the biology of human vision.

Beauty: The Invisible Embrace by John O'Donohue

Okay – **this is a stretch. Mr. O'Donohue is an Irish poet, but only an Irish poet can awaken your** soul like this. We are all hungry for beauty; we seek it everywhere. We look for it in love, our **children's faces, in our religion and in ourselves. We also seek it in our artistic endeavors. An amazing landscape, still life or portrait can stay with us forever. Who doesn't know what the Mona Lisa** looks like? When we truly experience the Beautiful, we can feel fully alive. O'Donohue invites us to remember and to awaken to the Beautiful. Ever there, it is waiting for our attention and reverence in order to come alive. Kathleen Raine, the English poet says: "Strangest of all is the ease with which the vision is lost, consciousness contracts, we forget over and over again, until recollection is stirred by some icon of that beauty. Then we remember and wonder why we ever forgot." That is what a Beautiful painting can do for us.



The Elegant Universe by Brian Greene

The first time I started to read this book – I got all caught up in the fact that I am not a scientist. Trying to understand quantum physics almost drove me to distraction. But then I stopped thinking and just got on for the ride and the second reading was dazzling!!!!

Brian Greene is one of the world's leading string theorists. In this book he peels away the layers of mystery surrounding string theory to reveal a universe that consists of 11 dimensions where the fabric of space tears and repairs itself, and all matter-from the smallest quarks to the most gargantuan supernovas-is generated by the vibrations of microscopically tiny loops of energy.

I don't know anybody else who would even think to try to explain modern physics by using an amusement park ride to ants on a garden hose to illustrate his thoughts. It all sounds like a painting to me!

The Elegant Universe is a tour de force of science writing. That science helps to explain and understand how the universe works and why we see what we think we see. Reminds me of a ride in Old Palisades Amusement Park – Mr. Toads Wild Ride!!!!!! Fun!!!!

The Artful Universe by John Barrow

Our love of art is the end product of millions of years of evolution. How we react to a beautiful painting or symphony draws upon instincts laid down long before humans existed. This is another book exploring and explaining the close ties between our aesthetic appreciation and the basic nature of the Universe. I love it!!!

“Barrow argues that the laws of the Universe have imprinted themselves upon our thoughts and actions in subtle and unexpected ways. Why do we like certain types of art or music? What games and puzzles do we find challenging? Why do so many myths and legends have common elements?”

Well ,he tries to answer these questions in this eclectic and very entertaining book. Now I don't say this one is for everyone, but it makes you think as he explains how the landscape of the Universe has influenced the development of philosophy and mythology. Why are we attracted to certain patterns of color and sounds? “Barrow casts the story of human creativity and thought in a fascinating light, considering such diverse topics as our instinct for language, the origins and uses of color in nature, why we divide time into intervals as we do, the sources of our appreciation of landscape painting, and whether computer-generated fractal art is really art.”

The *Artful Universe* covers new ground and enters a wide-ranging debate about the meaning and significance of the links between art and science.

The Dancing Wu Li Masters by Gary Zukav

This will make you smile. The Chinese word for physics is *Wu Li*, "patterns of organic energy." Gary Zukav and others present the idea of physics as the dance of the Wu Li Masters--the teachers of physical essence. Don't you love it? Physical Essence!

This book deals not with knowledge, which is always past tense anyway, but with imagination, which is physics come alive. Most people believe that physicists are explaining the world. Some physicists even believe that, but the Wu Li Masters know that they are only dancing with it. Get it?

"The Dancing Wu Li Masters remains an engaging, accessible way to meet the most profound and mind-altering insights of 20th-century science. --*Mary Ellen Curtin*". I can't say it any better than that.

If you are curious about the mind-expanding discoveries of advanced physics, but who have no scientific background you will love this book. There are no mathematical equations. I couldn't read it if it did have them. But like a Wu Li Master Zukav teach us wonder for the falling petal before speaking of gravity. Isn't that what we paint? Wonder? Wu Li also means "patterns of organic energy," but it also means "nonsense," "my way," "I clutch my ideas," and "enlightenment."

Aren't these just other words for painting? My painting!

So I hope you enjoy these slow reads. Odd though some may be they will all make you think! Just be glad I didn't add the one about how trees communicate with each other through their roots, limbs and leaves. You'd be driving me to the nursing home! (But it is a goodie!) What a way to paint landscapes!

PLACES TO VISIT FROM YOUR COUCH!!

My old friend Emily Dickinson used to say, "There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away"! Emily, of course could not have envisioned our computers, laptops and the like but here we are able to go lands away or down the block.

There are so many sites now available you can visit national parks, cultural centers and museums. If you're really an adventurer you can go to symphonies and concerts. Here are some of them:

[Google Arts & Culture](#) features content from over 2000 leading museums and archives that have partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to bring the world's treasures online.

The [Metropolitan in New York](#) is a big favorite with me.



MORE PLACES TO VISIT FROM YOUR COUCH!

The [Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery](#) buildings may be temporarily closed, but the **museum** is always open online.

Just hit your browser for: The Vatican, The Louvre, The Hermitage, Van Gogh Museum, The Paris Opera House, The Hermitage, The British Museum, African American Museum History & Culture Museum, Chicago Art Institute, The Palace of Versailles, and The Guggenheim.

There are no limits to where you can travel to from your couch these days!!!!

Interesting New Products

If you're like me you love all those palettes artists make. They have a mastery of color and hues with all its many gradations. I'm jealous! The only thing stopping me is making up the stupid grids for the charts. [Color Frontier](#) now has a peel off grid of 55 openings. Use them for just one mixture study or line them up for something really grand and eye stopping and let others be jealous!!!!



Indigraph Fountain Pen now has a new ink pen that you can pretty much use any ink with. This pen is ideal for urban sketchers, designers as well as calligraphers. I use it to draw over watercolors that need correction and voilà! I made that mistake on purpose!



MEMBER NEWS



Please keep the Member News about shows and classes flowing. I will try to get the word out in the Newsletter!!

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This month, we've got a couple of comments from members...a little watercolor humor! (and don't we need all we can get right now!)
From Mary Ellen Carrier:

👁️ Have you heard that COLOR takes all the credit but VALUES do all the hard work?

And one from Brenda Daly, who got a strange email from Kinder Morgan, an energy company with pipelines in the Jacksonville area. Can you "dig it"?

Hi Fran, hope you're doing well. I got some interesting mail addressed to the Jacksonville Watercolor Society from Kinder-Morgan. It seems we're suppose to call 811 and they may need to send an employee to supervise our digging.



I guess their computer picked out what it thought were "water" suppliers? Which is why we got it.

Can't say I don't notify the club of any mail I get!!



JWS Calendar

Coming Attractions

COVID-19 Permitting

Planned Programs (Covid status unknown)

- Ted Head will present if May meeting is held
- Sept. – Robert Leedy
- October – Linda Kemp
- November – Pablo Rivera
- January 2021 – Tom Jones

Planned Workshops (Covid status unknown)

- Fall Workshop – Linda Kemp
- Spring 2021 Workshop – Don Andrews

BRING A FRIEND!
Membership Update:
 Remember to bring a friend to this month's meeting. Any current member who brings a friend who is not a member will receive a free raffle ticket.



An Additional Way of Staying in Touch with Members and the Art Community

IMPORTANT DUES REMINDER

It is 2020! Your dues must be paid for 2020 to enter the Fall Show!



**Has your email changed?
 Have a new address?
 Don't forget to tell us so we can stay in touch.**

