



August 2025

P.O. Box 4631
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
www.californiawatercolor.org

Contents

August Demo Artist Dale Laitinen	1
The Drawing Board	2
56th International Exhibition Call for Entries!	3
CWA Workshop Series 2025 CLASS SCHEDULE	4
General Information	5
Member News	
Board of Directors	6
Support Personnel	
Volunteer Committees	
How to Contact Us	
Member News, cont.	
Welcome New CWA Members	
Follow CWA on Social Media	
Plein Air — The Lot, City Center, San Ramon	7
CWA Member Resources	8
Calendar	9
CWA 56th International Exhibition	
General Meetings & Demos	
CWA Workshop Series	
Plein Air	



56

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

Entry deadline is October 1, 2025!

Click below to enter now.

Member

Non-Member

California WATERCOLOR Association

ZOOM Demo for Members and Guests at 7:00 pm PDT, Wednesday, August 20, 2025.



August ZOOM Demo Artist Dale Laitinen

There will be a **ZOOM General Meeting and Demo** by Dale Laitinen for CWA members and friends to participate, on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, from 7:00–9:00 pm PDT.

Here is the **ZOOM link** and **passcode** which will remain the same for all future General Meetings.

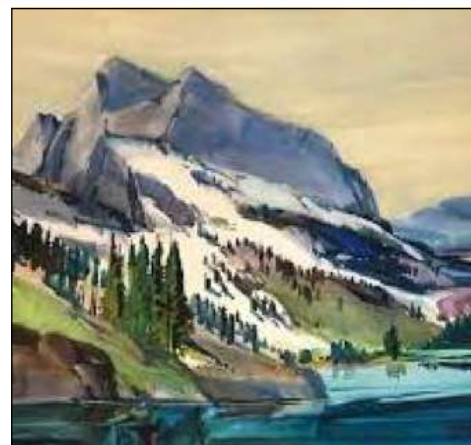
To join, simply click on the **Join Icon** on the right.

Meeting ID: 810 0987 0399 **Passcode:** 383542



Dale Laitinen has been roaming, hiking, and painting the Sierra Nevada and the rest of the West for much of his life. His work encompasses themes related to the wilderness, including mountains, deserts, and canyons. His “Engineered Landscape” series, depicting dams, bridges, and roadways, reveals the aesthetic contrast between the man-made and natural.

Laitinen is a Fine Art graduate with a concentration in painting from San Jose State University. His depth of knowledge of the landscape is a result of many years as an



independent long-haul trucker traveling the country. Having survived the trucking life, in 1985, he turned to full-time painting and teaching and has pursued this line of work up to the present day. His popular workshops are conducted throughout the United States.

Dale is represented in several galleries throughout California and continues to be featured in numerous art periodicals and books. He is the author of *Blue Shadow Country*, a self-published book featuring his paintings, currently available at Blurb.com and dalelaitinen.com. His teaching videos, *The Language of Landscape* and *Landscape Essentials*, are available at ccpvideos.com and dalelaitinen.com.

Dale Laitinen lives and paints in Placitas, New Mexico.



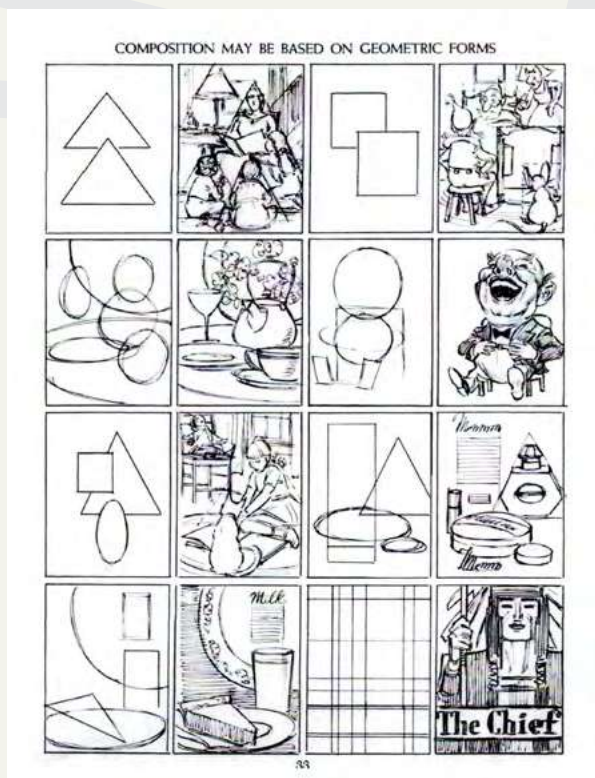
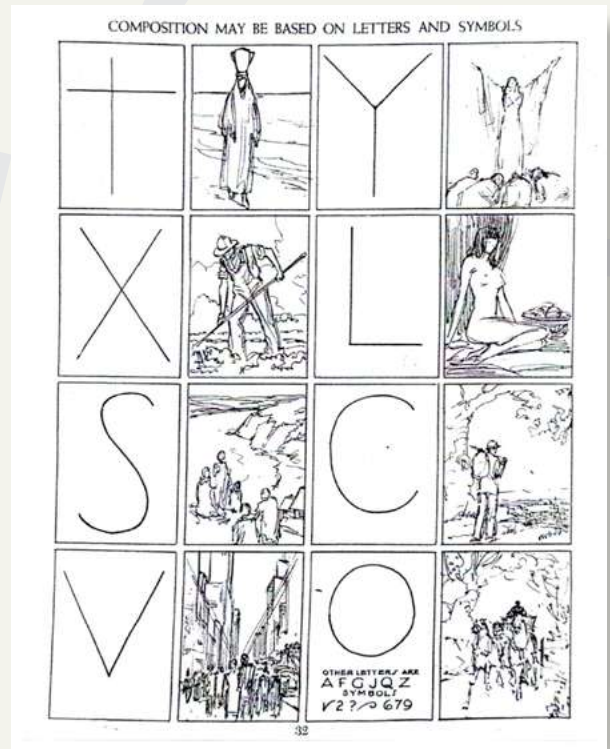


The Drawing Board

Each month a different member of the CWA Board of Directors has the opportunity to write an art-related article for our members.

Letters, Symbols, and Geometry by Sharon Hopkins

While searching for inspiration for this month's article, I looked back at handouts saved from the many CWA workshops I attended. I came across two that appealed to me in terms of composition, which I thought you would enjoy. One is based on letters and symbols, while the other is based on geometric forms. If you have seen these pages on composition before, you might think about them again. Examining some of my paintings, I could identify shapes I had never seen before. I encourage you to give it a try!



These illustrations are from a book by Andrew Loomis, an illustrator, writer, and art instructor renowned for his instructional art books published throughout the 20th century. Loomis achieved great success creating advertising paintings for numerous large companies and also taught at the American Academy of Art. I found *The Eye of the Painter*, by Andrew Loomis available on Amazon.

Sharon Hopkins
Member At-Large

CALL FOR ENTRIES!



CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION **56** INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

January 31 – March 15, 2026

Juror of Selection:
PAT MOSEUK

Juror of Awards:
DONGFENG LI

Entry Deadline: October 1, 2025, 5:00 pm PDT
\$20,000 in Anticipated Awards

[Click here for Prospectus](#)

[Click here to email the International Exhibition committee](#)



California Watercolor Association
P. O. Box 4631
Walnut Creek, CA 94596 USA
www.californiawatercolor.org

Gallery Info:
Arts Benicia — Commandant's Home
1 Washington St., Benicia, CA 94510
artsbenicia.org

HOME

NEXT



CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION 2025 WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP SERIES



Keiko Tenabe

Keep it Simple and Strong

3-Day In-Person Workshop

October 27–29, 2025

Intermediate (previous experience is strongly recommended)

CWA Members \$425 Non-Members \$485

Keiko was born in Kyoto, Japan, and currently resides in San Diego, California. Mostly self-taught, she began her professional art career in 2005. Since then, her paintings have been showcased in numerous national and international exhibitions, both juried and invitational, gaining worldwide recognition. Her artwork has been acquired by private and corporate collectors from around the globe. Additionally, her paintings have been published and featured in leading art magazines as well as various publications in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Since 2011, Keiko has been a sought-after workshop instructor, conducting numerous workshops and live demonstrations worldwide. She has frequently served as a juror for art exhibitions at both national and international levels. In 2018, she was appointed to the advisory board of American Watercolor Weekly. Keiko has also published several books and four DVDs.

Artist's website at ktanabefineart.com

LIVE



CWA is dedicated to offering our students some of the best workshops with top professional artists. We invite you to join in the fun and look forward to meeting you.

In-person workshops will be held at the Danville Ranch Clubhouse, 1895 Ridgeland Circle, Danville, CA 94526.

For detailed workshop descriptions, pricing, and online registration, please visit <http://www.californiawatercolor.org/classes.php>.

For additional information, please visit www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose **Workshops** from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.



Mailing Address

California Watercolor Association
Post Office Box 4631
Walnut Creek, CA 94596 USA

To Email a Board, Staff or Committee Member Go To

www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php
and choose a recipient from the drop down menu.

Membership/Data Manager

Make changes to your address, phone number and email on the members home page, under membership when you're logged with a current membership account. Email datamanager@californiawatercolor.org if you have trouble logging in.

General Meetings

Monthly General Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 pm–9:00 pm, PDT, via Zoom, unless otherwise specified.

Newsletter Distribution

To receive this newsletter electronically please contact the Webmaster with the email address at which you wish to receive the newsletter.

CWA Photo Notice

CWA may be taking photos or videos at CWA events. Your attendance at CWA events constitutes your "permission, consent, and release" to be photographed without compensation whatsoever in perpetuity. Images may be used online and in print exclusively by CWA explicitly for publicity, information, and promotion.



 **Plan Ahead!**

Submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication!

**September Newsletter
Deadline is August 15th.**

Click here to make a submission.

Member News

Meghana Mitragotri

2025 County and State Fair Awards

Meghana was honored with 35 awards in Fine Art, Handmade Crafts, and Gardening at the 2025 Alameda County Fair competitions in Pleasanton. Highlights include a Best of Show for her watercolor painting, *Fuchsias*, a Silver, and two Honorable Mentions in the Virtual Fine Art Competition, and First Place Sweepstakes for earning the highest overall points in Handmade Crafts. Additionally, her watercolor painting, *Irises 2*, received an Award of Merit at the 2025 California State Fair Fine Art Competition in Sacramento.



Fuchsias, and Irises 2 by Meghana Mitragotri



Los Altos Fine Art in the Park

Meghana will have a booth at the Fine Art in the Park Open-Air Show on August 9–10, 2025.

[Click here](#) for more about Fine Art in the Park.

Palo Alto Festival of the Arts

She will also have a booth at the Palo Alto Festival of the Arts on August 23–24, 2025.

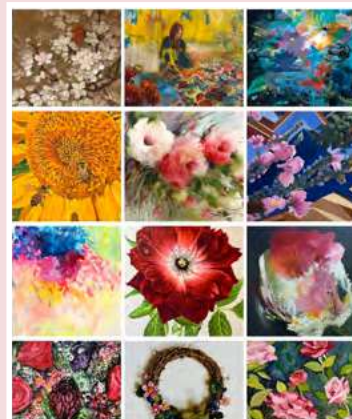
[Click here](#) for more about Palo Alto Festival of the Arts.

Flora in Focus

A Flower-Inspired Art Show

Flora in Focus is returning to the Livermore Public Library for the third time, featuring a reception on August 16. Meghana invites everyone to this flower-inspired art show organized by a small group of local floral artists. The exhibition will take place at the Livermore Public Library, located at 1188 South Livermore Avenue, from August 1–31, 2025. The reception will be held on August 16, 2025, from 2:00 pm–4:00 pm. Community members can enjoy refreshments, meet the artists, and win unique raffle prizes during the reception! The exhibition will feature floral artworks created using colored pencil, acrylic, watercolor, oil, gouache, glass, mixed media, and East Asian brush painting techniques. Participating artists include Monique Makepeace, Wei-Ting Chuang, Charlotte Severin, Jenna Hobbs, Helene Roylance, Tejal Shah, Lynda Briggs, Peggy Kervin, Usha Shukla, Tuan Karsevar, Rekha Joshi, and Meghana Mitragotri.

Contact: Meghana at meghana.ms@gmail.com
Artist's Website at <https://daintlymade.weebly.com>



Show Dates:
August 1–31, 2025

Reception:
August 16, 2025
2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Venue:
The Civic Center Library
1188 South Livermore Ave.
Livermore, CA

continued on page 6



CWA Board of Directors

President	VACANT
Vice President/Membership	VACANT
Secretary	Leslie Wilson
Director, Budget	Kathleen Catton
Director, Member Shows	Kathleen Stumpf
Director, Communications	Jessica de Jesus
Director, Programs	Lis MacDonald
Director, International Exhibition	VACANT
Co-Director, Community Outreach	Sheila Cain
Co-Director, Community Outreach	Georganne Zaro
Director, Workshops	Joe Tringali
Member At-Large	Rekha Joshi
Member At-Large	Sharon Hopkins

CWA Support Personnel

Bookkeeper	Melissa Alva
Membership/Data Manager/ Webmaster	Adrienne Hefter
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Rosa

CWA Volunteer Committees

Audio Visual Set Up	VOLUNTEER NEEDED
Community Outreach	Sheila Cain Maggie Metcalf
Co-Video Librarians	Joe Tringali (Chair) Barb Bochenek Madeline Shelby
Co-Hospitality	Susan Scolnick Jean Holmes Sharon Hopkins
56th International Exhibition	Jessica de Jesus Iretta Hunter Carol Husslein Pat Lauer Samantha McNally Marilyn Miller Ruth Miller Pat Moseuk Patricia Rosa Joe Tringali Leslie Wilson
Mail Distribution	Carol Husslein
Panel Rental	Carol Husslein
Plein Air	Nutan Singh
Workshop Registrar	Kirsten Theurer

To Email a Board, Staff or Committee Member:

Go to www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose a recipient from the drop-down menu.

Member News

continued from page 5

Marion Leggett

Marion's paintings, *Sidewalk Tomatoes* and *Easter Tulips*, have been accepted into the Hayward Arts Council's For the Love of Art Show, celebrating its 42nd year. The paintings will be on display at the John O'Lague Galleria, located at 777 B Street in Hayward City Hall, from July 1–September 3, 2025.

You can follow Marion on Instagram
[@marion.leggett.art](https://www.instagram.com/marion.leggett.art)

Artist's website at
marion-leggett.pixels.com



Sidewalk Tomatoes by Marion Leggett



China Camp from Above by Bernie Stein

Bernie Stein

Bernie had five paintings selected for the 2025 Alameda County Fair Adult Fine Arts Exhibition. His painting, *China Camp from Above*, was awarded a Silver Ribbon.

Find Bernie on Instagram
[@stein_watercolors](https://www.instagram.com/stein_watercolors)

Welcome New CWA Members

Katy Haute, Ellen Hedfield, Smita Kasargod, Joao Montenegro,
Nancy Wedick, Ekaterina Zaznova

Click here to email membership, then choose
Membership Director from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.

Click here to Join or Renew Today!

Follow CWA on Social Media

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on our activities. CWA Social Media is your go-to resource for information, promoting the CWA, our members, events, and more.

We invite you to contribute to our
CWA Instagram and Facebook feeds.

Click here to follow us on Instagram

Click here to follow us on Facebook

Click here to submit content.





Plein Air — The Lot, City Center, San Ramon

Saturday, August 16, 2025, 10:00 am–1:00 pm



This session will primarily focus on urban scenes, featuring vibrant storefronts, restaurants, and lively foot traffic—including families and kids—that can add dynamic elements to your artwork. For those who prefer a more natural setting, Lake Annabelle is just a block away. Every Saturday, the City Center hosts a Farmer's Market, enhancing the atmosphere and providing even more inspiration.

We will meet at 10:00 am, directly across from The Lot (see address below). We will decide on a location for lunch and a critique at 12:30 pm.

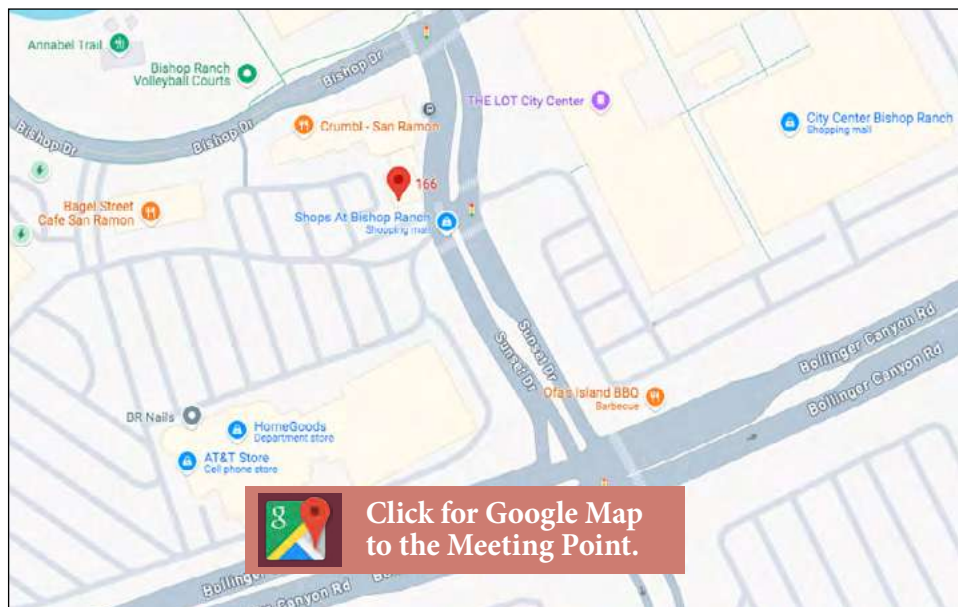
Meeting Point

166 Sunset Dr.
San Ramon, CA 94583

Convenient multi-story parking is available in the mall, with additional spaces in the shopping complex across the street. There is ample parking, even during the Farmer's Market.

Questions?

Contact Nutan Singh, Plein Air Coordinator
Email: nutan.finearts@gmail.com



Click for Google Map to the Meeting Point.

CWA Member Resources



Watch Us on YouTube!

Did you miss a general meeting demo? Want to go back and review part of a demo again? Watch now on YouTube.

Check out our YouTube Channel and subscribe to get notified of our latest demos from your favorite artists! Don't forget to subscribe to the channel!

Thank you, and enjoy!



CWA Michael Holter Demo



CWA Stephen Berry Demo



CWA 50th National Art Show at the Harrington Gallery



CWA 50th National Show 2020



CWA Roland Lee Demo



CWA Leslie Wilson Demo

And More!



Click here to go to the CWA YouTube Channel, and don't forget to click the subscribe button!

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CaliforniaWatercolorAssociation>



CWA Video Library

Staying engaged and creative is easy...just go to the CWA website and view the library catalog, note the video that you are interested in, and send Madeline the catalog number in an email and she will check to see if it's available. She will let you know about its availability and mail it to you if available. It is your responsibility to return the video 30 days after receiving. It can be dropped off at Madeline's home or mailed. All you need to do is pay postage.

[Click here to view our entire catalog.](#)

It can also be found by going to our website and clicking the [About Us Tab](#) and following the link to [Video Library](#).

Checking out a video will be simple, please follow the steps below:

- 1) You must be a Member
- 2) Once you find a video that you are interested in, note the [Catalog Abstract Number](#).
- 3) Email me at madlnshelby@aol.com, with the [Catalog Abstract Number](#) and I will check its availability. I will send you a verification if it is available or let you know if it is checked out.
- 4) If the video is available we will mail it to your home via USPS. Your address on your membership records will be used for shipping.
- Please log in and make sure your address information is up-to-date.
- 5) Your rental period is for 30 days. You are responsible to return the video to me. You are responsible for return shipping costs.

Return Address:
Madeline Shelby
482 Broadmoor Blvd.
San Leandro, CA 94577

6) Members who return videos after 30 days must pay a \$5.00 Late Fee. Lost videos must be replaced at the video replacement value.

We are excited to offer this service and hope it will lead to your creative enjoyment.

Madeline Shelby



2025 CWA Calendar

CALIFORNIA WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATION

56th INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

January 31 – March 15, 2026

[Click here for Prospectus](#)



Venue: Arts Benicia — Commandant's Home
1 Washington St., Benicia, CA 94510

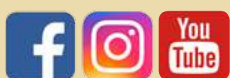
General Meetings & Demos

January 15, 2025	Mike Hernandez
February 19, 2025	Leslie Wilson
March 19, 2025	Gary Tucker
April 16, 2025	Stephen Berry
May 21, 2025	Michael Reardon
June 18, 2025	Pat Moseuk (IN-PERSON)

August 20, 2025 — Zoom Demo
Dale Laitinen
(for Members & Guests)

September 17, 2025	Frank Eber
October 15, 2025	Keiko Tanabe
November 19, 2025	Geoff Allen
December 2025	Winter Break—NO MEETING

Go to **Monthly Meetings** under the **About Us** tab at www.californiawatercolor.org for updates.



CWA Workshop Series

January 11–12, 2025	Mike Hernandez
Painting the Landscape in Gouache (ZOOM)	
February 25–27, 2025	Michael Holter
Watercolor Impressionism, Landscapes and Cityscapes (ZOOM)	
March 21–23, 2025	Gary Tucker
Finding Confidence with Watercolor (ZOOM)	
April 23–25, 2025	Michael Reardon
Watercolor Techniques (IN-PERSON)	
May 16–18, 2025	Amit Kapoor
How to Capture the Magic of Light and Shadow, and How to Simplify a Complicated Subject (IN-PERSON)	
June 16–18, 2025	Thomas Schaller
Design and the Power of Imagination (ZOOM)	

October 27–29, 2025 **Keiko Tanabe**
Keep it Simple and Strong (IN-PERSON)

To request additional information, go to www.californiawatercolor.org/contact.php and choose **Workshops** from the **Recipient** drop-down menu.

Plein Air



The Lot, City Center, San Ramon
Saturday, August 16, 2025, 10:00 am–1:00 pm

[Click here to RSVP](#)

Other Plein Air Opportunities

Contra Costa Plein Air

[Click here](#) for posts of upcoming paint-outs on their blog, or [click here](#) to visit Contra Costa Plein Air on Facebook.