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## President's Message

As we near the end of the year, it can be a time of reflection and certainly an abundance of joy as we spend time with our friends and family. So reflecting on this past year, are you able to say you went out of your way to give and attract joy? It can be such little things, as watching my 1-year old granddaughter smush her little face into the window to look outside. What a joy! Being kind to ourselves is also a joyful thing to do.

We have a wonderful event coming up in January that is sure to bring joy: our "WinterFestival" annual luncheon. The watercolor card exchange is always fun. There will be a slideshow of paintings from all of our groups, exhibits, workshops, and plein air. In addition, we are going to have a fun ukulele band comprised of some SCVWS members providing us with joyful music! Thanks to Tanvi & Jane for putting that together. Special gratitude to Karen Fitt, our Hospitality chair.

Speaking of slideshows, have you seen the Paintsites gallery slideshow of each of their paintsites? If not, you are missing out on seeing some truly wonderful paintings. They are located under the Paintsites tab on the website. Take a look, maybe it will spark you to consider attending one.

On a sad note, our long time Membership Chair, Karen Smith, stepped down from her role as of the end of November. We will miss her immensely, and appreciate all of the joy and energy she brought to SCVWS. Let us know if you might be willing to step up and take on this role for SCVWS.

If there are other areas where SCVWS could bring joy to you and your fellow members, please drop me a line, as we love feedback. But... remember... make it joyful!

Happy, Joyful Holidays to you!

Susan Jochheim



## calendar

THU DECEMBER 7  
 THU DECEMBER 14  
 THU DECEMBER 21  
 THU DECEMBER 28

Paintsite: Central Wholesale Nursery, San Jose  
 Paintsite: Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont  
 Paintsite: Rosicrucian Museum Park, San Jose  
 NO PAINTSITE. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MEMBERSHIP  
INQUIRIES

[membership@scvws.org](mailto:membership@scvws.org)

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$35  
 EFFECTIVE 1/1/2024

BECOME  
A MEMBER

PLEASE CHECK THE SCVWS CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND THE PAINTSITES WEB PAGE FOR LAST MINUTE UPDATES.

## spotlight



## Robert Wade

Educated at Scotch College, Australia, Robert A. Wade was introduced to watercolor at the age of six by his artist father, but is otherwise self-taught with no formal art training. He worked for forty years in the fields of advertising, screenprinting, and graphic arts.

Wade has exhibited with most of the world's major watercolor societies, winning 13 major awards in England, France, and the United States (including the American Watercolor Society), as well as 120 awards in Australia. In 1986, he received the Advance Australia Medal for his contribution to Australian art and, in 2003, was awarded the Medal of The Order of Australia for his service to watercolor as an artist, educator, and promoter of Australian artists. He is the author of three instructional books, over 100 articles for art magazines, and has produced five films. [read more](#)

## scvws team

President	Susan Jochheim
Finance	Jane Paulson
Membership	(vacant)
Exhibits Chair	Susan Butler-Graham
Recording Secretary	Kathy Dolan
Workshops Chair	Vicki Wilson
Hospitality	Karen Fitt
Scholarship/Outreach	Karen Druker
Publicity	Marika Anderson
Paintsites	Jane Saltman, Alison Turner
Webmaster	(vacant)
Newsletter Design	Tanvi Buch

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[exhibits@scvws.org](mailto:exhibits@scvws.org)  
[secretary@scvws.org](mailto:secretary@scvws.org)  
[workshopchairs@scvws.org](mailto:workshopchairs@scvws.org)  
[hospitality@scvws.org](mailto:hospitality@scvws.org)  
[scholarship@scvws.org](mailto:scholarship@scvws.org)  
[publicity@scvws.org](mailto:publicity@scvws.org)  
[paintsites@scvws.org](mailto:paintsites@scvws.org)  
[webmaster@scvws.org](mailto:webmaster@scvws.org)  
[newsletter@scvws.org](mailto:newsletter@scvws.org)

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for each month's newsletter is the **15th** of the previous month (i.e. **the deadline for January submissions** is **December 15**). Content received **after the 15th** will be placed in the following month's newsletter.

**Send items by email to the editor** at [newsletter@scvws.org](mailto:newsletter@scvws.org). Please send **concisely-written** entries as text in an email or in a Word .doc exactly as you want them to appear. Images of artwork or supporting illustrations are required. Do **NOT** send PDF documents or other flyers of pre-formatted information. We may edit for space if necessary.

# WINTERFESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024  
1 - 3 p.m.



Save the date for the next Member Holiday Party  
at the Prince of Peace Church in Saratoga.

What a chance to meet new members and renew old friendships!

**REGISTER TO ATTEND**





**SCVWS MEMBERS  
DECEMBER INSTAGRAM MUSE CHALLENGE**

**"The Love of My Life"**

Optional Challenge Booster - try an unusual perspective.

**What:**

Email a painting to [exhibits@scvws.org](mailto:exhibits@scvws.org) for the current month's theme, to be posted and displayed in the SCVWS Instagram gallery. See [www.scvws.org](http://www.scvws.org) Instagram Challenge page for info.

**Win a Prize:**

A monthly raffle will be held and a \$25 gift certificate will be awarded to one of the participants for that month.

View entries on SCVWS Instagram @scvalleywatercolorssociety, #scvwsdecember2023instagrammusechallenge

CLICK ON IMAGE FOR DETAILS

## RULES

- Submission dates: **December 1-31, 2023** (until noon on last day)
- Must be a member to participate
- Create a painting inspired by the current month's theme

## HOW TO SUBMIT

- .jpg file type only - at least 600 x 600 pixels (medium size)
- Ensure the image is clear & cropped - no mats in photo
- Email your image to [exhibits@scvws.org](mailto:exhibits@scvws.org)
- Email subject line: "SCVWS December Instagram Challenge"
- Email body: Type your name, title of piece, size & price
- Your Instagram handle: Include this if you have one.



**to our new members!**

Tracy L Hohn - San Jose, CA  
James Worsnup - San Jose, CA  
Anagha Mudigonda - Sunnyvale, CA  
Vivian L Rice - Campbell, CA  
Fily Yu-Wong - Morgan Hill, CA  
Eilee C Walsh - Shoreline, WA



# 2024 WORKSHOPS

**We are happy to announce our 2024 workshop lineup! Register and reserve your spot quickly!**

**Your workshops team works hard to bring great artists to share their skills and knowledge. 2024 will have a mix of in-person and online workshops. Please register early so we don't risk having to cancel workshops.**

Free online Artist demos (without a subsequent workshop) will be offered in June and August to current SCVWS members.

In addition, we have a special "Members Only" 2-day online live workshop with David Lobenberg for a fee of \$20. How great is that?

**For more information about each workshop, see the Current Workshops tab on our website. [ENROLL HERE](#)**

## **Instructor/Artist: LYNN FERRIS**

"Capturing the Light"

Workshop Dates: January 22-24 (3 days)

Demo Date: January 21 (1:30 - 4:00 pm)

**\*\*IN-PERSON\*\* MEMBER PRICE: \$395**

Instructor website: [www.lynnferris.com](http://www.lynnferris.com)



**YouTube**

NEGATIVE PAINTING

FOLIAGE IN WATERCOLOR

## **Instructor/Artist: NANCY GRIGSBY**

"Expressing Your Artistic Inner Voice:

A Meaningful & Creative Journey in Mixed Media"

Workshop Dates: April 22-24 (3 days)

Demo Date: Sunday, April 21 (1:30 - 4:00 pm)

**\*\*IN PERSON\*\* MEMBER PRICE: \$349 UNTIL 1/22/2024 THEN \$384**

Instructor website: [www.nmgrigsbystudios.com](http://www.nmgrigsbystudios.com)

## **Instructor/Artist: DAVID LOBENBERG**

Workshop Dates: February 10-11 (2 days)

Special "Members Only" Weekend Online Workshop

**\*\*ONLINE LIVE-STREAM\*\* MEMBER PRICE: \$20**

Instructor website: [www.lobenbergart.com](http://www.lobenbergart.com)

## **Instructor/Artist: LAURIE GOLDSTEIN-WARREN**

"Easy Dynamic Pouring"

Workshop Dates: September 23-25 (3 days)

Demo Date: Sunday, September 15 (1:30 - 4:00 pm)

**\*\*ONLINE\*\* MEMBER PRICE: \$275 UNTIL 6/23/2024 THEN \$305**

Instructor website: [www.warrenwatercolors.com](http://www.warrenwatercolors.com)

## **Instructor/Artist: LORRAINE WATRY**

"Lillies and Glass Globes"

Workshop Dates: March 18-20 (3 days)

ONLINE Demo Date: Sunday, March 17 (1:30 - 4:00 pm)

**\*\*IN PERSON\*\* MEMBER PRICE: \$395 UNTIL 12/18/23 THEN \$435**

Instructor website: [www.lorrainewatrystudio.com](http://www.lorrainewatrystudio.com)

## **Instructor/Artist: ALEXIS LAVINE**

"Design for Success"

Workshop Dates: October 21-23 (3 days)

Demo Date: Sunday, October 20 (1:30 - 4:00 pm)

**\*\*ONLINE\*\* MEMBER PRICE: \$275 UNTIL 7/21/2023 THEN \$305**

Instructor website: [www.alexislavineartist.com](http://www.alexislavineartist.com)

**QUESTIONS? Email [workshops@scvws.org](mailto:workshops@scvws.org)**

## **SCVWS MEMBERSHIP FEE NOTICE**

**SCVWS will be increasing annual membership fees to \$35, effective January 1, 2024.**

What does this mean to members who have just renewed, or new members who just joined us?

You will only pay the new fee upon your next renewal. Example: If you renew or join on 12/1/23 for \$30, you will not pay the membership fee again until 12/1/24 (your next renewal date) at which time it will be \$35.

**All renewals in 2024, as well as new members starting in 2024, will pay \$35.**

We appreciate your choosing to be a member of SCVWS and hope you renew your membership in 2024.



IN-PERSON  
Workshop

## lynn ferris

Capturing the Light

**9 am - 3.00 pm PST**  
**January 22-24, 2024 (3 days)**  
**at the Hoover Theater**

**DEMO: January 21, 2024 @ 1.30 p.m. PST**

**Advanced Beginner & up**

**Member Price: \$395**

**Non-members: \$445**

WEBSITE  YouTube  YouTube

We are pleased to offer an exciting and unique watercolor workshop with Lynn Ferris, AWS, NWS, TWSA, nationally and internationally known artist and instructor. Bring your work to the next level. Light and shadow shouldn't be afterthoughts in our paintings. In fact, good use of light and shadow is one of the best ways to take a painting from ordinary to extraordinary.

In her signature workshop "Capturing the Light," Lynn will show students how to:

- Use light and shadow to design stronger compositions and bring drama to a variety of subject matter
- Gain new skills and confidence working with shadows, light sources, creating glow, and more
- Lynn provides handouts, reference materials, and lots of personal attention

**NOTE: This is an IN-PERSON WORKSHOP at the Hoover Theater.**  
**Email [workshops](mailto:workshops) for more information.**

MEMBERS NEED TO LOG IN FIRST IN ORDER TO REGISTER  
as this is a Special "Members Only" Appreciation Workshop/Webinar

BECOME  
A MEMBER



## david lobenberg

Splash and Mess Around!

ONLINE  
Workshop

**Online Workshop/Webinar dates:**

February 10-11, 2024

**Workshop/Webinar Time:**

9:00 am - 2:00 pm PST with a 1-hour lunch break.

**ONLINE Workshop/Webinar Fees:**

Members only: \$20 (limited to 60 participants)

During this workshop, you will learn to play and paint. We will be using a pouring method to get the watercolor on the page, as it takes away some of the control and lets the watercolor do what it does in a beautiful way. You will learn to create luminous paintings using layers of pours. Lots of information will be shared about pouring, masking, and finishing your painting, all while having lots of fun.

If you want to learn to paint stunning vibrant paintings, this is the workshop for you. Don't miss out!

Workshop/Webinar is limited to the first 60 participants.

Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Skill Level: Beginner and Up

[WEBSITE](#)



**NOTE: THIS WORKSHOP/WEBINAR IS ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

Email [workshops](#) for more information.



## What I learned in CARRIE WALLER's "Realism in Watercolor" Workshop



I learned to slow down and spend time painting each shape and area. It was fun to use really strong colors and try to catch the sparkle of the arrangement.

**Jane Paulson, SCVWS Member & Finance Chair**



WATERCOLOR BY JANE PAULSON



WATERCOLOR BY KAREN PERKINS

Carrie Waller workshop was lots of fun for me as well. Not only did I learn a new way to paint, I liked that she showed how she sets up still life outside. I learned her journey of showing and entering in contests.

**Karen Perkins**

Most of all, she is a supportive and skilled teacher. She is kind and encouraging, but honest (not easy!). This was one of my favorite SCVWS workshops to date.

**Sarah Beekley**



WATERCOLOR BY SARAH BEEKLEY





## *"Folger Ranch"*

PAINTED EN PLEIN AIR BY  
BARBARA KIEKER

ALL SCVWS MEMBERS  
ARE INVITED TO  
**SUBMIT** A RECENT  
PLEIN-AIR PAINTING TO  
BE FEATURED IN THE  
MINI EXHIBIT OF THE  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER.  
[NEWSLETTER@SCVWS.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@SCVWS.ORG)

# mini exhibit

## *"Fall Harvest"*

PAINTED EN PLEIN AIR  
AT QUEEN'S PUMPKIN PATCH  
BY ANNIE HAINES





"MORNING SHADOWS" BY PATTI PIERCE

**Patti Pierce's** watercolor painting "Morning Shadows" was accepted into the California Watercolor Society's Show "Color-Subtle or Wild" and will be exhibited at City of San Ramon City Hall Gallery from November 1-December 22, 2023.

**Gerda Cristal's** new children's book "Mother Goose's Second Interview" is now available on Amazon. It is good for the 9-12 agegroup. The themes are courtesy, consideration, work ethics, diet, courage, goals, friendship, kindness and the Golden Rule.



FRONT AND BACK COVERS

## member news

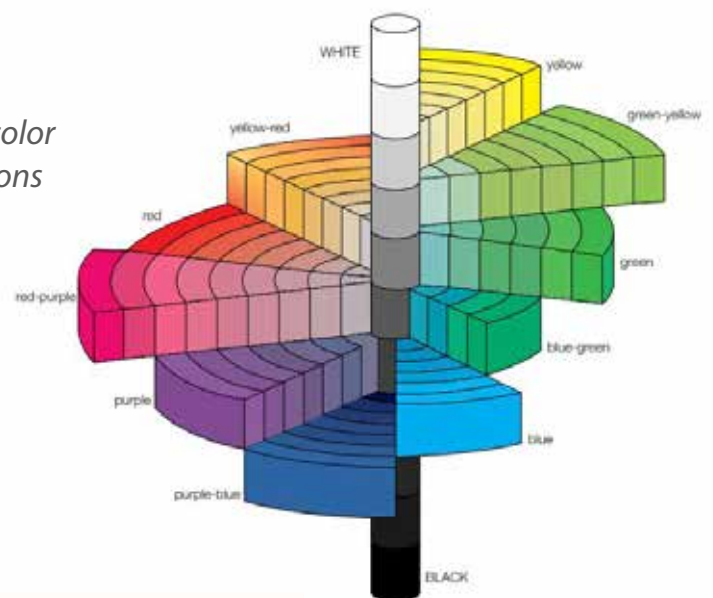
### Munsell Color System

*This system consists of three independent properties of color which can be represented cylindrically in three dimensions as an irregular color solid:*

- hue, measured by degrees around horizontal circles
- chroma, measured radially outward from the neutral (gray) vertical axis
- value, measured vertically on the core cylinder from 0 (black=zero light) to 10 (white=all light)

NAVIGATING  
COLOR SPACE  YouTube

CREDIT: BRITTANICA.COM







## capitola plein air 2023

SCVWS members **Jane Saltman**, **Annie Haines**, **Susan Butler-Graham**, **Tiina Seppalainen**, and **Tanvi Buch** participated in the Capitola 2023 Plein Air invitational from October 30-November 5, 2023. Watercolor was very well-represented this year, as was the growing number of SCVWS members. Annie, who has attended this event multiple times, and who worked in gouache this year, said, "I enjoyed seeing so many SCVWS members participate in the paintout this year. It took some of the pressure off having so many friends around."

Forty artists were selected into this juried event to paint en plein air all week in Capitola: the beaches and wharf, Pacific views from Depot Hill, Pleasure Point, New Brighton Beach, the streets and restaurants lining the Esplanade, jewel box homes, the magnificent Trestle Bridge, Nisene Marks State Park a couple of exits south of Capitola, and many other nooks and crannies that only artists can find.

Capitola is slowly recovering from the effects of the storm that damaged the wharf and other businesses on the Esplanade. Organizers Laurie Hill, Jenny Shelton, and their team planned a warm welcome at check-in with some breakfast goodies, a pass for free daily parking, gift vouchers from Palace Arts



"TAKE ME TO THE OCEAN" BY TIINA SEPPALAINEN



"HAPPY HOUR" BY TANVI BUCH

as well as a folder of art supplies, and a complimentary lunch at Paradise Beach Grille. The pièce de résistance was a beautiful outdoor reception for the artists at the gorgeous Shadowcreek Restaurant overlooking Soquel Creek and the Trestle Bridge. As a painting 'grand finale,' the Quick Draw event on the penultimate day added to the challenge and the pressure of painting and framing in 2 hours and being back at the panels for judging.

Said Tiina, "The entire week more than fulfilled my expectations. The organizers were very welcoming; more experienced artists were friendly and shared helpful info, including all of the participants from SCVWS. I really enjoy painting in nature and spent 3+ days at New Brighton State Beach during the event. The location was calm and peaceful with glorious sunrises and sunsets from the bluff. I'm not a very fast painter but really pushed myself to get 7 paintings done during the week. In the final exhibit, the quality of the artwork was intimidating. But it also helped me see more clearly how I need to continue improving my art practice. I also feel more confident about my plein air set-up and look forward to doing similar events in the future!"

It was Jane's first time at this Capitola event as well. "The 2023 Capitola Plein Air event was a great way to experience a wonderful community. I met so many friendly and encouraging residents while painting, plus, the organizers were fantastic. In all, it was an intense yet very rewarding experience," she felt.



"VIEW FROM CLIFF DRIVE" BY JANE SALTMAN

The six days of painting culminated in a day-long show open to the public with judging by artist Paul Kratter, awards ceremony, and sales to the public at large. There were 8 Honorable Mention awards, 2 Special Judge's Awards, and a 1st and 2nd place, as well as some community awards. Susan was awarded an Honorable Mention, and Tanvi's painting "Happy Hour" (also her Quick Draw painting) took a Special Judge's Award.

Tanvi likened this experience to childbirth: long, exhausting, and never again! This was her third time in Capitola and she is always surprised at the improvement she sees in her work after a weeklong painting immersion. She loved it, is still recovering, and is eager for the next one.



"PLEASURE POINT CLIFFS" BY ANNIE HAINES



L-R: JANE SALTMAN, SUSAN BUTLER-GRAHAM, TANVI BUCH, ANNIE HAINES, TIINA SEPPALAINEN





## december

### Rockies West National 34th Annual Watercolor Exhibition (Grand Junction, CO)

[info](#)

Deadline: December 1, 2023

### Enduring: Upstream Gallery Small Works 30th Anniversary 2024 (Hudson, NY)

[info](#)

Deadline: December 3, 2023

### CAL International 2024 (Conroe, TX)

[info](#)

Deadline: December 11, 2023

### Masur Museum of Art's 61st Annual Juried Competition (Houston, TX)

[info](#)

Deadline: December 14, 2023

### Intergalactic Open 4 - Juried Group Exhibition (Hermosa Beach, CA)

[info](#)

Deadline: December 15, 2023

IN NATURE, LIGHT REVEALS COLOR.  
IN PAINTING, COLOR REVEALS LIGHT.

AIMEE ERICKSON

## january

### Yosemite Renaissance 39 (Oakhurst, CA)

[info](#)

Deadline: January 1, 2024

### Contemporary Colors (St. Charles, IL)

[info](#)

Deadline: January 2, 2024

### The New Vanguard - Explorations into The New Contemporary V (Santa Fe, NM)

[info](#)

Deadline: January 2, 2024

### 47th International Watermedia Exhibition (Houston, TX)

[info](#)

Deadline: January 13, 2024

### 43rd Annual Juried Exhibition and Sale (Sedona, AZ)

[info](#)

Deadline: January 25, 2024

### Looks Good on Paper (Ellensburg, WA)

[info](#)

Deadline: January 28, 2024

### Georgia Watercolor Society 45th NTL. Juried Exhibition (Sandy Springs, GA)

[info](#)

Deadline: January 28, 2024

juried art shows

who  
was the artist?

ANSWER ON [LAST PAGE](#)





## PAINTSITES ARTWORK & SITE PHOTOS

### SCVWS Website Paintsite Gallery

NEW: Visit our the newly compiled albums in the SCVWS website Paintsites Galleries. See photos of Paintsites artwork and views of the site. Each album is indexed by Paintsite name, beginning June 2023.

### Paintsites Blog

Although discontinued in May 2022, earlier blog posts are still accessible and provide a good synopsis of previous Paintsites events.

### Private Facebook Group

To join, you must be a SCVWS member and have attended a Thursday Paintsite event. For details on joining the Paintsites FB Private Group and upcoming Paintsites, go [here](#).



POTTERY DISPLAY AT CENTRAL WHOLESALE NURSERY, SAN JOSE



**Central Wholesale Nursery**  
1670 McKinley Ave, San Jose  
[map](#)

Preferred Street Parking map  
Customer and Accessible Parking  
<http://www.centralwholesalenursery.com>



thursday  
paintsites

We have permission to paint at this beautiful outdoor nursery with Christmas plants: poinsettias, cyclamen, potted evergreen trees, pottery, fountains, ornaments, etc.  
Washrooms available.

**Parking Note:** The Central Wholesale Nursery staff prefer that our members use the street parking near the T-section of McKinley Ave and La Barbera Dr. and De Rose Way. There is a small parking lot off of the Southwest Expressway side near the corner of Leigh Ave but the staff prefer we use the street parking leaving the other parking lot for customer pickup or for those who need Accessible Parking.

**Directions:** Approaching on 280 going east, exit toward Bascom Ave/Leigh Ave, merge onto Moorpark Ave, and go 0.3 miles, turn right onto Leigh Ave and go 0.7 miles, turn

left onto Southwest Expy. Take the first right at La Barbera Dr and there is street parking available near the intersection of McKinley Ave at the nursery's back entrance. Approaching on 280 going west (toward San Francisco), take the Race St/Southwest Expy exit, keep left, follow signs for Southwest Expy and go 0.4 miles, continue onto Southwest Expy and go 0.2 miles, turn right onto Fruitdale Ave and go 0.3 miles, turn left onto Leigh Ave and go 0.3 miles, turn left onto Southwest Expy. Take the first right at La Barbera Dr and there is street parking available near the intersection of McKinley Ave at the nursery's back entrance.

### General Information:

The usual start time for Paintsites is flexible. Unless a different start time is announced, the organizers will be there from around 10 am. Since a couple of the sites are remote where mobile service may be absent, the coordinators may be unreachable, or GPS inaccurate, **please check instructions before heading out.** Often people stay until early afternoon, taking a packed lunch to eat at the site.

**Please note:** Should inclement weather or unforeseen events cause cancellation of an event, it will be announced on the "Thursday Paintsites" section of [scvws.org](http://scvws.org) by 8 AM on the day of the event. Cancellation will also be announced by email, but the timing of SCVWS Paintsite emails cannot be guaranteed.

This information is also available from the **Paintsites** details page on the **SCVWS website**, so you can easily retrieve it there.

**Jane Saltman**  
650-304-8304  
[paintsites@scvws.org](mailto:paintsites@scvws.org)

**Alison Turner**  
[paintsites@scvws.org](mailto:paintsites@scvws.org)

**Lora Cattell**  
650-208-6662



ARDENWOOD'S PATTERSON HOUSE BY JANE PAULSON

THU  
14

**Ardenwood Historic Farm**  
**34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont**  
[map](#)

<http://www.ebparks.org/parks/ardenwood/>

Celebrate a turn of the 20th century holiday at the Patterson House, a beautifully restored Queen Anne mansion. In addition, this historic working farm has animals, a demonstration garden, water tower, restored farm machinery, and more!

\$6 entrance fee to the farm on Thursdays, \$5 for seniors (62+). We'll meet near the entrance Train Depot kiosk at around 10 am before deciding where to paint. This is a big site so call one of the coordinators if you can't find us. Check out the website for more on Ardenwood's history, naturalist and birding programs and other attractions. Washrooms available.

**Directions:** From I-880 in Fremont, take the Decoto Road/Dumbarton Bridge/Highway 84 exit. Go west on Highway 84 toward the Dumbarton Bridge. Take the Ardenwood/Newark Blvd. exit and turn right (north) onto Ardenwood Blvd. The park entrance is on the right.

THU  
21

**Rosicrucian Museum Park**  
**1660 Park Ave, San Jose**  
[map](#)

[Egyptian Museum](#)  
[Rosicrucian Park](#)

Celebrate solstice at the Rosicrucian Park and Peace Garden. The architecture of the museum is inspired by an Egyptian temple. In the gardens around the museum there are other interesting buildings, plants, including pampas grass, trees, and statues with an Egyptian theme. We can sit anywhere in the gardens but have been asked not to block walkways. Washrooms available at Hoover Middle School or at the coffee shop at 1700 Park Ave (corner of Park Ave and Naglee Ave) a short walk from the museum.

**Directions:** From 880 take Bascom, turn left on Naglee, and right on Park. If coming from The Alameda, turn onto Naglee and then left at Park. The Museum/Park is at 1660 Park. Street parking.



I BELIEVE THAT ENTIRELY TOO MUCH EMPHASIS IS PLACED UPON  
 PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS MADE IN ART SCHOOLS.  
 IF YOU GO TO A SINGING TEACHER, HE WILL FIRST GIVE YOU  
 BREATHING EXERCISES, NOT A SONG.

KIMON NICOLAIDES



# WHAT YOU SEE WHEN YOU SQUINT

EXCERPTED FROM THE BOOK "**ROBERT WADE'S WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP**" BY ROBERT WADE

Here's a photograph of a typical scene.  
Here the tonal values are very well defined, even when looking at the subject in the normal way.



## The first squint - eyes narrowed down

When you start SQUINTING the big shapes become apparent and the tonal values just jump out at you. Isn't it so much easier to see your lights and darks this way?



## The second squint - with eyes almost shut

This is what you see with your eyes almost closed. An abstract monotone pattern has emerged and the whole scene is reduced to its simplest form.

The more you can simplify the subject, the easier it becomes to paint.

The simpler your rendering becomes, the easier it is for the viewers to interpret your reaction and feelings. This example has been reduced to about two values, but look how well they work to tell the story.

## The color value sketch

The next step is to make a small value sketch using the information your squinted eyes give you. It doesn't have to be a big production — I completed this sketch in about five minutes.



It is only possible to do this when you have gone through the squinting process and have observed the VALUE PATTERN! DO NOT PRODUCE A FINISHED PAINTING AT THIS STAGE! This is only your blueprint for success, it must be simple.



## The finished study

From all the observations, plus a tonal value sketch, we now have a pretty good idea of where we are going. We know where the lights and darks are and we have a feeling for the old barn. I had previously given this 10" x 6" piece of paper an overall wash to tint the background. Then, with only a #12 brush, and without pencil drawing of any kind, I completed this study in just five minutes.

"Olympic Track" (1976)  
LeRoy Neiman (1921-2012)



LeRoy Neiman (born LeRoy Leslie Runquist) was an American artist known for his brilliantly colored, expressionist paintings and screenprints of athletes, musicians, and sporting events. [read more](#)