



HAWAI'I WATERCOLOR SOCIETY



**MAY**  
**2026**

OPEN EXHIBIT INFO & UPCOMING WORKSHOPS  
FEATURED ARTIST: ALEXANDRA EYER

COVER ART: "KAILUA PERCH"



## President's Message

### Dearest Painters,

Next month, our highly anticipated Open Exhibit prospectus will officially go live, and submissions will open for our biggest exhibition of the year! If you're anything like me and have absolutely NOTHING to submit yet, cool! This is a great opportunity for us to pick up our brushes and challenge ourselves creatively.

If you're at a loss for what to even paint in the first place, take a step back with me for a moment. What's been speaking to your heart lately? What's something you want to express? Think about why you started painting in the first place. Get back to your place of joy, even if your version of joy right now is rage painting or working through intense emotions. Dare to make "mistakes" and let go of control. You may just end up painting something that surprises you.

I believe in you, dear artist, and I can't wait to see what you create.

Warmly,  
Chloe



## HWS Happenings

### HWS Board Meeting

Zoom on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>  
5:15 pm

### HWS Open Exhibit Prospectus

Online June 7<sup>th</sup>!

### ONLINE 2-Day Workshop with Tom Lynch

Live Zoom sessions  
Saturday, Aug 1<sup>st</sup> & Aug 8<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm HST

### Open Exhibit Entry Deadline

Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

### Frank Eber Workshop

Downtown Art Center  
Tues, Sept 29<sup>th</sup> - Fri, Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>

### 2026 HWS Open Exhibit

Downtown Art Center  
Sept 29<sup>th</sup> - Oct 24<sup>th</sup>

## Hawai'i Watercolor Society

335 Hahani St. #1271  
Kailua, HI 96734

[www.hawaiiwatercolorsociety.org](http://www.hawaiiwatercolorsociety.org)  
[info@hawaiiwatercolorsociety.org](mailto:info@hawaiiwatercolorsociety.org)

# May Tips & Tricks

## How to Make a Gallery Wall

Contributed by Andre Toribio (from [Blick Website](#))

A gallery wall is one of the most rewarding ways to make a space feel like yours. The best part? It doesn't require a collection of museum-quality pieces. What makes a gallery wall work is layout, spacing, and frame selection. Get those three things right and even a mix of thrift store finds, family photos, and flea market art will look like it belongs together.



### Step 1: Curate Your Collection

Start by pulling together more pieces than you think you'll need. A good gallery wall has variety—different sizes, orientations, and media—but it also needs a cohesive element that pulls the collection together. That might be a shared color palette, subject matter, a coordinated frame finish, or even just a consistent mat color running through otherwise unrelated pieces. One unifying thread is usually all it takes. A strong mix might include original artwork or prints in different sizes, photographs in color and black-and-white, typographic or illustrated prints, and a few dimensional elements like a small mirror, a textile in a floating frame, or a decorative object on a mounted shelf ledge.

Don't overlook ready-made options for filling gaps. Blick gallery frames come in coordinated finishes and standard sizes, making it easy to frame your own prints, photos, or decorative papers to round out a wall. For pieces that need a more tailored fit, Blick's Online Custom Framing service offer made-to-order options with conservation-grade materials.

**What you'll need:** Artwork and frames, pencil, kraft or butcher paper, scissors or craft knife, painter's tape, hammer, nails or picture hangers (or removable strips for rentals), measuring tape, and a level.

### Step 2: Choose Your Layout

This is the step most people rush—and the one that matters most. Before anything goes on the wall, choose an arrangement style. Your layout determines how the wall reads from across the room, and changing direction mid-hang is frustrating. Below are three common gallery wall layouts:

**Grid:** Frames align in uniform rows and columns. Best for same-size pieces and matching frames. Clean, modern, and beginner-friendly.

**Symmetrical:** Frames vary in size but balance around a central axis, often anchored by a larger piece. Works well above furniture like a sofa or mantel.

**Salon Style:** An eclectic arrangement with varied sizes and frames, loosely spaced without a strict grid. Expressive, but requires more planning to feel cohesive.



*Article continued on page 4.*

# HWS 2026 Open Exhibit

Keep an eye out for the Prospectus: Rules and Requirements for the HWS 2026 Open Exhibit "Flow & Fire: Imagination flows when fired by Inspiration!" This show is open to all artists around the globe, whether or not they are HWS members. It will feature water media paintings—including transparent watercolor, gouache, acrylic, watercolor pencil, water-based pastels, water-based inks. As always, oil-based media are not included, nor are water-based oils or oil-based inks. Collage is not allowed. The exhibit will also include ceramics from a group of invited artists.

The prospectus, WHICH INCLUDES SOME UPDATED REQUIREMENTS, will be online at [www.HawaiiWatercolorSociety.org](http://www.HawaiiWatercolorSociety.org) by June 7. Entry deadline is Friday August 7. The juror will be Frank Eber. (You can learn more about Frank Eber on the [workshop page](#) of the website.)

Happy painting!



2025 Open Exhibit Best in Show Winner  
Lovelyn Voorhees, "I Got Crabs!"

## Officer Slate 2026

<b>President</b>	Chloe Tomomi
<b>Vice President</b>	Andre Toribio
<b>Secretary</b>	Lindy Colpo
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sharon Billingsley
<b>Member at Large</b>	Lovelyn Voorhees Deidi Zapinski
<b>Trustee</b>	Patrice Federspiel
<b>Membership</b>	Kelly Kimura
<b>Awards</b>	Rochelle Weidner
<b>Exhibitions</b>	Sharon Billingsley
<b>Workshops</b>	Donna Sommer
<b>Communications</b>	Deide Zapinski
<b>Tech Committee</b>	Carolyn Majewski Joyce Ono Emily Kearney-Williams
<b>Newsletter</b>	Debby Atkinson <i>(Editor)</i> Paige Su <i>(Designer)</i>
<b>Social Media</b>	Kayla DuBois
<b>Volunteer Outreach</b>	Helen Turano

# May Tips & Tricks (cont.)

## Step 3: Get the Spacing Right

Spacing is what makes a gallery wall feel intentional rather than accidental.

**Keep gaps consistent:** For most walls, 2" to 3" between frames works well. Go tighter (1½"–2") for a dense look, or wider (3"–4") for a more open feel. Consistency matters more than the exact measurement.

**Define the outer edges:** Even a loose layout should feel contained. Keeping the overall arrangement within a soft rectangular boundary helps prevent a scattered look.

**Balance visual weight:** It's not just about size. A small, dark piece can feel as heavy as a larger, lighter one. Step back and squint—look for even distribution across the wall. Spread out similar frame finishes rather than clustering them.



## Step 4: Hang With Confidence

Once your templates are in place, the process becomes straightforward. Start at the center with your anchor piece and work outward. Drive nails or hangers directly through the marked points on your paper templates to eliminate guesswork.

Use hardware rated for the weight of each piece. For rentals or delicate walls, removable hanging strips can be a good alternative—just follow weight limits closely.

Remove each template as you hang and use a level to keep frames straight. Check spacing as you go—small inconsistencies add up quickly.

When everything is up, step back and view the wall from different angles. A few small adjustments can make a big difference.

## NEWS FROM SUNSHINE ARTS

“After 29 years in Kahaluu and annual flooding, Sunshine Arts has re-located to Windward City Shopping Center (C-18 B) just below 24 Hour Fitness. All the same services and local artists are still there!”

Aloha, Jim Franklin



## Member News

### Jane Ra (Signature Member)

Invited International Solo Exhibition (Seoul Korea), Ottchill Gallery.

### Sook Kim (HWS Member)

Invited International Solo Exhibition (Seoul Korea), Ottchill Gallery.

Email us if you have a painting (or paintings) in an exhibition! Please include a photo of your piece, the title, and show info. Mahalo!

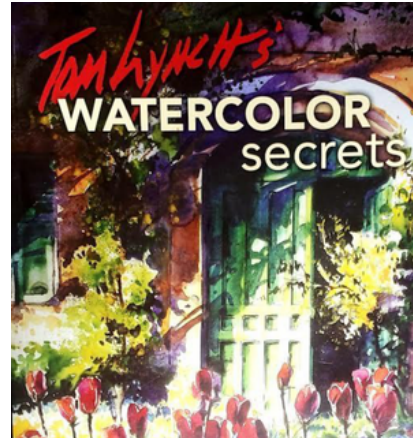


# “Panoramic Landscape” ONLINE 2-Day Workshop with Tom Lynch

Hawai'i Watercolor Society presents  
a 2-day ONLINE watercolor workshop  
with artist Tom Lynch!

**Saturday, August 1st & August 8th**  
**9:00 am - 12:00 pm (HST)**  
**Online, live Zoom sessions**

**\$120 workshop fee**  
**[REGISTER TODAY!](#)**



Tom is a master teacher and is listed as one of AMERICA'S top 20 teachers by American Artist Magazine. The demos will be taped so you can watch again and again while you stop, fast forward, rewind, and screenshot your way to success. Enjoy his 3-camera set up for great close ups, watching the palette, and the finished sample painting for the day.

As an added bonus Tom will answer your questions and offer suggestions to your painting efforts up to 4 weeks after class!

If you like COLOR, CONTRAST, SUNLIGHT & SHADOW then this workshop is for you!

Register online: <https://www.hawaiiwatercolorsociety.org/workshops>

Questions? Email us! [info@HawaiiWatercolorSociety.org](mailto:info@HawaiiWatercolorSociety.org)



## Featured Artist

### Alexandra Eyer *Signature / Life Member since 2012*

Alexandra loves to sit on the beach and paint. She has to work extremely fast in order to capture the mood of the people and place in her plein air scenes. Using either watercolor or acrylic paint, she hopes to convey the beauty of Hawai'i and its people. When not working en plein air, she attends a weekly portrait group where she paints from a live model.

This former high school art teacher first studied Fine Art at the California Institute of the Arts and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Art Education from Prescott College. She studied portraiture with Daniel Greene and watercolor with Don Andrews. She is a Signature Member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon, Hawai'i Watercolor Society, Northwest Watercolor Society and the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies. She has exhibited in national and international competitions and won numerous awards for her paintings.



Top to bottom; left to right: 1. *Another Perfect Day* 2. *Kailua Perch* 3. *Chalee and Her Dog* 4. *Kimono 2* 5. *Fishing the Ala Wai* 6. *Gear*

# Newsletter Gallery

The April theme was *Island Life*.  
Our prompt for May is **June Blooms**.

Email your images to us with  
“Newsletter Gallery” in the subject  
line. Please include your name  
and title of the work. Limit one  
submission per artist per month.

Deadline: May 31st

Email us your ideas for future  
gallery themes!  
[info@hawaiiwatercolorociety.org](mailto:info@hawaiiwatercolorociety.org)



Janna Mihara, "Island Life"



Sherry Cavin, "Days End"



Van James, "Island Earth"

## E Komo Mai

**Welcome our new member!**

**Maki Eto** - Ewa Beach, HI

Email: [1230maki@gmail.com](mailto:1230maki@gmail.com)

*Study textile design in Tokyo. interesting  
watercolor technique to create my art*

## Ongoing Paint Outs



### **Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden**

Tuesdays (free), 9:30 AM

Contact Garden Office (808-233-7323)  
or Young Schlack

[youngschlack@yahoo.com](mailto:youngschlack@yahoo.com)



### **Windward Wanderers**

Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Contact Roger Tinius for locations

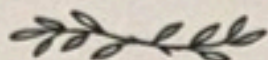
[rtmisawa@netzero.com](mailto:rtmisawa@netzero.com)

### **Foster Garden Paint Out**

Thursdays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

JOIN US FOR A

# “Talk Story” Plein Air GATHERING



*Paint the world,  
at home or on travel.*

Whether you set up in your backyard, a local park, or a faraway place—plein air painting connects us to where we are and how we see.

*Join fellow artists  
to share inspiration  
and tips!*




**ALL LEVELS  
WELCOME**  
*Beginners to pros—  
come as you are!*



#### PAINT ANYWHERE

At home, in your neighborhood, or around the world.



#### TRAVEL & INSPIRE

Tips for painting while traveling—light, simple, freeing!



#### COMMUNITY

Encouraging artists, great conversation, and creative energy.



**GATHERING WILL BE  
LATE JUNE,  
DATE TO BE DETERMINED.**



**98-1838 Piki St.  
Aiea, HI 96701**



*Questions? Email  
Lovelyn Voorhees  
lfvoorhees@gmail.com*

We will have a sharing table for Art related items you no longer need or have extra of to share with other.



## Member Benefits

### Hawaiian Graphics

1923 S Beretania St.  
10% off entire purchase  
25% off fine art paper

### Art Attacks

3390 Campbell Ave, #A  
25% discount on framing

### Art Source & Designs, LLC (Diane Ko)

212 Monohua Pl, Ste C  
15% off framing, call  
(808) 352-8242 for appointment.

### Ki'ikau Printers

675 Auahi St Suite 3-205,  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
10% off printing, call  
(808) 312-3316

### Sunshine Arts

Windward City Shopping Center  
45-480 Kaneohe Bay Dr, C-18 B  
10% discount on all custom  
matting and framing

### Da Vinci Artists Colors

[www.DaVinciPaints.com](http://www.DaVinciPaints.com)  
Additional 15% off discount with  
coupon code "Aloha." Flat rate  
shipping of \$5.00 for orders \$50+.  
This offer is exclusive to HWS  
members. Not for re-sale.



## Local Watercolor Workshops

### Watercolor Basics & Beyond with Tamara Moan

Tuesdays, 9am-noon

**Watercolor Basics:** June 9, 16, 23, 30

**Beyond Basics:** July 7, 14, 21, 28

Church of the Crossroads (near UH)

4 sessions (Basics OR Beyond) -- \$180

8 sessions -- \$350



Go to [www.tamaramoan.com/teaching](http://www.tamaramoan.com/teaching) for a full description.

**To sign up**, send me an email  
([tamara.moan@yahoo.com](mailto:tamara.moan@yahoo.com)) and \$50  
deposit. Email or call 808-221-8102.

### Washy Wonders: Watercolor Foundations with Sheyla Stevens

A fun introduction to watercolor focused on washes, color flow, and learning how water and pigment move together.

We will explore:

- Wet-on-wet techniques vs wet-on-dry
- Blending and soft edges
- Watercolor play and flow
- Beginner-friendly foundational exercises

Designed for beginners and watercolor-curious creatives. All materials included.

🕒 3 hours

📍 Lōkahi Kailua Market

📅 Jun 14th 2026

[Register online!](#)

