



Shorebird Ensemble by Janet Tarjan Erl
NWS: The First 100 Years
with the Hilbert Museum of California Art



100 YEARS STRONG DENISE WILLING-BOOHER

NWS is 100 years old and our future shines bright. I am proud to be part of an outstanding art organization, run by artists for artists. We share a passion for watermedia, which is a driving force in our lives, giving us meaning and fulfillment. NWS artists members have collaborated, worked and shared that passion for a century. Our strong artistic passion and desire to join together with like-minded members unites us. It has

brought us together in new inventive ways this year through our five-amazing centennial exhibitions (NWS/CSPW *Visions Adjoin Exhibition*, *NWS Members Exhibition*, *NWS 50 Stars Exhibition*, *100th International Open Exhibition* and the recently opened *NWS: The First 100 Years with the Hilbert Museum of California Art*, our new Online Gallery, Member Zoom meetings and virtual exhibition openings this year. The exceptional NWS 100th IOE Virtual Celebration has already been viewed over 3,000 times since October 17th.

The recently opened, *NWS: The First*

100 Years with the Hilbert Museum of California Art, is truly exceptional and has masterful artwork from a century of NWS (formally CWS) artists. You don't want to miss viewing the Virtual Opening celebration, which was enjoyed by all, that includes "must see" conversations with **Ken Goldman**, NWS Past President, Juror/Curator, **Mark Hilbert**, founder of the Hilbert Museum of California Art, and **Mary Platt**, Director of the Hilbert Museum of California Art, are insightful and surprising at times. (See included article for login details.)

Our NWS volunteer board is the cornerstone of NWS. Salute and thanks to **Matthew Bird**, **NWS**, **Penny Hill**, **Nancy Swan** and **Beatrice Trautman** who have faithfully served us all for many years and will be departing in January for new horizons. Please take a moment to thank them. Their collective expertise and hard work helped bring us to where we are today.

I am very proud to be your President and of our board of director's teamwork, dedication and can-do attitude. My heartfelt thanks to you, our members, donors and sponsors who supported NWS this year and to our artists who inspire me every day with your amazing spirit, friendship and artwork. Working with the Board of Directors and being your President is rewarding, challenging and my great honor.



Denise Willing-Booher
President, NWS

Video message from Denise Willing-Booher, NWS President



October, Rt 6A
by Carolyn Latanision
NWS: The First 100 Years with the
Hilbert Museum of California Art

Don't miss the next NWS ZOOM Session!



Tips for CAFE and Entering the NWS Members Exhibition.

December 11, 2020

11:00am Pacific / 2:00pm Eastern / 7:00pm London / 8:00pm France

Entering Exhibitions, CAFE Tips and Q&A

Panel Discussion with

Valli McDougle, Justine Chapel from CAFE
Penny Hill, Judy Saltzman

(Link will be e-mailed at later date)

The last session, in case you missed it, covered *Teaching Art Online*, with our Guest Panel, Matthew Bird, Kathleen Mooney, Randy Hale, Stephanie Goldman and Ken Goldman.

Handouts from that session can be found [here](#).

**Entry Opens for the
2021 NWS Members Exhibition
January 1st, 2021**

\$10,000 in Cash Awards!



Battle of Angels, by Jeffrey Bass
NWS: The First 100 Years with the
Hilbert Museum of California Art



Mendocino Mussels, by Beatrice Trautman
NWS: The First 100 Years with the
Hilbert Museum of California Art

NATIONAL WATERCOLOR SOCIETY

NWS: The First 100 Years
at Hilbert Museum of California Art

A Conversation With

MARK HILBERT, HILBERT MUSEUM FOUNDER

KEN GOLDMAN, NWS PAST PRESIDENT, JUROR AND CURATOR

DENISE WILLING-BOOHER, NWS PRESIDENT



VIRTUAL OPENING

EXHIBITION VIDEO

DOWNLOAD CATALOG

Visit our YouTube Stream for all recent
NWS exhibitions, including:

[**The 100th International Open
Exhibition Virtual Opening**](#)

[**NWS 50 Stars Exhibition**](#)

[**2020 NWS Members Exhibition**](#)

[**NWS Online Gallery:
NWSExhibition.com**](#)

YouTube

Have you missed a recent show
or exhibition? Check out the
[**NWS YouTube Stream!**](#)



NEW NWS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

September 1 — November 18, 2020

Kay Rugh
Paul Salmon
Alex Hillkurtz
Yu Liu
Dan Song
Maureen C. Berry
Susan Silver
Susan Thompson
Roberta Kilty

SC
Austria
CA
China
China
KY
CA
VT
MI

Ann Megna
Saré Deome
Harwood Benton III
Lei Leng
Yelena Casale
Quan Chen
Gabriela Salgado-Dominguez
Abdul Nadeem
Phillip McDonel

FL
FL
CA
TX
NY
China
MS
UAE
CA



Miles to Go

by Vernon Groff

NWS: The First 100 Years with the
Hilbert Museum of California Art



Take Out Time

by Diane Kiemeyer

NWS: The First 100 Years with the
Hilbert Museum of California Art

In Memoriam



Gerald (Jerry) Brommer, NWS

Born in 1927 in Berkeley, California, Jerry was a watercolor and acrylic painter, collagist, teacher, author and juror. Known for coastal landscape paintings, he wrote over 20 books for high school and college art classes, on a wide range of subjects.

His work was exhibited in many national watercolor shows and he had over 160 one-man shows, from Alaska to Florida, and from Bermuda to Hong Kong and Taiwan.

A two-term past president of NWS, Jerry was a humble man who was an exceptional art teacher, talented artist, philanthropist and storyteller. His special spirit, wisdom and art will inspire us all for decades to come. NWS honors Gerald today with a few stories and memories that touch the heart.

As I contemplate Jerry's impressive career I think about his paintings and the effects he had upon generations of watercolor painters. I also remember his wonderful stories. One day Jerry and a group of friends were heading out for an early breakfast and a round of golf, when Jerry saw a gallery he hadn't previously noticed. He was particularly drawn to a painting in the window. Jerry asked his buddies to drop him off at the gallery, with instructions to go have breakfast and then come back to retrieve him. As they drove away, Jerry realized the door to the gallery was locked and moments later it began to rain. His friends returned sometime later to find Jerry standing in the rain staring into the gallery window. As Jerry climbed back into the car, soaking wet, he expressed his fervent wish that someday he would be able to create a painting so great that someone would stand in the rain, transfixed, to admire it. I think Jerry's wish was prophetic — so many of us over the years have stood mesmerized by his beautiful paintings.

I am so proud to have known Jerry Brommer — a talented and humble man. He firmly believed in giving back and we are the grateful recipients of his generosity.

— **John Salmenin, NWS**



Most painters will recall those who have influenced and inspired their art. I think of my teacher and friend Gerald Brommer when I include collage in my work. He gave me the gift of collage. Jerry and I met in 1995 when he accepted my invitation to teach a collage workshop at Art Box Studio. During his many workshops at the studio (the last one in 2017) we became good buddies. We communicated by letters or phone calls as Jerry told me that he had “no use for new-fangled machines.”

He was a landscape painter as landscape elements comprise the major portion of his subject matter. In one of his notes he stated “My approach to the subjects, however, is not of replication but of interpretation and of spirit. In my work, I try to identify a unique quality and sense of place and then attempt to communicate that quality to others through my painting, that they may sense and feel what I sense and feel.”

Jerry was a generous, kind and patient teacher. I believe he was put on this earth to teach. In his teachings, Jerry stated that when you just start to paint, you learn how to use the hand, eye, mind and then, how to use the spirit. During his workshops he stressed the importance of design. Jerry’s favorite design was working with the cruciform format.

I’ve been fortunate and honored to have known him as a teacher and friend. I and the art community will surely miss him.

— **Sylvia Megerdichian, NWS**



Gerald “Jerry” Brommer’s enthusiasm for painting and teaching changed my life.

I met him in the mid 90’s, early in my painting life. Many can attest to him as a loved teacher for 26 years, in the Lutheran schools, but I came to know him in the realm of a watercolor workshop instructor. His love of teaching, watercolor and nurturing style came together to create the man I knew. A kind, thoughtful person who loved God, his wife Georgia and his students. Always careful with his words and spoke kindly of others. He was a prolific painter, compassionate teacher, encourager and when needed ... a gentle nudge.

Painting, art shows and students filled his life with joy and energy. Into his 80s he was still teaching 18 workshops a year. A schedule people half his age couldn’t do. But with Georgia beside him he could do anything. In 2008 Jerry and Georgia decided it was time to stop teaching European workshops. He was 81 years old. But they wanted to visit Europe one more time. No teaching. Just a small group of art friends traveling, sketching and enjoying each other’s company. For two weeks we traveled from Prague to Berlin. One night during dinner he saw me playing with paper napkin rings fashioning an elaborate caterpillar. The next night he tossed a napkin ring my way and said, “no more worms, make me something magnificent”. Never one to back down from a challenge. I proceeded to fashion him a crown of napkin rings and placed it on his head. It read, “Sir Gerald the Magnificent”. He played along with a giggle and a smile and proceeded to wear the crown through dinner. He never took himself too seriously.

Jerry is one of the greatest people I have known. His contagious enthusiasm for life, teaching and painting guided me. I was a student beyond the classroom. I watched how he handled a demo, a class, a person, a critique... his voice still guides me.

— **Brenda Swenson**

The art world has lost a treasure - Jerry Brommer entered Heaven on November 3, 2020. An accomplished painter, educator, author, juror and exemplary Christian, he was beloved by many and admired by even more. His over 2 dozen books included many for art educators at a time when there were no such texts available.

As I write this with a heavy heart and tears piling up behind my eyes, I can only say that I am so very grateful for his role in my life as teacher, mentor and beloved friend. That I could represent him as a gallery owner was a surprise and delight and because of that I met so many of his Lutheran school students from first grade through high school. They thronged to the receptions for his shows and told me poignant stories of their time in his classroom.

The thousands of adult students all over the country and beyond filled his workshops routinely since he was such a gifted instructor and genuinely splendid human being. I will miss him terribly but at 93 years, 9 months of age, he was given a full measure of life. When I told my daughter Katie of his passing she said, "Heaven is celebrating today." Amen.

— **Judy Schroeder**

Jerry and I have been long time buddies. He is the one who invited me to join the NWS Board. I met him at the NWS award reception in 1979, and I was on a house-hunting trip from Virginia. So, I told him once I move to CA, I will join the NWS Board. I followed Jerry and became the NWS president after him, because he asked me to.

From 1982 to I think 1990, Jerry and I were represented by the same gallery in Los Angeles. He and I rented a print making studio in North Hollywood, one day a month, to make monotypes. It is a very spacious studio; we each use a different press and different print making table. But we like the camaraderie and we split the rent at that time it was already \$400 a day. It is during those print making sessions I found out Jerry is an absolutely

great abstract painter. In fact, he had a couple of monotypes shows during those years, and they were all sold-out shows. There is another reason that we rent that particular studio, the proprietor and the owner of that studio is a trained pastry chef.

Each lunch, we would be treated to a very large and fancy dessert, chocolate ala mode, chocolate fondue, chocolate almond eclair, etc. I watched Jerry ate the small and lean lunch carefully prepared by Georgia first (things like a small can of tuna in water, and 4 medium-sized celery sticks), then gorged on the chocolate dessert, :-). But I have never told Georgia about the desserts at the studio. This remains our secret for life.

I will sorely miss Jerry. He is the kindest and most generous person I know. I will forever miss his bear-hugs.

— **Katherine Chang Liu, NWS Past President**

In 1976 Jerry and I first met as fellow artists in a San Diego gallery. We formed a close collegial relationship there, but seldom saw each other except when we taught for the same international art tour company in the 80's. I did, however, hear lots from his myriad students about his genuine warmth as a mentor and his long-term memory for each and every one of them.

Jerry himself is one of the Early California Masters celebrated in this exhibition so it was prescient of past president Robbie Laird to recommend that we jury this 100-year NWS anniversary exhibition together. As a past president of both the California Watercolor Society and National Watercolor Society, he will always be remembered for his exceptional artistry, his loving nature, and his numerous contributions to the art world in general. I am grateful to have been able to visit with him one last time in August to jury this exceptional show.

— **Ken Goldman, NWS Past President**

Jerry was my High School Art Teacher. A project he gave to us students was to find something on campus that interested us and paint it. I discovered a storage shed that contained our beat-up trash cans. They became my subject matter. My Teachers/Student Critique that followed mentioned the New York ASWC Can School, and their work, and who they were. My research opened a whole new world to me. We would meet each other at our local art supply store where CWS (Now NWS) had flyers posted for the Annual Exhibition and Jerry suggested that I enter the exhibition. His suggestion that I enter became my first introduction to the CWS (NWS). He has opened new worlds to thousands of artists through his workshops, lectures, books (over 30 titles) and exhibitions. I will miss him dearly.

— **Ron Miller, NWS Past President**

Every time I was with Jerry, I knew I was in the shadow of a gentle giant of the arts. He taught workshops for many years here at Cheap Joe's. Every workshop was full of both students and knowledge. Jerry has the best smile, with a twinkle in his eye. He always had a funny story to tell.

Gerald wrote several children's books for public school and he had lots of stories to tell about his time in the classroom. One of my favorites; he had his little students do a painting of anything they wanted to do. After a short time, one of the students raised her hand for Gerald to come and look at her painting. He asked her what it was a picture of. "It's God," she said. Gerald said that it is so nice, but "no one knows what God looks like." "They will now," she said.

One day Gerald said he came into his children's class and announced that there would be a fire drill today and that the students would have to lineup at the door. There we will all proceed to cross the parking lot and go to the top of the little hill. "Does anyone know why we need to do this?" a One little girl who almost never participated, raised her hand. Gerald asked her why they were doing this. She proudly said "we will have a better view of the burning building."

Georgia (Jerry's Wife) always came with Gerald when he taught a Cheap Joe's workshop. She spent her days exploring our area via the "apple cart," our public transportation. Gerald and I would meet the girls for dinner and while they talked about whatever girls talk about, Gerald and I talked about art. What a treat it was to be with Gerald and Georgia. Gerald introduced me to Milford Zorn. We stayed in touch until Milford's passing. I have letters and a couple of small paintings he sent me. I would never have had this without Gerald.

— **Joe Miller**

I first met Jerry Brommer in 1975 when he did a watercolor demo for a local art association. Watching as he covered his paper with transparent washes to create a lovely landscape was like magic. Talking to him that night inspired me to try watercolor and eventually make it my only medium. Through the years I continued to learn from Jerry by attending a number of his plein air workshops and through his books. He was a wonderful teacher, always willing to share his extensive knowledge and his love of watercolor. I always tried to attend his show openings and last time I saw him was a few years ago at Judy Schroeder's Studio where he was showing his small works. There he told me how much fun he was having doing them. Even in his nineties his enthusiasm for creating art was as strong as ever.

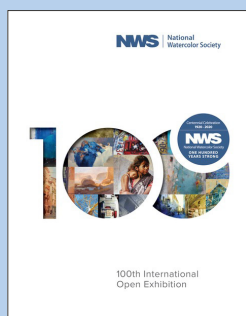
— **Jim Salchak, NWS Past President**



Accolades

Annie Strack won **Second Place** in the Alaska Watercolor Society 46th National Juried Show for her painting *Portrait of Chris* and the **Founders Awards** in the Montana Watercolor Society 38th National Exhibit for her painting *Toes in the Water*. She earned Signature Membership in Kentucky Watercolor Society. She juried the Salem County Art League Show and the American Artists Professional League Members Show.

Lois Ward Wolford, NWS, BWS, PWCS, received the **Frank Nofer Memorial Award** in the 120th Philadelphia Works on Paper Exhibition for her painting *Honey Do List*.



The 100th Annual Catalog is available for purchase. Contact us to buy this or past editions:

www.nationalwatercolorociety.org/store



Calella, Spain
by Eric Wiegardt
NWS: The First 100 Years with the
Hilbert Museum of California Art

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

We are proud that our members receive so many accolades; however, we are limited in what can be included.

WE PRINT the following for Signature and Associate members:

- Awards (only from national or international exhibits open to all artists. No “members only” shows.) Indicate the award[s] you received.
- Recent publications that include your work
- Special honors (i.e., signature membership to national art groups; serving as juror; having work added to permanent collections, etc.)
- Inclusion in invitational, solo or two-artist exhibitions

WE DO NOT PRINT:

- Your workshops or websites
- Your inclusion into exhibits (unless you get an award and it is in an exhibit open nationally to all artists)
- Items more than 6 months old

Submitted material will be edited if it does not conform to the above criteria OR in order to fit space available.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Indicate your member status (signature or associate)
- **ACCOLADES:** Submit your information **PROPERLY FORMATTED** and in the 3rd person. Use the Accolades section in this newsletter as a guide. Be specific about titles and dates.
- **ARTICLES** will be reviewed for content and relevancy. NWS reserves the right to accept or reject articles and to edit the contents to fit.
- **IN MEMORIAM:** NWS will publish one submitted photo, space permitting.
- **CALL FOR ENTRIES:** Submitted and applicable to NWS will be posted on our website.
- **WE REQUIRE A PERSONAL SUMMARY OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS.** A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE GLEANED FOR CONTENT.