



President's Message
February 2023

Hi Everyone,



Happy Valentine's Day (Early)! I hope everyone has been busy painting as winter begins to wind down! From a personal experience, here is some encouragement for painting often ...

During the late fall and winter, I have taken to heart what we here often as artists ... draw or paint when you can. Though I do not always get the chance to draw or paint daily, I have a standing weekly painting time where, I and fellow painters have been visiting sites and parks around central Ohio. At first, it was hard! Trying to figure out what to bring (too much when we first started!), how to get started when we get to a site, and how to complete a painting/drawing within a 2-3 hour window.

Those first paintings, well they were not thrown away, but they sit in a pile in my studio for comparison. As we have moved into our 6th month of this exercise, it is amazing the growth we have had and the confidence we are finding. Not every drawing/painting works out ... in fact, more failures than successes ... but the freedom we get from this endeavor has really helped us to explore, learn, and grow in our craft. Just as many artists have, I encourage you to find some time to just explore!

Now for the many activities available to you as a member of COWS ...

Calendar for Demonstrations:

- **February 12, 2023, Lavonne Suwalski** (<http://www.timeforpainting.com/>)
 - **Demonstration:** Utilization of Cubism
 - **Location: 1:00pm - 2:30 pm** Whetstone Library Meeting Room, 3909 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43214
- **March 12, 2023, Chris Rankin** (<https://www.arthatchingacrossohio.com/christopher-rankin>)
 - **Demonstration:** Encaustic with embedded watercolor
 - **Location: 1:00pm - 2:30 pm** Whetstone Library Meeting Room, 3909 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43214
- **April 15, 2023 (Saturday) - Opening reception for Spring Show**
 - **2 - 4 pm**, Carnegie Gallery at Main Library, 96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, OH 43215
- **May 7, 2023, Kevin Buckland** (<https://kevinbucklandart.com/>)
 - **Demonstration:** En Plein Air painting -- bring your gear to participate!
 - **Location:** TBD

Exhibitions:

- **Member Exhibition at First Merchants Bank**, 1460 Grandview Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43212. This exhibition runs through February 28, 2023 with 30 paintings being displayed
- **2023 COWS Spring Exhibition**

- **Show Dates:** April 6, 2023 – May 24, 2023
 - **Location:** The Carnegie Gallery, Columbus Metropolitan Library-Main, 96 S. Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215
 - **Theme:** “Words in Watercolor” -- The theme of literature is required of the artwork (this may include reference to a book/author or with an experience relating to reading or the library)
 - **Prospectus available on the website**
 - Guidelines on writing an **Artist Statement** attached.
- **2023 COWS Member Show**
 - **Show Dates:** July 1 – July 31, 2023
 - **Location:** Westerville Community Center, 350 N. Cleveland Ave, Westerville, OH 43082
 - Up to 3 pieces per member; Works shown in previous shows accepted
 - No juror or judging – An opportunity to present your work to the public!
- **2023 COWS Fall Exhibition**
 - **Show Dates:** November 12 – December 9, 2023
 - **Location:** German Village Meeting House, 588 South Third St, Columbus, OH 43215

Workshops:

- **COWS Spring 2023**
 - **Artist:** Chris Leeper (<https://www.christopherleeper.com/>)
 - **Dates:** March 30 - April 1, 2023
 - **Location:** Columbus Metropolitan Library – Main - Auditorium
 - 20 Participants
 - Registration opens March 1, 2023, 8am
 - Application and registration information available on COWS website
- **Ohio Watercolor Society Juror Workshop 2023**
 - **Artist:** Stan Miller (<https://stanmiller.net/>)
 - **Dates:** June 5 – June 7, 2023
 - **Location:** Mansfield, OH
 - Application and registration information available on COWS website

Other Competition Opportunities:

- **Ohio Watercolor Society – Watercolor Ohio 2023**
 - **Submissions for juror due date:** March 25, 2023 – Midnight
 - **Prospectus available here:** <https://www.ohiowatercolorssociety.org/resources/WCO-2023/Prospectus23.pdf>
- **Women in Watercolor 4th Annual International Juried Online Competition**
 - **Entry Dates:** April 1, 2023 – June 8, 2023
 - **Details available here:** <https://womeninwatercolor.com/>

Sunday's Demonstration

- **February 12, 2023, Lavonne Suwalski** (<http://www.timeforpainting.com/>)
 - **Demonstration:** Utilization of Cubism

We are really pleased to have Lavonne Suwalski joining us for a demonstration this Sunday. Lavonne has been a longtime art teacher, inspiring artists of all ages. Her enthusiasm for watercolor and its endless possibilities is contagious! She is a lifelong artist that is always looking to learn and try something new. Sunday, Lavonne will demonstrate and discuss cubism as a movement and how to utilize in your art today! This promises to be a very enjoyable demonstration that I hope you all plan to attend.



Wishing you all a healthy, productive and creative month of watercolor painting!

Sincerely,
Pam Hartford
President
Central Ohio Watercolor Society
www.centralohiowatercolorsociety.com

Artist Statement Guidance

Your artist statement is about facts, a basic introduction to your art; it's **not** instructions on how to look at it, what to experience, what to think, how to feel, how to act, or where to stand, and if it is, you'd better do a rewrite. On this planet, people communicate with words, and your artist statement introduces and communicates the language component of your art. Just about all artists want as many people as possible to appreciate their art. A good artist statement works towards this end, and the most important ingredient of a good statement is its language.

WRITE YOUR STATEMENT IN LANGUAGE THAT ANYONE CAN UNDERSTAND, not language that you understand, not language that you and your friends understand, not language that you learn in art school, but everyday language that you use with everyday people to accomplish everyday things. An effective statement reaches out and welcomes people to your art, no matter how little or how much they know about art to begin with. Like an introduction to a good book, your statement presents and conveys the fundamental underpinnings of your art, aspects that people should be aware of.

- **WHY YOU MAKE YOUR ART,**
- **WHAT INSPIRES OR DRIVES YOU TO MAKE IT,**
- **WHY PEOPLE SHOULD CARE,**
- **WHAT IT SIGNIFIES OR REPRESENTS,**
- **WHAT IT COMMUNICATES,**
- **WHAT'S UNIQUE OR SPECIAL ABOUT HOW YOU MAKE IT, and briefly,**
- **WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU.**

People have short attention spans, especially these days. When you overload readers with and details or explanations, you risk drowning them in words, and possibly even discouraging those who might otherwise persevere if only you would have kept it simple. This... your statement is about you, so personalize it. Write it in the first person, not like you're talking about yourself in the abstract. Infuse it with your unique perspective. Whenever possible, make it conversational, like you're speaking directly to readers (note: a good editor can work wonders here)..

Steps to write an artist statement?

1. Make a statement about why you do what you do.
 - a. The first section of your artist's statement should begin with a discussion of why you make art.
2. Describe your decision-making techniques. ...
3. Talk about your current work. ...
4. Keep it short, sweet, and to the point. ... **CLEAR, CONSISTENT, and CONCISE**
5. Use simple language.

What is an artist bio?

An artist biography is usually a **short paragraph** about you and your career as a practitioner. It may also contain a line about the key themes to your practice. Artists Biographies are often confused with artist CVs and artist statements.

What is an artist curriculum vitae?...and what does it contain?

A CV or curriculum vitae is an overview of your artistic professional history and achievements. CV stands for some Latin words Curriculum vitae. These translate as "[the] course of [my] life". A curriculum vitae is a necessary document if you hope to submit your work to galleries, collections, fine art exhibitions, etcetera. In contrast with a resume, a CV highlights your professional accomplishments rather than your experience and qualifications. This is the place to list awards your art has received, exhibitions your art has been included in, collections where your art is held, and publications where you and your art have been featured.