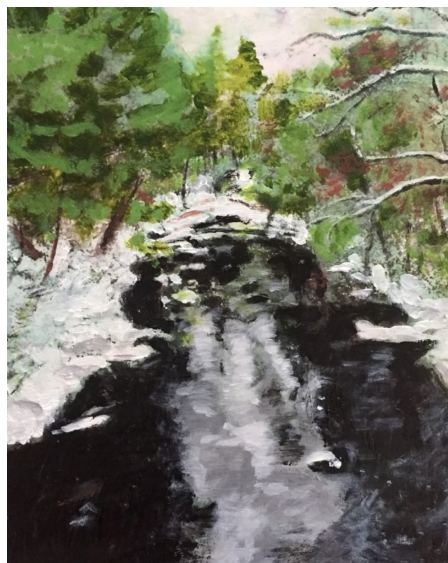


WAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VP of Membership: Vacant
VP of Exhibits: Vacant
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Exhibit Hangings: Sarah Brown



By Robert Dec

2023 was a very good year at WAG!

Happy New Year to all our WAG members and supporters. We are all settling into Winter and the New Year, and WAG is busy planning an ambitious schedule of upcoming shows and exhibits and workshops. A partial list of our 2024 shows and exhibits is on this website, as well as, the current education offerings.

WAG is sponsoring the Westport River Watershed Alliance art show in February for their Winter Art Show "Love your River". It is certainly complimentary to our mission of stimulating and appreciating art and partnering with other non-profits.

This past year I hope you were able to participate or visit our shows and events. Just a sampling is below:

- *"First Tuesday" events offered monthly with a variety of artists presenting. This year we're changing the name to Tuesdays at WAG so that we'll have more flexibility on presenting this fun event each month.*
- *Spring Judged Show*

- *Weekly Plein Air painting (while the weather cooperated)*
- *Summer Community Show and Raffle*
- *WAG artists participated in South Coast Artists Open Studios tour in July and August at the WAG building and at their own studios*
- *December Holiday Art Show and Fair*

Also, we had two new shows in 2023 offered for the first time that expanded our scope and artistic inclusion: *the Invitational Photography Show in September and Encaustics: Hot and Cold Wax in October*. It makes you realize just how abundant artistic creativity is in the South Coast area!

We again offered both adult and youth education with a varied list of classes and workshops. Workshops were offered across the art spectrum - drawing, oils, watercolors, pastels, encaustics, collage and more - something for everyone. And we are proud to say that we offered again two youth scholarships in 2023 and will continue our outreach to young artists in 2024 with two more scholarships of \$1,500 each.

Volunteers are a critical part of accomplishing our work. We open the year with opportunities to volunteer in multiple ways, from leading the exhibits and events, to serving on a committee, to gallery sitting at a show. If you are looking for a new volunteer opportunity, have some time to give us or want to join the WAG community, please email me at sharonconnors333@gmail.com.

I especially want to acknowledge a longtime WAG friend, the late Elizabeth Brinkerhoff. She was a Westport artist and art collector who left a generous bequest to WAG. We will be a faithful guardian of her substantial gift for the benefit of WAG's community, programs and future. We will always remember her generosity in the years to come.

Wishing you a very happy 2024 and hoping you will take advantage of our many offerings. Consider volunteering - WAG needs you. Take a workshop - Learn something new or hone your skills. Visit an exhibit - maybe add to your own art

collection. Thank you for your past support and we look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We rely on membership dues and donations from friends like you to support our many activities.

Sharon Connors, President

Westport Art Group