

### Next Meeting:

**Monday Nov. 10, 2025, 2:00-4:00 pm. In-person at Destination Art**



### A Word From the President

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**Debbie Abshear**

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHAIR

**Mary Arakawa**

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[alvintaka@att.net](mailto:alvintaka@att.net)

MONTHLY RAFFLE

**Janet Steinberg**

ARMSTRONG THEATRE

**Bill Wassenberg**

Fellow SBWS Members,

It's Show Time! Deadline to enter is NOW – Sunday, November 9th by midnight.

We always have a lot of members stepping up to help with the exhibition and the reception. There will be sign-up sheets at the meeting. If you can't make the meeting but want to be in on helping, call or text me: 310-367-1998.

Members at the meeting November 10 will be voting on the officers for 2026. The Board will present this slate of nominees: President – Robert Reinhardt, Vice President – Jan Bock, Secretary – Sue Kuuskmae, Treasurer – Sylvia Smullen. If you are interested in running for one of these positions, you can be nominated at the meeting.

The President appoints the other positions listed on our masthead, so let me or the incoming President know if there is an area you can take or help with. In addition to continuing as Exhibition Director, I have volunteered to be the Program Director. However, I can quickly step aside or take on a co-Director.

#### Art Tip from Parrish Hirasaki

Our member show accepts all member paintings that meet the prospectus requirements, but many exhibitions have a screening step with a juror or panel of jurors. This means that you pay the entry fee and are not guaranteed your art will be accepted for display.

Like SBWS, for a new exhibition, almost all organizations have a new juror or panel. When a painting I believe is worthy of being shown in a particular exhibition is rejected, I often enter it again the next opportunity. My painting of women in kimonos on a staircase was “not selected” for the Palos Verdes Art Center Winter Show, but the juror of the PVAC Summer Show did pick it.

I saw on Café last spring that it was the third time I entered that same painting for the National Watercolor Society (NWS) annual Member Exhibition. I struck out again, so three different jurors did not find it good enough. Disappointing, but in general, I do not mind donating my fee to art societies. On the other hand, magazines and big online shows seem to generate a lot of income and spend a tiny percentage on prizes. It's a “donation” I do not often make.

Keep painting,  
**Parrish Hirasaki**

# Vahe Grigorian - November 10th Demonstrator



Vahe Grigorian

Vahe Grigorian, a seasoned professional in the world of art, has drawn inspiration from his years of traveling and experiencing the diverse landscapes of the world, culminating in his stunning collection of watercolor paintings now available on his website. With a career that spans over 20 years in the entertainment and advertising industries, Vahe Grigorian has worked for high-profile clients including Walt Disney Imagineering, Mattel Inc., Nickelodeon, Warner Bros., Sony, and many more. His transition into the world of watercolor art marks a new and exciting chapter in his artistic journey. Grigorian's work is known for its unique blend of creativity, technical skill, and emotional resonance, capturing not just the visuals of a place but the feeling and atmosphere of the moment. In 2024, Grigorian's love for travel and nature sparked a passion for watercolor painting. Inspired by the landscapes he encountered, Grigorian set out to create artwork that would evoke emotions and transport viewers to the breathtaking places he visited. As of 2025, Vahe has been actively participating in international watercolor festivals worldwide, where he both exhibits his work and shares his knowledge through teaching. Notably, he has showcased at the Rockwell Watercolour Festival in China and the Armenian Arvesta Watercolor Festival. Moving forward, Vahe remains dedicated to participating, winning awards, and teaching across the globe, further establishing his presence in the international watercolor community.

His new watercolor pieces—each framed and ready for display—are now available for purchase through his website, providing art lovers and collectors with an opportunity to bring a piece of the world's beauty into their homes. Vahe is an award winning member of the National Watercolor Society and Laguna Plein Air Painters Association.

“Watercolor art has allowed me to express emotions and stories from my travels in a way that is different from any



other medium I have worked with,” said Vahe Grigorian, founder and artist. “Each piece is more than just a landscape; it’s a memory, a feeling, and a snapshot of a place that holds a special meaning to me. I’m excited to share this new collection with the world and invite others to experience the landscapes that have inspired my work.”

## WATERCOLOR ART CLASSES at

# GEVORKIAN ACADEMY

For more information call 818-425-0447 • 58 E Santa Anita, Burbank



## VAHE GRIGORIAN

[www.vahegrigorianart.com](http://www.vahegrigorianart.com)  
You [WatercolorsByVahe](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)  
 [@vahegrigorian](https://www.instagram.com/vahegrigorian)



20 Years of Experience as an Illustrator  
National Watercolor Award Winner



### Every other Sunday 10am-1pm

\$90 each class

• **Sunday November 16th**  
10am - 1pm

Future Classes for 2025:

- **November 30th**
- **December 14th**
- **December 28th**

Text to sign up: (818)469-5579  
KIDS & ADULTS

# John Byram - Sept. 8th Demonstrator



John Byram



John Byram began his demonstration with an explanation of color. To create any neutral or gray color you should mix opposite colors. For instance, brilliant orange mixed with cerulean blue. The amount of each color can make the gray warm or cool. John personally prefers Holbein paints because they don't contain oxgall or dispersant which cause the paint to dry faster. For plein air painting it's better to have the paint stay wet longer. Gouache dries fast but mixing it with watercolor keeps it wet longer. Other color mixes for making gray are yellow with opera, and viridian to make a silvery gray. Paynes gray and burnt umber mixed together make a pewter gray.

John prefers plein air painting over working from a reference photo. Photos often lose subtle color differences that your eyes can see in shadow and white areas.

John uses DaVinci brushes and Arches watercolor block paper. Some of the tools that he uses are box razors for making straight lines, toothbrushes for splashing water, and natural sponge.

John worked fast. For his first demonstration he painted a landscape with a lighthouse. He used a rough textured paper. Ultramarine, paynes gray, and burnt umber were some of the principal colors he used. He blended titanium white into the wet blue paint in the sky and tilted the paper to make it flow.

For his second demo he did a southwestern landscape. Luminous yellow, brilliant orange, and quinacridone gold were some of the colors in the sunset sky. Van dyke brown mixed with prussian blue created the dark parts of the rocks. Burnt sienna and cerulean blue were also used in the rocks. John used a razor blade to paint the rocks. The grass is painted in a way that creates a path that leads a viewer into the painting.

[www.johnbyram.com](http://www.johnbyram.com)



John Byram's demo paintings

## SBWS Raffle

**Moira Cohn** won a painting from John Byram

## DA 11th Anniversary - Gift Basket

This is an opportunity to stop feeling guilty about art supplies you bought and never used. Destination: Art has asked SBWS to donate a gift basket of art supplies to be auctioned or raffled off at the DA 11th Anniversary Party on November 22. Bring what you have to donate to our meeting November 10. Beverly Spisak is going to prepare the basket.

# September 8th Winners!



1st Place  
**"Stargazer Trail"**  
Joyce Welsh



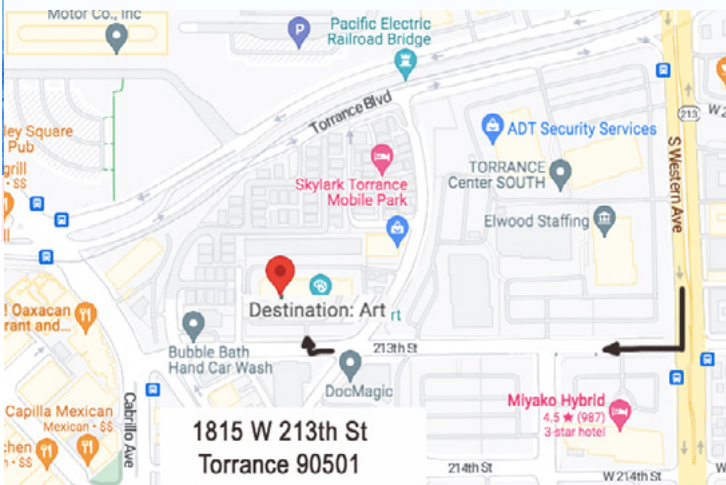
2nd Place  
**"Cambria"**  
Jan Godachy



3rd Place  
**"Pun with the Stars"**  
Moira Cohn

## SBWS General Meeting Monday Nov. 10, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

You can attend the meeting in-person at Destination Art, located at **1815 W. 213th Street, #135** in Torrance. Meetings are free for anyone to attend. However, to participate in competitions, the member show, the Facebook page, and to receive this newsletter and discounts on workshops, you need to become a SBWS member by paying the \$30 annual fee. If you'd like to help set up tables and chairs for the meeting, arrive around 1:00 pm.



## Join the SBWS Facebook group

Follow the SBWS Facebook page to get event information and to see what other members are painting. The very creative name of the page is "South Bay Watercolor Society," so it is easy to find.

[www.facebook.com/groups/456206742942684](https://www.facebook.com/groups/456206742942684)

## Join SBWS members for lunch

On the day of the SBWS General Meeting, usually ten to twelve members have lunch at the Red Car Brewery & Restaurant around 12:15 pm. The restaurant is located at 1266 Sartori Ave., Torrance.

RSVP to Parrish Hirasaki  
parrishh@verizon.net  
310-367-1998



# 2025 SBWS Member Show

The gallery is reserved, the dates are set and the prospectus emailed. The annual member show is coming soon. Our juror is **Son Do**, a freelance watercolor artist and retired architect. Son holds signature status at The National Watercolor Society (NWS) and a Master Level at the Huntington Beach Art League. His works have been juried and awarded in National Watercolor exhibits of both NWS and the California Watercolor Association.

If you entered last year, there are a couple of changes. The entry fee will be \$35. In addition to your two show entries, you have the option of a third painting that will not be in the competition. It will be for sale in the "Small Treasures" section. All three need to be entered online. Your painting for the Small Treasures section needs to be entered online with your other painting(s). We will sort out the "Small Treasures" at take-in. They need to sell for \$150 or less, and the longest side of the frame must be less than 13". They may be older than 3 years but must meet the other prospectus requirements.

## EVENT CALENDAR

- Online entry period October 13 – November 9  
<https://portal.destination-art.net/shows/>
- Take-in is Thursday, November 20, 10:00 am-12:00 noon
- The show will open on Friday, November 21 and close Saturday, December 20.
- The reception will be Saturday, December 6, 2:00-4:00 pm
- Location - Destination: Art  
1815 West 213th Street, Torrance, CA 90501
- Gallery hours:  
11:00-4:00 Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays
- Destination: Art closed:  
December 22 through January 8
- Show is online continuously  
from November 21 to spring 2026
- Pick up artwork: Sunday, December 21, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Deliver your artwork to Destination Art on Thursday, November 20. If you have not paid the 2025 \$30

SBWS member dues, you will need to then, along with the \$35 show entry fee. You can also pay your 2026 dues (while you are thinking of it). Bring cash or a check. If you send your paintings with someone else, include a signed copy of the "Agreement" that was emailed in the prospectus.

## ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

- Entries must have been painted within the last three years.
- Entries must be original two-dimensional work. Artists may use reference photos that are copyright-free or that the photographer has given the artist permission to use. An artist may not copy a painting nor enter a painting from a paint-along workshop.
- Entries must be at least 80% water-soluble media (watercolor, acrylic, gouache).
- Paper and fabric collage is acceptable only if treated with watermedia.
- Natural collage items such as feathers and bark do not need to be treated with watermedia.
- No restrictions on surface material – paper, canvas, Yupo, etc.
- Artwork must not have been exhibited in a previous SBWS annual show.

## ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Prepare images of each of your entries without mat or frame. If you size the image, 500Kb is an adequate file size. Otherwise, the resolution of a phone photo should be fine.
- If you need help with taking or editing the photos, call Parrish Hirasaki (310-367-1998).
- Before you pay the \$35, you can leave the site and log back in. You will not be able to make changes after you have paid, so proofread your entry.

***More details are in the prospectus that you should have received from Parrish in your email.***

For more information contact Parrish Hirasaki  
[parrish@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:parrish@alumni.duke.edu)  
(310) 367-1998

## CURRENT ART NEWS

### APC Fine Arts & Graphics

#### Watercolor Class

**Tuesdays 1:00–3:30 pm**

\$25 single session/\$20 each for multiple sessions

Taught by Ron Libbrecht

1621 Cabrillo Ave., Torrance

(310) 328-0366

### Art Supply Warehouse

#### Simplify, Express, Paint Watercolor

**Sat., Nov. 8 & 9, 2025, 10:00 am–4:00 pm**

\$275

Taught by Keiko Tanabe

#### Gouache: Opaque Watercolor!

**Sat., Nov. 15, 2025, 1:00–4:00 pm**

\$50 materials provided

Taught by Pamme Turner

#### Liquitex Bio Acrylic Demo

**Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, 10:00 am–12:00 pm**

\$10 materials provided

Taught by Daniela Campins

Catalyst, 6630 Westminster Blvd.

Westminster

### Artists Magazine

#### Splash 27: The Best of Watercolor Art Competition

**Final deadline: Dec. 19, 2025**

\$30 members/\$40 non-members

#### Best in Show: Pets

**Early Bird deadline: Nov. 24, 2025**

\$25 non-members/\$35 members

**Final deadline: Jan. 19, 2026**

\$30 members/\$40 non-members

#### Acrylic Works 13:

**Super Early Bird deadline: Nov. 20, 2025**

\$15 non-members/\$25 members

**Early Bird deadline: Jan. 22, 2026**

\$25 non-members/\$35 members

**Final deadline: March 25, 2026**

\$30 members/\$40 non-members

#### Artists Magazine 5th Annual Artists to Watch

**Super Early Bird deadline: Dec. 20, 2025**

\$15 non-members/\$25 members

**Early Bird deadline: Feb. 19, 2026**

\$25 non-members/\$35 members

**Final deadline: April 16, 2026**

\$30 members/\$40 non-members

### Destination Art

#### Made in the South Bay

**Currently on display until Sat., Nov. 15, 2025**

**Reception: Sat., Sept. 20, 2025, 3:00–5:00 pm**

**Thurs.–Sat. 11:00 am–4:00 pm**

#### Destination Art 11th Anniversary

**Sat., Nov. 22, 2025, 3:00–5:00 pm**

#### Paint-Ins

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am–3:00 pm**

Work on your own projects with your own supplies \$15, or \$10 for Associate artists. Drop in, no registration needed.

Register for classes at [www.destination-art.net](http://www.destination-art.net) 1815

W. 213th Street, #135 Torrance

### Esperanza Gallery

#### Open Canvas Fine Art Exhibition

**Sat., Oct. 18, 2025–Sun., Nov. 23, 2025**

**Gallery Hours: Thurs.–Sun., 2:00–6:00 pm**

#### Painting Workshop: Elf or Santa

**Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, 6:00–8:00 pm**

\$40 materials provided

Taught by Esperanza Deese

#### Painting Workshop: VM Bus or VW Bug

**Wed., Nov. 12, 2025, 4:00–6:00 pm or**

**Sat., Nov. 15, 2025, 6:00–8:00 pm**

\$40 materials provided

Taught by Esperanza Deese

113 West Torrance Blvd, Redondo Beach

Located on the Upper Level of the Redondo Pier Plaza

### Gallery of Hermosa

#### “Rocktober”

**Sat., Oct. 18–Sun., Nov. 9, 2025**

**Thur.–Sun, 11:00 am–4:00 pm or by appointment**

#### Gallery of Hermosa Exhibit - Japan!

**Collaboration with Creative Space Hayashi in Chigasaki, Japan**

## CURRENT ART NEWS

**Fri., April 10–Sun., April 19, 2026**

**Reception: Fri., April 10, 2026**

**Entry Deadline: Sun., Nov. 30, 2025, 11:59 pm MST**

\$35 entry fee, max. 3 submissions

artist responsible for shipping

138 Pier Ave., Hermosa Beach

info@galleryofhermosa.com

www.galleryofhermosa.com

(323) 364-6606

### **Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute**

**Tomo No Kai (senior) Watercolor Paint-In**

**Hours: Wed. 10:00 am–12:00 pm**

Anyone at least 50 years old can join Tomo No Kai for \$12/year. Members have access to any Tomo No Kai class including the watercolor class.

\$3 per class, room #207 at the GVJCI. Open to artists of any ethnicity, and skill level.

1964 W. 162nd St., Gardena

www.jci-gardena.org

(310) 324-6611

### **James R. Armstrong Theatre Lobby**

**Art About America's World War II Imprisonment of People of Japanese Ancestry**

The public is invited to a closing reception for the art currently on exhibit in the lobby of the James R. Armstrong Theater. The exhibit features work by 7 artists in response to the history of 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry being removed and incarcerated by the U.S. government during World War II.

The exhibit is part of fundraising efforts for the project called, "World War II Camp Wall," which will be constructed in Columbia Park, Torrance. The Wall, will stand as a permanent monument featuring the names of all those removed and imprisoned for "looking like the enemy."

**Reception: Fri., Nov. 21, 2025, 4:00–7:30 pm**

Torrance Cultural Arts Center

3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance

wwiicampwall.org

### **Laguna Art Museum**

**Solitude and Silence**

Conrad Buff, Painter of the American Southwest

**Sat., Sept. 20, 2025–Sun., Jan. 25, 2026**

**Tues.–Sun., 10:00 am–5:00 pm**

**Free Admission in November and open on Monday**

307 Cliff Dr., Laguna Beach

lagunaartmuseum.org

### **Manhattan Beach Art Center**

**Continuation**

Exhibition of individual art from the same family of Charles, Natalie, and Ryland Arnoldi

**Exhibit: Fri., Oct. 17–Sun., Dec. 28,, 2025**

**Hours: Wed. & Thurs., 10:00 am–9:00 pm,**

**Fri.–Sun., 10:00 am–5:00 pm**

1560 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Manhattan Beach

(310) 802-5440

### **National Watercolor Society**

**Watercolor Watercooler**

**Tues., Nov. 11, 2025, 4:30-5:30 pm**

**Online via Zoom**

Demo by Kathleen Giles, NWS Master

www.nationalwatercolorssociety.org

### **Palos Verdes Art Center**

**Collected Treasures Donation Day**

**Wed. Nov. 19, 2025, 1:00–3:00 pm**

thecirclepvac.org

**The Winter Show**

**Fri., Dec. 5, 2025–Sat., Jan. 3, 2026**

**Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9:00 am–5:00 pm,**

**Sat. 10:00 am–4:00 pm**

**Reception: Fri., Dec. 5, 2025, 6:00–9:00 pm**

PVAC members only

**Holiday Ceramics Sale**

**Fri., Dec. 5, 2025, 6:00–9:00 pm**

**Sat., Dec. 6, 2025, 10:00 am–4:00 pm**

(310) 541-2479

pvcartcenter.org

## CURRENT ART NEWS

### Palos Verdes Library District

#### **2025 Annual Community Art Show**

**Mon., Nov. 10–Sun., Jan. 4, 2025**

**Hours: Mon.–Thur., 10:00 am–5:00 pm,  
Fri., 2:00–6:00 pm, Sat., 10:00 am–5:00 pm,  
Sun., 1:00–5:00 pm**

**Reception: Fri., Nov. 14, 2025, 6:00–8:30 pm**

For more info: (310) 377-9584 x601

[artinourlibrary@pvld.org](mailto:artinourlibrary@pvld.org)

Peninsula Center Library

701 Silver Spur Rd., Rolling Hills Estates

### Redondo Beach Art Group

#### **Malaga Cove Gallery Show “Mottainai”**

**Sat., Oct. 4–Sat., Nov. 15, 2025,**

**Open during library hours**

2400 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates

#### **Holiday Party (members only)**

**Wed., Dec., 10, 2025, 6:00–9:00 pm**

Organized by Rhonda Olson

RSVP through RBAG Evite

### San Pedro Art Association

#### **SPAA Gallery at Crafted at the Port of L.A.**

**Thur.-Sun. 11:00 am–6:00 pm**

**Free admission**

112 E. 22nd St., San Pedro

[sanpedroart.org](http://sanpedroart.org)

### Torrance Art Museum

#### **Main Gallery: Baker's Dozen**

Survey of 13 Southern California artists who made an impression upon the curators in the past year

#### **Gallery Two: Code Collapse**

Exhibit of sculptor Bachrun LoMele and painter Perin Mahler

**Sat., Oct. 18–Wed., Nov. 26, 2025**

**Museum Hours: Tues.–Sat., 11:00 am–5:00 pm**

3320 Civic Center Drive, Torrance

[www.TorranceArtMuseum@TorranceCA.Gov](mailto:www.TorranceArtMuseum@TorranceCA.Gov)

### Valley Watercolor Society

#### **Monthly Meeting with Demo by Joe Cibere**

**Thurs., Nov. 13, 2025**

**7:00 pm–9:30 pm**

**In person**

San Fernando Valley SRAR Office

7232 Balboa Blvd., Balboa Lake

**Online via Zoom**

#### **Two-day Workshop with Joe Cibere**

**Sat. & Sun., Nov. 15 & 16, 2025**

**10:00 am–2:00 pm**

**In person**

Studio Channel Islands Art Center

2222 Ventura Blvd. Room R5, Camarillo

Non-Members \$205

VWS Members \$165

**Online via Zoom**

Non-Members \$180

VWS Members \$140

[joeciberewatercolors.com](http://joeciberewatercolors.com)

#### **Monthly Meeting with Demo by David Lobenberg**

**Thurs., Jan. 8, 2026**

**7:00 pm–9:30 pm**

**Online via Zoom**

#### **Two-day Workshop with David Lobenberg**

**Sat. & Sun., Jan. 17 & 18, 2026**

**9:00 am–1:00 pm**

**Online via Zoom**

Non-Members \$180

VWS Members \$140

[davis-lobenberg.pixels.com](http://davis-lobenberg.pixels.com)

Register at: [www.valleywatercolorsociety.org](http://www.valleywatercolorsociety.org)

### VEFA Gallery

#### **Veiled Resonance**

Zhengyao Zuo solo exhibition

**Sat., Nov. 15, 2025–Sat., Jan. 10, 2026**

**Hours: Wed.–Sat., 12:00–8:00 pm**

**Reception: Sat., Nov. 15, 2025, 6:00–10:00 pm**

RSVP is encouraged on website

21825 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance

[vefagallery.com](http://vefagallery.com)

### Watercolor West

#### **57th International Juried Exhibition**

**Sat., Aug. 23–Sun., Nov 30, 2025**

**Hours: Tues.–Sat., 10:00 am–5:00 pm**

**Reception: Sat., Sept. 6, 2025, 5:00–8:00 pm**

Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University

167 Atchison St., Orange

[watercolorwest.org](http://watercolorwest.org)

## SBWS Member News

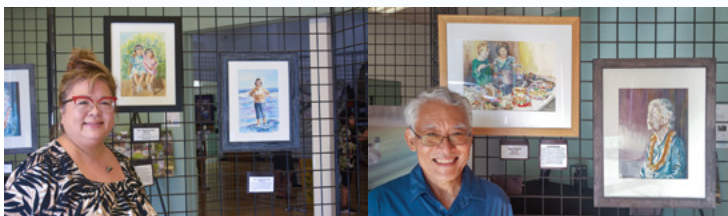
**Sharon Towle** has a painting, “Tulips and Garibaldi” in the Watercolor West International Juried Exhibition at the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University. At the reception Sept. 6, 5:00-8:00 pm Sharon was awarded a certificate as a Master in Watercolor West. The exhibition is open until Nov. 29, 2025. If you’ve never been there, the Hilbert Museum is worth seeing.



**Janice Bock**, and **Alvin Takamori** have paintings on display in the “Rocktober” show at the Gallery of Hermosa, 138 Pier Ave., Hermosa Beach. The show ends Nov. 9, 2025.

**Janice Bock**, also has work in “Open Canvas” at the Esperanza Gallery, 113 West Torrance Blvd, Redondo Beach. Located on the Upper Level of the Redondo Pier Plaza. The show is open until Nov. 23, 2025.

**Debbie Abshear, Bobette Davison, Lynn Mikami, Kaoru Tanimoto, Linda Thompson, Sharon Towle, and Nancy Veits** are contributing artists in the “Made in the South Bay” exhibit. At Destination Art, now through Nov. 15, 2025.



**Mary Arakawa** and **Alvin Takamori** displaying paintings at the 2025 Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute Art Show on Sept. 27 & 28.

## Armstrong Theater Lobby Display

SBWS has a continuous exhibition in the lobby of the Armstrong Theater in the Torrance Civic Center. The rotation is 3 artists showing paintings for 2 months. Paintings can be very large, as the wall area can accommodate them.

It’s a great opportunity to show your work to people who attend live performances.

Bill Wassenberg is the chair for this project. Just let him know that you want to be on “the list.” He’ll contact you when your name comes up. Bill will make the labels. You do not need to help with hanging, but of course, you can if you wish.

Bill Wassenberg - (310) 539-2463 [wwassenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:wwassenberg@yahoo.com)

## SBWS Instagram Post

For your painting image on the SBWS Instagram home page -

Instagram makes the posts on the home page square by cropping. Go see:

<https://www.instagram.com/southbaywatercolorsociety/>

Your entire painting will show on the click-through screen. If you do want your entire painting to display on the home page but it isn’t square, Parrish can put borders on two sides to make it square. Just let her know when you send your image. She’ll “fix it” in Photoshop and let you approve.

Send your brief bio or artist statement. On that you should include any links to your work - Facebook page, Instagram, website, etc.

Mary Arakawa is our Instagram director, but Parrish Hirasaki is assembling the posts. Send image and bio to Parrish.

**Parrish Hirasaki**  
**310-367-1998**  
[parrishh@verizon.net](mailto:parrishh@verizon.net)