



TWS BULLETIN

Oct 4, 2021

Showcase of the 2021 September Intake of New Members

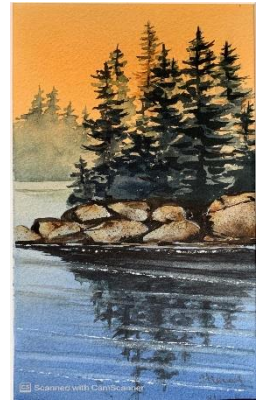
It has been a month since our nine new members were formally accepted into our dynamic group of artists, and we would like to present them as a group so that we all may learn more about each of them.



Mahtab Abdollah

Mahtab Abdollahi graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Fine Art and completed her Masters of Arts (MA) in Illustration from Fine Art University. She studied Graphic Design in George Brown College and graduated with honours.

She has participated in many group and solo exhibitions. She is a member of Ontario Society of Artists (OSA) and Newmarket Group of Artists (NGA). She teaches watercolour, drawing and painting in the Newmarket Old Town Hall, Newmarket Senior Centre and Newmarket private class.



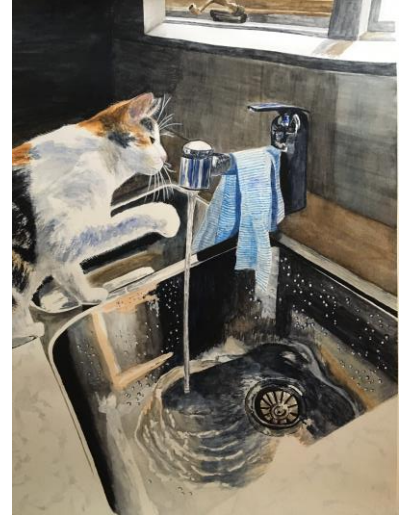
Meral Altinbilek

My interest in art started very early, but being good at math somehow landed me in Engineering school. I completed my master's degree in Industrial Engineering and worked as a consultant and project manager until last year. Art has always been in my mind and heart and any spare time between raising two boys and full-time employment was devoted to art.

From 1982-1994, I lived and worked in Durham region and involved with several art associations and galleries. I served as the president of the Board of Trustees in the Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa and president of the Oshawa Art Association. Then my work took me to Toronto where I had the opportunity to attend numerous courses and workshops with distinguished artists and participated in group shows and juried exhibitions. In 2005, again, my work changed my life by moving to New York. I was able to expand my involvement in Art through art courses in New York Academy of Art and group exhibits in Visual Art Center of NJ and "The Pen and Brush" Art Organization that is dedicated to Women's art since 1804.

I am passionate about watercolour. My art inspiration and ideas come largely from the nature – flowers, trees, rocks and landscapes. I also love painting recollections from my heritage such as ethnic Turkish rugs, copper pots, ceramic designs and folk dancers.

I retired last year and I am able to dedicate more time for art and painting. I am a member of Women's Art Association of Canada and many other art organizations to be with other likeminded people and look forward to connecting with members of the TWS.



Robert Bell

I am a retired lawyer and now work part time as Executive Director for the Fort York Foundation and The Friends of Fort York and Garrison Common - two registered charities supporting Fort York National Historic Site - the birthplace of Toronto. I started taking watercolour classes in 2017 and continue to do so. My work focuses largely on landscape and domestic scenes (two family cats figure prominently!). I strive for realism that takes full advantage of the unique qualities and unanticipated surprises of the watercolour medium. I typically work from my own reference photos taken around the city and beyond (e.g. the Beaches, Don Valley Brick Works, Lake Simcoe, Bruce Peninsula, Cape Cod). I have exhibited in the 2019 and 2021 Cabbagetown art show. I am delighted to become a member of TWS.



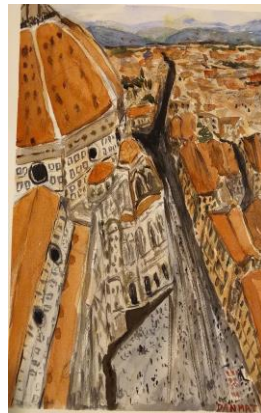
Andrew Farinha

I am a retired Chartered Professional Accountant CPA. I started pursuing the Visual Arts in 2017 as a Studio Potter and shortly after switched my focus to painting in Watercolour and Acrylic. I am self-taught and have taken the opportunity over the last eighteen months to partake in online workshops. I paint mainly Landscapes and Still-life. My garden features often in my paintings! I am a member of the Art Guild of Scarborough and look forward to my membership with TWS.



Yasir Hameed

Yasir Hameed is a self-taught artist with a background in Architecture and Urban Planning. He has been painting off and on since 2010, picking up a more regular painting schedule since 2020. He is a representational artist, and his current work explores urban landscapes as his primary subject. He enjoys working in watercolour, gouache, and acrylic paints. He loves painting architecture as well as urban and natural landscapes. His inspirations come from life, places, buildings, and landscapes around him. Yasar's foundational technique is influenced by his informal training from his father's (Salman Hameed Siddiqui's) work but has gradually evolved towards more impressionistic and abstracted representations of the physical world using highly saturated and contrasting compositions. He is also an avid photographer with a keen interest in cyanotype printing, which also influences his painting practice. He currently lives in Toronto and paints part time while being a full-time doctoral student at York University.



Daniel Mateescu

Daniel Mateescu is a Software Engineer and a self-taught artist, with a lifelong passion for Arts, History and the History of Arts as well as being an avid visitor of arts museums all over the world.

He started drawing pencil, charcoal and ink portraits and landscapes in 2020, and started painting in watercolour the same year. Since then, Daniel learned the tools of the trade in watercolour painting through many online workshops and courses he attended.

His influences are Impressionist and Post-Impressionist painters: Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Degas, Seago, Wesson, Sargent, as well as contemporary watercolourists Zbukvic, Castagnet and Yardley.

Daniel likes to paint mostly European cityscapes and Canadian landscapes, using as reference, photos he took while on vacation. He has recently developed a passion for Plein Air painting as a way to capture the fleeting moment of beauty through shapes, light and shadow. He is honoured to be a new member of the Toronto Watercolour Society and eager to learn from the accomplished members of the Society, as well as from the new members like himself.



Krista Pedersen

My husband and I moved to the countryside north of Pickering thirty years ago to follow my lifelong passions for horses and nature, and shortly thereafter I began painting in local night school classes with wonderful teachers Shelly Beach and Hi-Sook Barker. As it does, life soon got in the way, and I spent the next fifteen years working as a Wildlife Rehabilitator, caring for native species, from hummingbirds and bats (my specialization) to coyote and lynx. I didn't paint again until I retired a year and a half ago and began painting my many travel adventures. Since then, I have been learning virtually, participating in Facebook watercolour groups, and experimenting on my own. Not surprisingly, I love to paint my travel, animal and nature passions, and look forward to connecting with other like-minded enthusiasts through the TWS.



Sonali Praharaaj

Sonali Praharaaj is a self-taught artist and enjoys painting cityscapes, landscapes, and everyday life routines through ink and watercolours. She is constantly exploring ways to capture urban and landscape elements to create vibrant compositions. She enjoys painting en plein air and in the studio. Her art journey began in early childhood: nevertheless; it has been a meandering path where life, work and other priorities made it difficult for her to continue painting regularly until recently. After starting a new life in Toronto, her work as an urban designer inspired her to rekindle her love for capturing places and moments in this new city. She finds inspiration all around her and often considers painting as a way to connect with her surroundings