



TWS BULLETIN

MAY 14, 2022

Showcase of the 2022 March Intake of New Members

Here are the 10 new members 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. As lead up to our anticipated June 8th in-person monthly meeting in the Burgundy Room at the North York Civic Centre, you will now be able to put the face to the name!



Betty Cowan

Art has been a lifelong interest. My subjects are usually chosen from personal experiences, the local area or from ideas collected in my sketchbook. One goal is to achieve a mood or movement, or both, in a painting. I generally paint in acrylic or watercolour, but experiments with other mediums can also be fun. Workshops/classes attended include OCA, Seneca College, Varley Art Gallery, Latcham Gallery and more. I have exhibited with the Lemonville Group of Artists, Art Diversity, and the K. MacFarlane Group of Artists. My work has been presented in a number of shows in the surrounding areas. A highlight during the pandemic was an opportunity to create over eighty illustrations for a friend's memoirs about life on her family's heritage farm in King Township.



SUZANNE E. DAVIS

From a young age I could be found with a pencil or paints in hand and was encouraged to be creative by my parents, who were both gifted amateur artists. Educated in England, and with access to the abundance of galleries and museums in London, I was also fascinated by the world of art and antiques, and decided to pursue a career in this field.

My career in the art market has spanned five decades and two continents. Before moving to Canada I worked for two major London fine art dealers, Spink & Son (handling numismatics) and Colnaghi (dealing with Indian, Islamic, Chinese and Japanese Art). While at Spink's my design for a new Seychelles 10 Rupee coin was selected in 1974, and in 1976 the Seychelles Government accepted my designs for their Independence 9-coin set. At Colnaghi I was able to develop my interest in Mughal and Rajput painting as well as textiles from Turkey to Japan.

After moving to Toronto with my husband in 1984, I started my own company in 1985, Cognoscenti Connoisseur Lectures, to promote interest in the fine and decorative arts, holding seminars and short courses with international speakers.

In 1987 I joined Christie's and was appointed President of Christie's Canada, and an SVP of Christie's USA. Upon leaving Christie's in 2012, I was appointed Deputy Chairman of Bonhams Canada, advising clients on consignments for sale at international auction. In 2015, I became an independent consultant, dealing primarily with clients wishing to sell property in London or New York.

I have taken numerous charity auctions for institutions and organizations across Canada, and have been involved with museums in different capacities as a committee member or Board member. I sat on the Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum Advisory Committee for some years, and was a Trustee and Chair of the Board of the Textile Museum of Canada, stepping off the Board in 2020.

I have always admired the tradition of watercolour painting in Britain and France. Finding more time in the last few years to indulge my inclinations to try this medium has led me on an interesting journey of discovery. I have taken courses and enjoyed online workshops and I am very much looking forward to doing more of these and finding my own "voice". I am very pleased to be a new member of TWS and looking forward to meeting other members.



Svea Frantila

Although I have painted for over twenty years, I haven't painted a lot. However I'm hoping that that will change now that I finally have more time, after my long overdue retirement has started. Over the years I have participated in numerous courses and workshops, that have introduced me to a wide range of styles and methods for a foundation in watercolours and acrylics. I paint in my home studio as well as at King Craft Studio in King City, where I have been a member for several years. For watercolour paintings I often find inspiration in my own garden, in which I spend a lot of my time during summer months. My acrylic paintings are mostly about sceneries that I admire. For about fifteen years I have participated in various shows, including a yearly Town of Aurora juried show. In addition to painting and gardening, I also make jewellery by enameling on copper. I look forward to participating in many events with my fellow members at T.W.S.



Oksana Grygorieva

I have been interested in art last for the 10 years while working full time as a project manager in the finance sector. I visited lots of art galleries throughout Europe and privately studied drawing and painting with university teachers in Ukraine. In 2016 I even passed exams and entered an Art Academy in Ukraine, but just before the start of first semester, I decided to not proceed with it, keeping drawing and watercolour painting as my hobby.

I prefer painting from life, almost never painting from photographs, because life drawing and painting under natural light is the way I was taught.

I moved to Toronto about 3 years ago. I had studied at the Academy of Realist Art for a few months until I found full time employment. Since then I have been painting on my own in my free time. Most of my recent paintings are the paintings of the sky, nature and views of High Park.

Other than paintings, my passion is horseback riding, dogs and nature.

I am very excited about joining TWS and hope our collaboration will become beneficial.



Mara Gulens

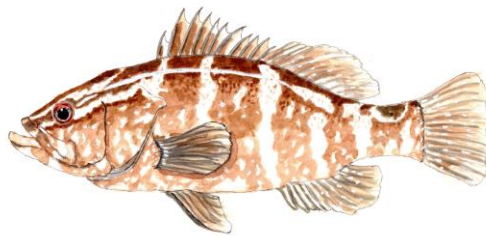
Writing has always been my passion. But after a bicycle crash that led to a brain injury, writing felt more like work.

I was drawn to art and tried pottery, but centering clay on a wheel required too much mental effort. Maybe paper and pencil were the way to go? My drawing instructor's main objective was to help students not fear art. Perfect!

That boost reminded me of other times I'd given art a try. But it was the brain injury that made me continue.

The pandemic brought Zoom art classes into my dining room. When the world locked down, I went for lots of walks, took photos, and started painting.

My journey with water and colours is just beginning. I can't wait to find out where this next phase with TWS will take me.



Milos Ivancevic

I am currently employed as an application developer.

I have liked drawing and painting since I was a kid, but as it usually happens other things got my attention during the years. It wasn't until 2020 that I returned back to my passion mostly under the influence of my kids. Since then, my focus is mostly in watercolours and ink as main mediums and I try to draw whatever occupies my attention.



Natasha Krzyzewski

I graduated university 10 years ago from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design with a degree in Interdisciplinary Fine Arts and a Minor in Drawing. My work used to feature graphite drawings and an illustrative style. I have worked in oils, acrylics, watercolour, whatever suited the project best. Since then I've shown in a variety of cafes and small Galleries in Nova Scotia. I moved to Toronto in 2015 and traded my paint brushes for knitting needles and a needle and thread making a lot of my own clothes and household goods. In 2020 I started making my current body of work in watercolour. I began by painting from my family photos in an exploration of place, belonging and personal history. I've been taking commissions and working on my own pieces since then. Its been a nice way to reconnect with old friends and acquaintances and to hone my skills. I'm excited to dedicate more time to my artistic endeavors and to explore new techniques. I'm pleased to join you at TWS and look forward to meeting you all!



Suzanne Robinson

For a long time my interest in art was at arms length, as a co-director of a volunteer team that organized art shows within science fiction/fantasy conventions. I have dabbled with personally making art for the past decade, but only recently started taking lessons. My current focus on watercolour stems from my love of travel and my desire to be able to make ink and wash sketches during my journeys.



Caroline Underwood

I am a recently retired wildlife and science documentary filmmaker. A life-long naturalist, with a background in biology, I have always been interested in the arts and mark making. Two years-ago I started taking watercolour classes with Moira Clark and have taken workshops given by wildlife artists in the UK. Forty years of waiting to film wildlife has taught me to be patient – very handy since plein air is now a passion of mine. I paint regularly with a group of my neighbours on Toronto Island. For chilly winter days I have a large collection of photos from my professional as well as personal travels (the Arctic to the Antarctic) that I use as inspiration. I am delighted to be a member of the TWS and look forward to meeting everyone.



Tony Xu

I love painting in watercolor in my spare time. In past decades, although I used to be very busy with my job in IT, ERP* consulting, and OEM* business running, my passion for the art has never diminished. Recent years, I gradually fade out of my business job and have more time in watercolor painting. I am self-taught and take on-line classes to learn. The art ideas on my work come from mountains, forests, rivers, parks, plants and streets. I am happy to be a member of TWS and looking forward to exchanging experiences with and learning painting technique from members of TWS.