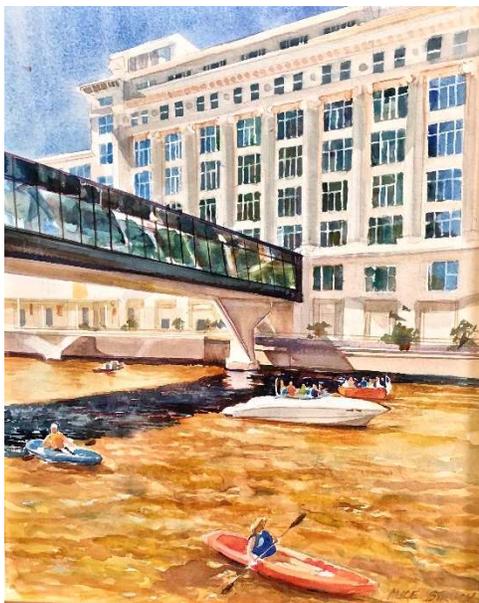


“Little Gems” brighten winter with watercolors at Cedarburg Art Museum

An exuberant exhibition of colorful paintings by the Wisconsin Watercolor Society called “Little Gems, Big Impact” fills the first-floor gallery spaces at the Cedarburg Art Museum. Formed in 1952, the Wisconsin Watercolor Society is a juried, membership organization that exhibits its members’ artwork at various venues twice annually to promote the medium of watercolor. In this exhibition, twenty-two of its members and one prospective member are showing watercolors in a variety of naturalistic, abstracted, and non-representational styles. Steve Horvath, Milwaukee, is represented by “Top of Snake Hill” (shown on right) and two additional, diminutive, naturalistically rendered watercolors. Keary Kautzer of Sheboygan and Charles Ausavich of Plymouth also contribute realistically rendered landscapes.



While the WWS artists are from all areas of Wisconsin, local area artists in this exhibition include Kappy Schwab and Alice Struck of Mequon and William Davis of Thiensville. Schwab’s contributions include naturalistic paintings of the Medici Fountain in Paris, France and a Great Lakes tugboat stationed at Sturgeon Bay. The tugboat was renamed recently to honor Donald J. Sarter, a tugboat captain who lost his life in Lake Superior in a small craft in 2019.

Alice Struck’s three works are waxed watercolors, so they depart from earlier works that show the deckle edge of the paper or matting with glass over the painting. Realist scenes with Struck’s signature flourish show recreational activities along the Milwaukee River in Milwaukee (as in her painting shown at left), or a market scene with vibrant activity.

Numerous other Wisconsin Watercolor Society artists utilize their favored medium in an abstracted or even non-representational manner. Kathryn Wedge of Neenah or Christine Alfery of Lac du Flambeau find that abstracted florals serve as suitable subject matter. In Wedge’s “Begonias and Blues” (shown at right), her watery pigments reveal colorful, floral growth, partly indistinct and flowing. Other artists in this exhibition that focus on floral or botanical subjects include Jen Herro of Hartland, Judy Beyer of Beaver Dam, Judith Radtke of Oshkosh, and Evie Grasse of Sheboygan.

Several of the artists in this exhibition are exploring color, line, and/or shape for their own sake and those elements become the subject. Joye Moon of





Oshkosh has three works in this exhibition and her painting "The Color Red" (shown at left) is a work that is entirely non-representational. The subject of the painting are warm shades of reds and oranges and curvilinear lines and shapes. Silvia Cavagnero of Madison also works in a non-representational manner with two paintings focusing entirely on color and shapes of watercolor and ink.

The Wisconsin Watercolor Society presents this 2021 member showing of *Little Gems, Big Impact* with 60 paintings in a smaller format than is typical for this group. Smaller paintings also have smaller prices, so it is an opportunity for collectors and homeowners to find original art at reasonable prices. Most of the displayed paintings are available for sale during the exhibition that runs through May 9.

Through the month of February, the Cedarburg Art Museum is open for visitors on Fridays and Saturdays, 12 – 4pm. Watch for gradually expanded hours after that. A limit of ten visitors at a time is in place currently. For up-to-date hours and more information for this exhibition and other museum exhibitions "Student Art Matters" and "Faces of Wisconsin" in addition to any online slideshows or tours, go to www.cedarburgartmuseum.org. The Cedarburg Art Museum is located at W63N675 Washington Avenue in the historic Wittenberg-Jochem mansion.