

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

By THERRY PELLETIER. PHOTOS: ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

UNITED STATES

North American Watercolour Artists Group

FORMED IN 2010, THE NORTH AMERICAN WATERCOLOR ARTISTS (NAWA) REPRESENTS THE US IN INTERNATIONAL WATERCOLOUR EXHIBITIONS. IT IS THE ONLY GROUP OF ITS KIND IN THE US.

The society will hold a special exhibition of recent works at Stratmore Manston in Bethesda, Maryland, not sponsored by a watercolour society. Kathleen Alexander, Carol Carter, Mark E. Mehafeey, Thomas W. Schaller, Nicholas Simmons, and Keiko Tanabe have already shown their paintings in Mexico City and Madrid, and continue to receive exhibition invitations from around the globe. Each member has gained a reputation as a leader in the development and critical acceptance of the watercolour medium, and each

has been highly recognized for their art, garnering prestigious honours and media attention. The NAWA enjoys a combined world-wide audience that includes virtually every watercolorist working today. Their backgrounds – personal and professional – are as eclectic as their paintings, which demonstrate an impressive range of genre and approach: realism, impressionism, abstraction, figures, city, land and seascapes, as well as floral painting and botanicals. Contemporary watercolour is a demanding and an intensely com-

petitive field, requiring one to maintain a personal vision amidst countless painters who consistently expand the limits of technique and creativity. That six artists should unite with a shared purpose is a testament to the camaraderie and mutual respect fostered by their common bond. Most of all, they stand on the shoulders of tradition and the greats who have preceded them, while blazing a trail that promises a bright future for their beloved medium.



Carol Carter, Beds.



Mark E. Mehafeey, Contemplation, 66 x 60 cm.



Thomas W. Schaller, Royal Crescent - Bath, England, 56 x 70 cm.



Nicholas Simmons, An An LBE x 68 cm.



NICHOLAS SIMMONS

"There is nothing quite so flattering for an artist than to be accepted by one's peers. My colleagues have

not only done the medium proud through their accomplishments, but together we have inspired each other to maximize our potential as individual artists, in a way that celebrates our differences while simultaneously benefiting the group. I can't imagine a more effective way to extend our resources and influence. NAWA is a unique collaboration, and will undoubtedly raise international awareness of the heights American watercolour can achieve."



CAROL CARTER

"This exhibition will prove to be one of the important milestones in contemporary watercolor. Each

painter is utilizing the medium in a dynamic way that speaks to the larger issue of creating art with a water medium. Watercolor is a vibrant and exciting medium with paint that moves and is difficult to control. Its tendency to be organic makes paint much more free and fluid than opaque paint. I am excited to be part of a larger group of artists that are committed to making watercolor their primary method of expression in an individual and uncharacteristic way!"



MARK E. MEHAFFEY

"Kathleen Alexander, Carol Carter, Thomas Schaller, Keiko Tanabe and Nick Simmons are representative of the

best work being done today in any medium. I am truly honored to be included. The group of paintings I chose to show represents two separate series of works. My "Monolith" series started as an economic visual statement and not being able to think outside the norm, being stuck in the past and thinking locally instead of globally. The second group of paintings feature figurative realism often with the figure in isolation or contemplation. These paintings speak the thoughts and concerns of everyone who looks to find a deeper meaning in our everyday lives."



THOMAS W. SCHALLER

"All art has some story to tell. While I love to paint cityscapes and buildings, I have found that it is the

dialogue between the natural and the man-made worlds that makes the most compelling subject matter for me. As an architect, I was trained in the strict Beaux-Arts methods of watercolor applications but as a fine artist, I have grown to love the integration of those formal techniques with the freedom of much looser, less controlled, and expressionistic methods. In many ways, I see watercolor as a natural extension of the act of drawing, but rather than using a line formed by pen or pencil, in watercolor, we draw using shapes, shapes of colour, of shadow and light."



KEIKO TANABE

"I am immensely proud and honoured to participate in the Stratmore Show. This is not only to

present some of my most recent works but also to showcase, as a group, perhaps some of the finest examples of works on paper created by today's watermedia artists working in America. Aside from annual exhibitions organized by regional and national watercolor societies, there are almost no fine art shows in America solely devoted to watercolor paintings. I believe our Stratmore show is symbolic to prove watercolor deserves more serious attention in national-level art institutions and galleries in America."

► NORTH AMERICAN WATERCOLOR ARTISTS  
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 Exhibitions from January 2nd until  
 February 4th 2012