



April 2017 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NWWS Announces Accepted Artists for the 77th Annual International Open Exhibition

Northwest Watercolor Society (NWWS) is pleased to announce that Lena Thynell of Port Matilda, Pennsylvania, USA has been chosen as one of the 60 artists selected for the 77th Annual International Open Exhibition that will be on display from April 24 through June 2 at the Harbor History Museum. The museum is located at 4121 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. Art enthusiasts, collectors, students, and everyone interested in the arts are invited to the Open Exhibition Artists' Reception on **Saturday, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Following the reception, artists are encouraged to sharpen their plein air painting skills in scenic Gig Harbor. The resource room at the Harbor History Museum will be available for artists wishing to paint inside instead.

Lena's painting, *Forgotten* was chosen by internationally known juror Keiko Tanabe out of more than 450 entries from nine countries and 16 states. "Watercolor is said to be an unforgiving medium as it does not hide what's beneath a brush mark. When I began the jurying





process, it didn't take me a long time to realize that this would be a very daunting task to decide which paintings to be included in the show," said Tanabe. "Among all the images submitted, I recognized many paintings that were created with confident brush marks, a testament to the artists' dedication to this difficult medium and years of practice. A large number of submissions also captivated me with a variety of techniques that the artists demonstrated so creatively on paper, not to mention their chosen subject matter, concept, and styles. To make final selections I looked for a mastery of technical skills, a strong composition, originality, and perhaps more importantly, how the artist communicated their emotion through their unique expression. I especially appreciated the work done by those who took risks rather than played it safe. My heartfelt congratulations to all the selected artists. It was a huge privilege and a big responsibility to be part of such an important exhibition as a juror."

Lena Thynell, PWS, PWCS, BWS.

Lena Thynell, a Swedish native, moved to the United States in the summer of 2011. She lives with her husband nearby State College, PA. Lena got her education in watercolor painting at the Gerlesborg Art School in Sweden. She is an art instructor at the Art Alliance of Central Pennsylvania. After a long career as a registered nurse, certified nurse midwife and department head in Sweden, watercolor painting has now become an important part of her life. She has recently started to paint on location, en plein air, which gives her much joy and inspiration. "It's a challenge to paint outdoors and that's what I like" Lena states. Lena achieved Pennsylvania Watercolor Society Signature Status in 2015, Philadelphia



Watercolor Society Signature Status 2016 and Baltimore Watercolor Society Signature Status 2017. Lena is on the Bellefonte Art Museum artist registry and a Member of Farmland Preservation Artists of Central Pennsylvania. She has participated in Juried Art Shows in Sweden and the USA.

"In my art I aim to express a feeling or a mood of the object more than an exact picture. I try to create rather than duplicate"

www.lenathynellwatercolor.com

Tanabe was born in Kyoto, Japan, and currently lives in San Diego, CA. She embarked on a professional art career as a watercolor painter in 2005 after working in international relations and marketing. Since then, her work has earned many awards and recognitions on a national and international level. Her work appears in private and corporate collections in many countries. Her work has been feature in numerous art publications. She is also a sought-after workshop instructor, teaching watercolor courses both in the U.S. and abroad. She is currently a member of the National Watercolor Society (signature member), American Watercolor Society, North American Watercolor Artists, and American Impressionist Society.

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About NWWS

The Northwest Watercolor Society was founded in 1939 in Seattle, Washington when a group of eight artists came together to form an organization dedicated to the celebration of watercolor. With a goal to inspire both a lasting interest in the art of watercolor painting and an appreciation for watercolor as an artful, imaginative medium, the history of NWWS began. From these modest beginnings, NWWS has grown into the internationally recognized, historically rich organization of today with a membership nearing nine hundred Signature, Lifetime and Associate Members across the USA, Canada & internationally.



The Northwest Watercolor Society of today is a structured organization that offers a wealth of opportunities and experiences for the artist, the art patron and all those fascinated by the magical wonder of watercolor. Recognized as one of the most prominent national/international watercolor societies in North America, NWWWS continues to gain attention and exposure. Although NWWWS has grown enormously throughout the years in both numbers and accomplishments, the organization has remained firmly rooted in its history, devoted to the philosophy of the Mission Statement of its Founders ... *To promote and elevate the art of watercolor as a medium and to encourage the growth and creativity of its artist members.* <http://www.nwwws.org/>

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