



JOHN KELLY FITZPATRICK (1888 - 1953)

One of Alabama's best-known artists, our namesake John Kelly Fitzpatrick was a Regionalist painter born in Wetumpka in 1888. In 1918, Fitzpatrick enlisted in the U.S. Army serving in World War I and suffered permanent scarring from shrapnel wounds. Having been through "the furnace of War", Fitzpatrick thereafter dedicated himself to the arts, seeking the beauty in life.

Fitzpatrick set to creating regional art organizations with his fellow Southern artists during a time when very few artistic opportunities existed. Today he is remembered as: a founder of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in 1930, a founder and first president of the Alabama Art League, a director of the Southern States Art League, co-founder and director of the Dixie Art Colony (the oldest Art Colony in the South) in 1933, a prominent member of the Watercolor Society of Alabama, among others. Fitzpatrick painted up until his death from a heart attack on April 18, 1953.

The Kelly Fitzpatrick Center for the Arts now honors his legacy by doing the same as Kelly himself—engaging, inspiring, educating, and promoting local and regional visual artists and our community at large.

HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday
10:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday & Monday
Closed

John Kelly Fitzpatrick

The Kelly
P.O. Box 641 | Wetumpka, AL 36092
334-478-3366 | TheKelly.org



83rd National Exhibition

June 2 - June 28, 2024



Carlos Alpha Shiney Moon



WATERCOLOR SOCIETY OF ALABAMA AND THE KELLY

The Watercolor Society of Alabama (WSA) was organized in 1939 by Alabamian artists, a few of whom had also been part of the Dixie Art Colony. Our namesake John Kelly Fitzpatrick as well as his friends and students were participating and prominent members of the WSA, winning exhibition awards and volunteering their time to the organization. Such friends of Kelly and members of the Watercolor Society of Alabama included: Warree Carmichael LeBron, Louise Smith Everton, Genevieve Southerland, and Carlos Alpha "Shiney" Moon. Carlos Moon in particular even served as the Watercolor Society of Alabama's president starting in 1950.

Today, the Watercolor Society of Alabama continues its exciting vision to promote, create and inspire painters in the art of watercolor media. They hold juried watercolor competitions every year as well as offer workshops taught by nationally and internationally known artists.

This year, The Kelly is thrilled to be chosen to host the Watercolor Society of Alabama's 83rd National Exhibition! Explore the wonderful talent and skill of national watercolorists, right here in Wetumpka where many art organizations of Alabama were born.

<https://watercolorsofAlabama.org/>

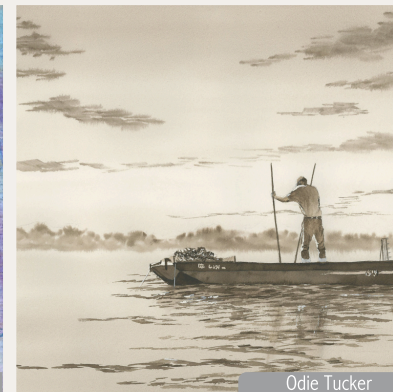
John Kelly Fitzpatrick



William McKeown



Deb Garst



Odie Tucker



Ann Pember

SELECTION JUROR

Matthew Bird

Matthew Bird is an American painter. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, he graduated with honors from the Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn, New York, in 2000. He is a Signature Member of numerous organizations, including the National Watercolor Society where he served as vice president, and his award-winning watercolor paintings have been exhibited in juried shows across the United States, as well as in Canada, China, England, Greece, Hong Kong, and Italy. His work is in permanent museum collections as well as numerous private collections.

Matthew has been featured in Fine Art Connoisseur magazine as one of "Today's Masters" (Feb. & Oct. 2018, Feb. & April 2019), American Art Collector (Issue 158, 171), International Artist Magazine (No. 129 Oct./Nov.) Watercolor Magazine "Year's Best Paintings" (2019, 2020, 2022) and as "One To Watch" (Dec. 2017), The Artist's Magazine (July/August 2017), The Art Of Watercolour magazine (Issue 32), and the Splash-Best of Watercolor book series. A sought-after teacher, Matthew has also been a contributing writer to numerous publications, including Realism Today, Fine Art Today, Artists on Art, and American Watercolor Weekly. For 15 years he worked as a designer and art director in advertising agencies, specializing in non-profit fundraising. As an illustrator, he has five children's books published and his paintings have been used as greeting cards for The Smithsonian Institution, National Geographic, and the National Audubon Society, among others.

Matthew lives with his wife and children outside Baltimore, where he maintains his studio.

AWARDS JUROR

Iain Stewart, AWS/NWS

Iain Stewart is a Scots born watercolor artist and a signature member of the American and National Watercolor Societies among other state and international entities. He has also recently been inducted into the Whiskey Painters of America. His work has received numerous awards in international competition and hangs in many corporate and private collections. Iain is a sought-after watercolor instructor and juror and has been published in numerous books and periodicals. He has just finished production of his 5th instructional DVD. In 2021 his first book on painting; En Plein Air- Light and Color, was published.

Iain maintains a studio near Auburn University in Alabama, and in addition to gallery work, is an Architectural Illustrator with an international clientele and has taught watercolor and design drawing at Auburn University where he received his degree in Architecture.

Iain is an International Brand Ambassador for:

Escoda Brushes

Daniel Smith Watercolors

Stillman & Birn Sketchbook

Iain Stewart

FEATURING ART BY

Suzanne Accetta

Dianne Adams

Lynn Amedy

Rick Anderson

Lisa Arnold Franklin

Gloria Baker

Anne Barbero

Kristine Beadle

Marilynne Bradley

Benita Brewer

Scott Brown

Clara Brunk

Allan Butt

Sondra Carlisle

Sandra Carpenter

Walt Costilow

Heike Covell

JoAnn Cox

Tom Dameron

Evelyn Dauphin

Barbara O'Neal Davis

Mitchell Delk

Joan DiLaura

Patricia Eldridge

Z. L. Feng

Lyn S. Fogarty

Mary Fountain

Melinda Freeman

Jane Fritz

David Gardner

Steve Garst

Deborah Garst

Corky Goldman

Deborah Guy

Lisa Harrell

Travis Hicks

Charlotte Highers

John James

Drew Jernigan

Marilyn Johansen

Tora Johnson

Gina Judy

Christine Krupinski

Ronald Lewis

Pio Lyons

Rebecca McDuffie

Laurel Lake McGuire

William McKeown

Larry Michael

Arlaine Morrison

Nancy M. Paden

Richard Parker

Ann Pember

Carole S. Poole

Sophie Repolt Rogers

Brenda Riggins

Rick Robertson

Jane Ross Reed

John Salminen

Gloria Sampson

Mary Spellings

Tuva Stephens

E. Jane Stoddard

Susan M. Struller

Sujit Sudhi

Don Taylor

Dawn C. Thomas

Odie Tucker

Kathryn Vaughn

Christine Walker

Gail Watson

Cleve Webber

Melody Weintraub

Kathy Wenrich

Michael Wheelehan

Carol Jane White

Bill Whittaker

Carolyn Wilder

Keiko Yasuoka



Christine Krupinski



Steve Garst



Joan DiLaura



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Susan Struller

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